



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

ANNUAL HANSARD REPORT, 2023/24

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

OF THE

FIFTH 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, 2023/244** is compiled and edited by **Hansard & Language Section** and published and distributed by the **Limpopo Legislature**:

HANSARD EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief: Mr M L Makgopa
Tel: 015 633 8144
Cell: 082 849 5555
Email: makgopam@limpopoleg.gov.za

Editors: Mr J P Mahlangu
Tel: 015 633 8028
Cell: 066 093 6831
Email: mahlanguj@limpopoleg.gov.za

Mr M T Matloa
Tel: 015 633 8142
Cell: 079 494 7555
Email: matloam@limpopoleg.gov.za

Mr M J Kabini
Tel: 015 633 8671
Cell: 072 631 2738
Email: kabinim@limpopoleg.gov.za

Sub-editors: Kotzé, C R (Ms)
Mahlangu, R V (Mr)
Mamaile, M C (Ms)
Mpebe, M P (Ms)
Mtsweni, B R (Mr)
Mukundamago, N T (Ms)
Ndala, N T (Ms)
Netshamulivho, A J (Mr)
Pasquale, C G (Ms)

Anti Fraud & Corruption Hotline: 0800 20 46 47
Website: www.limpopoleg.gov.za

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any way or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

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	Ms M Maraga
The Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature	Dr I S Nkuna

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. Kekana, Nakedi Grace	ANC
4. Lebea, Kedibone Margaret	ANC
5. Lekganyane, Nakedi Maria	ANC
6. Lerule-Ramakhanya, Mavhungu Maureen	ANC
7. Maharaj, Risham	DA
8. Mahasela, Mahlodi Caroline	ANC
9. Makamu, Basikopo Rodgers	ANC
10. Makhurupetje, Makoma Grace	ANC
11. Managa, Lilian	EFF
12. Maraga, Tshilidzi Annikie	EFF
13. Manganye, Tinyiko Florence	EFF
14. Mapoulo, Makgabo Lawrence	EFF
15. Maritz, Marcelle Frieda	FF+
16. Marule, Jacob Boy Otto	ANC
17. Maseko, Funani Jerry	ANC
18. Masekoameng, Mmabogahla Isaiah	ANC
19. Masemola, Namane Dickson	ANC
20. Mashamaite, Nkholo Victor	ANC
21. Mathabatha, Chupu Stanley	ANC
22. Mathe, Simon Matsobane	ANC
23. Mathye, Susani Violet	ANC
24. Matibe, Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
25. Matlou, Leswafo Joshua	ANC
26. Mdaka, Falaza Philemon	ANC
27. Mochadi, Sekutu Monicca	ANC
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. Ramalobela, Mokwape Lecom	EFF
43. Ramathuba, Phophi Constance	ANC
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. Wilson, Evelyn Rayne	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) Whippers
- 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

HANSARD EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief: Mr M L Makgopa
Tel: 015 633 8144
Cell: 082 849 5555
Email: makgopam@limpopoleg.gov.za

Editors: Mr J P Mahlangu
Tel: 015 633 8028
Cell: 066 093 6831
Email: mahlanguj@limpopoleg.gov.za

Mr M T Matloa
Tel: 015 633 8142
Cell: 079 494 7555
Email: matloam@limpopoleg.gov.za

Mr M J Kabini
Tel: 015 633 8671
Cell: 072 631 2738
Email: kabinim@limpopoleg.gov.za

Sub-editors: Kotzé, C R (Ms)
Mahlangu, R V (Mr)
Mamaile, M C (Ms)
Mpebe, M P (Ms)
Mtsweni, B R (Mr)
Mukundamago, N T (Ms)
Ndala, N T (Ms)
Netshamulivho, A J (Mr)
Pasquale, C G (Ms)

LIST OF SITTINGS

1. Daily Hansard, 2023 February 23
2. Daily Hansard, 2023 February 28
3. Daily Hansard, 2023 March 02
4. Daily Hansard, 2023 March 07
5. Daily Hansard, 2023 March 09
6. Daily Hansard, 2023 March 16
7. Daily Hansard, 2023 March 28
8. Daily Hansard, 2023 March 30
9. Daily Hansard, 2023 April 04
10. Daily Hansard, 2023 April 18
11. Daily Hansard, 2023 June 13
12. Daily Hansard, 2023 June 15
13. Daily Hansard, 2023 June 20
14. Daily Hansard, 2023 June 27
15. Daily Hansard, 2023 June 29
16. Daily Hansard, 2023 July 25
17. Daily Hansard, 2023 August 30 [Women's Parliament]
18. Daily Hansard, 2023 September 05
19. Daily Hansard, 2023 October 10
20. Daily Hansard, 2023 October 31
21. Daily Hansard, 2023 November 21
22. Daily Hansard, 2023 November 24
23. Daily Hansard, 2023 November 28
24. Daily Hansard, 2023 November 30

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
JACK BOTES HALL, POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY
THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 11:00**

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Let me take this opportunity to welcome all our guests to the Limpopo Province State of the Province Address 2023, including our listeners and viewers on the radio stations and television channels respectively.

Honourable Members, we would recall that when the House rose in the last session, last year, it resolved that its next Sitting shall be held at the Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane Municipality, Capricorn District on Thursday, 23 February 2023. Based on that resolution, and in accordance with section 110(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1966 (Act 108 of 1996) read together with section 2(2) of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2004 (Act 04 of 2004) and Rule 24 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, 2017, I hereby declare the Jack Botes Hall as the precinct of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

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

Allow me to also acknowledge the guests and all those who are in this hall. It is my honour to welcome you, Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; and the First Lady, Mrs Maggy Mathabatha. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of my husband, Mr Molapo, who is part of this gathering today. The Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; and his partner, Mrs Matibe; the Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies, Ms Ntshavheni. I welcome the Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature and their partners; Members of the National Council of Provinces; Members of Parliament present today; the delegation from the Gaza Provincial Assembly in Mozambique; the Chinese delegation; members of the Judiciary; all chapter 9 and 10 institutions; Kings and Queens who are present today; chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Ngove; traditional and religious leaders present; Mayors; Speakers and Chief Whips of various municipalities. The leadership of all political parties present today; the DG of the province, Mr Nchabeleng, and all HODs; Secretary to the Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa, and senior managers; municipal managers; trade unions; civil societies; businesses; media; students; youth; women and people with disability; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen; comrades and compatriots and the people of Limpopo, I greet you.

Today is a big day for the people of Limpopo, and everybody in this province is eagerly awaiting the Premier's address. Before I call on the Hon Premier, let me take this opportunity to invite the praise singer to embellish the Premier's way to the podium by delivering his accolades. Once done, the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, will address the people of Limpopo. The praise singer, it's over to you.

[PRAISE POEM]

THE PREMIER

A ke go leboge Ngwato'a Moleya ... [INTERJECTION]

MS MARAGA

Hon Speaker, on a point of privilege. Hon Speaker, on a point of privilege!

THE SPEAKER

Okay, you are recognised. Hon Premier, you may have a seat.

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

MS MARAGA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, order please! Can you allow the Member on the podium to speak. You may proceed, honourable Member.

MS MARAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand on a point of privilege that as the EFF – the official opposition in this House – we request you to order Hon Phophi Ramathuba to leave the House immediately.

Hon Speaker, we are saying this because she has violated the regulations. She has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct by shouting at a patient at Bela Bela Hospital.

We are, therefore, saying that before the Premier could give the speech, Hon Phophi Ramathuba must be removed from this House.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, may you please stand up, I want to address you. Honourable Member, I think it's unfortunate because you have been sworn in ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

No, no.

MS MARAGA

Can you allow the Speaker to lead this House please?

THE SPEAKER

No, no, honourable Member ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

MS MARAGA

You are not the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, can you be orderly, please!

MS MARAGA

Yes, I'm listening.

THE SPEAKER

Yes. Honourable Members, I am on the podium, and I want to respond to the Member. Can you give me that opportunity, please! Honourable Member, it is unfortunate that you have been sworn in on Wednesday. I don't blame you if you are not aware of the rules. [INTERJECTION]

MS MARAGA

Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Can I finish?

MS MARAGA

Hon Speaker, my presentation has got nothing to do with being sworn in yesterday or the day before.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, we don't work like that. I gave you an ear, you said what you wanted to say. Can you give me an opportunity to respond to you? Please, when I'm on the podium, I don't need any assistance.

Honourable Member, it is unfortunate that today we are not dealing with Members' Statements. We have suspended the Members' Statements. We have suspended the motions. Today's sitting is convened to afford the Hon Premier an opportunity to talk to the people of Limpopo. Therefore, there is only one item.

MS MARAGA

Hon Speaker, it was only on a point of order. You don't have to remind me that I have been sworn in only yesterday. I am aware of that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Premier ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

Dula fase! Dula fase! Dula fase!

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can we allow the Hon Premier to proceed with the address.

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order!

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I think I was persuaded to rise on a point of order because your ruling is not in line with what you are saying. The honourable speaker here was rising on a point of privilege. She was not raising any motion or any Members' Statement. As much as we accept your ruling, I think you have used the wrong reasoning in terms of the rules you alluded to. She was not rising on a motion or a Members' Statement. She was rising on a point of privilege. We expected you to rule on that matter regardless of it being a Members' Statement. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can I respond to that? You are correct. When she stood up, she said that she is rising on a point of privilege. As the Presiding Officer, I said that she raised a Members' Statement, hence, she was out of order. I think that one is understandable. You may proceed with the speech, Hon Premier.

2023 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS (SOPA)

(Address by Hon C S Mathabatha, Premier)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo – Hunadi; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Minister Ntshavheni, we are very grateful for you attending our august gathering. Members of the Executive Council; Executive Mayors and Mayors; the Secretary of the African National Congress; leaders of opposition parties; chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders; our esteemed traditional leaders – magoši a rena; former MPs and MPLs; Director General and Heads of Department; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; the Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service; Heads of our chapter 9 and chapter 10 institutions; leadership of our faith-based communities; leadership of our organised business and labour; leadership of the youth, women and our communities; members of the media, distinguished guests, and the beloved people of Limpopo, I greet you.

I am deeply honoured to present the 2023 State of the Province Address to this august House. February 2023 marks 33 years since the release of former President Nelson Mandela from prison after 27 years of unjust incarceration. Of course, President Mandela was not alone in our struggle for democracy and social emancipation. There were countless others. Some were killed; others disappeared. Yet, others have passed away, while others are still alive.

President Mandela was, however, the face of our democratic transition and its founding father. He was like a giant baobab that village elders would gather under, to engage in all matters related to governance of the village, a shelter in which elders would store ancient drums of wisdom – mokgapa o mogolo. We pay tribute to him and every hero and heroine of our struggle for freedom and democracy. Our democracy did not come on a silver platter. We should, therefore, not take it for granted. Neither will it proceed without challenges. We know there will be challenges in this democracy. We know there will be impediments in this democracy. We know there will be obstacles in this democracy. What matters is our determination to triumph towards a complete nonracial, nonsexist, democratic, and prosperous society.

Last year, we made a commitment to the people of Limpopo that we shall rise from the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We said our approach will involve embarking on a fresh journey seeking growth and development, as well as prosperity for the residents of Limpopo. We said our economic recovery trajectory will be guided by the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socioeconomic Recovery Plan. Through these plans, our deliverables should be measured against the attainment of an inclusive developmental economy.

Today, we have gathered in this House to give an account of the work we have done, and to pronounce the plans and programmes of the government for the year ahead. We are also here following the delivery of the 2023 State of the Nation Address by His Excellency, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, two weeks ago. After acknowledging the challenges that we face as a people, especially the energy crisis, President Ramaphosa reiterated that: "If we work together and act boldly and decisively, leaving no one behind, we will be able to resolve our challenges. We are a nation seized with the challenges of the present, but we are also a nation striving to fulfil the promise of our future." Therefore, our collective responsibility moving forward, is to implement the policy directives pronounced by the President. We are pleased to report that we have now recovered our lost ground after the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, on this occasion, we made a commitment to traverse the path of economic recovery towards a post-COVID-19 pandemic era. Our plan has been guided by the path of economic renewal, geared strategically towards fighting unemployment, poverty, and inequality. Notwithstanding these positive developments in respect of our response to COVID-19 pandemic, we are convening here, amidst other harsh global and national economic conditions. Indications are that geopolitical conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and the wider impact of the sanctions associated with it will affect other economies including ours.

Already, our country has witnessed spikes in fuel prices, which have a negative impact on the production and transportation of many products, including food. In addition, the rising cost of living has led to tightening the financial conditions in most regions. This, together with the lingering COVID-19 pandemic in China, weighs heavily on the economic outlook. Similarly, the State of the Province Address is taking place at a time when our country is grappling with the detrimental effects of the electricity crisis. It is for this reason that we welcome the pronouncements by President Ramaphosa regarding measures the country is taking to mitigate the effects of this crisis.

As Limpopo, we will also ensure that we play our part, including in the just energy transition. In making our contribution to help resolve the energy crisis and to build a just transition, we will need to prioritise the building of an uninterrupted electric power supply capability for essential services. In this regard, the Office of the Premier is assigned to play a major and wider coordinating role, in giving guidance to our provincial efforts.

Key amongst these is the development of a province-specific and comprehensive energy plan to ensure that we build a new electricity generation capacity in our province. To this effect, the provincial government, and subsequently municipalities, must include in their plans the development of energy production projects. These plans must encapsulate the possible retrofitting of solar panels to all government buildings. This will have to be done in a way that will complement Eskom.

Madam Speaker, the provision of healthcare and education services should be amongst the first to be insulated from the electric power supply interruptions. It is in this context that as a start, I have mandated the MEC for Health to prioritise the installation of solar panels to hospitals and clinics in the province. [APPLAUSE]

In the same spirit, I am pleased to report about the launch of the Renewable Energy Strategy by the Musina-Makhado SEZ in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development. The strategy, which will be launched next month in March, will serve as a blueprint to guide investments in our energy cluster, and to promote sustainable development.

On the economic front, there has been some signs of recovery as we confront the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. It is also worth noting that the official unemployment rate in our country has decreased in six provinces. We are pleased to report that the largest decrease was recorded in Limpopo at 5,3%, that is from 36,3% down to 31%. [APPLAUSE]

A worrying trend, however, is that as per Statistics South Africa's Quarterly Labour Force Survey of the third quarter 2022, young people aged between 15 and 24 and between 25 and 34 record the highest unemployment rates nationally. In that quarter, there were about 10,2 million young people aged between 15 and 24 years across the country, of whom 34,5% were not in employment, education or training.

Madam Speaker, notwithstanding these challenges, I am pleased to report that our Provincial Socio-Economic Recovery Plan, as anchored in our efforts to industrialise the province, has begun yielding positive results. Last year, during this Sitting, we reported that we had to urgently start visible work at the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone.

I am happy and very pleased, of course, to report that after the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment, construction work in the north-site has commenced with the laying of bulk infrastructure. The construction of a 14 kilometre internal roads has already created immediate opportunities for work-seekers and local entrepreneurs. Additional bulk installations such as water, sewer, electricity, and integrated security infrastructure will continue in 2023.

It is also worth mentioning that the appeal process, in respect of the Musina-Makhado SEZ South-Site Environmental Impact Assessment was concluded in July 2022. [APPLAUSE] These are some the impediments which made this project to delay. Go na le bomasela-a-khoše bao e lego gore ba eta ba ema ditšwelopele tše tša rena ka pele. Ba re ema ka pele gore re palelwe ke go tšweletša ditšwelopele tše pele ka go phela ba re iša dikgorotsheko. Hence, that is why this SEZ project is taking so long. This, ladies and gentlemen and honourable Members, has paved a way for the completion of the township establishment and the roll-out of the requisite bulk infrastructure services.

Nevertheless, we are aware of the other parties that continue litigating against the development of the Musina-Makhado SEZ. We are confident that as before, we shall overcome this hurdle. In the recent past, there has, on the other hand, been an outcry about the unavailability of water to support Musina-Makhado SEZ. We are, however, pleased to announce that the Department of Water and Sanitation has given us an assurance that it will support the project with water on a short, medium, and long-term basis.

Among the proposed water sources are ground water, imported water, and the development of new dams in the Vhembe District. Just last night, I had a very fruitful engagement with some of the main investors in the Musina-Makhado SEZ, the Hoi Mor Group. They welcome the progress we have made so far, and once more assured us their unwavering support and commitment to this project.

Another catalytic project that we reported on during the State of the Province Address last year, is the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. We are mentioning these things honourable Members, because we want to report on the progress made regarding the pronouncements that we made in the SOPA of last year. It is not that we are doing cut and paste and are repeating the same things that we said last year. We are saying these things because we are giving you a progress report.

I am delighted to report that the Environmental Impact Assessment was granted. [APPLAUSE] We have since allocated a budget for Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ infrastructure development. We are now ready to submit the application for the designation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ to national Cabinet. We are positive that we will get an approval.

We project to create over 6 000 jobs through the implementation of the Industrial Parks Revitalisation Programme in all the five districts of our province. Next year, we will report about these 6 000 jobs. The Critical Infrastructure Programme has approved R49,9 million funding for the Seshego Industrial Park to refurbish the top structures of 11 factories. The plan is to start immediately with construction. We envisage that this construction will be completed in the next financial year.

The people of Limpopo, to you we want to say in 2021, we hosted the first Limpopo Investment Conference. Through this initiative, we raised R209 billion in South African rands worth of investment pledges. To date, more than seven major projects worth more than R50 billion are in the implementation phase, not planning phase, in the implementation phase. [APPLAUSE]

Anglo-American has committed to advancing the hydrogen economy. Already, it has implemented R40 billion worth of their commitment in Mogalakwena. In this regard, our President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, had the opportunity to launch the nuGen Hydrogen Truck in 2022. The development of the nuGen Hydrogen Truck and its successful launch in the mining sector in Limpopo were an important contribution in the global response to climate change, specifically the decarbonisation of energy, transport, and the broader industry.

These are actual and tangible projects that we are talking about. Mining in our province is a major contributor to our production output. The sector is poised to play an increasing role given our mineral endowments. It is my pleasure to announce that Mining Restoration Investment has made a significant investment in the mining sector, with a pledge of R700 million towards a chrome and platinum group metal mine in the Thabazimbi area. I am proud to say that the company has already spent R140 million of the productive investment.

Sefateng Chrome Mine is revolutionising chrome mining with its unique underground shaft. They have invested a substantial sum of R1 billion to make this project a reality. This investment has created 350 jobs during the construction phase and provided a long-term source of employment for 600 individuals once production begins. No wonder ladies and gentlemen, that the previous increase in the unemployment rate throughout the country is here in Limpopo.

Last year, we reported to this august House progress regarding the Corridor Mining Resources, which is a shareholder through Limpopo Economic Development Agency to the Mphahlele Platinum Group Element Mining. In 2023, there will be further drilling to upgrade the resource. The equity partner, Sedibelo, is mobilising R1 billion to operationalise the mine.

Mozweli Engineering, which has pledged in that conference R115 billion investments, is paving the way in small-scale nuclear power.

Shekinah Lion and Game Lodge, which made an initial investment of R60 million already, is now leading the way in ecotourism.

The Nalane Green Solar Energy Project, which has started implementing their R5 billion investment pledge, is providing a unique socially responsible approach to energy generation.

The Nkuna City Investment is creating a viable and a vibrant dynamic community that seamlessly integrates business, retail, commercial, industrial, hospitality, institutional, and residential land use in a deep rural area. In just the first two phases of the project, it has created over 2 000 temporary jobs and 550 permanent jobs with an estimated worth of R370 million. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, these are actual projects. These are actual jobs that we are talking about. You can issue out a group or a delegation and go and investigate what we are saying. [APPALUSE]

I am honoured to stand before you today, to share some exciting news regarding the ZZ2 Packhouse. The company is undoubtedly committed to the growth and development of the agricultural sector in our province. We are proud to announce that ZZ2's investment of R128 million into a cutting-edge agro-processing facility for avocados and tomatoes is now complete. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members of the House, this administration is serious about addressing the challenges facing the social stratum called the "missing middle". In human settlement terms, the "missing middle" refers to households who do not qualify for the government's low-cost housing subsidy, because their income is above the eligibility level, while they do not qualify for mortgage bonds from commercial banks, because their income is below the qualifying threshold for the home loans they want. To deal with this hindrance, Risima, our provincial housing finance agency, has partnered with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, to implement the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme.

To date, a total of 147 people has benefited from this programme valued at R11 million. Through this programme, people will be able to secure housing finance at an affordable price. Remember, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, Risima is providing the lowest interest rate in the country much lower than the commercial banks, which therefore means, buying money from Risima is cheap if the interest rate still refers to the price of money.

The larger proportion of our population, mostly workers and work-seekers, depends on public transport such as the Great North Transport buses to commute daily. The Great North Transport has been repositioned to achieve its mandate of providing affordable and reliable public transport to the people of Limpopo. Having accepted its challenges, Great North Transport had to adopt a turnaround plan, which is unfolding. I must say, this is one of the aspects where I could say the provincial government was not doing as expected. We had expected the provincial government to do better. We accept that on this project, we are not up to the task, hence, we came up with a new turnaround strategy.

We have also noted the challenges of transport planning on provincial economic nodes such as Tubatse, Musina, Lephalale and Polokwane. The economic pressures of migration affect transport planning. The Department of Transport and Community Safety will be tasked to build requisite capacity on transport planning at departmental and municipal levels.

Tourism is one of the key strategic economic growth-points in our province. Nevertheless, the sector like other sectors of our economy has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to the Department of Tourism developing a plan to facilitate recovery in the sector. The Limpopo Tourism Agency, which is the pride of the province, has made strides in implementing this recovery plan through its marketing efforts. As a province, we have started regaining momentum in international tourist arrivals. From 0,6 million in 2021, we recorded over 1,5 million visitors in quarter three of 2022. This figure has by far surpassed the 2021 international annual performance. [APPLAUSE] This puts Limpopo back to the top three performing provinces in international tourist arrivals.

In domestic performance, Limpopo had the greatest number of trips originating from the province with 1,53 million trips in 2022, compared to just over 57,000 in 2021. This is a tremendous growth, compared to the previous years.

Limpopo has recorded 1,62 million trips by province of destination in quarter three of 2022. Again, this puts Limpopo back to the top three performing provinces in domestic trips.

In the same vein, we are delighted at the performance of the Hoedspruit Airport, Hon Smalle. It is reported to be amongst the busiest airports and a major competitor among its peers in the country. Of the 78 000 passengers that land at that airport, 61 000 of them are European tourists. European does not only mean whites, but it also means those who are coming from Europe. [LAUGHTER] The airport's ability to fly internationally allows many international travelers to have easy access to the regional routes such as

Vilanculos in Mozambique, Maun in Okavango, Delta, Botswana, and the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

It is in this context, that I have assigned the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, to work with ACSA, and coordinate a team to ensure development of a workable strategy for the repositioning and the repurposing of this airport. If it was according to me, honourable Members, I would say this airport must be given an international airport status, but the MEC will work on that. [APPLAUSE]

Our economic recovery route rests mainly, although not only, on the number of jobs we are able to create in our leading sectors and support for SMMEs. We are pleased to report that during the 2022/23 financial year, we have exceeded our target for supporting SMMEs and that helped to sustain at least up to 1 000 jobs. In addition, a total of R4,4 million worth of loans were disbursed to support SMMEs and cooperatives. A total of just over 13 000 local enterprises received assistance throughout the province. We shall continue to support about 100 more SMMEs and 100 more cooperatives in the next financial year.

Our support for development of youth entrepreneurs has received a major boost. In partnership with the National Youth Development Agency, we have set aside no less than R10 million to support established and aspiring youth entrepreneurs in the province. We are, therefore, inviting young people to apply in their numbers and take advantage of this opportunity so that they start to play meaningful role in the mainstream economy of our country and our province.

We have in place a strategic partnership with Exxaro to operate a satellite office in the Lephalale region. We have also partnered with Impact Catalyst for the co-implementation of specific enterprise development programmes on behalf of the participating mining houses in Limpopo. Further, we have a strategic partnership with Black Umbrellas for the co-implementation of enterprise supplier development programmes targeting the private and the public sectors. If you have got good governance, the private sector will buy into your programmes.

In 2022, we reported about several agricultural projects that needed our focused attention so that we ensure food security for our people. The notorious Lebowakgomo Abattoir has received a boost, with an approval of R32 million by National Empowerment Fund – at long last. Bjale go ra gore nka no nwa meetse, Mohlomphegi Sekoati. I agree with you. Ke kgale e re sokodiša protšeke ye. [APPLAUSE]

We have also reported about the interventions we planned to make in supporting the turnaround strategy of the Zebediela Citrus Estate. Our intervention is now bearing fruits, and I am going to plead with our people – mohlomongwe ke e bee ka Sepedi. Please, make this intervention to succeed ka gore ka mehla ge re tsena ka bogare kua Zebediela, go šala go e ba le dintwa ka gare ga batho ba rena. Hle, batho ba thari ye ntsho, a re kopantšheng matsogo. Ge mmušo o tsena, re thušane le mmušo, re kwane re be ga ga Nkwana gore protšeke e kgone go tšwelelela. We are assisting this project, I think for the third time now, Hon Sekoati. But, all the time when it collapses, it is because the beneficiaries develop in-fighting within the project. But we hope this time, batho ba gešo,

bantu bekhethu beMoletlane siyanibawa ukuthi nenze iphrojekhthi le ikhambe kuhle.

Preparatory work on the development of a comprehensive master plan for Zebediela in partnership with Impact Catalyst has started, following the conclusion, and the signing of a cooperation agreement in October 2022. Thus far, and despite the challenges experienced, mainly financial constraints from lower-than-expected income, the production of oranges is well on course. Preparations for harvesting are underway, scheduled to start later this month.

The contribution made through the Social Employment Fund, which is implemented by Impact Catalyst, has managed to create more than 600 jobs. Notable progress has been made through the Farmer Production Support Units Programme. The building for Masala Farmer Production Support Unit in Mopani District has been completed. This will benefit no less than 110 farmers producing food on the 2 203 hectares of land.

Since Project Koba-Tlala Production Brigade was initiated in 2022/23, the South African National Defence Force procured over R1 million worth of fresh produce from the farmers involved. Similarly, 32 collection points have been established to ensure active participation of small-scale farmers close to the military establishments.

Infrastructure development has and continues to be one of the key economic focus areas in this government. During the State of the Province Address in 2022, we made a commitment that the government through the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, will continue with its infrastructure support for other departments. We gave focused attention to some key infrastructure projects across the province. These include the construction of the provincial theatre. To date, the design of the theatre is at an advanced stage after the Polokwane Local Municipality made a portion of land available for the theatre.

We are also pleased to report on the progress we are making in the construction of libraries in the province. To date, Runnymede, Mavalani and Seleteng libraries – I so wish that this one in Seleteng can be named after Eskia Mphahlele. That's my wish, but the decision is with the people of GaMphahlele. [APPLAUSE] All those have achieved completion. We shall continue with the planning and design of four new libraries in Tshaulu, Sekhukhune, Botšhabelo and Vleifontein.

The province has been hard at work to deliver quality school infrastructure in the 2022/23 financial year. We are pleased to report that the Alldays Primary School in Blouberg and Laduma Mahume Primary School in Phokwane have been completed. We shall continue in the 2022/23 financial year with the construction of 25 new school projects, 10 of which will be completed in the 2023/24 financial year.

Our partnership with the mining sector in the provision and construction of more road infrastructure for our people is beginning to take shape. The total value of our current 12 partnerships we have with the mining houses, is no less than R1,1 billion. Two days ago, the MEC for Public Works was at GaMalekane, GaNapyane, handing over the contractor for the construction of the long-awaited steel-bridge. Whilst creating lot of jobs for our people and opportunities for local businesses during the construction

phase, there is no doubt that upon completion, this project would have radically redefined the economic landscape in that part of our province.

Also worth mentioning is that for this project, eight mining houses in the Eastern-Limb Cluster in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality contributed R127 million. It is a partnership. This is the total cost for the construction of this bridge, which means that the mines are effectively constructing this bridge. Thanks to Anglo American Platinum, Glencore Alloys, Booyseindal (Northam Platinum), Two Rivers Platinum, Samancor Chrome, Dwarsrivier Chrome, Rhakhoma Mining and Tjate Platinum.

In the same breath, we call upon the rest of the private sector to emulate the good example set by these mining houses, to come on board and help develop and grow the economy of our province. [APPLAUSE] We are currently in negotiations with the mining houses around Sekhukhune to assist us with the erection of a state-of-art soccer stadium in that area. We hope that we will be successful in those negotiations. If one is successful, Hon Minister, then Sekhukhune United will come back and play in Sekhukhune. [APPLAUSE]

In the 2022 State of the Province Address, I made commitments about the rehabilitation and upgrading of roads in the province. I can now confirm that these projects have since been completed. They include:

- The rehabilitation of the 11 kilometres of Road D1589 from GaKgobokanang to GaMakgato and De-Vrede in the Capricorn District; [APPLAUSE]
- The rehabilitation of Road D2537 in Penge in the Sekhukhune District;
- The rehabilitation of Road D11 from GaMamaila, Kolobetona connecting the R81 in the Mopani district is complete. [APPLAUSE] To ensure the entire D11 is in a good condition, we have also appointed another contractor for Phase 3 in November 2022. When Phase 3 is completed, the entire D11 will be in a good condition to ensure that the districts of Mopani and Vhembe are connected; and
- The rehabilitation of Road D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa in the Mopani District is at 67% completion. I can confirm that Phase 1 of this project has been completed. We have recently appointed a contractor for Phase 2.

I would also like to announce that we have made significant progress on the other projects that I pronounced on the 2022 SOPA as follows:

- We have completed the construction of Bridge 6116 in Makuleke;
- We completed rehabilitation on Road D3200, Lebaka to Mohlabaneng;
- Phase 2 of the rehabilitation of 30 kilometres of Road D4, Elim to Malamulele has reached practical completion. We have seen that the condition of the road from N1 to Elim is in a dire state. We appointed a contractor to do major rehabilitation on

that road; [APPLAUSE]

- The rehabilitation of flood damaged road, Road D4240, from Maseven in Sekhukhune is at 70% completion.
- Phase 1 of the rehabilitation of 40 kilometres of Road D1483, Musina to Pondrift in Vhembe is complete. [APPLAUSE] We have appointed another contractor for Phase 2 who is currently at 75% completion. Upon completion of Phase 2, we will appoint another contractor for Phase 3 to ensure the road leading to Mapungubwe Nature Park is in a good condition; and [APPLAUSE]
- We have completed the upgrading of Road D2922, Road D2919 from Keerom to Tshikanoši in Sekhukhune.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, in the same speech, I pronounced on the appointment of contractors by the end of 2022. I would like to give a progress report in that regard as follows:

- Following the completion of designs for Road D4180, Atok Mine to GaSelepe to Modimolle, the construction work will commence in the next financial year, 2023/24;
- Designs have also been completed for Road D4260, Malope to Phokwane in Sekhukhune and the construction work will commence in the next financial year;
- The construction work for D4090, D4093, D4094, and D4096, Malimate Roads in Capricorn District will commence in the next financial year; and
- Finally, the construction work for D4199 Apel at GaNkoana to D4190 in Sekhukhune District will commence in the next financial year.

In the same vein, we have prioritised other roads in the province, and to this end, contractors have already been appointed for the following roads:

- D3278, Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek in Capricorn;
- D3561, Segole 1 and Segole 2 (Masebe Nature Reserve to N11 Waterval) in Waterberg;
- D3669, Mavhunga access road in Vhembe;
- D3734, Tshatshama road in Mopani;
- D3436, D3428, and D5007, GaRamoshwane, GaRammetlwane, GaRamotlwana in Capricorn;
- D3248, Thapane access to Nwamitwa in Mopani;
- D4283, Glencowie to Malaka in Sekhukhune;
- D3671, Musekwa to Maranikwe in Vhembe, and
- The upgrading of the 10 kilometres Road D4109 from Mmamatonya to Road D885 in Capricorn district.

The contractors have already been appointed for those roads. I would like to further mention that 83 maintenance and rehabilitation projects will be attended to in the province to fix the ailing road network in the 2023/24 financial year. I think honourable Members will agree with me that this current weather, this current climate, is not doing justice to our roads. The other problem that we are facing is the infrastructure network when it comes to freight. We need to seriously, Hon Minister, consider the issue of developing a rail line. If we don't have that, we will always continue reacting to potholes, and in most instances, o humane e le gore di re šia ka lebelo. I am also glad to announce that we have appointed 41 engineering consultants to design roads in all five districts of the province. The designs are expected to be completed over a period of 12 months. This forward planning approach will help us ensure that whenever funds are available for construction, we implement without waiting for designs to be completed.

Water provisioning is high on the agenda of this government. During the State of the Province Address last year, we presented a detailed report about progress and challenges regarding water supply in Limpopo. Major projects for water resource development will be implemented by the Department of Water and Sanitation. These include the raising of the Tzaneen Dam wall, Olifants River Water Resources Development, Musina-Makhado SEZ bulk water supply and Nandoni Water Treatment Works. There is already a plan with time frames for all these projects. I must also confirm to you, Hosi N'wamitwa that even the N'wamitwa Dam is in the plans. We have already agreed with the Department of Water and Sanitation that it will be built. I think the date is 2024. I am talking under correction.

I am pleased that during our engagement with the Minister for Water and Sanitation, Hon Senzo Mchunu, it was agreed that we have to expedite these bulk water infrastructure projects, especially the Nandoni-Nsami bulk water pipeline, Giyani water treatment phase 1, Giyani water services, and the Loskop regional bulk water supply. This, we must do without hesitation because the people of Giyani have been waiting for water for a very long time. They must drink water before the end of this financial year. I am happy that the Mopani District Municipality did not wait for the pipeline to be completed. They have just appointed contractors to commence with the work of laying infrastructure for reticulation. This will assist us that as soon as the bulk services is completed, we will not be waiting for reticulation to take place. That system will talk to the already implemented one. Thanks to the district municipality.

Municipal infrastructure development is a key enabler for growth and development. We expect our municipalities to invest more in the development and maintenance of water, sanitation, electricity, and road infrastructure. In the past years, our municipalities were performing above expectations in Municipal Infrastructure Grant spending. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Municipal Infrastructure Grant spending negatively.

Nevertheless, there are still municipalities which have performed well regarding their Municipal Infrastructure Grant. These include the following:

- Maruleng Municipality which is top at 91,2%;
- Ephraim Mogale Municipality comes second at 80,9%; and
- Elias Motsoaledi Municipality comes third at 72,1%. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, this is not mere spending, it is most importantly infrastructure development and maintenance which involves the provision of jobs as well. It is also worth noting that the Municipal Infrastructure Grant was allocated to other important infrastructure development project besides just water:

- A total of 25 kilometres local access streets has been added into the provincial road networks;
- Eight community services projects were completed;
- The community facilities constructed include community halls, sports facilities, cemeteries, and high mast lights; and
- One bulk water project was completed in the Capricorn District Municipality to benefit 2 475 households.

By the end of the financial year, municipalities had spent R2,8 billion. That amounts to 92,3% of the total Municipal Infrastructure Grant allocation. This is a very important milestone when it comes to the performance of municipalities because in the past, they were performing below par, 60%, 70% and below that. These, of course, I must say, are encouraging signs and I, therefore, call on the municipalities to sustain this momentum.

Underspending and completion of water and sanitation projects remain another challenge in municipalities. We have noted that access to water has declined by 9,4% between 2015 and 2021. This is from 78,8% to 69,4%. This has mainly been caused by ageing infrastructure affecting sustainable and reliable water supply as well as by changes in climatic conditions. However, there was a 4,5% increase in sanitation between 2015 and 2021.

We have since encouraged municipalities that are water service authorities to utilise a portion of their Municipal Infrastructure Grant to refurbish or replace ageing infrastructure. We shall continue to align all these projects through the Premier's Inter- Governmental Relations Forum, so that the District Development Model can shape the way we provide services to our people.

Madam Speaker, government has since developed a turnaround strategy, to address the Human Settlement portfolio, which has been of great concern to us because of its performance. The implementation of the strategy is already yielding results and the current level of performance in the delivery of housing units is now at 3 881 excluding the 35 units delivered through the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme. We envisage that the Human Settlements Development Grant budget allocation, mainly earmarked to deliver 4 973 housing units in 6 055 sites, will create housing opportunities for 3 159 qualifying job seekers.

Today, we have another good reason to celebrate, Madam Speaker. There is no doubt that our journey towards our target of 80% Grade 12 pass rate is well on track. The Class of 2022 has shown us that it is doable. Through resilience and dedication, the Grade 12 Class of 2022 has attained 72,1% pass rate. [APPLAUSE] This, honourable Members, represents 5,4% improvement from 2021. As the Minister of Education has said, Limpopo is the second most improved province in the country. What a milestone!

Limpopo sets a new matric record in 2022. It improved the number of candidates who obtained bachelor passes from over 28 000 which was 26,7% in 2021 to approximately 33 000 which is 29,8% in 2022. To Team Education under the MEC, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya and all the stakeholders, Limpopo says to you, thank you once more.

There is no doubt that the intervention plan we adopted at the Education Indaba that I convened last year, has made a huge impact. We must, therefore, intensify the implementation of this plan.

School infrastructure remains high on the agenda of this provincial government. It is a prerequisite for conducive learning environment. To this effect, the province will build an additional 150 classrooms in the next financial year. This will go a long way towards reducing classrooms backlogs at our schools. On the other hand, we have made great strides in addressing the challenge of schools with inappropriate sanitation facilities. The next phase is to attend to those schools that have inadequate sanitation. About 150 of such schools will be provided with additional sanitation facilities over the next Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. .

Honourable Members, in keeping with the dictates of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and demands of the knowledge economy, the project of providing our learners and educators with appropriate ICT resources is well on track. In the previous financial years, we provided Grades 1 and 8 learners with tablets and their educators with laptops. There is still a lot of work we need to do to complete the shift, inclusive of building learning and teaching interactivity on the eLearning platform and securing digital connectivity across the province. Similarly, we recognise the critical role that the Early Childhood Development Programme plays.

Cabinet took a decision to transfer this function to the Department of Education with effect from 01 April 2022. We have since put in place systems to ensure that 105 000 children aged 0 to 4 years access registered ECD programmes in community-based centres throughout the province.

Today, we are in what is now commonly known as the post-COVID-19 pandemic era. It is worth noting that more than 2,5 million people above the age of 12 have been vaccinated in Limpopo. We invited those who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 to vaccinate. In the same breadth, the fight against HIV/Aids, TB and malaria continues. Through vaccination of children, we have also made significant strides in our continued fight against measles. We, therefore, encourage parents to make sure that our children are vaccinated against measles. I think honourable Members will agree with me that the province performed splendidly when it comes to our combating of the COVID-19 pandemic in this province.

Thanks to you, MEC, Hon Ramathuba. Continue with the good work. I want to say to the people of Limpopo that when I appointed Hon Ramathuba, I did not appoint her to come and practise as a doctor; I appointed her to become a politician and practise as a politician. Anyone who thinks differently, ke tša gagwe tšeo. [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE PREMIER

Honourable Members, honourable Members ... I am interested to know her qualifications.
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, honourable Member, order!

THE PREMIER

We are very excited that finally, the long-awaited Limpopo Academic Hospital is going to be constructed this year. [APPLAUSE] The Minister of Finance, yesterday, announced in Parliament that the construction of this 488-bed hospital will begin next month, this coming month. Of particular importance is that this massive project will not only help towards improving the provision of health services in the province but will also create jobs and business opportunities for our people during the post-construction.

Earlier this month, honourable Members and Hon Speaker, Turkey and Syria experienced a devastating earthquake. No less than 46 000 lives were lost, whilst many are still unaccounted for. On behalf of the people of Limpopo, I convey our heartfelt condolences to all the families that lost their loved ones. Please allow me to take this opportunity to applaud the five members of the Limpopo Emergency Medical Services Rescue Team who volunteered to go to Turkey and Syria to help with their expertise and services. [APPLAUSE] They are a true resemblance of what has always defined us, solidarity with the fellow people during the time of despair.

Honourable Members, the province realised the decrease of road fatalities up to the third quarter of 2022/23 financial year by 1,8%. One hundred and seventy-nine fatalities were reported. For the same period during 2021/22, 226 fatalities were reported. Fatalities dropped significantly by 47 which converts to 20,8%. Most of the victims were pedestrians, followed by passengers. Just a few days ago, we sadly witnessed a horrific accident on the N1 in Makhado Municipality where we lost 22 people. We send our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish speedy recovery to those who were injured.

In my consultative meetings with stakeholders prior to this address, the South African Council of Churches, had impressed upon the need to convene a prayer session in response to this and other fatalities. To that effect, I have directed the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to work together with faith-based organisations to convene a Provincial Prayer Day before the end of March 2023. I have no doubt that we need to come together with all organs of civil society, converge under one roof to develop a social compact.

Underpinning this social compact should be a commitment to confront these social ills that afflict humanity. Gender-based violence and femicide, as well as other forms of crime that continue to rear their ugly heads in our public life must be the highlight of this envisaged social compact.

Last year, we recommitted ourselves to make life very difficult for criminals, especially those who wish to use Limpopo as a haven for their nefarious activities. This was largely because peace and stability have always been defining features of our province. However, as of December 2022, the province experienced an increase in various categories of crime. The total number of crime statistics reported at that time was 242, which was an increase from the previous statistics. There is, however, a notable decrease in reported cases of both sexual offences and attempted sexual offences. This indicates that the province, through SAPS and other partners in the safety and security cluster, are confronting gender-based violence head-on. Whilst noting this provincial decrease, we are concerned that incidents of gender-based violence continue to rise in Thohoyandou, Mankweng, Seshego and Giyani. For us to win the battle against gender-based violence, we need everyone to play their part.

Last year, there were several inter-sectoral campaigns through face-to-face, print and electronic media in an effort to intensify our fight against crime. All districts held dialogues wherein NGOs, traditional leaders, interdenominational and sector departments participated. This platform has brought about a renewed commitment to fight crime on the part of our people. We shall, therefore, put mechanisms in place to ensure that the departmental coordination and stakeholder collaborations are strengthened.

We continue to enjoy a cordial relationship with the institution of traditional leadership in the province. In this regard, we appreciate the work done by the traditional leaders in the resumption of the initiation schools after a two-year break. In line with the new legislation, the Traditional Leadership and Khoisan Act, the traditional leaders fully participated in the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee. This committee which has since been established, is charged with the responsibility of coordinating, and ensuring the smooth-running of initiation schools.

Madam Speaker, last year, we made a commitment to commence with the construction work at some traditional council offices. I am pleased to report on the progress we have made in this regard as follows:

- The construction work is well underway at Bakone ba Matlala in Capricorn District, Raphahlelo in Mopani district, Bakwena ba Matsepe in Sekhukhune District, Manoke in Sekhukhune District;
- The construction sites at Davhana in Vhembe District and Majeje in Mopani District have been established; and
- I am also pleased to confirm that the Mogashoa Traditional Council Office, which had encountered some problems in its initial stage, has now been completed.

It is worth mentioning that we have set aside a budget to purchase motor vehicles for senior traditional leaders in the next financial year. [APPLAUSE] These motor vehicles will enable traditional leaders to carry out their work as they lead our communities. The institution of traditional leaders also has a role to play in the continued reconstruction and development of our country. It is in this context that I call on all municipalities to work closely with traditional leaders on issues of rural economic development.

Nevertheless, of concern to us is the continued referral of traditional leadership disputes to courts of law. Bamošate, magoši a rena, ditaba tša mošate ga di rarollweng ke ba mošate, re tlogele go di iša go dikgorotsheko. Ditaba tša mošate, we have got our customary way of resolving our disputes ka mošate. Ge re dumelela ditaba tša rena tša mešate di e ya go dikgorotsheko, di tlo feleletša di re tšwa ka diatleng.

Last year we recommitted ourselves to acknowledge the pivotal role played by our military veterans in the struggle for freedom and democracy in our country. We know and understand that the plight and the welfare of the military veterans is our collective responsibility. Following the consultative visit by the Deputy President of the Republic, and the subsequent establishment of the Provincial Inter-Ministerial Task Team, we began the process of implementing deliverables aimed at improving the living conditions of our military veterans. It was against that background that I have subsequently directed MECs to put specific departmental plans in place to support military veterans. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has specifically been directed to profile historical contributions made by the military veterans towards the liberation of our country. What you would call liberation route, Hon Speaker, must be developed, and the MEC for Treasury has assured me that he will make funds available for that. [APPLAUSE]

The provincial government has made significant inroads towards the building of a capable, ethical, and developmental state. As part of this important journey, we committed ourselves to fight against corruption in government, wastage, and mismanagement of public resources. During the State of the Province Address last year, we gave a report to this august House on the work of the Special Investigating Unit into COVID-19 funds. To date, the provincial government is implementing the SIU recommendations. We are also supporting the SIU where investigations are still going on.

At least five officials are facing internal disciplinary processes in this regard. One former official is facing criminal investigation. We are sending a strong message to all those in the public service, who are prone to commit corruption, fraud, and maladministration, to avoid being on the wrong side of the law. We are well on track, Madam Speaker, in restoring corporate governance and improving financial administration in Limpopo. Sustained audit improvements over this period attest to our commitment to clean governance.

In 2021/22 alone, Limpopo provincial government attained four clean audit opinions. We have also received nine unqualified audit opinions, while only two government departments remained qualified. We have no disclaimer and no adverse opinions. [APPLAUSE] Our immediate task is to sustain the quality of these audit outcomes, implement all the audit action plans, and ensure that we move Limpopo towards a clean audit status. The latest audit results by the Auditor-General in local government also show

an improved trajectory. We have come a long way since the days of adverse and disclaimer audit opinions. We dare never go back.

Out of the 27 municipalities, 2 received clean audit opinions, 13 received unqualified audit opinions, 11 municipalities received qualified, and only 1 had a disclaimer audit opinion, no adverse disclaimer audit opinion. Let me, therefore, take this opportunity to congratulate the Capricorn and Waterberg District Municipalities, Mr Mataboge who is getting it for the second time, and Ms Mamedupi Teffo. All the municipalities that attained unqualified audit opinions, we want you to improve back to clean audit.

Nevertheless, I am particularly concerned about Mopani District Municipality. It has received a disclaimer audit opinion for the second time in a row. I have, therefore, instructed the MEC for CoGHSTA to intervene and assist the municipality. It is not always the case that you should fire people. Sometimes you should come up with corrective actions. I have no doubt that this intervention will go a long way towards improving good governance and financial accountability in the municipality concerned.

Honourable Members, we are confident that we have stabilised the provincial government. This was confirmed by the Auditor-General when she said, and listen carefully – this is not us, it is the Auditor-General. “The province improved its overall audit outcomes over the three years since the previous administration. The province improved its compliance with the laws and regulations over the administration period, with 12 auditees which represents 71% having material noncompliance findings in 2021/22, compared to the 16 auditees which is 94% in 2018/19. We find it encouraging that the improved compliance translated into a notable reduction in irregular expenditure incurred.” [APPLAUSE] That is the Auditor-General who said that. Ga se Chupu Mathabatha. [APPLAUSE] I would also want to welcome the Cabinet decision to adopt the framework on the professionalisation of the public service. We accordingly commit ourselves to implementing this framework. We equally call upon municipalities to embrace this effort to professionalise this sphere of government. The call for professionalisation of public service will help us intensify good governance.

Honourable Members and distinguished guests, during the State of the Province Address last year, we committed our provincial departments and municipalities to play a leading role in executing the District Development Model. We are pleased with the progress regarding the implementation of this model, especially the alignment of plans in Limpopo. We want to say in this province, all the district municipalities have adopted the DDM approach.

Madam Speaker, sport, arts and culture are key drivers towards building unity and social cohesion. In the year under review, Banyana Banyana won the Women’s Africa Cup of Nations of 2022. Once again, we congratulate the entire team for having made South Africa proud. That winning team, which is worth noting, included six players from Limpopo – this province. [APPLAUSE] We, therefore, could not miss the opportunity of hosting them, welcoming them back to the heartland of Southern Africa, the home of the Baobab tree in South Africa, Limpopo.

In the same wavelength, we will not tire from celebrating the achievements of our

legendary Vakhegula Vakhegula, a football team from Limpopo comprising grandmothers up to the age of 84. They have gained international recognition. Probably, this could be an indicator of where the players in Banyana Banyana in Limpopo come from.

Similarly, Limpopo has seen an increase in football clubs participating in the Premier Soccer League and First National Division. There are seven teams in the two apex leagues from Limpopo province. This progress has made imperative the development of FIFA-compliant stadia and hospitality sector facilities in our districts.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the sons and daughters of this province who continue to place on the map, especially in the field of arts and culture. We congratulate our daughter, Ndavi Nokeri, the reigning Miss South Africa who went on to contest for Miss Universe last year. [APPLAUSE] Nokeri hails from Tzaneen and she follows other illustrious daughters of the soil, former Miss South Africa, Bokang Montjane, former Miss South Africa Shudufhadzo Musida, and all from our beautiful province.

We are also excited about our super musicians who continue to wow the world with their story telling music. King Monada won the best song of the year with his song “*Aye Kuwa*” on *Thobela FM*. In the same vein, we saw our national Rakgadi - Makhadzi collaborating with King Penny Penny, who is my guest today, with a powerful song, “*Milandu Bhe*”, on *Phalaphala FM* and *Munghana Lonene FM*. [APPLAUSE]

When *Idols 18* closed the curtain last year, the whole South Africa came to a standstill, when Thapelo Molomo became the *Idols 18* winner. [APPLAUSE] Thapelo Molomo comes from Bakenberg. On the other hand, we continue to be entertained through wedding songs such as “*Moleta Israel, ga a robale*”, by our very own Pleasure Ramadimetja Peta. [APPLAUSE] I can’t forget to remember her signature song, which is also the love of my heart, that lyrics which say, ‘Ke lorile nna le wena, re apere palamonwana’. Thank you very much. Re a leboga, Pleasure. If I am not mistaken, Pleasure is also part of the audience. Are you here Pleasure? [APPLAUSE] You are welcome. I am pleased that some of them are here and are my guests of honour in this special Sitting today. It is my singular honour and privilege to acknowledge all of them, and say to them, Limpopo loves you. [APPLAUSE]

Madam Speaker, honourable Members, distinguished guests, when we said that Limpopo shall rise, it was like a myth. However, today, we are seeing tangible and meaningful progress unfolding. We are like a trunk of a Baobab whose multi-purpose bark is a friend to a hunter, a friend to a builder and a companion to a woman who has come to collect firewood. Its bark produces strings that tie multiplicity of items. Whilst the Baobab may look like it is temporarily bleeding, in no time it regenerates and allow the whole tree to continue producing fruits and shade in scorching summer. Indeed, ladies and gentlemen, we are like a Baobab tree. With these few words, I would like to thank you. Ndaa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Re a go leboga, Mahlatji. We shall now call upon the Hon Deputy

Speaker to give vote of thanks and announcements.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Phaphathang matsogo. [LAUGHTER] Thank you, Speaker. Hon Seshoka, I am just reclaiming my colours from you.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. It is a privilege for me to convey appreciation on behalf of Limpopo Legislature to all our guests as acknowledged by you, Hon Speaker and Hon Premier. Ro livhuwa ngamaanda mulaedza. We are very happy today Hon Speaker that indeed this SOPA is a very special one given the fact that since 2020, we were not gathering like this. U bva nga hwaha wa 2020 ro vha ri sa kuvhangani nga u rali. Ro vha ri tshi khou tsvha u vhone dzirokho dzavhudi na dzihemmbe dza u naka ngauralo-ngauralo. We were also missing the shining helmets elements. Thank you very much. It is indeed all things bright and beautiful.

We want to acknowledge you Hon Speaker for giving guidance to this process. We really appreciate that. We also want to appreciate the Hon Premier for providing political direction. We really appreciate you, Hon Premier. We can do better by clapping hands once more. [APPLAUSE] We also want to appreciate Members of the Legislature, even the new Members of the Legislature. You are also welcome, Hon Mapuolo to the Legislature. We are welcoming you now. You can make Members' Statements after we have welcomed you. Thank you very much.

We also want to appreciate the Executive Mayor of the Capricorn District Municipality and, the Mayor of the Polokwane Municipality for hosting us in this auspicious event. We want to give thanks to all the honourable Members for participating in this event, and the guidance of the Secretary, Mr Simon Mothoa. In the preparatory room, we also want to appreciate all the back-room staff that has been working very well to ensure that this event becomes successful.

With regards to announcements, Madam Speaker, after this session, there will be a photo shoot outside. As we go outside, the honourable Members, and the Premier will be guided by the protocol officers in terms of taking pictures. I can see Hon Managa is ready to take a picture.

We must also note that the luncheon for all the guests gathered here will be served at Bolivia Lodge, and the lunch for the public will be served here outside. Thanks very much and thanks for attending this auspicious event. Ri khou livhuwa ngamaanda. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 28 February 2023 at 10:00 at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2023
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 be seated. Honourable Members, members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

As we are proceeding with our programme, I just want to indicate that we have suspended items 2 to 6. There will not be any motions or Members' Statements today.

[ITEMS 2 – 6 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 DEBATE ON THE PREMIER'S STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker is Hon Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip of the majority party. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature and our guests in the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, as we debate here today, allow me to first take this august House down memory lane, just momentarily, to a time when Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa took over as the

Premier. It was not by accident that you were first sworn in on 18 July 2013. This was a historic day in our calendar wherein the first Commander of uMkhonto weSizwe, the first volunteer in the Chief of the Defiance Campaign, and above all, the first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa, President Nelson Mandela, was celebrating his 95th birthday. A man who lived up to his name. May his revolutionary spirit continue to guide us.

Hon Premier, you took the baton under difficult circumstances ... [INTERJECTION]

MS MARAGA

I am rising on a point of order!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, can you pause for a while please. You may proceed honourable Member.

MS MARAGA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We will not allow a situation where we are presenting our speeches in the absence of the Premier. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

It is noted honourable Member. The Premier is on his way. For now, the Leader of Government Business will take note of the deliberations on behalf of the Premier. That is the arrangement, thank you very much. You may proceed Hon Chief Whip.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I think it must also be noted that we have a Premier that is not taking this House seriously. For him to arrive this late, must be noted. Everybody must know the kind of leader we are having. He does not take this Legislature seriously, thinking he can come late on this important day where we have to respond to his speech.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I have responded to the concern raised by the previous speaker, indicating that the Premier is on his way. As the Presiding Officer I have communicated with the Premier, and I will not disclose why the Premier is late, hence I am saying that the Leader of Government Business will take note of all the deliberations on his behalf in the meantime. He is on his way, he is coming!

MR SESHOKA

But he is late!

THE SPEAKER

No, he is not late. Can you proceed please, Hon Chief Whip?

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, you took the baton under difficult circumstances, when the future of the Limpopo provincial government was bleak. In 2014 the corporate governance in Limpopo had virtually collapsed. The province was bankrupt, with no money for service delivery. Almost all departments in our province were put under administration by the national government in terms of section 100 of our Constitution. Audit opinions of various departments were discouragingly negative. With the positive mindset of the true leader that you are, you indicated: "It is during moments such as these when we should dig deep within our souls to search for that which makes us the unique people that we are."

It is not a secret that the image of our province has suffered a great deal as a result of negative reporting which at times has shaken even the faith of our people in the ability of their government to deliver. This moment should afford us a unique opportunity to do self-introspection, while at the same time finding closure from within ourselves so that the mistakes that we may have committed should never be repeated again. Together, let us embrace one another in the true spirit of comradeship so that we are able to move forward in unison. We should know that this is about service to the people and nothing more."

You further said, "It can never be accepted that this province, which has produced outstanding revolutionaries such as Alpheus Malivha, John Kgoana Nkadimeng, Ike Maphoto, Charlotte Maxeke, Elias Motsoaledi, Mark Shope, Samson Ndou, and many other luminaries, are dragged through the mud as a result of senseless and heinous acts of corruption and maladministration." Hon Premier, like the true captain that you are, you steered the ship into the right direction. Reckless overspending was curbed and unauthorised expenditure was eliminated, which in return improved the financial management of our province.

One of your gravest concerns of the fifth administration was the inability of the municipalities to spend the allocated Municipal Infrastructure Grant, whereby in the 2014/15 financial year this grant's expenditure in our province was 73%. However, through your efforts, at the end of the 2017/18 financial year, the Municipal Infrastructure Grant expenditure had risen to 95%. This is because you had only one thing in mind; to serve the people of Limpopo with diligence and you are consistently doing exactly that. When you took over the reins, the provincial coffers were in tatters. Through your decisive leadership, you turned the tide and restored public confidence. You have also used the same energy and vigour to rebuild the same organisation that has deployed you as the leader of this government of Limpopo – the African National Congress. No amount of political dithering and whinging must defocus you, as you are about to complete a historic two terms as the Premier of one of South Africa's fastest growing economies. On behalf of the people of Limpopo, we want to thank you Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa for continuing to steer

the ship, amidst these turbulent waves which were brought about by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current economic recession. Indeed Mahlatji, as we have buffalo and tigers elsewhere, we have you as our own lion. Ulibhubezi lamambala emphakathini weLimpopo.

Hon Speaker, as the ANC-led government we acknowledge that the insecurity of electricity supply continues to be one of the greatest impediments to economic recovery and disrupts the lives of all South Africans. We are pleased, as the ANC, that the Hon Premier has highlighted the plans for this province in how it will be playing a part to end this National State of Disaster in our country. Accordingly, the Hon Premier also indicated that the Office of the Premier will play a major role in coordinating and guiding our provincial efforts. As the ANC, we are humbly requesting that you move speedily in ensuring that the development of a province-specific and comprehensive energy plan is put in place, that will enable us to build a new electricity generation capacity in our province, as you specifically announced during the State of the Province Address.

The ANC calls on Eskom and our government to immediately focus on restoring additional units bringing them into operation as quickly as possible and arresting further decline by undertaking critical maintenance; ensuring power stations have skilled and experienced personnel; tackling sabotage, theft and corruption at power stations and streamlining procurement processes. Hon Speaker, to further reduce strain on the national grid, our ANC-led government and Eskom must enforce demand management measures to reduce electricity consumption and ensure available energy is directed to areas and sectors of priority, including support for health and educational institutions and municipal infrastructure. We also call on our people to refrain from illegal connections as this has dire consequences and contribute negatively to the energy crisis that we are faced with. The ANC will lead a campaign against illegal connections to eliminate load reduction which is adding to the energy burden suffered by communities, and we call on all South Africans to participate in the energy saving measures to alleviate stress on the national grid.

Hon Speaker, though we acknowledge the drop in the unemployment rate as reported by Statistics South Africa, wherein the largest decrease is recorded in our province, as the ANC we are deeply bothered and concerned about the fact that the highest percentage of the unemployment rate nationally is that of young people, the future of this country. In the same breath, Hon Speaker, we welcome the efforts from the Presidential Employment Stimulus which have created over one million job and livelihood opportunities. Our government is also creating work opportunities using the capability of organisations beyond government, in areas such as urban agriculture, early childhood development, public art and tackling gender-based violence.

Hon Speaker, through the Presidential Employment Stimulus Package, a further 50 000 participants for the next phase of the Social Employment Fund to undertake work for the common good will be recruited, as well as a further 36 000 participants for the National Youth Service to enable young people to contribute to their communities, develop their skills and grow their employability. Ten thousand young people will also be recruited for the digitisation of paper records. Hon Speaker, we welcome these efforts as they are a step in the right direction to fight the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and

inequality. We are also delighted that our provincial government projects to create 6 000 job opportunities in all five districts in the province through the implementation of the Industrial Parks Revitalisation Programme. The Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ infrastructure development will also play a critical role in the economic growth of our province, and we are thrilled with the progress made to date.

Hon Speaker, we further encourage young people to take advantage of the opportunities presented by our ANC-led government in assisting small businesses. Our government is supporting small and medium sized enterprises and making it easier for entrepreneurs to start businesses in an effort to drive economic growth and increase employment opportunities. What is also encouraging is that the Amendments to Business Act is being introduced to reduce regulatory impediments for SMMEs and cooperatives, and also, the bounce-back loan scheme to assist SMMEs and ensure informal businesses are being strengthened.

Hon Speaker, this is in line with our conference resolution which called on our government to remove the regulatory constraints on SMMEs and to support micro enterprises and cooperatives in the township and rural economies through the creation of trading spaces and industrial parks; access to value-chains and finance for small and independent retailers and wholesalers; the provision of roads, digital connectivity and other economic infrastructure. Hon Speaker, it was reported during the State of the Province Address by the Hon Premier that the provincial government exceeded its target for supporting SMMEs that helped to sustain up to 1 000 jobs in the 2022/23 financial year, and a total of over 13 000 local enterprises received assistance throughout the province. This is commendable and we believe without a doubt that in the next financial year much more will be achieved in this area as you committed that you would continue to support 100 SMMEs and 100 cooperatives in the next financial year.

Hon Speaker, the continuous growth of the agricultural sector will most definitely warrant a positive contribution to food availability, employment and economic growth. We are glad that various agricultural projects in our province receive the necessary attention to ensure food security for our people. With regard to the progress that you have made in the agricultural sector, Hon Premier, it is evident that the ANC-led government will continue to support the agricultural sector by ensuring that under-utilised land is brought into production and is made available to communities and historically disadvantaged individuals.

Equally the acceleration of the Farmer Support Production Units is a critical steppingstone to the revitalisation of the rural economy, as they provide the necessary farming implements and mechanisation in rural areas. The ANC remains resolute in its commitment to ensure equitable access to land to reverse the apartheid spatial planning and increase the participation of historically disadvantaged communities in agriculture and other land-based industries. Equally, land access for human settlement remains critical to address land hunger in urban communities.

Hon Speaker, Walter Cronkite once said: "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." We are pleased about the progress made towards the construction of libraries and schools across the province. We need to

increase investment in infrastructure and ensure that the construction of projects is undertaken with the necessary urgency. This will improve access to basic services and increase the overall efficiency and competitiveness of the economy. We call on our people to protect these facilities and use them in accordance with what they are envisioned for. The beautiful thing about learning, Hon Speaker, is that no one can take it away from you. On that note, we congratulate the class of 2022 for setting a new record in our province. This gives a challenge to the class of 2023 to surpass that record towards the realisation of our set record of an 80% pass rate.

Hon Speaker, as the ANC we are, however, concerned that despite a significantly higher level of enrolment in basic education, many young people still drop out before writing their matric examination. We call on our government to initiate processes that will address this problem. It must also increase the cohort of Black skilled people to meet the demand which will arise because of the economic recovery process. There has to be more focus on training in artisanal, vocational, and technical skills, and encourage greater enrolment in colleges. TVET colleges must have modern and up to date equipment on which students will train and acquire the relevant skills.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, the task of ensuring that all South Africans share in the country's wealth is indeed far from complete. The country's unequal distribution of wealth and income is largely characterised by the racial, spatial and gender demographics of our colonial and apartheid past. However, Hon Speaker, the 55th National Conference of the ANC affirmed that; the strategic objective of the ANC remains the resolution of the three basic and inter-related contradictions of colonialism of a special type (CST) – racial oppression, women's oppression and class super-exploitation. We seek to achieve this through the fundamental socioeconomic transformation of South Africa into a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic and prosperous society based on the vision, values and principals of the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of our country.

Simply put, Hon Speaker, the ANC is primarily about building a better life for all South Africans.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, to the Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana. Before we proceed with the Speakers' List, I just want to indicate that there are a few slight changes on the allocation of time. Hon Maharaj from the DA was allocated 9 minutes, he however wants to reduce it from 9 to 5 minutes. The other 4 minutes will be allocated Hon Smalle, meaning he will be given 13 minutes. The EFF were given the opportunity to have three speakers, with an allocation of 14 minutes each. They will now have only two speakers and their combined time, will be 28 minutes. These are the changes that I wanted to bring under your attention.

Thank you very much, Hon Premier, for joining us and welcome to our Sitting. Our second speaker on the list is Hon Seshoka. You may take the podium.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The EFF caucus led by Hon Tshilidzi Maraga, the EFF leader; Premier of the province, Chupu Mathabatha; MECs present and Members of this august House, receive our revolutionary greetings.

Hon Speaker, the flip flop SOPA delivered by Hon Mathabatha in 2022 spoke of a bird called the phoenix, which rose from the ashes of its predecessors. Unfortunately, the poor bird never rose, but died from the ashes of its predecessors. His so-called Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Socioeconomic Recovery Plan will remain a pipedream because it does not represent the aspirations of our people but promote neo-liberal policies which pleases the white masters who crafted all these plans which are continuing to deepen poverty in our country. In addition, in 2022 he indicated that the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) will receive special attention, which he decided to ignore during his 2023 SOPA because of the mess he created with this project. Hon Premier, may you please give a full disclosure of what happened?

Hon Speaker, Statistics South Africa is a credible institution which deals with accurate and scientific statistics. Numbers do not lie. The Premier, during the State of the Province Address, was at pains to paint a rosy picture that all is well in the province, when in fact that is not the case. The data from Stats SA shows that the number of employed persons decreased in three provinces between quarter 2 and 3 of 2022 – with the exceptions being Gauteng, Western Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga and the Eastern and Northern Cape. The most significant employment decreases were recorded in the North West province with 66 000 job losses, Limpopo with 55 000 and the Free State with 9 000. Furthermore, the updated unemployment data shows that there are now two provinces in South Africa with an expanded unemployment rate of more than 50%, while Limpopo is hovering just below the threshold at 49,9%. Despite being rich in minerals and contributing to the overall mining job performance, which grew by 36 000 jobs, the unemployment crisis in Limpopo continues unabated. Hon Speaker, this is the real state of the province. It's all doom and gloom, not the half-truth that was presented last week by Premier Mathabatha.

The Sekhukhune District with the most mines – more than 30 – remains impoverished with high levels of unemployment. The majority of companies doing business with these are mostly Australian mining companies, which are owned by white people. These overseas companies doing business in Sekhukhune and other districts in our province do not comply with the Mining Charter and Social Labour Plans. The ANC-led government, however, sees nothing wrong with it because they are scared of the white man.

The legacy that they leave behind is respiratory disorders caused by the dust emissions during mining operations, as well as the deteriorating infrastructure. The mining areas are not rehabilitated after the lifespan of the mine has come to an end.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that the ANC-led government is killing the traditional authority through the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Spluma). This is witnessed by the protracted litigation programme, which is ongoing in the province, pertaining to the fight over leadership.

The Socioeconomic Recovery Plan was allocated a total amount of R503 million to fund short-term measures in the 2020/21 financial year. In September 2021, the province hosted the Limpopo Investment Conference, and yielded investment pledges to the value of R208 billion. To what extent did these pledges grow the economy and how many jobs did these pledges create, Hon Premier?

Hon Speaker, the Premier missed an opportunity to give a proper progress report on the Musina-Makhado SEZ. He told the people of Limpopo that visible bulk infrastructure projects had begun in earnest in the northern part of the Musina-Makhado special economic zones. He is telling us that they will develop dams to provide water for the project, yet he says the project has started. How will the project proceed without water? Last year during SOPA, you said: "We have made significant progress towards securing water resources for the SEZ. This includes engagements with Zimbabwe and other SADC member states." This year you did not say anything concrete about these engagements.

Hon Premier, let us advise you. You cannot rely on underground sources of water for such a mega-project. This is a recipe for failure, because water is key to the success of this mega-project, and underground water is not sustainable and reliable. We are, however, not surprised because most of the time the Premier speaks about things that do not make political, social and business sense. Regardless of the reactionaries who challenged the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in court, we feel that this will continue because the EIA process was done in a manner that excluded most of our communities, preventing them from expressing their views during that process. We can, therefore, expect continuous litigation.

Equally, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ has its own challenges which the Premier failed to clearly outline in his speech. Instead, clowns clapped hands when the Premier repeated the statement he made in his previous SOPA, that Fetakgomo-Tubatse is in the process of finalising the designation process.

We were told the same story last year, where you indicated that: "Already 21 companies with a potential to invest R45 billion and create over 8 000 jobs have shown interest in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ." Surprisingly there was no concrete report on this potential investment. It is crystal clear that, like the Musina-Makhado SEZ, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ will also experience unnecessary delays due to poor planning. Hon Speaker, the Premier proudly announced during the SOPA that negotiations are currently going on between government and mining companies in Sekhukhune to build a massive stadium. Hon Premier, your top-down approach is a problem. This non-consultative approach only results in the people feeling that they are being undermined. Do not set priorities for the people. Let the people set priorities for themselves.

The people of Sekhukhune need a mega city. Cities transform social lives, improve public transport, promote a mixture of cultures, job opportunities and easy access to shops and amenities. They don't need the stadium that you want to build for them, because it will remain a white elephant like what we are seeing is happening in Polokwane now, where the maintenance of that stadium does not make financial sense. Hon Speaker, the Hon Premier missed the opportunity to produce a progress report on all the agricultural

catalytic projects unveiled during the previous SOPA. What happened to the Tshivhase Tea Estate that was promised to be revitalised into new commodities? The Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery, to name but a few, are becoming a circus and white elephants. Furthermore, the Premier deliberately missed an opportunity to update the people of Limpopo on the investigation regarding the corruption at Norjax, which is the tomato processing plant in Tzaneen. Millions of rands have been stolen from that project and yet the Premier turned a blind eye and chose not to report on it during his SOPA.

Last year during the SOPA you indicated that both Seshego and Nkowankowa will host our Digital Hubs programme to bolster digital training and create jobs within the broader national infrastructure programme. Are the Seshego and Nkowankowa digital hubs operational? We put it to you, Hon Premier, that these hubs are not yet operational and the buildings at the mentioned sites are not renovated yet. Can you please honestly update this House on the real progress in this regard? The delay in the implementation of these projects is a delay in job creation while our people continue to suffer joblessness. Hon Speaker, the Premier announced that government has appointed 41 engineering consultants to design roads in all five districts of the province. Why do you appoint engineering consultants when there are engineers in government employed to perform the same task? What is their role and what are you paying them for? Can you please tell us how much government is going to spend on these consultants?

Your obsession with consultants is costing taxpayers millions of rands in this province. You continue to outsource government functions as if there were no people working for the government. In actual fact, what you are telling us is that the government has no capacity to perform its own functions. The solution to this crisis resides in the EFF's cardinal pillar number 3, that talks to the building of state and government capacity, which will lead to the abolishment of tenders. According to this pillar, a successful state that seeks to drive real, economic, and industrial development and provide better services requires an inspired, skilled, and well-compensated public service. Hon Premier, as much as you tell us about job creation through Sefateng Chrome Mine, communities around the mine are complaining that they are not receiving any dividends from the mine.

We also know that the strategic partner of Corridor Mining Resources is a close relative of the Premier of the province, hence his obsession with Sefateng Chrome Mine. The EFF calls on the people of Limpopo to see the ANC-led government as nothing but liars who use rhetoric to protect white owned businesses at the expense of our people. The administration of this province is in crisis because the captain of the ship is focusing on slogans to attain political power, just like he turned himself into the joke of the year in 2022 with his "Amabhubesi" slogan. From now henceforth, Hon Premier, we would like to affirm that you have earned yourself the title of the *King of Amabhubesi!*

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Let's all be seated. Hon Seshoka, we would like to proceed.

MR SESHOKA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

You are out of order, Hon Seshoka. I'm on the platform now. Can you be silent please?

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Can you keep quiet, Hon Seshoka? Hon Radzilani it is your turn to take the stand.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha; Speaker of this Legislature, Hon Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe; my colleagues on the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi; Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane, receive our warm words of condolences on the loss of your father, honourable Members of this august House; members of the public in the gallery, a blessed morning to you all.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the people of Limpopo, led by our own Premier, we congratulate the South African Women's Cricket team for reaching the global pinnacle of the sport, and being the runners-up of the 2023 Women's Cricket World Cup. This phenomenal achievement reposit women's sports high on our transformation agenda and compels authorities to start reimagining a world where both men and women can become equals, in the truest sense.

We would also like to congratulate the people and government of Nigeria for holding a peaceful election, in the middle of economic turmoil. It is our wish that all the affected parties must feel beholden, to abide by the electoral results which are by far and large, a representation of the wishes of the majority of Nigerians.

On Friday, 24 February 2023, subsequent to the State of the Province Address, we attended a media briefing session hosted by the South African Police Service, to announce the crime statistics for the third quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. We are delighted to announce that under Premier Mathabatha's stewardship, the Limpopo province is counted amongst the safest provinces to live in. We have recorded a notable reduction in criminal offences for the third quarter, with most of our police stations marking a decline in the number of offences.

In addition to this, our Festive Season Road Safety Campaign has managed to reduce the number of fatalities on our roads by a staggering 20,8%, which is a demonstration of our adamant determination to drastically reduce road carnages by 25% in 2024. This was underscored by the collaborative efforts between our various government agencies and the cooperation of our road users. In response to the Premier's directive that we must convene a day of prayer, together with our fraternal partners in the Religious and Faith

Based space, plans are afoot to host a joint event to pray for accidents on our roads and gender-based violence in our province. We intend hosting the event in the Vhembe District, considering the rising number of gender-based violence cases and the recent bus accident that cut short the lives of 22 passengers. This will be our demonstration that we are a government that cares for its people.

Hon Speaker, on Thursday, 23 February 2023, the Hon Premier Chupu Mathabatha, as obligated by the ethos of our constitutional democracy, reported to the people of Limpopo about the government's plans to serve them. Premier Mathabatha presented an overarching synopsis of the numerous intervention mechanisms that this government has assumed to make a positive impact on the plight of our people.

The State of the Province Address, as presented by Premier Mathabatha, demonstrated our unrelenting commitment as government to do the following:

- To continue to be answerable to the people of this province who are the motif forces of this democracy;
- To demonstrate government's unwavering commitment to becoming an economic enabler, which seeks to create an equal society in which all its citizens could have equal access to opportunities;
- To demonstrate that government is pre-occupied with the advancement of the lives of the poor and the marginalised.

In his State of the Province Address, the Hon Premier took time to report to the people of Limpopo about how their government fared in the past 12 months.

Hon Speaker, despite the eloquent plans that were revealed by the Premier, the opposition – true to its bizarre opposing nature and character – saw it befitting to participate in this debate, like school children in a competition. The theatrics pulled by the EFF during the Premier's address, are nothing short of desperate measures by an anarchist formation that is poised to employ intimidating tactics for political expediency. We hope that the people of South Africa are able to see that these gimmicks are just cheap political tricks by a group of political delinquents who have little interest in the development of this nation. They should be unmasked for who they are, and we must use every available opportunity to expose them and their devious actions. It is high time that we establish forums to school each other on how to make meaningful contributions to this democracy and move away from "political showboating".

It is conspicuous that there are those who chose to ignore the immeasurable progress, in terms of governance and accountability, that has been registered since Premier Mathabatha took office. The legacy that you have built for this province, Hon Premier, whether we decide to attach names to you, we will not be able to erase the good things that you have done for the people of this province. This country has enough problems and requires all of us to join hands and start crafting a way forward to rebuild the economy. We are presently going through a concurrent state of national disaster. We have just been

grey listed as a nation and all these require formations like the EFF to fully comprehend the role of opposition parties in building and sustaining democracies.

The ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current economic onslaught, owing to the stubborn and persistent power outages, necessitate for an active citizenry, and not political expediency and sowing of discord. Hon Premier, we all agree that the COVID-19 hiatus has caused irreparable damage of untold proportions to the global economy. This was aggravated by the recent war in Ukraine, which plunged our endeavours of rebuilding the economy into further disarray. However, Hon Premier, like a true shepherd who is prepared to lay down his life for his flock, you have touched on all the developmental aspects and have demonstrated our determination as the ANC-led government to break the shackles of poverty and provide our people with decent livelihoods.

Your address brought hope and courage to the people of Limpopo at a time when despondency and despair were flirting with their imagination. The restoration of projects such as the Zebediela Citrus Estate and the revitalisation of industrial parks throughout the province, are a sheer demonstration to contrast the myth that this democratic government does not care about rural economic development. We are all alive to the glaring challenges imposed by the incessant power crisis. With government buildings and institutions being the biggest consumers who put electricity supply under strain, the plans to resort to renewable energy in our health facilities is a quantum leap in our quest to return to a state of normality. This progressive and decisive move means that hospitals, clinics and other health facilities will no longer be impacted by loadshedding.

Herewith, Hon Speaker, it means that this government will continue to provide decent health services to the majority of our poor people, despite the hardships brought about by loadshedding. The development and conceptualisation of the special economic zones is a spectacular scheme that we are all proud to be associated with. The SEZs, Regional Industrial Parks, and the aggressive roll-out of infrastructural projects in the form of schools, community libraries, tribal offices and tar roads, are just a few of the many examples that the State of the Province Address is not just a platform of lip-service to our people. It is a tangible programme of action with visible and traceable targets.

From our side, as the Department of Transport and Community Safety, we will work around the clock to ensure that we provide the necessary support to build the requisite capacity to support the work of the special economic zones. We are engaged in an exciting programme with the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), with the view of turning the tide around the provincial airports. We are already having bilateral meetings with the Maruleng Local Municipality to increase the capacity of the Hoedspruit Airport and enlarge its scope.

The investment pledges of billions of rands that were devoted during the recently held Investment Conference, are starting to roll into the provincial economy. There are quite a number of ground-breaking initiatives on the economic front that the Hon Premier had pronounced on. The mining sector, as the bedrock of the provincial economy, continues to cushion the job market at the backdrop of this economic meltdown. It is for this reason that the government must continue to support mining and become an active player within this industry, with the view of creating the much-needed jobs for our people. We cannot

mute ourselves to the glaring realities of a shrinking job market that renders the majority of our people jobless. Our obsession as the government of the day, must be the full attainment of economic emancipation by all and sundry. We cannot continue to call ourselves legitimate leaders of our people if we cannot make a meaningful contribution to their economic plight.

In our quest of restoring the economy and turning around the fortunes of our people, we must emulate countries such as Indonesia, Japan, Germany, Poland, South Korea and China, whose manufacturing sector represents 20% of their Gross Domestic Product. An industrial economy that is envisaged to create in excess of 6 000 jobs is what this economy needs. Hon Premier, we want to assure you of our unwavering support in your fulfilment of the provincial plans in Musina-Makhado, in Fetakgomo-Tubatse and many other parts of this province. We are however dismayed that these radical economic endeavours that this ANC-led government continue to foster are being opposed by some rudimentary elements who are desperately searching for loopholes to make a quick buck.

They do this by making fictitious claims on the pockets of land which are earmarked for development. This is irrefutably an evil ploy which is undeniably a regressive approach to development. Nevertheless, Frederick Engels reminds us that: "The revolution will not develop along a straight line, like the flight of an arrow that has no hitches or interruptions."

It is for this reason that we are making a clarion call to our implementing agencies to do everything possible to ameliorate instances of appeals and unnecessary contestations where we want to carry out infrastructural programmes.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, despite the inherent road network backlogs, this administration has constructed more roads than any other administration. We continue to make steady progress in completing a number of projects which were notoriously known as bermuda roads. At the rate that we are building and rehabilitating our road infrastructure, it is practically impossible to drive through most parts of the province without coming across a road project under construction. This is our endeavour to connect economic nodes and linking our people to economic opportunities.

We continue to pride ourselves with the quality of the matric results, and we remain positive that through hard work and determination we will attain the desired objective of having a fairly educated nation in the not so distant future. We will continue the fight against crime and corruption, and we shall make sure that the Limpopo province remains a province with little or no incidences of gender-based violence. We remain indebted to the people of Giyani and the communities adjacent to the Nandoni Dam, who have exercised patience and restraint amidst our continued delays to provide them with potable water.

In the face of the evident service delivery backlogs, we implore all our municipalities to exhaust their allocation of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and provide our people with basic services. Anything to the contrary is a travesty of the trust that our people have bestowed upon their beloved ANC-led government.

Hon Premier, like a true leader, you know the way, you go the way, and you show the way.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You may proceed Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier, and all protocols observed. Hon Speaker many pronouncements and promises have been made at this SOPA, however, if history is anything to go by, many will remain just that – unfulfilled promises and pronouncements.

We, indeed, welcome the Premier's instructions to the MEC for Health to prioritise the installation of solar power in hospitals and clinics in efforts to improve the provision of healthcare in what can only be described as one of the worst in the country.

It does, however, beg the question why this energy plan has taken so long. We have witnessed South Africa go from spending six days under loadshedding in 2018 to 157 days under loadshedding in 2022, and still there was no plan to ensure our hospitals and clinics have alternative power sources. Hon Premier, I think as a government you have failed the people of Limpopo and have your priorities out of whack when you would rather spend R1 billion on a contract to scan old patient files instead of ensuring that every hospital and clinic in Limpopo has a working generator, enough fuel, solar power or inverters and rechargeable lights.

This ANC-led government's late response to loadshedding has largely affected the lives of residents as it affects theatre operations, high care and intensive care units, renal dialysis, cooking of patients' food and the water supply. We call upon the Premier and all watch bodies to scrutinise the tender processes on these generators and solar installations to avoid another scandal like the R1 billion Veritas Digital scanning contract that was awarded by the Department of Health.

Hon Premier, Limpopo is still faced with a very high vacancy rate on the approved organisational structure for critical medical personnel, with 76% for specialists, 54% for medical officers, 40% for professional nurses and 79% for paramedics within the department, and this is hampering the services rendered to our communities. Appointment of critical staff must take precedence over appointing ineffective senior management in ensuring Limpopo residents, that depend on public health facilities, receive adequate care.

It is concerning that during every SOPA, you fail to address the very serious matter of the R14 billion in medico-legal cases against the Department of Health. This could cripple health services in the province. The large amount also points to the substandard

healthcare our people receive as a result of overworked and under-resourced personnel, and in some instances results of incompetence and negligence.

Hon Speaker, a lot has been said about the academic hospital for about a decade now. Can the Hon Premier tell the people of Limpopo when the academic hospital will be built and where is the budget item for this hospital? You also have a MEC that has been found guilty by the HPCSA for her unacceptable conduct of mistreating a patient, and whilst it is not her duty to attend to patients she does so when the cameras are around in her shameful pursuit of clout. When are you going to publicly reprimand her for her utterances?

Hon Premier, you indicated that an additional 83 road maintenance and rehabilitation projects will be implemented during the 2023/24 financial year, but the previous year's projects remain incomplete. This ANC-led government and its failing entity, Roads Agency Limpopo, have left our roads on the brink of collapse. The projects mentioned by the Premier are a drop in the ocean when you consider that 69% of the province's roads are gravel and it is estimated that RAL will need R138 billion to upgrade them, and at the current funding levels it will take 115 years to address this backlog. Roads Agency Limpopo also incurred irregular expenditures of R5,3 billion including previous years expenditures that the Provincial Treasury has refused to condone.

Roads are meant to play a critical role in economic growth and development in the province and ensure that there are economic and employment opportunities for citizens, especially the youth. However, this cannot be the case as long as RAL exists. The provincial government should seriously examine scrapping RAL and save resources for road network infrastructure under the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Lebea, over to you.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. An immortal bird associated with Greek mythology that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by rising from the ashes of its predecessor.

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 through different live streaming channels, a very blessed morning to you.

Selective listening is a sickness, a clear case of, alafa molwetši a re go fola a roge ngaka. Just like the phoenix, Hon Premier, our province has definitely risen 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 the Limpopo province. Hon Seshoka, all things are bright and beautiful. Now we welcome you to flight ANC-led government, with Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa as the senior captain, and his EXCO as the cabin crew. Therefore, pay attention, fasten your safety belt and enjoy the ride...[INTERJECTION]

HON SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka you are out of order.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, you are the one who is out of order, because you allowed the speaker on the podium to address me, hence I am responding.

THE SPEAKER

Can I respond to you while you are standing? Hon Seshoka during your debate, you mentioned the names of honourable Members, even sang songs on the podium; and no one disrupted you. Please sit down and allow Hon Lebea to proceed with her debate.

MR SESHOKA

I'm going to sit down, but it must be noted that what you have said is totally wrong. I did not sing; I did not mention any names.

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

You may proceed, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thanks, Hon Speaker, I am going to repeat this. Honourable Member, all things are bright and beautiful. Welcome to flight ANC-led government, with senior captain Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa and his EXCO as cabin crew, pay attention, fasten your safety belt and you will surely enjoy the ride. Madam Speaker, the upset of the Coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, found an already susceptible South African economy. In fact, at the time when the pandemic reached our shores, the South African economy had experienced two consecutive quarters of recession and the COVID-19 pandemic deepened the economic calamity. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic in South Africa continue to be profound, leaving behind a devastating trail of perennial starvation for many. This ongoing

crisis has had the audacity to exacerbate food insecurity rapaciously and catastrophically in our province.

However, the leaders have realised the need to get the economy back on its feet, yet it is now understood that business as usual is a thing of the past. In your State of the Province Address, Hon Premier, you made a commitment on embarking on a fresh journey. A journey that seeks growth and development as well as prosperity for the residents of Limpopo. You further articulated on our economic recovery trajectory that will be guided by the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socioeconomic Recovery Plan, and with diligence, you will live up to that expectation, Hon Premier.

Madam Speaker, South Africa has high on its neck, the consistent and gloried complications of the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty, and inequality – the main reason why, as a country and a province, we must move and assure that we attain a classless society. A society where the children of the working class, the proletariat, and the peasants in their majority will enjoy the fruits of this hard-earned freedom achieved not without struggle, but through immense sacrifices and determination. This freedom cannot be likened to a bed of roses or a trivial drop in the vast ocean. Instead, it was attained through the blood and sweat of the brave and selfless cadres who gave up their lives for this freedom we are enjoying today.

Hon Premier, as young people of this country we are reiterating the fact that the minerals, the wealth, and the economy of this country are still in the hands of the minority. As a generation, we would have betrayed ourselves and the ones to come if we do not change the status quo. Equally, Hon Speaker, Marx, and Engels contend that it is the material conditions of society that define its evolution, and it is against this backdrop that with our competent leadership, and as presented during the State of the Province Address, it be taken by provincial government and municipalities that their plans will include the development of energy production projects. Hon Speaker, electricity is life, SMMEs, hospitals, schools, factories, and many more depend on energy to survive.

It is on this note Hon Premier, that we welcome the need to prioritise the building of an uninterrupted electric power supply capacity for essential services and the development of a province with a specific comprehensive energy plan to ensure that we build a new electricity generation capacity in the province.

Hon Premier, this will go a long way in enriching the lives of the people of Limpopo. Key to these developments is the prioritisation of the installation of solar power in hospitals and clinics in the province. As the ANC, you have been fulfilling the aspirations of the Freedom Charter, which advocates for free medical care and hospitalisation to be provided for all. Additionally, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa you have effectively articulated a materialistic explanation of health, highlighting how it is influenced by structurally determined inequalities, products, and consumption, all within the context of social trust.

I will not talk about health and omit the only programme that is close to my heart – the Rural Health Matters programme. Hon Speaker, since the inception of the programme's initiative, which is unique to our province under the leadership of yourself, Hon Premier,

saw more than 6000 patients with different complications benefitting. As they have seen we will continue to appreciate our selfless volunteers, the medical and dental specialists who move from one district to another in our province operating on our people. Last week they were in the Waterberg District and their plan was to perform surgical operations on 500 patients of which to date, they have performed more than 300. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, these are not just cases, these are human beings undergoing surgical procedures. It is someone's child, husband, uncle, aunt, or parent, hence we must do everything in our power, as this House, to protect these projects because it has become the hope of the hopeless. Hon Speaker, just recently we witnessed more than 60 people who were blind as a result of cataracts, being able to see. This is a good story to tell honourable Members, [APPLAUSE] and I hope the honourable Members on my left will appreciate this programme.

We have stories to tell of mothers who couldn't sleep because their children suffered from adenoids and tonsillitis. Surgical procedures resulted in them not being absent from school anymore whenever there is flu season. Hon Speaker, jobs have become the epicentre of any conversation regarding the South African economy. While South Africans have witnessed a record high level of employment, we really appreciate your effort, Hon Premier and your team of men and women that you have deployed in different government departments as part of your response to the devastation of our economy, and we are elated to report here that the largest decrease of 5,3% in the rate of unemployment was recorded here in Limpopo, from 36,3% down to 31%.

Infrastructure is the structural element of any economy which allows for the production of goods and services without them being part of the production services. We send words of gratitude and salutations Mahlatji for the role played by Risima Housing Finance in assisting middle-income earners who are financially excluded by commercial banks when they want to purchase properties. The State of the Province Address highlights that the "missing middle" who were not eligible to buy properties will now be able to own houses. What a good story to tell about the African National Congress-led government. Thanks to the partnership between Risima, CoGHSTA and Hon Makamu in ensuring that the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) is implemented.

The Freedom Charter states that there shall be houses, security and comfort, and you, Mahlatji and your team, are living up to that expectation. It further states that this is part of the government's resolve to restore the dignity of our people through human settlement. Hon Speaker, who is this "missing middle"? They are children of the kitchen and garden souls, the proletariats, the marginalised and the previously disadvantaged.

Madam Speaker, infrastructure is a key stimulus for growth and development. Hon Premier, I spoke to a few young people about the SOPA, specifically a young man named Benedict Chere, the founder of Babalas Archar in Limpopo, and he said to me, Hon Monama, "We were afforded some relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are still struggling to make ends meet. Could we at least have the terms of our relief revisited, to make it possible for us to stand on our feet?"

I met with Tshepo Mathabatha, the chairperson of the Businesswomen's Association of South Africa, and she said to me, "I wish to see the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 40% set aside for women in public procurement. The ANC-led government should adopt a buy-local strategy, particularly for products and produce from Limpopo. It is crucial to activate Local Economic Development (LED) initiatives and allocate adequate budgets for their programmes. Additionally, we should allocate 10% of departmental economic development spend to focus on transformation."

I did not end there, Hon Premier. I met with the founder of PSD, a young innovative person by the name of Kgopotso Nong from the dusty streets of Masakaneng, and she said to me "Hon Sibanda should come and meet with us or make time for us to meet with her. I'm a young person who has initiated various projects. Over the weekend, we created over 70% job opportunities, and we are doing this on our own. We want to come up with an initiative that proves to the government how our initiatives can curb issues such as crime and drug abuse and promote social development. We request the support of Hon Ndalane in this regard as well as that of Hon Ramathuba, in creating health awareness programmes and many more."

We have the owners of the means of production, Hon Premier, who went and challenged the BBBEE, and they won. Unfortunately, who are the people who are benefitting from BBBEE? It is blacks in particular. What are we saying? This is the time for the province to come up with their own terms of how they will let the people of the province benefit from the supply chain of all the government departments. We are saying, Hon Premier, Limpopo Connexion must be able to connect government departments. We do not have a problem with the current methods provided, but let's use the establishment of institutions that the government had put in place.

If the government supports Limpopo Connexion, we are saying a Mokgadi in Dzingidzingi will be able to go to the library, honourable Sibanda and connect for free, effortlessly. That is the progress we want to see, Hon Premier. Believe me when I'm saying Limpopo is sailing in the right direction. Yet, it is not and will not be easy and smooth sailing. If it is not for the catastrophic bumps brought about by our friends, both in blue and red, we will safely reach the shore. A shore which is filled with a better life for the masses of our province. Just like the phoenix, Hon Premier, our province shall definitely rise from the ashes of the devastation caused by the pandemic, to embark on a fresh journey of economic growth, social development, and prosperity for all residents of our province.

In conclusion, honourable Members, I hope you have enjoyed the ride. The Boeing with Mahlatji as captain has safely landed.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for the debate, Hon Lebea. Hon Maritz, you are up next.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of opposition parties, Members of this House, and guests, good morning. Hon Speaker, I am still trying to understand the State of the Province Address. I don't understand the logic behind the building of an academic hospital when the existing hospitals and clinics are falling apart and cannot give service to the people of our province.

The only reason I can think of is that it is close to election time, and the idea thereof will bring votes, however, it will not make a difference in our province. Our people travel for hours to hospitals and clinics and must go back home without medical care or medication. Some hospitals, such as Philadelphia Hospital, only have one theatre in a working condition and are serving three to four smaller hospitals in the area. This is very concerning.

Patients are sent home with serious injuries and fractures because there is a backlog. Why don't you upgrade those hospitals? This is only one of many in our province. Hon Speaker, during the week of 04 August 2020, MEC Masemola visited farmers and stakeholders in the Mopani District, promising to come back to repair the roads which are in a terrible state and influence the economic growth of our province. We have the biggest production of potatoes and various other vegetables. However, the farmers must continuously repair the roads themselves with a blade costing R14 000, which can be used only once, just to continue delivering vegetables to the market.

The farmers are also creating a lot of jobs as well as food security for the province and the country at large, but they are forgotten and left behind with empty promises. We have also communicated, on various occasions, with the office of the MEC for urgent intervention for a sit-down but haven't received any response to date.

The following roads the various districts are in a very bad state:

Mopani District: Vivo – Alldays; Alldays – Maasstroom; Maasstroom – Swartwater; and Swartwater – Tom Burke.

Waterberg District: Marken – Baltimore; Northam – Koedoeskop; Marble Hall – Siyabuswa; and Roedtan – Mookgopong. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, please take your seat.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, with due respect, I'm rising on a point of order. I do not know where Hon Monicca Mochadi got her rules from, entering this Chamber with attire bearing the logo of a political party. She is having a cap of the African National Congress on the table.

THE SPEAKER

That is not a problem. As long as she is not wearing it. Please proceed, Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I would like to emphasise that crime in the province is only escalating, with farmers losing millions of rands due to the theft of cables and transformers. There are 148 cases pending just in Mara, Alldays and Mogwadi; all within the timespan of one year. Most of the looters are the same people who comes back every time. The challenge is that the police stations don't have enough manpower and enough vehicles. Hon Premier, I need you to please assist us in this regard because the farmers cannot keep on replacing what has been stolen.

As the Freedom Front Plus we urge Lieutenant General Hadebe to intervene and employ more qualified police officers as crime is increasing in all areas of the province. Hon Speaker, the Hon Premier was very proud to announce the audit outcomes of the municipalities. However, the people who require services from these municipalities are still not receiving any. There is no service delivery, no maintenance and some municipalities don't even have money for face value paper for up to two weeks.

We as the Freedom Front Plus urgently request the Hon Premier to investigate how many municipal officials have the qualifications they claim to have. Corruption is the main reason for the decay in the municipalities. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus supports economic growth however the Musina-Makhado SEZ project will have a devastating impact on water, tourism, and cultural heritage.

The rural areas in the Musina-Makhado and Vhembe Districts are struggling for years with water shortages, and this will make it even worse. The government have agreements with Zimbabwe for water for the SEZ but not for the people of the province. It seems as if this is only a political agreement between the government and China, leaving Limpopo without access to water. This is a human rights violation and therefore the Freedom Front Plus demands that this project be stopped and that discussions with the relevant stakeholders and communities be held again.

As I conclude, I would like to leave you with a quote from Chris Hani: "What I fear is that the liberators emerge as elitists, who drive around in Mercedes Benz's and use the resources of this country to live in palaces and to gather riches."

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Honourable Members, we now call on Hon Monama to lead us in his debate. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Hon Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Hunadi Reneiloe Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive

Council; Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of this august House, Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana and the Deputy Chief Whip, a very good morning to you.

Madam Speaker, first and foremost we want to take this opportunity as the African National Congress to appreciate the visionary and judicious leadership of our Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, Morwaswi'a Moleya, on your stewardship of this province. Allow me to borrow from an African proverb that says: "No matter how beautifully the chicken dances, it never pleases the hawk." We are fully aware that you don't have a magic wand, but in your capable hands, Hon Premier, this ANC-led province is poised for a development trajectory that reflects steady progress in infrastructure investment. It aims to build cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with improved access to social amenities, which is a precursor for sustainable livelihoods.

The SOPA must be understood in the context that the Hon Premier comprehensively identified the substantial progress that the African National Congress-led government has made since 1994, as well as the overarching challenges that still need to be overcome. It should also be understood as an approach to bringing concrete intervention measures in meeting the objectives of rolling back the quagmire of the triple challenges which are poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

This SOPA cannot be defined by hope only, but by the evidence of the ANC-led government at work and in action. There are some tangible deliverables in the SOPA that demonstrate our hard work under the leadership of the Hon Premier. Albert Einstein is on record for having said, "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labour in freedom." This relates to another famous quote which reads as follows: "Nothing is as precious as one's freedom. Dreams, aspirations, and ideals mean nothing if one does not have the freedom to pursue them."

The Hon Premier has explicitly outlined a multipronged turnaround strategy for propelling our province to the highest socioeconomic trajectory and accelerating our economic recovery through the Limpopo Socioeconomic Recovery Plan and Industrial Master Plan by implementing economic reforms of creating sustainable jobs and driving inclusive growth.

Madam Speaker, indeed, the Hon Premier was forthright when he said that our economy is showing signs of recovery. As a testament to that, the scourge of unemployment is a sign of progress, as it has been reduced by 5% from 36,3 % to 31% between the second and third quarter of 2022. At the three-year average growth rate of 1,6%, the economy is highly likely to reach the Limpopo economic development target of 2% by the end of the sixth administration in 2024/25.

This positive turn of events shows that, undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted our economy and imposed a debilitating and deleterious impact on our normal way of doing government business. We fully support the SOPA because our strong conviction is that it confirms our resolve and commitment in addressing the overarching triple challenges. Unlocking of all the blockages, like the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), assist in the full implementation of the Musina-

Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones, which are the catalytic projects aimed at contributing towards industrialisation, employment creation and improvement in the quality of the lives of our people. The operator of the Musina-Makhado SEZ, Shenzhen Hoi Mor, whose owners graced the State of the Province Address with their presence, assured us of their full commitment to the project.

In terms of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone, notable strides have been made. The province is in the final process of acquiring a stake in the Mining Input Supplier Park in Steelpoort, that will form part of the special economic zone. The engagement of the Mining Equipment Manufacturers of South Africa to build a manufacturing plant to produce mining equipment will create tens of thousands of jobs as well as serving as a supplier to our more than 55 mines belonging to Platinum Group Metals, in the province.

These special economic zones have been tailor-made to ensure that the Limpopo province becomes a honeycomb that attracts investors from afar. It is true that we have to report that out of the R209 billion that the Hon Premier has counted in terms of investments in the province, approximately R50 billion has already been invested, and the records are there for reference. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and honourable Members, when we were in Cape Town attending the Investing in African Mining Indaba, we engaged with more than five international business communities who wanted to know what we are doing as the Limpopo province, that other provinces are not doing.

They were quite excited by the initiatives brought by the Hon Premier into this province to ensure that he is scouting for and mobilising investors in the province, unlike in any other province in the country. It is unfortunate that some of us can't see that. These economic zones are economic game changers which will certainly change the economic landscape of our province. It is through this project that we will succeed in our aspirations of beneficiating the minerals that are now exported in raw form into various products such as stainless-steel battery parts and energy products.

On Monday, Hon Sekoati, the University of Limpopo invited academics to come and share with the province the successes resulting from the good work that the province is doing. They have only invited Hon Sekoati and me because they are of the opinion that the Hon Premier has made an input subjected to understanding the economic outlook in the province. That is why the statistics that we are giving are perfect and they give hope to the people of Limpopo, hence, these academics have confidence in us as a province.

We must indicate that the province has a competitive advantage in having industrial parks that we are currently rolling out, as well as a programme to revitalise them. These industrial parks remain the breeding ground for industrialists. Thus far, these parks have collectively created 6 718 permanent jobs. Work is progressing well in building the first-ever digital hub in Seshego in Limpopo province. The industrial parks are one of the areas we are focusing on to ensure we revitalise and resuscitate them to create more job opportunities.

The tourism sector is also showing signs of recovery, as expanded in the SOPA, from the bruises of the COVID-19 pandemic. Limpopo has retained its status of being the most visited province in the country. It has been our collective view that Eastgate Airport,

commonly referred to as Hoedspruit Airport, will be elevated to an international airport due to the increased number of flights it receives on a daily basis. Renewable energy in the form of solar and gas is another form of energy mix applicable to the country. Indeed, investments in solar farms in the province have the potential to reap return on investments because the province is blessed with sufficient sun rays throughout the year.

We are guided by the wise words of Amilcar Cabral, who once said, “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”. That is what the State of the Province Address appropriately outlined.

Madam Speaker, the dynamic nature of our province requires all of us, as public representatives in this House, to comprehensively address the overwhelming needs and expectations of our people. As Members of this august House, irrespective of our political affiliation, we cannot behave like commoners with no responsibility to stabilise our province in our revolutionary crusade of pushing back the frontiers of poverty.

We cannot speak of accountability as if it is only meant for the ANC. It is against the presidium and decorum of our constitutional democracy to reduce ourselves to howlers as empty vessels which make the most noise. As public representatives we have the responsibility of advocating and advancing the aspirations of our people rather than becoming perpetual complainants without any alternative practical programmes. In respect of that it will demonstrate a lack of depth and intellectual bankruptcy and an inability to grab the objective material conditions imposed by global economic realities.

You can’t come with frivolous and vexatious political undertones as if things are normal. It is quite worrying and disingenuous that some Members are hellbent on focusing on the person, and not the good ideas and vision presented through the SOPA. However, great scholars of servant leadership have taught us that irresponsible leaders offer no practical solution in the midst of a crisis. The people of Limpopo have legitimate expectations of improved livelihood and dignity. Therefore, we are collectively indebted to work tirelessly towards deepening efforts to transform the economic patterns of the present to realise the set vision for our five years of office in this sixth administration and beyond, and to ensure that we place service delivery at the centre of transformation and the developmental agenda.

Hon Speaker, we are inspired and propelled to work harder to ensure that collectively we put all hands on deck to push back the frontiers of poverty and to transform the socioeconomic landscape of our province. That is what the SOPA has clearly articulated. The reality is that things have significantly changed and there is now an urgent need for us, collectively, to find meaningful ways within this tight fiscal space to boost the economy, protect jobs, and curb poverty while reducing inequality.

We are subscribing to the words of former President Thabo Mbeki who once said, “We are on course. Steadily, the dark clouds of despair are lifting, giving way to our season of hope. Our country which, for centuries, has bled from a thousand wounds is progressing

towards its healing.” Indeed, the obstacles that hindered our economy will soon fade away, like the morning dew disappearing into the air.

We are the children of great warrior men and women who have never retreated. We are unconquerable, and we will emerge victorious in this battle of pushing back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment. We are very grateful as the African National Congress to have a leader of your calibre, Mahlatji, with impeccable struggle and academic credentials in our midst: who has a vision and is able to implement that vision for the benefit of the people of Limpopo.

I ndlopfu ya hina. Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Honourable Members, we are left with two speakers, but before we proceed, I wanted to verify something with Hon Mochadi. Unfortunately, she is out and I’m not sure if she’s coming back, Hon Chief Whip? Honourable Members, from the position where I am seated, it is difficult to see what is taking place at your tables. I therefore wanted to verify with Hon Mochadi whether the point raised by Hon Seshoka is indeed true. If it is true, I want to request Hon Mochadi to remove the cap that is bearing the name of a political party.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the cap belongs to Hon Marule.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I would like to remind honourable Members that caps bearing political logos are not allowed in the House. I’m therefore making a ruling, honourable Members, that all attire bearing political logos are forbidden in the House. Honourable Member, may you please remove that cap? Thank you very much.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I think it would just be fair for you to say you have erred and apologise to us. I have raised this point... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

That is why I mentioned that from where I’m sitting it is difficult to see what is happening where the Members are seated, hence, I’m reminding everyone that objects of that nature are not allowed in this House.

MR SESHOKA

All I’m saying is that you owe us an apology.

THE SPEAKER

Sit down, Hon Seshoka! Hon Seshoka, please take your seat, I am addressing this matter now.

[CROSS TALK]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, you can't make a ruling and after realising that you have made a mistake, come back and change that ruling without acknowledging your mistake. You must acknowledge that you have made a mistake in your first ruling. It is as simple as that.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, in terms of the rules, if a Member is not satisfied with the ruling of the Speaker, there are procedures to be followed. Please refer to the rules and if you are not satisfied with my ruling, follow the procedure.

We shall now give the MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure the opportunity to debate.

[NO AUDIO] [1: 51:39-1:58:34]

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Owing to our history dominated by apartheid colonialism, we have set ourselves on a journey to build a national democratic society which is non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, united, and prosperous. This is the society which is an antithesis of the past society that was anchored to segregation and brutal oppression of the indigenous people.

His release brought hope to the majority of South Africans. The relevancy of mentioning the release of Tata Nelson Mandela on this day is to highlight that we are, today, faced with a different struggle as a country, and if we continue to walk side by side, we will then be able to overcome the challenges of poverty, unemployment, and the energy crisis amongst others.

Delivering his State of the Nation Address on 09 February 2023, President Matamela Ramaphosa said: "When we faced the greatest challenge of apartheid, we did not submit to the oppression that the apartheid regime imposed on our people. We stood firm and engaged in a struggle, hopeful that our cause would triumph, and it did. Against all odds, we were able to defeat the apartheid system. We can and we will change the circumstances in which we find ourselves today. We are both able and determined to overcome these difficulties and place our economy on a firm path to recovery." We are in the sixth administration which is anchored on priorities as outlined by the Premier of Limpopo in his State of the Province Address last week.

Hon Speaker, let me also salute the Hon Premier for delivering a comprehensive State of the Province Address and giving marching orders to all departments and other

government entities. His speech gave hope to the people of Limpopo, as he was able to touch on the very important aspects of service delivery that is being rendered by all government departments.

The Hon Premier has consistently articulated the vision of a province which we must all strive to build: a vision that must constitute our shared destiny: that of building a modern, dynamic and growing economy. Having listened to the Premier as well as several speakers today, particularly those that are representing the African National Congress in this Legislature, we can safely agree that the provincial government is determined to ensure that giant strides are made in building massive infrastructure in the province.

It was also encouraging to listen to the Hon Premier indicating that his office has been assigned to lead the process of working on a comprehensive energy plan to ensure that we build a new electricity-generation capacity in our province. This will also allow space for the provincial government and municipalities to work jointly in developing the plan and subsequent implementation thereof. It is my strong conviction that this will also assist the government in contributing electricity towards the national grid and alleviate the electricity crisis which is currently having a detrimental impact on our economy.

We want to commit that the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure will also play an active role in this regard as the plan will also look at the possibility of putting solar systems in all government buildings. [APPLAUSE] As the custodian of all government infrastructure in the province, we really have a special interest in this matter.

I invite all of you to draw courage from the words of former President Thabo Mbeki who once said: "Gloom and despondency have never defeated adversity. Trying times need courage and resilience. Our strength as people is not tested during the best of times. As we said before, we should never become despondent because the weather is bad, nor should we turn triumphalist because the sun shines."

Limpopo is an extraordinary province, full of precious mineral deposits tourism attraction destinations, agricultural products, and many other economic opportunities. Our urgent task is to work together across racial lines, political affiliations, and geographic locations to protect our people, rebuild the economy and continue to develop our province. Hon Speaker, we are equally delighted that the Provincial Socioeconomic Recovery Plan as cantered in the strides of industrialising the province has started to produce positive results.

The strides that have been made in the two special economic zones in our province will go a long way in creating employment opportunities for our people. It is evident that the provincial government has placed the Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zones as an apex priority. It is pleasing to see that visible work on the R247 billion Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone have started with the laying of bulk infrastructure, following the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Hon Premier said: "Another catalytic project we reported about during last year's SOPA, is the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. I am delighted to report that the Environmental Impact Assessment was granted. We have allocated a budget for the infrastructure

development of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. We are ready to submit the application for the designation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ to the Cabinet.” Surely, the Premier cannot take the blame for people who choose to listen to particular information and choose not to listen to particular information.

All these monumental developments will help to reduce the burden and pressure that the provincial economy is currently enduring. Government investment in industrialisation remains the driving force behind the economic growth of our province. The Premier’s address was a clear call to all of us to recommit ourselves to the job at hand; to never deviate from our mandate and to be aware of the priorities that this sixth administration has set for itself.

It is in this regard that we want to take this opportunity and applaud it for what it is; a bold and progressive call to roll up our sleeves. Simply put, it cannot be business as usual. Honourable Members also allow me to indicate that as we are gathered here today, three weeks after Limpopo was severely affected by floods, 11 bridges have been washed away across the province, with Mopani and Vhembe Districts being the hardest hit.

Preliminary assessment reports also indicate that 202 roads have been badly damaged. These floods have reversed the work of rehabilitation and patching of potholes that we launched in August last year, through Operation Thiba Mekoti Ditseleng. The department and its entity, Roads Agency Limpopo, are prioritising some roads in terms of re-gravelling and patching of potholes. We also hope that the national government’s declaration of the National State of Disaster will enable us to speedily intervene to repair the damaged bridges as well as other critical roads identified. In the same breath, I want to indicate that the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure is continuing in its endeavour of infrastructure provision in different communities, as per the mandate to deliver socioeconomic infrastructure to the province.

We are continuing to re-engineer our approach to assist the province and the country to grow. Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha highlighted the significant strides that the department is making in the delivery of school and road infrastructure in the province. He has, amongst other things, highlighted that we have recently completed several projects across the province during the 2021/22 financial year. Hon Speaker, allow me to place emphases on some of the milestones that were outlined by the Hon Premier as a way of highlighting the giant strides that are being made by the department’s entity, Roads Agency Limpopo.

In the 2022 State of the Province Address, the Hon Premier made a commitment regarding the rehabilitation and upgrading of roads in the province, and those projects have since been completed. They include:

- The rehabilitation of 11 km on road D1589 from GaKgobokanang to GaMakgato and De-Vrede in the Capricorn District;
- The rehabilitation of 7,3 km on road D2537 in Penge in the Sekhukhune District;

- The rehabilitation of 9 km on road D11 from GaMamaila – Kolobetona connecting the R81 in the Mopani District, is complete. To ensure that the entire D11 is in a good condition, we have appointed another contractor for phase 3 in November 2022. When phase 3 is completed the entire D11 will be in a good condition to ensure that the Mopani and Vhembe Districts are connected. It is coincidentally passing through the area where one of the honourable Members on my left, resides.
- The rehabilitation of 27 km on road D3480 from Giyani to Phalaborwa in the Mopani District is at 67% completion, and we can confirm that phase 1 of the project has been completed. We have recently appointed a contractor for phase 2. We might need to remind some of our colleagues to go back in history and verify the condition of some of the roads before it was rehabilitated.

Significant progress has been made on the other projects that the Hon Premier made pronouncements on in 2022. We have completed the construction of bridge 6116 in Makuleke and we have also completed the rehabilitation of 5 km on road D3200, Lebaka to Mohlabaeng. Phase 2 of the rehabilitation of a 30 km stretch of road D4 from Elim to Malamulele has practically reached completion. We have seen that the condition of the road from the N1 to Elim is in a dire state and we have appointed a contractor to carry out major rehabilitation on the road. I'm saying major rehabilitation because the road appears as if there wasn't a road before. We have appointed a contractor to get started with this major rehabilitation and the contractor has already been handed over to the community. Unfortunately, Hon Maritz has already left. I wanted to challenge Hon Maritz that the same energy she is using to engage farmers to submit complaints about the roads that need rehabilitation, she must also use to engage them to come on board to help us to build the roads in Limpopo.

The same capacity of trucks utilised by mines is the same trucks that are utilised by farmers. [APPLAUSE] Thank you so much, Hon Seshoka, they are already onboard, and we are working on the roads together. The rehabilitation of the flood damaged road D4240 Maseven in Sekhukhune is at 70% completion. Phase 1 of the rehabilitation of 40 km on road D1483 Musina to Pongorwa in Vhembe is complete. We have appointed another contractor for phase 2 of which the progress is currently standing at 75%. Upon completion of phase 2 we will appoint another contractor for phase 3, to ensure that the road to the Mapungubwe National Park is in a good condition.

We have completed the upgrading of 13 km on roads D2922, and D2919 from Keerom to Tshikanosi. The Hon Premier also gave a progress report following the completion of the designs of road D4180, Atok Mine to GaSelepe to Modimolle in Sekhukhune. The construction will commence in the next financial year, 2023/24. Designs for road D4260, Malope to Phokwane in Sekhukhune have also been completed and the construction will commence in the next financial year.

The construction work for the D4090, D4093, D4094, and D4096 Malemati roads in Capricorn District will also commence in the next financial year. Finally, the construction work for road D4199, Apel to GaNkoana to road D4190 in the Sekhukhune District will commence in the next financial year. I have deliberately highlighted the above-mentioned

projects, to emphasise that the ANC-led government is hard at work delivering services to its people.

In the 2023/24 financial year we will, again, be committed to delivering 25 schools as well as rehabilitating 83 roads across the five districts of the province. The department's entity, Roads Agency Limpopo, has appointed 41 engineering consultants to do detailed designs in communities for the upgrading of roads. This is, indeed, a demonstration that the sixth administration under the stewardship of Hon Premier Mathabatha is determined to deliver improved services to our people. Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa o na le mahlo, o a bona.

We remain determined towards ensuring that the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure becomes the centre of the delivery of infrastructure on behalf of all government departments. In this regard, we will continue to work with Members of the Executive Council who are leading various departments that are contributing immensely to service delivery to our people. We are continuing with the implementation of our socioeconomic infrastructure projects, and will ensure that ordinary members of society, especially those who are in the construction and building industry as a whole, are benefitting. The visionary leadership of the Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, together with EXCO Members has led the mining sector to join hands with the provincial government in ploughing back to communities where they operate.

In the recent past, we have seen 12 partnerships with mining houses that are giving back to communities through their social responsibility initiative at an amount of R1,1 billion. Just a week ago, I witnessed jubilation at GaMalekana in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality in the Sekhukhune District, where the provincial government was handing over a contractor for the construction of a bridge which will replace the one-lane steel bridge in the area. It goes without any doubt that this is one of the legacies which displays that the Hon Premier lives for the people of Limpopo, because I'm talking about a bridge worth R129 million. [APPLAUSE]

We appreciate the good gesture by these mining companies that are building monuments in terms of infrastructure, augmenting government work of infrastructure provision. As we undertake the task of delivering quality services to our people, clearly, we will time and again evaluate the progress we have made through our many programmes aimed at delivering our mandate as the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure.

Honourable Members, especially the ones sitting on my left, we must all work together for the betterment of the lives of the electorate who voted for us to come and represent them in this august House. We will welcome constructive criticism coming from some of you, but those who have made it their business to criticise the good work of the ANC-led government for no apparent reason, are being exposed as we continue to deliver services to our people.

Honourable Members, allow me to extract a few lines from a poem written by Max Ehrmann in 1927. It is titled Desiderata, and it reads as follows:

“Go placidly amid the noise and the haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.”

As the ANC-led government, we will remain resolute and determined in realising the service delivery commitments that we have made to our people. We have made significant strides in improving the lives of our people, and we know that there is still more that needs to be done by this government of the people, led by the visionary Mahlatji’a Hlabirwa. All hands should be on deck to give practical meaning to the commitments you have announced Hon Premier. Let us grow our province together.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

BACKGROUND

[SONG]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Can we proceed, Hon Seshoka? Is there time allocated for Hon Tshilidzi Maraga?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You may proceed Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker: Hon Premier, Stan Mathabatha; honourable Members and members in the gallery, receive my revolutionary greetings. Hon Speaker, this tendency of the Premier undermining the intelligence of our people must come to an end. The EFF will continue to expose the half-truths disguised as the real state of the province when in fact the case is the opposite. [CROSS TALK] [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can you allow the Member to speak? Please allow her to proceed.

MS MARAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Premier Mathabatha has been dishonest and disingenuous to our people since he came into office, and he has over the years gotten away with murder. The Premier is a man who speaks in fork tongues because he can't keep his promises.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, remember it is her first speech. It is her maiden speech. Can we allow her to speak?

MS MARAGA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Vha khou kona thiri. Over the years, the Premier has been telling the people what they want to hear with no concrete or practical change in their lives. The SOPA did not provide cogent, specific and coherent details in terms of how the government achieved the promises made last year or the implementation of new programmes introduced and planned for the future. The Premier normally gives excuses that the MECs will outline more, but they, too, fail to demonstrate practically how they intend changing the socioeconomic condition of our people.

The ANC government under the leadership of Premier Mathabatha has not been aggressive in terms of growing the economy, which will subsequently alleviate poverty and create jobs for our people. There are literally no radical, progressive, and aggressive developmental programmes to change the lives of the people of the province. The ANC say that they are the leaders of society, but this is completely not evident on the ground, hence our people continue to suffer under their watchful eye.

Truth be told, the socioeconomic conditions of our people remain the same. In fact, since your appointment as Premier, the socioeconomic conditions of our people went from bad to worse. Today the EFF stands here to present the real State of the Province Address to the people of Limpopo. The EFF government will not make promises, but the EFF government will make practical and achievable commitments and deliver on them in the best interest of the people. For instance, the EFF has delivered water, maintained gravel roads, ploughed fields, and provided food parcels to the elderly and needy homes in Ward 10, Polokwane. We have also built a few houses in the province for our people as we continue to make a difference in the people's lives. We did the same in Ward 17 in Blouberg.

The ANC government has over the years failed to properly utilise budgets to change the lives of our people. Instead, under expenditure, irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure is at the order of the day. Government officials fail to spend the budgets and yet no consequence management is applied to the responsible officials. Consequence management is a foreign concept under the administration of Premier Mathabatha. People do as they wish knowing fully well that nothing will happen to them.

The majority of these officials are members of the ANC who are beneficiaries of cadre deployment. [CROSS TALK]

In the Department of Education, for instance, the director of employee wellness only has a Senior Primary Teacher's Diploma. It is clear that the correct procedure was not followed in terms of employing this individual. She is a beneficiary of cadre deployment from SADTU. The director of supply chain ...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, just a moment, please. There is a hand. Hon Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Maraga, with reference to Rule 95, which reads that, "A Member may not use bodily gestures during the proceedings of the House", it is advisable that when you debate, you just relax, stand tall and don't resort to unnecessary body movements. You may proceed, Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. However, you should have started by reprimanding the previous speakers. I saw their actions and body movements. Why are you only reprimanding me, Madam Speaker? [CROSS TALK] The director of supply chain has a qualification in public management which has nothing to do with supply chain. The ANC government accommodates their comrades in the education system even if their qualifications and skills do not match the positions for which they are employed.

The Premier did not adequately address the issue of school infrastructure as it continues to be a thorny issue. During the SOPA he indicated that: "School infrastructure remains high on the agenda of this government as it is a prerequisite for a conducive learning environment." Yet the majority of schools still use pit latrines. You prioritised only small targets (150) for the provision of school sanitation over the next Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period, because you do not value the safety and dignity of our children. If any of our children drown in a pit latrine. you would bear the responsibility for their death.

We remember the story of Michael Komape and we do not want it to happen again. Even in villages, specifically in Tooseng, where you reside, Hon Premier, you do not use pit latrines, which means that you value your safety over that of our children. Equally, the Premier did not adequately address... [CROSS TALK] [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, just a moment, please. Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. With due respect, I humbly request the honourable Members to give her a chance to finish her speech and hear what she says.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable Members allow the Member on the podium to finish her speech.

MS MARAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Equally, the Premier did not adequately address the issue of security in schools, hence the teachers and learners continue to be vulnerable to crime. The irregular expenditure on scholar transport amounts to R1 billion for the 2020/21 financial year. This excludes the R3 billion in irregular expenditure incurred over the previous financial years. [CROSS TALK] This irregular expenditure may be ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, the Member on the podium is the Leader of the Opposition, can you respect the Member please?

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

MS MARAGA

Thank you, very much. This irregular expenditure may be taken lightly at face value, but it translates into serious corruption that continues to raise its ugly head in the current administration. This is just a tip of the iceberg. The “Thuma Mina” slogan was not about the call to send them to change the socioeconomic conditions of our people, but it was about sending them to steal the taxpayer’s money. According to Stats SA (2022), there was an overall decline in the percentage of children aged 0-4 who attended Grade R and preschool from 36,8% in 2019 to 28,5% in 2021. The highest decline was observed in the North-West province with a reduction in attendance of 14%, followed by Mpumalanga and Limpopo at 11,9% and 11,2% respectively. There is literally no plan or strategy by the current administration to counter this decline by making sure that more learners are kept or remain in schools until completion. Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed in the Premier for praising the afro phobic princess and media attention seeker, Phophi Ramathuba, for failing to improve the health system in Limpopo. [CROSS TALK]

BACKGROUND

Doctor!

MS MARAGA

Hon Phophi Ramathuba.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, she allowed that. That is why I advised her to avoid responding to Members while on the podium. You may proceed.

MS MARAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me repeat this. The EFF is disappointed in the Premier for praising the afro phobic princess and media attention seeker; Hon Phophi Ramathuba for failing to improve the health system in Limpopo. Furthermore, in his SOPA, the Premier said nothing about opening all healthcare facilities 24 hours a day for the benefit of our people. Just last year October, a woman was forced to give birth outside a clinic in Burgersfort after allegedly being denied entry by a security guard and a nurse. In this incident, a nurse and the guard refused to open the gate before operating hours. The state clinic offers services only between 07:00 and 16:00. Despite him praising her, the majority of healthcare facilities are in a bad physical state, posing serious danger to both patients and health workers.

The majority of hospitals and clinics continue to experience a chronic shortage of medicine and equipment. To make matters worse, these facilities are not adequately provided with health workers like specialist doctors and nurses. Maybe we need to ask what Hon Phophi Ramathuba did to Premier Mathabatha, that he is so obsessed with her. He just can't let go of her. She is the superstar of the Premier even though she continues to fail the people of Limpopo. Everyone else is either reshuffled to other departments or dismissed, but the Premier keeps on rewarding her for poor performance. The EFF government will make it mandatory for public sector clinics to remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The idea of opening clinics only during working hours creates an impression that our people only get sick during working hours.

The Premier committed during the 2023 SOPA that the construction of the academic hospital and the Limpopo theatre will earnestly start this year. This is long overdue. The majority of our people continue to be disadvantaged due to the delay in the construction of these projects. Knowing the Premier, with his track record of empty promises, it remains to be seen whether infrastructure projects will start within the time frames as indicated. [NOISE] Hon Speaker, the Department of Social Development is unable to fulfil its Constitutional mandate because of a shortage of social workers. Truth be told ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable Member.

MS MARAGA

You must also take into account the minutes that were lost as I was presenting my speech. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Truth be told, we do not have a shortage of social workers as a province. They have been trained and are still loitering around the streets without any jobs. The government invested a lot in terms of training social workers, but it is failing to employ them. There are currently more than 800 unemployed social workers in Limpopo and the majority of them were trained by the government. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your time is up. Thank you very much. Hon Smalle, you may take the podium.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members; officials; guests and various HODs present here today, I greet you.

We must caution against cosmetic changes that don't bring about tangible results when there is a heavy reliance on the private sector to improve the lives of 5,5 million people in Limpopo. The current situation in our province is dire, if not critical. The updated unemployment data shows that there are two provinces in South Africa with an expanded unemployment rate of more than 50%, while Limpopo is toeing the line at just under 49%.

Hon Speaker, in September 2021, the province hosted the Limpopo Investment Conference. This initiative yielded investment pledges to the value of R208 billion. During the 2022 Mining Indaba Investment, pledges to the tune of R35 billion was made. To date, R50 billion, of which R40 billion is from Anglo-American, is in the implementation phase tantamount to a mere 20% of these pledges. If we, as government, are serious about the economy, serious about the spin-offs, serious about the 2,2 million jobseekers in Limpopo, then there must be the political will by the Department of Economic Development to introduce an office that will directly deal with reducing the red tape, by unlocking financial pledges and giving effect to our Limpopo economy and improving the lives of our citizens. As we acknowledge the successes of the mining industry, we must question the government's rationale to have majority ownership in a chrome mine. CMR, a company wholly owned by LEDA with a 55 % share in Sefateng, has already invested R100 million with no dividends paid to the shareholders.

Hon Premier, we are not in the business to operate and manage mines, but rather to set a conducive environment where companies can trade and receive basic services in which they can thrive, and surrounding communities can prosper. As you reflect on the government's performance of the previous financial year, you conveniently neglected to broach the R1,6 billion underspend and the inability to hold office bearers accountable for the biggest ever underspend by the Limpopo government. The inability of accounting officers to hold their respective departments and officials accountable will definitely be picked up by the Auditor-General and by the Scopa portfolio committee.

One of the major underspending culprits was CoGHSTA, underspending their budget by R237 million and should one add their implementing agent HDA, a further R85 million underspent should be added. We could have improved the lives of vulnerable households by building 2 316 more RDP houses, but due to weak internal controls and a lack of accountability, these houses were not built and therefore lost. The people of Limpopo remain desperate. To add insult to injury, the previous HOD, and I want to thank the MEC for taking action against the HOD, awarded nine contractual houses to 200 different contractors respectively in a deliberate attempt to weaken the department's performance.

We can no longer have HODs that do not have a vision for this government. We do recognise the attempt to build or improve four dams in our province. However, we need to realise the lack of access to water to the 1,8 million people, which infringes on their human rights and is a hindrance to equality and dignity as set out in our Constitution.

To exacerbate this crisis, most of our municipalities cannot supply our residents with a constant water supply. The lack of access to water for prolonged periods without any temporary relief measures, is forcing people to rely on pirate water suppliers. In some instances, these suppliers sell water that has been stolen from the very municipalities that cannot provide water, which has become commonplace. This year we acknowledge the class of 2022 for their resilience and performance. However, if we are to be honest, our quality of teaching and support towards both learners and educators is simply not good enough. It is of great concern that only 3 114 or 32,9% of the 9 455 progressed learners who wrote these exams passed.

This number is a huge drop from the 12 050 progressed learners in 2020 and 15 515 in 2020 and raises suspicion of attempts to hold back progressed learners or keep them stuck in the system. We should also take note of the following:

- discrepancies between fee-paying, no-fee and independent schools in our system.
- In our fee-paying schools, 5 553 learners wrote, 4 913 or 88,5% passed and the province ranked fourth nationally.
- In our no-fee schools, 101 285 learners wrote, 71 337 or 70,4% passed and the province ranked eighth nationally.
- In our independent schools 3 457 learners wrote, 3 243 or 93,8% passed in our province and we are ranked second nationally.

The huge discrepancy in results between independent and fee-paying schools and the no-fee schools that depend on government resources is of grave concern and is indicative that the department is not offering enough support or resources to improve the result output in the no-fee schools. The loadshedding currently experienced in South Africa has crippled our economy and negatively impacted on the general well-being of its citizens. The South African Government has, perhaps not at the pace required, implemented various electricity policies to try and alleviate the pressure on the national grid, while transitioning away from coal.

The recent amendments to the Energy Regulation Act No 4 of 2006, especially, the removal of the 100MW threshold for the embedded electricity generation, has encouraged several companies to establish their own embedded electricity generation facilities, with

several large mining and industrial companies aiming to achieve carbon neutrality between 2035 and 2050. While the IPPP projects serve to address capacity constraints on the national grid, and large-scale renewable embedded generation presents electricity security to the industry while lessening the demand on the grid. These developments cannot provide the immediate relief required to address loadshedding. The development of a province-specific and comprehensive energy plan must be a consultative process which is transparent and costed. At no stage should this plan enforce non budgetary mandates onto any department or entity. The DA fully supports the investment toward IPPs.

Hon Premier, we should be grateful that large parts of our province were not affected by Cyclone Freddie. In the past, when we were negatively affected by major disastrous storms, this government was slow to react. The commercial agriculture sector in the province consistently contributes towards the country's food security and job creation and is particularly vulnerable when floods or disasters affect our province.

It is therefore concerning that the Department of Agriculture was only able to spend 15% of its allocated disaster funds during the previous financial year at the expense of desperate farmers seeking assistance.

Finally, Hon Premier, does the number 45 301 mean anything to you and this House? Since you were sworn in as Premier in 2013, 45 301 vulnerable citizens, mostly women and children have reported sexual assault cases to our police stations in the province. About 45 301 women and children were courageous enough to do so and must be applauded, as research indicates that only one out of every nine victims report such crimes. The other 362 408 have lost faith in the criminal justice system or were turned away at the police station. Many of them did not report the crime because the chauvinistic and patriarchal society that we live in propagate women and forces them into submission. Some may have been paid off or were threatened with the loss of livelihood, especially if the sexual assault took place at work. Hon Premier, every day, 13 women and children report rape cases to police stations across Limpopo.

Yet again, you did not step up to provide a comprehensive plan against the scourge of gender-based violence in Limpopo and to allocate resources to your government and to credible NGOs who provide victim-centred services including legal assistance, psycho-social support, shelter and victim assistance at various courts. Your legacy will forever be tainted by the number of 45 301, which is increasing daily. Hon Premier, the people of Limpopo are desperate, desperate for a caring government, desperate for safer communities, desperate for a better tomorrow, desperate for a better future, a future of dreams and opportunities. Let me conclude with a quote by John Wesley: "Our mission concerning the salvation must also include addressing social issues such as poverty and injustice." Together this House must put the lives of the 5, 8 million people of our province first and work together for a better tomorrow.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Honourable Monama, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am rising on a point of privilege. We are not sure whether we are safe in this House. We are seeing new faces and we are not informed about new Members who have joined the Legislature. We don't see; Hon Buthane, Hon Raphela and Hon Mohlala. We just see people whom we are suddenly insulted by. [CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC; Hon Buthane, Hon Mohlala and Hon Raphela have resigned, and they have been replaced by the three honourable Members that we see here. They are Hon Mapoulo, Hon Maraga and Hon Ramalobela. Does that answer your concern?

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Yes, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will now call upon our last speaker, Hon Selamolela. [APPLAUSE]

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hunadi: Hon Premier; Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; Chief Whip of the Legislature, the majority party and the ruling African National Congress; Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane; Leader of Government Business, Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa – Hon Sekoati; Members of the Executive Council of our beautiful province; colleagues; compatriots; Director-General of the province, Nape Nchabeleng and the team of administrators; heads of department and members of the public in the gallery. I would like to take this moment to greet you all, Hon Speaker, in the name of love, patience and tolerance.

I am saying this, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, to exemplify to you that when you have a new baby girl in the house and she is jumping around in a new red jumpsuit, scratching about, breaking glasses in the kitchen and breaking the vase in the sitting room, all you have to do is to show her love. [APPLAUSE] As she goes about trying to crawl, pronouncing words wrongly because she is still learning the vocabulary, you must be patient with her.

You must do this, because she is a new member of the family, and you must really be patient with her. As she continuously pronounces the name of one of your family members at home, it is because she is obsessed with that name, whether it is daddy, mommy, "Yamathuba" or Ramathuba, "Yopi" and so forth, please be tolerant. It is a learning curve, Hon Monama, you are right that we, too, must teach the new baby not to just jump around. First, we need to teach the new baby how to crawl before she can walk and eventually move around and jump in the kitchen. It is against this background, honourable Members,

comrades and compatriots, that I really plead with you, that those who walk on a new turf, let us crawl with them and then teach them how to walk. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE].

I listened attentively to the discussions of the honourable Members of this House, particularly those who add progressive views from the progressive organisation, the African National Congress. First and foremost, I listened to Hon Mokgonyana. He advised us that in order to properly debate this particular State of the Province Address, we first have to take stock of where we come from. We must travel down memory lane and ask ourselves where we were when the Hon Premier took over the reins of our province. This is the best way to determine where we are as a nation and as the people of this particular province. Equally, we are able to assess whether, indeed, this was an important speech with 90% of the challenges almost consumed.

I have taken note of what was said by you, Hon Chief Whip, because, indeed, you are the feeder. You are the leader of all of us here, hence, as we debate, we must follow through with what you are saying. In doing that, as I travel down memory lane, Hon Premier, I was reminded that in 1829 one of the great English writers that I love very much, Charles Dickens, wrote a novel called, A Tale of Two Cities. In that novel, Charles Dickens gives a paradox of two cities, London and Paris, before and during the White Terror which formed part of the French Revolution.

In that, he gave a paradox. I went through it, and I wanted to use it to define where we come from. I only focused on the worst side of that particular writing because that is where we come from. He says, "...it was in the worst of times. We come from the worst of times. It was the age of foolishness, it was an epoch of disbelief, it was a season of darkness, it was a spring of no hope and a summer of despair." Why are we saying this? We are saying this because, as Hon Mokgonyana alluded, when Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa took over the reins of this province, we had basic challenges in the healthcare system. The hospitals lacked basic amenities. Drugs for chronic diseases were not available. Food for patients was scarcely available, and maternal deaths and the infant mortality rate were reaching alarming levels.

Where are we now? Today, Hon Maharaj we run a solid and progressive healthcare system. [APPLAUSE] This is the health care system, Hon Premier, that we envisaged in 1992 in our ready-to-govern document. We committed to the people of South Africa that when we come into power, we will run a single, coordinated, progressive, efficient and effective healthcare system to the benefit of our people. That is what we said and that is where we are. It is this healthcare system, Hon Ramathuba, that helped us navigate through the most catastrophic pandemic in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic. This proves that this healthcare system is working. [APPLAUSE] That is where we are, Hon Premier.

To this effect, from your State of the Province Address, we commend you and your team of Executives and, indeed, implore on you to speed up your intervention in bringing about solar systems as an alternative source of energy for all our public facilities. We must strive to maintain an effective and efficient healthcare system. The implementation of solar energy solutions will play a significant role in realising this objective and bringing about

the desired improvements. The upcoming academic hospital is just yet another indication that we are upping the game in terms of moving from the tertiary level of our healthcare to the quaternary level. An academic hospital, Hon Seshoka, is the highest level of care that you can ever have. The pioneering and groundbreaking innovation of that project and the commitment made by yourself Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, and the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech, is a confirmation that we are on track as people of this province. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, it was a summer of despair where we came from. It was a summer of despair because our road infrastructure and our public infrastructure was on the brink of collapse. Our roads were characterised by bermuda roads. We can stand here today, without fear of contradiction that the road infrastructure delivery in this province is on track. [APPLAUSE] We have taken note of the fact that there might be a backlog here and there; potholes forming as a result of rain and so forth, but we are on track, and we commend the good work that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure continues to do in this regard. Our understanding is that road infrastructure is directly connected to economic emancipation. You can never emancipate our people if we can't give them roads. The provision of roads is important to access hospitals, to access points of delivery, and to facilitate trade.

It was a season of darkness, Hon Premier, because the education system was smeared with challenges. What were these challenges? Learner material was not available in schools. Books were not available, resulting in us having a general shortage. The system was characterised as being incompetent and rigged with crisis. Looking at what Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya has achieved with the outcome of the results of the 2022 matric class, we can look beyond those challenges and pat our shoulders with pride that, indeed, we are on track. [APPLAUSE] Hon Seshoka, beyond just the quantitative outlook, however, you must equally look, as the Premier said during the State of the Province Address, at the qualitative aspects of those particular matric results. That is why we must commend, and we are, indeed, commending those results. [APPLAUSE]

Two years ago, Hon Premier, during your State of the Province Address, you gave an analogy of a province rising from the ashes like a phoenix; and I think the phoenix is rising from the ashes. Hon Premier, we are coming from a summer of no hope. It was a summer of no hope because the economy of the province was stagnant. There were no economic opportunities, young people were in despair, the mood of investors was jittery and there was generally disinvestment in the province.

Today, the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone are the jewels on our crown and a medal of the leadership of this particular province. The intervention you have made, Hon Premier, in terms of supporting the youth development strategy by committing resources to that particular strategy, tells the story of a provincial leadership, led by the African National Congress, that is not just committed to youth development but is actively practising it, and to that effect we commend you, Hon Premier. When Hon Radzilani was here, she also imparted a crucial lesson to us: as leaders it is our responsibility to teach others so that they, in turn, can teach others.

The fallacy uttered by one of the speakers here, who is my friend (whom I must not name for fear of disruption), [LAUGHTER]... that the government must build cities is an imaginary story that is out of this world. The government cannot build cities. It must start by igniting economic activities, and out of these economic activities, cities would be created. Through the work that we are doing in Fetakgomo-Tubatse; the work that we are doing in Musina: we will definitely create cities out of the economic activities taking place in those jurisdictions. It is important to provide these lessons in order to teach you how the process works.

Hon Premier, albeit the challenges at hand, our people are provided with shelter. Our people are getting houses. Our people are being accommodated: they are being redeemed from the past that we come from. We come from the past, pre-1994, where it was a luxury to stay in a walled house. Today we can stand here before the people of this province and say, indeed, we are delivering houses to our people. The government is also trying its best to provide water to those who need it. That is how far we have come, honourable Members. We, indeed, are from a summer of despair where public accountability was almost non-existent: where our disclaimers, and qualified audit opinions characterised our government.

Today, as we speak, Hon Premier as you exclaimed in your State of the Province Address; disclaimers, qualified audit opinions and general administrative collapse are issues of the past. We are running a solid administration. We are envisaging that very soon we will reach your aspiration of a clean government with clean audits obtained by all departments. [APPLAUSE] We are also starting to see consistency in the local government sphere, and that, as we know, is the coalface of our service delivery. If, indeed, we are turning the tide to reach that particular level, then we are on track as a province. This is of course as a result of your effort, Hon Premier and your Members of the Executive. All this does not happen out of nothing, because out of nothing, nothing happens.

This happened due to the good work rendered by your team to ensure that all of us deliver. As Hon Rakgoale has indicated here, that we must all have our hands on deck to deliver services to our people. Hon Radzilani mentioned earlier that as much as this good is happening, there are those who, for the reason of cheap political point scoring, may look the other way. However, because we understand, in summarising them, I want to quote from what the Prophet Muhammad said in 1623 AD in the town of Mecca which is situated in the Arab Land known as Mount Arafat, on the occasion of him giving his last sermon. He said: "Beware of Satan for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope to lead you." Hon Premier, when our people, our predecessors met in 1955 in Kliptown to come up with the *Freedom Charter*, our forebears defined a path for us. They set the tone of a South Africa that we must live in. A tone that all of us here must contribute towards building that desired society that they have set for us. Indeed, today we can say to you, Hon Premier, that you have put the train back on the rail. We can say without fear that the glory of the effort of this generation will be felt more by the forthcoming generations.

The cities you are building in Musina are not only for the sake of ourselves in this current generation, but they will outlive us. The fruits of this generation will be enjoyed by generations to come. That is what our forebears wanted when they worked so hard to

pass the token to us, so that when we receive the token, we must build it for the next generation. Indeed, Hon Speaker and friends, on that occasion of the last sermon, the Prophet Muhammad concluded with: "Oh Allah, be my witness that I have conveyed your message to your people." Hon Premier, I want to express that we also acknowledge and bear witness to the efforts made by yourself and your government in bringing us to where we stand today. Indeed, Hon Monama, as people, we are the descendants, as the former President Mbeki said, of great men and women, the great warriors whom Sekhukhune and Hintsa, taught never to dishonour the course of freedom. Then, we shall never fail.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. We have come to the end of our debate. Are there any announcements, Hon Deputy Speaker?

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The Speaker has a token of appreciation that is being given to Members. Those who have not received theirs, should please contact the protocol staff when the Sitting has been adjourned. Lunch will be served, and all honourable Members are invited. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you very much, honourable Members. The House is adjourned to Thursday, 02 March 2023 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
THURSDAY, 02 MARCH 2023
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. We may all be seated. Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Members of this august House; members of staff and also those who are in the public arena, good morning, and welcome to our Sitting. Before we proceed with our programme, I would like to indicate that items 2–6 are suspended.

[ITEMS 2–6 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 The Premier's Response to the Debate on the State of the Province Address

We shall now call upon the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, to respond to the debate made by honourable Members.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

I recognise the Hon Chief Whip. Hon Premier, you may be seated.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I'm standing on a point of privilege. During the debate on the State of the Province Address held on Tuesday, you referred to Hon Maraga as the Leader of the Official Opposition. The rule states that it is only the Rules Committee that will make a recommendation after the political party she is affiliated to has made such a recommendation, which would then come to the House and make such a recommendation before we could have the Leader of the Official Opposition. That applies also to the whip of the opposition.

I'm raising this matter so that the Premier is able to title or address people accordingly. That is the first point that I wanted to raise. It must be on record that as of now, we don't have the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Whip also.

The second issue is that you made a ruling, which you correctly did, on Tuesday, regarding the cap that had a political party logo that appeared to belong to Hon Mochadi, while in fact, it belonged to Hon Marule. Therefore, it must be recorded as such. Hon Mochadi was in a very nice two-piece suit on Tuesday. She did not put on any cap.

Thank you very much, Hon Chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party.

THE PREMIER

Can I proceed, Hon Speaker?

THE PREMIER

Yes, you may proceed, Hon Premier.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; honourable Members of the Legislature, our MPLs; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the ruling party, the African National Congress, leaders of the opposition political parties; director-general and all HODs of different departments; friends from the media; distinguished guests and the entire people of Limpopo, ndi matsheloni.

BACKGROUND

Ndi matsheloni avhudi.

THE PREMIER

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Legislature for giving us this opportunity to respond to the debate on the 2023 State of the Province Address held last week. We appreciate the feedback from the debate that ensued in the House. What is more pleasing is the convergence of views on the work that we have done as the provincial administration. There is an acknowledgement of our continued efforts to put up a better and accountable administration.

Hon Speaker, the honourable Members of this august House agreed with us that during the current financial year, like a phoenix we rose, and as we enter the next financial year, like a baobab tree, we are like a well-oiled machine, and we rejuvenate. You recognised the distance that we have travelled to keep the administration afloat. You encouraged us to continue working towards a developmental, ethical and accountable administration. You embraced our stabilised and stable administration as we look forward to the twilight of our term.

In fact, honourable Members were at pains to express that we should never go backward. Through their comments, we were alerted of the dire need to remain true to our word, to let our plans speak to the responsive government, to continuously put at the forefront the developmental agenda of our province. You cited our achievements of improved audit opinions in the previous financial years as an indication of a balanced and well-run administration. We thank honourable Members for being critical on the work that we did as well as supporting us in the process through the oversight role you played.

I would be amiss if I don't highlight some of the matters raised during the SOPA debate that require clarification. In the same spirit, I need to hasten to state that I shall not dwell much on the totality of the issues raised. However, I will focus my attention on the salient points that, if left unclarified, may create an impression that we have not been diligent in our work. The rest of the responses will be ably provided by various MECs who shall go into detail during their budget debates.

Let me start with this simplest form. During my speech, Hon Maraga raised a question to me, "What are your qualifications?" Hon Speaker, I don't want the honourable Member to be confused with regard to my qualifications. My qualifications are public knowledge. If you can go to Google, you will find them. Now, for ease of reference, I will tell her. Firstly, I am a teacher by profession. [APPLAUSE] After Matric, I qualified as a teacher with the first class pass and a distinction in Mathematics. I am not comparing myself with anyone. From there, I went to the University of Western Cape where I got my bachelor's degree and an HED. From there, I went to Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership where I got my master's degree. From there, I went to Harvard University in the USA where I got my PIAM. You can go and google it. From there, I went to Harvard Business School where I got my PMD.

Besides that, I have got no less than 15 certificates from various universities around the world, including projects from Stockholm, Texas University and Mississippi University. I also have a certificate in Mining from Wits University. I have got many certificates and they are more than 15.

So, that is for the ease of your concern. I am not comparing myself with anyone, Hon Speaker. Obviously, I can't compare myself with Hon Maraga because I can see that she looks much younger than me. If not, it means Hon Maraga, you are very beautiful.
[INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Younger than whom?

THE PREMIER

Younger than me. If she is not younger than me, it means she is very beautiful.
[LAUGHTER]

MR SESHOKA

This has nothing to do with this Sitting.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE PREMIER

Madam Speaker, on the matter regarding unemployment...

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, can you be orderly, please.

THE PREMIER

... statistics in the province, let me respond to the distortion of facts by one honourable Member, Hon Seshoka. We were specific in our reference to the Third Quarter Report of the 2022/23 financial year which indicated that Limpopo has recorded a decrease of 5,3% of unemployment rate, a decline from 36,4% down to 31%. You can go and check the Stats SA. [APPLAUSE]

The expanded unemployment rate with its specific challenges would reflect a different figure. However, what we reported during SOPA is confirmed by the latest Labour Force Survey released on Tuesday this week. The reason why we don't normally rely on the expanded unemployment rate is because it is unofficial. We report about the official unemployment rate. Do you know the reason why it is unofficial? It is because it is very difficult to determine reason why people are discouraged from looking for a job.

It is not always the case that you will know. Sometimes you think people are discouraged from looking for a job only to find out that they have deviated to another trade, either as an informal trader or as a businessperson. So, you can't absolutely stand up and say this

is your unemployment rate as a country or this is your unemployment rate as a province as it is qualified to be called expanded unemployment rate. However, while we welcome the decrease of unemployment rate as recorded, I have to reiterate my concerns around the issue of youth unemployment. That is why I repeat my clarion call to the private sector to assist government in fighting this challenge. Another matter that I will hasten to highlight is the importance of economic development through the special economic zone.

Our concern is on how some honourable Members of this august House have not understood the economic imperatives of industrialisation to create jobs and fight the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. These are the two most important catalytic projects because once they get off the ground, they will create more sustainable jobs and ensure the development of the economy of our province. There is no ambiguity in my presentation since last year, neither is there stagnation as some Members of this House would want us to believe.

What we have here are two economic game changers that honourable Members of this House should support without any political point-scoring. Worth noting is that jobs are already being created as we speak. These are long-term projects that Members should be patient with while they continue to do their oversight work to ensure their sustainability and success.

Another important and prospective point raised by Hon Smalle is around the need to establish a unit in LEDET to cut a red tape bureaucracy against investment. Fortunately, this is in line with what President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa announced during the 2022 State of the Nation Address. The President has subsequently appointed Mr Sipho Nkosi to head the presidential red tape reduction team that will advise him in this regard. I have already secured a meeting with Mr Nkosi and his team to come and discuss the role of the provincial government in that regard about ways and means to reduce this practice.

This will open even better avenues for us to attract further investments in the province without constraints of red tape bureaucracy. Our one-stop centre has already been created to do some of these jobs that will assist investors in gaining access to our province and do business with ease.

Honourable Members, when we raised R209 billion during our investment conferences, it was for both short-term and long-term investments. It was never meant to be a project to be concluded within a year. We expect that the impact of this project will be felt even within a decade. What is pleasing, and what we reported on in detail, is that already more than R50 billion worth of pledges have already been implemented. This is to show that investment conferences went beyond just talk shows, and instead came up with workable socioeconomic development plans and programmes. What a milestone achievement worth celebrating. [APPLAUSE]

On the other hand, we went to great lengths to explain how we have improved our infrastructure spend in various areas like roads, schools and sanitation facilities. Regarding the much-awaited academic hospital, again we are pleased to report that, finally, we are at an implementation stage. To date, a contractor has been appointed, and in my latest engagement with the Minister, he confirmed that the construction will start

next month. [APPLAUSE] Please allow me to explain the importance of the academic hospital as it appears to be too complex for some honourable Members from the opposition.

This is a massive change in the health landscape of our province. It is far higher in health offerings than the hospitals we already have in the province. So, it is amazing or very astonishing that there are some honourable Members who feel that an academic hospital should not be built. It's the ignorance of the last degree. Most importantly, the academic hospital will alleviate the burden of travelling regularly to other provinces for medical treatment.

Training on specialised skills will be done here at home in Polokwane. It will also allow opportunities for our children to do practical work as well. It is expected that the project will generate 1 220 part-time jobs during the construction phase and create 2 461 full-time equivalent jobs in Polokwane once it is fully operational. [APPLAUSE] Bjale wena o re re se ke ra se aga.

BACKGROUND

O nyaka kliniki.

THE PREMIER

O nyaka kliniki ya four room. With regard to matters raised regarding operations of our clinics 24 hours, I must hasten to indicate that our plans were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the MEC for Health will give more details about this programme in her Budget Speech later this month. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is undoubtedly the future. It is against this background that as Limpopo province, we have embrace the 4IR, and its implementation has already started. This is evidenced by the launch of CT scans and mammogram machines at St Ritas Hospital in Sekhukhune. Those machines are ordinarily operated by qualified radiologists who are very scarce, but through technology, radiologists can utilise that equipment irrespective of where they are all in the world. This means that even if somebody is here at St Ritas, they can consult somebody in the US, China, Beijing or wherever on a particular issue or a particular case. That is 4IR.

In addition, our e-Learning Programme for basic education is also part of 4IR. Actually, our observation points to the fact that the majority of MPLs and speakers in this debate use technology for their convenience. It's unfortunate that I saw a number of our honourable Members in the opposition benches still using matlakala to submit their reports despite the fact that COVID-19 has opened us or exposed us to technology. COVID-19 has shown us that it is better and even healthier to use technology than what old-aged people always used to do.

However, it is said that a condition of good practice is a mirror image to those that will follow, just like one of the most highly decorated philosophers in the world, Karl Max, said – that developed countries are a mirror image to the less-developed countries.

Honourable Members, we have noted the inputs that were made in our strategies in dealing with energy crisis. While this function is not primarily ours, we are taking advantage of the place and availability of natural resources to find alternative ways of supplying energy. This is the reason why the provincial energy strategy, anchored on the just energy transition now, is of utmost importance. We shall place due care in the process that will lead to infrastructure placement within hospitals, clinics and schools. We shall ensure that their implementation is all above board, that funds are directed to the required areas to bring services to the people. It is worth noting that we are the first province to admit that underspending should not be part of our country and it must not be allowed. That is the reason why during SOPA, we announced the implementation of the turnaround strategies in places like human settlements. Our strategies and their application should give us an opportunity to improve our spending in the new financial year.

During the State of the Province Address last week, I said that we shall continue to fight the pandemic of gender-based violence and femicide. It is for this reason that the provincial prayer day as announced by the MEC, Hon Radzilani, on Tuesday, will be held before the end of this month. Honourable Members are all requested to grace the invitation and add their voices in the fight against abuse and killing of women and children. We will also use the prayer session to pray for the safety on our roads.

To this end, we are working together with civil society and faith-based organisations led by the South African Council of Churches in Limpopo and the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders. As I have already indicated, much of what was raised in this House will be the subject of various MECs' Budget Votes. We take this opportunity to thank this august House once more for continuously guiding us through their oversight role.

Our achievements would amount to nothing without your work, honourable Members. If Scopa is not calling us to come and account, we will not be what we are, Hon Selamolela. We want to thank you for that. [APPLAUSE] Ba re ga e ke e ntšha boloko ka moka ka gore e tšhaba go itoma mala. Gape ba re mantšu ga se mapono, ga a bolaye ka bontši. Ba fetša ba re modiša ga a ke a tlogelana moretlwa gobane ga a ke a ekwa ditaba ka moka. Ke ka fao ke re go tše ntši re tla di kwa ge Malekgotlaphethiši a e tla, a tlo ala dikabo tša bona.

Hon Speaker, I have said that there are a number of projects that we are doing with the private sector. The reason why we have them in some areas somewhere else in the world is because you will have a situation where you are stuck with a casino, a simple thing like in Las Vegas in Nevada in the USA, Hon Speaker. I don't if Hon Seshoka is listening.

When you build a city, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, you don't go there and say I am building a city. You will go there with tangible projects, the multiplier effect of which will be the production of a city. That is simple economics. You go there and build a multipurpose stadium.

Once you build that multipurpose stadium, there will be activities around it. You will go there and build a multipurpose centre. Let's say, for example, you build a casino; around that casino, there will be a city built. You will go there and build a big industry of Huawei company. Around that industry, a city is built. You will go and build Wits University in

Braamfontein and around Wits University a city develops. You will build Atlanta Airport in the US and around that Atlanta Airport a city is built. So, this stadium that we are also talking about, ga e no ba lepatlelo le Mohlomphegi Seshoka a ka no ba go nagana ka sona. Sa go no re o fihla kua wa kgora ka grader wa bowa wa tatetša ka masenke wa bowa wa re ke lepatlelo. We are not going to do that. We are going to build a state-of-the-art stadium which will offer a host of activities.

Hence, we are inviting the private sector to come and partner with us in that stadium project because we know that for as long as that private sector is there, it's good because all developments all over the world were demand-driven and not supply-driven. Today we want to build this stadium in Sekhukhune because there is money. Today Sekhukhune United FC is playing in Tembisa because there is no supply. They would want to play in Sekhukhune home ground, but they can't because they are playing in Tembisa. Already you have got clients and there is a need. There is a demand for that stadium; hence, we are saying that project will not fail because it is not supply-driven but demand-driven. Thank you very much, honourable Members and thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Thank you, Hon Premier for the response. May we proceed, honourable Members.

Before that, I want to make a ruling on the matter raised by the Chief Whip of the majority party about Hon Maraga being referred to as the Leader of the Opposition.

THE NONRECOGNITION OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (The Speaker's Ruling)

Honourable Members, indeed, it is true that in terms of Rule 217, before Hon Maraga could sit where she is sitting now or before I can refer to her as the Leader of the Opposition, there are processes that need to be followed in terms of this rule. I'm also told that the protocol officer has arranged the seats according to their name tags as they are supposed to be, but honourable Members from the opposition decided to change them. Hon Maraga, this means that you are sitting where you are not supposed to sit in terms of Rule 217. I'm asking you to sit accordingly as the protocol officer had arranged for you. [LAUGHTER]

MR SESHOKA

We are not going to do that.

MS MARAGA

Can I speak?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you are allowed to do so. Can you stand up, Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Muhulisei Mulangadzulo.

MS MATHYE

Kha vha putedze khudzaipfi.

MS MARAGA

Khudzaipfi a i khou shuma.

THE SPEAKER

No, can you respond to the Speaker, Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MS MARAGA

Hon Speaker, it's like your rulings are always biased. I stood there that day, and you said I must not use gestures, but today I saw the Premier using gestures.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Can you respond to my...

MS MARAGA

There is nothing about a party leader here. I can only see my name. Now you are telling me to move to another seat. Try to be fair. You are not the Speaker for a certain party. You are the Hon Speaker for everyone.

THE SPEAKER

What I'm saying, Hon Maraga...

MS MARAGA

Try to be fair.

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you are right...

MS MARAGA

You are our Hon Speaker...

THE SPEAKER

You are correct, Hon Maraga. Can I say something, Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Can you listen, Hon Maraga...

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, you are correct, I'm the Speaker for everyone. That is why now as the Speaker or the Presiding Officer, I want to make a ruling: Please, can you sit where you were supposed to sit – according to the name tag. I'm told by the protocol officer that you have changed it when you arrived in this Sitting. Can you put the name tag where it is supposed to be so that we proceed with our Sitting.

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order!

THE SPEAKER

No, I'm still with Hon Maraga. [INTERJECTION] I'm referring to Hon Maraga. [INTERJECTION] No, I want to finish with Hon Maraga.

MR SESHOKA

You must also recognise me; my hand is up.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, are you defying my ruling? Do you want to defy my ruling?

MS MARAGA

No, I'm not defying your ruling.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, on a point of order.

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

MR MARAGA

Don't be biased.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, on a point of order.

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, we are not going to follow your instructions.

THE SPEAKER

What?

MR SESHOKA

We are not going to follow your instructions.

THE SPEAKER

Okay.

MR SESHOKA

I am not going to follow your instructions...

THE SPEAKER

Okay.

MR SESHOKA

There is no rule which speaks about the arrangement of seats. It only speaks about a person that we cannot refer to as a party leader.

THE SPEAKER

The rule is there.

MR SESHOKA

Which rule is that?

THE SPEAKER

It's Rule 217.

MR SESHOKA

No, no, Rule 217 does not say that!

THE SPEAKER

Procedurally, you know what you were supposed to do as the opposition party. You did not do your things correctly. You were supposed to write a letter to the Rules Committee so that you arrange your things correctly, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

It's unfortunate...

THE SPEAKER

You did not do that.

MR SESHOKA

It's unfortunate because now you want to come and talk about that. Our understanding is that we wrote that letter.

THE SPEAKER

To date we have not received it.

MR SESHOKA

You can't say you have not received it.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I'm the chairperson of the Rules Committee. I have not received any letter from the opposition. So, Hon Maraga, can you sit where you are supposed to sit.

MR SESHOKA

No, no!

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit where you are supposed to sit. I'm saying that for the second time.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

I have already made a ruling. Can you sit where you are supposed to sit. I have made a ruling. This thing is very simple; it's about the seating arrangements. Hon Maraga, we don't deny the fact that...

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, we are not going to do that. No way.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, I'm saying this for the third time. Can you sit where you are supposed to sit.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

MR SESHOKA

She is not going anywhere.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

I recognise, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I stand to assist you in maintaining the decorum of the House. On the same note, I want to check as to when the induction process is for new Members in this House? We are being abused by the behaviour of some of these new Members in this House. Thanks very much.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, I'm giving you one minute to relocate from where you are sitting now.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, can you go and sit where you are supposed to sit.

MS MARAGA

I'm not going anywhere. This is my chair; I'm not going anywhere.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, let me tell you, you are not going to hold this Sitting to ransom.

MS MARAGA

Nhe, ndi nga si takuwe.

THE SPEAKER

Now that you defy my ruling as the Presiding Officer, I'm going to call the Sergeant-at-Arms to come and assist me, or you leave the House.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Can you leave the House, Hon Maraga. Can you leave the House.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Can you leave the House, Hon Maraga.

BACKGROUD

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

There is nothing wrong here. Sit down, Hon Seshoka! Sit down, Hon Seshoka!

MR SESHOKA

I'm not going to sit down.

THE SPEAKER

Sergeant-At-Arms, can you assist, Hon Maraga to go out.

MR SESHOKA

No, she is not going anywhere. Which rule are you applying because Rule 217 does not say what you are saying?

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can you allow me to proceed. In terms of House Rule 97(3), if the Sergeant-at-Arms is unable in person to effect the removal of the Member, the Presiding Officer may call upon the Legislature Protection Services. So, Legislature Protection Services, may you come and assist Hon Maraga to move out? Go out!

MS MARAGA

I'm not going anywhere.

THE SPEAKER

You will go, Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

I'm not going anywhere.

THE SPEAKER

You will go out, Hon Maraga.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, go out! Legislature Protection Services, may you please come and take Hon Maraga out.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

May you also take Hon Seshoka out. May you go out, Hon Seshoka.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK AND COMMOTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I'm not going to take any point of order before they remove those honourable Members. Hon Mphahlele, may you please switch off your camera.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

MR SMALLE

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Yes, I will do that, Hon Smalle.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Protection Services, please remove Hon Maraga. You are not supposed to negotiate with her, may you please remove her. Don't negotiate with her; remove her!

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Protection Services, you are not supposed to negotiate with Hon Maraga. Remove her! Just remove Hon Maraga! Don't negotiate with her; remove her! Protection services, remove Hon Maraga, please. Remove her, don't negotiate with her!

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Remove her! Protection services, remove Hon Maraga, please. Take her out!

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, the Sitting will be suspended for 10 minutes.

[THE HOUSE IS SUSPENDED FOR 10 MINUTES]

[THE HOUSE RESUMES AFTER 10 MINUTES]

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Now that I have suspended this Sitting, I'm going to call SAPS to come and assist us.

[REQUEST FOR SAPS TO INTERVENE AND ARREST THE SITUATION]

THE SPEAKER

Let's proceed with our programme of the day. We are on Item 8.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and good morning to the honourable Members, the Premier and the members of the ruling party.

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARY IN CAPE TOWN (Motion without Notice)

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 provides 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 and others attended physically.

- 22 November 2022: Debate on the killing of Councillors: "Waging a Concerted Battle Against the Killing of Councillors": Hon K M Lebea, Hon S M Mochadi and Hon M J Maseko;
- 23 November 2022: Motion for Consideration of the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill: Hon S M Mochadi and Hon M J Maseko;

- 29 November 2022: Motion for Consideration of the Electoral Amendment Bill: Hon S M Mochadi, Hon F P Mdaka and Hon M C Mahasela;
- 06 December 2022: Motion for Consideration of the Report of the Select Committee on the Appropriations of the Proposed Division of Revenue and Conditional Grant Allocations to Provinces and Local Government: Hon N M Lekganyane, Hon S V Mathe and Hon C B D Selane;
- 13 December 2022: Motion for Consideration of the General Laws (**Anti-Money Laundering** and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill; Consideration and the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Amendment Bill; and Farewell Speeches: Hon N M Lekganyane, Hon M R Seono;
- 06 February 2023: Special Sitting to Commemorate and Pay Tribute to the late Former Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Frene Ginwala: Hon C B D Selane, Hon M R Seono and Hon N M Lekganyane;
- 09 February 2023: Joint Sitting: State of the Nation Address by the President of the Republic of South Africa: Hon T B Matibe, Hon E M Mokgonyana and Hon N S Monyamane;
- 14 February 2023: Joint Sitting: Debate on the President's State of the Nation Address: Hon R R Molapo, Hon T B Matibe and Hon E M Mokgonyana;
- 15 February 2023: Joint Sitting: Resumption of Debate on the President's State of the Nation Address: Hon R R Molapo, Hon T B Matibe and Hon E M Mokgonyana; and
- 16 February 2023: Joint Sitting: President's Reply to the Debate on the State of the Nation Address: Hon R R Molapo, Hon T B Matibe and E M Mokgonyana.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointments of the above-mentioned special delegates in line with the above-mentioned rule.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to second the motion for adoption of the ratifications of special delegates as presented by the Hon Chief Whip. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We now move to item 9.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

I recognise the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members who are attending Wits capacity-building programme are requested to come to the office of the Deputy Speaker after lunch. It is unfortunate that we are speaking about capacity building while other honourable Members have already left. Lunch will be served. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned until Tuesday, 07 March 2023 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, 07 MARCH 2023
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. Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Members of this august House; Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip of the majority party; Chair of Chairs; Leader of the Opposition; staff members; members of the public in the gallery, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Honourable Members, we will now move to Item 2.

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.

**UNASHAMED PRAISE OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN THE
MEDIA ON AN INITIATIVE TO FIX POTHOLES ON THE BUSY JANE FURSE MAIN
ROAD**

(Motion without Notice)

I move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes that:

- As per the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), municipal traffic officers must perform their duties within their boundaries of municipality.
- Municipal traffic officials enforce compliance with the National Road Traffic Act, National Land Transport Act and Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act. They control traffic, inspect vehicles for roadworthiness and enforce road traffic signs and rules on the road.
- Therefore, this House should find it disappointing that the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga unashamedly praised local law enforcement officials in the

media on an initiative to fill potholes on the busy Jane Furse Main Road in February 2023.

- Maintenance of local roads falls under the Department of Infrastructure in Makhuduthamaga Municipality, headed by Cllr Magetlane Mohlala.
- The Mayor should berate and hold to account Cllr Mohlala for poor performance and the poor condition of the Jane Furse Road, and allow traffic officials to implement law enforcement.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? 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

Thanks very much. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE PROVINCIAL ORGANISED CRIME
INVESTIGATION UNIT AND CRIME INTELLIGENCE ON ARRESTING THE THREE
SUSPECTS FOR DEALING IN DRUGS IN THE CITY OF POLOKWANE**

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC to applaud and thank the intelligence-driven joint operation, comprising the provincial Organised Crime Investigation Unit and Crime Intelligence Counter Narcotics Unit, which led to the arrest of three suspects for possession of and dealing in drugs.

These three suspects, aged between 34 and 44, were arrested during separate incidents in the city of Polokwane for dealing in and possession of drugs worth thousands of rands. It is reported that on Saturday, 04 March 2023, the operatives followed up on information regarding the suspected distribution of different drugs at the parks near schools across the city.

Observation was done by the Organised Crime, and Crime Intelligence at the identified areas. Two males were spotted carrying two refuse bags. The suspects were stopped

and searched. The following items were found concealed inside the bags: 227 sachets of heroin; 21 sachets of crystal meth; and 15 sachets of cat.

The two male Nigerian nationals, aged 34 and 40, were then apprehended. During a similar operation that was conducted on 01 March 2023, another suspect aged 44 was also arrested in the Polokwane CBD.

This comes after information was received regarding a foreign male, Nigerian national, suspected to be selling drugs at the taxi rank. During the arrest, the suspect was found in possession of 370 sachets of heroin, 5 sachets of crystal meth and an undisclosed amount of cash.

We would like to thank these units for their dedication in ensuring that we have a drug-free society and further encourage them to continue with their sterling work of fighting any form of crime.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby move for the adoption of the motion. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive, my colleagues in the House and all protocol observed.

**HANDING OVER OF A VEHICLE AND A BOREHOLE TO THE BAPEDI QUEEN BY
THE EFF IN APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY TRADITIONAL
LEADERSHIP IN SOCIETY
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice that on 03 March 2023, when the EFF celebrated the birthday of Commander-in-Chief Julius Malema, we handed over a brand-new car to the Bapedi queen, the queen mother. We also donated water because she stayed for quite long without the ANC-led government providing her with water. [APPLAUSE].

Therefore, the EFF values the role played by traditional leadership in society, more especially in providing leadership and stimulating development in our communities. We praise maaparankwe with the role that they are playing in bringing dignity in our own various villages.

The ANC-led government is hellbent on destroying traditional leadership through its own Acts and the current Bills that are issued, disrespecting maaparankwe because they think they are not Africans themselves.

Therefore, if you are Africans, develop a spirit of respect towards our traditional or royal houses. They go around dividing traditional leadership – illegally and criminally installing people they can use to steal the minerals of our country. They put the stooges that they can be able to control and destroy the image of our royal houses.

They embrace Western culture because they do not love themselves. They do not love their culture, and they think the Western culture is superior to our own African culture.

We need a government that respects its own heritage and cultural values. We need a Pan-African government that respects and understands the cultural values of our people. We didn't stop there during the celebration of the birthday of our commander-in-chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

We gave kgongwana ya tshadi gore e fele e tswalela ba mošate gore ge ba dutše ba hlabela Bapedi le ditšhaba tša bona, e bile ba ba tšhelela meetse, madi a konyana a theoge. The EFF will govern this Limpopo.

Thank you very much. I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SESHOKA

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. MEC, Hon Monama.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Members of the House. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to reject the motion as tabled by the honourable Member. There was a noble act in the motion, of course, but in terms of the decorum of the House, it is

contaminated. As such, I would like to move that the motion be rejected with the contempt it deserves. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. The motion is objected to.

Thanks, Hon Members. Honourable Members, the motion presented by the EFF is objected to. Can we move to another item? Do we still have any other motions without notice? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can we allow Hon Mdaka to proceed.

MR MDAKA

**MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS WHO SADLY
DIED IN HORRIFIC ACCIDENTS ON THE R579 ROAD IN MOTETEMA AND THE R71
ROAD IN GAMAKANYE**
(Motion without Notice)

With deep sympathy, I rise on behalf of the National African Congress to send messages of condolences to the families of the 16 victims who sadly died in a horrific motor vehicle accident on Road R579 in Motetema near Groblersdal on Friday, 03 March 2023.

The accident is suspected to have happened when a minibus taxi collided head-on with a truck and another minibus taxi after overtaking unsafely. One of the minibus taxis involved was, unfortunately, transporting learners to the school. The drivers of both minibus taxis and six learners are among the people who died. May their departed souls rest in peace!

We also wish a speedy recovery to those who sustained injuries during this horrific accident. We call upon our provincial government to continue giving those families the necessary support during these trying times.

Hon Speaker, we further extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of three victims who died in a separate accident on the R71 road near GaMakanye in the Mankweng area. This happened when a truck driver ignored the stop sign and collided with a light motor vehicle and sadly killing all the occupants of the light motor vehicle.

We continue to plead with motorists to exercise a highest level of patience on the road and also obey the rules of the road at all times.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mdaka. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Mdaka. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. [APPLAUSE]. Are there any other motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF A YOUNG XITSONGA
COMEDIAN AND ENTERTAINER NTWANANO “MARAJI” NGOVENI
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the DA for this House note and send condolences for the passing of a young Xitsonga comedian and entertainer Ntwanano “Maraji” Ngoveni, who passed away in late February 2023 and was laid to rest in Gawula village this past Sunday, 05 March 2023.

The young energetic influencer was also a singer of Xitsonga music. His death has robbed the province of his talent, and may his efforts within the entertainment industry live on.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. Are there any other motions without notice? Thank you very much. It seems as if we are done with the motions without notice. May I suggest,

honourable Members, that we all rise and observe a moment of silence for those who passed away.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Let us proceed to Item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Is there any Members' Statement in terms of House Rule 200? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND UNFAIR LABOUR PRACTICE LEVELLED AGAINST THE MAYOR OF MOLEMOLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, it is worth noting that ANC leaders do not have the moral compass or even ethics to lead the society. The Mayor of Molemole Local Municipality, Mr Edward Paya, is accused of sexual harassment and unfair labour practice against a junior staff member from the municipality in exchange for a promotional post.

This is a clear abuse of power and position by the Mayor, but of course, we are not surprised as the culture of women abuse is a norm in the ANC. Sex for work is very rife, both in the ANC municipalities and government departments, and broadly speaking, the entire administration. The gender-based violence against women must stop because it is against societal values and principles, but the painful truth is that it also degrades and worsens the values of a woman.

Political positions cannot be used to violate the rights and the dignity of a woman in a society that is grappling with a serious problem. We need to conduct a moral lifestyle audits to all politicians who are currently occupying key positions in the municipalities, government departments and entities.

Society cannot be led by people who lack self-respect because they will not respect society as they lead them on a daily basis. Our people deserve better, and it is for this reason that the EFF will continue to expose those shenanigans.

Finally, we call upon the MEC for Safety and Liaison to investigate this matter in order to give the complainant a recourse. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive, honourable Members, officials and members of the public in the gallery.

**GREAT CONCERN OVER INVESTMENTS IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE AS
FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE GREYLIST SOUTH AFRICA
(Members' Statement)**

It is of great concern that on 23 February 2023, South Africa was greylisted by the Financial Action Task Force, especially considering the other economic headwinds the country is facing and the fact that South Africa could have avoided the situation.

Treasury, which chairs an interdepartmental committee of AML, CFT and CPF that is overseeing and coordinating a comprehensive response plan in this regard, indicated that these weaknesses are relatively easy to address as they relate to the changing laws and putting systems in place. From a risk mitigation standpoint, a scenario of assuming the worst when an event materialises remains a plausible course of action for both fiduciaries of clients' moneys and clients themselves.

Can the Honourable MEC for Treasury please share with this House what mitigating measures have been put in place to safeguard the R200 billion foreign investment announced by the Premier during his two SOPA addresses, specifically taking into account South Africa's current lack of attractiveness as an investment destination; the negative capital flow emanating from being greylisted; the enhanced due diligence which negatively affects the ease and cost of doing business; complications as a result of not being able to fairly participate in these global financial markets and systems; and the cost of capital going up.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am Managa Lilian, deployed in this august House by the Economic Freedom Fighters. Greetings to you, Hon Speaker, and also allow me to greet the Hon Premier, all MECs present, all honourable Members who are here today, heads and representatives of different departments, as well as our staff members and members of the public who are seated in the gallery.

THE STATE OF MAPHUTHA MALATJI HOSPITAL
(Members' Statement)

I want to present the Members' Statement titled, "The State of Maphutha Malatji Hospital".

Hon Speaker, the state of healthcare in this province is shocking and it is in a very bad state. The contractor has locked the new Outpatient Department building at Muphutha Malatji Hospital in Namakgale, Phalaborwa District in Mopane, which he was refurbishing, because of the outstanding payments.

The project was started way back in 2011, and like many other projects in the province, the project is not yet complete. The project now requires about R90 million to complete the OPD building of Maphutha Malatji Hospital.

There are expensive machines, radiography machines, for example, that should be working to assist patients, but they are there gathering dust and rust inside that Outpatient Department building. Patients are denied access to medical assistance because of failure by the department to pay the contractors.

The hospital now uses temporary shacks and caravans while patients burn in the hot sun, especially during summer, because Phalaborwa is extremely hot during summer. It is worse during rainy days. The MEC must not shift the blame to the Department of Public Works. Her department is also involved in terms of making sure that that part of hospital is completed without any glitches within the agreed timeframe.

There is no political will at all to adopt or to embrace good governance practices in the current administration. It is for this reason that things have gone from bad to worse in recent times. We call upon the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of BaPhalaborwa.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Secretary of the ruling party, you are most welcome to this Sitting. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**NATIONAL TREASURY'S INTENTION TO STOP THE POSSIBLE R283 MILLION
GRANT FUNDING TO POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY BY EVOKING SECTION 18 OF
THE DIVISION OF REVENUE ACT**
(Members' Statement)

The DA has noted National Treasury's intention to stop the possible R283 million grant funding to Polokwane Municipality by invoking section 18 of the Division of Revenue Act,

which would possibly see Treasury stop funds to the various grants, totalling a staggering R283 million:

- R97 million from the Integrated Urban Development Grant;
- R8 million from the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant;
- R47 million from the Public Transport Network Grant;
- R23 million from the Integrated National Electrification Programme Grant;
- R20 million from the Water Services Infrastructure Grant;
- R4 million from the Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management; and
- R77,3 million from the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant.

Treasury cites underperformance and noncompliance as a response for this decision. The latest letter from Treasury came after an amount of R142 million was not approved in November 2022 for rollover regarding the 2021/22 financial year, and just days after a downward Budget Adjustment of R60 million for capital projects for the current 2022/23 financial year.

Hon Speaker, the same municipality, coupled with its relevant directors alongside its municipal manager responsible for the poor performance, are now expected to motivate why the grant funding should be allocated.

Residents of Polokwane can no longer be subjected to the municipality's incompetence. The MEC for CoGHSTA must be transparent to this House and explain how accountability and proper consequence will be implemented.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. Are there any other Members Statement? There are none. May I check with the Members of the Executive if they are ready to respond to the Members' Statements? MEC, Hon Radzilani; MEC, Dr Ramathuba; and MEC, Hon Sekoati, you will follow each other in that order. Thanks very much.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker and good morning to the Hon Premier, honourable MECs, the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs and Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, let me remind this House, especially the opposition, the EFF member who came here and pointed a finger at the ANC, that the ANC is a political organisation, of course with an electoral mandate to govern.

When there are allegations levelled against its members, it is quite aware that their government institutions charged with constitutional mandate to investigate and effect arrest if it's proper to do so.

Let's allow law enforcement officers to do their work without political influence. We must also appreciate, Hon Speaker, that anyone remains innocent until proven guilty. I want to assure you, Hon Speaker and Hon Premier, that there is no one who is alleged to have contravened the law, the rules of this land who will not go through the proper processes. We also want to advise members of the EFF that the ANC has enough capacity.

In January, it was celebrating its 111 years. It's the oldest movement with the necessary capacity to handle its own internal matters without even wanting to appreciate the advice from those who are not its members. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC. MEC, Dr Ramathuba, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, colleagues from the Executive, honourable Members, I greet you all. Members of the opposition party, let me indicate to you that there is no need for the MEC for Health or any MEC, whether it's the MEC for Public Works, for Treasury or the Premier, to investigate the issue of Maphutha Malatji.

I am saying this because the departments that I have indicated led by the Office of the Premier have already done their own investigations, and interventions have already been made on the issue of Maphutha Malatji Hospital. We are all aware that the contractor has even entered into a legal dispute with the Department of Public Works.

We must also appreciate the fact that when we start any project, we agree on the terms and conditions. If in the process of construction, there are extras that are added and there are changes that are made, they should be documented –they should be in a contract.

If that is not done, it's going to be regarded as irregular expenditure, and it is the very same opposition party which will be saying, the Premier and his Executive are corrupt; they've taken the money because the initial budget for this infrastructure was so much. They will be asking why it is now escalated. So, all legal issues that involved that contract must be followed.

The Office of the Premier, through their legal unit, have already assisted. Public Works and Health, including Treasury, have met, and this R90 million that you are talking about is an extra – it's not the original budget of this particular infrastructure. This government is very much dedicated. The MEC for Public Works is hands-on when it comes to the completion of this facility, and we are expecting this facility to be completed soon because it's almost more than 90% complete.

We did not end there. Treasury has already started the issue of forensic investigation so that we can find out who has changed the terms and who has worked with the contractor without following the law, because as the ANC-led government, we frown when it comes to corruption.

We're talking about real corruption. We're not talking about your perception. We will be able to deal with this matter; and this facility will be ready very soon for occupation by the people of BaPhalaborwa. As for the other issue that things have gone from bad to worse, you are the one who knows very well how much we have improved in terms of running our facilities and how health service is being run. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Provincial Treasury MEC, Hon Sekoati, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier and Members of this august House, let me start with the issue of greylisting and what it is that we are doing as a country and also as a province to make sure that we are able to mitigate against greylisting. I thought the Minister of Finance, Hon Godongwana, has already responded to such, that out of 67 recommendations that were made in 2021, all but eight strategic interventions have been dealt with.

However, there are areas that we have already identified in dealing with those complex financial crimes, e.g., the Anti-Money Laundering Act and other Acts that support it. We are making sure that those law enforcement agencies are capacitated to deal with such complex matters. Furthermore, we have seen how the Minister for Finance has allocated resources to those bodies to make sure that they are able to go into investigations.

Equally, we have already seen such Acts being implemented; and a number of areas have already been investigated, and whoever were the culprits were brought to book. So, we believe that as a country, we are ready to deal with the issue of greylisting, especially when it's given until 2025.

We believe that by then we should be ready to deal with those issues that have been raised. Obviously, it's indeed providing a risk in terms of many other complex criminal acts that relate to finances. However, it is important to note that it's not that this government is folding its arms. There's a lot of work that is being done in that area.

In terms of the area that was raised by Hon Phala that relates to Polokwane Municipality, the city of stars, we are aware that, because Polokwane Municipality is not a delegated municipality, the National Treasury is the one that monitors and supports it.

They have given a notice to the municipality that they are going to withhold certain amounts of money related to grant funding that have not been utilised in implementing certain programmes.

However, it has not been a conclusion that the National Treasury is withdrawing them. Firstly, the Polokwane Municipality will embark on a process of writing back to the National Treasury, confirming what the National Treasury has written to them. It will also say which areas are ready in terms of commitment of those resources.

Secondly, the municipality must state which projects are already underway in terms of the money allocations that have been made in grant funding. The municipality must again be able to come to the National Treasury and say how much it believes will not be utilised. It is only on those bases that the National Treasury will then make an assessment as to whether what the municipality is saying is honest or workable enough for them to be able to withhold the fund.

Now, if the municipality is able to give evidence that they have already committed the funds, service providers have already been appointed, and the work is underway, therefore, the National Treasury will then look as to how much actual money will have to be taken away or withheld from the municipality. It's not a foregone conclusion that the amount that has been stated is going to be taken away from the municipality.

I thought it's important just to outline the process so that we're able to understand as to what exactly is happening. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? There are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, others reports and papers? Yes, there are.

6.1 Tabling of the 2021/2022 Annual Report for Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) Together with the Written Explanation for Nonsubmission on Time

MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Monama, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier of our province, honourable MECs, Chair of Chairs of our committees in the august House, chairpersons of committees, Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen, HODs present and CEO present, I greet you all.

On behalf of LEDA Group and in my capacity as the shareholder of the entity, I regret to table the LEDA Annual Report for the financial year ending 31 March 2022 after the due date. The delay arose out of the investigation of irregularities within one of the LEDA subsidiaries called New Era Life Insurance.

I wish to take this opportunity to profusely apologise for the late tabling of the LEDA Annual Report for the financial year under review. On behalf of the LEDA, I hereby request

the Hon Speaker and this honourable House to refer the report to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for further investigation into this maladministration in that subsidiary and to be part of the Scopa public hearings that will be taking place.

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker and honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and Scopa for consideration and to report back to the House.

6.2 Tabling of the 2021/2022 Annual Report for Gateway Airports Authority Limited Together with the Written Explanation for Nonsubmission on Time

MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Radzilani, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker of the House, our Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Members of this august House, government officials and members of the public in the gallery, a blessed morning to you all.

Hon Speaker, we are tabling the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Gateway Airports Authority Limited. It was supposed to be presented to this august House at the end of September 2022, but Hon Speaker, there was a delay because the entity could not finalise its financial statements on time.

The Auditor-General granted the entity a two-month extension to finalise its financial statements. This has since yielded positive results. Despite the late submission, we are pleased to announce that the audit opinion has since improved from an adverse audit outcome to a qualified audit outcome, which is a great improvement on the part of the entity.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, and Scopa for consideration and to be reported back to this House. Thanks very much.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Motion for the Recognition of the Leader of the Opposition

Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Good morning to honourable Members, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature and the provincial secretary of the ANC.

RECOGNITION OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, section 116(2)(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides that the provincial legislature must provide for the recognition of the leader of the largest opposition party in the legislature as the Leader of the Opposition.

In line with the provisions of the above legislation, I, therefore, move that this House resolves to recognise Maraga Tshilidzi Annikie of the Economic Freedom Fighters as the Leader of the Opposition in this House.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand here without hesitation to second the motion as presented by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka.

7.2 Motion for the Recognition of the Chief Whip of the Opposition and the Allocation of Members to Committees from the Opposition

Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, once again.

**RECOGNITION OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE
ALLOCATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES FROM THE OPPOSITION**
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, the House will recall that in 2021 a study was conducted, and the report from the Rules Committee was adopted by the House, whereby it recommended the recognition of the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

On Monday, 06 March 2023, the Rules Committee met to consider the EFF's submission to endorse one of their members as the Chief Whip of the Opposition after the resignation of the former Member, George Raphela, who was the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

It is against this background that the House resolved to recognise Hon Ramalobela Mokwape Lecom from the EFF as the Chief Whip of the Opposition. At the same meeting, the EFF also put in a recommendation to reconfigure its allocation to the portfolio committees of the Legislature, which we request that this House supports.

I, therefore, move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Mphahlele, you may second the motion.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I also stand without hesitation to second the motion as presented by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mphahlele. [LAUGHTER] Can we proceed, honourable Members. Order, honourable Members! Let us proceed.

7.3 First Reading of the Limpopo Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B01-2023]

MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon Premier and Members of this august House, I greet you. Hon Speaker, I request the House to consider the proposal to amend the 2022/23 Adjustment Budget.

The Minister of Finance published gazette No. 47662 in compliance with section 18 of the Division of Revenue Act, 2022 (Act 5 of 2022), as amended, which gives effect to the following:

- The national Department of Human Settlements stopped the transfer of funds amounting to R100 million for the Human Settlements Development Grant and R44,7 million for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant for the Limpopo province.

- Therefore, the allocation for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs has been adjusted downwards by R144,7 million from R2,761 billion to R2,616 billion.

The Minister for Finance published gazette No. 47789 in compliance with section 18 of the Division of Revenue Act, 2022 (Act 5 of 2022), as amended, which gives effect to the National Health Insurance Grant as follows:

- The national Department of Health stops the transfer of R3 million for the National Health Insurance Grant for the Limpopo province.
- There is a reallocation of funds for the Limpopo Department of Health to the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the completion of the Maphutha Malatji Hospital project.
- The allocation of the Department of Health has been adjusted downwards by R73 million to reallocate this funding to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the completion of construction works for OPD at Maphutha Malatji Hospital. [APPLAUSE]
- Therefore, the allocation for the Department of Health is adjusted downwards from R23,594 billion to R23,518 billion. The allocation for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is adjusted upwards by R73,056 million from R4,354 billion to R4,427 billion.

Having received the above amendments, Hon Speaker, the Provincial Treasury, in terms of section 31 of Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), as amended, must table the Second Adjustment Budget to effect the changes to the provincial Budget.

I, therefore, table the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B01-2023] to effect these adjustments. The provincial Budget will thus decrease by R147,737 million from R78,154 billion to R78 billion.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

7.4 First Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023 [B02-2023]

MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Speaker of our provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu

Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Provincial Legislature; former Members of the Provincial Legislature present; leadership of the ruling party present in this House as led by Mr Madadzhe, our provincial secretary; leaders of various opposition parties present; chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders le magoši kamoka a gona lehono; Director-General of the province and all heads of department; members of the boards and chief executive officers of our various entities present; Executive Mayors, Mayors and all Councilors present; leaders and representatives of our chapter 9 and 10 institutions present; leaders of organised labour, faith-based and civil society organisations present; captains and leaders of various industries; all leaders of our sectors; youth, women and people living with disabilities present; honoured guests; and people of Limpopo, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present before this august House the 2023/24 provincial Budget and its appropriations, together with the following:

- The Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023;
- Estimates of the provincial revenue and expenditure 2023;
- Overview of provincial revenue and expenditure 2023;
- Socioeconomic review and outlook 2023; and
- Supporting gazettes thereof.

Hon Premier, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to borrow from the metaphor of “water droplets drilling through rock”, as used by President Xi Jinping in his book Up and Out of Poverty, “Rock and water are two opposing elements that are used to symbolize dogged stubbornness and gentle fluidity. Yet despite being “gentle,” water will drill through “solid” rock over time.

A single drop of water is small and insubstantial. It will die a cruel “death” in any battle with a rock. Yet in that brief moment of “sacrifice,” even though it cannot see its own value and achievement, it is embodied within the countless drops of water that have already fallen, and the triumph of finally drilling through the rock...”

We are, therefore, presenting the 2023/24 financial year provincial Budget, fully aware of the stubbornness of the scourge of inequality, poverty, and unemployment, but encouraged by the fighting spirit of the water droplets drilling through the rock.

The Hon Premier, in his State of the Province Address, reported on the many achievements that the province has accomplished and attained in a number of social and economic spheres in the midst of the economic turbulences that engulfed our country. In the spirit of the water droplets drilling through the rock, we bravely went into the breach with no slightest thought of retreat like the true resilient people of the “Great North”, as we were affectionately referred to by the legendary leader, O R Tambo.

On behalf of the people of Limpopo, I, therefore, want to thank you Hon Premier, Mahlatji’a Hlabirwa, for helping us to navigate the socioeconomic hard rock, steering this ship determinedly, with diligence, with love, and like water droplets with steadfastness.

Hon Speaker, this Budget is presented at a time when the country still continues to experience an increase in both food and energy prices. The Reserve Bank has just hiked the repo rate as it tries to stabilise inflation and that decision has brought the repo rate to 7,25%, and the prime rate to 10,75%. These have increased the burden to the fiscus, particularly in providing adequate services, thus calling for concerted efforts by the provincial government to come up with impactful interventions that can better the lives of the people of this province.

We, therefore, present this Budget to give effect to the directives and pronouncements made by the Hon Premier in his State of the Province Address, as well as advancing the work of the provincial administration in continuing to ensure that Limpopo is a better home to live in, and a better place to do business. Like the water droplets drilling through the rock, the provincial government continues to invest in infrastructure planning and delivery.

Though we have not been able to fully realise some of the envisaged outcomes articulated in the provincial growth and development due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak and the setbacks of the recent rainstorms, considerable progress has been made in the forward planning and delivery of infrastructure. Our provincial infrastructure expenditure and delivery performance reports for the 2022/23 financial year can attest to this.

Hon Speaker, when dripping water takes aim at the rock, each droplet zero-in on the same target and stays the course until its mission is complete. It is in this spirit that in the preparation for the 2023/24 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, and in line with the Infrastructure Planning Framework and the Division of Revenue Act, we ensured that all sector departments are to develop and submit their infrastructure plans to both Provincial Treasury and Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

All outputs and initiatives were completed in line with the provincial planning framework that informed the consolidated 2023/24 provincial infrastructure readiness and implementation report, including the 2023/24 infrastructure programme of action which is to be finalised by the end of March 2023.

Hon Speaker, an amount of R21,471 billion for the delivery of infrastructure within the province, over the 2023/24 MTEF period, has been allocated based on the consolidated planning work we have completed in preparation for the 2023/24 financial year. In the financial year ahead, we have allocated an amount of R7,312 billion across departments for infrastructure development as follows:

- Department of Education : R1,486 billion;
- Department of Health : R851,6 million;
- Department of Transport : R78,7 million;
- Department of LEDET : R20 million;
- Department of CoGHSTA : R1,229 billion;
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure: R3,398 billion;
- Department of Agriculture : R183 million;
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture : R54,3 million; and
- Department of Social Development : R10,6 million.

This budget is also spread and allocated across various infrastructure investment categories. During the 2023/24 financial year, a total Budget of R416,3 million or 6% is allocated towards new infrastructure mainly for construction of new clinics, libraries, schools, upgrades of gravel roads to tar roads, centres for place of safety, nature reserves and housing development.

The estimated budget allocation for rehabilitation and refurbishment is R379,3 million or 5%, while upgrading and additions of existing facilities is R1 billion or 15%, and R1,862 billion or 26% is allocated towards maintenance. Provincial Treasury together with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will continue to focus and work on areas of strategic weakness, especially the rate at which procurement of projects and programmes for infrastructure takes place.

To ensure that there is a differentiated process and approach during the procurement of infrastructure, we will continue to take the lead in institutionalising the rollout of the Framework for Infrastructure Procurement and Management and provide guidance in this regard. As part of our Infrastructure Delivery Framework, Treasury will support the provincial government's work in the just energy transition as pronounced by the Hon Premier in his Address.

In our effort to ensure that all infrastructure departments and implementing agents within the province conform to a uniform system of planning, procuring, and delivery of infrastructure, through our infrastructure delivery management system, we have endorsed and adopted a uniform framework for reporting to allow for seamless monitoring of implementation across all the project cycles by the provincial infrastructure governance structures on a monthly basis. This will surely make it easy to identify blockages and propose interventions in the planning and delivery of infrastructure projects throughout the financial year.

Hon Speaker, our provincial allocations are derived from our receipt of equitable shares, conditional grants and provincial own revenue. In this regard, the provincial equitable share accounts for approximately 83,4% of the provincial sources of funding. The 2023/24 provincial equitable share is R65,349 billion, growing to R67,974 billion, and R71,5 billion in 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years, respectively.

Provincial conditional grant allocations amount to R34,1 billion over the 2023 MTEF period, with R11,3 billion allocated in 2023/24, R11,1 billion in 2024/25 and R11,6 billion in 2025/26 financial years.

We are happy to announce that the provincial own revenue management and maximisation strategies continue to yield positive results in augmenting national equitable share. The target for provincial own revenue in 2023/24 is R1,7 billion, an increase of 15,4% from the 2022/23 baseline. This is further projected to increase to R1,794 billion in the 2024/25 financial year and R1,882 billion in the 2025/26 financial year. Included in the equitable share provision for the province are the following allocations:

- R585,551 million in 2023/24 and R661,7 million in 2024/25 for new data updates;

- R578,731 million, R969,789 million and R1,446 billion in the 2023 MTEF for new data updates;
- R1,174 billion, R1,2 billion and R1,126 billion in 2023 MTEF for 3,0% wage increase;
- R884,6 million for 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 financial years, respectively;
- R389,1 million and R540,5 million for health sector in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years, respectively;
- R867,6 million and R907,3 million for education sector in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years, respectively;
- R866,7 million, R906,6 million and R944,079 million in health for pressures in CoE and service backlog in the 2023 MTEF; and
- R655,6 million, R796,8 million and R885,4 million in education for compensation of employment pressures in the 2023 MTEF;

Hon Premier, the provincial share of the national revenue will never be sufficient to service the competing socioeconomic needs of our society. This always necessitates the collection of provincial revenue by both departments and public entities in line with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Hence, as a province we continuously invest in revenue enhancement projects, which include amongst others:

- Infrastructure improvement in the Limpopo wildlife 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 licence function piloting with Vhembe and Capricorn districts; and
- Demarcation of the additional parking bays in the Department of Health's facilities.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the revenue enhancement projects identified for implementation include the commercialisation of resorts and improvement of reservation systems by LEDET, and the installation of electricity prepaid meters for state houses by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

The Department of Transport is supported further to continue with the extension of K53 learners and driver's licence project. This department and the Limpopo Gambling Board remains the highest revenue generators for the province through tax receipts.

Provincial departments and public entities that generate revenue above their own credible set targets qualify to apply for revenue retention to invest in revenue enhancement projects and other socioeconomic projects. This is an incentive for those that are able to step up and collect more revenue so that they can also get something that they can utilise on their own projects. I hope that would be encouraging enough for departments and public entities to generate the collection of revenue above the set targets.

As Provincial Treasury, we hold revenue enhancement bilateral meetings quarterly to provide support to departments in the identification and implementation of revenue enhancement projects. The projects identified are envisaged to generate more revenue for the province while on the other hand expand access to services and creating job opportunities.

Hon Speaker, the allocation for current payments is R66,2 billion in 2023/24, R68,9 billion in 2024/25 and R71,5 billion in 2025/26 financial years and represents 83,7% of the total allocation. Included in the current payment is compensation of employees allocation, which represents 65,7% of the total Budget and is allocated R52 billion in 2023/24, R53,8 billion in 2024/25 and R55,2 billion in 2025/26 financial years.

The compensation of employees is increasing by 2,5% from R50,7 billion in 2022/23 to R52 billion to provide for exiting staff, carry through cost for the 2022/23 salary increases and other liabilities such as pay progression, grade progression and other areas such as the filling of vacant posts.

Hon Speaker, the province has made significant strides in reducing the percentage of the provincial Budget spent on the compensation of employees (CoE), which has reduced from over 72% of the Budget in previous years to 65,7% in the current year. So, we have to move from 72% to 65,7% in terms of the reduction. I think it's a quite an achievement for us as the province. This has allowed the province to allocate additional funds to service delivery and infrastructure spending.

Goods and services represents 17,9% of the total allocation and is allocated R14,1 billion in the 2023/24 financial year, R15,1 billion and R16,2 billion in 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years, respectively. The goods and services allocation increases by R2,899 billion or 25,7% from the 2022/23 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year, to provide for contractual obligations and non-negotiable items that were having a budget shortfall that were funded in the 2022/23 Adjustment Budget.

The allocation for transfers and subsidies is R9,983 billion in 2023/24. It will reduce to R9,215 billion in 2024/25 and increase to R9,691 billion in the 2025/26 financial year. The allocation is intended for transfers to our public entities, schools, funded non-profit organisations, service providers for construction of human settlement houses under Human Settlements Grant and for payments of leave gratuity to staff exiting the public service.

The payment for capital assets increases from R2,667 billion in 2022/23 to R2,937 billion in 2023/24. It will reduce to R2,2 billion in 2024/25 and further reduce to R2,1 billion in 2025/26 financial years. The allocation is for construction of fixed structures, machinery and equipment, biological assets, as well as software and intangible assets.

An amount of R1,9 billion or 65,1% 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 sector. Overall, the provincial expenditure allocation will increase from R78,1 billion in the Adjustment Budget of 2022/23 to R79,1 billion in 2023/24, then grows to R80,4 billion in 2024/25 and further increases to R83,4

billion in 2025/26 financial years. Hon Speaker, the following will be allocations per department:

Vote 1: The Office of the Premier is allocated R438,3 million in 2023/24, R454,2 million in 2024/25 and R469,9 million in 2025/26. Included in the allocation is R23,5 million earmarked funding to implement ICT-related projects in the province, provincial energy strategy and provincial ICT infrastructure assessment audit.

Vote 2: Limpopo Legislature is allocated a Budget of R492,4 million in 2023/24, R470 million in 2024/25 and R487,2 million in 2025/26 financial years.

Vote 3: The Department of Education receives the highest share of 48,2% of the provincial Budget [APPLAUSE]. This department is allocated R38,1 billion in 2023/24, R39,3 billion in 2024/25 and R40,6 billion in 2024/25 financial years. I am just emphasising it because we expect much from it. The 2023/24 allocation includes:

- R884,6 million for Presidential Youth Employment Initiative;
- R36,9 million for Sanitary Dignity Project;
- R6556 million additional compensation of employees for educators;
- R100 million for e-Education;
- R100 million for storm-damaged schools;
- R70,000 million for improvement of matric results project;
- R3,3 billion for conditional grants; and
- R772 million from own revenue. That is the money that we are giving from our own revenue that we have collected.

Vote 4: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is allocated a Budget of R1,7 billion in 2023/24, R1,8 billion in 2024/25 year and R1,9 billion in 2025/26 financial year. The allocation includes R340,36 million in 2023/24 for conditional grants. Included in the departmental allocation is an amount of R30 million for revitalisation of agriculture and agroprocessing value chain, commonly known as RAAVC projects.

Vote 5: The Provincial Treasury receives a Budget allocation of R457,6 million in 2023/24, R473 million in 2024/25 and R489 million in 2025/26 financial years. Included in the departmental allocation, are national priority funding of R11,2 million for municipal intervention and capacity building and R5,4 million for infrastructure capacity building programmes.

Vote 6: The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is allocated a Budget of R1,4 billion in 2023/24, R1,404 billion in 2024/25 and R1,422 billion in the 2025/26 financial years. Included in the allocation is R1,9 million for EPWP conditional grant and R603 million for transfers to public entities.

The public entities transfer amount includes R215 million for Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park, R22,7 million for tourism marketing to be transferred to the Limpopo Tourism Agency.

The department is responsible for economic development in the province and the allocation also includes an amount of R20 million for state resort refurbishment, R8,5 million for reserve commercialisation and R1,9 million for the implementation of a resort central reservation system. The department is also allocated R50 million for waste management and air quality control projects.

Vote 7: The Department of Health receives the second highest allocations of the provincial Budget at 30%. The total allocation to the department is R23,7 billion in 2023/24, R24,1 billion in 2024/25 and R25,2 billion in 2025/26 financial years. Included in the 2023/24 allocation is R119,9 million for placement of medical graduates, R192,955 million for employment of doctors; R50 million for purchase of ambulances and R20 million for Cuban Doctor Programme. [APPLAUSE] The allocation also includes R3,9 billion for conditional grants and R637,2 million from own revenue.

Vote 8: The Department of Transport and Community Safety is allocated R2,4 billion in 2023/24, R2,480 billion in 2024/25 and R2,5 billion in 2025/26 financial years.

Included in the 2023/24 allocation is R442,9 million for conditional grants, R70,4 million for transfer to Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL), R98,6 million for provincial priorities which include R30 million for the revitalisation of the traffic training college, R33 million for the construction of K53 projects, R3 million for Mampakuil project, R6,7 million for the revitalisation of traffic stations, R6 million for the finalisation of the Thohoyandou taxi facility, which is one of the oldest taxi facilities that will hopefully be completed, and R20 million for implementation of service delivery projects at Gateway Airports Authority Limited. [APPLAUSE]

Vote 9: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives a Budget allocation of R4,9 billion in 2023/24, R4,3 billion in 2024/25 and R4,5 billion in 2025/26 financial years. Included in the allocation is R150 million for municipal rates and taxes, which is the money that we are giving to municipalities which are being owed for rates and taxes, R130 million for ZCC R71 interchange road project, R100 million for purchase of building as per the executive Council resolution, R100 million for purchase of yellow fleet, R20 million for refurbishment of LEDET Suid Street building, R30 million for construction of roads at Musina-Makhado SEZ and R6 million to install prepaid electricity meters in state-owned properties. [APPLAUSE]

The allocation also includes R1,8 billion for conditional grants, part of which will be allocated to Roads Agency Limpopo as part of the RAL allocation of R2 billion for roads maintenance and upgrading, partnerships and other operational costs. We have gone to the R2 billion mark now. It means we must now go to R3 billion mark, making sure that we are able to provide for road infrastructure in the province. [APPLAUSE]

Vote 10: The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture receives an allocation of R621 million in 2023/24, R690,3 million in 2024/25 and R775,7 million in 2025/26 financial years. The allocation for 2023/24 includes conditional grants allocations amounting to R221,8 million. Included in the departmental allocation of 2023/24 is R10 million for the provincial theatre because we have not yet started.

Vote 11: The Department Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs is allocated a Budget of R2,5 billion in 2023/24, R2,6 billion in 2024/25 and R2,7 billion in 2025/26 financial years. Included in the allocation is conditional grant allocation of R1,2 billion, of which R946 million is for Human Settlements Development Grant, R281,3 million is for Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant and R1,9 million is for EPWP Grant.

The allocation for the 2023/24 financial year also includes R25 million for construction and maintenance of traditional council offices, R5 million for furnishing of traditional council offices and R55 million for purchase of vehicles for senior traditional leaders. [APPLAUSE] This is only the first phase.

Vote 12: The Department of Social Development will receive R1,9 billion in 2023/24, R2 billion in 2024/25 and R2,091 billion in 2025/26 financial years. The allocation includes the conditional grant allocation of R10,2 million for the Expanded Public Works Programme. Included in the Budget allocation for 2023/24 and over the MTEF are the funds for the conversion of a social work grant to equitable share, food relief function shift and gender-based violence, and an additional R40,8 million for the payment of existing welfare NGOs.

Hon Speaker, like the water droplets cutting through the rock, our unique strengths, optimism and work ethic, our spirit of retrieve, and our diversity give us everything we need to ensure prosperity and security for generations to come. Hon Premier, allow me to express my admiration to you for developing a solid plan, and the tenacity to see it through to the end through your visionary leadership and patience.

To my colleagues in the Executive Council, thank you very much for your continued support and cooperation. To Hon “Rudolph” Kgolane Phala the chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, your continued oversight and support is appreciated at all times. I sincerely thank you. [APPLAUSE] HOD Gavin Pratt and team Treasury, thank you for your hard work and commitment. [APPLAUSE] Let me also take this opportunity to thank my wife, Hunadi’a Hlabirwa, and our children for their unwavering support.

I wish to thank the people of our province for their resilience and understanding that there are no shortcuts, for their consciousness that we need to focus on a long haul, by turning quantitative changes into qualitative ones.

Let us indeed become the dripping water that drills through hard rock. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Ngiyabonga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Thank you very much. Honourable Members, order, please! Thank you very much, honourable MEC for the presentation of the Budget. 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. Thanks very much. We shall now move to Item 8.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

I will allow the Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane, to come and give announcements.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Legislature; our special guests; and our provincial secretary of the ANC, Mr Madadzhe, thobela. Hon Speaker, our announcements will be as follows:

Firstly, lunch for honourable Members will be served in the committees main boardroom service wing, and the lunch for the guests will be served in the basement parking in block 1.

Lastly, I would like to remind the chairpersons of the portfolio committees of our meeting which will be held tomorrow at 09:00 at the Parliamentary Village. Immediately after the meeting, we will be joining the Hon Premier at GaMatlala a Thaba for the International Women's Day. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. This brings us to the end of our session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 09 March 2023 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
THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2023
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, members of staff and members of the public in the gallery, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**FAILURE BY THE EFF MEMBER OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
TO PAY SALARIES TO HIS EMPLOYEES
(Motion without Notice)**

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House that it should note that the self-imposed leader of the opposition, Hon Mokwape Ramalobela, is a 'dead-beat employer' who is unable to pay his workers what is due to them. This joke of a businessman has no shame in not paying 'his' employees their salaries, in these tough economic times.

He must be ashamed of himself that he carries on with his duties as a Member of this House and earning a decent wage, while he fails to pay his employees a fraction of what he earns as a public representative.

We must single out bad employers like Hon Ramalobela and call them out for what they are – terrible employers – who care less about the plight of the poor, who are masquerading in this House as representatives of the poor while their red overalls are concealing Guccis and Louis Vuittons underneath.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion as raised by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. I, Lilian Managa, from the Economic Freedom Fighters, stand here to object to the motion that the honourable Member has presented. She cannot come to this House and present the information that they found on social media platforms.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The motion is objected to. Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We ask for the division of the House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The division of the House is proposed. We are going to do it like this, those who say "Yes" will indicate and those who say "No" will also indicate. Hon Seshoka, I am doing my job here.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am also having a responsibility to ask you questions.

THE SPEAKER

No, the motion was objected to, Hon Seshoka, and then thereafter, the Member asked for a division of the House in terms of that objection.

MR SESHOKA

Which rule are you applying when you divide the House?

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed honourable Members? You are not here to teach me, Hon Seshoka. I am doing my job in terms of the Rules. Can we proceed? Those who say “Yes” should indicate and those who say “No” should also indicate.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, the “Yes” prevails, can we proceed? It is not for the first time I am doing this. There is nothing wrong with that. It is Rule 131, Hon Seshoka. Honourable Members, can we proceed?

Are there any other motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Managa, you are smiling because you know you didn’t submit the motions. Can you please lower your hand? Honourable Members, let’s move to the next item.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS

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

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

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

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1: Consideration and adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, rise in this august House to table the motion on the consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to support the motion as raised by the chairperson. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Matlou, please hold on there before you proceed. Are you satisfied with the rule you were asking about, Hon Seshoka? Never and ever undermine me about the rules, Hon Seshoka. I know the rules like I know myself. You have that rules book and say you are not satisfied. You wanted to know which rule. I said it is Rule 131. I wanted to check if you are satisfied with that rule. You have the rules. You are ashamed to say the rule is correct. Never ever undermine me about the rules. Can you proceed, Hon Matlou?

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

[OFF MIC]

THE SPEAKER

You wanted to know the rules, and I said it is 131. You have a rules book, but you are not responding to the rules book. That is why I am checking. You are still reading. I will wait for you. Proceed, Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The Speakership of the Provincial Legislature, Members of the Executive Council present here, Chief Whip of the majority party, Leader

of the Opposition and congratulations on your election as the Leader of the Opposition in this House, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all.

The ensuing debate takes place at a time when our province had on December 2022 experienced an increase in the level of crime, especially those related to gender-based violence and femicide. Hon Speaker, hotspots in this province include Thohoyandou, Mankweng, Seshego and Giyani with regard to this particular matter.

Accompanying this is the ever-present risk and threats of the transitional and criminal activities in the form of nicotine and other activities, gender-based violence and femicide, the GBVF which takes place in the form of rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment has become endemic and also a global pandemic. It has been recently referred to as a second scourge in the entire country.

There have been major interventions by the ANC-led government to respond to this particular scourge and this includes the development of the national strategic plan on gender-based violence and femicide, the NSPGBVF (National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide).

The strategy provides a firm foundation for the multi-sectoral coherence and also strategic policy and programming framework to strengthen and coordinate the response to this crisis. The strategy is anchored on pillars such as prevention, response and care, an advocacy and awareness raising and also communications.

We, therefore, call for the strengthening of the interaction and where possible replicate the national Inter-Ministerial Committee against GBVF in the province to ensure a coordinated approach in addressing GBVF in the province. This is in line with the ANC's 55th National Conference resolutions to localise the NSPGBVF and ensure its integration into local plans of the provinces and municipalities.

Hon Speaker, we work with all sectors thereof, including community sectors, and also the private sector. We must build a single broad volunteer network to tackle this particular scourge. The ANC at its 55th National Conference agreed and resolved that, in addition to the abovementioned to address and tackle the defeat of GBVF, we must work with all relevant stakeholders including the Department of Social Development to upscale and broaden the implementation programmes to support victims and also the survivors of GBVF by expanding the establishment and coverage of the *Thuthuzela Care Centres* and also the *Khuseleka One-Stop Centres*.

At the level of the criminal justice system, we must implement the ANC's 55th National Conference resolution to establish special courts, special units within the South African Police Service to confront GBVF at all cost. We must fast-track the legislation of rape as a capital crime to ensure that bail or parole is not granted to perpetrators of this particular heinous crime.

Hon Speaker, in addition, we must provide members of the South African Police Service with sensitive training to manage and handle GBVF and provide more resources for the DNA laboratories to reduce the crime times to release the DNA results. While the situation is worrying, we commend the law enforcement agencies in the Department of Transport

and Community Safety and also the honourable MEC, for their sterling work to deal with this particular scourge.

As the Premier reported in the State of the Province Address, "There is a notable decrease in the reported cases of both sexual offences and attempted sexual offences." Hon Speaker, we must ensure that as a tradition and as a peace-loving country and province, stability remains a defining factor of our province and also of our nation in totality. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. Hon Seshoka will stand on behalf of Hon Ramalobela. Hon Seshoka, the floor is yours.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, thank you very much and greetings to the caucus of the EFF led by the capable leader, Hon Tshilidzi Maraga, and also greetings to the permanent acting Premier of this province, Members of the Executive Council present here, Members of this House, please receive our revolutionary greetings.

Hon Speaker, it is quite disappointing that the underexpenditure has become a norm in the Limpopo provincial government. The government is comfortable with it, as now it is no longer an issue at all. It is business as usual. The underexpenditure derails service delivery and we have said it many times in this House, but it falls on deaf ears.

The House should note that the underexpenditure occurred in the area of administration, transport operations, transport regulations and Secretariat for Police Services. A total of R40 million was underspent in the current financial year. It is also notable that out of a total of 28 planned targets, only 18 were achieved, resulting in 10 targets not being achieved, which translates to a 60% achievement against 36 which is not achieved. It should also be noted that like underexpenditure, the nonachievement of targets derails service delivery, hence our people continue to suffer.

Hon Speaker, it is worrying that the department is still struggling to implement the human resource development plan even in the current financial year. The human resource development plan is key for the enhancement of service delivery in the communities. We are shocked that the department is struggling to implement such plans.

If the government struggles with the implementation of small programmes, what more about bigger projects. The department does not have an approved organisational structure since the merger of the two departments. The EFF is also concerned and worried that the electronic vehicle monitoring system were not used.

Furthermore, the underachievement regarding the number of drunk driving operations conducted due to delays in collaboration of alcohol screener is something that should be worrying to all of us. That is despite the fact that drunk driving has contributed immensely to the rising fatality rates in the province.

If the government fails to procure small items such as alcohol screeners, how can we trust them with the bigger mandate in the form of mega projects. The money to buy essential items that could have saved the lives of our people is not always available, but the money to fund corruption is always readily available.

Furthermore, it should be noted by this august House that the department has not been successful in implementing performance targets relating to monitoring and evaluation of SAPS components, monitoring and evaluation of SAPS police stations and conducting customer service in police stations. As it stands, the department has got no idea as to what is happening in our police stations with regard to challenges and even achievements.

There is also no proper assessment of the functionality of community policing and safety forums. Hon Speaker, the EFF is deeply troubled about the state and availability of victim empowerment centres in the police stations in the province. Some of the police stations do not have the centre operations while others are not adequately resourced. Victims of gender-based violence are the most affected due to lack of victim empowerment centres in our police stations.

Hon Speaker, the department has incurred fruitless and wasteful expenditures amounting to R400 000 whilst about R14 million of irregular expenditure was condoned. We are not shocked because the ANC-led government is the master and champion of fruitless and wasteful expenditure as well as irregular expenditure. It is their daily bread while the people continue to lack services.

The delay in completion of new busses contract to provide public transport is disturbing. This has resulted in the department resorting in the annual renewal of the existing bus contract which has been in place since 2007. Hon Speaker, the EFF like many other citizens of this province is concerned about the 34% increase in road crash fatalities.

This is catastrophic and way too much. Something drastic must be done to reduce these road fatalities. The situation is also compounded by the acute shortage of vehicles and calibration machines which make the goal of ameliorating road fatalities and crashes difficult.

Hon Speaker, the state of our police stations, especially regarding general conditions of the police stations, shortage of vehicles, understaffing, the deficiency of community policing forums and the condition of cells, amongst others, is extremely worrisome.

Let us agree that it will be extremely difficult under the circumstances for SAPS to achieve its mandates which are, to prevent and combat anything that may threaten the safety and security of any community, investigate any crime that threatens the safety and security of any community, ensure offenders are brought to justice and also to participate in efforts to address the root cause of these crimes.

There is no political will by the current government to address societal challenges confronting our people on a daily basis. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call Hon Phala to the podium.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department had administratively managed to implement six performance targets out of the nine which were set during the 2021/2 financial year. The three which have not been achieved relate to the implementation of human resource plan, skills development plan and e-disclosure for employees doing business with the government.

Though the committee has noted the action taken by the department by then which included final warnings and group sessions, it was not impressed by the delays in solving these challenges. As the committee we also noted that the new organisational structure had been approved and process was underway to implement it in the 2022/3 financial year.

The department was still encountering challenges regarding skills development due to difficulty in insourcing service providers, similarly, challenges relating to middle management employees who fail to disclose doing business with government persists due to inadequate enforcement measures put in place. This resulted in the condonation of R14 million in an irregular expenditure.

Hon Speaker, one aspect that the department never disappoints on, is revenue collection. The department collected revenue of R731 million impressively exceeding the annual target of R648 million by R47 million. As we applaud this achievement, we need to also acknowledge the outstanding traffic fines which are over R389 million.

Revenue from traffic fines and vehicle licences form part of income generation for the province. The R389 million and outstanding fines should be a great concern to this House. Poor collection of traffic fines is despite the means to capture fines onto the eNaTIS to allow outstanding fines to be paid by the delinquent when licences are renewed.

The department's soft approach on traffic fines also creates the culture of impunity with drivers. We see fatal accidents on our roads daily which are costly to the province. These accidents divert scarce resources from other social and economic means of the province.

Hon Speaker, under transport operations, the department falls short by one target as they managed to achieve seven performance targets out of the planned eight targets. Most of the achieved targets were exceeded relating to speed operations, safety awareness programmes and roadblocks, amongst others. The remaining targets that were not achieved related to the completion of new bus contract which has been a problem for the department's efforts to provide public transport for years now.

Under transport regulations, the department recorded overachievement in relation to compliance inspections, speed operations, vehicles' weight, drunken driving operations, vehicles stopped and tracked, roadblocks conducted and weighing operations conducted.

Hon Speaker, despite these overachievements and the commitment demonstrated by traffic officials, as a committee we expressed our great concern on the acute shortage of vehicles and other resources which lessen the efforts to fight road fatalities and crashes to be achieved as there was an increase of 34% in road crash fatalities in the 2021/2 financial year.

Hon Speaker, as the committee we had engagements with the department and recommended the following:

- That the department should continue to maintain a clean audit status whilst ensuring that they eliminate material underspending on the Budget and finalisation of outstanding legal matters on time;
- That they should expedite the process towards finalising the new bus contract as it has been long overdue;
- Intergovernmental efforts should be put in place to resolve challenges of insourcing skills development and service providers outside the central database as the problem has been persisting for over two financial years now;
- That the department should ensure that corrective measures are taken against employees who insist on doing business with the state and their refusal to subject themselves to e-Disclosure;
- That the department should ensure that the overachievement in conducting various operations should match performance targets in the reduction of road crashes and fatalities in provincial roads; and
- That the department should consider expanding the intake of more volunteers from community policing forums and young civilian on patrols into the EPWP programme.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Maritz, it is your turn.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus hereby requests that there should be immediate action against employees who fail to comply with the disclosure of financial interests while doing business with the government.

The Freedom Front Plus believes in full transparency. Immediate action should also be taken against responsible officials for the fruitless, wasteful as well as irregular expenditure in the said department. Hon Speaker, we urge the department to implement a way forward against the taxi associations that don't apply applicable rules of the road.

The department must work together with the taxi associations and make sure that the vehicles are routinely inspected as most people in our province have to use public transport everyday as they do not have any other transport. The vehicles should be safe. At the moment a lot of vehicles are not safe. This is the state on the roads.

Hon Speaker, as the Freedom Front Plus, we urge the department to do a survey in all the police stations in the province to establish the seriousness of police officers to address these issues. Detectives are working under great stress because they are overloaded with cases and there are not enough detectives for the number of cases allocated.

It also came to our attention that the detectives used their own vehicles to respond to a crime scene because of lack of vehicles. Detectives have to use their personal phones and buy paper to do the job which is unacceptable because there is money allocated.

Hon Speaker, there are many members of the public that want to be police reserves but they are not accepted. These will help a lot in the rural communities and farms. To be visible will decrease any kind of crimes and gender-based violence.

The Freedom Front Plus requests the department to investigate the recruitment on an urgent basis. Together we can make safer communities for all. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. The last speaker on our list is the chairperson of the committee, Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

The Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; and the Deputy Speaker in absentia, our Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa in absentia; the Chief Whip of the majority party and the Deputy Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council of this Legislature, chairpersons of the portfolio committees, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you.

We welcome the 2021/2 Annual Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. This report is an account by the relevant authorities on the work and performance of the department for the period under review.

It is through these kinds of reports that we are able to ascertain for ourselves whether the department working with stakeholders managed to deliver on its legislative mandate which is to establish an effective, safe and affordable transport system for socioeconomic development and to ensure a safe and secure province in which all the people feel free and safe.

Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to reaffirm the ANC's commitment to address the challenges that continue to afflict our people, thereby threatening their safety, security, and comfort. These include the problems associated with loadshedding, ever-rising cost of living, the increasing levels of crime and corruption, unemployment, and poverty.

We are resolute in our firm belief that these challenges are directly linked and impact on the economic recovery of the province. Madam Speaker, we must therefore, take all the necessary steps to absolve the economy from ongoing damage and destruction of key infrastructure.

We must fight and defeat the construction mafias and extortion at the various construction sites across the country and the province and lower the high cost of securing businesses and productive assets. More importantly, we must welcome and appreciate all the good work that has been done to rid our province and economy of illegal mining activities.

These activities threaten the recovery of our economy and the safety of the communities in the mining towns and areas. Hon Speaker and honourable Members, to achieve this, there must be collaboration between government, the private sector and the public.

The ANC's 55th National Conference resolved that provincial and local authorities must cooperate and establish local committees comprising of all stakeholders through the community policing forums to deal with the challenges as identified above, especially the high crime rate and corruption.

This endeavour must bring on board the representatives of foreign nationals residing in our country. This is particularly so due to the perception that most of the foreign nationals are involved in infrastructure destruction and other illicit activities. Such perceptions often lead to damaged relations. It is only through cooperation and collaboration that such matters can be amicably resolved.

Hon Speaker, we want the South African Police Services and other law enforcement agencies to be close partners of the people and unwavering combatants against crime and corruption. We applaud the department for its efforts to ensure that our roads are safe.

However, we were disturbed by the road accident that happened in the Vhembe area recently, where more than 21 passengers lost their lives. We sincerely pass our condolences to the affected families and also the Groblersdal-Motetema road accident.

We support all efforts by the department to increase police visibility at our major routes. This will serve as a deterrent to reckless motorists and even pedestrians. At the same time, we support the plans by the department to stage roadblocks and other enforcement interventions on our major roads as part of the road safety, Arrive Alive Campaign. This should be intensified as we prepare for the Easter weekend.

Hon Speaker, the ANC at its 55th National Conference resolved that we should work with the recently established border management agency to fight national organised crimes. Our province is one of the major entry points of transnational criminals for narcotics and other illegal substances and activities.

During the coming days as people travel to Easter holidays, there will be increased movement on our roads and borders. We call upon the law enforcement agencies and the people of Limpopo to be vigilant in their fight against these elements.

As part of efforts to fight crime and corruption, the ANC resolved at its 55th National Conference to ensure that the government lives up to the long-standing resolutions that there should be no further reduction of the budget of the criminal justice sector.

It further resolved to upscale the professionalisation and capacitation of the criminal justice system to fight crime and corruption. We are elated that work in this area is continuing, and the country is reaping the fruits.

As I conclude Hon Speaker, we urge the department to work with relevant bodies and stakeholders to improve specialisation within SAPS and other law enforcement agencies to ensure that there is speedy finalisation of cases and convictions of perpetrators.

It is only through these and other accompanying measures that we can win the confidence of our people in the criminal justice system and earn their unwavering support in our efforts to change their lives for the better. I so move, Hon Speaker and I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you chairperson, Hon Seono. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Radzilani, to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Leader of Government Business, my colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of this august House, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, Hon Rebecca Seono; a blessed morning to you all.

Hon Speaker, it gives us a great sense of pleasure to participate in this imperative practice that is meant to entrench accountability and foster our constitutional democracy. The 2021/2 financial year period was largely precipitated by the occurrences of the unprecedented COVID-19 lockdowns.

The department has since recorded a regression of its audit outcome from a clean audit in the previous financial year to an unqualified audit opinion. What is impressive with this audit outcome is that our financial statement did not have material misgivings and we only felt badly on the areas of our bus subsidies.

The regress was due to performance information misalignment on the transport operations programme which has since been rectified. Despite the regress, we look back at this period with a sense of pride and self-assurance that we were given the nod by the Office of the Auditor-General as having spent public funds in an accountable manner.

We are not only happy because we could account for every cent during the period under review, but we are also pleased with the fact that our services were also impactful in our communities. It was at the height of the COVID-19 lockdowns, but the department worked tirelessly to ensure a constant provision of services to the people of this province.

Our record of building safer communities and our ability to suppress road carnages remained unmatched. Hon Speaker, we have achieved this by deploying drastic measures on our roads in the form of additional human resources and using modern instrument technologies.

It was the challenging period, with the downgrading of the operating licence of the Polokwane International Airport from category 07 to a category 02 Airdrome Licence. With the help of our strategic partners, like the Polokwane Local Municipality, the Provincial Treasury, and the Office of the Premier, we managed to turn the tide around and restore the airport to its optimal function level.

Through our community-focused programmes, we have established 15 new scholar patrol points which have drastically improved the safety of our children as they traverse between their homes and schools. To mitigate against the failing unemployment rate, we have appointed 75 additional road safety ambassadors to conduct point duty in critical areas.

Hon Speaker, in addition to these, we have also enlisted the services of 900 participants within the Extended Public Works Programme, to debush areas that are potential threats to the safety of our community members. Hon Speaker, at face value all these look minial and worthless by the stipends earned though such programmes have gone a long way in sustaining families.

Hon Speaker and Members of this august House, where we conducted roadblocks, we made sure that they yielded positive results and government has achieved its objective of collecting revenue. For the period under review, the department has collected over R700 million in revenue and the EFF leader made an insinuation that we have incurred R400 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure which is further from truth.

Hon Speaker, the correct figure is R417 000, and I also want to indicate and also to appreciate the intervention of the national government led by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, on the police recruitment. The Minister of Police, *General Bheki Cele* managed to allocate 900 personnel of police to strengthen the work of police in the province which we appreciate.

It was not only the number of personnel, but we also received the allocation of new vehicles as a way to try and assist our police. We have made interventions in numerous areas to assist the work of police to monitor and reduce cases of gender-based violence.

We welcome the contributions on measures to strengthen our response to gender-based violence as made by Hon Matlou.

Honourable Members should also take it into consideration, that gender-based violence is a societal matter and cannot be left only in the hands of police. We have a role to play as public representatives because these are cases that are happening within families. If we don't spread a clear and correct message to the people that we are leading and keep on pointing fingers at the police we must know that we are part of the problem.

Hon Speaker, we have endeavoured to employ superior research methodologies to direct our work as we played oversight on the functioning of the police services. Our preoccupation with the functional community policing forums and community safety forums is based on the continuous need to create a platform that links communities with the police.

We played oversight on the taxi industry and through the cordial relations that we have, the sector continues to be peaceful, and it is a dominant player within the public transport fraternity. It is for this reason that during the period under review, we have recorded a reduced number of incidents of taxi conflicts.

We have concluded the integrated transport plan for the *Collins Chabane Local Municipality*. The plan has since been handed to the municipal council for implementation. Hon Speaker, over 17 million passengers have benefited from our subsidised trips during that period and have gained access to economic opportunities.

During the period under review, the department was busy with the process of reconfiguration as a result of merger between the two branches of roads and transport together with the community safety and liaison. Thanks, Hon Phala for also providing that information. The process was executed with distinction and signages were created as a result of this amalgamation.

Hon Speaker, we will continue to work tirelessly in pursuance of good governance for the people of this province. We appreciate all the inputs directed towards improving the performance of the department. We owe to the people of this province a great debt of gratitude for their unwavering support and belief in the ANC's capabilities as a leader of their government. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Thanks for the response. We move to Item 7.2: Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Over to you, committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, honourable Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Hon Rosemary Molapo. On behalf and in the name of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, I hereby move that the First Quarter Performance Report of the Department of

Provincial Treasury, that has been prepared by the portfolio committee as it appears on Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, otherwise referred to as ATC, be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks committee chair, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thanks Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report by the committee chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable chair, may I suggest that the other one we do after the debate? The debates are separate.

ADV PHALA

Yes, that's fine. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Honourable Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Hon Chair, with due respect, I just want to request that you check whether it is the Annual Report or the first quarter report, because in terms of our records it is the Annual Report that must be the first one to be debated. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Matlou, in terms of the records that I am having, it is the 2021/2 Annual Report.

MR MATLOU

Please check on the first quarter. There is something incorrect there.

THE SPEAKER

The first quarter report is the second presentation. The first presentation is the 2021/2 Annual Report. May we proceed with the debate on the 2021/2 Annual Report of the Department of Provincial Treasury? We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. Hon Speaker, our Leader of Government Business and MEC for Provincial Treasury, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa; Members of the Executive Council of our beautiful province Limpopo, Leader of the ever-opposing opposition; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Treasury and chairpersons of other portfolios, friends, colleagues, compatriots, I take this moment to greet you today and to reflect on the Annual Report of the Provincial Treasury for the 2021/2 financial year.

Hon Speaker, the Constitution of the Republic, Act, 1996 (108 of 1996), the supreme law of the country, read together with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 01 of 1999) and other various pieces of legislation bestows on us as a portfolio committee, a responsibility to oversee performance on service delivery of the department, and in this regard as the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, a responsibility to oversee the performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury.

In fulfilling this mandate, the portfolio committee led by Hon Kgolane Phala met on 11 October 2022 to reflect on the performance in relation to the Annual Report of the said financial year. In this report we looked into various issues, first being the audit performance of this department.

As we looked into the audit performance, we appreciated and continue to applaud the Department of Provincial Treasury for consistency in its audit outcome. In this regard Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, we applaud you, and we want to say you must continue to keep up the good work and such work must be translated to other departments.

Hon Speaker, we also looked into how the department fared in terms of the Budget. In this regard, it was hard only to realise that the department had spent 96% of the Budget, which is R350,895 million of the total R364,910 million. To this regard we are very inspired because it shows that we don't just come and appropriate a Budget to a department, but they equally spend that particular Budget which is a very commendable development.

Hon Speaker, we looked into the programme on Administration which performed very well with a 95% spending on the allocated budget. The concern in this regard was the delay, Hon Hlabirwa, in the filling of vacant posts. We will continue to frown upon the failure to fill vacant posts, especially funded posts because that not only creates a very serious problem for service delivery but also denies our capable people, honourable MEC for Health, who have capacity to can fill these posts.

In this regard, we will frown upon that. We looked into Sustainable Resource Management where the department's spending at 97% of the budget while on assets, liabilities and Supply Chain Management is at 98% spending. To this regard we compliment the improved compliance on liabilities on supply chain for public institutions.

It is the work under this particular sub-programme that results in improved audit performance in other departments. In this regard, we appreciate you, Hon Hlabirwa and

your team. On Financial Governance, the department did very well at 93% budget spending with 100% targets achieved.

We also reflected on what should be the recommendations and to this regard we said, the department must ensure that all the vacant funded posts are filled as a matter of urgency. We call on the support for municipalities to enhance performance that the progress that we are noting at provincial level must be translated to municipal level.

In this regard, we have recommended that the department must work together with other sister departments including the Department of CoGHSTA, to ensure that such is cascaded down to municipalities. We implored on the department to work with the sister departments to ensure that they arrest the skyrocketing contingency liability which continues to be a threat to the financial liquidity of this province.

Finally, we draw that we will continue to monitor the implementation of all forensic reports and all audit outcomes as a portfolio committee. Hon Hlabirwa, we are worried that in this regard, the progress is continuing to be slow on implementation of the recommendations of the forensic report which speaks to consequence management continues to be delayed.

In this particular regard, we are saying that if some of these recommendations are to be implemented, we are more than convinced that as a department you are on track and that the government is on track. We strongly believe that continuously working together we can do more, and we can achieve more.

Indeed, we can fulfil the achievement of those forebears of ours who met on 08 January 1912 in Bloemfontein, Mangaung. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Hon Mphahlele, it is your turn.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, leader of the opposition party, Hon Maraga; Members of the Executive Council present here, Members of this august House, members of the public in the gallery, good morning. Here I am debating on the Annual Report of the Department of Provincial Treasury of the 2021/2 financial year.

Hon Speaker, the underperformance of municipalities and their non-provincial submission of credible information is appalling and disgusting to say the least. During the period under review, it was also found that municipalities did not perform according to the MFMA's section 71 as also revealed by the state of municipality finance reports whereby discrepancies in reporting were identified.

The support of Provincial Treasury through media review sessions and assessment of compliance with various policies and regulations amongst others, is not enough, hence

these anomalies continue to happen. We said this because the assessment of section 71 reports and the state of financial performance reports revealed a different picture.

In addition to inconsistent reporting as the case was with the findings made in the 2020/1 Annual Report of the Provincial Treasury, debtors were not properly classified as some businesses and households were excluded from the debtors list. Similarly, there was misinterpretation of information on creditors list which signifies weak internal controls within the municipalities.

This means that municipality reports in Limpopo are misleading and unreliable as they are not credible to say the least. We call upon the Auditor-General to pay more attention to municipal financial reports from Limpopo because majority of them are not credible. These reports are prepared by dishonest officials who want to create an impression that all is well in municipalities while this is not the case.

Dishonest officials must be subjected to consequence management to set an example to others not to fall into the same temptation. The inconsistency of discrepancies in reporting are deliberate and are intended to hide corruption and all sorts of anomalies. The fact of the matter is that the state of municipalities in Limpopo is appalling while corruption continues on top of the list of ungodly acts.

Hon Speaker, the utilisation of consultants which were not necessary found in areas of need such as engineering, financial management units, particularly for preparation of financial statements is another matter which is deeply concerning. Why do we unleash the services of consultants when there are people in the department and municipalities employed to do the same work.

The money you spend on consultants could be channelled towards the greater cause of improving the lives of the poor through poverty alleviation programmes. The 'EFF government' will ban the use of consultants and project management units as a basis of delivery government services.

Consultants are a deliberate waste of taxpayers' money and a vehicle for corruption where government officials and service providers collude to steal. Furthermore, the EFF would build a state and government capacity which will lead to the abolishing of tenders. Hon Speaker, the non-filling of posts which have been recruited for the past three financial years is concerning. This has a very serious implication on service delivery. Out of 180 posts which have been planned for filling, 86 were filled while others were still scrutinised. The difference between the posts filled and those that are not filled is shocking.

Perhaps we should ask, what happened to the money that has been budgeted for the filling of those posts, MEC? We are talking about funded posts by the way. Can we please get some concrete explanation? There are so many questions that remained unanswered in this department and the EFF will stop at nothing but to get to the bottom of the matter. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Lekganyane, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Our Deputy Speaker in absentia, all honourable MECs present here, honourable Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, chairpersons from different portfolio committees, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; Members of our august House present, members of the public in the gallery, good morning, kgotso ya Modimo ga e be le batho ka moka.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury met with the Provincial Treasury on 11 October 2022. We interacted on the 2021/2 financial year Annual report. Hon Speaker, we must indicate that the trend of obtaining an unqualified audit opinion by the Provincial Treasury since 2016/7-2021/2 financial years is highly commendable. The audit opinion is obtained without material misstatements. We are so pleased that the Treasury is leading by example. However, the Treasury must not lose sight on this good example in the coming years. The department must also assist other departments and municipalities in ensuring that they take care of themselves and ensure that their financial health is in a good state.

The department must work hard to capacitate the office of the CFOs in the departments that are lagging in terms of the preparation of their annual financial statements. It is concerning that in this sixth term of office, municipalities still struggle with preparation of annual financial statements. The department reported that it provides continuous support through mid-year review sessions and assessments of compliance through the various policies and regulations. However, at the end of the financial year the assessment of section 71 reports and the state of financial performance revealed a different picture. The department must come up with measures to capacitate finance personnel in municipalities and training should be compulsory. Those who do not attend should face consequence management.

We cannot always accept and plead against the usage of consultants as business as usual while adverts are out and they indicated the qualifications and skills required to perform that job. We view the usage of consultants as a scapegoat for not making proper records by staff and the consultants ultimately take the blame while they are paid for the work not well done. The officials must be dedicated to their work and be held accountable.

The committee emphasises that the compensation of employees should be in accordance with the approved performance plan as it does not augur well with the department to obtain a clean audit and at the end of the financial year, Hon Speaker, money is underspent. It was reported that Treasury spent R291,2 million or 97,5% of its Budget on financial compensation of employees, that is appropriation of R298,7 million. It was further reported that the underspending was attributed to delays in filling of posts before year end. The department must fill vacancies to achieve some of its key performance indicators, Hon Speaker.

It was found that out of 180 posts which had been planned to be filled, only 86 were filled while others were still being scrutinised, guarding against the rising percentage of

compensation of employees' budget as reported in the previous financial year, we must bring it to the attention of the department that failure to fill vacancies also contributes to the high rate of unemployment.

Hon Speaker, it is the duty of the department to create jobs. The committee notes that many forensic investigations were done by SIU and other forensic investigators. Hon Speaker, it is incumbent upon the Treasury to report if there is progress in terms of the implementation of the recommendations made by forensic investigators. Some of the recommendations are that action must be taken against some of our officials who are found on the wrong side of the law. The department must submit such progress reports about the implementation of the recommendations by investigators to the House in the next quarter of the 2023/4 financial year.

Hon Speaker, the committee recommended that progress should be reported in the filling of vacant posts. We also recommended that progress should be reported on the implementation of Scopa resolutions. We also recommended that financial management units in municipalities should be equipped with personnel with requisite skills to avoid reliance on consultants.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the committee congratulated Provincial Treasury for the consistent record it has maintained in the achievement of the clean audit. I hereby move that this report be adopted as a report of this honourable House, Hon Speaker. I thank you. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Committee chair, Hon Phala, please take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, honourable Speaker of the Provincial Legislature of Limpopo, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; for giving me this opportunity to debate the 2021/22 Annual Report for the Department of Provincial Treasury. Mohlomphegi Mospikara, le wena o a bona gore mo ga go na ditaba ka goe kgoro

This department has been getting clean audits for five years [APPLAUSE]. O tla bolela ditaba wa re eng. Ga go na di-irregular, fruitless expenditure ga go na dilo tšeo ka mo. There is clean audit for five years, and that is why we always say without contradiction, that this is the best department in the provincial government, and it is one of the best performing Provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE] Ga go na ditaba. Ge ba go fa metsotso ye lesome ba re o bolele, o tla re ke eng. Ga go na ditaba. But already Hon Lekganyane and Hon Selamolela have covered the ground, because in general, internally they are running the department well that is why they are getting a clean audit. Not one year not two years, not three years, not four years, but for five years. They are running it very well. What we usually raise are external issues that are external to them like we usually raise the issues. I am sure that you heard Hon Mphahlele was talking about the work that they should do in municipalities is it not so Hon Mphahlele,

which is external work, ga ba dire tshepedišo ya masepala. Masepala ke mmušo ka bo wona. Ba ke ba Kgoro ya Matlotlo, ka fao ga go na ditaba, Mospikara.

That is why we usually raise transversal issues that they should attend to through the powers they have in terms of the Public Finance Management Act. They should work with other departments, entities and municipalities, Hon Mphahlele, to ensure that they also help them to improve their audits. Where they have the powers in terms of the PFMA to ensure that things such as irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and unauthorised, unwanted expenditure of that kind are dealt with and they are brought to finality and action is taken because in terms of section 38 of the PFMA if you go to (1)(c)(ii) it says 'an accounting officer of a department must take effective and appropriate steps to prevent irregular expenditure from happening'. If you go to the same law in section 38 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), 38(1)(h)(iii) it says; 'an accounting officer of a department must take effective and appropriate disciplinary steps against an official/officials that have allowed irregular expenditure to happen'.

These are issues, Hon Sekoati, as you know that we take long hours with departments and entities, in this other committee of Parliament the cheeky committee of Parliament otherwise as referred to as the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, or Scopa for short. That is transversal, Treasury helps them in condoning expenditure when they have ensured that they take action to ensure that where an official has incurred it, it is paid back, but also take action against the official that caused that irregular expenditure. The same with traverse consequence management that we are concerned about that we are going to raise it with the Premier's Office, but also with Treasury. We are concerned about the level of consequence management that officials that transgressed it does not look like we are taking effective and appropriate steps against them. When we say steps, we do not mean training and workshops, we mean disciplinary steps against them.

The same with the spending of conditional grants, Hon Sekoati, we want conditional grants to be spent. We are concerned every time when departments do not spend conditional grants. I think Hon Sekoati on Tuesday was tabling here some amount is it R100 million for the building of houses, Human Settlement Grant, that is going to other provinces. I am sure that you heard that Members. We are going to come back to it in this Legislature, we are very unhappy about things like those where conditional grants are not spent, but also general underspending is not allowed where money that has come to help the people of this province to build roads, health, schools, provide medicine and textbooks, and clinics and all that, goes back to national because a particular department did not spend.

There are many external issues that we raise that we hope Treasury will help other auditees on, to ensure that they are able to improve, but he does not run them. Every department has a Head of Department, an MEC and a Chief Financial Officer the job is however to use the powers in the PFMA to help them to turn them around so that they also get clean audits. Bothata mo ke gore, Mohlomphegi Mphahlele, Kgoro ye ya Matlotlo, ge o dutše o bolela ka yona o re ga ba bereke gabotse, ba hwetša clean audit. You say, it does not perform, it gets clean audit. Wa re ga ba dire tšona, ba no hwetša clean audit. They automatically respond every time by getting clean audit. Go swana le bothata bjola – ke a tshepha, Mospikara, Mohlomphegi Molapo, o bo kwele bjo go diragetšego ka mo

profenseng ya ga bo rena ka gore ba a fetola nako le nako ka go hwetša clean audit. Bothata bjo bo diregilego ka mo profenseng ya gaborena, ka Mashashane, bja gore monna o tsoga ka 16:00 o ya mmerekeng, o swere thotšhe o kwa a thulwa ke tonki. Ge a wela fase, a thumaša thotšhe, o kwa selo se le godimo ga gagwe. Selo sela ge a re, o bona mahlo a matala, ge se re haa, sa re hoo. Ge a re haa, se re hoo! Ge a re haa, se re hoo! Kgoro ya Matlotlo ge re re haa, o re hoo, all the time.
[APPLAUSE] [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Honourable Members, [HECKLING] Hon Seshoka, we are proceeding. We move to Item 7.3: Consideration and adoption of the 2022/3 first quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Honourable committee chair, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker of the Provincial Legislature for giving me this opportunity to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the First Quarter Performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury for the financial year, 2022/3. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair, Hon Phala. Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Selane, you may take the floor.

THE DEPUTY CHIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to support the move raised by Hon Kgolane Phala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. Our first speaker on the debate is Hon Selamolela.
[APPLAUSE]

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I wanted to greet my honourable Members on the left by saying, haa! [LAUGHTER] Hon Speaker, I wanted to greet my honourable Members on my left by saying haa! [LAUGHTER] O re hoo! [LAUGHTER] Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Once again greetings to our Leader of Government Business, greetings to our Deputy Speaker in absentia, our Chairperson of Chairpersons, Ms Monyamane; the Deputy COC, Hon Selane; chairpersons of other portfolio committees, Members of the Legislature, friends, compatriots, not forgetting members of the opposition, friends, compatriots, country men, once again, allow me to greet you.

Hon Speaker, on 11 October 2022 in line with fulfilling the obligation imposed on us by the Constitution of the Republic, the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 and other various pieces of rules and regulations, including and not limited to the rules and regulations governing this august House, we met to reflect on the first quarter performance and on the occasion of the reflection on the first quarter performance we looked into various programmes thus far as to how was the department faring. Our understanding, as we looked into the first quarter performance, Hon Phala, was that Tlogatloga e tloga kgale, therefore, a correct start will result in the correct results and if we do not start on a correct footing as a department, we may not end up on a correct footing. As you have said, usually there are no issues as far as this department is concerned and like they said, our concern is always on how they impact on other sister departments and municipalities.

In this regard we are impressed by the fact that the first quarter in as far as the programme of administration is concerned, they were already at 20% of the budget already spent. Which is in line with the prescribed norms of expenditure. Which is something which was very, very good for us as we observed. In as far as sustainable resources are concerned as of this quarter the expenditure stood at 19%, which is still within the norm. This 19% represented around R30,075 million of the total of R69 987 million. Under this programme we were concerned, Hon Hlabirwa, about the issue of the payment of rates and taxes to the municipalities by the provincial government departments that you are overseeing. We continue to say if we cannot be the ones who pay rates and taxes to municipalities, we therefore cannot speak about sustainability of that sphere of government.

We must take a lead as government, Hlabirwa, and it is a concern that we have raised that you need to relook into how the departments, all of your colleagues here, are paying rates and taxes because if we are to implore on the citizenry of the province to take a lead in paying rates and taxes for sustainability of our municipalities and our local sphere of government we must be at the forefront and the first to show the direction as government, to this regard we implore on you to look into that. It is a matter that is recurring. We have been raising it over the years and we have started this quarter by firmly raising it. We continue to re-emphasise, Hlabirwa, the need to work on the inter-departmental government and fiscal relations so that there is synergy and inflow of the good that happens in the Provincial Treasury and must also happen in sister departments, but it must also cascade down to municipalities, Hon Phala.

On the asset liability subprogramme and supply chain, the performances for the first quarter were at 23% which represented R10 899 million from a total of R48 293 million which was allocated. To this regard it is still within the norm and we are very, very convinced that we are starting on a correct footing, Hlabirwa. On Financial Governance, we had 16% which is slightly below the norm, and it is a concern, and you might have to up the game precisely, because Hon Phala, this subprogramme is the one that deals with the entirety of fiscal viability of the province as it relates to other departments. Management of the fiscal financial governance and the performance thereof, is very, very important for us. We will continue to recommend, Hlabirwa, that the issue that Hon Phala raised still emerges in the first quarter expenditure on conditional grants. We are not looking very well as we are starting the year 2022/3, we implore on you.

We will see as we go into the assessment of other quarters until now at the end of the financial year how we have performed. Hon Phala, has said when he stood here that the moneys that have already been returned are a very serious loss for us. As a committee really frown upon that. It is a missed opportunity for our people in the province. We continue to watch with the hawk's eye over the Gateway Airport Authority Limited, DC. It is a matter of concern for us. We understand and appreciate, DC, that you have already returned it to operation. We want the Gateway Airport Authority Limited to run efficiently, effectively and economically to the benefit of the people of the province. Our understanding is that when GAAL operates efficiently and effectively it will have a ripple effect including on the improvement of tourism and generally on the economy of the province. We will continue, lastly, Hlabirwa, to monitor one: consequence management even this quarter we agreed at the start of the financial year to put the issue relating to forensic implementation of consequence management as a standing item for us to look into it. Beyond that, we will also look into performance of how do you fare about the continuous allocation you put into Great North Transport as funding the turnaround strategy of that particular entity, because we have said here on the occasion of the discussion of the third quarter of the Department of Economic Development, and on the third quarter discussion of Provincial Treasury; that for us to facilitate economic transport, economic development in the province we have a duty to ensure that people movement is effective and efficient, and for you to have a smooth transportation of people it is a necessary tool for economic emancipation and economic development. That is why we have said as a committee, we put that at APEX of our continuous monitoring of how you are faring in supporting Great North Transport.

Indeed, we are very convinced as the chair of this committee says that whenever you say 'haa'... [LAUGHTER] Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Hon Mphahlele you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

MS MAPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, Members of this august House, Members of the Executive, Leader of the Opposition Party, Hon Managa; members of the public in the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, it is true that the department is performing well, but it is after the inputs that the opposition has put on the table. The investigation is to improve what they have said. I am here to debate on the Treasury on the 2022/3 first quarter report. Hon Speaker, the non-spending of conditional grants is a serious challenge in this department as it is, continues unabated. It is shameful that this bad tendency is perpetrated and promoted by a coordinated department called Treasury, instead of leading other departments by example. There is a saying that goes 'when a fish rots, it starts rotting from the head'. There is absolutely no leadership and good governance prevailing in this department.

The EFF is appalled by non-spending on Expanded Public Works Programme Conditional Grants whose main goal was poverty alleviation. Furthermore, conditional grants spending in municipalities remains low. Hon Speaker, the non-payment of creditors is a

serious hinderance to economic growth which consequently destroys SMMEs thus causing joblessness and increasing the risk of litigation and that is contributing immensely to the existing financial distress in municipalities. Thirdly, all this happened under the watch of the MEC. What happened to the implementation on the recommendations in investigative reports? What did the HOD's forum do since the matter was referred to them? Can we please be furnished with progress reports in this other case of investigation reports which have been swept under the carpet.

The Department of Health is still grappling with contingent liability, especially the medico-legal claims and there is no concrete plan in place to ensure that such liabilities do not recur. This is a government that has completely run out of ideas and there is no hope that new ideas can be generated to take our people into confidence that they are being led. Hon Speaker, to date we do not know what happened after the forensic investigation that was instituted regarding the financial irregularities at the GNT. In this government, cases get investigated and for some time the people of Limpopo never get to know how these cases were concluded. Serious cases like this one of the GNT embezzlement of employee pension funds, are being swept under the carpet.

Can we get a brief explanation from the MEC about that. Hon Speaker, the EFF is also disappointed that the Provincial Treasury could not resolve the four outstanding Scopa resolutions during the financial year under review. The EFF is not surprised as to why departments in Limpopo fail to resolve Scopa resolutions, because coordinating departments themselves do not lead by example. The resolution includes irregular expenditure of R3,186 million which was disclosed in the previous financial year and reportedly under investigation. All government departments in Limpopo, including coordinating departments and entities, are culprits when it comes to resolving all Scopa resolutions. It does not look like this problem will be resolved any time soon because there is absolutely no consequence management in the administration.

The Office of the Premier, the Legislature and Treasury must lead by example, but they have failed to do so over the past years. These departments are like parents who teach their children about moral conduct while they, themselves, violate the same moral teachings they impact on their children. The truth is that the people of Limpopo should not expect anything of life changing from this government as there is nothing political that will be done to change their lives for the better. This august House should know that these three entities (GAAL and Leda) were unable to generate sufficient revenue to sustain themselves. These entities are as good as not existing or dead, because they are not adding any value to the GDP of the province.

Nothing seems to be working in this administration. I request the Premier to make sure that his government and its departments make sure that all the cases that were investigated are going to be handled and this House is told about the results of those cases. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Lekganyane, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. The committee met with the Department of Provincial Treasury to consider the 2022/3 financial year first quarter performance report on 11 October 2022. Hon Speaker, for this term of office, we are left with less than 16 months to cross an X before the elections for another generation of the seventh term of office to come in and debate our unfinished work of 2023/4 financial year. Since we are at the end of the financial year for the 2023/4 financial year it might be possible that the report of the 2023/4 first quarter performance report will be tabled in the Seventh Democratic Legislature. Therefore, Hon Speaker, it is important that in our oversight work we exert pressure that all that we want to be implemented is done immensely. We must ensure that the Provincial Treasury monitors monthly actual revenue and expenditure per department, and ascertains whether they are in line with the Budget projections. In the remaining financial year of the Sixth Democratic Legislature it is imperative that all departments focus on accelerating spending in an effective and efficient manner ensuring that this government meets its delivery targets.

Hon Speaker, we have noted with concern that departments and most municipalities could not spend conditional grants during the quarter under review particularly on EPWP (Expanded Public Works Programme). The EPWP grant is meant to alleviate poverty to the poor and the working class. It is important that before the end of the financial year, improvement on the spending on the EPWP grant is effected and all grants are spent by the end of the financial year. It was also reported that the departments have developed spending plans on conditional grants, Hon Speaker, and such plans will be closely monitored on a quarterly basis. As the committee, we will play our oversight role to ensure that indeed the plans are implemented and what was reported was not for malicious compliance.

It is not necessary for the committee to emphasise that municipalities need reliable resources or revenue to provide basic services to perform their functions. Rates and taxes are an important source to generate revenue for our municipalities. Revenue from rates and taxes is used to fund services that benefit the community as whole as opposed to individual households.

Throughout the 2021/2 financial year the committee has been concerned with payment of rates and taxes owed to municipalities by our departments. During the first quarter of 2022/3 financial year, we noted that the challenge of non-payment is persisting, including debts owed by households to municipalities. It was also reported that at the end of the first quarter of 2022/3, debtors books for our municipalities in the province stood at R10,7 billion, and 89% of that amount was unlikely to be collected over the period of 90 days, Hon Speaker.

A total of nine municipalities being: Blouberg, Greater Letaba, Mopani, Ephraim Mogale, Vhembe District, Bela-Bela, Modimolle-Mookgophong, Thabazimbi and Waterberg District did not report on their debtors. It was reported further that with credit control or inadequate updates of indigent register has contributed to that anomaly.

Hon Speaker, Provincial Treasury must move swiftly to assist municipalities to improve their debtors control systems. Executive authorities must institute consequence management to accounting officers of departments that do not pay rates and taxes to our municipalities. The committee noted with concern financial irregularities on employees' provident fund at Great North Transport. It was reported that R300 000 was mismanaged and therefore, a recommendation was made that progress should be provided on implementation of forensic investigation that has been instituted. Officials found to have mismanaged funds of the workers must be held accountable and face the might of the law. We cannot allow some devious employees to misuse the financial securities of the employees who should enjoy the benefits of their proceeds upon retirement or resignation.

Hon Speaker, as the committee, we recommended that spending on conditional grants should improve, property recording and reporting should be necessitated in municipalities whenever submissions are made to various government structures. On non-filling of funded vacant posts, Hon Speaker, that has been recurring and causing underspending in programmes, the committee recommended that contingent liabilities have increased from R14 billion to R16 billion in 2021/2 financial year. Hon Speaker, the committee also recommended that Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA should ensure that adequate assistance is sufficiently provided to municipalities to improve performance in municipalities which require financial management units. Progress should be reported on consequence management on officials who have collapsed GNT, including financial recoveries made on provident and pension funds.

Hon Speaker, we also recommended that progress should be made on the implementation of the litigation strategy in the Department of Health. As the committee we commended Treasury for a budget which focusses on recovery and job losses emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic. We further commended the Treasury that economic growth initiatives first outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan and Social Economic Plan were given the necessary attention in allocating Budgets to departments. We further noted that the funding has been earmarked to departmental projects stimulating economic growth and job creation in the province. The committee encourages the department to ensure that these funds be spent maximally for the benefit of our citizens within the Limpopo province.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, as the committee, we hereby move that this report be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I thank you. Ke a leboga. Ga e be kgotso. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Hon Phala, the committee chair, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to debate on the 2022/3 first quarter performance report for the Department of Provincial Treasury as tabled in this House by the portfolio committee of this honourable House.

Hon Selamolela and Hon Lekganyane have covered principally the issues, because the focus of our work is generally on the external work that Treasury must do, because of the powers it has in terms of the Constitution and the law, including Public Finance Management Act, 1999 to help other entities of the state to improve their finances and run their books better. As they have said we were looking at essentially the three areas: the support by the department to municipalities, the support by the Department of Provincial Treasury to public entities and the support by the Department of Provincial Treasury to other line function departments. Not forgetting that all these departments have got people who are running them who are accountable for them as HODs and CFOs and so on, who are responsible for those.

In relation to municipalities in this first quarter, we were happy on improvements the department is making on enhancing their oversight over municipalities. They have enhanced that section in Provincial Treasury that is called Municipal Support Section. They were doing a lot of things in that regard to support municipalities. That is why if we look at the province generally, the finances of the municipalities are improving. As the Hon Premier reported in the State of the Province Address. If you remember that it was only Mopani that did not get a good audit, other municipalities got qualifications, but they are out of adverse and disclaimers. Many other municipalities got unqualified audit opinions and a few we hope that they will increase, got clean audits.

There were troublesome municipalities which we regarded as municipalities whose finances and how they were running their affairs was totally unstable. They are regarded as unstable municipalities. Those were Mopani District, Thabazimbi, Modimolle-Mookgophong and Mogalakwena. It looks like Thabazimbi and Modimolle-Mookgophong are still at the bottom of the pit, Mogalakwena looks like it may come up particularly now that there are arrests of various kinds that are happening there, of various kinds of arrests of all kinds, of all kinds of arrests. [LAUGHTER] We want the arrests to be extended and expanded. [LAUGHTER] I am speaking on behalf of the portfolio committee in the Provincial Legislature as a representative of five million residents of this province.

We want the arrests to be expanded and extended. That is English for people like Hon Seshoka, he may be hearing it for the very first time. The second one was on the work that the department is doing on supporting public entities in the province and they are coming out right generally...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, no, no. Can you allow Hon Phala to finish his speech. Can you be in order, honourable Member? [HECKLING] Can you sit down, Hon Seshoka? Hon Seshoka, Hon Phala is busy with his speech there is no way that we can determine that ...[HECKLING] No he is debating. When a Member is debating there is no way that you can determine gore a bolele ka eng.

BACKGROUND

You must call him to order.

THE SPEAKER

For what, for what? No Hon Seshoka, sit down.

ADV PHALA

...with public entities the department is doing well, we have found a clean audit in the Limpopo Gambling Board. The Limpopo Tourism Agency is closer to getting a clean audit. The ones that are still troublesome are this one called Leda, whose report came out now on Tuesday; that is a demonstration also. Another one I am sure is called GAAL (Gateway Airport Authority Limited) whose report also came out on Tuesday. Those are the ones that are the worst performing public entities of the provincial government. We are focused on them even in the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, our eyes are on them. They are coming there and it is not going to be a cold day even if it is winter when they arrive there.

We hope that the improvement will go. Risima, which is in Leda, is doing very well. It is getting a clean audit, but it is a subsidiary, it is a bit smaller. We hope also that Great North Transport will improve now that they got a booster of some moneys and busses in the recent period. We have supported the departments also in ensuring that they do their work, particularly condonation of irregular expenditure which is the work of Treasury. Once irregular expenditure has happened, they must investigate it, charge officials and now bring it to Provincial Treasury for condonation purposes. We are watching that space as closely as possible to see whether indeed departments are charging officials who are responsible for irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful and other expenditures, but also, expenditure that needs to be recovered, that is recoverable against the responsible official is recovered against that official. Treasury is working with us closely in that regard. Those are the things that will turn the provincial government around, in this time we have how many clean audits? They should be four: Provincial Treasury, Office of the Premier, Ledet and Limpopo Gambling Board. This Legislature of Limpopo got clean audits some previous years ago. It regressed the same with other departments like the Department of Transport and Community Safety, which was clean at one time. It has regressed also and a lot of others. We hope that improvement will happen to ensure that we turn the province around.

As we said some time ago with contradiction, at the beginning some time ago this provincial government was one of the worst performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa in relation to audits. Now it is, it is, as we said last year, one of the best performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa, it is amongst the top five. [APPLAUSE] What is the other word for top five? The big five with the Western Cape in number one, followed Gauteng then KwaZulu-Natal, then Eastern Cape than we come in. At the bottom the people that we have left, who we were with, Hon Sekoati will tell you, a decade ago are still there; that is the North West and the Free State. Those two are the worst performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa. You change a Premier or you get another one or you do not. You change the gender of the Premier or you don't it remains the same. They remain the worst performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa.

We hope the work that Treasury is doing, as Hon Selamolela and Hon Lekganyane have said, will turn the ship around and we will continue to retain our position amongst the top five as one of the best performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chair, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, to come and respond to the debates. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My colleagues in the Executive Council, the august House, the Leader of the Opposition here.

Madam Speaker, let me first thank all those members of the portfolio committee who have made submissions, but also raised areas that we need to look at as the Provincial Treasury and also in areas where we have to make an improvement. We take their counsel to heart. Madam Speaker, I would like to agree with members of the portfolio committee that we need to improve in those areas like the filling of vacant posts, which is a very important area because that is where we need to be capacitating our department in terms of the responsibilities that it needs to carry out. However, chair I must hasten to point out that in some of those areas, particularly in terms of municipal support where we had thought by now, we should have moved at least further than capacitating the department, not only in that area, but also in other areas. We were delayed by organised labour that has taken us to the bargaining chamber requesting that we should lower the requirements in terms of the positions that have been advertised.

Unfortunately, those positions are not determined by us, but by the Department of Public Service and Administration, who decides and at what level we should fill those vacant posts. We are hoping that we will be able to deal with that and ultimately be able to fill most of those vacant posts. The issue of conditional grants spending is one of those thorny issues that we needed to overcome, which has been with us for many years. We are hoping that ultimately, we will be able to find a solution towards that.

Madam Speaker, part of what has been a stumbling block in terms of conditional grant spending is not the conditions that are set by these conditional grants, but by the preparations that are made by various departments in terms of the MTEF period. We have by now found a solution in terms of streamlining, and also forward planning so by the time we come to the beginning of the financial year all the departments are ready in terms of the project preparation so that we do not wait until towards the end of the financial year and we start implementing those projects. We believe that if we are able to do such things, and stick to those frameworks, we should be able to ultimately make sure that all departments are able to plan. I can cite an example of CoGHSTA in terms of human settlement and where most of the time we wait for the financial year to start. When we start procuring service providers and at that time we have not yet communicated with most of those municipalities so that they are able to provide beneficiaries, by the time

they start looking for beneficiaries, but also providing the sites where they are supposed to be taking over, the financial year is coming to an end, we have not spent those allocated funds.

That is why we need to find a way of streamlining our cooperation with municipalities so that as we plan, we also support those municipalities to start those processes. Particularly, because we know that our spending or financial cycle in terms of MTEF, we know how much we are going to be getting in the next two financial years so that there is no need for us to wait for those financial years to arrive. We should be able to say by now we already have the information in terms of those beneficiaries in municipalities, but also sites are being prepared in terms of your bulk infrastructure and so on so that by the time we are supposed to start we are ready.

Now I can tell you we are still awaiting beneficiaries from municipalities when we are supposed to be concluding our infrastructure. Now there are no sites, there are no beneficiaries, and hence most of our funds are actually surrendered. We have actually come to that conclusion that there is no way that we should not be ready in the next financial year to make sure that we do not leave any rand that is surrendered. We believe that we have got at least a solution towards that particular challenge.

The use of consultants in municipalities has also been a thorny issue. It is not as if it is insurmountable, because we know that the challenge is because when people start preparing their financial reports or whatever reports they are supposed to be preparing within those municipalities, they only bring consultants at the tail end of the process whereas the work has to be done on a monthly basis. Therefore, you do not even need consultants when you are able to do that. If you look at Mopani for instance, they have been using consultants, but continuously, have been in the same status where they are getting disclaimers in two financial years consistently.

That tells you that it is not about consultants. Consultants are just coming to collect whatever they want to collect, and they go home. The work has to be done throughout the process, even if consultants were to try to instil or to capacitate the municipality, but at the tail end of the process there is nothing that has actually changed. We are going to make sure that we capacitate those municipalities and support them. The unfortunate thing is that in municipalities like that when we are supposed to intervene the turnaround time becomes very, very important. When you intervene, a municipality runs to the court of law. They obtain what they call rule nisi. I think the chairperson knows it where they actually try to prevent you or restrict you from implementation of whatever intervention you are trying to bring in. Those are some of the inhibitors of us turning around of these municipalities that we are able to ultimately get better results out of those.

The GNT and GAAL are those entities that we need to capacitate. With GAAL we know that at the rate at which we are moving we turn it around and we get other role players who will be able to assist with capacity. We should be able to get somewhere. I believe that our MEC will be able to give us more information at the right time. On GNT, we are looking at a new licencing regime which also creates its own challenges. We believe that we should look at a way of unbundling, but as well I think the MEC should be able to give more information when it relates to that, because part of what we are looking at in terms

of the turnaround is to find a way of unbundling some of the areas and ensuring that we are able to continuously empower the upcoming companies, like your other companies that have already been empowered. On Madodi and others, we should be able to ultimately make sure that we reduce the burden in terms of government funding, but also we allow GNT to do what it is able to do at its best.

On the issue of forensic reports, yes, it is true, we should be able to make sure that all those departments who have received their forensic reports are able to expedite the implementation of those recommendations. We are hoping that we should ultimately get reports in terms of the status of the implementation of those reports.

Lastly, chair, let me take this opportunity to thank you, chairperson, of the portfolio committee for your continuous leadership and also members of the portfolio committee for the counsel that you continue to give us in the support that you provide to the Provincial Treasury so that we, at all times, are ready but also capacitated to carry out our function. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Honourable Members maybe before we proceed to item 8, I just want to remind honourable Members about the objects that we are bringing in the House during the Sitting. The objects like the cups and the saucers, they are against the Rules. Those objects are against the rules, because they are compromising the safety of the Members in the House. I would like to plead with honourable Members that we refrain from such practices. Thank you very much.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are on Announcements. Hon Chair of Chairs, you may take the floor.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Inkomu, Manana Xipikara. Ndzi lava ku teka nkarhi lowu ndzi tivisa leswaku swakudya swa ninhlikanhi swikona, lahaya eka bodurhumu leyi ya tolo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members today is the birthday of Hon Maharaj. May I please request all of us to rise and sing for him. No, there is nothing wrong with that, honourable Members. Let us just sing for Hon Maharaj. [SONG]

Thank you very much. Hip hip Hooray! Hon Seshoka it will be you next time. Honourable Members can you sit down. Thank you very much.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated.

Honourable Members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. You can't raise a hand.

MS MARAGA

I thought you said, good morning.

THE SPEAKER

It is hot. I am trying to check from members of the staff who are responsible for maintenance to assist – there is Mr Ngoben. I am told that Mr Ngoben is making sure that they attend to that. Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. It is, sometimes, difficult honourable Members, to ensure that this place is conducive to work in – yes, it is our Chamber, but all these maintenance and other things are not our responsibility. We are relying on the department, but we will fix that. Thank you very much.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

THE SPEAKER

Are there any motions in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Aphiri, you are recognised.

MS APHIRI

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

**THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE RENDERED BY THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH
(Motion without Notice)**

I am standing here on behalf of the African National Congress to table a motion without notice on the outstanding service as rendered by the Department of Health.

The African National Congress takes this opportunity to applaud the relentless efforts to bring about efficient and quality healthcare services to the people of Limpopo made by the Department of Health under the custodianship of Dr Phophi Ramathuba. On Monday, 13 March 2023, the MEC for Health presided over the commissioning of 28 new ambulances to augment an existing fleet to improve response to healthcare emergencies and save lives. The department has procured a total of 66 ambulances which will be commissioned before the end of this financial year. The handing-over will cover all districts of the province, with specific focus on areas experiencing severe shortage.

The people of Blouberg, where the first batch was commissioned on Monday, deserve responsive, quality, and comprehensive healthcare services. We thank the department for this timely intervention in building a better Limpopo. The African National Congress urge sister departments to play their part in ensuring longevity of the vehicles through the rehabilitation of the road infrastructure. In the same breath, we call upon communities to desist from vandalising ambulances and other public assets during service delivery protests.

We are confident that this is the starting point in the delivery and commissioning of ambulances in rural and far-flung areas. The department must invest in a sophisticated tracking system to ensure optimum use of the ambulances and avoid the use of ambulances for personal errands. The African National Congress commends the commitment made by the MEC to procure more ambulances to meet the emergency health needs of the people of Limpopo. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Aphiri. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.
[APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I second the motion as presented by Hon Aphiri.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon... my apology, honourable Members. If I can get the surname again?

MR RAMALOBELA

Ramalobela.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Ramalobela, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

MR RAMALOBELA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Greetings to the EFF caucus led by Hon Maraga in absentia, MECs present, honourable Members, staff members and members in the gallery.

THE BULLYING OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY IVANPLATS MINE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move on the motion without notice that the House notes the following:

- The bullying, divide and conquer of local communities by Ivanplats mine in Mokopane because of its financial muscles and racism against black people;
- The mine continues to harass and bully our people as they seek to expand their mining operations by forcefully removing our people from their land;
- The companies have guts to bully our people because ANC big shots, their wives and other family members have shares in those mines;[NOISE]
- The mining companies do as they wish because they know that they have political protection, essentially meaning that the ANC has given mining companies the license to bully, abuse and harass our people of their land;
- The EFF will not allow colonization and apartheid-style forced removals by these foreign companies on our people;
- Ivanplats mine, which is a subsidiary of a Canadian Miner, Ivanhoe mines, continues to divide families by giving some family members huge sums of money to agree on the sale of land while the majority of other family members do not agree to sell their land;
- The EFF government will expropriate land without compensation for equal redistribution of land to illuminate these forms of bullying by white foreigners; and
- Those of you in this House who have shares in those mines, tell them that soon we will be forced to pay them a special visit if they continue harassing our people.

I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Selaelo Mphahlele, stand to second the motion as read by Hon Ramalobela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to object the motion because it has got a lot of wild allegations which cannot stand until they are proven, therefore, the motion needs to be rejected with the contempt it deserves.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The motion presented by Hon Ramalobela is objected to, meaning the motion falls off. Can we then proceed. Are there any other motions in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE ONGOING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CRIMES IN LIMPOPO
PROVINCE DUE TO LACK OF LEADERSHIP**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA to move that this House resolves that:

- On 5 July 2022, this House resolved that crime gender-based violence was spiraling out of control and that the provincial police commissioner was not in control of the situation;
- Further notes that since then, our communities have become increasingly unsafe; robberies at residential premises, carjacking and contact crimes showed a year-on-year increase of 30,2 %, 5 % ad 16,3 % respectively;
- It notes with sadness that in the 3rd quarter of 2022/23, reported cases of rape disturbingly showed a year increase of 20 %;
- It also notes that Thohoyandou remains the rape capital of the province, ranked 4th nationally and first provincially, and showed an increase of 20,7 % in reported rapes during the 3rd quarter;
- That despite all the telltale signs in the crime statistics over the last two years, lack of leadership and underfunding persist; and

- The House to note further that gender-based violence and contact crime remains ungoverned, our province will suffer long term socio-economic consequences.

I move that this House resolves that, an ad hoc committee be established in terms of Rule 79(1)(1) with powers in terms of Rule 79(3) to turn the tide against the scourge of gender-based violence by setting clear multi-disciplinary targets and holding departments accountable for their failure to protect the most vulnerable in our society. This august House can no longer standby while our women and children are raped and butchered.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice, Hon Seono, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEONO

THE SENTENCING OF THEMBA DUBE - A SERIAL KILLER AND A RAPIST, AND THE CONTINUOUS IMBIZO ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

(Motion without Notice)

The African National Congress welcomes the sentencing of a serial rapist and murderer, Themba Dube. Dube, a 36 years old convicted serial rapist, has been sentenced to eight life sentences. The Zimbabwean national was convicted on two counts of rape, six counts of murder, five counts of robbery; with aggravating circumstances, one count of possession of stolen property and one count of being an illegal immigrant.

This monster, some of his victims include Andrea Cholo, Mpho Senyatsi, Eva Makhura, Jane Letsoalo, Chisamiso Gumbo, Sarah Mothiba and Mmamogo Rakoma who are all deceased. May their souls continue to rest in peace, and we hope that their families will find solace in knowing that this perpetrator will be behind bars indefinitely.

As the African National Congress, we further like to extend our words of appreciation and gratitude to the Department of Transport and Community Safety under the stewardship of MEC Radzilani with their continuous Imbizo on gender-based violence. We hope their programme will reach all our municipalities across the province and engage all

stakeholders, as this will intensify the gender-based violence awareness and jointly we will find solutions to this scourge as we continue to build better communities.

I so move, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Speaker. I second the motion as presented by Hon Seono. [APPLAUSE]

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 CHARGES OF VOILOATION OF SOME SECTIONS OF NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT BY THE DA AGAINST CAPRICORN
DISTRICT AND NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the DA for this House to note that the DA has laid charges at the Environmental Management Inspectors, being the Green Scorpion, against Capricorn District and Lepelle-Nkumpi Local municipality. The charges were laid due to the municipalities' violation of section 107 of National Environmental Management Act and section 24 of the Constitution for the neglected sewer system, which continues to pollute the environment around Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality. During an oversight visit conducted last week by the DA, we found three leaks that pollute the environment and pose health-risks to the residents.

Raw sewerage spillage in ward 15, next to a business area in a popular spot for residents to gather. is a health-risk to the residents of ward 15 and to the people who utilise the centre for leisure and entertainment. In ward 4, sewerage spillage runs along the road which passes in front of the Zebediela hospital. It flows into open area in the village of Magatle, where it poses a health-risk to residents and their livestock. There is a dilapidated structure which seems as if it was intended as a sewage plant, but it is incomplete and left open.

The Lebowakgomo sewage plant project commenced years ago, but remains incomplete. Raw effluent flows into an open space in the village of Makurung where livestock graze and drink from the stream. The DA will not allow further compromise of service delivery

to the residents of Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality by the unconstitutional behaviour of the deployment ANC cadres. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice?

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there 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? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

**THE DISCONNECTION OF ELECTRICITY DUE TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE
DEPARTMENT BY POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY**
(Members' Statements)

Greetings to the caucus of the opposition led by Hon Maraga in absentia, greetings to the honourable MECs present, Members of this august House and members of the public in the gallery, good morning.

The Economic Freedom Fighters in Limpopo is not surprised that the Polokwane Municipality has disconnected electricity supply to defaulting Limpopo government departments owing the municipality more than R250 million. The consequential disconnection of electricity to these departments is a solid evidence of the ANC's dismal failure to run effective and good governance. Their failure to pay electricity bills is far more questionable because these departments receive plenty of amounts of money to keep the lights on.

It is of great concern that the impact of non-payment of electricity bills by the department will mostly affect the delivery of services to our people. Municipalities and departments under the ANC-led government are collapsing and worst paying consumers, because of funds being misused or stolen. The EFF calls on the affected departments to come up with contingency measures while making financial means to settle their debts, so as to avoid the halting of day-to-day operations. We cannot sympathise with irresponsible and

corrupt ANC government departments; they are reaping what they do not sow. Unfortunately, the people of Limpopo in particular, the poor, are the once who will bear the brunt of the incompetent government which cannot even service its own debt.

The EFF demands accountability and consequence management from the affected departments in question. We call upon the MEC and the Premier to investigate this matter and present a full report to this House on what actually transpired. I thank you.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, honourable Members of the Executive Council, and people in the gallery.

South Africa leads the global fraternity of wildlife ranching and generates more than R7,7 billion income every year. South Africa has more than 10 000 commercial wildlife ranches occupying 16,8 % of the country's land. Half are in Limpopo, a further 10 % in the Northern Cape and 12 % in the Eastern Cape. Limpopo government oversees 43 protected areas also known as game reserves, all of which are in dire condition.

The government is fortunate to have some best genetic rare game animals which should be monitored, not only from a scientific research point of view, but also from an investment choice to attract the wildlife breeding fraternity. Progressive wildlife ranching requires that rare-game breeding be monitored, being kept in well maintained fences that will minimise the spread of diseases or poaching. SANPARKS recently reported a total revenue of R815 million and is estimated to earn R1 billion in the next year.

Honourable MEC, note the following:

- Why is it that the department failed to do game counting for the last three years?
- What were the reasons for the cancellation of the helicopter tender that would have assisted the parks to do game counting?
- When was the last time LEDET managed to produce the status of rare breed animals?
- Is it a fact that our rare breeding animals have been reduced over the last five years?

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Are there any other Members' Statements. Hon Seshoka, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the EFF caucus led by the capable Hon Maraga in absentia, MECs present here, Members of this House, members in the gallery, our members of staff and visiting HODs.

**THE STATE OF TRACTORS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
(Members' Statement)

The EFF notes with concern the state of tractors in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development bought 72 tractors as an input injection for Limpopo Farmers Mechanisation Support Programme, meant specifically for emerging and subsistence farmers in the province. These tractors were distributed among the five districts.

The Limpopo Farmer Mechanisation Support Programme was initiated on the basis that the mechanization cost in agricultural activities takes the lion's share of the total cost of production, which is a burden to many emerging and subsistence farmers. A young promising female farmer from Vhaluvhu Farming Project in Morebeng under Molemole Municipality is currently struggling to service her contracts with both McCain and Peppadew International to supply potatoes and peppadew respectively. This happens because of the high cost of mechanisation. The big question is, why is the department failing to dispose these tractors to young farmers who have got the capacity to optimally utilise tractors, fixing them and continue assisting the neighbouring farmers? The answer is, we are led by non-thinkers who are obsessed with looting the public purse through tendering processes.

During the oversight conducted by the EFF on 20 February 2023 at Botlokwa Agricultural Office, Molemole Municipality under Capricorn district, we discovered that there are three tractors in the office that were not in good state and left unattended by officials. It was reported that the office does not have drivers and only depend on EPWP recruited drivers during rainy season, meaning that there were not assisting framers in the past six months.

In addition, the EFF discovered that all municipalities in the province have similar problems regarding mechanisation, because all the tractors are broken and there is no service plan.

It is typical of ANC-led government to engage in fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and nothing happens to the officials responsible, because consequence management does not exist in Premier Mathabatha's administration. You ask yourself, what kind of nonsense is this that, government spend millions of rands on purchasing tractors to assist our people only to be used to decorate agricultural office, while our farmers are burdened by high cost of mechanisation?

Hon Speaker... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, I would like to know if the word, 'nonsense' is parliamentary.

THE SPEAKER

Hon chair, can you please withdraw the word 'nonsense'.

MR SESHOKA

No, I can't withdraw. There is nothing wrong with the word. There is no insult there.

BACKGROUND

'Nonsense' is unparliamentary.

MR SESHOKA

No way! No way!

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, let's allow the Member to proceed. I will go and check if indeed the word is unparliamentary.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

You ask yourself, what kind of nonsense is this, that government spent millions of rands on purchasing tractors to assist people only to be used to decorate agricultural office while our farmers are burdened by high cost of mechanisation?

The EFF would like the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to furnish this House with a detailed report on the total cost of tractors, the status of all the tractors, number of drivers, all farmers who benefited from mechanisation in the last six months and the detailed plan on the disposal of the tractors that are not optimally utilized by the department. Only the ANC-led government can purchase tractors without drivers and expect that manna from heaven will fall and drive these tractors.

The EFF's solution to these challenges resides in the cardinal pillar number three, that talks to building state and government capacity, which will lead to the abolishment of

tenders. This is emphasised because the task of the fundamental economic transformation requires a strong state with the ability to develop a clear strategic vision and be able to implement and monitor the progress being made. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Are there any other Members' Statements? May I check with the Members of the Executive Council if they would like to respond to the Members' Statements? MEC Hon Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to honourable Members, MECs and our Chief Whip. Hon Speaker, I want to respond to the statement made by a Member with regard to the cutting-off of the electricity by the Polokwane Municipality to sector departments. However, even before I provide answers, I want to make it clear to the House that non-payment of services is not anywhere near corruption.

There will not be any corruption if sector departments pay the municipality. I must indicate that as a corporate governance and as CoGHSTA, we have established a debt forum where all sector departments and parastatals engage each other regarding the payments of services; be it local municipality; sector department or a parastatal. Sometimes I come to this House and update you about the payments made to Eskom by municipalities. So, even with this matter, it is receiving serious attention. There were misunderstandings between the local municipality and sector departments, and we can now assure you that that forum is effective and working, and there is a serious reduction of debts that sector departments owe local municipalities.

It is our responsibility to ensure that the municipalities get their revenue. There are credit control measures for these municipalities which are working very well, and they will include everyone. We must commend the municipalities for doing what they are supposed to do.

I also want to respond on behalf of the MEC for LEDET regarding the counting of animals so that we can know the population of animals so that this sector generates serious revenue for this province, and we should take it seriously. I will take this matter to the MEC for LEDET to look at what is to be done to continue reviving wildlife tourism. I saw him on social media yesterday he was visiting the White Rhino Hall in Hoedspruit making sure that we revive wildlife tourism in the province. I think the matter will receive attention.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC. MEC Hon Mokone it is now your turn.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker, my colleagues in the Executive, honourable Members of the House, the Chief Whip of the majority party, and guests in the gallery, for those people who have my history in public service would know that I'm the champion of the Expanded Public Works Programme. I'm one of the people who wrote some of those manuals. So, to say we are not thinking, we will not want much, because you also know about it.

Madam Speaker, indeed this government, as a caring government, has purchased tractors, and those tractors are all over the province and in all the regions. Some of them, indeed, are having problems. When I arrive in the department there was an advert calling upon tractor drivers, and which is an annual thing. I, immediately, indicated to the department that there is no need for us to issue a tender every year. We need to issue a tender once for three years. This is done to make sure that when the time for ploughing comes, we don't have to wait, and we said to the department that these people don't have to be drivers of tractors only.

We must also give them other skills that when they are not doing ploughing, they must be able to do other jobs in other sectors of the economy. So, we are sure of what we are going to do, and we are resolute that we will be able to improve that life. We will make sure that those tractors that need to go for service are eventually serviced to make sure that our people get the a service. It is not about any other thing. You can see people are speaking from both sides of their mouths, you don't know what to do, the other one is saying why do you cancel the tender, the other one says why don't you create a tender.

We are going to do what the policy says. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, 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 have published the ATC dated 15 March 2023 which outlines reports to be debated in the House today, including a revised list of committees for Members' information. Thank you very much.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration, and Adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

I now call upon the committee chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much. Blessed morning Hon Speaker and honourable Members. Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs to move that the 2021/22 Annual Report of the department be duly adopted as the report of this distinguished House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Boshielo.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Polly Boshielo, rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate and the first speaker is Hon Maseko. [APPLAUSE]

MR MASEKO

Hon Speaker; Members of the Executive Council present here, in particular, the MEC for CoGHSTA and the HOD; Chair of Chairs; the Hon Chief Whip of the Legislature and the Majority Party; the Leader of the Opposition in absentia; Members of the provincial Legislature and guests, it is an honour to be given an opportunity to give input regarding the Annual Report for CoGHSTA for the 2021/22 financial year.

Hon Speaker, as the portfolio committee, we would like to commend the Department of CoGHSTA for consistently receiving an unqualified audit opinion, however, we are also worried about the stagnation of the outcomes of the AG. The department has been a candidate for a clean audit for four consecutive years but it couldn't rise to the occasion. We call upon the leadership of the department to focus more on addressing the cumulative irregular expenditure and partner that with consequence management. It is very critical for us to reduce irregular expenditure however when there is an action or disciplinary action taken for individuals who have been pointed out to have caused the irregular expenditure it should take place.

To us, irregular expenditure is deliberate noncompliance with financial regulations, especially those that regulate supply chain management. We are also saying that they must deal with fruitless and wasteful expenditures and ensure that reliable reports are always available during the time of audit. That will assist the department to move from unqualified to the next level. The department must also work hard, particularly within the office of the CFO, because our observation points to the office as the one that affects the movement towards the clean audit.

There should be rigorous training and consultation with the Treasury and engagement with the Auditor-General of South Africa on how to deal with material misstatements. We are raising this chairperson because as the portfolio committee, we are happy about

certain progress that is being made in that department. Ours is to advise them to make sure that they do certain things correctly and ensure that we move to the upper level. The committee was seriously concerned about the underspending by the department at the end of the financial year. The department was allocated R2,3 billion for the financial year 2021/22 which was an increase of 7% from the 2020/21 allocation.

What was concerning was that the department underspent its budget by R474 million, which is 20% of the total budget. We are not happy about this, and we have engaged with the leadership of the portfolio committee, and we agreed that we must intervene as a matter of urgency. It is also concerning that the money meant to deliver services to our people had been returned to Treasury and that in itself tells you that we can't take that lightly as the portfolio committee with the responsibility to ensure that commitments that have been made by the department through its budget, APPs and its target are realised.

Such types of commitments must then do a meaningful intervention to the masses of our people. We are not going to allow continuous underspending because to us it is a criminal offence; we are depriving the people of their rights to get services that they qualify to get in terms of the Bill of Rights. So, it is matter that we are making a call to the leadership of the department to seriously take this into consideration.

There was also a long outstanding matter during the same financial year about an enormous payment made by the Sekhukhune District Municipality, where about R5 million was erroneously or deliberately transferred. We noted that there is a forensic audit, and maybe we will have to make a call to the leadership of CoGHSTA to follow up on this matter in terms of consequence management that has been effected in relation to the issue in question - and bring back the report to us.

The committee received a report from the department that there was also a total of R24,4 million of irregular expenditure in 2021/22. Just in that financial year and if you check it, it has decreased as opposed to other previous financial years. In 2020/21 it was R403 million and in the 2021/22 financial year is about R24,4 million. It tells you that as and when we proceed there are attempts to reduce irregular expenditure and we wanted to commend the department for that.

The cumulative irregular expenditure as on 31 March 2022 stood at R3,3 billion. It is cumulative. We also noted that the department applied for condonement to the provincial Treasury of R2,9 billion which was approved, and we have agreed that, that is what we need to do as a department if you have cumulative irregular expenditure. Make sure that you do everything possible to convince the Treasury because if you don't do that, that cumulative irregular expenditure will remain in your audit books, and you will not get out of stagnation which is where you are as we are speaking.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R6,5 million was incurred and the disclosed fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounted to R109 million, and the bulk of this is also cumulative also from the R108 million incurred during the acquisition of land in Tubatse. So, it tells you that if we don't deal with this matter accordingly, it will remain in the books of the Auditor-General. So, it is important that there should be consequence management. The AG needs to be briefed about what we have done with this matter, because if we don't

deal with it, it will remain there, and it won't take us to the next level as we are expecting as the portfolio committee.

The investigation of the Tubatse land acquisition debacle by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation was reportedly ongoing. The department must report to the House about progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the investigation. We are interested in that, and we acknowledge that it has been investigated and there is a report on the table with recommendations. What is critical is what is it that we are doing to ensure that, that report finds expression in this House, and we must be kept updated.

There are long outstanding issues that should be attended to by the department. As the portfolio committee, when we play our oversight wishing for the department the hope that there is a potential candidate to get a clean audit; we have identified critical issues that we think that when implemented will get out of that, and they are as follows:

- Implementation of recommendations by the SIU report;
- Implementation of recommendations of all investigations that are there;
- Ensure implementation of effective consequence management, which is one weakness that we have identified. Our consequence management is just limited to written warnings, and we can't end there. We want action to be taken and that action must fit the offence that person has committed, therefore, we will be happy once such actions are taken.
- Scopa and portfolio committee resolutions must also be implemented.

It's like when we make decisions, they don't find expression at the level of implementation and we are saying, do all these things and ensure that we avoid this unnecessary irregular expenditure. We are saying that the above matters will be standing agenda items for the portfolio committee to ensure that there is effective and efficient oversight and monitoring by the portfolio committee.

We will always, during our portfolio committee meetings with the department, get progress regarding these issues and that is how we are going to take the department out of stagnation. We call upon the leadership of the department to maximise capacity in the finance unit and ensure compliance with financial regulations. The committee will intensify its oversight role in ensuring that irregularities are mitigated, and good financial governance is exercised. The department must continue to brief the House on the progress made regarding the implementation of recommendations pertaining to its daily work.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. The next speaker is Hon Mapoulo

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hope I will also be given the same gesture of additional two minutes that was given to Hon Maseko. Thank you very much Leader of the Opposition, Economic Freedom Fighters, Hon Maraga in absentia; the Chief Whip of the Minority Party, Hon Ramalobela; my colleagues and the House at large.

Hon Speaker, it is regrettable and despicable that the department could not spend all its budget of R1,29 billion for the 2020/21 financial year on the Human Settlement programme. They only spent R930 to R940 million which is about 91,4% of the total budget for the programme's allocation. This is shameful and disappointing because it is difficult for us to understand why the department failed to spend all the money on such an important programme. Our people do not have roofs over their heads, they need houses to restore their dignity and it is the constitutional mandate of the department to build houses for the poor. Furthermore, we are not even told what the remaining money was used for because our people must be taken into confidence that the money was used for a good cause and for the benefit of the poor.

Maybe to be specific, we need to ask, why was the R88,792 million not spent on building houses for the poor? This money not spent could have built about 458 houses for our people, therefore, restoring their dignity. The people of the province need houses and yet the money is being underspent by the heartless ANC government.

This is the reason why most conditional grants are returned unspent almost every year and yet there is no consequence management applied to responsible officials, the officials just get love letters, as Hon Maseko has said. When you return the money, you are simply saying all the 6 million population of Limpopo has houses, electricity, water, and roads - of which is not the case.

The fact that the department is still experiencing challenges with regard to community residential units and social housing units, as well as enhanced peoples housing process, clearly tells us that the government does not have the capacity to provide solutions to societal challenges.

The House should note that there were 52 planned projects for human settlement to be approved during the period under review and only five were achieved. When you carelessly postpone the construction of houses for the people, you are postponing the creation of jobs. You are promoting hunger and poverty. This is extremely disappointing and disturbing, to say the least. Surely, we cannot expect this from the government of the people, by the people for the people as you are claiming to be.

We are dwelling more on the aspect of housing because it is an important matter to the poor. Decent housing restores the dignity of our people. The non-submission of monthly data for EPWP requirements by contractors is seriously concerning. Any contractor who does not comply with their contractual obligations must be kicked out so to serve as an example for others not to do it. Their contracts must be terminated. They are allowed to do as they wish because they do not understand the importance of job creation and hunger alleviation.

They get away with murder because some officials and politicians are shareholders in these companies. The EFF has noted, with regret, an under-expenditure of R15,2 million under the Co-operative Governance programme. This House should note that the current government is synonymous with under-expenditure. You cannot mention under-expenditure and not mention the ANC government.

The MIG allocation to 25 municipalities in the province amounted to R2 952 699.00 in the 2020/21 financial year and R2 933 231.00, which is 65,47% of what was spent at the end of March 2021. The Municipal Infrastructure Grant is critical in infrastructure development in the province, hence we are saying that more can be done on the expenditure of this grant.

The department reported a total of R403,8 million of irregular expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year. This money could have been used to deliver services to the people to positively impact their general well-being and their standard of living. Indeed, we are living in times of hopelessness. No amount of counselling can save the poor falling ANC.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The speaker is Hon Smalle. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Before that Hon Speaker. Maybe we should have a moratorium, I don't know if there are special rules for Hon Mokone because, in our last sitting, you mentioned that no one is allowed to bring cutlery into the House. I'm worried because it is happening. Please protect me, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Okay, please finish.

MR SESHOKA

Before I finish, I'm just saying can you allow Hon Mokone to go out and eat? It has been long that this man has been eating. Ever since this morning, he has been eating and eating and now he even brought the cutlery into the House. Can you ask him to take out the cutlery?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka you are correct, but unfortunately, Hon Mokone was not in the House on that day. I was still going to indicate to him that we are not allowed to bring cutlery in the House.

MR SESHOKA

Kgale a e ja [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

You can proceed Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive, honourable MEC for CoGHSTA and honourable Members. The mandate of the Department of COGHSTA is primarily derived from chapters 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 of the Constitution. In short, the department is responsible for intergovernmental relations, provincial intervention in local government when municipalities are unable to fulfil their executive obligations; relevant when a municipality, as a result of the financial crisis breaches its obligations to provide basic services to meet its financial requirements by legislation, support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions, and must comply with all legislative frameworks in this chapter in order to conform to rules made under the auspices of institutions such as the Auditor-General and the Public Protector. My key focus will be on what I have mentioned above, on how various municipalities are performing and the mechanism that the department must be focusing on.

The abovementioned implement the core principles, mechanisms and processes that are necessary to enable municipalities to move progressively towards the social and economic upliftment of local communities; ensure universal access to essential services that are affordable to all. Honourable members, based on the above, the department clearly does not implement its mandate – materially underspent on all grants, specifically, and the underperformance of the EPWP grant in the 2020/21 financial year indicates that there was a 0% expenditure on the EPWP grant and the R118 million underspent on the informal settlements upgrading grant. The cumulative irregular expenditure as of 31 March 2022 stood at R3,66 billion.

The Human Settlements programme is the core mandate of the department and receives more budget than any other programme. The programme had a budget allocation of R1,232 billion for the 2021/22 financial year. The expenditure on this programme was R868,265 million which is 70,4% of the programme's allocation. There were 14 performance indicators and targets, of which 4 were achieved, translating to 28,6% achievement. Despite this under-achievement, the department spent 70,4% of the programme budget in the year under review. The performance on indicators and targets does not correspond with the percentage of expenditure.

Due to the department's lack of performance during that financial year, R147 million was returned to the Treasury which could have built 2100 RDP houses and irrevocably changed the lives of vulnerable members of our society. The 26 targets or 100% achieved under Cooperative Governance is a meaningless accolade since many municipalities remain dysfunctional.

The amount spent on consultants in the 2020/21 financial year was R245 million. Despite the excessive use of consultants, errors were identified in the financial statements submitted for auditing by all municipalities, except Waterberg. Municipalities incurred R1,8 billion in irregular expenditure in 2020/21, mostly resulting from noncompliance with supply chain management legislation. This financial mismanagement continues with impunity.

According to the AG, Ba-Phalaborwa, Musina, Mopani, Thabazimbi and Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipalities were in a vulnerable financial position. Why do the provincial interventions deployed in these municipalities remain ineffective? The department can no longer ignore sections 52 and 71 reports. These reports had to be submitted and decisively acted upon. Municipalities in the province incurred R3,6 billion in unauthorised expenditure, which is an increase from the previous financial year.

There are about 13 municipalities that have spent less than 10% of their MIG in the first two months of the 2022/23 financial year. Municipalities that experienced a stoppage of funds are Ba-Phalaborwa, Mopani, Mogalakwena, Ephraim Mogale, Makhuduthamaga, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Sekhukhune. These challenges are recurring and need to be addressed urgently.

The department failed in the percentage of traditional leadership succession claims and disputes received and processed. The planned target was 100% of claims and disputes received and the department was only able to process and resolve only 44% of the disputes, citing a lack of cooperation from royal families. The lack of finalising such disputes creates a lack of stability in our rural areas and can impact on the rural economy and food security.

The high number of litigations stemming from the Kgatla Commission will not be reduced or eliminated by procuring vehicles and providing other benefits to the existing traditional leaders. This must be prioritised. The Land Claims Commissioner noted that the unresolved disputes emanating from the Kgatla Commission spilt over to the 600 disputed land claims in our province and not only delaying redress and the dignity of claimants, but adding a great financial burden to these processes.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I now call upon the honourable chairperson, Hon Lebea.
[APPLAUSE]

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, 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.

The restoration of the dignity of the people of Limpopo remains the most critical priority of the congress movement, the African National Congress. Their wealth, their well-being, as well as the preservation of their land is high on the agenda.

As we continue to celebrate 29 years of political freedom and the achievements of nearly three decades, we are mindful of the need to further improve the lives of our people through quality and sustainable programmes and services. The Freedom Charter says: there shall be houses, security and comfort. Equally, everyone has a right to access to adequate housing.

The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within the available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. This is enshrined in the most important document in the republic of the country, which is tagged, the Bill of Rights. Let me join my colleagues and commend the department for receiving yet another unqualified audit opinion in the financial year 2021/22. The department has been receiving the same audit opinion for the past five years with no improvement. This is commendable because it shows that if the department can work harder, honourable MEC, and address the material misstatements raised by the Auditor-General of South Africa, then you will receive a clean audit.

As a committee, we are seriously concerned about the lack of capacity in the financial sections of municipalities. We have observed that almost all municipalities utilise the services of consultants to prepare annual financial statements. Some of those consultants are charging exorbitant fees, which could have been used to pay for the services that we promised our communities. The department must assist municipalities to employ people with financial knowledge and required qualifications. Honourable MEC, this is now becoming a scourge and is no longer a challenge. We do understand that in terms of legislation, the department capacitates municipalities to implement their legal mandates through developmental planning, municipal infrastructure development, local government support and democratic government and disaster management, but we, truly, want to reiterate that if the department was to zoom in, we could see good strides in our municipalities and in the entire province.

The committee is also concerned about the persisting challenge of failure by the department to prepare annual financial statements in line with the prescribed financial reporting statement. The question to the committee was that, if the department itself will be unable to prepare the annual financial statements, what will then happen in the sphere of government that is in the local government without the use of consultants.

Honourable MEC, this observation is supported by the Auditor-General who reported that material misstatements of current assets, current liabilities, disclosures and these anomalies, have been going on for a very long time, which as the portfolio committee, we want to see things turning to a different direction. We want to stand here and come and debate the success of over 80% of our municipalities. On that note, honourable MEC, we also want to commend the department for filling critical posts. We commend the department for putting in front of the entire institution, a woman as HOD of the department, which is truly commendable.

Honourable MEC, the Human Settlement programme is the core mandate of the department, and it receives more budget than any other programme. The aim of this programme is to ensure housing development, access to adequate accommodation and relevant well-located areas, access to basic services, access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities. The programme has a budget allocation of R1,232 billion for the 2021/22 financial year, yet, the expenditure of this programme was R886,265 million, which translates to 74% of the programme's allocations.

Equally, as the portfolio committee, we were so disturbed about why would programme with such pertinent issues embedded in it be not spent up to 100%. When we interface with the department, and because we are elated to also inform this august House that the efforts of the department to mitigate this thorny and long-term elephant in the room is the plan to deal with these challenges of inadequate project planning, inadequate capacity for project planning and incapacity of contractors in the department.

Honourable MEC, we really appreciate that there is an intervention plan in place developed to streamline or plan activities with timeframes. We have also noted that town planners have been seconded to human settlement projects and professional engineers advertised to human settlement planning. We hope that some of these mitigation strategies will be put in place, so that as and when we come back to debate the department, we will be reporting them as good stories. Honourable MEC, if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen a side of an oppressor; if an elephant has its foot on a tail of a mouse and you say you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality, and that is Desmond Tutu.

Honourable MEC, there is a municipality in the province that has spent hundreds of millions to go and get back an erroneous payment of about R5 million. We want the people of Limpopo to get to the end of that matter, that is money meant for service delivery, money for the people. Limpopo is tagged as one of the poorest provinces in the country and we cannot allow money to move in the back door or through interventions or planning of vultures for money which is meant for service delivery.

Most of the people looking at this government for service delivery are previously disadvantaged individuals and in particular blacks. I do not want to sound unparliamentary, Hon Speaker, that is the true reflection of the province that we stay in. So, honourable MEC, next time when we come to debate here, we need to know what happened to the money in Sekhukhune District Municipality. I know the HOD is here, and she will assist in that regard. Further than that, honourable MEC and Hon Speaker, as the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs when we interfaced with the department, it gave us a great joy to see that the department is sailing in the right direction.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon chairperson of the committee. Please come back and deal with Item 7.3: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA on the 2022/23 first quarter report. We apologise for that.

MR MOKONE

We can sing in the meantime.

MR SESHOKA

Wena opela. Akere o swerwe ke boroko.

MR MOKONE

Wena kgale ke go bona gore wa nlopa. I am available.

MS LEBEA

The tools we use are a challenge. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs, I hereby move that the 2022/23 first quarter report of the Department of CoGHSTA be dully adopted as the report of this distinguished House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Boshielo you are recognised.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the tabling of the report by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Let's proceed to the debate, and the first speaker is Hon Maseko.

THE SPEAKER

Let us proceed with the debate. The first speaker on the list is Hon Maseko.

MR MASEKO

Thanks once more, Hon Speaker. Allow me to observe all protocols.

It turns out that providing shelter and economic empowerment is both morally correct and economical progressive. This is because discrimination, poverty and ignorance restrict growth, while investments in infrastructure and technological research increase it, creating more quality jobs and new wealth.

The government that cares for its society inculcates the culture of patriotism and confidence amongst its people. CoGHSTA is mandated to provide social infrastructure such as housing for the benefit of the society. This is part of rebuilding the society. If the department does not expedite these services, it means that trust in the ANC-led government is reduced, and their moral right of getting shelter is violated.

The portfolio committee received a briefing about spending during the first quarter Budget by the department for the 2022/23 financial year. The annual allocation for the year is R2,418 billion. The department's target was meant to spend 25% of that total allocation by providing quality services to the society.

We report to this House, as the committee, that the department commenced spending that Budget on a quarterly basis according to the plans. This spending gives a sense about the spending pattern that the department will undertake going into the other quarters, which is the main issue.

Their plan and the implementation of the plan and targets are very critical so that we deal with underspending for that financial year. It is very clear that there is advanced planning to ensure that at least they will be able to achieve their quarterly targets, and that will be commended. However, it does not reflect well that only R437 million was spent instead of R604 million. It's a highlight already that for this quarter they have spent 18,1 % instead of 25 %. The assurance that was made is that they will put systems in place to ensure that in the second quarter they will cover that deficit, which is recommendable, because we must start by first quarter according to the plan and all these quarters will follow suit, If not put systems in place to improve your spending patterns.

We also report that the department received conditional grants amounting to R1,176 billion, which was 48,6% of the total Budget. The grants were meant for Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement (ISHS), which is amounting to R906 million and Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership (ISUP) amounting to R269 million. These are the two key programmes that the department will do to date.

The department must report to the House what were the challenges in spending the grant in the first quarter. The department must also report which informal settlements were being considered for upgrading in the 2022/23 financial year.

The committee observed performance in a number of programmes, however, the Human Settlements programme, only managed to spend 14,3%, which should be their area of focus. Human Settlements is the core programme of the department. It is the one that the government resolved that it would provide social infrastructure to the society.

The average overall expenditure by the department in the first quarter was 18,1%. The committee recommends that the department must institute consequence management for in case, if the people are sleeping on duty.

We are using the first quarterly reports to play our oversight role to the department, to ensure that quarterly indicators and targets set in the Annual Performance Plan are being

achieved accordingly. We must remind the department that it is the duty of the Accounting Officer to implement those targets in line with the Budget presented and approved by the House. The Accounting Officer made that commitment that they will do everything possible to ensure that she implements the wishes of the portfolio committee.

Quarterly monitoring of these performance indicators is an important element of planning and budgetary processes. Reports function as an early warning system, by alerting the departments to areas of weak performance and areas where remedial action is required. We must also remind the department that if there are variances between planned and actual outputs, an explanation of the challenges resulting in the variances should be provided and an approval should be sought.

The committee was also concerned about the support given to the traditional leaders. The ANC-led government has a good relationship with traditional leaders, and we will continue to build this relationship with the traditional leaders. The department was allocated R524 million and only 21,3% was spent during the first quarter instead of 25%.

The department had three planned targets in the quarter under review and only one target was achieved. There were reports of disputes in the construction of new traditional council offices. The committee was also concerned about the time taken to resolve such disputes on traditional leadership.

The committee recommends that the department should keep the House updated on progress made on litigation cases that arose from the Kgatla Commission report, because it is another area that needs to be closed. The department must clarify the House if the dispute over the site where the Majeje Traditional Council office which was going to be constructed has been resolved or not.

The House must also receive clarity if the chieftainship dispute at Dzumeri was resolved. What is the progress to date on the construction of traditional council offices? We support the adoption and recommendations of the committee report of the first quarter. We implore upon the department to implement all the committee recommendations.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. We shall now call upon Hon Mapoulo to the podium.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Once more, all protocol is observed, in terms of the rules of the house.

Hon Speaker, of the total allocated Budget of R2,310 billion, the department only spent R402 million, which is 17,4% of the total allocated Budget during the period under review. The department has also planned to construct 235 Military Veterans housing units across

the district in this financial year. Only one military veteran housing unit was constructed in the 2019/20 financial year. This is scandalous and shameful for the Veterans to say the list.

The Tubatse land acquisition scandal is still unresolved to date since the scandal was first reported in the 2017. Similarly, the Marapong housing unit scandal remained a thorny issue to date. The strategy of government is to drag these issues until they disappear in the minds of people.

We need progress reports on the Tubatse land acquisition scandal, Marapong housing unit scandal and the Talana housing corruption. If you think you will sweep this corruption under the carpet, you better think again. The EFF is watching the situation very closely. We need full investigation reports on the cases mentioned above. The EFF will stop at nothing, but to continue to advocate for good and clean governance in Limpopo.

The EFF has keen interest on these issues because they revolve around taxpayers' money and the general wellbeing of our people. We will follow up on these issues and continue to expose corruption to the end until justice is served. This shows that the ANC-led government lacks political will to deal with corruption. How can an issue such as this one drag for so long without proper resolution? Surely, this does not inspire confidence to an ordinary citizen. How many traditional leadership cases did the Kgatla Commission resolved since its inception and how much was spent on the commission?

We ask this question because the majority of cases, some dating back as far as 1996 still remain unresolved to date. Our observation is that, instead of resolving traditional leadership dispute cases, the government is the one which is responsible for fuelling tensions and divisions in the majority of royal houses, especially in the mining areas and the whole province.

The government applies what we call divide and conquer rule. They put people whom they can use to steal mineral resources, while sidelining the rightful heirs to the throne. Those who do not agree with their looting spree, even when they are the rightful heirs, they are not provided with certificates and are sidelined to the corner.

The ANC-led government behaves like they are not African themselves, because they trample on African values, principles, and culture at ease. *Badimo ba ka se re robalele*. They have no respect and regard for African cultures and values, as long as they can get what they want, in this case, minerals.

The obsession with consultants by municipalities is deliberate, because it is being used as a milking cow or vehicle to loot state resources. Why do you use consultants when you have people in government employed to do the same job? What do you want to achieve? In some instances, these consultants do not even deliver on the mandate given to them. Municipalities enlist the services of consultants and they still do not get any value for the money. This amounts to fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The EFF cannot accept this deliberate wasteful and corrupt trend. The EFF government will abolish the usage of private companies to fulfil functions and duties that government should fulfil. The EFF

government will ban the usage of consultants and project management units as a basis for delivering government services.

The EFF government will build internal capacity to fulfil its own functions and responsibilities, thereby, avoiding being influenced and having its employees bribed by the private companies and consultants in the fulfilment of government tasks.

The EFF government will establish state administration courts to promptly respond to incidents of corruption, with the aim of firing and blacklisting corrupt state employees and private companies and recovering money lost due to corruption.

The EFF government will introduce a minimum sentence of 20 years for all public representatives and servants convicted of corruption crime.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Our next speaker is Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and Members of the Executive Council present here.

Quarterly reports function as a word of warning to departments on areas of weak performance and to afford the departments the opportunity to rectify same. If lack of consequence management persists, these reports are meaningless. Unfortunately, the first quarter report already indicates that past weak performances are creeping into this financial year.

In the Budget of the department conditional grants amount to R1 176 418, which is 48,6% of the total Budget, the remaining 51,4% comes from equitable shares. The grants are Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement (ISHS) amounting to R906 million and Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership (ISUP) amounting to R269,465 million.

The amount spent as of 30 June 2022 was R26,529 million or 9,8%. The expenditure was less than 10%. Despite the committee's reiterated concerns, the Human Settlements programme only managed to spend 14,3% of its allocated Budget. During the previous financial year, the department could have built the 2100 houses with the monies returned to Treasury.

Under the Cooperative Governance programme, 17 of the 18 targets were met. We reiterate our concern that the set targets do not pass muster when measured against the lack of performance and challenges faced by the municipalities. The lack of taking effective and appropriate steps by the municipalities to hold officials accountable for the R3,6 billion and to try to recoup some of these funds, must be laid at the door of the department.

The reluctance of the department to comply with section 38(1) of the PFMA, does not only set a good example to municipalities, but it prevents the department from obtaining an improved audit opinion. The lack of oversight over appointments of officials to municipalities resulted in consultant fees amounting to R971 million over the last five years.

These funds could have been channelled towards service delivery instead of cadre deployment, which is suffocating the viability of our municipalities.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. We shall now call upon Hon Lebea to the podium.

MS LEBEA

Once more greetings to you, Hon Speaker, distinguished guests and honourable Members of the House. The department is unable to spend all of its allocation on cooperative governance. The department had 18 targets, and they achieved 17, which to us, as a portfolio committee is a step in the right direction. And we have also been made aware, honourable MEC, that the department has received investigation reports from the Special Investigation Unit and the Public Protector with regards to the land in Tubatse, VBS and Talana, Marapong, CRU and ISUP, which were done in the previous financial year. The department must also report progress on the implementation of those reports.

We are very elated, the honourable MEC and members, because some of the members here have not been with us when the department was reporting to us with regards to the R33 million advance payment that was made to the contractor Marapong. We really appreciate the efforts towards mitigating that particular challenge, honourable MEC. Maybe you could still take the House through what has been happening so that all members seated here can also be privy to that information. Honourable MEC, you should know we should state here without any fear of being pressurised or any fear of being misquoted or any fear of becoming unpopular that Marapong housing project will be monitored by the portfolio committee until its completion.

It was reported that the Auditor General of South Africa raised the matter of irregularities in the preparation of the annual financial statement since 2017/18 financial year. We are further elated that progress has been made towards attending some of the issues that were raised by the AGSA. We will work together with the department, honourable MEC, as part of our oversight role to ensure that MIGs are spent accordingly. The committee was also concerned about the spending on MIG by the municipalities and we are waiting for the report through your HOD for the MIG expenditure report to date. On that note, we really should appreciate and applaud the department by giving support to local government institution and our municipalities. The support has led to two clean audits in the province.

We are elated to also inform this House that the Capricorn District Municipality has regained its state in the province of becoming a house of clean audits or institution of clean audits, led by a very young and progressive Mayor, who is a woman, by the name of Cllr Mamedupi Kristy Teffo. It is with pride for us Honourable Makhurupetje for us as women to have young women achieving in various positions of municipalities.[APPLAUSE]

As part of its programme, the department is entrusted to create jobs through projects that are awarded through its contractors. Such jobs are created and not recorded and reported. The department has three targets in this programme in the first quarter and only one was achieved. The performance targets were not achieved, and this also include the creation of job opportunities, created through the construction of houses and servicing of the sites. Another thing that we have raised as a concern as a committee is lack of forward planning, because some of the projects that you must implement as a department, you must gate a municipality rate to get a place where you can implement housing projects and the CRUs, which says to us that interrelation planning must then take precedence. If that planning is to be embarked upon, we would not come and debate the amounts of grants returning to other provinces. As Limpopo, we are having dire need of those particular funds.

We have seen the removal of asbestos roofs in Seshego in ward 17 and 37, and I also believe that even in ward 14 in Polokwane. You will also take us through, because that is a very good story to tell of the African National Congress-led government. We will also appreciate that effort, honourable MEC.

Enjoying our interaction with the department in the first quarter, it was also reported that the total budget meant for upgrading of informal settlements was also spent. A grant for informal settlements on updating partnerships amount to R269 465 million should be spent and that will be spent if forward planning is taken as an integral part of both the department and the spheres of government, that is local government in this case- our municipalities.

As the Portfolio Committee responsible for Human Settlements, Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs, we are saying the department is still on the right track but that does not mean that we will not perform our duties to the best of our abilities. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Lebea.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA on the oversight visit

MS LEBEA

Greetings again to you, Hon Speaker, distinguished guests and honourable Members of the House. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human

Settlements and Traditional Affairs, I hereby move that the oversight visit reports to Bela Bela Local Municipality be duly adopted as the report of this distinguished House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selane.

MR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, stand here to second Hon Lebea. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the speakers' list, our first speaker is Hon Mdaka. My apology, it seems like the honourable chair has only spoken about the first visit to Bela Bela, if we can allow her to proceed with another oversight visit to Modimolle.

MS LEBEA

Greetings again to your honourable self, Hon Speaker. On behalf on the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, I hereby move that the oversight visit to Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality be duly adopted as the report of this distinguished House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move by the chairperson, Hon Lebea.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mdaka, you may proceed with the debate.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, honourable Members and our visitors in the gallery. I greet you all this morning. I stand before you on behalf of the African National Congress, the governing party in our country, our province and many of our municipalities. Let me start by quoting the President of the African National Congress in his message to the people of our country in the election manifesto in local government in 2021. It goes as follows, "We face a moment in history where we must choose between the path of division, conflict, destruction, inequality and exclusion and the path of unity, hard work, development, inclusivity and shared prosperity." And the quote goes further to say, "We

choose the path of unity.” That means we choose the path of unity as the ANC in this country. We choose the path of hard work by all, we choose the path of development, and we choose the path of inclusivity, including everyone and also shared prosperity.

It is important for us to understand this message from the President, on why the ANC conducts itself the way it conducts itself; including when we are battered from all corners, from all sides by everyone by those who organise to try and create conflict within our country. Those who are saying are in terms of the agenda 20% principle of leadership are at the lower level of the realm of leadership, they are not the 20% at the top, where President Matamela belongs. They are at the lower line of the 20% that destabilises leadership at all times, whenever they get an opportunity to speak or to do anything.

We're standing here again, understanding that the challenges that are faced that are found when we visit our municipalities, are solely dependable on the municipalities, and not solely challenges of the municipalities, but they are challenges for all of us, we are faced with the same challenges everywhere.

The report is very clear, the two reports are very clear. I mean the municipalities are very clear, that they are challenges of financial instability. But those challenges are everywhere, whether it be national departments, whether it be a provincial department, and whether it is any other municipality, not necessarily Bela Bela and Modimolle-Mookgopong Municipalities. These are the issues that we need to deal with, and the top leaders, those that occupy the upper echelons of leadership, are the ones who are working on this challenge. We can have these reports here and we cry foul as if indeed, these municipalities are very bad, it is the challenge that is facing all of us in the whole country. It is a challenge that is facing us as honourable Members, it is a challenge that is facing the top echelons of leadership in this House, our MECs, including the Premier.

Of course, the majority of the people are within the 60% which needs training, and they are there also in Bela Bela and Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality and indeed, we need to capacitate them to make sure that they produce results, they produce statements that can indeed be showing that we are going somewhere as a country for the shared prosperity that our people were promised.

Yes, no one has the money, but when there is money, it must be spent properly, it must be recorded properly. The UISW, that was everywhere and in all the departments the they are there. It is only those few municipalities or departments that managed to 'okay' or improve in their financial reporting where you might not necessarily find disclaimers. Previous speakers said something about it, and it is high time that we come up with solution.

So those who are in the top echelons of leadership must assist us and ttrain the majority that is in the 60% and not necessarily concentrate in the lower ranks of leadership, those that change, those that opposes everything, those that always try to put something to make sure that we fall, those ones who are not necessarily supposed to be taken serious, including political parties that has got no solution to some of the problem that we are talking about, because it is only the giant African National Congress that is having leadership that can indeed take this country somewhere, an organisation that has many

years leading and not necessarily destroying other parties, but leading and making sure that they lead and take everybody including those who want to go, go.[APPLAUSE] We will continue doing that and we will never be shaken by anything. We believe that Ramaphosa our President is actually the one that can lead us to that prosperity that we are talking about. Our Premier is the one that will lead us in this province to that prosperity that we are talking about.

I know that there is not enough time, but I believe that if we all work together, that is his promise in the manifesto will go somewhere; we will build better communities. Let us stay forecast at all times and make sure that we are actually guided by what the people want. We are actually guided by the aspirations of our people and not what we ourselves want, because that is how the African National Congress work. We need to be guided by the Freedom Charter; we need to be guided by our own manifestos. It is only the African National Congress that says, we will at all times fight corruption. We will deploy accountable leaders. We will make sure that we train that who we are supposed to train. That is why even in this House, honourable Members that still want to be trained, can be trained so that they can be focused at all times at the problem and not be part of the problem and delay our march to the future that we want. I thank you.[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. Thank you very much. The speaker is Hon Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you, very much. I have laid a very strong foundation at the Capricorn District Municipality. Hon Speaker, it is quite concerning that the Bela Bela municipality incorrectly calculated unauthorised expenditure in the previous year, in contravention of section 125(2)(d) of the MFMA, thereby, understating the unauthorised expenditure by R21 million. The incorrect calculation of an authorised expenditure should not be seen as a mere oversight at face value, it has underlying bad and evil intention to hide corruption or even to give an impression that unauthorised expenditure is not as rife as we may think. It is said that bid committee members do not have capacity hence high irregular expenditure. But how do you assemble a group of incapable people to adjudicate over such an important matter?

We will tell you why you do this. It is precisely because you want people who will rubber stamp wrong things, in particular corruption. You want to channel tenders to underserving family members, friends, comrades and concubines in order to feed their corruption appetite. Internal control systems at the Bela Bela Municipality leaves much to be desired, they do not inspire confidence at all, much like all other municipalities and government departments in the province. Can we get an explanation as to why contracts of the service provider I@Consulting expired on 30 June 2020, yet they were used to provide services in the 2020/21 financial year? Which policy did you use to arrive at this decision?

Furthermore, repairs and maintenance remain significantly inadequate when compared with the municipality's asset values. This results in ailing infrastructure, such as water losses due to pipe bursts, etc. People complain about chronic shortage of water and yet

water is lost through aging infrastructure inherited from apartheid system. Bela Bela Local Municipality must appoint qualified staff, including managers with skills and conversant with their job to avoid over reliance on consultants.

Noting that the municipality is spending a lot of money on ligations and sometimes unnecessary litigations, the municipality must always avoid unwarranted litigations. The MEC must explain to this House why Bela Bela Municipality use same consultants with same scope of work, but money doubled and what the rational of using same consultants is when the contract has expired.

The financial problems of Modimolle-Mookgopong started when the two municipalities merged in August 2016. The merger of the two municipalities was not properly managed, hence the municipality continue to experience the challenges they are currently experiencing. Some of the challenges include too many creditors. Replication of positions, with over 70% of unskilled workers, compounded the problems in the municipality. A proper skills audit must be done and not speak in generic terms. We need to find out how these unskilled workers were employed in the first place and what their qualifications are.

Furthermore, it is also concerning that the municipality has excessive legal bills and the ever-increasing Eskom bill. The EFF has noted that the municipality owes Eskom more than R700 million. This also implies that the municipality is not doing well on revenue collection and also in terms of all other sources of income. This municipality is in a state of financial distress and technically insolvent, hence they tabled an unfunded budget in the 2022/23 financial year. The municipality which is in disarray will not fulfil its constitutional obligation and mandate of delivering services to the people.

Modimolle- Mookgophong Municipality is the highest debtor of Eskom and Magalies Water due to contingent liability from the former municipalities' amalgamation. This is means that the transition was badly handled, hence, such anomalies are expected to happen. The municipality rely heavily on consultants because majority of available staff do not have necessary skills and sufficient/enough engineers.

We need to emphasise the point alluded to earlier on unskilled workers in the municipality. How did the staff members without the necessary skills got to be employed in the municipality? We need to ask this question because it should lead us to the root of the problem. Most of the irregular expenditure was attributed to noncompliance with the supply chain management processes. The municipality did not have measures in place to eliminate unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures. This is a major weakness in the government, a lot of anomalies could be prevented from happening but there is no political will to do so by those in authority, Hon Baiskopo Makamu.

A total of R6.9 million was spent on consultants in the 2019/20 financial year and the amount doubled in the following financial year. This happens because government does not have capacity to perform its own functions and therefore there is over reliance on consultants. The EFF government will abolish the use of consultants and capacitate the state to be in a position to render government functions. The truth is that nothing is working with this government because the ANC is the problem on itself, kamina ka wena will continue, as long as the ANC government is in power. I thank you.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The reason that the committee undertook this effort over the municipality is because of the dysfunctionality of the municipality. The Constitution requires the portfolio committee to participate in meaningful oversight. Following the AG's report on dysfunctional municipalities, the Portfolio Committee identified the 5 worst audit performing municipalities and subsequently conducted its oversight. Bela Bela municipality was one, following their disclaimer audit opinion of 2020/21, and their inability to spend their grant funding. The municipality's unauthorised expenditure ballooned from R29,988m in 2019/20 to R70,995 million in 2020/21. Irregular expenditure increased from R67,344m in 2019/20 to R98,707 in 2020/21 and fruitless and wasteful was R1,922 billion 2019/20 and R834m in 2020/21. These figures clearly demonstrate the lack of due processes, lack of implementing treasury regulations and the disregard of various respective legislation.

Bela Bela municipality managed to spend only 50% of its grant allocation, underspending it by R12,7 million. Other grants received by the municipality during 2020/21 financial year include Water Services Infrastructure Grant of R32 million and expenditure was R24,687 million, only spending 76% of that allocation; WSIG-schedule 6B, it only managed to spend 58% of R3,819 million and a total expenditure of R1,743 million.

Noting that 69% of people in Limpopo has access to water makes this a human rights violation. R8,35 million was spent on financial consultants and when evaluating the 3 companies being consistently utilised, it does create an impression of maleficence by the municipality. The total number of lawsuits proved to be a liability. There are cases of the municipal fleet that was previously recorded where 40 vehicles were procured and were leased to the municipality by the Dikala Plant Hire for pool vehicles with a 36 months operating lease contract. Maintenance remains significantly inadequate when compared with the municipal asset base. This results in ailing infrastructure, such as water losses due to pipe bursts. The municipality is unable to connect nearly 2500 houses and all the stands in the municipality.

The Portfolio Committee noted with regret that Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality is in financial distress due to a high salary bill for staff as a result of amalgamation because no retrenchments were done. This resulted in the municipality having duplication in every position. The municipality has excessive legal bills, and the ever-increasing Eskom bill makes it difficult for the municipality to honour its commitments.

Modimolle-Mookgophong is one of the three municipalities in the province with a high Eskom debt. The municipality owes Eskom more than R700 million. In the 2017/18 financial year, the municipality used R8 million of WSIG for operational matters and the National Treasury forced the municipality to repay this money. The 2020/21 AG report shows that the municipality obtained a qualified audit opinion. Unauthorised of R392 million and R374 million respectively and irregular expenditure of R76 million and R32 million, fruitless, and wasteful (UIFW) expenditures of R55 million and R2,7 million. The CFO indicated that they needed an estimated R12 million to replace almost 9 000 water

meters in the municipality. The R22,9 million MIG funds surrendered by the municipality could have been utilised to purchase these water meters.

Other conditional grants allocated to the municipality are Integrated National Electrification Programme grant that was allocated R1,7 million and there was zero expenditure, INEP-Municipality was allocated R10 million and there was also no expenditure, Government Financial Management Grant was allocated R2,6 million, of which of which 20,7% expenditure was recorded of R539,000. Water Services Infrastructure Grant was allocated R20 million and there was zero expenditure, and EPWP was allocated R2,245 million, and the expenditure that was recorded was 72, 3% or R1,624 million. Consultant fees doubled from R6,9 million to R13,7 million, clearly indicating the inability by the municipality to manage its financial affairs. Despite these challenges, it remains incumbent on the department to assist and guide officials to improve audit reports and service delivery. It is, therefore, imperative Hon MEC, that the various reports that come to your office, that the province need to act and give guidance on are attended to in order to turn these municipalities around. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable committee chair, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Greetings again to you, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, members in the gallery, members of the media, and members in the different platforms. Since the advent of democracy, we have laid down the principles that ensure that municipalities are transparent and accountable to the communities they serve. We have brought governance closer to the communities so that they feel that their expectations are met, hence the visit by the Portfolio Committee to the municipalities of Belabela and Modimolle-Mookgophong. A clear case of Kamina ka wena is displayed in Modimolle-Mookgophong, because there is a government of national unity because of the reds and the blues. The Modimolle-Mookgophong remains one of the municipalities, not only in the province but also in the country, that are greatly indebted to Eskom. The Democratic Alliance-led municipality in coalition with the Economic Freedom Fighters owes the power utility nothing less than R700 million.

We visited both Bela Bela and Modimolle-Mookgophong in order to find facts and deduce the truth therein. It is said that the true test of democracy is the extent to which we can ensure that municipalities remain answerable to the people. We must do this by maintaining constant monitoring of government's actions so that we can evaluate whether our good intentions are successful or not. We move in this regard as we would like to address this august House to the truths discovered of the two municipalities one that is Belabela and two being Modimolle-Mookgophong after we got the facts.

The oversight role conducted at these municipalities has given light on the tough operations that they are faced with and also how money has been spent. The Bela Bela Local Municipality received a disclaimer audit outcome in the financial year 2020/21, as reported by the AG SA. This audit outcome painted a gloomy picture that the municipality

is dysfunctional and therefore, requires much attention. CoGHSTA, with its constitutional powers, must intervene through provision of consistent support and capacitate the financial section of that municipality. For a situation like that in a municipality of that stature, which is a town itself, simply implied that services were not adequately rendered to the citizens.

We must also ask if the municipality has a plan to create employment for the people it must serve. As the Portfolio Committee, we have a responsibility to hold the municipality accountable on how the taxpayer's money is spent, and not only that, but also start resuscitating service delivery in that municipality. We were concerned by the fact that the municipality, instead of delivering services, it was the defendant of litigation cases which were brought against municipality. However, for those litigations, the municipality did not make provision for liabilities in the annual financial statements. Those litigations were in connection with the municipal fleet. We further advised that the municipality must avoid unnecessary litigations and its focus should be on the constitutional mandate, to deliver services.

CoGHSTA must also play its role in ensuring that staff is trained, not just trained but adequately trained to ensure that contracts entered into with service providers are fulfilled to the end. The municipality must institute consequence management against officials involved, which should not only be a rhetoric, Hon Mdaka. We have made recommendations in our report, as the Committee concerning this unfavourable truth, and the municipality must therefore implement them. All hope is not lost, we are pleased to report to this august House that the visit to this institution and overall, the intervention by the department its fortunes have been turned for the better. It gives us great pride as the Portfolio Committee that the municipality is under the tutelage of a determined woman by the name of Gloria Seleka. I thought Hon Makhurupetje will be the one to clap hands to the success of this municipality. On that note honourable MEC, we really applaud the effort that you are affording these municipalities, because from our previous financial report in the 2020/21 in the entire province we have had two disclaimer outcomes. To date, we only have one disclaimer audit outcome which is Mopani District Municipality, Bela Bela which used to be part of the disclaimer audit outcome. It is now out of the red and we do really do appreciate the effort made by the department.

On that note, let us also send words of salutation to Municipality of Polokwane, where in the previous four years four years they had received a qualified audit opinion but in the current financial year, they have received an unqualified audit opinion. All thanks to the honourable MEC.

The reason for the Committee to conduct an oversight visit to Modimolle-Mookgophong municipality is that the state of Local Government report declared that the municipality is one of the dysfunctional municipalities in the province. We have also reported here that it has been highlighted and flagged as one of the worst performing municipalities in the country, not in the province, with regards to the debt to Eskom.

The municipal performance in relation to spending on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant was not good. The audit opinion was reported to be qualified by the Auditor-General for the period 2020/21 financial year. The municipality could not spend hundred percent of

its MIG for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. This is an implication that the community that the municipality serves and is still serving, could not receive services. The department of CoGHSTA must be hard at work to help the municipality to get out of this dire situation. It is of utmost importance that CoGHSTA ensures that the officials working in the finance section of Bela Bela and Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipalities are forced to undergo training on the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements.

We were also concerned that in Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality, the contract of I@Consulting expired on the 30 June 2020, yet the municipality continued to give them work until 2020/2021 financial year. This is, now, a clear case of “Kamina kawena”. This implied that the contract was not in line with the Municipal Finance Management Act. This also brings the knowledge and skill of the Chief Financial Officer into question. The challenge is the lack of the municipality to institute consequence management.

We implore upon CoGHSTA to ensure that these municipalities are assisted to get out of this unfavourable situation so that the two institutions could be able to give the people in that municipality the adequate service delivery that is envisaged or planned.

“It is small comfort to a mouse, if an elephant is standing on its tail, to say ‘I am impartial.’ in this instance, you are really supporting the elephant in its cruelty.” That was said by Desmond Tutu. This honourable committee will not we would never and will never stand on the side of the injustice. On that note, we brought courage and resilience of Amilcar Cabral when he said, “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...” Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu to come and respond to observation made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and the honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Members of the Executive Council, the chairperson and the Members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Members of the august House, and other officials that are here. Ladies and gentlemen who are with us today.

Let me first appreciate the comments and observation by the portfolio committee on CoGHSTA on the annual report, and on the first quarter report, and also on the oversight that they have done in Bela Bela and Modimolle-Mookgophong. Let me indicate that we accept that the department has been sitting on a qualified audit opinion that we are no longer welcoming to be on that state, we should have improved for a clean audit. Part of the work that we are doing, in that regard on administration, is to stabilise senior management of the department. One of the issues is that we have just appointed a

capable woman in the form of an accounting officer, who is with me here today, who was appointed from 01 January 2023, who will take the department forward. [APPLAUSE]

It does not necessary end there, we have already appointed, we have already appointed a DDG responsible for human settlements, who has also accompanied the HOD in this gathering, who has started from 01 March 2023, Mr Mogala, he is with the HOD there. One of the issues that was making us not necessarily to perform and deal with the mismanagement or misstatement of financial statements is that we were living with an acting CFO in the department. We have concluded the recruitment process. The CFO who is capable will be starting to work in the department from 01 of April 2023. So that is the issue that we were trying to resolve at that level to stabilise the administration so that we can improve and bring better services to our people.

On the issue of human settlements, it is not an issue that can be disputed by anybody, including the ANC here, about the fact that there is consistent underspending on the conditional grants. Honourable Members here have given their observations, which I fully agree with the majority that there cannot be continuation of underspending of conditional grants when this movement deployed us there and said, there shall be houses for all, and we do not deliver on that. The current HOD has been given a clear mandate by the MEC that any other person who has contributed to any poor performance, in terms of this conditional grants, which is the USLPG should be taken to task, and I think I will get an opportunity one day in this august House to report on the actions, but not necessarily love letters that say we will be able to deal with that.

I think that we will be able to do, but it will be important to clarify certain things that are said about a number of projects, for example, Marapong, CRU, Talane, TRUs at the Tubatse land that, this ANC government has taken serious steps in making sure that we combat and act on a number of wrongdoing in those projects, and I can assure you that the Marapong CRU which was started in 2016/17 financial year is now on course. We have resolved contractual challenges that were bewitching that project to an extent that now is running and we will be able to conclude that project. We will come and give progress to this House.

I think the Talane matter, honourable Member, we came to this House and gave the reports, we have the SIU reports, people have been arrested by the Hawks. For your information, there was no single official from the Department of CoGHSTA who was involved with that project. Of course, it is our responsibility, because it is our money in the had, but all those people have been attended to.

The Tubatse land that people speak about, it is us, even before other people could raise it anywhere in the corridor that we commissioned an investigation, and it has been concluded. The matter is with the Hawks, I continue to get an update on the matter. Unfortunately, I am not so sure why there are changes, more especially, with the investigators. Some are going to resign, but not necessarily related to the matter, but the matter is being followed through by us with the Hawks to make sure that whoever has done wrong faces consequences. That is why the R108 million of the Tubatse land remains in our book as a fruitless and wasteful expenditure until such time the AG says,

bring us a report on the actions that you have taken. We have not slept on duty on that matter. We are busy with that.

Of course, there are projects that we are running, the asbestos project that we can't run away to the fact that the apartheid government gave our people something that will deal with their health and as and when we are trying to do new things, we also go back and that cannot be hidden from our people. We are removing asbestos in Seshego, Hon Mapoulo. I have been there, making sure that I play an oversight over the project, and that project is running properly. We will continue in phases. In the province, we almost have 8 000 houses with asbestos, which we are continuing to make sure that each and every financial year a particular number of asbestos roofs is removed from the houses of our people.

On corporate governance, I acknowledge the poor state of our municipalities and the support has been given. We currently had our session with all the Mayors, MMS, Technical Services directors and CFOs, in trying to want to deal with the issue of mixed spending, because you would remember the acceptance, I have heard all the Members speaking about the issue of the use of consultants. Together with the Office of the Premier and the MEC for Treasury, we have developed a strategy, you will recall that it is a leadership strategy to the use of consultants, which we are implementing, and we are targeting those municipalities which are using more, in terms of consultants, but not getting improved audit outcomes. We are targeting those municipalities and we are working on that.

We also looked at the issue of appointments, and I think honourable Members will know now that the Systems Amendment Act says that, the appointment of senior managers reporting to municipal managers from the 01 of November becomes a permanent appointment, which will strive to stabilise local government and professionalise local governments, because there will be people who are appointed permanently.

I may not want to contest Hon Smalle that most of the municipalities are dysfunctional in the province. Maybe the quantifying the word 'most', is what is problematic. We have 27 municipalities in this province, all of them. Using all the measures we are having, it is only three municipalities which are said to be dysfunctional in the whole province, and they are Modimolle-Mookgopong, Lepelle-Nkumpi and Mogalakwena. All of us here would agree that the improvements that are taking place in Mogalakwena, not very long, that municipality would have gone out of the dysfunctional categories of municipalities. We are supporting Lepelle-Nkumpi, we are not so sure whether we will succeed, and I will come back to that point of Modimolle-Mookgopong.

On the support of the traditional leaders, it is this government which even put it in the Constitution when we came into power to recognise traditional leaders as an institution that needs to be supported and this provincial government has never, since 1994, Hon Mopoulo, abandoned such a task, we even provide traditional councils. If you can do research and go to other provinces, you will not necessarily see what this province is doing to our traditional institutions. Hon Seshoka will be a testimony that whenever he leaves home he will be able to see this ANC government building a traditional councils where he comes from.

There is an allegation that we are fuelling disputes in traditional councils, as this government, more especially in the mining area. I want this House to learn two words of English in that, royal families are the ones who appoint senior traditional leaders. Government recognises what the family has appointed. It is not vis a versa. Whenever there is a dispute, it is the royal family that is fighting and that is what makes the government not to proceed. So you should be able to, Hon Seshoka, know better, because, I, sometimes engage with them when the royal families are fighting in the area where he comes from. He may make noise for the benefit of political expediency here, but the fact is that royal families are the ones who appoint and we recognise what they would have appointed.

On the Kgatla Commission that you speak about, it is us who said, and all the traditional leaders have agreed that there has traditional leaders who been promoted and demoted by the apartheid government and what mechanism can we use to resolve such challenges. We, therefore, agreed on the commission of enquiry and in this regards Kgatla Commission was created to resolve those issues. Us, as government, we continue to implement the recommendation of Kgatla Commission, but traditional leaders themselves are the ones who are challenging the report and we continue to support those that the commission has said they are the rightful ones. We did not necessarily have a choice to have a report that we would not necessarily be implementing ourselves. Hence, we continue to implement the report.

On the part of the oversight to the two municipalities, I must indicate that I appreciate the chair of the committee for having chosen these two municipalities, and I think they represent the two sides of the coin. You will be able to see that Bela Bela has been getting a disclaimer audit opinion, Hon Mapoulo, and utilising the powers that are there in the Systems Act in terms of section 106, it says: When the MEC for local government in the province has a got reason to believe that there could be a maladministration, corruption and those all other things, he may invoke section 106 and call for a rapid assessment. We, perfectly, did that as this provincial government; and we had a report and took the support to that municipality, hence you can see that movement that we are seeing that, that municipality has gone out of disclaimer to where it is now. You must congratulate them because the mayor of that municipality, Cllr Gloria Seleka, who was cooperating with the department in ensuring that we support the municipality.

However, the other side that you will get from Modimolle-Mookgopong, and that's where the notion of kamina ka wena is a problem. In fact, you rightfully said it that the problem started in 2016, not even now. What happened in 2016, those are the facts and the truth. There was a coalition government there, EFF, DA and FF+ in 2016. That's what happened. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

There was never a coalition. You do not know the meaning of coalition, I see. There was never a coalition there. No, there was never a coalition between the EFF and the Democratic Party.

[CROSS-TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, honourable MEC. Hon Seshoka, may you please respect this august House. May you please respect this House, you were given an opportunity and now it is the opportunity for the MEC to respond, may you allow the MEC to proceed Hon Seshoka and respect this august House. No no no.

MR SESHOKA

You cannot mention us and expect us to keep quiet.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, may I finish? You were also quoting others in your debate, saying whatever you were saying about the MEC during your debate and the MEC was quiet, can you please allow the MEC to respond. Sit down, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

You cannot say I am disrespecting the House.

THE SPEAKER

You are continuously disrespecting this august House. Sit down and allow the MEC to proceed. Sit down and keep quiet and allow the MEC to respond, because you were given an opportunity.

MR SESHOKA

But he must not misrepresent the truth. There was never that coalition.

THE SPEAKER

Sit down, Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

I am down now, what are you saying.

MR SELANE

O a rasa. There is no coalition there, we just voted with them.

MR SESHOKA

Mara le wena o a rasa, Che.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

THE MEC FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Let me conclude by talking about the support we are giving to support our municipalities, including getting clean audits. We have two of them. One in the Waterberg district municipality and the other in the Capricorn District Municipality. There is a number of municipalities that are qualified, and we are working with them. I think it is the deployment of the African National Congress, which has taken those municipalities to task without fear or favour.

Then Cllr Mamedupi's municipality was on unqualified audit opinion and now it has a clean audit opinion. That woman should be given recognition, without other people coming to claim victory from behind. If they want to say that we can clearly see victory, they should come this side and claim it properly.

The other thing we should be able to say is that, honourable Members, we have heard you about the issue of Sekhukhune, that the municipality lost R5.4 million, but ended up hiring people to recover it for R5,4 million. That we have already started to work with the municipality to recover the money, and we will have an opportunity to update the House.

Let me appreciate the fact that the chairperson and the committee interrogated these reports, we would take them. We would not necessarily respond to everything that has been raised, but I brought the team it will be able to work and continue to come and update the House on the resolutions that the committee has taken and appreciate the guidance that we get, and we will continue to work with them. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, MEC Makamu for the response.

7.4 Consideration and adoption of the Portfolio Committee

I call upon the committee chair. Honourable Members may you leave Hon Seshoka alone please.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Allow me to greet all honourable Members that are here, and all the ladies and gentlemen that are here. U rhandza ku pfhapfhapfha wena, yima ndzi tirha mina. Hon Speaker, I Mathye Susani Violet rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee to present the 2022/23 first quarter report for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second Hon Mathye, the chairperson of education. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, let us go to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker, Mme Rosemarry Reneiloe Molapo and the Deputy Speaker in absentia; Hon Premier in absentia, Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa; Hon Chair of Chairs, Mme Sarah Monyamane, and the Deputy Chair; the Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana and his deputy; honourable Members of the Executive Council of the provincial Legislature; the honourable chairpersons of different portfolio committees; members of portfolio committees and all honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, ladies and gentlemen in the gallery, I greet you all.

Education is fundamental to the aspiration of the province in relation to growth and development, and let us be determined to give every child every opportunity to develop the knowledge, the skills and attitudes to make a positive contribution to society. The strategic plan highlights four areas in which the department officials have identified as challenges and has to work as a team which are: finance, human resource, development, excellent performance, satisfaction of stakeholders and communities.. As we are still at the first quarter, let me reflect from the last quarter, 2021/22, taking a glance at the achievements, areas of improvement and using the opportunities we have for growth and development.

As it is procedural, the department briefed the portfolio committee on its 2022/23 first quarter financial and performance report on 01 September 2022. The committee met for consideration and adoption of the portfolio committee report on the 2022/23 first quarter financial and performance report of the Department of Education on 17 November 2022. The briefing provided the portfolio committee with a clear illustration of whether the department's planning process was accurate and targets were well planned.

In terms of the early child development, as a committee, we are pleased that the department is determined to eradicate illiteracy, making early-childhood development a core priority and further improving quality of teaching and learning in schools. The department has made preschool education compulsory and has fully integrated Grade R into formal schooling. The department is working with other departments, as well as the non-profit and private sectors to strengthen early childhood development. The department

is determined to ensure that every child has a textbook for every subject before the start of their first school term and therefore, commits to improving textbook retrieval.

Some ECD centres had challenges with their CSD and have not renewed their departmental registration, a solution is currently sought to mitigate the risk by using BAS to pay quarterly subsidy. The department also received 54 ECD centres from DSD who were to benefit from maintenance improvements and upgrades.

The portfolio committee approached the department for purposes of assuring that strategies to address these challenges are in place. Hence, we all understand that finance is a major challenge in the department due to financial constraints. The committee recommends that the department has to find relevant approaches to improve modalities of efficiencies within the system, therefore, managing costs and ensuring optimal use of limited resources remains critical. Let department have a will to implement strategies to reduce and manage the compensation budget.

In terms of examination and education related services, this programme has four sub-programmes, namely: the payment of SETAs; the conditional grants; external examinations; professional services and special projects. The department spent 32,9% by the first quarter, underspending by 1.2% due to underspending on compensation of employees, of which the expenditure would improve after the payment of invigilators of markers, invigilators and monitors for May 2022 exams.

Marking was scheduled for July 2022, spending on goods and services was also slow because of Grade 12 May/June 2022 exam. The department is commended to be committed on improving the spending of their budget on every public school in the basic education sector. Apart from accelerating the construction, maintenance, upgrading and rehabilitation of new and existing infrastructure, portfolio committee welcomes the department's plans to provide schools with water and sanitation, and to replace schools constructed with inappropriate materials such as mud.

On public ordinary schools, this is an open secret that public education is quite important because it is one way through which people get equipped with the right tools to escape poverty. It is also an avenue through which people learn the basic skills they will use to work for the rest of their lives. Public education is, thus, important because it gives a fair platform for all to learn, irrespective of class or one's financial status. In this programme, the department spent 25.4% of its allocated budget in this quarter, and only one performance indicator has been reported on why the rest are due for reporting, mainly in the fourth quarter. The committee recommends that the supply chain has to work out their schedules on time to avoid disappointment of under spending.

On public special schools, the therapeutic special education programme incorporates academic behavioural and emotional support in a comprehensive learning environment to help each child achieve new skills and confidence; and returned to their home school district with the best chance of success. This programme spent 27.6% of the total budget allocated during the quarter under review. All the performance indicators were due for reporting in quarter four. The department was requested to brief the committee on the status of special schools in the province, regarding availability of human resources and

infrastructure. As for 2022/23, the department had 28 specialists based in special schools. These were nurses, 18 of them, therapists two and social workers eight.

In terms of infrastructure, it has been reported that the conditional assessment currently underway will cover special schools and provide a comprehensive state of this infrastructure. MEC, parents participation of a child with a disability must be a member of any group that makes decisions regarding the placement of their child. Parents have a right of notification of all meetings regarding their child's placement, access to planning and evaluation materials and notification of any planned evaluation. I am raising this point out of one disturbing issue in Botlokwa Special School, where all learners were taken home following chickenpox outbreak and teachers were left stuck with one learner and said his parents do not want him. Full involvement of parents is encouraged, and needs serious workshops for both parents and teachers.

As I am closing, what we want to see is schools that deliver books to our children the fact is that the vast majority of our country want to live together in harmony and want to improve the quality of life for all who live in our country. What we do not need in our country is division, what we do need is unity and compassion for one another. Yes, we will face challenges, and there is no doubt that there are more difficult times ahead. However, we will overcome those challenges, if we keep in mind this central goal: The unity, equality and wellbeing of our children. We will overcome all those challenges if we all work together to achieve the vision of equality, education for every child in every classroom in every school in Limpopo. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. I call upon Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Allow me to greet the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Tshilidzi Maraga, as well as honourable Members in the House. Honourable Speaker, the EFF is disappointed by the massive under-expenditure practice in the department of Education' as noted during the period under review. In fact, all programmes underspent by the highest expenditure was on crucial programmes such as Public Ordinary Schools Education followed by Examination and Education Related Services, Early Childhood Development, Administration and Infrastructure Development. The entire report of the Department is marred with under expenditure, truth be told, this department does not inspire confidence at all.

Underspending on infrastructure projects was due to poor performance by the contractors. If we may ask, MEC, how contracts were terminated and how many service providers were blacklisted from doing business with your department? Is there any screening and vetting process for background checks on contractors, because the majority of them are unscrupulous and bogus chance-takers. The total under-expenditure of R440,095 million was noted during the period under review. This money could have been used to further advance the mandate of the department, which is to achieve excellence in provisioning of innovative quality basic education.

Furthermore, the mission of your department is to achieve this by providing quality and innovative education programmes for learners across all grades through excellence, professionalism, innovation and integrity. You will not achieve this noble vision, as long as your department continues to underspend budgets and as long as there are no punitive measures on officials who continue to under spend money which is supposed to improve the lives of the people. Under expenditure compromises service delivery and unfortunately consequence management does not apply in the current administration.

Officials do as they wish, because they know there is no punishment for laziness to spend money for the betterment of the lives of the people. The underspending of 1.1 % was mainly as a result of non-filling of posts within the classification on Compensation of Employees (COE). This department is also allergic to filling of posts and therefore, service delivery does not reach the citizens of Limpopo.

It is a pity that we are being led by people who do not understand the impact of their actions on service delivery, and the people, especially the poorest of the poor, has the specifications for the e-learning platform and ICT resources to be supplied to schools finalised? If not, why not? Can we also get an update on progress made to date since the relocation of ECD from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. As far as we know, there has not been a smooth transition because the transition was badly handled.

Some ECD centres had challenges with their CSD and others had not renewed their departmental registrations which is testimony to the fact that the migration was badly managed. Procurement for mobile classrooms and school furniture had not started during the period under review, pending the completion of deliveries from the previous financial year. The province is experiencing serious shortage of school infrastructure, in particular classrooms and yet, the government is still postponing procurement of mobile classrooms.

Can the MEC assure us that procurement of laptops, desktop and printing equipment for Presidential Youth Employment Initiative has been completed. If so, when and if not, why not? Furthermore, can the MEC also update this House on projects, plans and commitments made both in SOPA by the Premier and in the Budget Speech by the MEC. The people of Limpopo want to know if they have been taken for granted or whether something is being done about these commitments made. The EFF does not only make commitments, but we make commitments and fulfil them. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

I call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Sanitation facilities in our schools continue to be a challenge that has drastically affected the learning experience of our learners in the province. It is with this backdrop that it is disappointing that the department failed to meet its target with

regard to the number of schools supplied with sanitation facilities. The infrastructure backlogs experienced continue to infringe on education of an adequate quality in Limpopo and have a negative effect on public schools, especially disadvantaged schools. Although the department is already conducting a conditional assessment of all its school infrastructure, we hope that once it is completed, a comprehensive plan is provided to accelerate the provision of infrastructure.

Underspending is reflected in many programmes in the first quarter. The department underspent in Early Childhood Development at R54,59 million, Infrastructure development at R20,1 million, Examination and Education related services at R120,9 million and Administration at R20,384 million. It is extremely worrying that the large amounts of underspending and other challenges exemplified by the department's poor planning and lack of oversight that continue to hinder education in the province seem to carry over from previous financial years unaddressed.

The non-filling of posts across programmes has also resulted in an underspending in the Compensation of Employees. It is vital that the filling of posts by qualified personnel is prioritised to address some of the pressures on our education system. Specific focus must be given to filling therapist and specialists' positions in special schools for our learners with disabilities, as this is the sector of our education that has been ignored and neglected for far too long.

Underspending in programme 2 was largely due to late submissions of the scholar transport and feeding programme invoices by our service providers. Service providers need to be encouraged to submit invoices in a timely manner to allow the department to monitor their expenditure more efficiently. The transfer of funds to Maths, Science and Technology (MST) Schools for procurement of resources is also a move in the right direction in efforts to equip schools for a meaningful intervention that improves the performance of learners in these subjects.

In programme 4, the underspending in the Learners with Profound Intellectual Disabilities Grant is a bit concerning, considering that special school education in this province is under-resourced, these funds need to be well spent with value for money services to ensure we address challenges affecting our special needs learners. We welcome the development that requisitions were submitted for the procurement of stationery, medical first aid kits and psychological test materials in the first quarter and will further equip our special school education in Limpopo.

The Early Childhood Development programme underspent by 8,5%, once again due to underspending on the Compensation of Employees. The department needs to correct the situation and ensure that expenditure for appointed officials is being debited from the ECD grant and not administration, which resulted in this large underspending. ECD grant funding also needs to be transferred to ECD centres in a prompt manner to ensure their operation without disruption. The Infrastructure Development Programme underspent,, and this is also due to vacancies not being filled. The delay in procurement of mobile classrooms and school furniture not starting due to the pending completion of the previous financial year's delivery will only exacerbate infrastructure issues in the province.

Further challenges in slow turnaround times in sourcing service providers for the maintenance and repairs of buildings, as well as underspending on infrastructure projects due to poor performance by contractors show the failure and inefficiency of the department. Improved project management and monitoring are necessary to ensure timely maintenance and repairs, but also that infrastructure projects are of good quality, within budget and are delivered on time. In essence, the first quarter had recurring issues across programmes that require the filling of posts, ensuring procurement and payment processes are concluded on time, the need to follow up on timely submission of requisitions and invoices for payment and the better management of infrastructure projects. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Leaders of Opposition Parties; Members of this House and guests, I greet you all.

Going through the report, it is clear that the Department of Education in totality is failing the learners by underspending R440 million from Early Childhood Development until grade 12, and including Administration and Infrastructure Development. The department, always, wants more funds, but when given the funds they do not spend it accurately or do not spend it at all.

The Freedom Front Plus believes that to build a successful community, there must be education for children. The department is failing because there are still classrooms that are falling apart, there are still pit toilets and every year promises are made to eradicate pit toilets, however, after almost three decades the problem is increasing.

There are so many vacant positions that are not being filled and it is the children that must suffer under this maladministration, and it is not fair on our children. The department blames the contractors for poor performance, which is not acceptable, if the contractors aren't doing their job on time, they should lose the contract, pay penalties and other contractors must come in and start working. We cannot accept that in every report it's the contractors' fault, we will never get anywhere if the department doesn't hold the contractors accountable. The department must improve their planning so that the same issues are not repeated every quarter. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. I call upon honourable committee chair, Hon Mathye.

[APPLAUSE]

MS MATHYE

A hi mina. Violet, it is unparliamentary. I am Hon Violet Mathye. You cannot call me Violet. U rhandza mpfhampfhampfa wena. A wu na tindleve kambe le to khavisa u na tona. You can't do that.

Hon Speaker, Mme Rosemary Molapo, Hon Premier, honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, all protocol observed. Good afternoon.

Life is based on development and that developing and growing is life. If we respect this view of the perspective of education, we can sum it up that education is an all round development of the individual's personality. The core function of the Department of Education is teaching and learning. In 2022, this function was carried out, in spite of all challenges that our system is still facing and we are all still on the recovery period from COVID-19 pandemic.

Progress made on the commitment made in the 2021/22. It has been reported that the department spent R9,2 billion, which is 25,3% of the total main Appropriations Bill of R36,4 billion as at 30 June 2022. This has resulted in an underexpenditure of R440 million, which is 1,2% when compared with the original projection of R9.6 billion of 26.5%. The committee has raised a red flag as a result of underexpenditure, while the mandate of the department needs to be expressed to issues of access to education by building schools, providing learner and teaching support materials, providing learner transport where possible, also providing nutritious meals for learners. All these are factors which are indirectly leading to the provision of access to education. As the committee, we encourage the committee to listen and engage partners in their work through intentional collaboration, and this collaboration includes learners, parents, families, educators and leaders across sectors, because Department of Education won't be able to accomplish any of these if they try it alone.

Let our goals and actions today be driven by what we are hearing from the report and what we see during oversight visits. Hon MEC, it is time level up in education, let us also remove silos between systems designed to work together to serve the same families across Limpopo. That means strengthening our partnerships with our colleagues at the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Health and Safety and Security to support children, their families, and the entire communities is important.

The portfolio committee will continue to paddle down its work so that all schools, truly, can be houses of their communities where learners and families are connected to the resources and services they need. There is a need to be on the same team because we serve the same families, if a child is hungry, live in an unstable housing, or live in an unhealthy conditions, their chances for learning will be diminished. Let it be hands on the deck in the Hon Mathabatha's administration.

The department spent 3,6% of its allocated budget on administration. The department reported that all the 3 684 targeted public ordinary schools were able to use SA Science to collect electronically provided data. The underspending of 1,1% was mainly as a result of non-filling of posts within the classification of Compensation of Employees. As the Department of Education Limpopo, we are inspired by the life achievement and teachings

of President Oliver Reginald Tambo on the essence of his life, achievements, teaching and unity, and an understanding that no one is an island and no one can achieve alone, that we must at all times remain part of the collective and articulate the wishes and concerns of the collective. It is from these teachings that the department seeks to nurture, inculcate values that bind the education family and creates ethos of respect, discipline and work hard at all levels.

On independent schools programme, the department realised an underspending of 0,2% as a result of underperforming or a non-compliant school, which was not paid. One school, Ntlhatlole indepednt school underperformed in the 2021 Grade 12 results, which led to the subsidy being withdrawn under secondary phase of 2022 school academic year. Support visit was provided to the school regarding the underperformance and the principal assured that extra lessons were initiated, and even intended to put more efforts on what was lacking in that previous year.

The department was requested to brief the committee on the monitoring of qualifications of teachers in independent schools, availability of teaching and teacher learning material and the usage thereof. The committee was informed that the department assesses the qualifications of educators employed in the independent schools on two occasions. Firstly, during the time when they apply for registration and secondly by Umalusi when independent schools apply for accreditation, as they offer CAPS curriculum so that their children or their learners can be certificated.

On Early Child Development, the department spent 16,1% of the programmes allocation in the quarter under review. Performance reporting is planned for reporting in quarter four. The committee asked the department to give an update on progress made to date, since the relocation of ECD from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. For noting honourable Members, science shows that life is a story for which the beginning set the tone. That makes the earliest of childhood a time for great opportunity, but also a great risk. Children's brains are built moment by moment, as they interact with their environment. In the first few years of life, more than R1 billion neural connections are formed each second. A pace never repeated again. The quality of a child's early experience makes a critical difference as their brains develop. Providing either strong or weak foundations for learning, health and behavioural patterns throughout the life.

On infrastructure development, the department has spent 4,4% of the budget allocated to the programme in quarter one. All performance indicators under this programme are due for reporting in the last quarter of the financial year. Procurement for mobile classrooms and school furniture has not started, pending the completion of deliveries from the previous financial year. There was a challenge of turnaround time in sourcing service providers for the maintenance and repairs for buildings and non-availability of some members of the evaluation committee.

Underspending on infrastructure project was due to poor performance by the contractors, as said by other Members. As the committee, we applaud the termination of their contract by the department. Any place can be a good place to read and learn from those who love to read and study. The importance of a school infrastructure plays a vital role in reading

and learning in a positive environment. This goes beyond the belief that for knowledge, a building is immaterial, space does not matter and physical context is secondary. However, if we look at this in the reality of education system, the position of the school directly impact the performance of the learner.

The committee recommends that the department accomplishes the following before the end of the third quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. The infrastructure programme should be enhanced to address infrastructural challenges to support these schools. The department must ensure that project plans and commitments made both in SOPA by the Premier and in the Budget Speech by the department, MEC, are reported on quarterly bases, for example, relocation of the ECD to education, provision of ICT facilities for learners in secondary and primary schools, construction of new classrooms and schools, eradication of pit toilets.

In conclusion, thus, in the end we find that education has a significant for achieving success, building characters and for living wholesome and happy life. Therefore, the committee after scrutinising the 2022/23 first quarter performance report of the Department of Education, moves that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker and thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Honourable committee chair, Hon Mathye. We shall now call the Hon MEC for Education, Hon MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ndi masiari.

BACKGROUND

Avhudi!

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Let me take this time and thank you for the time that you have allocated to me, and also take this time and greet honourable Members of the House. Colleagues who are also in the executive, but most importantly, let me greet the chairperson of the committee of education and all the other Members of the committee, also the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs in the House and honourable Members that are here with us this morning.

I want to start by thanking the committee and all the Members led by the chairperson Hon Violet Mathye in pursuing the debate, in terms of us as the department, because you will remember that the work that they do as they go out and come back, and go and verify the reports but also what is important is for them to read the document as they do the presentation and we can attest to the debate this morning that, indeed, they have

thoroughly scrutinised our document. I want to take this time to thank the committee, because when they do that, they are actually giving us support as a department.

I want to also confirm that this morning, that when we talk about the posts that all the reports of the first quarter for 2022/23, which were just there and have not been advertised, we all know that the posts have now been advertised, and more especially the posts for the special schools. We have advertised posts for the special schools and as we speak, we have not only advertised for the professionals, the non-professionals that give support to the learners, but also to the special schools where they should be able to have a boarding, we have also advertised those as well. I think you will know that as a department we have, since the presentation of the report, advertised the post for nurses, psychiatrist and social workers. I think we can confirm that that is in order, as the honourable Members were raising it.

When it comes to special schools, you would remember that we are noting what the Members are raising about Botlokwa, but I can confirm that the first phase of construction under infrastructure in Rivoni should be done by October/December. You will remember that we had delay, and in that area, even yesterday it was raining heavily. We have a delay but the first phase, which the second phase will be inclusive of the first aid space which then the social workers and the psychiatrists would be able to stay there. Otherwise, in October, we would be inviting honourable Members to say let us go to Rivoni and handover the facility.

I also want to say that, in terms of infrastructure, we are not blaming the implementing agent, what we have done is that we have sat with the implementing agent, myself and the HOD and reviewed the service level agreement(SLA) that we have with them. We are saying those that they have been unable to perform, we will not be able to renew the mandate when the time comes, because and otherwise we are not balancing the budget. That is the first thing.

On the infrastructure, on the second issue is that we have since advertised and concluded on the first phase of a panel. The panel that we have bought as a department will be dealing with the maintenance of the schools. I just want to say that, honourable Members are aware that there are roles that are supposed to be constructive and these those which we are doing maintenance. We have since finalised the first phase of the panel, there would be another advert of the panel so that we can a bigger team to deal with the maintenance and be able to spend on our Budget.

On sanitation, let me report to the House that by the end of March 127 sanitation project will be handed over to the schools that are being done by our implementing agency, DBSA. That one we can confirm. We have got good news, yesterday myself and the Department of Water and Sanitation, through the office of the Deputy Minister, Hon Mahlobo, have opened the first solution in a school where through the Department of Water and Sanitation, dealing with sanitation, the solution is changing the pit latrines into water bole, where there is water. When there is no water, we drill a water borehole and after that, the solution is that we are going to have a reticulation that cleans the water that comes from there and it can be used back into the space of sanitation.

We are not talking about something that is not existing, it is existing and yesterday we just launched it. Where there is the Department of Water and Sanitation, they are moving the pipes for communities and we have since agreed that they would also be doing that inside the school as they move, so you can relax. We are on course in terms of infrastructure.

This morning, we then woke up with the department of DBE, we were launching, you know that coding and robotics since it has started, now it is a fully fledged subject that is being done. We are no longer piloting, the schools are implementing the coding and robotics that is in your ICT space. When we talk about ICT, we are no longer just going to talk about a tablet that you give a child. Where I was yesterday in the Sekhukhune area, all those schools that are in line with what we are doing have already received interactive boards.

When we are giving them interactive boards, in the coding and robotics this morning, in classes where they have got tablets it means that the interactive boards are already talking back to the learner. The other schools have interactive boards but they do not have tablets, it means the learners now, as we speak in our ICT space, is able to go and touch the board and do whatever activity on the board in the class. And we are talking about rural schools in our province. Even on the ICT, if we are able to get it right on the level of the ECD we would have accomplished a lot. This morning when we were dealing with coding and robotics, we also brought in the space of the ECD to say, like we said about our habit, if we train the mind when it is still at a developing stage, that means you will be able to deliver a learner that can change our narrative as South Africans.

We want to also confirm to this House that in our executive meetings chaired by the Premier, we are tracking all the SOPA pronouncements, and are able to then check what is it that we have not implemented as a department, and I want to take this time without prolonging, as we speak now in the infrastructure sector, the schools that we have started last year, we have got nine schools that are ready to be opened. It means the MEC would be running around the province opening one school after the other. We are starting it tomorrow on Friday.

Let me take this time again and thank the committee and my colleagues on the support that they give us, but you will remember that they are other issues and questions that the honourable Members have actually asked, we have then replied and signed them off. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for the response. Item 8, I call upon honourable Chair of Chairs for announcements.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF CHAIRPERSONS

Thank you, Speaker. Ndzi lava ku teka nkarhi lowu ndzi tivisa ku ri swakudya swa ninhlikanhi swi kona lahaya eka bodurhumu leya tolo. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Deputy Chair of Chairs. The House is adjourned. Honourable member, sit down!→. Hon Seshoka, I am talking, and you are making noise.

MR SESHOKA

But you cannot address me like that, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

That is noise honourable...[INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Am I the only one talking, because everybody is talking? Why do you say I am making noise as if I am a child? It cannot be. You cannot address me like that.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I said you are making noise.

MR SESHOKA

But you cannot say I am making noise as if you are talking to your own child. I am not your child. You cannot do that. I cannot allow that.

THE SPEAKER

What do you want to do, Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

I am telling you that you cannot do that. You cannot talk to me like...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

What do you want to do?

MR SESHOKA

You want to know what I want to do?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MR SESHOKA

I am bringing that information to you so that you know.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Seshoka banna!

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed, honourable Members? This House is adjourned ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

You cannot talk to me like you are talking to your child.

THE SPEAKER

And I have said that. This House is adjourned to Thursday, 23 March 2023 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, 28 MARCH 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Honourable Members, Members of the Executive Council and staff members, good morning. Welcome to our Sitting. Honourable Members, we are going to suspend item 2 up to item 5.

[ITEMS 2 – 5 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Let us proceed with Item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS & PAPERS

6.1 Tabling of the Departmental/Institutional Annual Performance Plans for the Financial Year ending 2023/24

The Leader of Government Business, MEC, Hon Sekoati, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In compliance with the dictates of section 27(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 99 of 1999) as amended by Act No. 29 of 1999 and chapter 5 of 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, and the Legislature, hereby table the departmental/institutional Annual Performance Plans for the following departments for consideration by this honourable House:

- The Office of the Premier;

- Department of Education;
- Department of Provincial Treasury; [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

Sound please!

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

May I continue, Madam Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Don't you hear me? Madam Speaker, I hereby present the performance plans for the following departments for consideration by this honourable House:

- Office of the Premier;
- 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: [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, can you allow the staff member to come and assist you.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon Speaker, it means I must start from the beginning.

THE SPEAKER

Yes, honourable MEC.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Once again, thank you, Madam Speaker. In compliance with the dictates of section 27(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 99 of 1999) as amended by Act No. 29 of 1999 and chapter 5 of 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 and the Legislature, hereby table the departmental/institutional Annual

Performance Plans for the following departments for consideration by this honourable House:

- Office of the Premier;
- 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: (a) Limpopo Tourism Agency; (b) Limpopo Gambling Board; and (c) 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, RAL;
- Department of CoGHSTA;
- Department of Social Development; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The tabled Annual Performance Plans are referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and to report back to the House. Thanks very much.

6.2 Tabling of the Limpopo Legislature Performance Plan for the financial year ending 2023/24

The Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. In compliance with section 13(b) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act No. 10 of 2009), I, Matibe Tshitereke, rise to table the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan of the provincial Legislature for consideration by this House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. The Annual Performance Plan of the Limpopo Legislature is referred to the Committee on Oversight Mechanism for consideration and to report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 First Reading of the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, 2003 [B03-2023]

The MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, it is your turn.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Once again, thank you, Madam Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here, official opposition and the august House. Madam Speaker, allow me as I request the House to consider the approval of the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, 2023 as prescribed in section 84(2) of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999, in that the Departments of Education, Agriculture and Rural Development and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, incurred unauthorised expenditure in the amount of R24,1 million for the 2013/14 to 2020/21 financial years.

The unauthorised expenditure was incurred without legal authorisation in respect of overspending of the vote or main division within a vote or expenditure not in accordance with the purpose of a vote or the main division within the vote. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has heard the evidence in the reports of the Auditor-General of the financial statements for the financial years.

After careful deliberations, the committee agreed to approve the R24,1 million unauthorised expenditure as set out in the schedule 1 of the attached Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, 2023 as direct charge against the budget allocation of each respective department starting from the 2022/23 financial year, and that means it is approved without funding.

Hon Speaker, I, therefore, submit that the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, 2023, be approved by this august House.

Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

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

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Amendment Adjustment Appropriation Bill, [B01-2023]

The committee chair, Hon Phala, it is your turn.

ADV PHALA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the portfolio committee on the Limpopo Amendment Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B01-2023] 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 Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

I, Donald Selelo Selamolela, of the African National Congress, stand to second the report as tabled by the committee chairperson, Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are on the Second Reading debate of Limpopo Amendment Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B01-2023]. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Lekganyane. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker for the opportunity to debate. Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, honourable MECs present here, Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip and honourable Members in the House, all chairpersons of the different portfolio committees, good morning. Kgotso ya Modimo ga e be le rena.

Hon Speaker, I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby rise to debate on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill [B01-2023] which was introduced in this House on 07 March 2023 in terms of House Rule 165 by the MEC, Hon Sekoati for Provincial Treasury.

The committee met with the Provincial Treasury on 14 March 2023 to consider and adopt the report on the Bill. It was found that the national Department of Human Settlement had in terms of Gazette No. 47662, stopped the transfer of R100 million for the Human Settlement Development Grant and R44,7 million for the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant here in our province, Limpopo. The downward adjustment of R144,7 million led to the reduction in CoGHSTA's equitable share allocation from R2,7 billion to R2,616 billion. It was found that the national Department of Health had in terms of Gazette No. 47789, stopped the transfer of R3,037 million for the National Health Insurance Grant for Limpopo province.

The Provincial Treasury reallocated funds amounting to R73,056 million from the Limpopo Department of Health to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for completion of the construction work at Maphutha Malatji Hospital. This downward adjustment in the Department of Health reduces the allocation from R23,594 billion to R23,518 billion. This upward adjustment in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure increases the allocation from R4,354 billion to R4,427 billion. The aforementioned adjustment decreases the provincial budget from R78,154 billion to R78,006 billion for the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

Upon realising the enormous amounts of unspent conditional grants in the previous financial years on conditional grants at CoGHSTA, the committee raised dissatisfaction about the incapacity to spend on conditional grants and the surrender of such funds which

could have been used for service delivery in the province. Further, the Provincial Treasury has a role in assisting departments that are continuously surrendering huge amounts of money from Limpopo province to other provinces. The committee recommended that:

- Measures must be put in place to enhance expenditure of conditional grants;
- Departments and entities must spend all appropriated funds;
- Departments and entities must take disciplinary steps against officials responsible for underspending on conditional grants;
- The MECs for Health and CoGHSTA must submit reports to the Legislature on actions taken against previous years underexpenditure by 30 June 2023;
- A ten-year report on various underexpenditure in the provincial government and money surrendered to national departments should be submitted on 31 March 2023; and
- Additional allocations and reductions are approved as scheduled in the Bill.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, allow me to request the honourable House to adopt this report as the report of this august House and that the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill [B01-2023], should proceed to the next stage of the legislation.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke a leboga. Motšwagabo ga a laele. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Hon Mphahlele, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga; MECs present here, Members of the august House and guests in the gallery, good morning. Hon Speaker, the EFF rejects the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill for the following outright reasons:

- The Bill does not address the developmental needs of the people of Limpopo as a result of this top-down approach;
- If you claim that you have consulted our people on this, then why is it not representing their service delivery and developmental needs. It is either you did not consult them enough or you did not consult them at all;
- The national Department of Human Settlements has in terms of Gazette No. 47662, stopped the transfer of R100 million for the Human Settlement Development Grant and R44,7 million for the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant in Limpopo province; and

- This downward adjustment of R144,7 million led to a reduction in CoGHSTA's equitable share allocation from R2,761 billion to R2,616 billion.

This turn of events is quite disturbing to say the least. We see bad governance and poor leadership at their best. Why did the national department stop the money? What is it that you did that warrants the department to stop the money? As the Members of this House, we have all the right to know as to what happened because, indeed, this is a serious regression of service delivery. The same thing happened in the Department of Health where the national department stopped the transfer of R3,037 million for the National Health Insurance Grant for Limpopo province. This indicates that there is no consequence management to responsible officials and politicians. This downward adjustment in the Department of Health reduced the allocation from R23,594 billion to R23,518 billion. Instead of upward adjustment, the department is drifting back on critical budget for changing the lives of our people.

The EFF is concerned that enormous amounts of unspent conditional grants in the previous financial years on the conditional grants at CoGHSTA has become a culture. By not spending money, especially grants, the department is suggesting or creating an impression that the people of Limpopo do not need services, they are enough. By not spending allocated grants, the department is suggesting that we have enough infrastructure projects to cater for the needs of our province.

The provincial government has introduced the culture of downward adjustments, reducing budgets instead of increasing them to deliver services to our people. The level of poverty, unemployment, and the state of infrastructure in various sectors in Limpopo is shocking, and yet the government continues to surrender budgets. All these anomalies happen under the watchful eye of the Department of Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier.

Hon Speaker, there is no consequence management in this government. That is why all these wrong things continue to happen. The EFF cannot come here for wrong things because it will be a serious betrayal of the poorest of the poor in this province. Hon Speaker, the EFF rejects the Bill.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. Greetings to the Hon Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip of the majority party and, indeed, the Chief Whip of the African National Congress, our Leader of Government Business, Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa – I was not aware, Hon Mphahlele, that you have changed the Leader of the Opposition. You have started to pronounce a

different Leader of the Opposition. I was not aware of that change. Greetings to the Leader of the Opposition.

What is true, is what has been said by Hon Lekganyane that indeed we met as a portfolio committee led by Hon Phala, after the MEC, Hlabirwa, introduced the Bill on 07 March 2023. We had an opportunity to receive a briefing from the Provincial Treasury on 14 March 2023. We also met on 22 March 2023 to adopt the discussion that we had after the briefing with the department. I think Hon Lekganyane is correct that from the discussion we have noted and, what is worrisome, the underspending - I have a challenge with my gadget today, Hon Speaker, you will pardon me. What is worrisome is the realisation of amounts of unspent conditional grants in the previous years, especially in CoGHSTA. It is a serious concern that we have committed as the African National Congress that we will use the state to improve the lives of our people. We have committed over the years that every time the entities and the departments are allocated funds, we have the necessary capacity to spend those funds.

It was a very serious concern to the committee that we continue to have a perpetual underspending, especially of the grants allocated to the Department of CoGHSTA. It is against this background as Hon Lekganyane has said, that in our discussion, we have said that there must be measures put in place by the Provincial Treasury to assist and support the expenditure of conditional grants by the department. It can't be that, especially if the grant which is meant to improve the lives of our people to give them shelter, it could not be spent. This commitment to giving our people shelter is a commitment that was made by our forebearers when they met in 1955, when they pronounced unreservedly, Hlabirwa, that there shall be housing for all.

They have committed, and we cannot start to betray that commitment and that covenant that our forebearers entered with our people through that marriage agreement called the Freedom Charter or the Kliptown Charter. It is against this background that we have also said that the departments and their entities must take disciplinary steps against officials who are responsible for underspending on conditional grants. We have noticed this continuous trend that year in and year out, Hon Phala, the grant is returned. Year in and year out, this grant is returned yet it is meant to improve the lives of our people. I think Hon Lekganyane has articulated the figures that have been returned year in and year out. It is against this background that we want to start seeing consequence management. It can't be that you come here, and you just say that you are returning this much, you want to adjust the budget. This amount must be returned. It can't go on like that, it can't be. What we want to start to see is Members of the Executive Council taking action against the officials who are responsible for this underspending. We need to start seeing that.

We have also said that the Members of the Executive Council responsible for the Department of Health and Department of CoGHSTA must submit the reports to the Legislature on action taken against previous underexpenditure. We have set the date of 30 June this year, so that by the day we arrive on 30 June, we should have received a report on what happened, especially with the previous years' underexpenditure. We need to have a ten-year report on various underexpenditure in the provincial government and money surrendered to the national department, and that should be submitted by 31 March 2023.

We are doing this, honourable Members, so that you will then start to appreciate that over a decade, how much have we lost because this money, when it is returned, it brings about a gap, not only in terms of human settlement, for instance, but the ripple effect of that money if it is spent in the province. It could create jobs. It could create opportunities. It would continue to increase - because if the spending is bad on the provincial economy, it would also be able to improve the economy of the province. We don't just look at it at the level of providing houses. We see beyond what it means when this money is spent on a small factory where people buy cement, it increases jobs for our people there. We want you to come and appreciate when you table the ten-year review the underexpenditure, the money we lost as a province by 31 March 2023. When you do that, you will then be able to appreciate the damage that incompetent or unwilling officials are doing to the lives of our people.

We have entered into a pact with our people that we shall walk a journey of a better life for all; we shall walk a journey that will improve the life of every citizenry in this country. We cannot start to be the ones by our inactions to betray such a valuable covenant we have entered with our people. We dare not fail; we must do that and live up to these recommendations.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. The next speaker is Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker in terms of House Rule 164, the MEC for Treasury referred the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill [B01-2023] on 07 March 2023 to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and scrutiny and subsequently to this House in terms of House Rule 165(1).

The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury met to consider and adopt the Bill, and it was found that the national Department of Human Settlements had in terms of Gazette No. 47662 stopped a transfer of R100 million for the Human Settlements Development Grant and R44,7 million for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant in Limpopo. The impact of this downward adjustment of R144,7 million in effect led to the reduction in CoGHSTA's equitable share allocation from R2,7 billion to R2,6 billion.

It was further determined that the national Department of Health had, in terms of Gazette No. 47789, stopped the transfer of R3,037 million for the National Health Insurance Grant for Limpopo province. Treasury reallocated funds amounting to R73,056 million from the Limpopo Department of Health to the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure for the completion of construction at the Maphutha Malatji Hospital.

In essence, these adjustments mean that the Department of Health reduced its allocation from R23,594 billion to R23,518 billion; whilst Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure increased its allocation from R4,354 billion to R4,427 billion.

The overall impact of these various adjustments means that the provincial Budget has decreased from R78,154 billion to R78,006 billion for the financial year ending 31 March 2023. This is a highly unacceptable situation given the already huge backlogs and services required in the province. It certainly leaves a bitter taste in the mouth.

The non-spending of conditional grants and/or the incorrect spending of conditional grants cannot be an issue that gets raised time and again, year after year, and there is no behavioural change. Limpopo province receives one of the lowest budgets nationally and we are a rural province with many poor and unemployed people. The impact of not spending or incorrectly spending conditional grants eats at the heart of the people that are most impacted and affected. At what stage are we going to stop discussing this and start holding officials accountable? We call on the Premier to hold his MECs and HODs accountable for this by ensuring disciplinary and punitive action.

The enormous underspending of conditional grants at CoGHSTA is shocking, embarrassing, and tragic, given the large backlogs of housing and services. We call upon the Provincial Treasury to intervene where departments are not spending the conditional grants in accordance with policy and assist them as we can no longer allow funds to be surrendered back to National Treasury.

Hon Speaker, the sad situation at Maphutha Malatji Hospital renovations is very concerning, given the time that this project remains incomplete. It further warrants investigation as to why the project is surpassing the budget allocated by such an enormous amount. It is also shocking that the contractor holds the department ransom, by locking the doors at the site when the AG requests an oversight. We believe that contractors who act in this manner should be blacklisted and prevented from doing any business with the state as the state cannot be held ransom.

Hon Speaker, the committee strongly recommends that measures must be put in place to enhance and improve the expenditure of conditional grants. It is also incumbent on all departments and entities to spend all appropriated funds in accordance with the policies. We again call on effective disciplinary action with the view to correct behaviour and not this malicious compliance of written warnings for all, irrespective of transgression, especially with officials responsible for underspending and incorrectly spending conditional grants.

The committee has requested that both the MECs for Health and CoGHSTA must submit reports to the Legislature on action taken against previous years' underexpenditure by 30 June 2023. It was also agreed that a ten-year report on various underexpenditure in the provincial government and money surrendered to national departments should be submitted on 31 March 2023.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Maharaj. I now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Phala.
[APPLAUSE]

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for allowing me to debate the Second Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Adjustment Amendment Bill [B01-2023] as tabled in this House by the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury. As the other honourable Members have said, Hon Lekganyane, Hon Selamolela and Hon Maharaj have represented the committee very well in what we said. Because what is happening with this adjustment is that whether you agree with it or disagree with it, or you oppose it, or you don't oppose it, or you like it, or you do not like it, or you hate it, or you don't hate it, in English, they say it's immaterial. It is an immaterial immateriality. It is like looking at a chicken feather in the sky. It is an immaterial immateriality.

As Hon Maharaj just taught us, these moneys are moneys which have already been taken by various national departments. We are just confirming in the books that tšhelete e sepetše. Tšhelete e šetše e sepetše. Rena re no tiišetša mo dipukung tša profense gore ka nnete ba tšere dimilione tše lekgolo ya mengwako ya di-RDP, ba tše re dimilione tše masomennenne tša mafelo a baipei gape ba tše re this amount for this. Gomme di sepetše ditšhelete tše. We are just confirming in the books of the province if you get the logic right. Ke ka lebaka la eng ba di tšere ditšhelete tše? Three honourable Members have said, ba di tšere partly in relation to human settlements because we are not spending and that is why all honourable Members were very strong on that, that we should spend all the money that we get, and if we don't spend it, extra measures must be put in place to deal with underexpenditure, as Hon Maharaj said.

Hon Selamolela said steps must be taken against the officials who don't spend the money. Hon Sekoati, this thing that we want your department to bring here by 31 March 2023, if you look at it, we have returned more than R1,5 billion in human settlements alone, go and look at the figures. Hon Sekoati will tell you when 31 March 2023 comes.

In the ten years which is between 2012 and 2022, we have returned more than R1,5 billion to National Treasury. That is totally unacceptable by any standard as the honourable Members have said. That money is for service delivery for the people of this province. Our people don't have enough houses and we want them to have houses, but when we get money to build houses, that money is returned to National Treasury. So, that is totally unacceptable, and it is a matter that we want extra steps to be taken about.

Hon Selamolela has already spoken about the coming report and what will happen if there is underexpenditure. Underexpenditure talks to many things and one of them is poor planning, Dr Mochadi, that the departments are not properly planning what they are going to implement. Because they are not planning forward, for example when you are dealing with human settlement, this is what you should keep in mind; I'm planning to build 400 houses, I must know where I'm going to build those houses; has the land been acquired; who are the beneficiaries; have the beneficiaries been identified. So, you do that in time.

If you remember this provincial government of the ANC in the financial year 2010/11, we were the best-performing in relation to human settlement in the Republic of South Africa. Hon Mapoulo is saying yes, and he remembers. Hon Mapoulo was our Mayor, and he remembers, he can stand there and say it. He remembers that at that time we would get hundreds of millions from provinces that were not spending, do you remember that Hon Mapoulo?

Exactly, we are going to ask the Chief Whip to get new clothes for Mapoulo and put him on this side. So, we were the best-performing provincial government in the Republic of South Africa in terms of the delivery of human settlement. We were able to get moneys from other nonperforming provincial governments to come here. We have not done well now, and we have returned a lot of money over the years, and it is something that must be brought to a halt.

As Hon Selamolela was saying, it is totally unacceptable Hon Mdaka, that when we move around the province, Hon Mdaka heads the Public Participation and Petitions, and he has card boxes and card boxes of petitions of people who are talking about houses; people who want houses built for them and these are people who don't have houses, and we have the power to return the money. We can't, it is unacceptable.

That is why the recommendations that have been read by Hon Lekganyane, Hon Selamolela and Hon Maharaj, the committee is saying we want all the moneys that are coming to the province, that are allocated and appropriated in the Budget to be spent. We want all moneys that are conditional grants that come from the National Treasury to be spent. In the unlikely event that some moneys do not get spent, effective and appropriate action must be taken on the people responsible for that underexpenditure going forward.

So, those are recommendations that we said we will put before this House so that this matter of returning moneys to the National Treasury is ended; and we are able to turn things around and spend all the money that we get as a provincial government and deliver services to the people of the Limpopo province who really need services that are delivered by the provincial government.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Phala.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B02-2023]

I call upon the committee chairperson.

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, [B02-2023] be adopted as a report of this honourable House as it appears on the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports referred to as the ATC. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the tabling of the report by the chairperson, Hon Phala. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's now move to the Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B02-2023] and the first speaker on the list is Hon Selamolela. [APPLAUSE]

MR SELAMOLELA

Once again, greetings to you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; the Leader of Government Business, Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa; the Chief Whip; the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga; colleagues and compatriots.

Hon Speaker, the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury had on the glorious day of 07 March 2023 tabled the Bill, and it was further referred by the House to the portfolio committee. On 14 March 2023 as a committee, we met with the department to receive a briefing, more about the principle of the Bill. As a committee, we agreed with the appropriation as indicated in the Bill. We also met as a committee on 22 March 2023 to consider and adopt the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B02-2023].

Various issues were noted Hon Speaker, but I will dwell on the key issues that were critical to us and that we supported and those that we strongly raised concerns about. What was key on the Office of the Premier, we strongly supported and clapped hands for the provincial energy strategy allocation and assessment of the provincial infrastructure assessment audit. We support that and we think it will go a long way.

When we met as a committee, we spent time interrogating the report on the Department of Education, and we were inspired by the allocation of R70 million for the improvement of matric results. We strongly believe that if we are to build from where we are, using this allocation, Limpopo can be ranked amongst the best-performing provinces as far as the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the matric results are concerned. So, we were very happy with that.

Hon Speaker, as far as Economic Development is concerned, one of our great concerns, Hlabirwa, is the allocation to entities such as Limpopo Economic Development Agency.

Hon Speaker, we met months ago here in the House and implored the Executive of this province that by the nature of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, this agency is supposed to be self-sustainable and self-sufficient. We have agreed that by the year 2023, the Executive will not be allocating resources to this entity.

You came here on the day of the Lord, on 07 March 2023, and as you tabled, you allocated public resources to this entity. That is one area that we said as a committee is going to be an area of our differences with the Executive. Because, when we agree as a House that things need to move in this particular way, we do that on behalf of the population of this province, and not on behalf of our jackets. So, it is an area that we noted, and we will speak to it in our recommendations.

Hon Speaker, we also supported the work that is done in Health, of course notwithstanding the matters we raised earlier about the downward movement of the Budget. We support the allocation because we strongly believe that in a journey of making a better life for all our people, universal health coverage and provision of basic health services to our people must remain at the apex. That is why our manifesto as the ANC, Hon Marule, has always put health and education at the apex of our issues.

We think that this Budget as far as allocation to the Department of Health, brings light to the commitment and agreement we have made with our people. That contract that we entered through the manifesto resulted in us being the ruling party here. So, we think that the Budget speaks to that. Hon Speaker, we are also humbled and appreciate the allocation to the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure because we strongly believe, and we have always said that we must use infrastructure delivery as a necessary tool to improve and speed up economic development and unlock economic opportunities.

So, it is against this background that we note the movement. The allocation to CoGHSTA is very key to us. We continue to implore as we have said earlier on when Hon Phala was closing a debate here, that our concern will always be on underspending because we strongly believe that the aspect of CoGHSTA should be able to assist us, Hon Aphiri, to bring comfort to our people by providing them shelter, a commitment our forefathers entered in 1955, so there is no compromising in that regard.

Hon Speaker, we recommended that all the departments that are underspending on conditional grants must be assisted to avoid the unnecessary surrender of funds to other provinces. We have said the Provincial Treasury must be able to lead the way. There must be innovative ways to explore the enhancement of revenue collection in the province. One of the areas where the province is not doing well, and Hlabirwa will know that is the reason why the basket of allocations is continuously shrinking, is the collection of revenue.

We have said that it can't always be that we must expect the deposit; we must also use our minds and our creative innovative ways to collect, so that what is put in, is supported by what we collect. Then we will have more in the basket so that we can improve the lives of the people and speed up that process Hon Hlabirwa, and we have spoken at large regarding that.

One of the critical areas emerging from the Budget is that the Provincial Treasury working side by side with the Office of the Premier and CoGHSTA must enhance their support to municipalities. This Hon Hlabirwa and Hon Rakgoale is not appreciable, and it can never be tolerated that we don't pay services to municipalities. Because we are the ones as departments who are not paying for rates and taxes in municipalities, and we are collapsing that level of delivery.

We have always said as the African National Congress that the municipal systems; the municipal councils which we must support are organs of peoples' power. That is where service delivery must happen. Now any other thing that seeks not to give support to that will work in the antithesis of what we want to achieve. We have implored on that as a committee. We have emphasised that the Provincial Treasury and Department of Transport and Community Safety should work on modalities to ensure that the 3D business enterprises, LEDA and Gateway Airport Authority Limited are no longer budgeted for. I don't think we need to reemphasise this matter, Hlabirwa. When we take a decision on behalf of the people, the Executive must uncompromisingly, Deputy Speaker, adhere to that. Hence, we have said we need to start to see, tabled here in the House, how are you going to ensure as a department that these two entities are brought to life; they are supported and are able to self-sustain. We can't continue to put the money into a jar or into a bottomless pit.

We can't do that because we don't see the value of this money because these entities should be able to pay salaries on their own; they should be able to initiate and support their own programmes. Now as a committee, we encourage the Provincial Treasury to continuously enhance its fiscal oversight of the departments, entities, and municipalities. As the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, we welcome the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B02-2023], and we move for its adoption with these recommendations that we have made.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Hon Mphahlele, you are the next speaker. [APPLAUSE]

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga; honourable MECs present; honourable Members of this august House and guests in the gallery, good morning. Hon Speaker, the EFF rejects this Bill outrightly because it does not represent the aspirations of our people. We must indicate to this House that the tabling of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill was just for compliance. There is nothing intentional, radical, or developmental about the Bill itself on improving or changing the material conditions of our people.

We need to ask, how is this Bill going to improve the lives of ordinary people in GaMalebogo, GaKibi, or deep down in the rural villages of Vhembe? The real

appropriation Bill must be people oriented. It must be about the people; it must be about changing the lives of our people for the better. The Bill is completely uninspiring, there is nothing revolutionary about the Bill. It is just a Bill.

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 the government of the people, by the people, and for the people must be seen playing out in all developmental endeavours of government.

Hon Speaker, we must also indicate upfront that the bulk of the moneys allocated will go to irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and all forms of corruption and fiscal dumping. The Department of Health received an allocation of R23,772 billion in the 2023/24 financial year. This includes R119,945 million for the placement of medical graduates, R192 million for the employment of doctors, R50 million for the purchase of ambulances, R20 million for the Cuban Doctors Programme and R3,927 billion for conditional grants. Included in the allocations is R637,2 million for own revenue.

This allocation for the placement of medical graduates is way too little, as currently, most doctors are still loitering around the streets without jobs. Clinics and hospitals suffer a chronic shortage of nurses and doctors, and yet a mere R192 million has been allocated to this programme. Clearly, there is no political will on the side of the government to deliver services to our people.

Furthermore, there is no political will to reduce the level of unemployment in Limpopo because the employment of these medical practitioners will go a long way in reducing unemployment. The MEC should have allocated a budget for all the clinics in Limpopo to be open 24 hours around the clock, Monday to Sunday. But, of course, this can only happen when you have visionary and competent leadership in government.

To think that the ANC-led government will open clinics 24 hours is to expect a miracle like that of Jesus turning water into wine. The Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture has a tendency of similar allocation in the previous financial year. This means that the developmental needs of our people remain the same, they do not change. An amount of R10 million has been allocated to the provincial theatre which will never take off the ground.

Every time we enquire about the progress in terms of the provincial theatre, we are told that it is at the design stage. For how long? The Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZs are moving at a snail's pace, delaying the creation of jobs, economic growth and development of our people. Millions of rands if not billions are pumped into these two projects on annual basis, and yet there is no clear account of where this money is going.

The EFF will never support this Bill. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebea, the floor is yours.

MS LEBEA

A very blessed morning to you, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, distinguished guests, members of the media fraternity logged on different livestreaming channels.

Honourable Members, the Bill does not need any level of radicalism or militancy, it needs great minds of men and women who are seated in the Premier's Executive Council, who have over the years executed the manifesto of the congress movement to the latter. Hence, since the dawn of democracy, the masses of Limpopo in their majority have entrusted this very same government to lead and continue changing their lives like we have done since 1994. A clear case of the absence of the presence, but we do really understand that from 26 July 2010 to date it is not such a long time to understand a lot of things.

One of its core mandates is to adequately promote economic development, good governance, social progress and rising living standards through accountable, economic, efficient, equitable and sustainable management of Limpopo's finances – karoganyo ya mašeleng.

One of the key points clearly highlighted by the Freedom Charter is that the people shall share in the country's wealth which we have done very well as the ANC-led government. We have done very well, honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury. Honourable Members, today we gathered to discuss and debate the main appropriation Bill for the 2023/24 financial year, the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B02-2023]. The Bill seeks to provide for the appropriation of funds from the provincial revenue fund for the requirements of the province in the upcoming fiscal year. The total amount allocated for the province is sitting at R79,163 billion which consists of equitable share allocation of R57,384 billion and provincial conditional grants allocation which amounts to R11,329 billion. As we examine the appropriation, honourable Members, it is important to note that the allocations are geared towards providing necessary services to the people of Limpopo. The allocations are aimed at enhancing service delivery, improving the standard of living, and creating an enabling environment for socioeconomic development.

Honourable MEC, the enemy of young people is still unemployment, poverty and inequality. We really need to appreciate the appropriation that went to the Office of the Premier which is now going to receive an allocation of R438,385 million which includes funding of R23,536 million to be implemented for ICT related projects in the province, which we really do appreciate honourable MEC. On Provincial Energy Strategy, we really take that into cognisance, and we really send words of appreciation to your department. We also cannot overlook the funds that are made available to go and electrify all health institutions in the province, because honourable MEC, health is wealth.

The provincial Legislature also received an allocation of R492,417 million to cater for oversight on all institutions in the province and other mandates. This allocation is vital in ensuring that institutions in the province are held accountable for their actions and decisions and the people of Limpopo receive the best possible services. Ours, Hon

Speaker, is to play an oversight role. We have also agreed as the portfolio committee chaired by Hon Phala, that we are going to be on the side of the people of Limpopo. That does not mean that Members of the Executive Council should be victimised at all costs.

The Department of Education received an allocation of R38,188 billion. The allocation which includes R884,67 million for Presidential Youth Employment Initiatives, R36,9 million for Sanitary Dignity Project, R100 million for e-Education Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, R100 million for storm damaged schools, and R655,64 million additional compensation for employees.

What we have also noted and send words of gratitude to you, MEC, and your team in Treasury, is the R70 million which is earmarked for the improvement of the matric results. We really appreciate it. We have seen what has happened in the previous financial year. We are hoping this year Limpopo will be somewhere on top sailing with the provinces like Free State and others. The allocation towards education is crucial, honourable Members, as it is a cornerstone of development in any society. As we debate, Hon Speaker, it is important to note that this Budget will effectively assist the Limpopo Legislature to play its oversight role on the Executive. We cannot step down, Hon Speaker, without condemning in its strongest sense the spontaneous strides of undermining the efforts of this government, by the few minorities who are still hellbent on living before the year 1994, today.

The challenge of the BBBEE legislation leaves a bitter taste and spits in the faces of the masses of the proletarians not only in this province, but in the entire country. Maybe honourable MEC, it is about time that every province should put forward its own terms of procurement. Maybe it is about time, honourable MEC, that once we have done that, we will then talk about the 40% which will be the re-invested for the public procurement policies for women, youth, and people living with disability. That is non-negotiable. This honourable MEC will definitely happen in our lifetime.

We are also reminded Hon Speaker, that they might not with what they have been doing in the country go unabated or unchallenged. We are waiting for that day that the national liberation of the African people in particular the Black people in general, the destruction of the economic and political power of the ruling class and the establishment of a one united state of people's power in which the working class will be a dominant force. We will move uninterrupted towards social emancipation and the total abolishment of the exploitation of men by men.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the appropriations for the 2023/24 financial year are aimed to provide the necessary services to the people of Limpopo. Hon Speaker, allow me also to borrow from the great mind of Karl Marx who said: "If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will shed the hot tears of noble people". On that note, Hon Speaker, I move that this report be adopted as a report of this august House.

Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Hon Maharaj, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Limpopo province sits with a disease of failure to remedy previous incorrect and erratic behaviour. This is seen in the once again underspending of conditional grants, which in turn means the surrender of huge amounts of grants to national departments for transfer to other provinces. This behaviour cannot be condoned and accepted, especially in a poor province like Limpopo which has huge backlogs in both infrastructure development as well as services to our people. In essence we have robbed our people by surrendering these funds and not utilising them for the intended purposes.

It is both disappointing and unacceptable that the Department of Education with R38,1 billion, and the Department of Health with R23,7 billion in the province, continue to significantly underperform while they receive 78,2% of the province's Budget. These departments are plagued by poor matric results, classroom shortages, the poor state of school sanitation, poor healthcare infrastructure, medical staff shortages and excessively high medico-legal claims. These departments need to produce more value for money for the communities in order to justify these large allocations.

In addition to this, revenue enhancement strategies were not adequately explored and that has a negative impact on local economic development. This is an area that has been spoken about at length in the previous years. The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury supports the building of weigh bridges in the Sekhukhune District, given the high mining activity in the area and the large utilisation of trucks. It is certain to generate revenue and boost the provincial economy. This is one of the innovative ways to build the local revenue streams in the province. An additional example is that liquor licence fees are on a sliding scale based on the volumes sold so that the bigger or larger more retailers and established businesses pay more than the small start off constructing businesses.

Speaker, in any thriving and growing economy, infrastructure development is key. However, insufficient progress was reported on the functionality of the provincial theatre as well as the developments on the Makhado-Musina Special Economic Zone, despite the continuous funding on these projects. Further to this, are the departments that do not pay their rates and taxes, which adds unnecessary delivery pressure on municipalities on their operational expenditure. The issue of the high contingent liabilities gets continuous mention as this is a serious risk for the province. The response on how it is being dealt with is unavailable and is concerning. The costs of employees' line items on the budget remains a concern as the biggest spend on the provincial equitable share and this cannot be sustainable in the years to come.

Hon Speaker, we still have far too many municipalities that are performing poorly both on the financial side as well as on rendering services to communities. Aligned to this are also

the poor skills of some of the employees who cannot perform their functions and as a result consultants are outsourced at huge costs. This is also reflected during the audit qualifications, which are largely attributed to nonadherence to policy prescripts and consequently poor performance. Despite recommendations provided during various forensic and investigative reports, these remain unimplemented and largely ignored. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure remains a concern for the payment of municipal bills, and this has a ripple effect on the municipality's operational expenditure and to perform their tasks effectively. The issue of funded critical vacant posts remains a challenge which in turn impacts the quality of work output. It is extremely important that the Provincial Treasury, Office of the Premier, and CoGHSTA work collaboratively in the support the enhancement of municipalities' audit outcomes.

The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury recommends that all allocations to the kingships be stopped whenever there are disputes within royal circles and should only resume once these have been settled. The previously mentioned Infrastructure Delivery Hub must urgently be fast tracked by the Provincial Treasury and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. This hub must also be fully capacitated and must start focusing on the backlog as well as critical infrastructure maintenance.

Speaker, Provincial Treasury must work with and collaborate with the various departments to deal with officials involved in RWOPS (Remunerative-Work-Outside-Employment). During the SOPA address, the Premier made mention of the purchase of solar panels for various departments. These pronouncements on the solar panels must be implemented as a matter of urgency given that the next few years will be heavily affected by loadshedding. In addition to this, the terms and conditions for the purchase of the solar panels must therefore be put in place for the budget allocation and spending. The Premier must take effective and appropriate steps against MECs and HODs who underspend on their appropriated budgets. We cannot condone this any longer.

In conclusion, the MECs for Treasury, LEDET, and Transport and Community Safety should work on the modalities to ensure that the 3D business enterprises namely LEDA and GAAL are no longer budgeted for by the Provincial Government in contravention of the PFMA and in terms of the House resolution due for implementation on 31 March 2023. The aforementioned MECs must therefore provide progress reports on the implementation of this resolution until the resolution is fully implemented.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to debate the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B02-2023] as tabled in this House by the MEC for Provincial Treasury. This is the Budget for the entire provincial administration and the Legislature for the year 2023. Other people mistakenly think that we are at the stage of adopting the Bill and,

therefore, we are rejecting it or accepting it. We are not there. We are very far, not by a day, not by two, three days, not by a week, by months from where we will be adopting or rejecting the Bill.

In the unlikely event you reject the Bill, theoretically and practically, what does that mean, Hon Selane? It means that you would not drink that coffee that we have put outside. The money of this Legislature is part of the budget. You do not drink the water in the House. We must not see you queuing for lunch there where we eat. The Chair of Chairs and the Chief Whip must not see your claim forms piled up in big envelopes, if you get the logic right. When you are rejecting the Budget, you are rejecting the budget of your own salary. You must not earn at the end of the month. Do you get it, Deputy Speaker? We are not there; we are far from there. We are far from there by months.

You have been in the Legislature for almost five years, but you do not even know how the Legislature works. It is a scandal in English, scandal. Where we are today if anyone was here for five years and I was, is that we are adopting the principle. Kganthe o dirile eng ge o fihla mo wena, Mohlomphegi Selamolela. Hon Selamolela articulated it. We are not adopting the Bill. We are adopting the principle, the principle of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill. Which means theoretically that we are opening up the Legislature for all MECs to table their own budgets which will happen within the coming few days. MECs will be lining up here. We are opening that as the committee. We are opening for portfolio committees to go and discuss the APPs in their meetings and come and debate those budgets and APPs here in the House. We are opening that up until the time we finally adopt the Limpopo Appropriation Bill. As Hon Selamolela said, we are adopting the principle of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill. Let us skip a workshop, this is a Legislature.

Let us go through it; in the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury just as honourable Members have said, Hon Lebea said it very well, Hon Selamolela articulated it very well, and Hon Maharaj rounded it off. They have said that we have made a number of recommendations and they are 18. We are giving you a number of days and where money is budgeted for it in this budget, it must be spent. We have just been talking about returning money. We do not want to return any money, Hon Ndalane. Not a cent. Ga re nyake go kwa taba yeo. That is the first point that we are raising. The second point that we are raising is that we do not want to return any conditional grant because a conditional grant when you return it, it goes to another province, because it is a grant that comes with conditions.

We want the provincial government to tighten its support to municipalities so that municipalities in the province are able to perform better. The Department of CoGHSTA, Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury, we want them to enhance their support to municipalities so that municipalities are able to improve their performance and service the people of the province of Limpopo. We want the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Department of Provincial Treasury to enhance what is called the Limpopo Infrastructure Delivery Hub. Hon Ndou that is what we have been talking about long, long ago since 2014, the Limpopo Infrastructure Delivery Hub.

We want the provincial governments to pay all levies and other money that are due to municipalities because they say that we owe them, and they are unable to deliver

services. If there is any money owed, levies or any kind of money, they must be paid to municipalities. We want the provincial government to pay attention to compensation of employees' budget so that it does not balloon unnecessarily accept in areas where it is necessary to increase it. These are areas that are labour intensive, Hon Sekoati, which are in the areas of nurses, teachers, doctors, and people of that kind. But for people who just write papers, senior managers who just write papers, no! We want the provincial government to increase its expenditure on infrastructure which are roads, bridges, schools, libraries, laboratories, clinics and things of that kind that would serve the people of this province. It must enhance our expenditure on those things as much as possible.

Hon Maharaj was raising a key point about revenue enhancement. We must not just depend on money that comes from national as Hon Maharaj was explaining. We must ourselves device even more better revenue enhancement strategies and enhance the revenue of the provincial government so that we are able to get more money that we are able to spend here. Hon Selamolela raised the issue of LEDA and GAAL. Those two entities are 3D business enterprises in terms of the Public Finance Management Act. The provincial government is not supposed to be giving them money, but we are giving them money. That is a totally illegality of an illegality from the beginning, to give money to something that we are not supposed to give money to. The law says the state must not give money, but we give money to them.

When it came to the committee chaired by Hon Selamolela some time ago, the committee said no, we are giving them a lot of money let us give them a transition period until 31 March 2023. I think people thought that 31 March 2023, is too far, too far at that time and now we are there. We are at the 31 March ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, Hon Smalle has a point of clarity.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I just want to raise a point of clarity if you would allow me to.

ADV PHALA

Let him raise it.

THE SPEAKER

Raise it, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, chairperson. Just following the Scopa resolutions that were taken last night and the grey areas that certain individuals or departments might find themselves utilising the funds incorrectly, I would like to understand this "sekanama." [LAUGHTER]

ADV PHALA

I knew it. He is out of order. [LAUGHTER] Hon Selamolela, Hon Maseko, you know what we were talking about yesterday. Honourable MEC for Public Works, you remember the thing, “sekanama.” He is talking about that. Leave “sekanama” wena, Smalle. [LAUGHTER] Sekanama has got its place elsewhere. We talked about it yesterday. He has been throwing the “sekanama” name everywhere in this place. Smalle, I knew that you were going to be totally out of order. Hon Speaker, if there is a person that has been totally out of order in the 29 years of this Legislature, it is Hon Smalle. They must write that in the *Hansard*. “Sekanama”, bring it to the Legislature, Modimo wa Isiriaele! He banna! Sekanama! Jo! We were talking about that last night. It was a hot, hot session. The MEC has not yet recovered from it even now, you can go and touch her and see. [LAUGHTER] The “sekanama” where we sat from 20:00 till 22:00 last night, was a hot, hot session of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. We are not there Smalle, emanyana ga nnyane. We are not there.

Where we are right now, Hon Smalle, let me tell you about the “sekanamas” that we have in this case. Just open the ATC, resolution 17 says we instruct the Premier of this province to take effective and appropriate steps against an MEC and an HOD that underspend the money that is appropriated. Are you happy now? That is a “sekanama for today.” We have written it in black and white and this House has adopted it. Any MEC who underspends, the Premier must come to this Legislature and tell us what effective and appropriate action he or she has taken against that MEC. [LAUGHTER] Hon Mokgonyana, you are laughing aloud; you know something we do not know. Number 17 is the resolution of this Legislature now, and it states that the Premier of this province will take effective, and appropriate steps against an MEC and an HOD who underspends a budget, Hon Kekana. We have written that in black and white. That is a “sekanama” for you, Hon Smalle, for today and we have written it in black and white and it is adopted by this House. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury to come and respond to the debate made by honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again, let me thank you for affording me this opportunity to come and respond to the issues that have been raised by my colleagues and members of the portfolio committee. I will start with the Adjustment Appropriation Bill which we have agreed upon as per the sentiments that are raised by the members of the portfolio committee Firstly, the issue of underspending of these conditional grants is very, very ugly in the sense that it defers the opportunity to uplift the standard of living for the people in the province. It also leads to failure in terms of the objectives that have been set by this House to be achieved.

Therefore, it is something that needs to be scorned by everyone and make sure that indeed we apply what the chairperson of the portfolio committee calls “sekanama” which means we need to have consequence management in those areas. Everyone needs to take responsibility and accountability in terms of the resources that have been allocated, but also in terms of their own responsibilities. I think the message there is very clear. Those who do not perform should be accounting so that we make sure that no one is absolved from accountability. We will definitely take that into account.

However, chair, in the same vein, I think it is important to clarify the issue raised by Hon Mphahlele on conditional grant for the health insurance that is an amount of R3 million which was taken from the Department of Health by National Treasury. That is not an underspending, but a misallocation of funds that had been transferred or allocated to the Department of Health. Therefore, on that basis it is a misallocation, and it is not an underspending and I thought this should be clarified.

Let me as well appreciate the sentiments that have been raised, and also the recommendations that have been made by the portfolio committee in terms of the main appropriation Bill. We will continue to make sure that conditional grants that are meant for supplementation of our own budget are actually utilised to make sure that it can fast track the provision of services, and also to make sure that we can uplift the standard of living for our communities in Limpopo. We do also take into account the issue of revenue maximisation for us as a province because it is our own revenue and that allows us to decide where we want to allocate the funds.

We need to make sure that we continuously raise the bar in every department, for the provincial government to be able to have a proper base in terms of collection of revenue. This will augment both the equitable share and the conditional grant. We do take into account what the committee has said. We also appreciate the fact that we have gone beyond R2 billion own revenue as a province which I believe is a step or movement in the right direction as a province. We must continuously look for new avenues to raise revenue. I believe that all departments are going to be supported to make sure that they ultimately increase on own revenue. That is what will assist us in augmenting this allocation.

We do take into account all other recommendations that have been clearly stipulated by the committee. Chair, I thought it is going to be important just to respond to my colleagues on the left who are saying our budget is not revolutionary, radical and so on. For them to say that it raises a question whether they are a revolutionary movement according to revolutionary theories set out by revolutionary philosophers, whether it's Hegel, Karl Marx, Lenin, or Maurice Comfort. Perhaps my chairperson from the portfolio committee will be able to run a workshop so that you are able to understand that. That does not make you revolutionary, it makes you a pseudo-revolutionary. As long as you do not have a revolutionary theory and you call yourself a revolutionary, it makes you a pseudo-revolutionary. You do not understand the objective and subjective conditions that we are operating in. While you say we must have money for all the schools, all the clinics and everything while you do not understand what our country is facing or at what level of development we are, that makes you pseudo-revolutionaries. I think it is important for everyone to note that everything that you are saying has nothing revolutionary in it. It is

just something that we would like to have ideally, you have not come to that level. Therefore, stop referring to programmes as revolutionary because you do not have a clear understanding of what revolutionary is all about.

Let me take this opportunity chair, to thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Rudolph Kgolane Phala, and the members of the committee who continuously give guidance to this department, and also make sure that they are continuously provide us with the proper leadership. They make sure that we ultimately achieve our common objectives of improving the lives of the people of Limpopo.

I would like to therefore thank you for this opportunity, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture

I call upon the committee chair.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to table the Annual Report of the financial year, 2021/22 for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby take this opportunity to second the incoming, oh sorry, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture in our provincial Legislature. One of the incoming deputy secretary generals. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable chair, I am not sure. Maybe I will check with the Chief Whip, can you sit for a while. In terms of combining the two, the Annual Report and the first quarter report. We have made a proposal. I am not sure whether it has been accepted. It has been accepted, alright. Can you proceed chair.

7.5. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture

MS APHIRI

Once more, thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke eme mo go bala pego ya mathomo ya Kgoro ya Dipapadi, Bokgabo le Setšo, go kgopela Ntlo ye Kgolo gore e amogele pego. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, chair. There is a proposal for the consideration and adoption of the 2022/23 first quarter report. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, ke eme mo go tlatša tšhišinyo ya modulasetulo wa komiti. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable chair, the camera is not allowed. Honourable Members, we are going to work like this, we are going to combine the debate on the Annual Report and the first quarter report, and our first speaker will be Hon Maseko. [APPLAUSE] Maybe before you proceed Hon Maseko, I think the only Member who will be affected on the debate is Hon Mathye who is not part of the first debate. May you proceed.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Can I propose a special motion on Hon Phala K A, the chairperson, gore re ye re mo apeše polaoše ya basadi so that he can lobby for the two Members for the position of the Women's League's Deputy President, and the Women's League's Treasurer. I so move. Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the ruling party, Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga; Members of the Legislature and our guests in the public gallery; thobela. I feel so fortunate to be part of those members who have been given an opportunity today to come and debate on the Annual Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the financial year 2021/22.

Sport is an important part of the cultural and social life in the country, whether one likes to play or observe sport. Our province has a busy sporting calendar with major events such as football, netball, volleyball, rugby and other cultural activities taking place throughout the year. Whatever your tastes, you will have the opportunity to watch or take part in a wide range of your respective activities. There is also this saying that, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

The Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts & Culture executed its constitutional mandate by meeting with the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture with a view of holding the department accountable. We do so as a collective in line with our strategic plan, the National Development Plan, performance plans and the broader mandate of our liberation movement and this democratic government. At the same time, we are aware that we carry

the heavy responsibility of leading the social transformation of our society by ensuring social cohesion and moral regeneration. The Annual Report indicates that sport and the creative industry is a major contributor to economic and social development. Its role is recognised by governments, including in the political declaration of the 2030 Agenda.

The Auditor-General briefed the portfolio committee on the audit outcome of Department of Sport, Arts & Culture for the period which ended on 31 March 2022. During that financial year, the department obtained an unqualified audit opinion with findings for the second time in a row. However, it has a potential to move to a clean audit. That can only be realised if the department can make sure that the audit action plan that they have developed, or the management letter is implemented accordingly. There is monitoring by the political component, and the audit committee to ensure that all the points that were raised by the AG are implemented.

It is very much important, that the department should in every portfolio committee make the implementation of the AG's action plan as a standard agenda item, so that they give us an opportunity to play our oversight and assist them to move to a clean audit. The committee raised concerns on the budget of the provincial theatre that it has been on the design stage for a very long time and the budget has escalated from R475 million to R515 million, but still on the design stage. Maloba ba re ba ba file R10 million out of this money that is required. As the committee we recommend that cost estimates should be scaled down either by reducing the components of that design or whatever way that can be done. We are pleased that the quantity surveyors are also amenable to scale down the prices. We call upon government to prioritise this project by ensuring that sufficient budget is allocated in the next financial year.

It is worth noting that the department is in the process of upgrading Schoemansdal Museum and the project is planned for a period of 24 months. The target of creating 51 EPWP job opportunities was exceeded by four due to the appointment of people to assist with asset management at head office. The museum holds a place of prime importance in the field of education. Any education is incomplete without proper cultural education and awareness, and museums will always play an undeniable role in this respect. It holds the cultural history of a nation and its many inhabitants, along with the history of other cultures as well. The only other mode of imparting cultural history to a nation would be through verbal dissertations, and that is not as effective as museums since it lacks the element of being able to interact and physically see and touch the artefacts being presented.

On consideration of the budgetary adjustments, the committee is concerned about the impact of the reprioritisation of funds on awareness raising about the department's core programmes, especially in reaching vulnerable communities that lack access to digital technology.

With regard to sport and recreation, it affects our every facet of life. Most societies these days have become multicultural as more and more people migrate across countries and continents. We live around, socialise and work with people from different cultural backgrounds and therefore we are part of the world.

It was found that 92,6% of the adjusted budget of R80,607 million was spent in the programme. Mass Participation and Sport Development Grant underspent a total of R5,897 million of the allocated budgets due to some programmes that could not be implemented in quarter one and two because of the COVID-19 restrictions and vacant positions which are in the process of being filled. Due to seasonal school sport activities, the Winter Games have been rescheduled to take place during the first quarter of this financial year. We believe there will be a lot of support and a lot of interest in ensuring that people are afforded an opportunity to participate.

In conclusion, honourable speaker, sport is a very crucial part of everyone's life, which helps the participants to learn various virtues like teamwork, coordination, and helps to keep the body strong and healthy. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. I call upon Hon Ramalobela.

MR RAMALOBELA

Thank you, chair of the session, Madam Speaker. Greetings to the EFF caucus led by the dynamite, the one and only mbokoto, commissar Tshilidzi Maraga, MECs present in this House, colleagues, staff members, the media and guests in the gallery. There are number of abnormalities in the department, which we want to bring to the attention of this House. Firstly, the department failed to comply with Treasury regulations when contracts were awarded to bidders, and this led to violation of the Public Finance Management Act and supply chain management principles and prescripts. Failure to comply with regulations clearly implies that there is a deliberate attempt by the officials and politicians within the department to introduce the culture of lawlessness in order to loot the resources.

We must also point out that this is the practice and the culture in the entire provincial government led by the Premier, Stan Mathabatha. There is a complete disregard of PFMA and Treasury regulations for obvious reasons of looting as I have already mentioned. Sadly, there are no punitive measures or consequence management on officials responsible and rotten politicians masquerading as agents of change. Furthermore, the accounting officers did not adequately review the financial statements before submitting them for auditing as material misstatements were identified.

Honourable speaker you have officials in the department who sleep on duty, they are not meticulous, and they do not pay attention to details. We do not need officials like these in this government because they do more harm than good, and they are not committed to the principle of clean good governance. How would you submit financial statement to the Auditor-General with errors when there are officials like the chief financial officer who must make sure that the proper reports are submitted. The problem is the notion of job security, that when you work for government, you can do anything, and no one will dismiss you. It is either you change from one department to the other, because of cadre deployment.

Officials are too comfortable in their mistakes and sometimes deliberate shenanigans to destabilise the smooth running of the department. It is regrettable that during the period under review, management did not prepare regular, accurate and complete financial reports that are supported with evidence by reliable information. The same management we are talking about get paid every month for submitting wrong reports, which are not backed by reliable information.

The Cultural Affairs Programme spent more than R70,34 million in the allocated budget of R80,228 million which translates into 87,4%. The main cause of underexpenditure in this programme relates to the provincial theatre amounting to R9,610 million due to delays by the implementing agent in completing the stage three design. The construction of the provincial theatre has been on the design stage for too long. The project will never take off the ground while you are busy stealing money meant for its construction. The people of Limpopo have been promised on many occasions through State of the Province Address and through tabling of budgets that the provincial theatre will be built. The question to be asked in this august House is, where is the provincial theatre? We have seen the design stage of the theatre being inflated from R475 million to R515 million through delays.

The EFF is concerned that the vacant posts of libraries in the department are not being filled. This delays service delivery and employment opportunity for our people. Getting to the first quarter report, this House needs an explanation on unsettled cases with reference to the Antonia Hamilton, Davido and other cases. We need to be updated with progress report in relation to these cases, because most of the time, many of these types of cases are swept under the carpet. This happens because of the desire to protect responsible officials involved so that consequence management is not applied. We must get to the bottom of every case and no stone must be left unturned. It is our responsibility to lay bare the weaknesses, the incompetence, bad governance and corruption of the current government. Our people must know what they are dealing with, so that come next year, they are able to take decisive actions during the election.

Furthermore, there is no clarity on progress pertaining to the litigation processes of the department and how they dealt with the case of the breach of contract on the car accident, computer that was disposed and contract that was awarded without following proper supply chain management and Treasury regulations. This House and the people of Limpopo need to know progress in relation to this litigation processes. How much did the litigation cost? And what is the plan to reduce the contingent liability in the department? The EFF is disappointed that the department did not intervene to avoid postponement of this crucial workshop on gender-based violence and femicide, which are endemic in South Africa. This implies that the government does not take the issue of gender-based violence and femicide serious while women suffer in the hands of barbaric men on a daily basis.

The EFF is concerned about expiry of contracts of 170 librarians and assistant librarians' posts that were not renewed. Why did the posts expire and not be immediately extended to avoid disruption of services that we are talking about. By allowing the posts to expire and not renew them immediately, the government is actually promoting unemployment instead of creating permanent jobs for librarians. The majority of librarians who work on

12-month contracts are demoralised because they are not sure of their future and livelihoods and that is not correct. This will affect their work output in the workplace, and the production level will be lower than expected.

There is an urgent need to ensure that contractors are placed on strict terms and conditions regarding timeous completion of infrastructure projects, especially libraries and that the necessary penalties be imposed for noncompliance. Contractors do not complete their work on time and that is costing the taxpayers more money to complete projects. This happens because the government does not monitor projects until the end. Contractors are left alone to do as they wish. The slow progress in relation to the construction of the provincial theatre is concerning and worrisome to say the least, as reported. The 2021 financial report indicates R9,6 million underspending on the provincial theatre was due to delays in the completion stage three preliminary design. What is happening MEC? Please we need answers. Will this project ever see the light of the day? As a result, the EFF government will ensure that all libraries are fully resourced for smooth functioning.

I so move. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Let us proceed. Hon Mathye will be number four and Hon Aphiri will be number five, to close the debate.

MS MATHYE

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party; Members of the provincial Legislature; ladies and gentlemen, avuxeni. Madam Speaker, we have gathered here today, on the third day after the official opening of Grannies International Football Tournament which is being hosted by South Africa. The tournament is held at Nkawkawa Stadium; the home of Vakhegula Vakhegula FC, in which 16 countries are taking part.

Hon Speaker, this is the first ever tournament in the history of mankind. Allow me on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to thank Ms Beka Ntsan'wisi for the job well done since she is the forebearer of this vision. [APPLAUSE] Ha khensa, mun'wanati. Wena mudyi wa bangu. Hon Speaker, as history has shown itself time and again through the main struggle, nations and humanity as a whole experience together that sport, arts, culture and recreation have been the shared reprints for restoring hope and inspirational motivation to move towards our common goals of overcoming hardships together.

On Libraries and Archives Services Programme, the purpose of this programme is to provide archive services in terms of the National Archives Act. Libraries and archives are the memory of society, preserving and providing access to our cultural, scientific and historical records. Libraries and archives enable intellectual freedom and are vital for democratic, and open society by providing access to information, ideas and works of imagination to all members of society.

During our committee meetings, it was reported that the tender evaluation process has been concluded for Botshabelo, Sekhukhune, Tshaulu and Vlakfontein libraries. The department has indicated that contractors would be appointed in July 2022. The committee requested the department to provide the dates given to the contractors' appointment periods. The department indicated that contractors for Vlakfontein, Sekhukhune and Botshabelo public libraries were appointed on 26 July 2022, while Tshaulu contractor was appointed on 12 August 2022.

The site handover and site establishment took place on the following days: Vlakfontein was on 10 August 2022, Botshabelo was on 11 August 2022, Sekhukhune was on 12 August 2022 and Tshaulu was on 16 August 2022. The committee expressed their disappointment on the expiry of the 117 librarians and assistant librarian posts. During the committee oversight visits to libraries, it was discovered that the librarian contracts had expired, and Zamani Library was badly affected; that's the library where Hon Basikopo Makamu comes from. Hon Speaker, the committee having considered and scrutinised the department's 2022/23 first quarter report, recommends that the department must prioritise ways to address other expenditures as it will have a negative impact on the audit outcomes by the end of the financial year.

On school sport development, in sport activities, children do not only play the role of team players but sometimes they also have to play the role of a leader knowing that they have to lead the team which at the end will boost their leadership qualities.

This helps them to become good decision makers. Being a leader, the duty is not just to lead the team but also to boost and appreciate the team. Our province is mostly rural and as such, a higher percentage of resources should be based in that angle. The committee recommends that department should target interventions that are rolled out in collaboration with traditional leaders through our sporting hubs that are initiated in a number of traditional councils across the province. It was reported that the people trained to deliver on academic programme were ten and the department achieved that target.

Those ten athletes were from Limpopo Baobabs Netball Team, and they were trained on mental health ... [INTERJECTION]

MR MAPOULO

Limpopo.

MS MATHYE

I'm sure you are not trying to kill my pride; I am a Xitsonga speaking person. Thank you very much. I pronounce it as I speak. I am a Xitsonga speaking person, Hon Mapoulo. I cannot pronounce like you.

ADV PHALA

Mapoulo, kgane o bjang?

MS MATHYE

I cannot pronounce like him. He knows that.

BACKGROUND

[Inaudible]

MS MATHYE

It was reported that the people trained to deliver on academic programme were ten and the department achieved that target. Those ten athletes were from Limpopo Baobabs Netball Team, and they were trained on mental health on 27 and 28 May 2022.

I will give you chance Hon Mapoulo to be my tutor, don't worry. The report indicated that the number of people trained as part of club development programme exceeded the quarterly target of 100 by 143 when additional people were trained during the coaching clinics that was conducted by the South African Football Association. The quarterly target was 46 for a number of leagues supported but the department supported a total of 61 leagues during the first quarter. This was done after the request from federations to enable them to participate in the national leagues.

On arts, culture and heritage, Madam Speaker, our investment in the cultural and creative industry seeks to unlock the potential of this sector in order to create the conditions for success and to develop and keep our talent here at home. Our investment in this regard is anchored in three areas; namely: funding for projects, training and capacity-building platforms and access to markets. The department supported a total of six statutory and non-statutory bodies out of the annual targets of seven. The Annual Report indicated that the budget was reprioritised to cater for contractual obligations. The number of practitioners who benefited from the capacity-building opportunity were 1 523 out of the annual target of 1 140.

The target was exceeded due to more artists being capacitated after funds were received from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. The number of artists promoted was 2 677 after more funds were received from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture also. This investment intends to stimulate and support the emergence of creative enterprises with a focus on women, youth and rural areas. Investment in cultural and creative industry is critical in supporting our collective attempts towards the post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

As the committee, we are continually evolving our role from being primarily a provider of sports, arts, culture, and heritage opportunities to providing greater support programmes initiated and given by communities.

Over the coming years, let's paddle down on investing in our institutional fields like arts centres, theatres, and museums.

On Cultural Affairs, it was reported that quarterly targets were set at 1 000 practitioners to benefit from capacity-building opportunities, but it exceeded and 297 practitioners benefited from this capacity-building opportunities. The number increased due to combined efforts with LEDA to reach more artists. The practitioners were from the Mopani, Vhembe and Capricorn Districts. They were capacitated on export, Sars compliance, Lottery applications and product packaging in partnership with SEDA, DTI and LEDA.

The first quarterly report indicated that 305 artists were promoted out of a quarterly target of 100. The number increased due to collaboration with other government departments to strengthen the cultural exchange programme during the Africa Day celebration.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, evidently, in a dismal national fiscal environment, adopting a whole of society approach in inculcating collaborative efforts through sustainable partnership is much needed to achieve our mutual goals to enable safe and cohesive communities. As the trusted partner of our sport and culture stakeholders, those affecting dynamic changes in behavioral role trends at grassroot levels are our most valued partners and we remain committed in empowering them and various structures through innovative assistance and interventions as the need and demand transpire.

Under the visionary leadership of Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, the Limpopo government firmly believes that innovation is always on the agenda, and we live towards collaboratively raising new ideas and always doing the right thing with competent integrity. We are always mindful of the people we serve through cultural affairs and sport.

Let me close my debate by quoting Sir Wilson Churchill Spencer, when he was asked to cut the budget for sport, arts and culture. He said, "Then, what are we fighting for?"

Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I call upon Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Once more, Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Allow me to remind this august House that the creative and sporting industries are recognised worldwide as an important contributor to the economy and a number of people derived their means of livelihood from these industries. Arts, culture and heritage are way more than just their economic contribution, but they speak right to the soul of who we are. They are expressions of our collective identity as a people. It is not our intention as the committee to suggest that this department is more important than others, but to say the work it does is of equal importance. The report indicated that the department managed to host two significant historic days during the first quarter of 2022/23.

The Freedom Day celebration was hosted on 27 April 2022 at Manganeng village in Sehukhune District. The Africa Day celebration was held on 25 May 2022 at the University

of Limpopo. The department indicated that on Freedom Day celebrations the main event was aimed at attracting at least 2 000 participants for the rally but more than 5 000 people turned up for the event. The loud hailing in the community three days before the event assisted in attracting more people to the event.

Citizens of this province from all districts, private sector, small and medium business enterprises, local performing and visual artists gathered in Sekhukhune to witness the Freedom Day celebration. The economy of the future will rely on creativity and innovation to create jobs and foster economic growth. To be competitive in the country and as a province, as a department, we need to invest in the cultural and creative industries in order to create conditions for success, develop and sustain our talents here at home. Honourable MEC, maybe let your plans for this financial year chart a course for policy tools that support our creative industries and the heritage sector.

You need to work on seeking to strengthen and renew our existing cultural and heritage policy tools and to introduce new initiatives that will help our creatives succeed in the global marketplace. There are honorable Members who have spoken about issues as reflected in the portfolio committee who were, mainly; Hon Mathye and Hon Maseko. I will then speak to the resolutions as directed to the department for implementation. Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee having considered and scrutinised the 2021/22 reports, recommended the following to the department: The accounting officer must continue to involve the audit committee and internal audit to ensure that management implements and enhances review processes on the financial statement.

We were referring to this for the department to improve on its audit outcomes. We have said that the accounting officer must exercise all reasonable care to prevent and detect any fruitless and wasteful expenditure and any losses relating thereto, must be vested with that official.

Honourable Members must bear in mind that unpunished corruption from top officials of the department leads to replicating behaviour by ordinary citizens. Dominance of provinces by corrupt leaders further fosters the acceptance of corruption as a normal practice. Corruption often generates more of the same until a corrosive culture of corruption is fostered. Where no action is taken against those engaged in corruption, the more people will be attracted to such actions. The committee is continuously making efforts to ensure transparency of service delivery by government departments and municipalities by adequately and timeously handling challenges from the public.

However, the committee often encounters various challenges that supersede its mandate. The nonimplementation of committee resolutions by departments and municipalities causes delays in resolving and closing issues and insufficient cooperation by the departments and municipalities in terms of attending committee meetings which results in cancellation and postponement of meetings. That hinders progress in the oversight work of the portfolio committee.

As I conclude, the portfolio committee's commitment must be assured to the reports presented and meaningful of the enormity of the challenges that are confronting the

department. With support and encouragement from all stakeholders, there will be no doubt that this administration will succeed in its vision to champion social transformation.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri.

7.6 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture

Over to you, committee chair.

MS APHIRI

Once more, thanks, Hon Speaker. I stand here on behalf of the portfolio committee to table a report on the oversight visits as undertaken by the portfolio committee for consideration and adoption by this House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Is there any seconder? I call upon Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Speaker. I hereby rise to support the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. The consideration and adoption are on the oversight visit to Nancefield Library in Musina Local Municipality and Schoemansdal Museum in Makhado and an oversight visit to the infrastructure projects in Runnymede, Mavalani, Mulamula and Seleteng libraries. Oversight visits to Vlakfontein and Groblersdal libraries in Elias Motsoaledi, oversight visits to the completed projects in Mopani, oversight visits to the completed museums and heritage sites. The first speaker to start the debate is Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, leadership of the opposition, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, honourable Members in this august and majestic House. Hon Speaker, let me reiterate my discomfort on the accounting of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture because that becomes the role of the HOD and the MEC. But remember, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization once stated that for the nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, it is for them to ensure that library organisations are established,

supported, and are funded by the community and through local, regional, provincial or national governments.

It is therefore necessary that this provincial government on behalf of our people of Limpopo constructs more libraries for their benefit. Our people have over the years been sidelined by the vexatious and draconian government in favour of the minority. Having this particular opportunity, Hon Speaker, we must lead our people with courage and serve them with pride to address problems which apartheid has created. Given that public libraries are significant contributors to education, they have over the years earned respect of our communities.

Public libraries have shaped and redefined their roles as community activity centres, community information centres, formal education support centres, independent learning centres, popular material libraries; so on and so forth. Community libraries are crucial for our people to have access to information but also to satisfy their multiple needs. As the custodian of information and knowledge in a diverse sphere, they also play a role in terms of socioeconomic development of nations, and all public libraries in South Africa fall under the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

However, it has been noted that even in the post-apartheid South Africa community libraries were faced with an avalanche of daunting challenges against their mandate to provide library resources to all. Some of the scholars mentioned that despite these enormous challenges of funding and staffing, community libraries, particularly in disadvantaged rural communities, are not receiving sufficient support from both provincial and local government. This problem of public libraries not meeting the information needs to their users is not only encountered here in our province but the whole of South Africa and across the globe.

Hon Speaker, as the portfolio committee, we are also mandated by the Constitution to ensure that we play an oversight role over the provincial Executive; an organ of state, so that they are accountable to this Legislature. The Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture conducted an oversight visit to acquire information and check if the department is providing the ultimate information regarding these libraries.

Upon the arrival to these particular libraries as you have mentioned, Hon Speaker, the committee viewed the libraries and was briefed by the department, the IDT and the contractors on challenges they are faced with, and progress made thereof. The committee has interrogated and sought clarity on challenges faced by contractors but also attempted to provide solutions on those challenges. However, it must be noted that during the oversight visit the committee was impressed by the progress in Runnymede and Seleteng. The construction of these libraries was a pure and a total demonstration of the total commitment to serve the people of Limpopo.

Having noted the impact of COVID-19 on the progress and completion of these libraries, some of the libraries were greatly affected by this pandemic because the department could not, in actual fact, achieve its own set targets. The committee also registered its discomfort with regard to the Mavalani and the Mulamula libraries. These are the two libraries on which the department and its implementing agency were tortoisising over their

completion. There is absolutely a general tendency of contractors failing to complete on time. This created a space for them to hide under their underpricing when quoting and most of these departments become frustrated in the middle of the project.

The committee advised that the department must ensure that contractors must stick to their timeframe as stipulated in the contract and also pay contractors on time. This will reduce several complaints and scapegoats by these contractors. Having noted the myriad of challenges facing these libraries, the portfolio committee also recommended in general that libraries in this province must have relevant security systems which will help for their safety. The department should fast-track the process of appointing librarians, library assistants and cleaners on a permanent basis.

They must ensure that libraries are properly airconditioned and ensure that contractors use durable building materials, notwithstanding the different seasons of the year. Libraries should also have boreholes to address shortages of water as something that we have identified as a challenge in those libraries. There must be Wi-Fi activities and many other things that I think the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee would be able to speak about them.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. Over to you, Hon Ramalobela.

MR RAMALOBELA

Thanks, Madam Speaker. Once more, greetings to this great august House. Hon Speaker, libraries in this province are characterised by all sorts of challenges which include human resources and infrastructure. The contractors whose services were enlisted to build libraries are not monitored. Projects are not monitored and therefore, service providers end up delivering shoddy work and that is a concern. Upon the completion of these projects, you still find that the doors are not properly working, the walls have cracks; et cetera, et cetera.

Furthermore, the materials used are not of good quality as you have seen at the Runnymede Library under the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Contractors buy cheap material because they want to pocket more money. The people of Limpopo are not getting any value for their money from these projects. Contractors collude with officials in order to loot. The majority of community libraries in Limpopo do not have furnisher and the example of that is the Zamani Library in the Greater Giyani Municipality.

This library is also characterised by the shortage of librarians because their contracts were not renewed on time. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selamolela, may you please allow the speaker to proceed.

MR RAMALOBELA

Thank you for the protection, Hon Speaker. Why does the department subject librarians to twelve-month contracts when clearly there is a need for them to be employed permanently and render services to communities? The Mavalani Library in the Greater Giyani Municipality has no security for books and some books don't even have barcodes and even the 3M security system is not there. The Nancefield Library in Musina does not have landline phones. The librarians use their cellphones. They buy airtime when the need arises. There is no cellphones allowance from the department. That is a concern, Hon Speaker.

The fact that librarians buy airtime to communicate work-related matters due to the unavailability of landline phones means that the government is stealing from the workers. The government pays librarians and then take the money back again, hence the majority of our people or workers remain poor. There are no communication facilities in the form of office telephones, cellphones, fax and email facilities, including the lack of photocopier machines at the Schoemansdal Museum in Makhado. The museum doesn't have furnishers since it was destroyed during the fire in 2008.

The mini library for the blind at Vlakfontein in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality in the Sekhukhune District does not have braille but only the audio devices were available. Clearly, the government doesn't care about the education of people living with disability. That is a concern, Madam Speaker. The constitutional rights for access to information as enshrined in the Bill of Rights is being infringed. The Machaka Lodge has been abandoned for ages now and nothing has been done about it. This exposes a lot to vandalism because of its dysfunctionality. There is no immediate plan to revive this lodge or to use it for something else that could benefit the community.

As we speak, the lodge is just a white elephant. Abandoned buildings like these are havens for criminals especially that in most cases they do not have adequate security. Clearly, Hon Speaker, the ANC-led government is suffering from poverty of ideas. Actions speak louder than words. Twenty-nine years of speaking without action is unbearable.

I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Let's proceed. The last speaker is Hon Aphiri. [APPLAUSE]

MS APHIRI

Madam Speaker, once more, let me greet you and thank you for this opportunity. Allow me to remind this honourable House of the oath that we have taken. This is an honourable House and whatever report that we give here, must be an honest and a truthful report. Madam Speaker, the Schoemansdal Library is still under construction, and it will be allocated furnisher after the completion of the project. We cannot sit here and listen to an

honourable Member saying it doesn't have furnisher. It cannot have furnisher because it is not yet completed. [APPLAUSE]

I have undertaken the oversight visit, there is nowhere where we have witnessed cracks on libraries. There is nowhere where we have seen the cracks on libraries. So, that's why I'm saying, we need to be truthful. If the project was delayed being completed, we must say it was delayed being completed. We can't say it does not have furnisher. The objective of the oversight visits is to discover what government can properly and successfully do and how it can do these things with utmost efficiency, with the least possible costs, either of money or of energy.

This comprises tasks in the sphere of security and internal order, regulations, and enforcement of filling of legal duties, application of administrative supervision tool and the imposition and execution of functions within the limits of administrative authority. The committee visited the Vlakfontein Library and the Groblesdal Library amongst others.

Those are the beneficiaries of the conditional grant for maintenance and upgrades. The purpose of the oversight visits was mainly to acquire information and to check if the department is providing the committee with accurate information on the abovementioned identified areas in the quarterly reports. On 10 August 2022, the committee was led by honourable Members of the portfolio committee. On arrival at Vlakfontein, the committee Members were briefed by the librarian on the state of the library. The committee viewed the library with the librarian, and thereafter the committee went to Groblersdal Library where the librarian briefed the committee, and they were taken through the library.

The Vlakfontein Library is functional, and user-friendly for the disabled people. During the oversight visit, the librarian indicated that the previous week prior to the visit, the library was closed due to water shortages. It was indicated that the borehole that was erected went dry in 2019 because of water scarcity in the area. The library computers and Wi-Fi are working. The committee recommended that the department must ensure that in Vlakfontein a borehole is drilled to address water shortages and a generator must be purchased for library activities not to be disturbed. That is the truth.

The committee further requested that the library should open on Sundays and holidays from 07:00 to 14:00. The Groblersdal Library was built in 1975. It was under the municipality and the Department for Sport, Arts and Culture has taken over, and had extended the study hall in 2010. The library is fully functional, and it was operating during COVID-19. Witnessing an act of vandalism can trigger anger in even the gentlest citizen and it can leave a lasting effect. Why? Because vandalism suggests gang activity in the area, makes people feel victimised and causes economic hardship for the community.

The dilapidated nature of major infrastructure across the province continues to cause setbacks for service delivery. It is the department that continues to render the much-anticipated community development activities and the rights for learning. As highlighted in the 2019 MTBF, it remains critical to drive further infrastructure investment and public sector infrastructure projects, and yet they are replaced by poor planning and implementation.

Despite its clear benefit for growth and poverty reduction, infrastructure spending is far below what is needed. Moreover, that gap widens as countries' income falls. Infrastructure is considered to be the structural element of the economy which allows the production of goods and services without themselves being part of the production processes.

Although the Department of Public Works ran out of budget for the refurbishment of heritage sites currently. The committees are continuously making efforts to ensure transparency of service delivery by government departments. However, the committee often encounters various challenges that hinder its mandate. The nonimplementation of committee resolutions, I repeat, Madam Speaker, because this must be rectified, the nonimplementation of committee resolutions by the department causes delays in resolving and closing issues and insufficient cooperation by the department in terms of attending committee meetings, which results in the cancellation and postponement of meetings.

The economy doesn't expand its productive capacity as ransackers milk the existing capacity and kills off new productive capacity by choking the not-so politically connected innovators, entrepreneurs, and new ideas from getting a startup for finance or trading licences. Corruption misallocates scarce talent, resources, and energy to ransacking activities. It undermines democracy and shattering trust in democratic institutions which ultimately lead to political instability. South Africa is at a ticking point where corruption is in danger of becoming the accepted social norm.

The growth path sets a goal of 5 million new jobs by 2020, identifies structural problems in the economy, and points to opportunities in specific sectors and markets or job drivers. The first job driver is infrastructure which lays the basis for higher growth, inclusivity, and job creation. Lack of leadership where critical positions like chief financial officers are left vacant for over a period of twelve months, or more, are some of the root causes of poor governance.

Lack of consequence management, this is repeated several times, Madam Speaker, continues to be an area of major concern, pointing out the fact that Modumo Trading Post which is strategically placed on the N1 route with three key attraction places such as Tropic of Capricorn, Needle Lodge and Trading Post is without manager and a tour guide in order to generate revenue. Although we don't know where this project falls, it falls in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and again, it falls within the Department of Public Works. These two departments must sit and make sure that this matter is dealt with.

On resolutions and recommendations, the committee is satisfied by the progress made thus far. More efforts will be put in place to deal with all findings effectively and timeously. The Members concluded their oversight visits at Muti wa Vatsonga Open Air Museum. As the portfolio committee, we recommend that the department strengthens the security of the museum by electric fencing the whole area and install an alarm system.

It must employ more staff to compensate for the current staff complement for Saturday and holidays' work. It must allocate a budget for cleaning materials and the daily supply of newspapers to the library.

On training of the current staff members to enhance their capacity in performing their duties; the following oversight departments, that is the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury should strengthen their oversight, monitoring and support the departments and public entities to ensure that supply chain management processes are implemented. Scopa should strengthen its oversight role by monitoring the implementation of resolutions on a quarterly basis and again, Scopa should collaborate with the portfolio committee on infrastructure projects when site visits are conducted. As I conclude, in the period of four years, there was little progress made in terms of ensuring that all departments and public entities work towards the achievement of good governance.

As the portfolio committee, we commit that the report presents the meaningful enormity of challenges that are confronting the department. With support and encouragement from all stakeholders, there will be no doubt that the sixth administration will succeed in the vision to champion social transformation.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Kekana. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

E re ke le leboge, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs, Leader of Government Business, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members including the Leader of the Opposition; Hon Maraga, our officials; the HODs and DG present in the House and the house at large. Allow me to respond to the 2021/22 financial year's Annual Report together with the first quarter report for the 2022/23 financial year and the oversight visits by Members of the portfolio committees. Allow me to indicate that the comments and the inputs raised by Members of the portfolio committee are indeed progressive, assisting, and helpful and that in itself will enable our Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to make sure that we jerk up in terms of making sure that we deliver service to the entire people of Limpopo.

This is precisely because this Sitting takes place at the month which is declared nationally as the Human Rights Month whereby human rights as enshrined in chapter two of the Constitution, as informed by the Freedom Charter, the most progressive document, which was declared by the previous regime, the apartheid regime, as the communist document. Hence, we are here today to make sure that the Bill of Rights, which is a replica of the Freedom Charter, is celebrated. As the government deployees, we must make sure that in furtherance of the preamble of the Constitution of this country, Act No. 108 of 1996, which says, "We the people of South Africa acknowledge the imbalances of the past and

make sure that we honour and respect those who suffered the injustice and lack of freedom of this country and also to make sure that we respect those who contributed to build and develop this country.”

In so doing, as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we are obliged to make sure that we honour and promote what is enshrined in the Constitution of this country in section 195, which speaks about the high level of professional ethics to make sure that we use the government purse efficiently, effectively, and profitably so. Allow me to indicate that on the issue of the unqualified audit opinion which is stagnant from our department for the previous three years, the department is hard at work to make sure that we respond to the Auditor-General's audit action plan together with the management letter and all the resolutions emanating from the audit committees together with the Scopa resolutions and the resolutions of the House.

In so doing, we promise that come the next financial year, we will indeed achieve a clean audit. In terms of the infrastructure or the underexpenditure highlighted as the material finding by the Auditor-General, let me indicate the issue of the elephant in the room which is the provincial theatre. I also want to appreciate the sterling work done by the powerful women who are leading the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure of making sure that with collaboration of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the implementing agent of the Department of Public Works, we were able to pull the bull by its horns.

This is precisely because, as I'm speaking, two days ago we have just received a preliminary report from the engineers, consultants with money which scaled down with figures that I'm not going to disclose right now due to the fact that that document is still going to be disclosed formally but I have seen it with my naked eyes. It is still going to be scaled down, Hon Sekoati. So, it is still awaiting formal approval from us together with the quantity surveyors from the Department of Public Works, and we were even told that it will take about three months more or less.

Come the third quarter, we will then be able to commence with the construction of provincial theatre. We are very happy to register these strides, Programme Director, precisely because we dwelt much of our time dealing with the issues of designs as the honourable Members have already alluded to. Due to the fact that if you don't get it right at the level of designs and planning, the likelihood is that you might even spend more money during construction. In order to alleviate that, we have taken much of time so that at the end of the day, we produce quality designs which do not even compromise quality, although there are some alterations that were done but the mere fact is that they did not compromise the standard of the theatre as expected in the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture documentation.

So, the specifications are still the same. As the ANC-led government we are very happy because in doing this, we are indeed implementing the apex priorities as said by Hon Selamolela to say we need to invest on infrastructure which is the priority set by the President of this country and the Premier of the province. Today we are reiterating that by saying the theatre forms part of a huge infrastructure which form part of the growth of

the economy, the GDP of this country and thus we will be able to create more jobs, in particular, to our youth.

We will see more creative industry SMMEs coming back to Limpopo because we have got talent here in Limpopo. It is just that they moved from Limpopo to other provinces because we don't have infrastructure of this magnitude. So, upon its construction, be rest assured that more employment is going to be created. Labourers will be coming from local, and suppliers will also come from local too. Once more, we also want to congratulate the Polokwane Municipality for coming handy in preparation of this state theatre with the allocation of land that they provided us with because they knew for a fact that we need to use land for developmental purposes. Again, in February this year, Polokwane Municipality was able to adopt the township establishment.

By so doing, they form part of, or they implement what the President of this country has said about township economy; building both the township and the rural economy because upon the constructing of the theatre, we never have the hiccups of the so-called bulk infrastructure coming from Polokwane, and that is the ANC-led government. Let me indicate that in terms of the mitigating factors, we make sure that we spend accordingly within the stipulated timeframes as enshrined in the pieces of legislation. As the department, we then make sure that we approach the forward planning with the three-year planning as a multi-year budget to make sure that during the first year we deal accordingly with designs and planning with the following two years where we will be dealing with the issue of the construction.

On the issue of Schoemansdal Museum, Hon Ramalobela, unfortunately, upon the oversight visit by Members of the portfolio committee which include Members from your side, they were there because they know for a fact that Amilcar Cabral once said that we must never claim cheap victories. So, people are their own liberators. We can attest to say that the Schoemansdal Museum is at 85% completion and the issue of furnisher, and everything will be dealt with at a later stage.

Remember, upon the construction of Schoemansdal Museum, some of the artefacts were just removed from that area to be kept safe so that they must be brought back at a later stage when the museum is completed. I also want to indicate that we once paid homage to one of our honourable Members here, Hon Smalle, whom Hon Sekoati said is a pseudo revolutionary. When we were visiting Schoemansdal, we were in Hon Smalle's house, and we saw a lot of artifacts and many things that were provided by archeologists to him. He promised that upon completion of the Schoemansdal Museum, he would be able to provide those artifacts free of charge to the museum. [APPLAUSE]

In line with the issue of the digital economy, it was always our principle and priority to make sure that we adopt and move in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Our aim is that all libraries should be equipped with Wi-Fi and the necessary technological equipment and also to accommodate the deaf-blind communities. In most libraries we have provided the same through the assistance of SITA. As for other things mentioned with regard to the issue of libraries are about boreholes and other issues that have been already mentioned, let me indicate to this House that all matters have been planned for in the 2023/24 financial year. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

In conclusion, like I have just indicated on the issue of libraries that, with the assistance from Public Works, we were able to do assessment of all libraries that need maintenance and as it stands, 10 of them are hard at work busy with maintenance; the long outstanding dilapidated library of Mankweng; if you can pass through Mankweng, you will see contactors there. They are hard at work.

Re a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, honourable MEC. Let's move to the snap debate on Human Rights Month. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mokaba.

8. SNAP DEBATE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, allow me to start by quoting our icon Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela when he 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". Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs, Chief Whip, and leaders of the opposition, good afternoon. The fundamental rights to which every person is entitled emanate from the fact that they are fellow humans. In other words, everywhere everyone is entitled to the protection of his or her own rights. Additionally, they are inalienable, which means they cannot be taken away.

The unfortunate part is that human rights are not always upheld and respected. Numerous individuals experience prejudice, abuse and persecution due to their colour, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or other characteristics. Governments have a duty to uphold, respect and implement their citizens' rights. But, if they don't, it's up to the world community to hold them responsible and show support for the people who are suffering.

We must all work together to guarantee that everyone can live with respect, equality and dignity. They are the basis for a just and a peaceful world. Human rights are sets of rights which are fundamental to human life. Since there has been a universal appeal, people from all over the world are entitled to it. Thus, these rights other than having a universal right and a fundamental dimension, carry a global appeal as well. These rights enable a man to live under no fear or threats.

Universalisation of human rights without any discrimination is a mark of a civilised society. These rights are framed while keeping in mind fundamental human demands. In our country, human rights have also found expression in the Constitution. It is the

responsibility of every nation to secure human rights for its citizens and give them liberty to perform actions within their interests which cause no threats to the integrity of others. As these rights carry a universal appeal, human rights and problems associated with them have become a cause of global concern.

In fact, the UN has adopted the Human Rights Charter and has asked various governments to not only give them a due place in their constitutional body, but also to ensure that they are enforced. The UN ensured that the universal declaration for human rights was adopted on 10 December 1948. In contemporary times, a growing concern has been observed towards safeguarding human rights. Issues related to human rights differ from society to society whereas the entitlement of social, economic, civil as well as political rights of the people differ from one nation to another as per the laws governing those rights of the people belonging to a specific country.

For instance, the UN has taken much interests in doing away with discrimination caused against women. Other than that, racial discrimination also forms a major cause of concern under human rights violation. As such, no one is supposed to oppress others based on colour. Therefore, it becomes the utmost duty of every nation to form such laws and create such conditions where human rights of citizens can be protected. We have a democratic setup where all are entitled to enjoy basic human rights and in addition, freedom of expression. These rights are defined as fundamental rights which form a significant part of the South African Constitution.

Our Constitution assures amongst others these fundamental rights which are: rights to freedom, rights to equality, rights to choose religion and rights against exploitation. They are founded on the doctrine of human solidarity to support growth and access of everyone to the common legacy of humankind.

In closing, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, let me quote the words from Mother Teresa when she said, "No colour, no religion, no nationality should come between us, we are all the children of God." Again, let me also quote Martin Luther King Jr when he said, "Commit yourself to the noble struggle for human rights. You will make a greater person to yourself, a greater nation to your country, and a finer world to live in."

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, Hon Managa. [APPLAUSE]

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It's quite an honour for me to participate in today's debate and allow me to greet everyone who is in this House today. My name is Lilian Managa deployed in this august House by the Economic Freedom Fighters, the official opposition here in Limpopo Provincial Legislature and the government in waiting. Chapter two of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa contains the Bill of Rights. A human rights charter that protects the civil, political and socioeconomic rights of all people in South

Africa. It enshrines the rights of all people living in South Africa and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality as well as freedom.

The South African Human Rights Commission is one of the chapter nine constitutional institutions charged with the responsibilities to respect, to protect, to promote, to monitor and to fulfill the rights contained in the Bill of Rights. Human rights violation against black people under apartheid government such as detention without charge or trial, assault, torture in the police custody and restriction orders were deeply entrenched. In moving fast-forward to the current democratically elected government led by black people who the majority of them were in the struggle and were involved in the freedom of black people in South Africa, the fundamental question we need to ask is that is there any difference between apartheid government and the democratically elected government in relation to human rights violation? The answer is that government violated human rights despite of racism as today's government violates human rights in different ways which is largely inspired by apartheid government's violation of human rights. The EFF argues that both systems of government are involved in serious violation of human rights but in different ways.

There is nothing to celebrate on Human Rights Day because it's not yet uhuru. What is there to celebrate when our people are still drinking water with animals? Hon Speaker, what is there to celebrate when our people are still facing many challenges like high rate of unemployment, high rate of crime and high rate of GBV cases, amongst others. All Members during the debate on the Appropriation Bill, did mention about conditional grants that are surrendered to the national government on annual basis meanwhile our people are not receiving services that you promised them the time you were campaigning so that they should put you in power.

Le a palelwa. It's like you were cooked from the same pot. Service delivery does not speak or does not need one to be in government for about three decades as one of the speakers alluded to earlier. That mentality is very wrong. However, it needs visionaries who are ready to take the lives of the people of Limpopo. It's only leaders with political will who do that. For how long will you put our people in this type of abuse, the ruling party? You may call us pseudo-revolutionaries, but the fact remains, you are failing. South Africa failed to take meaningful measures to improve the protection of social and economic rights which have been undermined by the widespread of unemployment, inequality, poverty, the government response to COVID-19 pandemic as well as corruption.

Hon Speaker, human rights violation under the current government is worse than during the apartheid government in an unimaginable proportion. This is the same hypocritical government that claims to be a caring government especially to the poor but on the contrary, they are heartless to the core. How much do you spend on a yearly basis to celebrate the so-called Human Rights Day which in actual fact, does not exist. Why don't you channel those funds to service delivery even if it would mean one borehole in a needy area?

This is because one borehole according to you costs the ANC-led government more than R1,5 million to R3,5 million. These shenanigans are not going to happen in the EFF government, Hon Speaker.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

MS MANAGA

Yes. While the mood was jovial upon the attainment of democracy in 1994, little did we know that the majority of our people will never enjoy freedom earned through sweat and blood for our freedom fighters. Our people continue to suffer serious human rights violations under the ANC-led government. The majority of our people do not have access to drinkable water. People in deep rural areas in Bloubaerg region at GaMalebogo and GaKibi still drink water with animals. In spite of the R153 million pledged in 2020 by Lindiwe Sisulu, the then Minister for Human Settlements, villagers in Moutse in Limpopo still do not have consistent running water. Many of them rely on a handful of municipal boreholes or buying water from private water tankers and boreholes from other people's yards.

Stats SA's household survey found that the province has regressed with regard to clean and portable water from 83% in 2014 to 74% in 2019. Several water projects, most notably the R3 billion Giyani Water Project collapsed largely due to corruption. That led to water shortages in some parts of the province. Loadshedding is a serious violation of the human rights of the people of South Africa. It is because of loadshedding that many businesses closed. The majority of clinics in Limpopo do not open 24 hours around the clock. As a results, women give birth outside clinic gates or outside healthcare facilities because they are told clinics only open at 07:00 and close at 16:30. Just last year, a woman in Burgersfort gave birth outside the clinic gate because she was told by both the security guard and the nurse that clinic opens in the morning at 07:00.

Clearly, this woman's dignity and the right to access free healthcare has been seriously violated by this heartless government. Today, the majority of children walk long distances to access education due to lack of scholar transport. As a result, learners in remote areas of our province and farm areas get attacked and raped on their way to their schools. In essence, it is the government that is attacking and also causing these to our kids. Last year our children in Malale outside Musina in Vhembe District didn't go to school for three weeks because of scholar transport challenge. The village doesn't have school and learners' transport ready.

They have to travel to school for many kilometers to access schools in Madimbo area and Domboni villages. Learners at GaMatlala in Dithamaga village cannot attend classes at Gatlanong Technical High School which is more than 10 kilometres away due to the unavailability of scholar transport. When they arrive late, they get locked outside and they are only allowed to enter the school premises during break. What do you call that? Is that a respect for human rights? Gender-based violence is very rife in our communities in Limpopo as you know but nothing is being done about it.

Women and children continue to be at the receiving end of gender-based violence. Women and children are being violated daily and their rights are violated. The EFF puts it to this House that the government is directly and indirectly involved in escalating incidents of gender-based violence in our province because the system is not practically and cogently doing anything to protect our women and children here in the province. We can spend the whole day depicting or painting a clear picture of serious human rights violations by the government against our people, but time is not going to allow us, Hon Speaker.

The Bill of Rights under this government is not going to be respected, protected, promoted, monitored or fulfilled. Hence, the majority of our people continue to suffer. The ANC-led government is involved in gross violation of human rights of our people here in South Africa, in particular, our province, Limpopo. All these human rights abuses need leadership that can sit itself down with proper political will and consciously implement policies to change the situation unlike those that take decisions while standing. Please, sit yourselves down and resolve societal challenges that our people are confronting. Sit yourselves down, please. I so move, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. Over to you, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thanks, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive, honourable Members and officials who are present here today. Human rights have got a very broader division and we can focus on a lot of topics but for the purpose of today, our focus is necessarily on our children as well as the Department of Education. After almost three decades of democracy, South Africa still struggles to ensure that the right to equality and education is protected for all our learners. We still have huge school infrastructure backlogs, schools made of inappropriate materials, and we have poor sanitation in communities and provinces that mostly serve black learners. The 2021 National Education Infrastructure Management System shows that currently, 2 130 schools in the country still use the banned and dangerous pit latrines as their only form of sanitation. In our schools, 1,1 million learners from quintile 1 to 3 schools suffer daily the indignity of dilapidated classrooms, lack of technology and the humiliation when nature calls.

On 17 September 2021, the High Court Limpopo Division, delivered the judgement for the second time in the case of Michael Komape versus the Minister for Basic Education and gave orders requiring that the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Limpopo Department of Education develop a comprehensive plan to eradicate pit toilets at all schools in Limpopo and install safe and dignified school sanitation facilities. This judgment was a vindication for the rights of our learners in our province whose constitutional rights are violated because of the presence of unsafe and undignified pit toilets at their schools.

This case has its roots in the devastating death of Michael Komape who fell through a dilapidating pit toilet at the school premises and drowned. His family represented by section 27, sought justice against government because of their failure to eliminate pit toilets at schools and was not only awarded for damages but the Department of Basic Education and the Limpopo Department of Education were ordered to develop a detailed plan to eliminate all pit toilets within Limpopo schools. The department's plan was found wanting and unconstitutional by the court and was sent back to the drawing board to develop a new plan.

The High Court noted that while the DBE and LDoE may have financial constraints, the situation of sanitation in our schools is a national emergency that must be treated accordingly. The court agreed that there is a duty to put in place adequate financial provision to address sanitation needs of schools in Limpopo. Honourable Members, it is our duty to ensure that this court order is upheld and that the dignity and safety of our learners in Limpopo is guaranteed. If not, we fail in our own constitutional obligation and the oath that we took. As of January 2023, data from the Limpopo Department of Education reveals that 66 940 learners from 210 schools in Limpopo rely exclusively on pit latrines.

The cut-off date to eradicate these pit toilets is 31 March 2023. The DA in Limpopo, therefore, welcomes the launch of the Michael Komape Sanitation Progress Monitor online tool by section 27 at the Centre of Child Law. The online tool will track progress by the Limpopo Department of Education in eliminating unsafe and inappropriate sanitation in this province and its public schools. A tool like this will hold the department and the provincial government accountable. For years, the department has promised to deal with these issues of inadequate sanitation, and it has failed dismally.

During the Budget Speech in July 2019, the MEC committed that, "In this financial year, the department will eradicate pit latrines in all 507 schools and replace them with proper sanitation facilities. There will be no talk on pit latrines in this financial year." Honourable Members, in the State vs Makwanayane, the Constitutional Court described the rights to life and dignity as the most important human rights. Let this House bow our collective head in remembrance of Michael Komape and Lister Magongwa, aged 6 and 7 respectively, whose lives were taken in this province by the very hands that were meant to guarantee safety. Let this august House guarantee that it will never happen again.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. The last speaker in the debate is Hon Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip of the majority party. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Seshoka, we are being referred to as the Chief Whip of the majority party because we are in the majority, that's why we have two speakers. To have two speakers here is earned and not granted. Thank you very much,

Hon Speaker, Leader of Government Business, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, Members of the Executive present here, honourable Members of this House, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga; that is what was said today.

The 21 March 1960 is a painful reminder of a daunting past that was endured by the majority of black people in this country towards our attainment of freedom and justice. The Sharpeville massacre and many other painful events are some of the difficulties that this country had to traverse through as part of our fight towards our attaining our rightful peace in the history of this country. Together with many historical milestones, 21 March 1960 counted the turning point of this country's fight against an unjust and illegitimate government that had imposed itself against the will of the masses.

The massacre of innocent martyrs who were tired of laws and policies that subdued them in that regime was what the racist evil apartheid government in so doing in its attempt to silence and to justify their foreign equal societies. Because it was a vile system, the only way to sustain apartheid system was to do it through the barrel of a gun. During the period around 1960 and towards the arrest of the Great Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela, the banning of mass democratic movement structures and the exodus of numerous leaders to exile, the apartheid government was fully aware that its diabolic form of government was unsustainable.

It was now even more impossible to ignore or quell the descending ideals because it became increasingly obvious that the majority of people of this country were also trained in the system. There were subsequent events of a nature of onslaughts on our people, but they did little to diffuse the revolutionary tornado that was sweeping throughout the country.

Today we are looking back to the Sharpeville massacre and the June 16 genocide as the inevitable evils that were meant to expose supremacist government that was not done in the will of the people. Today we are even in an unequal society because of the architects of apartheid who have purposefully favoured themselves with this country's natural resources. The systematic biasness on the means of economy to a minority grouping was tenaciously treated towards a tiny grouping of population who continues to unashamedly hemorrhage the country's resources.

It is for this reason that the ANC-led government is unrelenting in its pursuit of creating a just and a classless society which will evade the inevitable scourge of unemployment, inequality and poverty. The ramifications of subjugation were far reaching, hence some 29 years into democratic state were still unable to level the playground. Despite the government's incessant intervention attempts to reverse its ill-gotten gains. Apartheid was not only brutal for our people, but it was evil and hindered their prospects to economic prospects.

We are, therefore, unapologetic in our endeavour as government to institute progressive economic transformation mechanism to eject our people from the shackles of poverty. As we chart forward fortifying this democracy, we do so mindful of the indelible debt that apartheid has caused in the plight of our people, denying the scourge to blind our people. As we celebrate this Freedom Day, we are doing so mindful of apartheid's totality and its

onslaughts on the dreams and aspirations of our people. It is on days like these that we are reminded of the gruesome confrontations that we had to deal with to gain recognition in the country of our forebearers.

We are reminded of the hundreds and the thousands of the struggle stalwarts who met their untimely death at the prime of their lives because apartheid supremacy could not stand being challenged. We are reminded of how many young people had to resort to go into exile because it became unsafe for them to stay in the country of their birth. It is a stark reminder of how standing up for your own rights and those of your people would have you being sent into jail without trial, disappear into thin air or be sent a parcel bomb.

As we celebrate this day, we do so mindful of the fact that some amongst us paid the ultimate price for us to bask in the glory of this democracy. As we forge ahead with our nation-building efforts, we must do so considerate of the fact that the martyrs of Sharpeville and subsequently the Langa massacres were killed for an ideal of a peaceful and a just system. We dip our revolutionary banner as we celebrate these great heroes and heroines of our struggle who like true soldiers led from the front and stood to the course of the war and died in the battlefield.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable Members. Honourable Members, may we continue with our programme.

THE PHRASE: “WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE IS THIS?”

(Speaker’s Ruling)

Honourable Members, on Tuesday, 16 March 2023, we had our Sitting as the Legislature where Hon Seshoka uttered the phrase, “What kind of nonsense is this?”, while presenting a Members’ Statement. Hon Makhurupetje wanted to know as to whether the phrase was parliamentary or not. I then promised this august House that I will go and consult and come back and make a ruling on this utterance. So, the response I got is that the word ‘nonsense’ has the potential to spark controversy in the House.

As the Presiding Officer, I therefore urge all Members to desist from using controversial phrases such as this one. If honourable Members insist on using such phrases, the Speaker will have no choice but to apply the rules of the House and applicable conventions.

Thanks very much.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, as usual, food is available.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, the House is adjourned to Thursday, 30 March 2023 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thanks very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 2023
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. Honourable Members of this august House, Members of the Executive Council, members of staff, members of the public in the gallery, all distinguished guests present today, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Honourable Members, today's arrangement is that item 2 to 5 is suspended.

[ITEMS 2–6 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We would therefore commence with item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

6.1 TABLING OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003 (ACT 56 OF 2003), IN-YEAR MONITORING, SECTION 71(7), REPORTING FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

Over to you, Hon Sekoati. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am rising on a point of exigency. I just want clarity on whether this House is forming a quorum to proceed with the business of the day. I just want to confirm because ... [inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

It is noted. Can we allow the honourable MEC to continue, and I will deal with that matter at the end of these proceedings. You may proceed honourable MEC.

MR SESHOKA

I did not get that. Are you saying that we are proceeding without a quorum?

THE SPEAKER

I have responded. Can you allow the honourable MEC to proceed please? I will deal with that issue at the end of this programme.

MR SESHOKA

I was just enquiring.

THE SPEAKER

This is my ruling. I am considering what you are saying but for now let us allow the MEC to proceed.

MR SESHOKA

That is my concern, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

No, I have responded Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

I am registering my concern to find out how we can proceed with the business of the day if we are not sure if we are forming a quorum.

THE SPEAKER

I have indicated that I will deal with the matter at the end of the proceedings. Honourable MEC, you may proceed please.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am asking a simple question. Are we proceeding with the business of the day without a quorum?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, it is unfortunate because it seems as if you do not understand the rules. We are not taking any decisions in this House for now. A quorum only comes into play when we are taking decisions. Can you allow the honourable MEC to proceed please? That is according to the rules. Can you sit now please and allow the MEC to proceed. I am referring you to the rules.

MR SESHOKA

Which rules are you referring to?

THE SPEAKER

We are not taking any decisions, unless you can convince me that there are decisions to be taken here. We are not taking any decisions now, so allow the MEC to proceed.

MR SESHOKA

I will sit down [Inaudible]

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, please proceed.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

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 this, I hereby table the finance report for the quarter ending 31 December 2022, for consideration by this august House.

I 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 to report back to the House. I am going to skip item 7.1 for now. We will come back to it at a later stage.

7.2 SECOND READING: PRESENTATION OF BUDGET VOTES AND SCHEDULES OF THE LIMPOPO APPROPRIATION BILL [B02-2023]

7.2.1 The Budget Speech for Vote 05: Department of Provincial Treasury.

I shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, to do the presentation.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCIAL TREASURY

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

Thank you, Madam Speaker; Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; leadership of the ruling party; leaders of various opposition parties; traditional leaders; the Director-General, Mr Nape Nchabeleng; the HOD of the Provincial Treasury, Mr Gavin Pratt, and all heads of department; members of the boards; chief executive officers and leaders of our various entities present; Mayors; Executive Mayors and all councillors; executives from the Auditor-General; the media, distinguished guests; citizens of Limpopo, thobela.

Hon Premier and Hon Speaker, allow me to table the 2023/24 Budget for Vote 5: Provincial Treasury, together with the attached Summary of Payments and Estimates for consideration by this august House.

The Provincial Treasury (Vote 5) has been allocated a Budget of R457,7 million for the 2023/24 financial year. The Budget allocation represents an increase of 11,7% when compared to the Main Appropriation of R409,9 million tabled for the 2022/23 financial year. The key focus in the current financial year will be to further strengthen the Provincial Treasury to improve its strategies to support and monitor departments, municipalities, and public entities and to ensure that we improve compliance to the PFMA, MFMA and other policies and legislation.

As the Provincial Treasury, through our quarterly revenue enhancement bilateral meetings, we continue to take the lead in supporting departments and public entities to collect revenue that is due to the state and that realistic annual revenue targets are set and pursued. To this end, an amount of R2,1 billion has been collected from 28 February 2023 compared to the original annual target of R1,4 billion, and against the adjusted target of R2,1 billion.

The framework used to curb provincial expenditure on Compensation of Employees through the PERSAL block, as managed by the Provincial Treasury jointly with the Office of the Premier, keeps on achieving the intended results. In the 2023/24 financial year, the Provincial Compensation of Employees represented 65,7% of the total provincial Budget,

compared to the over 72% in the previous years. Despite the achievements gained in curbing the Compensation of Employees, the Provincial Compensation of Employees percentage is still high in comparison to the provincial average of 61,2% nationally. Thus, more effort will be put in place to manage the COE costs without compromising service delivery to the citizens of Limpopo.

The department continues to have ongoing monthly monitoring and tracking of expenditure performance of all departments and public entities, which allows for the identification of suitable interventions in the event of slow expenditure and failure in service delivery. Emphasis is placed on the spending of Conditional Grants and provincial priorities, and institutions are required to submit catch-up plans where spending and implementation is not realised in line with the original plans. If anyone is underspending, we don't just sit back and do nothing about it. There are efforts being put in place to make sure that everyone of us is spending as expected.

In the pursuit of making sure that these municipalities comply with section 18 of the MFMA, the Provincial Treasury has embarked on a process to monitor the implementation of both funded and unfunded budgets through In-year reports, assessing mid-year expenditure and the performance of all municipalities in the province. In the past six months, we have assisted municipalities with unfunded budgets to develop funding plans to address the budget shortfalls and to mitigate any budget shortcomings.

In this regard, I wish to appreciate the 19 municipalities that have approved funded budgets in line with the MFMA requirements. It however remains a grave concern that the province still has eight (8) out of the 27 municipalities that have adopted or approved unfunded budgets in the current financial year – kolobe tša mašalela morago. We will, however, continue to support them.

Hon Speaker, it is concerning that there are incorrigible municipalities in as far as unauthorised, irregular, and fruitless and wasteful expenditures are concerned. What is more concerning is that these municipalities would most likely fail to meet the target set to reduce irregular expenditure by 75% and eliminate fruitless and wasteful expenditure by 100%. We, therefore, make a clarion call on the political leadership of the affected municipalities to urgently attend to these dilemmas thoroughly, through proper investigation and the implementation of consequence management, in order to deter further recurrence of the same concerns.

As the Provincial Treasury we need to make it clear that we are not always against the use of consultants by municipalities. It means we are not always being unreasonable when it comes to the use of these consultants, but we must express our displeasure on the scale and cost of the usage of consultants, even though we have municipal officials with the requisite skills, knowledge, and experience to discharge their responsibilities. We therefore expect all municipalities to reduce the usage of these consultants, because at times we use these consultants and yet we do not get the required results. Therefore, we request that municipalities use the municipal officials who were employed on the basis that they have got the capacity and the required skills for them to be in those positions, so that we are able to save those resources for the services of the communities.

Concerning the municipal audits, I would like to congratulate the two municipalities that obtained clean audit reports, viz the Capricorn and Waterberg District Municipalities. These two municipalities are exemplary on how municipal finances are managed and accounted for monthly, quarterly, and yearly.

Four municipalities, namely Thulamela, Greater Letaba, Maruleng and Molemole has sustained an unqualified audit opinion for the past five financial years, and our expectation is to take these municipalities to the next level of obtaining clean audit opinions in the 2022/23 financial year. Hence, in the remaining months before the end of the financial year, they must ensure that the enabled audit finding action plans are implemented and findings are resolved.

Over the 2023 MTEF period, as the Provincial Treasury, we have allocated additional funds to improve our capacity to support our municipalities. Hence, when they do not do well, they cannot say that Treasury has not supported them, or they haven't seen us; we are not on their side. We are allocating resources to make sure that we have better functional, working municipalities.

Hon Speaker, the primary responsibility of the Provincial Treasury with regard to infrastructure, is to embed an Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) for the Limpopo Province, which is aligned with the regulatory framework for public sector planning, procurement, supply chain management, delivery and expenditure control. It is for this reason, that for the previous financial years to date, the Limpopo Provincial Treasury is convening and chairing the Provincial Infrastructure Governance Structures to continue with the support to departments on infrastructure, technical, tactical and strategic issues, on a monthly basis.

Though infrastructure planning has improved over time and the understanding of the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) is exemplified, timeous procurement remains a challenge. Hence, the inclusion of control frameworks in the Framework for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management (FIPDM), which is aimed at expenditure control and a reduction in the gap between what is planned and budgeted for and what is delivered, to ensure that value for money is achieved on all projects.

In order to enhance and capacitate departments and implementing agents on infrastructure procurement, further support will be provided by way of the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) body of knowledge and communities of practice workshops to be undertaken together with National Treasury and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on a quarterly basis.

On the other hand, in response to the challenges experienced by municipalities in the delivery of infrastructure, the Municipal Infrastructure Team in the Provincial Treasury has developed the Terms of Reference, including guidelines with the aim to enhance the quarterly Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) forums which are already in place. This has been done in consultation with the team from the Department of Cooperative Governance Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), so that there are no duplications but improvement and building on the gains that the MIG forum has advanced to date.

Honourable Members, the Budget details of our department are as follows:

- Compensation of Employees (COE) increased by 9,2% from R303,3 million in 2022/23 to R331,2 million in the 2023/24 financial year and this allocation will be used to fund reprioritised critical vacant posts in this financial year.
- Goods and Services increased by 21,3% from R95,6 million in 2022/23 to R116 million in the 2023/24 financial year due to the reprioritisation of the budget to fund contractual obligations and key accounts.
- Transfers and Subsidies decreased by 45% from R4 million in 2022/23 to R2,2 million in 2023/24 financial year due to a reduced number of officials that will retire in the next financial year.
- Payment of Capital Assets increased by 21,7% from a budget of R6,9 million in 2022/23 to R8,3 million in the 2023/24 financial year. The allocation will cater for working tools as well as the procurement of the security system.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Provincial Treasury is composed of five integrated programmes that operate as a unit. These are: Administration, Sustainable Resource Management, Asset, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management, Financial Governance and Shared Internal Audit Services

Administration is allocated R191,9 million to provide effective and efficient strategic management, administrative support and sound financial management to the Provincial Treasury.

The division comprises of the following sub-programmes: MEC Support Services; Management Services; Corporate Services; Information Management; and Financial Management.

The programme also undertakes to provide bursaries for the 2023 academic year to deserving employees as part of the support of personal growth and skills development. A business continuity plan continues to be implemented to look at a holistic process to identify any potential threats to the organisation and provides a framework for building resilience and the capability for an effective response which safeguards the interests of departmental key stakeholders and the reputation of the organisation.

Sustainable Resources Management is allocated R85,8 million in order to inform 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 resources.

The programme comprises of the following sub-programmes: Programme support; Economic and Fiscal Policy Oversight; Budget and Public Finance Management; Municipal Finance and Governance and Infrastructure Management.

An additional amount of R11,2 million is allocated for the Municipal Support sub-programme, to improve the Provincial Treasury's capacity to support our municipalities with focused support projects.

Hon Speaker, Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management receives an allocation of R54,1 million. This allocation will be utilised to provide policy direction and facilitate the effective and efficient management of assets, liabilities, financial systems and provincial supply chain management processes.

The programme comprises of the following sub-programmes: Programme support; Asset and Liabilities Management; and Provincial Supply Chain Management.

The Provincial Treasury has embarked on an enhanced evaluation and monitoring plan to improve adherence to procurement plans by departments. The improved adherence to procurement plans is envisaged to aid in budget management and contract management. The introduction of PPPFA regulations, which came into effect on 13 January 2023, will also catalyse the empowerment element by placing emphasis on women, youth and people with disability.

Hon Speaker Financial Governance receives an allocation of R78,3 million. The division comprises of the following sub-programmes: Programme Support; Governance, Monitoring and Compliance; Transversal Risk Management; Accounting Services; and Financial Management Information Systems.

The programme has developed and will monitor the implementation of the Limpopo 2025 Audit Improvement Strategy which outlines how provincial departments and public entities will be supported to attain clean audit outcomes by 2025.

Hon Speaker, we are proud to disclose the following improved provincial audit outcomes for the financial year 2021/22. Three clean audits, Seven unqualified audits, and two qualified audits. Only one department has regressed from a clean audit to an unqualified audit opinion. The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury maintained their clean audit status. The Department of Agriculture; Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; Sport, Arts and Culture; Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs; Social Development and the Provincial Legislature maintained unqualified audit outcomes.

Regrettably, the Department of Transport and Community Safety regressed during the year from a clean audit to an unqualified audit opinion. Meanwhile, the Departments of Education and Health continued to receive qualified audit outcomes. The public entities achieved one clean audit, two unqualified audits, and two qualified audit opinions. One public entity improved from an adverse to a qualified audit outcome. The Limpopo Gambling Board maintained a clean audit outcome and the Limpopo Tourism Agency and Roads Agency Limpopo maintained unqualified audit outcomes. Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL) improved its audit status from an adverse opinion to a qualified opinion, while the Limpopo Economic Development Agency continued to receive a qualified audit opinion.

In an effort to improve the audit status of both the Department of Education and the Department of Health to at least an unqualified audit outcome by the end of the 2022/23 audit cycle, focused support is being provided particularly in asset and infrastructure management. The Provincial Treasury is also working closely with the GAAL management team to improve the GAAL audit outcome to at least an unqualified audit opinion by the end of the 2022/23 audit cycle.

Equally, through planned continuous monitoring and support by the Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier, the province plans to achieve six clean audits in our departments and two in our public entities in the 2022/23 audit cycle, and we request all departments and entities to start implementing the agreed corrective actions and consequence management for poor performance and non-compliance.

In the 2023/24 financial year, we will also offer focused training programmes to enhance financial accounting reporting, especially on Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

We are also pleased to report that the province has fully implemented the LOGIS system for capturing of orders and management of expenditure in all departments and their institutions across the province. As part of ensuring full implementation of this system, the Provincial Treasury is in the process of implementing the LOGIS asset module in order to integrate with the LOGIS procurement module. This will eliminate the need to externally capture asset information in the asset register. The information will be automatically integrated into the asset register, from the time an order is captured, and will improve the control and reporting of assets in the provincial government. The province is working closely with the National Treasury team to migrate the current BUAD asset information to the LOGIS system. The project is earmarked to be concluded by the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

Hon Speaker, Shared Provincial Internal Audit Services received an allocation of R47,6 million. During the 2023/24 financial year, learners will be recruited through the Internal Auditor Technician (IAT) programme which is facilitated by the Institute of Internal Auditors. These learners, after completing this programme, will be ready for the job market.

As previously reported to this august House, the Provincial Treasury had been accredited as a training office for aspiring chartered accountants (CAs) by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). We are pleased to announce that the first five CA trainees have all successfully passed the required exams and will be certified as chartered accountants by SAICA once they have completed their training contract with the Provincial Treasury later this year. We trust that we will have the same success rate with the second, third and fourth intake of trainees.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, as a department we have a statutory task of allocating, monitoring and managing our provincial funds to ensure that they meet the developmental objectives of both the national and provincial governments. We will therefore continue to do our utmost best to ensure proper and sound financial management and governance in line with the PFMA and MFMA, and other policy prescriptions.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for the presentation, Hon Sekoati. We shall now call upon the MEC for the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

MR MAPOULO

With due respect Hon Speaker, I still rise on a point of order to say that this House must refer to chapter 7 of the Rules of the House and read them right now in the absence of the quorum. I think Rule 32(1-4) are quite clear Madam Speaker. You can't allow this House to find themselves in an unlawful Sitting. I would therefore like you to refer to chapter 7, and it be read to the House right now so that all of us can comprehend.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, I have made a ruling on that matter as the Presiding Officer. For now, we are not taking decisions on any matter, that is why I have allowed the honourable MEC to proceed. I have promised the latter speaker that I will deal with that matter at the end of these proceedings, not now. Can we proceed Hon Mapoulo? I am not going to retract. You are fully aware that the ruling of the Presiding Officer is final. I have made a ruling on that matter so sit down please and allow us to proceed.

MR MAPOULO

Unfortunately, it is unlawful.

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed honourable Members? After the presentation of Hon Sekoati, I would like to refer the Budget Speech to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Can I finish Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

I am on the platform; can I finish and then I will give you an opportunity. I would like to refer the Budget Speech to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House. You may proceed now, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I think we have been honest with you by quoting the rules. We cannot continue with this Sitting as long as we have not addressed chapter 7(32). It is clearly stating that we cannot continue with the business of the day of the day without forming a quorum. As Hon Mapoulo has requested, may you please, in your ruling read that which gives you the mandate that we can proceed without a quorum, so all of us can learn from that. That is the simplicity of what we are requesting from you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, my ruling was very simple. It is not as if I am not going to entertain what you have raised, I am just not going to entertain it now. As the Presiding Officer, I am going to entertain it ka nako ya ka.

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible] [BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Can I proceed Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

Before we continue, Hon Speaker, wena o nyaka gore re tšwele pele go ya ka melao ya gago. Re kgopela gore molao ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

No, what I am saying is in the Rules. It all depends on whether the Presiding Officer wants to entertain the matter now or later. The Rules make provision for me to do that.

MR SESHOKA

[CROSSTALK] We can't continue without a quorum. Just read the Rules to us so we can proceed. Read the Rule that mandates you to proceed without a quorum.

THE SPEAKER

Can you sit down Hon Seshoka? Honourable Members we proceed with our programme. I am not going to entertain anything regarding that matter anymore. Can you put your hand down?

MR MAPOULO

I just wanted clarity Madam Speaker. Can you acknowledge me please?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you are recognised.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We hear what you are saying, but you cannot just rule on your emotions. What we are requesting is that you indicate which Rule makes provision for that mandate.

THE SPEAKER

It is well taken note about the quorum, and I asked, for now that we are not taking any decisions, can I be allowed to deal with what you are raising at the end of this programme? That was my ruling, so can we be allowed to proceed?

7.2.2 We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Monama, to present the Budget Speech.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(Address by Hon G R Monama: MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism)

Madam Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe; Hon Premier of our Province, Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; Leader of Government Business, Hon Seaparo Sekoati, Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Dr Sekutu Monicca Mochadi; Chair of Chairs, Hon Sarah Monyamane; chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members of this august House; esteemed traditional leaders; captains of the industries; chairpersons and board members of public entities, LEDA, LGB and LTA; chairpersons and board members of our subsidiaries; acting HOD, Mr Matodzi Rathumbu and the platoon of executive management echelons; CEOs of our public entities and subsidiaries; distinguished guests; friends and comrades in the gallery; members of the fourth estate (media); ladies and gentlemen; citizens of the Limpopo province, good morning.

Baswana ba re madume ke makhura re tlola ka ona. Amogelang madume a go hloka bana ba phefo.

Hon Speaker, the reality is that things have significantly changed and there is now an urgent need for us collectively to find meaningful ways within this tight fiscal space to boost the economy and protect jobs, curb poverty while reducing inequality. We are subscribing to the words of wisdom of our former President Thabo Mbeki who once said: "We are on course, steadily the dark clouds of despair are lifting, giving a way to the season of hope our country which for centuries has bled from thousands of wounds is now progressing towards healing". Indeed, the obstacles that hindered our economy will soon fade away like the morning dew disappearing into the air.

Borrowing from Albert Einstein who once said: “Everything that is really great, and inspiring is created by the individual who can labour in freedom. Nothing is as precious as one’s freedom. Dreams, aspirations, and ideals mean nothing if one does not have the freedom to pursue them.”

This Budget Vote is tabled at the backdrop of the State of the Province Address (SOPA) where our Hon Premier, Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, explicitly outlined a multipronged strategy of our crusade of propelling our province to the highest economic trajectory and accelerating our economic recovery through the Limpopo Socioeconomic Recovery Plan, Limpopo Development Plan and Industrial Masterplan by implementing economic reforms for creating sustainable jobs and driving inclusive growth.

The people of the Limpopo province have legitimate expectations of improved livelihood and dignity; therefore, we are collectively indebted to work tirelessly towards deepening efforts to transform the economic patterns of the present in order to realise the set vision for our 5 years of office in this 6th activist administration and beyond, and to ensure that we place service delivery at the centre of transformation and the developmental agenda.

Hon Speaker, undoubtedly the province is poised for development trajectory that reflects steady progress in infrastructure investment, building cohesive, sustainable, and caring communities with improved access to social amenities which is a precursor for sustainable economic development. This LEDET Budget Vote must be understood in the context of comprehensively identifying the substantial progress that the ANC-led government has recorded since the 1994 democratic breakthrough as well as the overarching challenges that still need to be overcome. It should also bring concrete intervention measures in meeting the objectives of rolling back the quagmire of the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

Allow me to quote the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, Mahlatji’a Hlabirwa, who was clear on the occasion of the State of the Province Address that: “This freedom that we enjoy today was not free.” Many people shed their blood; some left the comfort of their families to go into exile to continue the fight for this freedom while others perished in the struggle so that we can enjoy the fundamental rights that some amongst us are taking for granted.

Mahatma Gandhi through his wisdom once advised: “You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

Hon Speaker, I am standing before this august House to report back to the people of Limpopo on the progress made on our commitments since the last Budget presentation to this important institution and also to outline our key ground-breaking plans as the department for the year ahead, which is the 2023/24 financial year. The department prides itself with good governance and the prudent utilisation of public resources which was confirmed by the Auditor-General by obtaining a clean audit opinion in two consecutive financial years.

Cognisance should be taken that the South African economy is showing signs of recovery after two years of growth stagnation due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a testament to that, the unemployment rate has reduced by 5% from 36,3% to 31% between quarter 2 and 3 in 2022. The slow growth of the South Africa economy is compounded by the impact of the Russian-Ukraine War. The latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey results released by Statistics South Africa shows that unemployment declined by 2,1 percentage points from 33,9% in 2021 to 31,8% in quarter 4 of 2022. With this minimal growth of 1,6% for the country in quarter 4, Limpopo created at least 133 000 jobs.

Hon Speaker, the department is monitoring the implementation of the Limpopo Socioeconomic Recovery Plan, which is anchored on the industrialisation agenda of the province for inclusive and sustainable growth for all economic sectors. This plan was premised on short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures to resuscitate the provincial economy and create jobs for our people. The provincial government began with the immediate implementation of the short-term and medium-term measures during the prime of COVID-19. Regular progress reports on the implementation of this recovery plan are provided to various structures in the province including the Provincial Executive Council and the Legislature through the portfolio committee. Furthermore, the department monitors the implementation of the Limpopo Industrial Master Plan earmarked to facilitate economic development and job creation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the province is finalising the development of the Automotive Master Plan for approval which will serve as a blueprint for transforming the automotive sector in partnership with the automotive industry bodies.

In terms of the inclusive economic growth and job creation, Hon Speaker, the founding father of the free and democratic South Africa, Tata Nelson Mandela once said, “a form of the economy will be decided solely by our determination to make the economy perform fully from the point of view of ensuring full employment, maximum productivity and the development of a social consciousness”. It is on this basis that LEDET remains at the centre of driving and facilitating inclusive economic growth and job creation for millions of our people, youth in particular, and women in general through the industrialisation of the provincial economy. We are continuing with the implementation of mega catalytic economic development projects in all the districts.

In the Capricorn and Mopani Districts, the department is implementing an Industrialisation Park Revitalisation Programme in Seshego and Nkowankowa. The department has secured funding from the Critical Infrastructure Programme (CIP) amounting to R49,97 million to implement the Seshego Industrial Park Revitalisation Programme. In the next financial year, the department through the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), as implementing agency, will be refurbishing the top structures of 11 factories, including the conversion of another factory into a functional Digital Hub within the Seshego Industrial Park. This should be completed by the end of the 2023/24 financial year. Regarding the Industrial Parks in other districts, LEDA has increased the occupancy rate to an average of at least 84% with 6 718 jobs sustained. Monthly, LEDA generates around R5,5 million revenue from the rental of the industrial properties in all the districts.

Hon Speaker, the Provincial Government has mandated LEDA to support small, macro, and medium enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives in Limpopo. LEDA will coordinate the efforts in the implementation of the Limpopo Integrated Cooperative Development Strategy. For this purpose, LEDA will spend R10 million in the 2023/24 financial year on enterprise and entrepreneurship development support in terms of entrepreneurship development ecosystem. Our entrepreneurs expect such kind of support from their government.

Madam Speaker, the department is registering considerable progress with the work on the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone. During the financial year ending tomorrow, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park (FTIP), or what we call the Mining Input Supplier Park, was established, and registered as a subsidiary of LEDA. An interim board was appointed to oversee the preparations for packaging of the application for designation of the FTSEZ. The application will be submitted to the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition before the end of June 2023. Honourable Members, the environment compliance Record of Decision has been granted for this massive project in the Sekhukhune District.

The acquisition and integration of the existing Mining Input Supplier Park (MISP) into the FTSEZ has started in the current financial year and payment has been made for the 51% ownership of land and buildings that we have. The Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park is currently finalising transactional agreements, and the exercise will be finalised in quarter 1 of the new financial year.

Honourable Members, the proposed FTSEZ has developed a positive investment pipeline of 35 domestic and global companies to the amount of just over R40 billion with the potential to create 20 000 jobs in the first 5 to 10 years of operation. Eight of these investors have confirmed and are ready to locate in the next 6 to 12 months and projected to invest just over R5,5 billion.

For the 2023/24 financial year, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park has been allocated an amount of R85 million to prepare the infrastructure to locate the 8 investors. Engineering designs for the perimeter fence and security features for the 1200 ha have also been completed. Construction of the first phase, which covers 75 ha of the perimeter fence and security features will start in the new financial year. Furthermore, honourable Members, the construction of the first 5000 square meters of factory building space will also start during the 2023/24 financial year.

Hon Speaker, last year we reported that the key focus of the proposed FTSEZ is to develop an industrial ecosystem in mineral beneficiation, agroprocessing and the manufacturing of green energy, including hydroelectric power. The current investment pipeline I alluded to earlier is aligned with this strategic goal. The main source of these investments is through the participation in strategic events and partnerships such as the Mining Indaba, Africa Green Energy Indaba Investment Conferences locally, nationally, and internationally. The participation at the recent Investing in Africa Mining Indaba in Cape Town and the Africa Green Energy Indaba is yielding positive results.

The department used these events to showcase opportunities offered by our two SEZs (FTSEZ & MMSEZ) as catalytic projects in our province to strengthen partnerships with global industry players and research institutions. Over 100 companies were engaged at these events and some partnerships were strengthened, such as with the Mining Equipment Manufacturing of South Africa (MEMSA) to build a manufacturing plant to produce mining equipment which will create thousands of jobs as well as serve as the supplier to our more than 55 Platinum Group Metal mines in the province and to support the development of the mining input manufacturing cluster and MINTEK for providing technical support towards mineral value chains and beneficiation.

Regarding the Musina-Makhado SEZ, Hon Speaker, significant progress is also being made on the implementation thereof. A sod turning ceremony for the commencement of the North Site of the SEZ was held. The project operator (Shenzhen Hoi Mor) decided to kick-start the project with the launch of two mega projects - Ferrochrome Plant and a Renewable Energy Solar Plant - that will address the energy crisis that we are faced with as a country. We have started with the construction of internal roads and storm water projects in the North Site of the MMSEZ to the amount of R200 million.

New infrastructure projects that are planned to be launched in the next financial year include the construction of integrated security infrastructure, water infrastructure, sanitation and electricity infrastructure to prepare the North Site in readiness for investors who have an appetite to invest in this strategic catalytic project that we are having in the province. This will serve as a catalyst for economic growth and creating job opportunities in the province. Most importantly, over half a billion rand will be invested in Musina Town at the MMSEZ North Site and create employment opportunities and empower the local enterprises and communities. We have to report to this honourable House, that in the Musina-Makhado SEZ, we have a R150 billion investment pipeline that have to be implemented that will have a significant economic spin-off in the province that will change the socioeconomic landscape.

Hon Speaker, let me also announce that the North Site of the SEZ has been granted conditional township establishment authorisation by the Musina Local Municipality, that has paved the way for the commencement of bulk infrastructure investment. An application for water user licences has been launched with the Department of Water and Sanitation which will serve as a medium and long-term water solution for the MMSEZ. As the department, we are pleased with the interventions by the Department of Water and Sanitation to unlock blockages in the water resources across the Limpopo River for this massive catalytic project. These two Special Economic Zones are tailor-made to ensure that our province becomes a honeycomb that attracts investors and as economic game changers, these mega projects will certainly change the socioeconomic landscape of our province. It is through these high impact projects that we will succeed in our quest of beneficiating the minerals that are exported as raw material into various products such as stainless steel, battery parts and energy products.

Hon Speaker, the implementation of the Great North Transport's Turnaround Strategy is now bearing the desired results. GNT has increased its revenue generation capacity from R340,6 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R485,5 million in the 2022/23 financial year. To date, most of the company's historical debts have been settled including the honouring of the statutory and contractual obligations that they have. With that heir

liquidity status has drastically improved. GNT continues to offer essential public transport services to thousands of commuters in the province who depend on this transport service. In the new financial year, the focus will be to increase the number of passengers transported from 8,9 million to 12,1 million. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the Turnaround Strategy to turn GNT into a financially self-sustainable company.

In trying to count in investment for economic development, Hon Mapoulo and honourable Members, in August 2022, the Limpopo Province hosted the second Industrialisation and Investment Conference. Besides the R209 billion raised from the 2021 Provincial Investment Conference, the province again raised R34,9 billion worth of investment pledges from the 2022 Investment Conference against the target of R50 billion. The department monitors the implementation of these investment pledges from the private sector. I want to emphasise that for now, at least R80 billion has been committed and invested in the province. The first phase of Nkuna City is complete with an estimated value of R370 million, and we are saying. Ntirho wu chava mavoko.

As the Premier, Stanley Mathabatha, announced during the State of the Province Address this year, the province has secured funding from the National Empowerment Fund amounting to R32 million. These funds will be used to operationalise the Lebowakgomo Abattoir to the fruition and the traction that we need.

Hon Speaker, last year we promised to relocate New Era Life Insurance, one of the subsidiaries of LEDA, from Sandton in Gauteng to the Limpopo province. I can report today that plans have been finalised to relocate and open New Era Life offices in Polokwane with footprints in Mokopane and Tzaneen from the 2023/24 financial year. New Era Life's policyholders' profile or numbers increased from 46 000 to over 350 000 members in the 2022/23 financial year. The growth in membership will lead to unprecedented growth in gross written premiums.

LEDA has partnered with Sedibelo Platinum Mine to develop and construct a R4 billion Mining and Beneficiation Plan in GaMphahlele under the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality. Sedibelo Platinum Mine will use the plant to process ore and all platinum metal group concentrates. Communities around the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality will benefit immensely from this project in terms of job opportunities.

Hon Speaker, in December 2022, the provincial government met with the owners of Zinjin Mining who operate Nkwe Platinum Mine in GaRatau in the Sekhukhune District. The Zinjin Mining leadership has agreed to move swiftly to ensure that the infrastructure development phase at the mine is completed so that mining can start in earnest. Upon completion of the infrastructure development and when in full operation, the Nkwe Platinum Mine will employ more than 2 500 people.

In heeding to the clarion call by the Premier of the Province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha during his State of the Province Address on 23 February 2023 that, "all government institutions must include in their plans for the development of energy production projects", LEDA will launch two projects to the value of R1,5 billion each to produce 100 megawatts of renewable energy and power batteries from the 2023/24 financial year. These projects will stimulate growth and development as well as job creation for youth in the province.

With the completion of phase one of the broadband network infrastructure, the broadband services are currently accessible by multitudes of public and private entities in the province. Limpopo Connexion under LEDA has embarked on an investment drive for the expansion of the broadband network footprint for the entire province. To date potential investment partners have shown keen interest to work with us to implement phase two of the project.

Hon Speaker, Risima, as a Provincial Housing Finance agency has partnered with CoGHSTA to implement the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Program to benefit millions of our low-income earners who do not necessarily qualify for a mortgage bond from commercial banks. These are the middle-income earners, who are too rich for low-cost housing but too poor for the bond market. We cater for this “missing middle” by providing them with government’s low-cost housing subsidy. Through this programme, people are able to secure housing finance at an affordable price. To date, a total of 147 people has benefited from this programme valued at R11 million. As we address the housing backlog in the province, we are guided by the Congress Movement’s historic document, the Freedom Charter which says, “there shall be houses, security and comfort where people shall be decently housed and be able to bring up their families in comfort and security.”

Risima is also collaborating with Local Municipalities across the province to provide municipal serviced land at an affordable price to the market, while Risima in turn provides tailor-made building packages to promote home ownership to the un-bankable beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the entity developed the Household Solar Energy Product, whereby Risima will provide the residents of Limpopo with an affordable solar energy loan to the maximum amount of R200 000 to install solar panels in line with the call made by the Minister of Finance during his 2023 Budget Speech. Ladies and gentlemen, this product will be available to all homeowners within the province with effect from 01 April 2023 and we encourage our people to approach Risima to access this product to mitigate the impact of loadshedding.

Hon Speaker, the department, through the Limpopo Gambling Board, promotes responsible gambling and also provides treatment and counselling to problematic gamblers in partnership with the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation. Through this partnership we are also promoting responsible gambling by raising awareness in our communities. South Africa is prone to opportunistic chancers of illicit financial flows, money laundering and terrorist financing. To assist the country to curb these challenges, the Limpopo Gambling Board partnered with the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) to tighten the belt within the gambling industry because this sector is not immune to these challenges. In February this year (2023) South Africa was grey listed by the Financial Action Task Force for having weaker systems on anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing measures.

The partnership with the Financial Intelligence Centre will focus on: (1) gambling beneficial ownership, and (2) the implementation of risk-based methodology when

monitoring the licensees on matters of anti-money laundering and the combating of terrorist financing.

Gambling is one of the greatest contributors to rural and township economy in line with our township and rural economic programme and job creation where gambling operators/facilities have been licensed. A total of eight new corporate licences were issued last year, while four more licenses are to be issued before the end of this current financial year or at the beginning of the 2023/24 fiscal year. The number of employed workers in the gambling industry increased from 3 745 in the previous year to 3 858 workers in the 2022/23 financial year. During the 2022/23 financial year, the LGB has operationalised seven licensed Bingo sites in Bela-Bela, Lephalale, Groblersdal, Bochum, Musina, Tzaneen, and Phalaborwa. In empowering our communities and promoting local economic development, all the licensees implement the Corporate Social Investment (CSI) projects and by the end of February 2023, they have collectively spent R5 830 209 on CSI project implementation. Just yesterday I was informed that a fully-fledged computer centre was opened in the Senwabarwana local municipality.

Honourable Members, the province unfortunately is experiencing widespread illegal gambling machines, usually found at foreign-owned local spaza shops in rural areas across the province. This is one phenomenon we are working closely on together with our South African Police Service and the law enforcement agencies, to deal with these illegal gambling activities which negatively affect the economy and the revenue generation capacity of the province. Licensed gambling operator's businesses also suffer as a result of these unfair competitors and unscrupulous services providers and the owners of these illegal gambling machines.

The Gambling Board is working closely with the South African Police Service and the National Prosecuting Authority to identify and effect arrests against illegal gambling operators. In dealing with the mushrooming of illegal online gambling sites masquerading as internet cafes in the townships and shopping complexes, we managed to confiscate 26 computers used to operate the illegal online gambling activities throughout the province. This is the work that the Gambling Board in partnership with the SAPS will continue doing. The board will further continue to monitor and audit the operations of the gambling licensees to enhance license conditions and regulatory compliance.

The department is developing systems to modernise its processes and speed up service delivery to our clients and communities. The department completed and tested the first phase of the online Liquor Management System. Engagements are ensuing with the remaining five local municipalities to take up this LIBRA function and be assigned as Business Registration Centres to also boost their revenue generation capacity.

With effect from August this year, the province will implement the Limpopo Liquor Amendment Act of 2015. The department workshopped and raised awareness about this Act with all stakeholders in all districts in November 2022. To ensure compliance with the law and regulations, we have inspected 7 154 liquor businesses across the province between April 2022 and February 2023. The partnership with the SAPS is also bearing fruit as liquor businesses operating illegally are closed across the province. In November 2022, we closed down two illegal shebeens in the Sekhukhune and Vhembe Districts.

Ladies and gentlemen, the province will appoint a Liquor Board in the next financial year (2023/24).

We will also appoint the Limpopo Liquor Tribunal in accordance with the Limpopo Liquor Amendment Act. The department will further appoint the District Liquor Authorities to assist in fast tracking the liquor licencing process throughout the province. The Local/District Liquor Authorities will be given powers to assess the liquor licence applications lodged at district level for accessibility and make recommendations to the Provincial Liquor Board for consideration. In addition, these Local Liquor Authorities will have the powers to approve only the African/traditional beer and/ or temporary liquor licenses. With these initiatives, we are removing the bureaucratic red tape in the liquor application process and speeding up service delivery to our communities.

It is the responsibility of the provincial government to protect the rights of consumers against unscrupulous business practices by service providers who take advantage of our people. From October last year, we intensified the operationalisation of the Limpopo Consumer Protection Act by appointing and inaugurating, new members to the Limpopo Consumer Court in December 2022, led by Adv Monobe T E as the chairperson for a period of three years. The induction of these new members of the court took place from 7-9 March 2023. They will adjudicate all the claims and malpractices by businesses that are robbing our people. The Consumer Court is responsible, among other things, to adjudicate on consumer disputes brought before the Court. On 24 March this year, Limpopo celebrated World Consumer Rights Day in Makhado, and accredited regulators were in attendance to empower our consumers in the promotion of their rights.

Honourable Members, SMMEs, cooperatives and informal trader development and support remain at the centre of economic development, economic inclusion, job creation, growth, and sustainability. During the occasion of my 100 days in office as the MEC, held on 03 March 2023, the department, through LEDA, launched the R1 billion Business Ideas, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship in this province, targeting youth, women, and persons with disability. With this programme, we encouraged established and aspiring entrepreneurs to submit business ideas/concepts, focusing mainly on the manufacturing sector, that requires at least a R1 billion capital outlay. To date, four local entrepreneurs have already submitted their business ideas, which are currently being assessed by LEDA. With business concepts focusing mainly on manufacturing, the province seeks to boost the contribution of this sector to our industrialisation agenda and the GDP of the province as well as job creation. LEDA will be receiving and assessing more business concepts from the entrepreneurs as they come forward in the next financial year.

The department runs a Manufacturing Support Centre in the Nkowankowa Industrial Park under the jurisdiction of the Mopani District. This state-of-the-art centre develops tooling skills to broaden and strengthen the manufacturing sector in the province. The centre has already qualified the first team of 12 young tooling artisans from 2020 to date, and another team of ten young people is currently on the programme as artisan trainees. Through this centre, the department also trains students from the local TVET colleges on tooling skills.

Madam Speaker, the department partnered with Coca Cola Beverages South Africa to support our local enterprises and entrepreneurs by providing tools of trade to run their

businesses. Last year, we handed over 44 what is referred to as “Bizniz in a Box” (BiB) to SMMEs from Modimolle, Mokopane, Lebowakgomo, Thohoyandou and Mookgophong. Each BiB is custom designed with an equipped container business solution from which an entrepreneur is able to provide a range of rural and township businesses to their local communities. These can include internet cafes, car wash businesses, fast food outlets and mini bakeries. The department will strengthen the partnerships with the private sector for sustainable economic development and job creation.

Honourable Members, in November 2022, we opened a new Galito’s Restaurant outlet at Tibane Mall, in GaMatlala Thaba. The franchise is owned by a young, black local entrepreneur from the province, and it employs about twenty young people from the area. Re bolela se ka gore o thekgilwe ka mašelang ke NEF, through the assistance of LEDA. Re re a ke le be mohlala o mmotse go baswa ba ba rena. Ba tšee malebiša go bona. Yena o gona, o na le rena mo, yena mong wa Galito’s ye e le go kua GaMatlala. Ke ra gore, Mohlomphegi Moraka ge a eya Lephalale, a fete kua a reka Galito’s go thekga baswa ba rena.

With the budget allocation of R1,9 million in the 2023/24 financial year the department plans to create at least 180 job opportunities for the youth through the Environmental Sector Public Employment programme.

Madam Speaker, the department is currently conducting feasibility studies to determine the economic benefits that communities can derive from their communal areas and development of associated business plans for the ten identified Biodiversity Economic Nodes. The Biodiversity Economic Nodes include the Greater Letaba, Blouberg, Makuya, Masebe. Schuinsdraai, Nwanedi, Witvanger and Makapan Valley World Heritage Site. These nodes will link provincial protected areas (core conservation areas) to other wildlife areas managed by communities and the private sector.

The department has developed a Wildlife Transformation Policy, which will be processed for approval by this honourable House through the Provincial Treasury. The policy seeks to address the following, amongst other things:

- Provision of a framework for wildlife transformation programmes, with or without contractual obligations and activities to ensure sustainability with host populations in provincial protected areas;
- Enhancement of transformation of the wildlife industry to bring communities into mainstream conservation and the wildlife industry;
- Enhancement of eco-tourism initiatives in the province.

Commercialisation of the tourism hospitality function within state-owned nature reserves remains a priority of the department. The department has secured R24,8 million over a period of three years to fund the appointment of a Transactional Advisor to conduct feasibility studies, due diligence and assist with the procurement of potential commercialisation investors. The process of awarding the tender to a successful bidder will be completed in the beginning of the new financial year to implement the programme.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the department started with the construction of 20 new bed tourist chalets in Nylsvlei Nature Reserve; new basecamp facilities at Wolkberg Nature Reserve; upgraded access roads and chalets at Makutsi Camp in Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve; and the refurbishment of the main gatehouse and water infrastructure for both human and wildlife consumption in Letaba Ranch Nature Reserve. The department further commenced with the construction of new staff accommodation units at Blouberg Nature reserve to improve the standard of living of the reserve staff.

In the new financial year, the department, in partnership with the Department of Tourism will continue to provide tourism infrastructure maintenance at the Makapan World Heritage Site, Blouberg, Nwanedi, Modjadji and Musina nature reserves as part of State-Owned Attractions Beautification Project led by the Department of Tourism. Community-owned tourism projects such as Ba-Dinkwanyane Hiking Trails in Sekhukhune, African Ivory Routes, Baleni Camp in Mopani, Makgabeng Rock Art in Capricorn, the Big Tree in Vhembe, and the Makapan Valley World Heritage Site in Waterberg will be supported.

The effective management of waste is of critical importance to avoid a detrimental impact on human health and the environment. This assists to protect our natural resources such as rivers and wetlands from contamination. The department will continue to monitor compliance with all environmental laws and regulations by the regulated communities in areas such as solid waste disposal sites, waste collection and recycling. Equally, the department is promoting a Waste Economy within the province. The Department is currently co-funding the Industrial Symbiosis Programme with the National Cleaner Production Centre, an implementing agency of the Department of Science and Innovation hosted by CSIR.

The programme links the companies that generate waste for disposal with those that can utilise the waste as resources in their business activities. The intention is to reduce waste that is directed to the landfill sites, create new small businesses, and employment opportunities within the green economy. Since its inception in 2019, the programme has managed to divert 49 322 tonnes of waste from landfill sites, 180 429,7 tonnes of Green House Gas Emission reduction, and 41 000 tonnes of Virgin Resource use reduction. Through the programme, 7500 litres of industrial water have been saved.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the department will develop or review the Integrated Waste Management Plans of seven local municipalities in the province namely Ephraim Mogale, Makhuduthamaga, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena, Thulamela, Musina, and Greater Giyani. We will further support municipalities in the province to meet their service delivery obligations on integrated waste management. The work around this involves the execution of a project to enhance licensing of municipal landfill sites through the development of engineering designs with costs of approximately R28 million. The following municipalities: Mogalakwena, Ephraim Mogale, Lephalale, Molemole, Thulamela and Ba-Phalaborwa are beneficiaries of the programme, and will then be responsible for the construction phase of the landfill sites.

Honourable Members, the department will in 2023/24 support the Sekhukhune and Mopani District Municipalities on the recapitalisation of their ambient air quality monitoring

stations. We will also support the review and implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan of the Vhembe District Municipality.

Madam Speaker, Climate Change Management is one of the key priorities to deal with climate change challenges for the province. In the 2022/23 financial year the department planted a total of 3 700 trees across the province. Planting of trees in schools, churches, and communities will continue in the next financial year. We encourage our communities to plant trees on their own without waiting for government, as planting of trees is a good practice to mitigate the impact of climate change around the world.

The department will also implement the Greenest Municipality Competition programme, which encapsulates waste management, water management, energy-efficiency, conservation, landscaping, tree planting and beautification. This is in line with the President's call for encouraging South Africans to engage in cleaning campaigns of their localities. Countries such as Rwanda implemented a similar national cleaning programme called "Umuganda", which is a mandatory nationwide cleaning campaign. This cleaning campaign has earned Rwanda, with the capital city-Kigali, an international recognition/reputation as the cleanest city in Africa. We want to bring this best model home to Limpopo, working in partnerships with our municipalities.

Ye nngwe ya tlhobaboroko mo go rena re le mmušo ke go tsoma diphoofolo ka mokgwa wo o sego molaong, like poaching of rhinos, lions, pangolins, and the exploitation of fauna and flora. In an effort to combat these environmental crimes in the province, we are working in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies to fight and effect arrests and prosecution of perpetrators where necessary and also ensure compliance and enforcement with the state laws. The department also trained more than 50 young people who volunteered to participate in the Honorary Rangers programme. These youths came from two communities in the Mopani District and one community in the Vhembe District.

While still reeling from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism industry in the country and Limpopo in particular has demonstrated resilience and has positively bounced back. The industry in the province has been able to protect and sustain at least 284 000 direct and indirect jobs. The recent statistics released by Statistics South Africa show that Limpopo was the most visited province, the tourism destination of choice, with 20,3% of tourists in 2021, followed by Gauteng with 15%. This achievement was an improvement from the 18% in 2020 when Limpopo followed the Eastern Cape at 18.2% of tourists who visited the province. This remarkable performance is attributed to the partnerships that the department, through the Limpopo Tourism Agency, has formed with the private tourism industry players and the media, who continue to immerse our visitors with the best and unforgettable visitor experience.

The safety of our tourists is of great importance to the department. To that effect, we have partnered with the South African Police Service (SAPS) through the Tourism Safety Programme, to always ensure the safety of our visitors to the province. In supporting our local tourism SMMEs, the department launched the Tourism Equity Fund Strategy to encourage emerging tourism SMMEs to take advantage of advancing tourism investment. We are further engaging all sector departments and public entities in line with our destination marketing mandate to utilise their available resources to assist the SMMEs in tourism to meaningfully participate in the Tourism Equity Fund scheme to advance the

rural and township economy. Through the LTA, the department has developed various tourism packages, integrating township and village products for promotion and marketing.

In October 2022, the LTA hosted the Limpopo Holiday Fair where 82 tourism SMMEs' products were marketed, thus increasing their accessibility to tourism buyers. Thereafter, 28 tourism SMMEs were exposed to tourism buyers when the LTA activated its marketing platforms to expose the local SMMEs in February 2023 at Africa's Travel Indaba, World Tourism Market Africa, and Meetings Africa. Through the collaboration with South African Tourism, four local tourism SMMEs from Limpopo were taken to India while Kone Village Boutique and Boke Tours attended the Western Africa Roadshow in Ghana and Nigeria respectively.

We will continue to expose our local tourism SMMEs to regional and international tourism opportunities in the next financial year. In empowering women, youth, and persons with disability within the tourism sector, the department will, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, continue to support the established Women in Tourism Structure in the province. A total of 25 women-owned tourism products will be profiled in the 2023/24 financial year for marketing purposes. In the previous year, the department reached out to 5000 young people through a career fair to raise awareness about available opportunities in tourism and will continue with the programme in the next financial year.

We are always guided by the wise words of Amilcar Cabral who once said: "Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for things in anyone's head, they are fighting to win material benefit, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children."

Ladies and gentlemen, the department has been allocated a total of R1,449 billion, which is a decrease of 10,1% from the 2022/23 Budget. The Budget is allocated as follows:

Programme 1: Administration	R356,809 million
Programme 2: Economic Development	R601,082 million
Programme 3: Environmental Affairs	R385,608 million
Programme 4: Tourism	R106,420 million

The total Budget is, therefore, R1,4 billion

Hon Speaker, of this total departmental Budget of R1,449 billion, there is a direct departmental transfer to our public entities as follows:

• Limpopo Economic Development Agency	R456,226 million
• Limpopo Gambling Board	R66,736 million
• Limpopo Tourism Agency	R80,105 million

Total transfer Budget is R603,067 million.

We present this Budget to the citizens of the Limpopo province, knowing very well that it will not be smooth sailing, but we are encouraged by the resilience shown by our people

during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Maya Angelou said: “you may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.”

I wish to announce to this honourable House that we have appointed the board of directors of the Limpopo Gambling Board as the Accounting Authority led by Mr Elijah Tjiane (chairperson); Hosi Adv Mahumani (deputy chairperson); Mr Serobi Maja, Ms ME Maditsi, Mr CC Nkadimeng, Mr JN Mpyane and Mr Tema M, as members.

I further wish to announce and welcome the appointment and inauguration of the new members of the Limpopo Consumer Court in December 2022, led by Adv Manobe (chairperson); Adv Ramashia (deputy chairperson); Ms Mabiletsa M; Mr Seima AS; Ms Ramahuma NC, and Mr Malatji KE.

The department wishes to thank the quadripartite implementation partnership of the DTIC led by Minister Ibrahim Patel and Deputy Minister Fikile Majola, the Sekhukhune District Municipality led by the Executive Mayor, Maleke Mokganyetsi, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality led by the Mayor, Eddie Maila and LEDET in the execution of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ within the framework of the District Development Model. Let me also thank the board of LEDA as led by the interim chairperson Tito Nkadimeng, the board of LTA led by Mr Andrew (Druza) Dipela and the newly appointed CEO, Mr Ngobeni, executive management of our entities and the department led by the Acting Head of Department, Mr Matodzi Rathumbu, for steering this department in the right direction.

I should not forget to also welcome all new senior managers (chief financial officers, chief directors, and directors) appointed recently in the department during the course of the 2022/23 financial year. I also want to thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mapula Annah Mokaba and all honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for your robust oversight role. Thanks to Hon Donald Selamolela and all honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa), who always keep us on our toes to ensure that we maintain our clean audit status. The province and LEDET in particular are looking forward to tapping into your experience and expertise to drive and facilitate transformative socioeconomic growth and development as well as job creation to benefit the people of the province. I also want to express my profound sense of gratitude for the continuous support from my wife and family.

Lastly, I want to thank the Premier of this province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, Moraswi a Moleya for the judicious stewardship that you provide in leading this province and entrusting me to a be part of the broader collective of the Provincial Executive Council. Re go tšhela ka boditsi bja ditheto mong'aka.

Let me take this opportunity to invite the people of the Limpopo province and South Africa to join us in our 17th edition of the Marula Festival taking place in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality from 12 to 23 April 2023. Let's get our dancing shoes on as we will be unleashing one of the province's best talents, the creme de la creme to emerge out of our province, the latest winner of the Idols Competition, Thapelo Molomo.

A good story about the marula tree, is that couples that propose to each other under a marula tree, don't separate or experience gender-based violence. They have so many children that assist us as honourable Members to be here.

Ndaa. Ha khensa. Re a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, for consideration and to report back to the House.

Honourable Members, may you allow me to respond to Hon Mapoulo. Hon Mapoulo may you rise please?

MR MAPOULO

I will rise Madam.

THE SPEAKER

I want to respond to your request because it is also specifically referring to the Rules. You requested the Presiding Officer to go into section 31 of the House Rules.

MR MAPOULO

Actually, it is section 32.

THE SPEAKER

No, section 32 is the next step. It makes provision for when a quorum is not reached. In terms of section 31, Hon Mapoulo, which refers to the quorum requirements, in terms of section 112 of the Constitution. I have read the section, and it is contradictory to what you have raised, Hon Mapoulo. I am going to read it aloud.

Section 1, let me start with the heading: Quorum Requirements. Unless the Constitution provides otherwise. Section 1(a), the presence of at least one third of the Members constitutes a plenary meeting of the House. Section 1(b), a majority of the members vote may be taken before a Bill or an amendment to a Bill. Section 1(c), at least one third of the Members must be present before a vote may be taken on any other question before the House.

The reason why I have decided to proceed with item 7.2, skipping 7.1, is because of this Act. We were allowed to proceed with item 7.2. I think I am addressing you and Hon Seshoka in my response. The reason why I proceeded with item 7.2, Hon Seshoka, is because the Act allowed us to do that. I did not want us to proceed with item 7.1, since I

was not sure about what you have raised. Hence my request that you allow me to respond to the matter at the end.

You may sit down, Hon Mapoulo, because I am done with you. I have read up on the matter and wanted to clarify that it was not wrong for me to proceed with item 7.2. Now that I have scrutinised what has been raised by Hon Seshoka, I am confident with the quorum. Therefore, I will now allow us to proceed with item 7.1.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, may I just rise on a point of privilege?

THE SPEAKER

No, I was responding, particularly to Hon Mapoulo, to indicate that there was nothing wrong in what I did. When I look at Hon Mapoulo, I think he understands what I'm saying. Let us proceed. I have explained to you that there was nothing wrong in what I did. I have indicated to you that since you have raised a concern about the quorum, let me leave item 7.1 and proceed with 7.2 in the meantime, because in terms of the Act, the Presiding Officer is allowed to proceed with item 7.2 because there were decisions that were going to be taken in terms of item 7.2. I am satisfied now, so let us proceed.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, this is what is going to cause a commotion in this House, because instead of leading us with wisdom, you are always emotional.

THE SPEAKER

I am not.

MR SESHOKA

Now you come out clearly in giving us the reasons for your decisions. Had you explained to us what led you to take those decisions, we would not have had this problem., You are emotional, and you are not honest. You are only saying that now that you are confident that you have a quorum. You know that there are people who were delayed or not going to come. Now that you have received a signal from the Deputy Chief Whip that you have a quorum, now you come with confidence saying that you are confident that we can continue because we have a quorum. You know we did not form a quorum and you should have explained your decision earlier. Please stop being emotional. Run this House properly and we are all going to respect you.

[CROSSTALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I am 100% sure that I am not emotional. Can you sit down please? That is why I said I will respond to your request at the end of the programme. I am responding now.

MR MAPOULO

[Inaudible] [CROSSTALK]

THE SPEAKER

I am fine Hon Mapoulo. I was trying to clarify that I am fine. We are all fine.

MR SESHOKA

No, we are not fine.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, you may continue with what you wanted to say.

MR MAPOULO

You have created confusion, even to yourself. It is set out very clear here in subrule (1), that at the time that was prescribed for the meeting to start, we did not form a quorum.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can I maybe get some clarity from this honourable House of the Limpopo Legislature? We are 49 Members in total, am I correct? How much is one third of 49? It is 18. That is why I stand on my point that I am honest Hon Mapoulo. At the time when the concern was raised by Hon Seshoka, we were 24 Members present in this House. Hence, I am confident that I am very honest. May we proceed honourable Members?

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

7.1 MOTION FOR THE THIRD READING OF THE LIMPOPO AMENDMENT
ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION BILL [B01-2023]

I call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury to present the above-mentioned Bill.

[CROSSTALK]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

What is your problem Hon Seshoka, because it seems as if you do not want us to pass this Bill? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Now that the Limpopo Amendment Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B01-2023] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative processes of this House, I now move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provision of House Rule 170.

I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. We are now going to adopt the Bill, schedule by schedule. Can we have a seconder for the third reading of the Bill please? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby rise to second the leadership of the Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Hon Charlie Seaparo Sekoati. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now going to adopt the Bill, schedule by schedule. Those who agree, will say “Yes”, and those who disagree, will say “No”.

Schedule 01: Appropriation of adjusted amounts of money.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 02: Amendment of Schedule

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Before we come to the short title, we are going to adopt vote by vote of the Bill. Once again, if you agree, you say “Yes, and if you disagree, you say “No”.

Vote 01: Office of the Premier.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 02: Limpopo Legislature.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 03: Department of Education.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 05: Provincial Treasury.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 06: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 07: Department of Health.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 09: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Vote 12: Department of Social Development.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title, because the “Yes” prevailed.

MS MAKGATO [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Act 2023. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members. We shall now proceed with our programme.

7.2.3 Budget Speech Vote 03: Department of Education

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Address by Hon M M Lerule-Ramakhanya: MEC for Education)

Ndi Matsheloni. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge our Deputy Speaker, who is now our Presiding Officer; Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; colleagues in the Executive Council; Members of the Provincial Legislature; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education and its members; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Chief Whip; Hon Leader of the Opposition; Executive Mayors and Mayors; leadership of the African National Congress; leaders of the opposition parties; veterans of the struggle; royal leaders; religious leaders; stakeholders in Education (SGBs, unions); Director-General of Education; Head of Department, Ms Onica Dederen and the team; distinguished guests; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to you.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am grateful and honoured to be standing before you in this august House today to give an account of the promises we made to the people of Limpopo when tabling the Departmental Budget for the 2021/22 financial year. We exist to serve, and our people deserve the feedback on the plans we committed to undertake. The time granted will also give us as a department an opportunity to outline our plans for the coming financial year as tomorrow marks the end of the current financial year.

Hon Speaker, we are starting our year on a high note, and we take this time to thank the Hon Premier and all our stakeholders for your relentless support in ensuring that we change the narrative as far as education is concerned in our beautiful province.

Hon Speaker, we applaud our Premier for his visionary and decisive intervention by hosting the famous Education Indaba on 10 March 2022, which resulted in stakeholders adopting the Learner Intervention Plan presented by our department. The adopted intervention plan is solid and being implemented across the system. We acclaim the cooperation from our communities, commitment of our schools, the support from our stakeholders and partners, the sheer resilience of officials, educators and the 2022 cohort who toiled towards the goal of performance against all odds.

In his State of the Nation Address in January this year, his excellency, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa said: "We are, at our most

essential, a nation defined by hope and resilience. It was hope that sustained our struggle for freedom, and it is hope that swells our sails as we steer our country out of turbulent waters to calmer seas. Even in these trying times, it is hope that sustains us and fuels our determination to overcome even the greatest of difficulties.”

Yes, we have many challenges, but these are not insurmountable, and we are working hard to overcome these challenges and adapt to the ever-changing conditions.

Hon Premier, we are marching on, and our march is purposeful and there should be no looking back. We want to state from the onset that education of high quality is vitally important for both individuals and the nation at large and should be implemented on an equal basis.

Our plans for Limpopo Education, from the ECD to primary and secondary schools must talk to quality, sustainability, and accessibility. Education has to be of high quality and available to all on an equal basis. It should be tailored in such a manner that it maintains an upward trajectory. This is a mandate that we cannot relegate to the background let alone wish it away by any stretch of imagination.

Hon Speaker, one of the key strategies that we are employing to ensure that there is an improvement in the learning outcomes, is the conducting of Accountability Sessions by the head of department, Ms Onica Dederen with the principals of underperforming schools. The sessions are as per the South African Schools Act and assist us to ascertain the interventions needed for different schools. Underperforming schools are a priority and mechanisms were developed for proper interventions. As we speak, we have reduced the number of underperforming schools from 636 in 2021 to 440 in 2022, which is a reduction of 196 underperforming schools. We remain steadfast in dealing with the remaining number of schools that still perform below expectation.

Honourable Members, let me indicate that in our endeavour to do better and to maintain the upward trajectory, the head of department has just concluded her Academic Reflection Sessions with all principals of both performing and underperforming secondary schools to reflect in much detail on the 2022 results and what should be done as a matter of urgency. The accountability sessions with underperforming schools will be continuing in earnest from April to May 2023. I have no doubt that the good work currently being done by the HOD and team education, will push us towards the desired outcomes. The 2022 Grade 12 cohort has moved us from a pass rate of 66,7% to 72,1%.

The Limpopo Department of Education implemented amongst others a Rapid Intervention Plan, focusing on Sekhukhune East, Sekhukhune South, and Mopani East. The plan focused on all underperforming circuits in the three districts. As a result of this intervention, the performance of all three districts has improved by more than 5%.

Hon Speaker, we have planned to strengthen and internalise the Rapid Intervention Plan to all 32 circuits in the 10 districts that are still performing below 65%. The department will continue providing extra tuition in the form of autumn, winter and spring classes including residential camps for different learners in Grade 12. In his Budget Vote, the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Charlie Sekoati announced that an additional R70 million has

been allocated to the Department of Education to strengthen our intervention plans. The allocation will, indeed, go a long way in making the much-needed impact and difference.

Hon Speaker, from the intervention plans, we can report that from the start of the 2023 academic year, the Limpopo Department of Education, through the support of both the SMS and district officials, were able to monitor and support underperforming secondary schools during the reopening of schools. During the second term, April to June 2023, monitoring and support to underperforming secondary schools shall continue.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in the fourth quarter of the year under review, district managers for governance (DMGs) and assistant directors for governance of all ten education districts were trained on financial management in accordance with the South African Schools Act of 1996. The department will conduct intensive training on curriculum management and support for district multi-support functional teams to support all principals of underperforming schools. The department will conduct induction workshops for newly appointed SMT members on their roles and responsibilities. Furthermore, the department will also conduct training for SGB members on the Code of Conduct, compilation, and auditing of school financial statements.

Honourable Members, I need to emphasise that special attention is also given to the foundation and intermediate phases, with the understanding that one cannot start building from the roof. It is imperative that the entry phase gets the necessary attention and assistance so that they are well prepared by the time they get to the FET band. Performance should be achieved across the system, inclusive of the ECD level.

Hon Speaker, in the previous Budget Vote, we mentioned that the ECD function was going to be transferred from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. I'm pleased to share with the House that, indeed, the function was successfully transferred with effect from April 2022. Currently, the Department is funding 2 109 ECD centres from both Equitable Share (1279) and Conditional Grants (830).

The department completed the renovations of 54 ECD centres and also completed one low cost ECD centre in the Vhembe East District (Masisi Village). As we continue with the good story of merging the ECDs into a formal education system, our plans for them are very clear.

The following has been planned and budgeted for the 2023/24 financial year:

- Renovations of 31 ECD centres.
- Construction of one low cost ECD centre in Mopani East.
- Funding of 2 109 ECD centres.
- Conducting of advocacy workshops for all new ECD centres still to be registered.
- ECD centres will be capacitated on the importance of re-registration in terms of section 81(3) of the Children's Act 38 of 2005.
- A call for funding for the new ECD centres to be funded for the 2024/25 to 2025/26 financial years will be advertised.

Hon Speaker, we are determined to capacitate educators in the foundation phase and to resource centres for the benefit of learners. In the coming financial year, we have planned to continue with some of the programmes that I have just alluded to, which will include the following:

- Supply 200 schools with indoor and outdoor resources;
- Continue with reading, writing, mathematics and spelling competitions;
- Print developed homework booklets for learners to advance learning recovery loss.

Hon Speaker, specials schools are very close to our hearts, and they command special attention from the Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha. We will continue to give our special schools all the necessary support within the Budget to ensure that inclusive education is not compromised. In the year under review, we spent R20,7 million acquiring assistive technology devices such as Braille Note Touch, C-pen readers and Hovercams just to name a few to aid our needy learners. An additional top-up of R2,4 million was made to 09 schools for textbooks to ensure that they address the curriculum needs. The safety of our learners from special schools is none negotiable and I am delighted to announce that we have procured two buses for two special schools to the amount of R5,3 million. The following will be done in this financial year:

- Procure six buses for public special schools.
- Procure LTSM Assistive Devices to public special schools.
- Institutionalising the implementation of the screening, identification, assessment and support (SIAS) policy to ensure that all learners are properly profiled across the curriculum from Grade R-12;
- Mobilisation of out of school learners with barriers to learning;
- Conducting capacity building sessions with educators and SMT'S on Curriculum
- Differentiation, Accommodations and Concessions;
- Promoting and strengthening of Reading for Pleasure. Schools took part in reading activities by celebrating international and national significant days or month, World Book Day, Africa Day, Youth and Mandela month and International Literacy Day;
- Training lead teachers in Reading Club management;
- Training educators on the establishment and support of Reading Clubs.

Hon Speaker, the objective of the Extended Public Works Programme is the alleviation of poverty, to address inequalities and temporarily reduce unemployment. In our previous Budget Vote, we have reported that the department had appointed 593 EPWP workers. Out of these, 133 were appointed as ECD Pre Grade R practitioners, 433 school-based monitors, 18 as administrative assistants, 3 data capturers and 6 toy librarians.

In the 2023/2024 financial year, a budget of R17 million is allocated, which is a slight decrease from the R18 million allocated in the previous financial year. This budget will be used to appoint 562 young people as follows: 420 School Based Monitors; 18 NSNP Administrative Assistants; 9 ECD Administrative Assistants; 6 ECD toy Librarians; 106 ECD Pre Grade R Practitioners; and 3 Data Capturers.

The department is continuing with the National School Nutrition Programme for learners from quintiles 1-3 schools in the province. This programme is part of the department's access programme. Since the implementation of NSNP, learner attendance and performance have improved. This programme is allocated a budget of R 1,6 billion.

Hon Speaker, one of the objectives is to advance sustainable food production. This is done through collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. Schools that participate in this programme are encouraged to enter the "Best School Awards" competition, which is hosted from district to national level. We are pleased to announce that Madjadji Primary School from GaSelwane, in the Mopani East District has the best food garden which is able to feed learners and sell its products to the inhabitants. The school entered the Best School Awards competition for the 2022/23 financial year and won both the provincial and national categories. Congratulations to the principal Ms Mokgalaka and the team for winning the award – a kitchen valued at R800 000 – will soon be constructed. They are my guests today; can they please rise as we give them a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

In our previous year's Budget Speech, we have reported that the number of learners in our schools changes every year because of their movement and new entrants in Grade R and exits in Grade 12. In the previous academic year, 3 601 primary and secondary schools, and 35 special schools benefited from the school nutrition programme. We have appointed 10 460 voluntary food handlers whose responsibility was to cook nutritious meals for learners who are beneficiaries of this very important intervention.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the programme will serve meals to learners in 3 552 primary and secondary schools and also to 35 special schools. Over the years, since the rolling out of the school feeding scheme in the province, significant strides have been recorded. In this financial year we are introducing a school breakfast to all primary schools in the province. Furthermore, in the Vhembe West and Mogalakwena Districts, learners will be served with meals containing additional protein products. Other districts will be included in the subsequent financial year as the budget allows.

All these good stories have been met with serious challenges such as burglaries and some service providers undermined our efforts by delivering substandard products to our schools. We have tightened our monitoring system and the service level agreement to monitor and take the service providers to task. The criminals are targeting food items stored in our facilities, kitchen utensils and other equipment. We are therefore making this plea that communities should assist in rooting out those merciless people who are hell-bent to destroy the education of our kids.

Hon Speaker, the province is making strides with regard to scholar transport as learners are transported to schools. We have reported in the 2022/23 Budget, that the department provided learner transport to a total of 47 276 learners across the Limpopo province. The numbers have since increased from 47 276 to 59 905 learners in this academic year. This programme is assisting in minimising absenteeism and late coming. The budget allocation of R466 million for the 2023/2024 financial year has been set aside for the provision of learner transport to qualifying learners to access their learning centres with ease. The relationship we have with the Department of Transport and Community Safety is vital to ensure compliance and the safety of learner transport.

Regarding school sport, arts and culture, social cohesion and equity in education, Hon Speaker, an active nation is indeed a healthy nation. We know sport can be a catalyst for social cohesion and therefore, we have integrated it into our calendar to ensure that our learners are mentally, physically, and psychologically prepared for their academic activities.

Hon Speaker, I am impressed by the commitment shown by our learners, educators, and fitness teams. I am also delighted to report to this august House that, all sporting programmes planned for 2023 – 2024 are on course. It will be a gross injustice on my side if I do not acknowledge the special schools that are competing at national level, who year in and year out keep the flag of our province flying high. In our midst, we have the principal of Tshilidzini Special School following the outstanding performance of our special learners in the Toyota National Championships held in Cape Town last week. Tshilidzini clinched gold and silver medals in various categories such as javelin, shotput, and marathons. It is my honour to request the deputy principal, Mr Paul Netshituni and the team, to rise and take a bow as we give them a warm round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

Our wheelchair tennis team was voted as the Developing School of the year at the SA Sport Awards held over the weekend. I will again ask my guest, the principal of Helen Franz, Mr Matome Bopape and the team, to rise as we appreciate them with a resounding round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, the Norms and Standards allocations to public ordinary schools and subsidies to independent schools were transferred to schools timeously and in accordance with the predetermined quintiles and categories respectively. An amount of R2,693 billion is budgeted for Norms and Standards for the 2023/24 financial year. The department is using the national norm which is the following rate per learner for public ordinary schools:

Quintile 1-3: R1 602, Quintile 4: R803 and Quintile 5: R277 and small schools will be funded to a maximum of R37 129 per school.

Included in this budgeted amount is R10 million for the compensation of fee exemption for learners from indigent families attending fee paying schools. The department continues to monitor and support the use of funds transferred to schools through the implementation of provincial directives. The department will conduct workshops with all public schools on the implementation of these provincial directives as well as all quintile 4 and 5 public schools focusing on the implementation of the Fee Exemption Policy including section 38(a) which deals with the payment of additional remuneration to departmental employees.

Hon Speaker, it is our pleasure to share with this House that the department is continuing with the implementation of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative. The initiative has received an amount R884 million. It has alleviated a lot of pressure on our households and has also improved the provision of quality teaching and learning. Since the inception of the initiative in 2020, the programme has appointed over 135 000 youth, and for the

2023/24 financial year, 35 000 youth have been engaged on a new five-month fixed contract.

Hon Speaker, the department is busy resuscitating the establishment of committees on the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC Committees) from school to provincial level and will also conduct induction workshops on their roles and responsibilities. The national SGB elections are scheduled for March 2024 and the department has started with preparations for the elections of all SGBs as their term of office is coming to an end in March 2024.

Hon Speaker, we have developed a Leadership Programme for capacitating the Representative Council of Learners (RCLs) on leadership and development skills, knowledge, and attitudes. This programme will mainly focus on linking training on leadership and development with the improvement of both school and learner performance.

Hon Speaker, we will continue with the HIV/Aids life skills programme to ensure that the objective of fighting the spread of the pandemic is realised. We can confirm to this august House that educators were trained on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) for implementation in schools while Care and Support programmes were reached through the Learner Support Agents (LSAs) appointed in identified high burdened schools. Behaviour change Peer Education programmes for learner pregnancy reduction, the value of CSE in schools included learner radio talk-shows in three main radio stations, which is the Limpopo combo, Thobela FM, Munghana Lonene FM and Phalaphala FM. Other interventions on learner pregnancy reduction were conducted in schools through the Global Fund Organisation – DREAMS (Determine, Resilience, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored and Safe Initiative). Important advocacy campaigns commemorated included the World Aids Day build up activities in the 9 Districts for 1000 learners, educators and support staff and the main activities hosted by the Hon Premier on 01 December 2022 at GaMampuru village in Sekhukhune.

Hon Speaker, the budget allocation for the 2023/24 financial year is R27,036 million, a slight increase from the previous year's allocation. The focus will be on the 1000 schools which could not be reached in the 2022/23 financial year. Planned activities will include training on all policies at the different levels.

Learners and educators will be trained on the provision of comprehensive sexuality education and access to sexual reproductive health services. Behaviour change programmes will be done through SABC radio talk shows that will be done in the Limpopo combo. The Global Fund Organisation known as "Beyond Zero" will offer adolescent girls and young women a programme (AGYM) in 30 high burden schools.

On the rationalisation of small and non-viable schools, Hon Speaker, we have a mandate to provide quality education in a conducive learning environment, according to the South African Schools Act. We call upon all stakeholders to support the programme of rationalisation and realignment of public ordinary schools in order to ensure that all learners are provided with the requisite number of educators and resources to afford them the future opportunities they deserve.

Hon Speaker, in the 2022/23 financial year, we have managed to rationalise a total of 51 schools. Therefore, the total number of rationalised schools in the province increased from 396 to 447. The department pronounced on a programme on the rationalisation of small and non-viable schools. This programme started on 13 April 2022 and affects 344 public ordinary schools. The programme will continue in the 2023/24 financial year.

Hon Speaker, in the third term of the 2022/23 financial year, the department conducted a weeklong training session for assistant directors for governance (DMGs) on bullying, protocol, corporal punishment, sexual harassment, children's rights and the Children's Act to empower them to deal with school safety challenges. In 2023, the DMGs will be trained on data capturing and processing for school safety to deal with the challenges of drug and alcohol abuse which lead to both bullying and gangsterism. Town schools are the most affected by incidents of bullying and gangsterism with Polokwane touted as a hotspot. The department has developed a training programme on drug testing and bullying to be rolled out to public ordinary schools between April and June 2023.

We are privileged as South Africans to have scholars and visionaries in the space of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Artificial intelligence is no longer a far-fetched phenomenon, it is a reality that we need to embrace and implement in our daily lives. I always cite among many, the Rector of the United Nations University, Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, for embracing the technology that many of us believed to be just a dream. It is a space that requires all of us to read and do research. In one of his emphases on the need to read, Prof Marwala said: "Those who do not read must not lead." A man who lived up to his word and today he is leading an international university.

A total of 158 schools in the province are currently participating in a coding and robotics pilot programme in the 10 education districts. Selected teachers from selected schools have thus far received training on both coding and robotics. All the participating schools have received laptops and robotics and coding starter packs. In the 2023/24 financial year, these schools will receive comprehensive coding and robotics kits.

We are delighted to once again announce that we have clinched the championship of Robotics and Coding nationally. Ozias Davhana Secondary School has made the province very proud. The principal, Ms Ntsieni Thanyani is my guest, and I will request her and the team to rise for a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

These are the current national champions on coding and robotics, so you can see that if we are investing a lot in e-learning, the province cannot go wrong. Our first attempt and we are national champions.

The department has procured 35 000 tablets for learners in Grade 1 and 8 in selected no fee schools in our ten education districts. Furthermore, the department has received donations of laptops and tablets from various partners. We appreciate that, indeed, and call on other partners to support us in this regard.

Hon Speaker, we managed to deliver on programmes we committed to do during the 2022/23 financial year under the Skills Development programme. Nine hundred and sixty-one out of 1000 educators completed their Strategic ICT Integration with the Wits School of

Education, a programme that is responding to section 09 of the National Strategy for learner attainment, which is a critical aspect for teaching and learning.

Furthermore, 300 newly appointed principals and school management team members enrolled for a 2-year School Management and Leadership Programme offered by the University of Pretoria and will complete their studies at the end of this academic year. One hundred senior and middle management members enrolled for the leadership and management course and completed their studies with the Wits School of Governance. Two hundred officials and educators enrolled for post graduate studies (Honours, Masters, and PhDs) in different Universities.

We want to appreciate the educators and all officials that feels it is necessary for them to continue to enrol and further their studies, to change the narrative of their status of education in our space. The Targeting Talent Programme offered by the Wits School of Education had an intake of 80 learners from our province who started in 2021. They are now in their final year, and they are part of the matric class of 2023. They have shown remarkable performance over the years. Hon Speaker, in the 2023/24 financial year, the allocation for the overall Skills Development programme is R212,6 million which will be utilised to capacitate the different categories of serving employees at all levels i.e., institution and office-based educators as well as public service employees.

Hon Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce that even under these unfavourable economic conditions, the department has retained the educator post basket of 51 752 posts for the 2023 school academic year. This is to ensure that the quality of learning and teaching is not negatively affected by the current economic environment. Hon Speaker, the department is continuing with its drive to recruit new young entrants to the profession by ensuring that educators below the age of 30 are prioritised for appointment. The Limpopo Department of Education, Funza Lushaka and NSFAS Bursary scheme continue to be an impactful pipeline for the supply of educators for scarce skills subjects.

Hon Speaker, as per the commitment made to strengthen school management teams (SMTs), we are glad to report to the august House and the people of Limpopo that we have appointed 380 principals, deputy principals and departmental heads within our schools in the year under review. The department is continuing to fill the vacancies at operational, middle, and senior management levels. We took a conscious decision to recruit curriculum advisors and school governance specialists to support schools in the delivery of curriculum needs and school governance. The focus is to have circuits and districts that are able to perform the critical coordination role they are meant for in our system.

Hon Speaker, the department continues to build capability within the Infrastructure and Physical Resource unit by recruiting key professionals to the unit. The recruitment drive will continue in the 2023/24 financial year with the objective of reducing the high vacancy rate the department have had to live through over the years. We are grateful for the huge support from the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury in this regard.

The Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) budget allocated for infrastructure development in this financial year is R1,371 billion. The department has received an additional

allocation of R100 million to attend to storm damaged schools. The total Infrastructure Development budget amounts to R1,471 billion. The infrastructure budget will be utilised towards new and replacement of infrastructure; upgrading of existing infrastructure; refurbishment, rehabilitation, and renovations of existing infrastructure, as well as maintenance and repairs of existing infrastructure.

During the 2022/23 financial year, the Limpopo Department of Education was able to complete the upgrading and additions of 11 schools. Amongst the completed schools is Kgakgala Primary School at Mokamole Village under the Mogalakwena Local Municipality. We handed over the school to the community and I must indicate that our communities appreciate the good work that the department, under the leadership of the ANC-led government continues to do. I have emphasised the importance of looking after the property and for the parents to take ownership of their own infrastructure. The other ten schools that we have ably completed are: Alldays Primary School, Leduma Mahume Primary School, Modishane Primary School, George Maragula Secondary School, Malamulele Secondary School, Kgabagare Primary School, BK Matlala Secondary School, Motloulela Secondary School, Ngwanalaka Secondary School, Hector Pietersen Primary School

These are the schools that we will be opening within the upcoming months. Our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, we know that you have been pushing for the finalisation of one of our biggest projects at Rivoni Special School. The construction of Rivoni Special School for the Blind is proceeding well. The project is on course and aimed to be completed as scheduled. The physical progress on the project is currently sitting at 70%. The contractor is on course to complete the project well before the contracted completion date of 24 June 2024. Your wish to cut a ribbon at the school will be realised as the commitment we got from the contractor is that the project will be finalised before the end of this year.

The process for the procurement of the contractor for Asiphumelele Special School is underway. This is a second special school that the department will want to focus on in the 2023/24 financial year in terms of providing appropriate infrastructure. In order to further improve teaching and learning conditions, the department is currently undertaking major upgrades and additions to 59 schools across all 10 education districts in the province. Contractors have been appointed and construction is in progress. This investment will ensure a major improvement in the teaching and learning environment particularly for schools in the rural areas. Twenty-five of these sites have been handed over in December/January by the Department of Public Works. The schools include the new Maphuthi Manamela Secondary School located in Modimolle. The completion of the school will provide much needed relief as the schools in the area are already over-subscribed.

The following are some of the schools that are under construction and are scheduled to be completed in the current financial year: John Xikundu Primary School, Matokane Secondary School, Mahwahwa Secondary School, DZJ Mtebule Secondary School, Nhlayisi Secondary School, Manthe Primary School, Makgongoana Secondary School, April Makgakga Primary School, Maboko Nkomo Primary School, and Khwara Secondary School.

Hon Speaker, the planning phase of additional secondary schools has commenced. The schools include the new Bendor and Tzaneen Secondary Schools which will go a long way in alleviating admission congestions in the city and town schools. We will be commencing with the construction of two schools under the Pietersburg Circuit to accommodate the growing population.

I want to applaud the Executive Mayor of the Polokwane Municipality, Cllr John Mpe, and the Executive Committee for their keen interest in this project. The Executive Mayor and his team have really been giving us all the necessary support that we need.

I can further confirm that water and sanitation infrastructure projects for 137 schools are under construction. These projects are geared towards the eradication of pit latrines in schools. Construction at all 137 schools is envisaged to be completed in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

The department has successfully procured a panel of contractors to fast-track the work that we need to do. The panel is also earmarked to assist the department to drastically reduce turnaround times in the appointment of replacement contractors where contractors are terminated.

Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to present the 2023/24 Vote 3 Budget for the Limpopo Department of Education. The department has, in the 2023/24 financial year, been allocated a total of R38,188 billion, comprising of:

- Equitable Share :R34,106 billion;
- Conditional Grant : R3,354 billion; and
- Own Revenue : R727,8 million.

This constitutes an increase of R1,743 billion or 4,8% from the Main Appropriation of R36,445 billion in the 2022/23 financial year.

The details of the allocation per Economic Classification items are as follows:

- Compensation of Employees : R28,299 billion;
- Goods and Services : R4,466 billion;
- Transfers and Subsidies : R4,316 billion); and
- Payments for Capital Assets : R1,107 billion.

The Compensation of Employees budget accounts for 74,2% of the total budget, and when the Conditional Grants' allocation is excluded, the percentage increases to 81%. Included in the budget are the following Conditional Grants:

- National School Nutrition Programme : R1,665 billion;
- Education Infrastructure : R1,372 billion;
- Early Childhood Development : R187,261 million;
- Maths, Science and Technology : R49,592 million;
- Learners with Severe Profound Intellectual Disability : R34,228 million;

- HIV/Aids (Life Skills Education) : R27,036 million;
- EPWP Social Sector Incentive : R17,065 million;
- EPWP Integrated : R2,444 million.

A copy with a summary of the allocation set aside for departmental priorities, as alluded to, will be distributed to Members.

As I conclude, it is very important that we must from time to time do some introspection and make honest assessments of where we are and where we intend to be in our quest to deliver quality basic education for the learners of Limpopo. Let us always bear in mind that every child is a national asset and for us to develop these assets, we need the participation of all stakeholders. Our doors, as the Department of Education, are always open for any inputs that will take Limpopo to greater heights. We urge you to participate freely and contribute positively towards the interest of the children of Limpopo, whose education we must protect, advance and promote.

I want to take this opportunity and appreciate the oversight and support the department is always receiving from the Portfolio Committee on Education, under the leadership of the chairperson, Hon Violet Mathye. I thank you.

I also want to thank the HOD, Ms Onica Dederen, the management team and everyone within team education, SGBs, unions and all stakeholders in the education sector. Our learners, our educators and everybody else that is making a positive contribution towards our strive for quality education.

Unfortunately, Hon Speaker, I do not have a wife since my other colleagues are always thanking their wives. I thought it is something that we all have to do. I, therefore, want to extend my special appreciation to my supportive family represented here, especially to my grandson Masana, who is currently in Grade 7. He is not here today but in our conversation about what the importance of education was to him, his straight answer was, "Education gives us knowledge which shapes who we are and prepare us for the future." He said, it is because the teachers who are teaching them, inclusive of him, teaches them until they grasp the subject matter.

With that, I want to take this opportunity to appreciate every educator who wakes up every day to stand in front of a learner, for us to have a different narrative as the Department of Education in Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, "Education is a societal matter!". I thank you!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much honourable MEC. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education for consideration and to report back to the House.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

Motion for the Ratification of the Appointment of Special Delegates who attended the NCOP Plenaries. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you may proceed.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe; Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia; Leader of Government Business; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip of the majority party; Leader of the Opposition; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of this august House; our visitors in the gallery, all protocol observed. Not forgetting our beautiful Limpopo queen, Miss Limpopo. Thank you for brightening up our Legislature.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ. Allow me to take this opportunity to move for the ratification of the appointment of special delegates who attended the NCOP plenaries.

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, provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting. In line with this provision, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the following virtual NCOP plenaries:

- 08 March 2023: NCOP Plenary to consider the Select Committee on Finance Report on the Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals – Hon K A Phala, Hon M N Lekganyane, and Hon A D J Ndou.
- 14 March 2023: Questions to the Deputy President – Hon R R Molapo, Hon B T Matibe and Hon E M Mokgonyana.
- 28 March 2023: Plenary to deal Motion, Reports, Legislation and Debate on Water Infrastructure Investment – Hon Lebea, Hon Mahasela, and Hon F P Mdaka.
- 30 March 2023: Questions to the President– Hon R R Molapo, Hon T B Matibe, and Hon E M Mokgonyana.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves the ratification and the appointment of the above-mentioned special delegates, in line with the above-mentioned provisions.

I move accordingly, Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any seconder to the motion? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mochadi. Thank you.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. Are there any announcements? Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, you may proceed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Presiding Officer. The only announcement we have for now is that lunch will be served in the basement, and all guests are invited to join the honourable Members for lunch. Thank you.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 04 April 2023 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 04 APRIL 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much, you may all be seated. Honourable Members. Items 2–6 will not be part of the session today.

[ITEMS 2 – 6 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

7.1 Second Reading: Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023 [B02-2023]

We shall now call upon the Premier, Hon Mathabatha, to present the Budget Speech on Vote 01: Office of the Premier. Mahlatji, you are welcome. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ro livhuwa ngamaanda.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
(Address by Mr C S Mathabatha, the Premier of Limpopo province)

Speaker of the Legislature; Hunadi, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; honourable Members of the Legislature; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the ruling party; chairpersons of various portfolio committees; esteemed Members of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders; the

chairperson and the deputy chairperson; leaders of all political parties represented in this House; the Leader of the Opposition; distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is always my delight to address this august House, especially after the State of the Province Address in February 2023 and the subsequent debates and the budget speech. We have successfully passed that period, and we are therefore obliged by legislation to move towards the implementation of all the commitments we have made, as the Office of the Premier.

Madam Speaker, it is therefore in this context that today we are here for the presentation of the Vote 1: Office of the Premier. This is a legislative budgetary support requirement used to translate the programmes of government into visible deliverables. Our trajectory for the people of Limpopo has always been guided by our appreciation by our people's desire for social development, economic growth, the creation of jobs and the reduction of unemployment, poverty and inequality. All these are constitutional obligations as enshrined in our own Freedom Charter. Accordingly, Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which is the Bill of Rights, mandates us to cherish basic human rights. It is on this important note that we have singled out the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socio-economic Recovery Plan as our blueprints towards fulfilling the promise of the Constitution. We promised our people that they will be equal before the law, social security, water provisioning, quality healthcare and education, job opportunities, safety and security, to say but a few. Like a baobab tree that provides shelter and a fountain of wisdom, the ANC government is on record as having promised the people a better life for all.

The main function of the Office of the Premier is to provide leadership, coordination and support to the provincial administration. In order to achieve that there are three organised programmes in the Office of the Premier, namely: Corporate Management; Institutional Development and Support and Planning, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation. Programme 1: Corporate Management is tasked with ensuring effective and efficient utilisation of allocated resources. I am pleased to report that the Office of the Premier continues to lead by example when it comes to financial management.

It is with profound honour and privilege that I present yet again, a clean audit opinion for the 2022/23 financial year. [APPLAUSE] My special thanks go to the Director General, Mr Nape Nchabeleng, the top management team of the department, and the entire staff complement of the Office of the Premier. I thank them for the excellent performance and quality audit outcomes for the past, I don't know how many years. I am indeed proud of the team. It is in this context that I want to reiterate my message to them that we must ensure the sustenance of the clean audit opinion. In the same vein, assist other provincial departments and entities which are still struggling to reach your level.

Regarding our resolution on spending allocated budgets, I am pleased to report that during the reporting period, the office has managed to spend over 99,5% of its allocated budget. In addition, our annual financial statements were rated to be in line with established accounting standards. This 45% that we did not spend, honourable Members le magoši a ka, is not because we did not spend on delivering services, that is the savings. Let us say, for example, the Premier was supposed to travel overseas, and he realises that it does not make business or economic sense so cancels the trip. In addition,

regarding payments of suppliers and service providers within the prescribed 30 days period, we are reporting that 100% of suppliers and service providers were paid within the prescribed period.

Last year, we made a commitment that we will ensure that all the provincial departments adhere to the policy of payment within 30 days. It is therefore pleasing to report that the recent provincial expenditure report points to a significant improvement in this regard. Honourable Members, one of the core mandates placed upon the Office of the Premier is the issue of employment equity targets. Currently, women's representation at the Office of the Premier stands at 58% of the total staff complement. At the senior management level, women continue to dominate at 48%. The representation of people living with disabilities in the office is at 3,15%. This is above the 2% target as stipulated in the employment equity legislation. Our reduction of vacancy rate, we are currently at 11,6% which is in compliance with prerequisite standards set by the Department of Public Service and Administration. Gone are those days when we had almost all government departments running with [INAUDIBLE]

Hon Speaker, regarding military veterans, we are reporting that we have recorded enormous progress on their welfare and sustenance. In the 202/23 financial year, the province adopted a programme of action for military veterans. In terms of this programme, the Office of the Premier has already delegated officials to focus on the coordination, facilitation, monitoring, and evaluation of the military veterans' programmes. These officials are supported by representatives of the Military Veterans Association. They are currently servicing the military veterans' sector in the province in line with the consensus document and the provincial programme of action. To date, a preferential procurement strategy to economically empower the sector has been developed. Currently, military veterans are eligible to access 3% of total procurement spend of government goods and services, which is an increase from the 1% originally allocated.

On the provision of health services to the sector, the office has assisted over 100 military veterans in need of care. In addition, 600 beneficiaries and their families have been assisted with education-related matters. We have also assisted over 400 military veterans to update their credentials on the national database. We need to localize this programme by establishing help desks in district and local municipalities to ensure military veterans don't travel far to access services. In the same spirit, the Office of the Premier continues to host the Military Veterans Secretariat at its head office, the Mowaneng Building in Polokwane.

Madam Speaker, Programme 2 is Institutional Development Support. Through this programme, we focus our attention on support to the foot soldiers of the government, who are the workforce. Public servants are the central driving forces, managers of public resources, and the government's front-desk representatives. I am pleased to report that to date all the departments have filled the positions of the heads of department except for the two departments, that is the Department of Health and the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. On that note, we are currently busy with the recruitment process to fill those two vacancies. In fact, with the Department of LEDET, I think in about a month or so we shall have completed it.

Last year, we made a commitment to fill the HODs positions for the Department of Transport and Community Safety and the Department of CoGHSTA. I am pleased to report that two HODs have been duly appointed for both departments. It is in the same spirit, bearing in mind that we are going into a transition from the Sixth to the Seventh Administration, that I am appealing for stability in the HOD's and CFOs' positions. For me, this is a critical condition to ensure that there is a smooth transition into the seventh term of administration. If we have to remember the advice that we got from is that we must always make sure that senior positions in the public service are filled, they must not be kept vacant for too long.

Honourable Members, last year we made a commitment to review the role of public entities. Hence, we established an Inter-Ministerial Task Team on the reconfiguration of these entities. I am happy to report that EXCO has adopted the reconfiguration report and its recommendations. The affected departments and entities are expected to speed up the implementation of those EXCO directives with regard to reconfiguration by November 2023. Regarding the service delivery agreements that I signed with Members of the Executive Council; the process of assessment is continuing seamlessly. However, I must indicate that there is still scope for improvement.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, last year, we said that the new emerging economies and the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution should propel us moving forward. The Limpopo e-Government Strategy Implementation Plan; still remains our vehicle towards the digital transformation of the provincial administration. To date, progress regarding the plan is visible. We have noted with pride the significant improvement regarding the way departments are implementing their Information Communications Technology plans. The five-year Limpopo e-Government Strategy Implementation Plan has laid a solid architectural foundation for implementing e-Government. In the main, the plan is focusing on services to citizens, businesses, and government employees, as well as information sharing with other government agencies. For the 2023/24 financial year, the Office of the Premier will focus on supporting provincial departments to improve on their ICT infrastructure. This will lead to the development and implementation of plans to upgrade the infrastructure to be appropriate for the modern economy.

Last year, we reported that we are reviewing the Limpopo Human Capital and Investment Strategy. The timeline we have set was the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. The progress to date is that the provincial executive council has adopted 2020/30 Limpopo Human Capital and Investment Strategy. The strategy will ensure that the Limpopo Administration could marshal resources from all sectors including the SETAs, to develop skills for the provincial economy. The effective and efficient implementation of the strategy will culminate in the attainment of the following priorities:

- Strengthening the public education system;
- Improving the skills of the provincial economy through TVETs and universities;
- Building a capable workforce;
- Forming strategic partnerships to drive skills development in the growth points;
- Focusing on higher education, training, research and innovation, and aligning bursary awards with the required skills in the provincial economy and

- Promoting entrepreneurship.

It is against this background that we are pleased to report that the Limpopo Human Resource Development Council is fully functional. It held its last meeting last month. The plans for the 2023/24 financial year include the SMS Capacity Building Programme that will focus on developing skills. The programme will be implemented in line with the imperatives to professionalise the public sector.

Hon Speaker, young people are mostly affected by the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality. So far, we have heightened our grip in repositioning the youth development plan at the centre of the government agenda. It is on this important note that I am pleased to report that, a total of 10 265 beneficiaries, primarily youth, have been supported through the SETAs. Close to R410 million was invested for support during the financial year 2022/23. We are also pleased that over 100 young people who were placed on internship and learnership programmes have since been absorbed permanently into the job market.

Be that as it may, the provincial government will continue with programmes such as apprenticeship development, 4IR skills development, learnership and internship, work-integrated learning and SMME development. These are future projects aimed at the empowerment of the youth. In addition to that, we will also form strategic partnerships to drive skills development in the Special Economic Zones and growth points. It is on this important note that I wish to praise the Limpopo provincial government and the National Youth Development Agency for the successful launch of the Youth Development Fund programme last month. The R10 million funding available to young people will go a long way in assisting them to establish, sustain or grow their businesses. Remember this R10 million is set out there as a seed financing. It does not necessarily imply that, we are saying that if young people have got business ideas or business proposals for 100 people, we are not going to give you the funding. We are not saying that. This is just for commencement purposes. We are encouraging youth to apply in large numbers so that they can improve their living conditions and create jobs. We are therefore calling upon other public institutions and the private sector, to emulate this good example and unleash bankable projects geared towards youth development.

As the government, we have made significant progress in implementing programmes aimed at improving the quality of life for the vulnerable sectors of our society. This important sector comprises youth, children, older persons, and people living with disabilities. We have implemented policies to ensure that the sector continues to enjoy the protection of the law against abuse. We have improved access to education, health care and economic development opportunities to ensure that we reverse the marginalization and social exclusion of most people in this sector. It is in this context that we would like to commend the Office of the Premier; the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Department of Transport and Community Safety, for complying with 2% employment equity targets at all levels.

We are encouraging other departments to heighten their efforts and optimise opportunities for the sector. We are pleased to report that to date, over 600 women-owned

companies were capacitated on strategies to access 25% of all our provincial procurement spend in line with the Limpopo Preferential Procurement Strategy. The mainstreaming of programmes for the designated groups requires that the province develops and implements appropriate strategies that are considerate of the province's peculiarities. The province is at an advanced stage of finalising the women empowerment and gender equality strategy, the Limpopo disability rights and empowerment strategies, as well as intensifying the implementation of the adopted youth development Strategy. The implementation is currently going on and the plan is expected to be finalised before the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

Hon Speaker, regarding the fight against corruption, evidence is available to prove that we have acted against the VBS scandal, the COVID-19 PPE malfeasance and other sporadic cases. This is because we honour our commitment to fight against corruption. During the State of the Province Address two months ago, we went on at length regarding this matter. Just trying to outline everything that we did as far as fighting corruption is concerned. However, I could sense that there are still some people somewhere, who still think that we are not doing enough against corruption. We are challenging these people to please come with whatever information or evidence that you have at your disposal, and we will act accordingly.

Alternatively, information regarding allegations of corruption can be reported to our law enforcement agencies. You know the beauty about this ANC government is that it has established independent law enforcement agencies as tools or instruments for this democracy to ensure that we expose corruption in whatever case. As we always say, the difference between us and the apartheid government is that we are very good at exposing corruption, including the corruption within our own government. We are very good at exposing it. The apartheid government, on the contrary, was very good in concealing it. Hence, we are saying, wherever you find it notify us.

Honourable Members, Programme 3 which is my last programme, Hon Sekoati. Hon Speaker, Hon Sekoati was warning me earlier on here, saying that you find a person with a budget of a director, a small budget of a director talking for the whole two hours. [LAUGHTER] Programme 3 is Planning Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation. The programme's flagship project is the Limpopo Development Plan. The Limpopo Development Plan is a framework specifically tailored as a blueprint for development across all spheres of government. The LDP provides a basis to address socio-economic challenges to fight the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

Regarding our education outcomes, in particular matric pass rate, we want to say to you honourable Members that we are pleased to report that Limpopo is the second most improved province in the country, with regard to the 2022 Grade 12 results. We are also counted amongst the best in terms of the production of quality results. [APPLAUSE] The province has achieved 72,1% pass in 2022 Grade 12 examinations, which is an improvement of 5,8% from the previous academic year. However, we recognise that this performance is still below our LDP target of 80%. As a mitigating factor, we will continue with our interventions and efforts aimed at improving the matric results in Limpopo. In the same spirit, we are pleased to report that the Early Childhood Development Transfer

Programme has matured. This decision as you all know, was taken in order to improve the foundation phase of our education system.

On water provisioning, last year we made a commitment to accelerate the implementation of the Limpopo Integrated Water Master Plan. During the State of the Province Address, we clearly articulated that the majority of the major projects for water resource development are being implemented by the Department of Water and Sanitation. These projects include the raising of the Tzaneen Dam wall, Olifants River Water Resources Development, Musina-Makhado SEZ bulk water supply and Nandoni Water Treatment Works. We all know by now that municipalities that are responsible for reticulation require the bulk resource to complete the supply of water to communities. We have since reported about the successful meetings we held with the Minister for the Department of Water and Sanitation, Hon Senzo Mchunu.

In fact, it is only yesterday that I was speaking to the Deputy Minister, and he has assured me that all municipalities which are water authorities have now been given huge budgets. I think in Mopani we have about R4 million, that Hon Sekoati has given to them for reticulation services. We want to see those municipalities spending that money. We are going to assist the municipalities and we don't expect municipalities; and we don't expect municipal councils to interdict us when we want to help them. [APPLAUSE] The intention is not to ... anyone but to help and resolve these issues.

It is in this context that, we will continue our engagements with the department so that we follow up on progress which is been made regarding the water provision in Limpopo. It can't be acceptable honourable Members that we have a place like Sekhukhune where we have De Hoop Dam overflowing; we have got Loskop Dam overflowing; we have got Flag Boshielo Dam full to capacity but people still don't have water to drink. It can't be acceptable. Something has to be done. We have continuously said that government alone cannot deal with all the challenges that our country is faced with. We, therefore, call for public-private partnerships as a solution towards growing the economy and infrastructure development. That is the reason why the work of the Premier's Economic Growth Advisory Council (PEGAC) and the Impact Catalyst initiatives is so critical. I am pleased to report that our last PEGAC engagement was held two weeks ago, with much focus on how to harness economic development initiatives in the province. Through their technical and financial support to the LDP, the work of the Impact Catalyst initiative has gained momentum as well. They support catalytic projects across the province. It is in this context that we will continue praising the southern limb mining houses, who have contributed R127 million for the construction of a state-of-the-art Steelbridge at GaMalekana village, next to the R555 road. On the same note, we urge other private sector investors to come on board and partner with the government to resolve the socioeconomic challenges in our province.

The district development model in Limpopo is taking shape. To date, all the district municipalities in Limpopo have finalised their district development plans. Our clarion call remains that all departments must ensure that there is effective implementation of these plans. As Limpopo, we are implementing the One Government, One District, One Plan and One Budget approach. In addition, it was on this important note that we reported during the State of the Province Address that, all our government departments, including

municipalities, should partner with our traditional leaders on issues of local economic development and growth. It is very important. We are pleased to report that, already, the Office of the Premier has held a successful workshop with traditional leadership on broader socioeconomic developmental issues.

Our country is currently faced with the detrimental effects of the energy crisis. Load shedding as implemented by Eskom has impacted negatively on livelihoods and the growth of the economy. We all know that economic growth and industrialisation cannot succeed without the provision of sustainable electricity. Unfortunately, if the energy crisis persists, our Limpopo Development Plan targets are at risk of not being met. To this effect, please allow me to report on the provincial renewable energy strategy as alluded to in this august House last year.

Limpopo is endowed with abundant renewable energy resources, the significant ones being: solar energy, biomass, hydropower, geothermal, as well as the potential for hydrogen fuel. There is already a hydrogen-powered truck. The province is therefore well positioned to pursue alternative or sustainable energy sources to ensure energy security for future generations. It is against this backdrop that the Office of the Premier will be developing the renewable energy strategy and implementation plan during the 2023/24 financial year. It is not enough just to develop a strategy without developing an implementation plan. The strategy will lay a foundation for clean renewable energy-led economic development and just energy transition. More information about this plan will be made available when the details are finalised.

Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest honour that I hereby today on this important date table before this august House, the 2023/24 Budget Vote for the Office of the Premier for appropriation. Inkomu. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier for the presentation. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and to report back to the House. Thank you very much.

On item 7.1.2, we shall now call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Kekana, to come and present the Budget Speech for Vote 10: Sport, Arts and Culture. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

(Address by Ms N G Kekana, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture)

The Speaker of our provincial Legislature; Hon Rosemarry Molapo; the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the governing party, Hon Essop

Mokgonyana; Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane; the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi; leaders of opposition political parties; chairpersons of various portfolio committees; esteemed Members of this House; the provincial secretary of the governing party – the ANC, Musanda Vho-Reuben Madadzhe; heads of various departments; senior staff members of various statutory and non-statutory bodies of the department; our mayors; Magoši, Maaparankwe; esteemed business community; special guests who have graced this august House from the creative, recreation and sporting industry; members of the media fraternity, distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen. Ndi mats Sheloni. **Avuxeni.** Good morning. Lotjhani. Thobela. Goeie more.

Hon Speaker and the esteemed House, the preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa as adopted in 1996 reads: **"We the people of South Africa, Recognise the injustices of our past; Honour those who suffered for the justice and freedom of our land; Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity"**. This preamble defines the work we seek to do as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, in support of all the other government institutions and communities in our province.

Hon Speaker, I stand this morning to present my maiden speech to the House, colleagues and invited guests who have supported us immensely through the most difficult times, and the most exciting times in the creative and sporting world. As the preamble of our Constitution outlines, we present this Speech during Freedom Month. To be precise, in the next 22 days on 27 April, all South Africans will be celebrating 29 years of Freedom. This will be 29 years free from discrimination. Twentynine years of cultural and sports freedom. Twentynine years of enjoying and breathing free air from apartheid. Twentynine years of crisscrossing the world of sport through Soccer World Cups, confederation of African cups, rugby, tennis, and indigenous games.

On 27 April 1994, millions of South Africans voted for a democratic government that ushered in for the first time, black people to be able to play sports at Loftus Versveld Stadium, opening the way for a black child to play rugby at Hans Merensky, Hoerskool Pietersburg and other previously discriminated schools in and around Polokwane, Groblersdal, Mokopane, Bela-Bela and elsewhere around the province. Two weeks ago, an art activist and member of the National Arts Council, Sipho Sithole wrote in the *Sunday Times* newspaper and I quote; "There will never be a hero of this sector who can easily claim victories in meeting the aspirations of the artistic community." In Amílcar Lopes da Costa Cabral's book titled *Tell No Lies, claim no Easy Victories*, two statements caught me and Sipho Sithole's attention; he says; "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 ... " He further argues that as people, we should recognise as a matter of conscience that there have been many faults and errors in our action whether political or military, an important number of things we should have done we have not done at the right times, or not done at all.

Hon Speaker, the liberation movement had in the 1960s called for the world to impose a cultural boycott on South Africa. The cultural boycott consisted of, on the one hand, the mobilisation of writers, musicians and artists in the fight against apartheid, and on the

other hand in the cessation of all cultural exchange with South Africa. Black people could no longer tolerate being spectators when white children enjoyed the stage without them. They could no longer enjoy watching the world cup from the outside, looking inside. They could no longer play soccer only at Orlando Stadium, Lebowakgomo, Seshego and elsewhere, when their white counterparts enjoyed world-class facilities of clean swimming pools in Polokwane and Bela-Bela when their children swim in crocodile and disease-infested dirty rivers.

The architect of apartheid had obviously noted that to achieve their demonic separate rule of apartheid dominance against black people, was to first destroy their culture and their creative industry aspirations. The freedoms we are enjoying today were fought for in the athletic terrain, in the soccer field, on the music and theatre stage and in the boxing ring. The freedoms were fought for through poetry and sonnets. The freedoms were never free, and we must defend the democratic gains that we have so far achieved. [APPLAUSE] In his State of the Nation Address, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa says, "The people of South Africa want action, they want solutions, and they want the government to work for them." We fully agree with this statement that defines us as servants of the people.

Hon Speaker, in our endeavour to build a better Africa and a better world, we stand here today when the grannies in their own right have just wrapped up an International Grannies Football Tournament like no other. More than 400 grannies represented different countries. That is the USA, France, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa. Two teams from the USA were in the finals and Breakers won by 1-0 against Lextressas both are from Boston, Massachusetts in the USA. The Vhembe District team were knocked out in the semi-finals. It is therefore my honour and privilege that I ask the house to thank Mama Beka Ntsanwisi and her foundation for bringing these grannies to our shores. [APPLAUSE] She is a formidable partner in sport. Indeed, Hon Sekoati can attest to that. We support her in requesting the South African Football Association to establish the grannies or magogos football league.' Indeed, Hon Speaker, Social cohesion and recreational sport are no longer a pipe dream, but a reality.

With regard to the Budget allocation for the 2023/24 financial year, Hon Speaker, let me indicate that the Budget allocation for the department for this financial year has increased from R533,293 million in the 2022/23 financial year to R621,816 million in 2023/24 financial year. This represents an increase of R88,523 million which is 16,6% as a result of additional and provincial priorities allocations under equitable share and a slight increase on the conditional grant. This budget comprises of equitable share allocation of R399,928 million which is 64% of the overall budget. The remainder of 36% which amounts to R22,888 million is a conditional grant allocation. Out of the R621,8 million, Administration has been allocated, R209,155 million, Cultural Affairs is allocated, R85,126 million, Library and Archive Services gets R223,243 million whereas Sport and Recreation is allocated R104,292 million.

On Programme 1: Administration, Hon Speaker, the department is delighted by the hard work of team Sport, Arts and Culture which obtained an unqualified audit opinion for the past three financial years in a row, and we are more than convinced that we will keep this record henceforth. We have of course been able to keep this traction with the support of

the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts led by Hon Donald Selamolela and this august House, together with Team Sport, Arts and Culture led by the HOD. Re a le leboga, honourable Members.

The objective of the Administrative Programme is to conduct the overall management and administrative support to the department. This includes the office of the MEC, the office of the HOD, corporate services and financial management. A total Budget allocation of R209,155 million has therefore been set aside for this programme. Honourable Members, in promoting an ethical and developmental state, the department has appointed five senior management staff members in the areas of Human Resource Development, Arts and Culture, Supply Chain Management, Library and Archive Services and Sport Development in the previous 2022/23 financial year.

Three directors in Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Capricorn will be appointed in this financial year, 2023/24, followed by the establishment of the internal control and compliance Unit within the office of the Chief Financial Officer. These appointments will thus strengthen good governance, administration, and accountability in all the business units, thus promoting collaboration and the district development model as alluded to by the Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha to its fullest capacity, thus also maximising service delivery systems.

This programme is funded through the equitable share, and it takes 34% of the overall allocation. The budget is allocated for the overall administrative services of the department. As part of the increase in the budget allocation, we are looking at improving the much-needed tools of trade which will include vehicles, furniture, and ICT infrastructure, of which have now become an obstacle in attaining core mandatory objectives.

On Cultural Affairs, let me indicate that the objective of the Cultural Affairs Programme is to promote culture, conserve and manage the cultural, and historical assets and resources of the province by rendering various services and hosting cultural events. This programme has a total budget allocation of R85,126 million for this financial year, 2023/24. This amount is funded from both equitable share and EPWP conditional grants. During the past financial year 2022/23, we celebrated Freedom Day, Africa Day, and Heritage Day. All these significant days attracted around twelve thousand people. This has been a significant achievement. As we speak, the department is again busy with preparations for this year's Freedom Day Celebrations. These are the type of events that assist in realising social cohesion as espoused by the preamble of our Constitution. They also remind us of the struggles for liberation and the milestones we have gone through in the building of our democratic dispensation. It is for this reason that I invite honourable Members of this august House and all our guests, to come in their numbers to listen to the Premier of the province during this year's Freedom Day celebrations.

Hon Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce that all statutory bodies have been constituted except for the Limpopo Provincial Heritage and Resources Authority, of which the process of its constitution is underway. We are also glad to report that after two years of COVID-19 restrictions in the country, the department managed to host a successful Mapungubwe Arts and Culture Festival 2022, in Polokwane. You could see by the

attention and excitement that our creative industry people showed, especially performing artists, that they had gone through the worst. About 10 000 music lovers danced and enjoyed social cohesion through the night, and some stayed until the last artist at 7h00 the following day.

The presence of the Premier, Members of the Executive Council and some of the Legislature Members, was testimony enough that Limpopo is indeed the melting pot of South Africa. Our special guests from; Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique were eating out of the hands of our illustrious artists. For the first time in history, at least 96% of the artists that performed at the festival were from Limpopo. This is part of our resolve that from then onwards, Mapungubwe or any other Limpopo festival should prioritise local content. We wish to therefore report that in this financial year, we will roll out the Mapungubwe Arts Festival build-up activities in all Limpopo districts, to allow Limpopo artists to showcase their creative talent. This will ensure that all art genres are given an opportunity to participate. As we say in Limpopo, “Indlopfu ya hina leyi.”

We also wish to report that in the past financial year 2022/23 we managed to host 25 dialogues to strengthen social cohesion amongst the people of Limpopo. In the current 2023/24 financial year, we plan to host 26 dialogues, thus covering the entire province and reaching communities that were previously not accessed.

In this financial year, we have also decided to face gender-based violence and femicide head-on through sports and arts. We will focus on crime hotspot areas, communities with prevalent gender-based violence and femicide and xenophobia cases. With these, we seek to implement the Presidential Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Strategic Plan pillars, which are accountability, coordination and leadership, prevention and rebuilding of social cohesion, justice, safety and protection, response, care, support and healing, economic power, research and information management systems. It is these pillars Hon Speaker, we seek to implement in the province, in collaboration with the provincial gender-based violence and femicide technical committee. Together, we can do more.

Hon Speaker, the education of our children is wider than learning in the classroom, that is why we have partnered with the Department of Education, under Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya to roll out the ‘I am the Flag campaign’ in schools. In the previous financial year, we were able to conduct 25 flag campaigns where members of communities and school children learnt about the country's symbols and the significance of our South African flag. This is not only about the ‘I am the Flag campaign’, it also talks to our National Symbols and our Constitution, and thus promoting national pride, patriotism and a sense of belonging. We plan to roll out 30 of these campaigns this financial year.

We are also happy to report that the Limpopo creative industry continues to receive support through our National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. In the past financial year, we have managed to support 8 creative industry projects. We will in this 2023/24 financial year continue to support 8 creative industries. We are also glad to announce that it is not only through financial support, but also the empowerment support we offer to them. In the previous 2022/23 financial year, we commenced with the review of the creative industry strategy. We are also excited that the National Department of Sport, Arts

and Culture has already consulted with the province in the development of the creative industry masterplan, which, at completion, will go a long way in improving the Creative Industry Strategy for the province.

We are all in agreement with the creative sector, that it is time they start to be self-sustaining and be part of the job creation strategy. For this reason, we are walking every step of the way with them. Hon Speaker, we are also happy to announce that in the previous financial cycle, we have supported and developed over 1026 artists in the creative industry and this number will be increasing this financial year to 2 500. This number includes visual artists, sculptures, artists with disabilities, fashionists, poets, and legends, among many others. For the current financial year, the earmarked allocation for creative industry support and promotion and development of artists is sitting at R1,4 million and R1,2 million respectively.

The Cultural Affairs Programme, Hon Speaker takes about 14% of the total budget allocation. Included in this allocation, are costs related to the Mapungubwe Arts Festival with its built-up programs as outlined earlier, Golden Shield Awards, Ku Luma Vukanyi and activities leading to the Marula festival and the procurement of the flags.

Hon Speaker, the Department is also busy with the maintenance and profiling of our museums. The Budget in this programme will also see an increment in the provision of sign language interpreters and the celebration of international translation. I am saying this about the provision of sign language interpreters precisely because today we do have those people interpreting for us in this House. As we all know, Limpopo has the most spoken languages in South Africa and the honours is on us to see to it that they are all treated equally. It, therefore, says the increase in budget in this programme will go a long way in fostering social cohesion and nation-building in the province.

The upgrading of the Schoemansdal Museum is now at 93% in terms of construction. The practical completion of the museum will be in the first quarter of the current financial year. An additional budget was allocated for the design of the exhibition area. This exhibition area's significance will allow citizens to view historical artefacts and cultural heritage with diverse cultures. This museum honourable Members, shall be officially opened during the current financial year.

We also wish to announce here today, that as the Premier has over the years reported on the progress of the provincial theatre, which is the big elephant in the room, we can now report with authority, that the design and procurement thereof is now at 60% tender documentation finalisation. We will in this financial year complete stage four of the entire planning and then commence with stage five, which is construction this financial year. This is a milestone achievement for us and the creative industry. This project's completion will come in handy to the performance industry and obviously the people of Limpopo at large.

The provincial theatre has been allocated ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members may we have order please? You are still going to have that opportunity to interrogate the speech. Not now, Hon Seshoka. May you please allow the MEC to finish her speech?

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

... R10 million in this current financial year. We can attest to that Hon Seshoka because, people are their own liberators. Indeed, you are going attest to that. Honourable Members, about two weeks ago, I witnessed the talent of some of those who will be excited at the completion of the provincial theatre. The staging of a play called; *Pienars* was hosted at General Piet Joubert Special School in Polokwane. In the next few years, this should be staged at our own theatre, the Limpopo provincial theatre. The actors and actresses came from all districts of our province. It was truly beautiful to watch.

Hon Speaker, help me appreciate theatre and stage activist, Precious Manaka, and Director Thabang 'Chakala' Ramabu and their team in the House. We also appreciate the work being done by amongst others Matome Rapetsoa and Mashupje Phala who are exposing the talent of young people in the theatre industry. [APPLAUSE] We also wish to celebrate our Season 18 Idols superstar, Thapelo Molomo, who became the last man standing in the competition. We now understand that the Idols company will, unfortunately, shut its curtain soon after the conclusion of its 19th edition. With that knowledge, we still welcomed Thapelo in style, and he was later featured in our Mapungubwe Arts Festival. I know for a fact that Hon Monama from LEDET is also going to accommodate you during the Marula Festival.

Let's also appreciate, our home-grown artists, Makhadzi wa who riṇe, King Monada, Master KG, Penny Penny, *Milandu bhe*; Benny Mayengane, Pleasure-M, '*Ke lorile nna le wena!*' and many others who continue to dominate the music world, not only in South Africa, but across the globe. We are busy grooming and supporting new young artists who will also surprise the music world. Please join me as we congratulate one of our own, Dr Winnie Mashaba who hails from Sekhukhune as she celebrates 25 years in the gospel music world. [APPLAUSE] Her charity and developmental music campaign is going on across the province as we speak.

We have also become synonymous with beauty pageants, when our daughter Ndavi Nokeri brought Miss South Africa crown home and went on to represent South Africa at the Miss Universe pageant in the USA last year; she joined luminaries like Bokang Montjane and Shudufhadzo Musida who also walked and dominated the pageant in the past. We are a province that has not forgotten that for us to realize our objectives, the creative industry will have to play a significant role. Not only in entertainment through Mapungubwe and other festivals, but in creating job opportunities and ending the scourge of poverty and unemployment.

On Programme 3, Library and Archives Services 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, writing, and learning amongst our people. This programme has been allocated a budget of R223,243 million in this financial year. This

allocation signifies an increase of R39 576 million. This is a 22% in increment from the amount of R183,667million allocated in the past financial year.

Hon Speaker, in the previous financial year, we managed to complete the following libraries: Seleteng, Runnymede, and Mavalane. In his State of the Province Address, the Premier, Chupu Maremadipekwa has wished that the Seleteng Library should be renamed after illustrious author Es'kia Mphahlele. All these libraries are currently in operation and serving their respective communities. In September 2022, we commenced with the building of four new libraries which are Botshabelo, Vleifontein, Tshaulu and Sekhukhune. These libraries' construction came with challenges with community disruptions and snail movement on the side. The department and the implementing agent are in the process of appointing new contractors to continue with the construction of the three libraries that previously experienced delays.

Meanwhile, the construction of Mulamula Library is at 76% completion and will be completed during the third quarter of this financial year. In the past financial year, we managed to upgrade and maintain 24 of our libraries across the province. In the process, we also managed to procure over 20,000 library materials, including the much-needed books. In the current financial year, we are planning to procure 25 000 library materials, considering the R8,759 million.

Hon Speaker, in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, 13 libraries were provided with technology and equipment for our visually impaired readers through the South African Library for the Blind. These libraries are Polokwane, Phalaborwa, Marble Hall, Musina, Alldays and Tzaneen. The plan for this financial year is to activate Lebowakgomo, Modimolle and Giyani and to launch and market the services to ensure maximum usage.

The Library and Archives Services was allocated 36% of the budget as it is funded by the equitable share and conditional grant. Within the allocations, an amount of R153,597 million is for a conditional grant which constitutes 69% of the total budget for the programme. Hon Speaker, it is Mark Twain who once said; "A person who won't read any great things has no advantage over the one who can't read." The current budget will be directed towards the planning for the construction of new libraries, maintenance, library books, provision of ICT infrastructure, free internet access to libraries, appointment of librarians, security services for all libraries and payment of EPWP workers.

A total of R34,474 million has been allocated towards the construction of new libraries and upgrades, whilst maintenance of libraries has been allocated a budget of R4,8 million in the current financial year. For this purpose, R3 million has been allocated for EPWP model under equitable share. We will in this financial year complete the construction of five libraries and commence with planning and design for the construction of three new libraries which are Bungeni, Matlerekeng and Makhuba. We want to entrench a reading society mentality and ensure that our learners, both young and old, have available reading material.

This august House and Limpopo people should also know that all our libraries are equipped with computers and free internet access. During his State of the Province Address, the Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha highlighted the province's approach to

energy security. Thus, the design of the new libraries going forward will include solar-panel roofing, addressing the plans to encapsulate the possible retrofitting of solar panels to all government buildings, as the Premier added.

Honourable Speaker, a nation that does not know where it comes from, will not know where it is going. It is for that reason that we can today report to this House that we have commenced with the recording of the oral History of our struggle stalwarts because we know that the Limpopo province is the ancestral province. The home of Sefako Mapogo Makgatho. The home of Lillian Ngoyi. The home of Charlotte (Ngwana Mannye) Maxeke. We do this in collaboration with the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Committee of Military Veterans and the different war veterans' organizations in our province. The Department will move holistically to ramp up this programme.

Under the last Programme, which is Sport and Recreation. The director of Sport and Recreation Simon Malatjie who is here in the House, who drove all the way from Johannesburg is here. [APPLAUSE] Hon Speaker, the Sport and Recreation Unit is the custodian of sport development and recreation. It is in this programme that we identify, develop, and prepare talent for high-level performance. Last year, the department committed to supporting 500 elite athletes 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. I am pleased to report that all our targets have been met. This means that there has been progress in the increment in sport participation. Two focused schools were also supported through the Academy of Sport. We can also announce here today that collectively, 907 hubs, schools and clubs were provided with sporting equipment and attire in the past financial year.

At the same time, we have met the target of having 11 500 learners participate in school sports at the district level. Of these, 530 learners were able to reach national competitions. We are proud of these learners who continue to raise the flag of Limpopo high at national competitions. In the current financial year, the number of learners participating in school sports at the District level will increase to 25 000 and 1033 of these will be competing nationally. At the same time, we reached and exceeded our target of 24 000 people participating in organized sports and active recreation. This number will increase to 50 000 in the current financial year.

We can also report here that 205 sporting leagues were supported through the Limpopo Sport Confederation in the past financial year. The support to the leagues will continue and 233 are targeted for this financial year. In the past financial year, we also managed to implement the following recreational programmes: Indigenous Junior Dipapadi; National Youth Camp; Big Walk; Golden Games; and Recreational Day. In the previous financial year, the department was able to honour and reward the best performers at the Annual Sports Awards held in Sun City. Among those honoured, was the first interracial boxing participant in 1976 at the height of the apartheid regime, James “Dynamite” Mathato, who fought the then South African Heavyweight Boxing Champion Gerrie Coetzee. “Dynamite” broke barriers as he fostered social cohesion and forced the brutal regime to notice the heart of African athletes to fight. He is 83 years old, and he is here

with us today. [APPLAUSE] He fought then, and he still fights today while leading a healthy life and teaching young people boxing here in Lebowakgomo.

Ntate Mathato, is one of our guests in the gallery. In those Awards, we also awarded our Banyana Banyana stars, particularly those from Limpopo. These are, Lebogang Ramalepe, Noko Matlou, Nomvula Kgoale, Hildah Magaia and Amogelang Motau. They have indeed made us proud. One of our rising stars is the Ladies Springbok Captain, our daughter Right Mukhari. Her success within this male-dominated sport talks volumes, and we commend her for representing South Africa on the world stage. A number of athletes from this province are excelling in different sporting codes, and we will continue supporting them.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, please join me in congratulating these winners and others. Most of these went on to dominate in the National Sports Awards under the auspices of the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, a week ago. Amongst those wearing national honours are; Dr Malumbete Ralethe, who was awarded the 'Lifetime Achievers' Award, the Ncuva male team which won the Indigenous Games Team of the Year, and our Helen Frans Special Team, which won the Developing School of the Year Award.

Hon Speaker, this programme has been allocated a budget of R104 million in this financial year, an increase from R83,732 million from the 2022/23 financial year so that we move further to attain the set targets. The Sport and Recreation programme takes 17% of the total allocation and is funded by both equitable share and conditional grants. The allocation includes a conditional grant funding of R66million which constitutes 64% of the total budget for the programme.

This will ensure that sports hubs and clubs are functional in all districts and are capacitated to promote sports participation in communities. An active nation is a healthy nation. If we become active, we reduce the number of those who frequent hospitals and assist productivity in reducing those who take sick leave. Our forebears also used traditional games to sustain themselves to live longer. The Department will introduce the Limpopo Annual Games, commencing this financial year, wherein 11 sporting codes will be prioritised. Phase One will be hosted at the local level with the sole aim of increasing the participation of people in sports at the grassroots level.

We endeavour to have wards compete among themselves, while moving towards the district and ultimately at the provincial level. This is a back-to-basics approach. One ward, one hub. Although it may take a few years to reach all wards; it is possible, it can be done, and it will be done.

Hon Speaker, the department has sent out circular encouraging municipalities to apply for the Municipal Infrastructure Grant for multi-sporting codes courts. There could be more Combi-Courts built from the R10 million grant, as opposed to building one facility worth R10 million per financial year. The municipalities will be able to cover more areas and more citizens in different sporting codes. While we have the Netball World Cup in sight, let's maximise the microscope placed on these Combi Courts, in support of the very World Cup.

Ladies and gentlemen, for the first time in 60 years, a female sporting code is hosting a prestigious World Cup in our continent, in our country, in Cape Town. This is no joking matter- and we should all be proud and fully rally behind our women in July in Cape Town. We are proud that three players are from Limpopo: Boitumelo Matlhoko; Khanyisa Chawane; and Lenise Potgieter. I, therefore, urge everyone in this House and the entire province to wear the South African Netball Team jerseys every Friday as we did during the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. When people were excited about the 2010 Soccer World Cup. They would say 'Feel it. It's here.' Bokoko ba rena would also say 'Phillip is here.' Indeed 'Phillip is here', let's cherish these women's sporting codes.

The department will be hosting the 100 days celebrations towards this World Cup event. These celebrations will take place on 19 April at the Ngoako Ramatlhodi Sports Complex. In the process, just like other provinces, Limpopo will also host a trophy tour from 09 to 13 June 2023. The trophy routes will be communicated in due course. In the meantime, municipalities are encouraged to identify fan parks for the World Cup.

Hon Speaker, As a catalyst to increase community participation in active sport, the department will reintroduce the annual cancer marathon, in conjunction with various stakeholders. This marathon to be held in October, is also a Comrades Marathon qualifier. Cancer is eating away at our society and an awareness campaign engraved in this event should go a long way in instilling the much-needed culture of healthy living.

Limpopo continues to be the breeding ground of elite athletes in the softball code which was celebrated as the federation of the year in the annual sports awards of 2022/23 financial year. In the senior national men's team, Limpopo has produced eight technical officials and nine athletes who represented Africa at the softball world cup held in New Zealand in December 2022. This sporting code has managed to produce four technical officials and four athletes of the senior softball women's team that won the African Qualifiers held in Gaborone, Botswana from 07 to 10 February 2023. They will now participate in the Pre-World Cup qualifiers to be held in Valencia, Spain from the 15 to 20 July 2023.

The code continues to put Limpopo on the international map by producing four technical officials and six athletes for participation in the Under 23 Men's national squad. The team has also qualified for the Inaugural World Cup to be held in Parana, Argentina from 15 to 23 April 2023. This technical team include the captain of the senior national team and pitching coach of junior teams, Tidima Kekana who is currently the number one pitcher in the African continent and he is here with us. [APPLAUSE]

Under Schools Sports Programme, Limpopo produced four athletes and two technical officials in the Under 18 Men team who won the African World Cup qualifiers that took place in Kampala, Uganda in January 2023. The team will also represent Africa at the World Cup to be held in Cancun, Mexico from 11 to 19 November 2023.

The Department is introducing a new model of hub clustering to foster social cohesion. We will supply these hubs with sporting equipment. The rollout of this programme will commence with the Sekhukhune District in this financial year. The other districts will be

included in the coming financial years. A total budget of R11,900 million has been allocated for the provision of sports equipment and attire for the current financial year.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, and the honourable Members at large, as was said earlier, this is my maiden speech and many of the achievements outlined here would not have been possible without the support one received from various people and structures both within the department and in this House. It is for that reason that I wish to thank my predecessor, former MEC Tandi Anna Moraka, a formidable woman and leader within the governing party who is also the Head of the subcommittee on Arts and Culture in the ANC NEC. [APPLAUSE] I wish to thank her for the work she has done and will continue to do as we are preparing for the Netball World Cup 2023.

I wish to also acknowledge the leadership of the Head of Department, Ms Daphney Ramokgopa with her team of men and women who baptised me with fire when I was deployed here a few months ago. Believe me, I have never rested a day since then. From the day I took office, I have been taken to all districts, opening libraries and then Mapungubwe Arts and Culture Festival. I am still on the road to building a socially cohesive society. Thank you very much HOD and your team.

I must also thank all the Statutory and Non-statutory bodies led by amongst others Mr Ally Polle and his team in the Sport Federations, Mr Simon Kekana and the team in the Limpopo Arts, and Culture Council, the Geographic Names Council Chairperson Gerald Twala, among others. These bodies welcomed me warmly and started engaging me robustly. Their input is welcome. We have a duty to our nation.

Finally let me thank the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture led by a remarkable woman, Hon Johanna Aphiri. The Portfolio Committee is like a home, we engage every day and their monitoring process has made us what we are today. Thank you very much, honourable Members.

Let me also thank my family. My husband is here, Mr Kekana [APPLAUSE] who has accepted that in my life as a politician and an activist, there's no time to idle, when our people need services. Indeed, ours is a life to make our society more active, socially cohesive, and healthy.

I also want to send the accolade to our Premier, Hon Maremadipekwa Chupu Stanley Mathabatha who afforded me this opportunity to be one of his Members of the Executive Committee in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Hon Speaker, I humbly present the 2023/24 Budget Vote 10 of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. As I move I know, gore dikgadi tša ka mošate boMohlomphegi Monicca, Hon Seono will join me when I sing:

Tumpu wee!

Ngwane ke wa mang?

Ra mo swara ra mokobakobetša! [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Thank you, Hon MEC for your presentation. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture for Consideration and to report back to the House. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members.

On item 7.1.3, we shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Mokone, to come and present Budget Speech for Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. [APPLAUSE]

MR MTSWENI: VOTES 04 AND 11: AGRICULTURE, AND COGHSTA

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET SPEECH FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Mr T A Mokone, MEC for the Agriculture and Rural Development)

Hon Speaker, Mme Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; honourable colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mokgonyana; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; the leadership of the ruling party, African National Congress, Tate Nkenke Kekana; NEC Member, Hon Nakedi Kekana; Leader of the Opposition Party, Hon Seshoka; Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, led by Hosi Ngove and the Deputy of Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Boleu Rammupudu; members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee; officials of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and other sector departments ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Deputy Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not think it is not proper for Hon Mokone to refer me as the Leader of the Opposition ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can we allow Hon Seshoka to speak.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am saying it is not proper for Hon Mokone to refer me as the Leader of the Opposition Party, because he knows very well who the Leader of the Opposition Party is. [BACKGROUND NOISE], and for that I would request you to ask him to withdraw. He must just withdraw.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seshoka. Maybe it was a slip of the tongue. No, it is fine.

MR SESHOKA

He knows exactly what he was doing. He cannot go there. He is wrong. He must just withdraw.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, can you withdraw.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Deputy Speaker, I withdraw without any reservations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. You may continue, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

I have just recognised Hon Seshoka who is here in the benches of the opposition parties. The representatives of the farming community at large and civil society; organisations present; representatives of the agri-business and other partners in the agriculture sector; members of the media; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, my sincere greetings to you.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is with honour that we, today, table to this august House the Budget of Vote 4, Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, for the financial year 2023/24.

We are tabling this Budget amidst difficult economic times. In recent years, farmers have been facing a continuous uphill battle because of exponentially rising cost of production, mainly fuel, fertilisers, compounded by current electricity blackouts. As also noted in the State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2023, his Excellency President Ramaphosa highlighted a fact that the agricultural sector, “is now facing several pressures, from input costs for fertilizers, fuel to market access constraints and severe weather patterns that are impacting badly on production.”

Despite these the challenges, we take leadership from our Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, during the State of the Province Address (SOPA) 2023, when he mentioned that, “Therefore, our collective responsibility, moving forward, is to implement the policy directives pronounced by the President.”

Therefore, the Budget and plans of the department for 2023/24 financial year must aim to assist the producers to mitigate the impact of unfavourable conditions on agricultural production.

It is worth mentioning though that despite these challenges, our agricultural sector continues to play a crucial role in ensuring the national food security. The Global Food Security Index, 2022, places South Africa as the most food secured country on the African continent. South Africa is ranked number 01 on the continent, and globally at number 59, out of 133 countries that have their agricultural sectors worthy of inclusion in the GFS Index.

From the continent, South Africa is followed by Tunisia at number 62. We believe that this is made possible through the hard work of our farmers and farm workers, the agricultural industry at various levels and, of course, the supportive role of government through various enabling policies and programmes.

We should also take note that 6,5 million people in South Africa still go to bed hungry, and that need to intensify our intervention programmes towards ensuring household food security as espoused in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 2, by 2030.

We welcome the pronouncement by the Premier that there will be a “... development of a province-specific and comprehensive energy plan to ensure that we build a new electricity generation capacity in our province.” Furthermore, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Hon Thoko Didiza, has established an Energy Task Team, and this will help our department to include the development of energy production projects in our plans as directed by the Premier in the 2023 State of the Province Address.

I have already met with the representatives of organised farmers in this regard and directed our department to establish an Energy Task Team to work on the agricultural sector’s inputs into the broader plan to mitigate the impact of the load shedding on food production across the value chain.

We have adopted a slogan of, “Evangelising agriculture and food production to be a culture by all, no longer just a leisure for some.” We are calling upon everybody to take advantage of the resources at their disposal to contribute to improved food security, employment creation and reduction of poverty.

As part of this evangelism, together with our Limpopo Department of Education, we are working on mechanisms to support the agricultural schools in our province. The aim is to enable these schools to continue to serve as foundation level for agricultural career

development, and to promote the importance and value of increased participation of young people in the food chain system.

Flowing from my interactions with various stakeholders and role players, we believe that with our recent re-establishment of MEC Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and also formed a technical team on energy at the sector level, we are on track to jointly and collectively find solutions as a sector towards addressing the above-mentioned challenges on the identified strategic programmes.

Our reflection on the Red Meat Cluster Development has indicated that we need to change our approach. We are in discussion with impact catalyst, who are also here, to have a holistic approach that will see us addressing all the aspects of production, value adding and markets. We are working on developing a comprehensive masterplan, which will guide and direct the necessary investment through public and private partnerships.

At the beginning of the sixth administration, our department committed to a mission to promote food security and economic growth through sustainable agricultural development.

The 2023/24 financial year Budget allocation will, thus, enable us to continue the journey of our mission, amplified by agriculture evangelism movement, to put into effect policy priorities as outlined in the 2020/21-2024/25 financial year Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and Limpopo Development Plan.

This journey is undertaken under the challenges of limited resources and slim workforce, which we have mitigated by among others organisational redesign which led to the implementation of a new organisational structure as we committed in the 2022/23 financial year Budget Speech. However, despite our efforts to decrease the workforce, our Compensation of Employees bill has stubbornly increased from R1 billion to R1,1 billion.

In 2022/23 financial year, we have spent approximately R4 million on the implementation of COVID-19 health and safety protocols and more than R7 million on personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure a safe working environment for our personnel.

We have also allocated R7 million to enhance the capacity of our personnel through in-service training. We will continue with the quest for alternative ways and resources to increase the capacity of our workforce to ensure maximum delivery of our mandate.

The red meat industry observed that the last United Nations Climate Change Conference held in November 2022, commonly known and referred to COP27, was the first one wherein, "... the participants had for the first time given agriculture and food production prominence in terms of how these sectors can be leveraged to better tackle environmental issues."

The department is also keeping a close eye on how the effects of climate change are shaping the critical narratives about the future of all agricultural industries. We commit to initiating and participating in various research that promote the role of sustainable production strategies in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

In our Sustainable Resource Use and Management Programme, R137 million has been allocated for 2023/24 financial year. This programme remains the cornerstone of agricultural practices since it is about caring for the very soil agriculture is derived from and the provision of infrastructure to support farming activities. In 2022/23 financial year, as we promised, we rehabilitated 1 300 ha of land and cultivated 502 ha under conservation agriculture practice.

These milestones were achieved amidst challenges in the delivery of agriculture infrastructure. We have since developed a turnaround strategy to complete all outstanding infrastructure in the second quarter of this financial year and ensured that all infrastructure projects planned for this current financial year are completed timeously. Despite these challenges, through this programme, the department managed to create more than 2 750 EPWP job opportunities, which is 6% above the target.

We will explore the expansion of support to process the identified invader tree species to other areas, to assist farmers to generate income from the harvested invader species. A feasibility analysis will be conducted in the first quarter of this financial year to determine the possibility of replicating these kinds of projects across the province. Recently, I visited a similar Landcare Pilot Project at Mamaila Kolobetona village in Mopani District, wherein a group of 350 cattle farmers received support from the department to manage invasive plants, namely, Sickle Bush and Lantana.

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

May you be in order, honourable Members. You may continue, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

It is with great humility to introduce to this august house Mr Theo du Plooy, an engineer and farmer from Limpopo, who designed a unique mass handler facility for goats and sheep. [APPLAUSE]. The system neatly lifts 20 mature goats without hurting or injuring them off the ground to easily be inspected for parasites in their eyes and ears and dosed.

Mr E Nekhavhambe, in his article, 'What do we need to transform the agricultural sector? The case of the NAMC transformation workshop with industry role players in the Transformation Digest Magazine, found the following responses:

- The agricultural sector needs a caring and responsible government; in the same way, the government needs the private sector.
- Transformation strategies should investigate youth participation in the agricultural sector for the sustainability and profitability of the sector.
- There is also a need to address and deliberate on the issue of the Agri-BEE Charter Sector Code to realise its objectives.
- Government funding should be inclusive of all the industry commodities.

Thus, we continue our transformation agenda by providing support to the transformation and development of the agriculture sector through our Agricultural Producer Support and Development Programme, and actively contribute to the economic growth, inclusion, equality, and the creation of decent work.

During the past year, the department increased participation of producers in the integrated value chain through support of 7 300 producers across various agriculture commodity groups, which are 1 570 above the target. Furthermore, we fulfilled our 2022/23 financial year commitment to capacitate farmers by training 1 350 producers and reaching out to 1 500 through demonstrations and farmers days. It is an overwhelming achievement against our plans.

Our intentions to support smallholder producers and subsistence farmers were negatively impacted mainly by the volatile price escalation in inputs, especially fertilisers, due to the Russian-Ukraine conflict and other global and national market factors. However, we remain committed to our mission as we present the 2023/24 financial year plans and derive strength from our agricultural spirit of evangelism.

Among the key deliverables of this programme is revitalisation of small-scale irrigation schemes. As we pronounced in 2022/23 financial year Budget Speech, the notable progress has been made in four irrigation schemes mainly through the revitalisation of infrastructure development.

The development of Mogalatšane Irrigation Scheme infrastructure is at 80% completion. It is worth noting that the scheme is currently producing cotton under dryland rainfed production system.

The revitalisation of Hereford Irrigation Scheme of Tafelkop Farmers Association includes:

- Bulk water supply and in-field irrigation system development;
- Establishment of shade nets covering one hectare per plot;
- Refurbishment of packing facility;
- Construction of ablution facilities; and
- Storage facility to ensure compliance with South African GAP market requirements.

Production at other schemes, namely, Zamerkomste, Readira Baswa, Dichweung and Swara O Tiiše is also progressing fairly well. Seasonally, an average quantity of cotton produced is 400 tons, with more than 300 jobs created. Support will continue in 2023/24 financial year, to amongst others, enable the planting of 464 ha as part of the expansion of Sekhukhune Cotton Cluster Development.

This support is aimed at increasing at:

- The number of producers from 124 to 400;
- Doubling production from 400 ha to 1000 ha;

- Increasing the knowledge and skills base of cotton producers; and
- To improve market access.

This development is in partnership with Cotton South Africa. For the 2023/24 financial year, the Agricultural Producer Support and Development Programme has received R795 million, which constitutes 45% of the total departmental Budget. The allocation includes Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) and Letšema Conditional Grants, with nearly R242 million for CASP and R77 million for Letšema, respectively.

In the year under review, 209 animals were provided to farmers through the departmental Livestock Loan Scheme and departmental Livestock Re-Sale Scheme. Fish freeing stock of 10 000 fish fingerlings, sourced from the departmental Fish Production Operation at Turfloop Hatchery, were supplied to farmers. In 2023/24 financial year, 250 livestock and 10 000 fish fingerlings will be provided to farmers to improve their production.

Our pursuit for the industrialisation of the Red Meat Cluster seeks to optimise and increase production of red meat across the value chain, and ultimately improve the access to formal markets and livelihoods of the livestock farmers. We are expanding this programme to include other parts of the province, from the pilot in Waterberg District.

This has been prompted by our continuous drive to address the challenges faced by farmers affected by the Foot and Mouth Disease, to strengthen our interventions in the redline areas towards addressing the historical challenges on market access for livestock farmers in the FMD Zone of Mopani and Vhembe Districts.

Lot of work has commenced on the ground, particularly on the area of capacity building of the farmers. So far, more than 1 400 farmers across the province have gone through a training programme on various aspects of livestock production, marketing and disease management.

We have also roped in impact catalyst, to work with us to conduct a full situational analysis and develop a masterplan for the province-wide Red Meat Development.

We are forging ahead with a drive to increase participation of producers in the integrated value chain through support for 5 300 producers across different agricultural commodity groups.

In 2023/24 financial year, the support will benefit 8 700 farmers and 9 140 ha of land would be put into production. This support will contribute to the creation of more than 11 000 jobs for household food survival.

The role of extension officers in food production and in the poverty alleviation, especially for our rural households, is very critical and cannot be overemphasized. We appreciate the contribution of the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development with the current drive to assist the provinces to increase the boots on the ground.

Our department is faced with an ageing workforce, especially extension officers. We welcome the extension of temporary contracts of 820 assistant agricultural practitioners by the National Department of Agriculture. These extensions officers will be here for three months. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

May you be in order, honourable Members. You may continue, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) continues to threaten the livelihoods of livestock farmers, not only in the Limpopo province, but also the broader livestock industry in South Africa.

However, we can confidently report that the outbreak has been fully contained, thanks to the interventions by the department and the efforts from farmers, traditional leaders, animal auctioneers, the South African National Defence Force, the South African Police Service and media houses.

We further express our appreciation to departmental officials, the support of the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; our Hon Premier and my colleague, Hon Sekoati; MECs for Transport and Community Liaison; District Municipalities of Vhembe and Mopani.

We will be hosting the Limpopo Livestock Summit in the first quarter of the financial year - to bridge the gap between government, organised agriculture, and private sector, towards a shared vision for sustainable growth and development of the provincial livestock industry.

To continue with the implementation, the above stated interventions and other key priorities which are critical to ensure disease free environment and meat safety for public consumption, the Veterinary Services Programme has been allocated R193 million, an increase of R77 million to enable the FMD interventions. [APPLAUSE].

In as much as the main focus has been on the FMD due its wider negative impact on the livestock industry, we should not forget about the preventative measures for other diseases such as Rabies. Rabies is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it is an infectious disease that is transmitted between species from animals to humans. If 70% of dogs and cats are vaccinated the cycle can be broken. Mass Rabies vaccinations will continue especially in Vhembe and Mopani District where Rabies is endemic.

As pronounced in the 2022/23 financial year Budget Speech, the department had planned to implement 12 research projects and 21 technology transfer interventions for improving agricultural production. The department over-achieved with 14 research projects implemented and 41 technology transfer interventions conducted in the financial year under review.

The Research and Technology Development Services Programme has been allocated R75 million and an amount of R2 million has been allocated to cater for the infrastructure rehabilitation of Mara and Towoomba Research Stations.

During 2023/24 financial year, 12 research projects will be implemented to improve agricultural production. This research is to explore alternative and new production practices and methods that can assist the producers to respond to the challenges brought about by effects of climate change and changes in production systems.

The coordination and facilitation of the support regarding the implementation of the Cannabis Master Plan will continue in this financial. We will intensify awareness and provide support to prospective producers with license applications. So far, Public Awareness Workshops on Hemp or Cannabis Development have been conducted across the province.

The Agriculture Geo-Spatial Information Services team in the department has developed a digital reporting system enabling monitoring and reporting on progress made with the implementation of departmental plans.

This modern technological system also allows for early warning on performance with resultant identification of strategies to overcome challenges. For example, the Producer Farmer Register will be added to the digital reporting system to guide planning and assist in the application process for farmer support.

The Agricultural Economic Services Programme has been allocated R74 million to provide timely and relevant agricultural economic services to ensure equitable participation in the economy.

We have allocated R30 million for the continuation of RAAVC implementation, as one of the provincial policy priorities. Thank you, MEC, Hon Sekoati. The RAAVC Plan aims to contribute to the expansion and increase of agricultural production across the value chain, and in turn the sector's inclusive growth, job creation and food security as espoused in the National Development Plan, Limpopo Development Plan, and Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan.

Implementation of RAAVC anchor projects will continue in the 2023/24 financial year, which include:

- Majeje Citrus, with the allocation of R12 million, as second phase of the establishment of citrus orchards towards the target of 450 ha;
- Tafelkop Farmers through the development of Hereford Irrigation Scheme with the allocation of R10 million for the continuation of irrigation infrastructure and infrastructure for GAP market requirements certification;
- Tshilwavhusiku with the allocation of R6 million for irrigation infrastructure and on-site packing shed; and
- The Master Plan for Zebediela will be developed to outline specific deliverables and required investment to revitalise this citrus estate and increase the current jobs by more than 100%.

We have planned to convene a RAAVC Summit in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year. The objective of the summit is to have a structured engagement on the matters of agricultural value chain development, reflecting on the current and future development programmes in government and private sector, with the aim of strengthening existing and forging new partnerships, as well as sharing lessons on the best practices.

In the 2022/2 financial year, we managed to audit 25 farms and four of them have been certified by South African GAP and one by Global GAP. This will enable them to participate in the mainstream economy. In the 2023/24 financial year, 33 farms will be pre-audited and 20 will be fully audited, including health and food safety workshops.

Furthermore, 2 750 producers will be supported with production economic services, using the Budget allocation of approximately R74 million, to provide timely and relevant agricultural economic services to the sector in support of sustainable agricultural and agri-business development to increase economic growth.

Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila Agricultural Colleges, in the 2022/23 financial year graduated 102 students with Diploma in Agriculture. This success was also realised in the training of farmers in various agricultural skills, wherein more than 400 farmers were trained.

Agricultural Education and Training Programme has been allocated a Budget of R158 million for the 2023/24 financial year. This Budget is to cater for the Student Academic Programme, College Infrastructure Revitalisation and Learnership Programmes.

The department has initiated a program to employ young graduates in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to mitigate the worrying socio-economic reality of youth unemployment in our society. Through the placement of Unemployed Agricultural Graduate Programme, the department is placing young people with agriculture qualifications in various commercial enterprises across the province.

During the 2021/22 financial year, the department placed 120 graduates on farms to gain work experience for the period of two years. This placement of Unemployed Graduate Programme exposes graduates to further opportunities for support and linkages to establish and sustain own enterprises.

During the 2023/24 financial year, the following four enterprises owned by the graduates who completed the program will be supported:

- Sekgale Business Enterprise : poultry enterprise in Sekhukhune District;
- Risana Agricultural Farming : vegetable enterprise in Mopani District;
- Livhatrl Farming : vegetable enterprise in Vhembe District; and
- Shadtonez Farming : vegetable enterprise in Capricorn District.

As I conclude, Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to share with this august House that the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) requested the Premier of the Limpopo province to host the 2023 Annual BRICS Agriculture Ministers'

meeting. The meeting will take place at the end of July 2023. The BRICS Agriculture Ministers' meeting is a build up to the BRICS Summit in August 2023, which will be hosted by the state President, His Excellency, President Ramaphosa, as the current chair of BRICS.

Our province will be working the national department, supported by DIRCO to ensure that this becomes a success and to showcase the richness of Limpopo in terms of natural resources, our cultures and friendliness.

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) has received an allocation of R1,770,786 billion in the 2023/24 financial year. [APPALUSE] The allocation is made up of R1,430,420 million equitable share (ES) allocation and conditional grants (CG) amounting to R340,366 million.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the front runners in this sector who are hard-working farmers, farm workers and agricultural technocrats. Let us leave no one behind. Let us continue to feed our nation and contribute to the much-needed jobs.

Let me express my deepest gratitude to the Hon Premier for his sterling leadership and guidance, and also to thank my predecessor, Hon Nanda Ndalane, for the sterling work that she has started in the department. I want to also thank my colleagues in the Executive Council for their support, and to the chairperson and your members of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Maseko, for your diligent oversight role and keeping us on our toes. My gratitude also goes to team Agriculture and Rural Development, led by the HOD, Mme Maisela, for your hard work and dedication.

We leave no one behind until we meet all our objectives to deliver high standard agricultural services to our commercial farmers, small holder farmers and each household in the province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to conclude by the words of Michael Esmeraldo, newly appointed Managing Director of Netafim South Africa, who recently wrote in the Farmers Weekly that, "The trick is to stick it out, remain hopeful, and keep an open mind. Agriculture is a marathon, not a sprint, and the people who can endure the tough times will come out on top."

Thank you. Hi nkomu. Ke a leboga. Rho livhuwa. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE].

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and to report back to the House.

Let us move to Item 7.1.4. We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Rodgers B Makamu, to present the Budget Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA. Hon Makamu, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COGHSTA

(Address by Mr B R Makamu, MEC for CoGHSTA)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier of our province, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party; my colleagues in the Executive Council; chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA as led by Hon Kedibone Lebea; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; your Worship; Executive Mayors and Mayors of our municipalities; the leadership of SALGA in the province as led by the Executive Mayor, John Mpe; chairperson and deputy chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders including the entire Executive Committee as led by Hosi Pheni Ngobe; provincial leadership of Contralesa that is present here; our esteemed Majesties, and Royal Highnesses present; leadership of the IEC and other chapter 9 and 10 institutions present here; leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress and alliance partners led by the MEC, Hon Nakedi Kekana; Stalwarts and Veterans of our struggle; leaders of opposition parties as led by Hon Seshoka in this Sitting; representatives of NHBRC, RISIMA and HDA; chairperson of the Housing Tribunal and MEC Advisory Panel; CoGHSTA staff led by the HOD, Dr M Malahlela; members of the media present; guests and stakeholders of the departments; comrades; ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I stand before this august House to present the fiscal plan for the Budget Vote 11 in the 2023/24 financial year. May I remind this august House that our late international icon; Nelson Mandela in his inaugural speech in May 1994 said, "We have triumphed in the effort to implant hope in the breasts of the millions of our people. We enter into a covenant that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity - a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world."

The Budget Vote is a presentation of our covenant to contribute to socio-economic development and to better the livelihoods of the communities of Limpopo. Let us remind ourselves that entering this covenant is a long journey which requires sacrifices and determination as Madiba did. With passage of time, I have learnt that it requires all of us; government, private sector, civil society formations, traditional leaders and communities to work together because the need for social and economic success to eradicate poverty, job creation, service delivery and delivery of better services is our unifying factor.

This 2023/24 financial year Budget Vote comes at a time when our country is faced with a tight monetary and fiscal policy position. Therefore, as the department, we need to spend our allocation with diligence to accomplish the strategic objectives in line with our departmental strategic plan and sector priorities. In addressing the scourge of poverty, our department remains with an obligation to support and provide decent shelter and basic services to Limpopo citizenry.

In programme 1, Hon Deputy Speaker, which is Administration; our ability to deliver on our mandate is dependent on having a stable and well-functioning organisation. In 2021 we finalised the organisational re-engineering process. The final organisational structure

gave birth to a new branch called Traditional Affairs. To stabilise the institution, we have been hard at work to fill key positions in the department, after a long period where we could not fill vacancies due to an outdated organisational structure.

To this effect, we have appointed HOD, Dr Modjadji Malahlela, from the 1 January 2023. Her appointment will assist in taking the department forward and ensure speed implementation of programmes. Hon Deputy Speaker, we have also appointed Deputy Director-General, Mr Mokgala Moshweu, under Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements and the Chief Financial Officer, which he will resume the work in the next month.

Several senior management and other critical positions have also been filled. We are confident that the appointments will enable us to become a responsive, efficient and effective institution.

The department has also been able to sustain the unqualified audit outcome. We are, however, not satisfied with the stagnation, honourable Members. The appointment of key personnel, especially in the financial management branch, is one of the key steps towards our clean audit journey.

On programme 2, which is Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements (ISHS); as we draw towards the end of this term of administration, our covenant is in line with the commitment we made when we adopted the departmental 2020-2025 strategic plan. Our departmental programmes are primarily informed by the 2019-2024 Medium Term Strategic Framework, particularly priority number four which emphasises spatial integration, human settlements, and local government.

Informed by the MTSF, we committed to create integrated human settlements through:

- Creation of housing opportunities;
- Upgrading of informal settlements;
- Transfer of title deeds to beneficiaries;
- Formalisation of settlements; and
- Provision of services sites.

The human settlements sector is tasked to ensure provision of housing development, access to adequate accommodation in relevant well- located areas, access to basic services and access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities. Provision of these services is implemented through two key conditional grants namely the Human Settlements Development Grant and the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant. The key expenditure drivers are the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP), the Urban and Rural Housing Programme, and serviced sites. Therefore, constraints in these programmes have an overall impact on the performance and the service delivery targets over time.

The provision of adequate housing and basic services ensures that the quality of life of citizens is improved, thereby upholding the inherent dignity and worth of every individual

as the country forges towards the egalitarian and rights-based society that we all aspire to live in.

The total housing units delivered since the beginning of our sixth administrative cycle are 20 370 against a target of 39 000. This translates to 51%. To attain the five-year target would require that we provide 20 00 units in the coming two financial years. We are aware of the journey that lies ahead.

In terms of what we committed in the 2022/23 financial year's overall performance; our annual planned target was to deliver 4 895 housing units. At the end of fourth quarter of 2022/23 financial year, a total of 5 058 housing units were delivered. In other words, we have exceeded our annual target by just ... [APPLAUSE]

Our journey to deliver houses as per our covenant continues in the 2023/24 financial year, where our annual target is to deliver 7 291 low-cost housing units which they will cost us, Hon Sekoati, R661 million in various programmes. To ensure that that the needs of the most vulnerable are prioritised, we have impressed upon our municipalities to prioritise the elderly, women, child-headed households, and people living with disabilities when allocating housing units.

We have also established a contract management unit, which will help us to monitor contractor performance and act swiftly in instances of poor contractor performance. Furthermore, in line with the commitment made in the last Budget Vote, the processes to identify and hold accountable officials that have contributed to the poor performance leading to loss of funds have been done in the department.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we acknowledge the inconvenience caused by blocked housing units. To ensure that qualifying households get access to shelter, we will progressively address all blocked housing projects in line with the ministerial directives. To this effect, the department has assessed and conducted structural integrity through NHBRC for 2000 blocked housing units. 350 housing units, which will cost us R39,7 million, will be unblocked during the 2023/24 financial year. In addition, we are also replacing 500 mud houses at a cost of R69 million in this financial year.

The role played by Military Veterans on the emancipation of an African child can never be over-emphasised. The freedom and all the benefits enjoyed by this generation and generations to come is due to the sacrifice of these heroes and heroines. It is the responsibility of this caring government to ensure that our Military Veterans have access to critical benefits such as housing, health, education, burial support, and pensions among other things.

Despite teething challenges, we are happy to announce that our Military Veterans Housing Programme is on track, and it is gaining momentum. We continue to explore ways to expedite the delivery of houses to the Military Veterans. Since the inception of the programme, the department has been able to complete 137 Military housing units.

For the 2022/23 financial year, we targeted to deliver 79 units. To date, we have managed to complete 15 units while 18 are at various stages of completion. We unfortunately have

45 units that have not yet commenced due to unavailability of serviced sites. The department is engaging various municipalities to provide service sites in urban areas for the Military Veterans.

Our 2023/24 financial year target on this programme is 100 units which will cost us R9,9 million. Perhaps let me indicate that we had the challenges such as the scattered nature of the housing units that made the delivery time to be slow, while in some instances service providers find the programme not economically viable to implement, resulting in abandoned projects. To mitigate this challenge, we are engaging our implementing agent for this programme, HDA, to consider using service providers already allocated housing projects in areas where there are Military Veterans.

We are all aware of the dangers of asbestos roofs on the health of communities and households. As a caring government, the removal of these roofs is, therefore, one of the priorities.

I am proud to announce, Hon Deputy Speaker, that Limpopo has initiated the Asbestos Roof Removal and Replacement Project. When I presented the 2022/23 Budget Speech, I announced that we have targeted to replace 1 500 asbestos roofs which will cost us R15 million in Seshego, Polokwane.

The project took us longer to implement due to the legislative requirements and intricacies involved to implement a project of this nature for the first time in the province. I am, however, pleased to announce that to date, we have managed to replace 775 roofs, while 725 asbestos roof removals and replacements will be completed during the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year. [APPLAUSE]

HDA has been appointed to conduct a province-wide audit of the 10 500 asbestos roofs to inform the multi-year plan. We will not relent until all the asbestos roofs are replaced and our people stay in a safe environment.

During the presentation of SOPA, our Premier of the province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha said, "This administration is serious about addressing the challenges facing the social stratum called the 'missing middle'." In human settlement terms, the missing middle refers to households who do not qualify for the government's low-cost housing subsidy, because their income is above the eligibility level, while they do not qualify for mortgage bonds from commercial banks, because their income is below the qualifying threshold for the home loans they want.

In order to deal with this hindrance, RISIMA, our provincial housing finance agency, has partnered with the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, to implement the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme better known as FLISP.

Since the inception of the programme, 175 subsidies have been disbursed at the cost of R14 million. In the previous financial year, we had planned to disburse 50 subsidies. However, we have gone beyond our target and exceeded by 22 to a total of 72 subsidies.

This financial year, we have planned to disburse 50 subsidies which will cost us R4,5 million under this programme.

Despite an increase in the missing middle, the uptake on this programme has been lower than what we anticipated. One of the challenges with the programme is that it is the lack of public awareness. We will, in this financial year, endeavor to market this housing funding through media houses and road shows on marketing mediums. In the next financial year, we will adjust our annual target to accommodate more subsidies. Through this programme, people will be able to secure housing finance at an affordable price.

The rollout of community residential units (CRU's) continues to be the key focus of our department. Marapong CRU Project in Lephalale is one of our old projects that should have been completed a while ago. As I presented previously, the department recalled the project from the HDA, and is being managed internally. The intervention plan together with the optimised schedule was developed to put the project on track and currently the contractor is on site, and it is managed closely by both the department and the principal agent.

To date, of the 514 planned units, 394 structures are at various stages of completion. The 48 blocks which consist of 152 units are roofed. The contractor is busy with finishes. We anticipate completing the project by the end of this financial year.

In Makhado, the Tshikota Community Residential Units which will cost us R90 million, a contractor has been appointed for construction of 118 CRUs. Site handing over to commence with the project was done in December 2022 and the construction work permit was approved in February 2023 by the Department of Employment and Labour. The work is in progress. We anticipate the completion of this project in the 2024/25 financial year.

The feasibility study in the much-talked Tzaneen-Talana CRU was concluded in November 2022. The department noted the delay in finalising the designs and the town planning processes. The process to appoint the principal agent and contractor to resume the construction is budgeted for the 2023/24 financial year.

When it comes to property ownership, the title deed is sole legal evidence that shows true ownership. The ANC led government provides the whole package for housing for free. Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to repeat, for free. In this year' SONA, the President of the country his Excellency Ramaphosa said: "This year, we will take steps to unlock massive value for poor households by expediting the provision of title deeds for subsidised houses."

Since the beginning of the sixth administration, the department has registered and issued to date at 7 035 title deeds. Hon Deputy Speaker, 1925 title deeds have been registered during the 2022/23 financial year. However, the annual planned target was not realised. There was a deviation as per planned target of 75 title deeds due to delays in signing documents by some municipalities.

For this financial year, we have planned to register 1 500 across the province. To accelerate title deeds registration, the department will finalise township establishment

processes for proclamation in Lepelle-Nkumpi, Greater Letaba and Bela-Bela Municipalities. Once concluded, this will unlock registration of almost 1 000 title deeds.

Last year we committed to acquire portions of land in Lephalale and Elias Motsoaledi for human settlements. It, therefore, gives me pleasure to announce that the department has acquired Ledibeng Eco Estate in Lephalale Local Municipality. The land was owned by Eskom and was being disposed of as part of Eskom's strategy of disposal of non-core properties. The land consists of 200 serviced sites to be part of rapid land release for deserving beneficiaries.

The second land portion is in Elias Motsoaledi. The land is occupied as an informal settlement and the department has acquired the land to finalise the settlement and provide sustainable human settlement. An approval was obtained from Provincial Treasury for the acquisition of the land from the private seller. **Currently, the department is finalizing the transaction with had.**

The department is continuing to develop the areas where land was acquired previously such as Mooifontein Extension in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality. To date, we have completed the installation of engineering services such as water and sewer reticulation including the construction link and internal roads.

Altoostyd Project better known as Joe Slovo in Lephalale is one of the catalytic projects prioritised in the Limpopo Development Plan. A phased development approach was adopted for Altoostyd. The construction of houses will commence once the engineering services phases are completed. The following town planning and engineering services milestones were completed:

- Township establishment;
- Installation of water and sewer reticulation for 2000 sites;
- Installation of electricity reticulation for 700 sites;
- The 2,4 km of water pipeline; and
- The 9 km of bulk electrical line including associated infrastructure.

To address the lack of bulk sewer services, the designs for upgrading of Paarl Wastewater Treatment Plant have been completed and the contractor will be appointed during this financial year. Regarding Mining Towns Revitalization Programme, let me indicate that five projects for servicing of sites, construction of link roads, provision of water treatment package plant and correcting of outfall sewer were completed in provincial growth points, in Thabazimbi, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Mogalakwena, and Elias Motsoaledi mining towns.

The Mining Towns Revitalization Programme will continue to be one of our bulk infrastructure delivery instruments. The department will construct the upgrading of wastewater treatment works at Motetema, bulk water and sewer infrastructure projects in Masakaneng. Geohydrological studies, borehole refurbishment and mapping at Rossenekal under Elias Motsoaledi Municipality will be conducted this financial year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, on the provision of serviced sites, we did not perform very well during the previous financial year. Servicing of 4619 sites is still in progress in various municipalities. The main factor in the poor performance was due to lack of bulk services

in some areas and undertaking planning processes during the year of implementation, which led to a delay in the actual start of the construction and subsequent loss of money.

To change the trajectory, the department has resolved to prioritise the provision of bulk services. Working with the various water service authorities, we identified and prioritised multi-year bulk water and sewer projects. A deliberate focus has been made to ensure alignment between the departmental Budget and the Water Services Development Plans in line with the integrated development planning principles.

A database of engineering consultants has been finalised to address bulk service provision in accordance with conditional grants requirements. In addition, through District One Plans and priority development areas will assist in accelerating availability of bulk infrastructure which also contribute to spatial transformation.

To this effect, 26 bulk infrastructure projects amounting to R266 million have been budgeted for this current financial year to address shortage of bulk infrastructure across district municipalities. This will assist the department to lessen challenges during the implementation of water and sewer reticulation projects and improve access to water and sanitation services for our people. In terms of the loss of funds from the consequence management point of view, disciplinary measures will be implemented against the implicated officials.

To improve the overall performance of the Portfolio on Human Settlements, the department has since developed a turn-around strategy. The implementation of the strategy is already yielding results. At its core, the turn-around strategy has been to strengthen forward planning and contract management. Some of the milestones already attained include finalisation of the database of the five-year development areas per municipality.

This will allow us to conclude all the planning processes, including geotechnical investigations, a year in advance. We hereby call upon our municipalities to also adopt a similar approach in respect of beneficiary management, as this continues to be another challenge.

We are confident that the systems we are establishing will enable us to improve on our performance, and further improve access to services. However, due to the dependencies, I urge our municipalities to also engage in a multi-year plan on areas of their responsibilities so that we can conclude planning a year before implementation.

On the 31 March 2023, the Minister of Human Settlements, Hon Mamoloko Kubayi, pronounced an adjustment on policy changes to accelerate performance in the housing sector. From the 1 April 2023, Hon Deputy Speaker, the real terms of housing programmes will be adjusted as follows:

- BNG services and top structure will move from R196 887 to R255 364;
- House for persons with disabilities will move from R209 071 to R271 166, as Hon Ndalane is making the Speech;
- Military Veterans' houses will move from R240 607 to R312 069;

- First home finance will move from R130 505 to R169 265; and
- Social housing will move from R327 667 to R424 984.

The Minister further announced the inclusion of solar panels, rainwater harvesting devices in rural areas as well as fitting of burglar bars on units for persons with disabilities. The province is ready to comply with these adjustments as they had been implemented by the Minister.

In programme 3, which is Corporate Governance; the local government provides immediate interventions in terms of the provision of services because it is a sphere that is closer to the communities. We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success. We must, therefore, act in harmony to build this province for the rebirth of a new dawn in the 2023/24 financial year.

Our Premier of the province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in his State of the Province Address (SOPA) pronounced that, “We expect our municipalities to invest more in the development and maintenance of water, sanitation, electricity, and road infrastructure.”

There has been a decline in the MIG standings for the 2022/23 financial year. Let me congratulate municipalities that have performed well and have received an additional MIG allocation totaling R251 million, during the recent Budget Adjustments by the National Treasury. Please join me in congratulating these municipalities:

- Collins Chabane Municipality which received R45 million;
- Maruleng Municipality which received R35 million;
- Elias Motsoaledi Municipality which received R32 million;
- Thulamela Municipality which received R30 million;
- Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality which received R30 million;
- Makhuduthamaga Municipality which received R24 million;
- Blouberg Local Municipality which received R21,29 million;
- Ephraim Mogale Municipality which received R19 million; and
- Greater Letaba Municipality which received R15 million.

On the other hand, there are municipalities who underperformed. We urge underperforming municipalities to address the various challenges contributing to the poor expenditure.

The province has noted with appreciation the improvement of our municipal audit outcomes over the years. The Auditor-General, Ms Tsakani Maluleke, has also found a notable improvement in municipal audit outcomes in Limpopo. When addressing the Premier’s Provincial Inter-Governmental Forum on 17 March 2023, the Auditor-General indicated that even though the numbers remained stagnant during the 2021/22 financial year audit period, the province has shown improvements.

Appreciation to our two municipalities, Waterberg and Capricorn District Municipalities, that attained clean audits. The last time the province achieved two clean audits was in

the 2010/11 financial year. It was, then, Fetakgomo Local Municipality and Waterberg District Municipality.

Out of the 27 municipalities, 13 auditees have received unqualified audit opinions with matters of emphasis, 11 auditees received qualified audit opinions. Only one municipality by the name [in the form] of Mopani received a disclaimer. We further applaud Polokwane, Greater Giyani and Belabela Local Municipality that improved and obtained unqualified audit outcomes. We encourage the municipalities that have regressed to also improve.

While there was a slight decrease in the amount used by the municipalities on consultants, the AG has raised concerns and compared the R279 million from the 2020/21 financial year to the province' R231 million used in the 2021/22 financial year. To this effect, the Premier has directed municipalities to reduce their consultant spending by 60%. As the department, we further undertake to work together with the Provincial Treasury to ensure improving audit outcomes, and sound financial management in municipalities.

The District Development Model (DDM) is an approach and a process emphasizing the involvement of all spheres of government, private sector and civil society in planning. The outcome of the DDM process is the gradual development of all-Inclusive long-term District One Plans. The District One Plans are currently open for inputs and updates. I, therefore, advise all sectors to support by adding the high impact projects.

In the last four years, we have endured disasters in various forms and degrees. The COVID-19 pandemic was the worst of them all, claiming lives and livelihoods. Then there was Tropical Cyclone Eloise and to a lesser extent Cyclone Freddy. These disasters were punctuated by comparatively minor disasters like the Seshego hailstorm and others which struck small areas of our province. The province has also experienced abnormal rainfall since December 2022 overlapping into the year 2023. Heavy rain has been falling in all five districts and leaving several households and infrastructure affected, including loss of life.

Total estimated cost of the post disaster maintenance and repairs, human settlements, roads and infrastructure, municipal internal streets and culverts for the province is approximately R340,5 million.

The national Disaster Management Centre has determined and allocated emergency Disaster Relief Grant to 11 municipalities who applied and met all requirements in terms of the conditions of the grant. We urge sector departments and municipalities to move swiftly in implementing projects when funds have been availed.

Overall, the intensity of disasters has increased, requiring the province and municipalities to build the capacity to mitigate and respond to disasters. This requires all stakeholders to work together to prevent disasters, and to further respond on time.

We call upon our traditional leaders and municipalities to strengthen land use management and ensure that households are not located on riverbanks or areas which

are prone to floods. We, therefore, call on municipalities to mainstream disaster risk reduction in their planning and infrastructure provisioning processes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the private sector and civil society movements for their responsiveness and partnerships during time of disasters. These partnerships have taught us that where there is a clear, shared and common goal, it is possible to lobby support and have both government and non-government partners working together in pursuit of socio-economic development objective.

Programme 4, which is Traditional Affairs and of cardinal importance; our covenant with Limpopo traditional leadership is solidifying. The department acknowledges and supports the critical role of traditional leadership institutions across the province and its contribution to the developmental agenda.

We, therefore, remain resolute and unshaken to strengthen and support the institutions of traditional leadership. The support to institutions of traditional leadership involves a wide range of activities which includes, provision of provincial traditional offices, office furniture, vehicles, staff compliment as well as many other tools of trade which enable them to provide services to their communities.

The department, together with the provincial House of Traditional Leaders, embarked on the process to develop a three-year Plan of Traditional Councils to be constructed, refurbished and furnished. I want to take this opportunity to thank the provincial House of Traditional Leaders' support of the process resulting in an approved list of Traditional Councils to benefit in the 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. This will enable forward-planning.

It gives me great pleasure to pronounce that the department is currently constructing seven Traditional Council Offices namely: Bakone, Bakone Ba Matlala, Raphahlelo, Majeje, Bakwena Ba Matsepe, Manoke Traditional Council, including the Davhana Traditional Council with Mogashoa Dihlakaneng Traditional Council having been recently completed.

Over and above, in this new financial year will continue to provide endless support to the institution of traditional leadership by continuing to construct and refurbish Traditional Council offices, with three offices to be refurbished: Matlala Ramoshebo, Mampane, and Litho Nzunza Traditional Council in Waterberg. The seven Traditional Council offices to be constructed during this new financial year are Tau Nkadimeng, Bashai Ditlou, Mamaila Kolobetona, Mashau, Mankweng, Bakenberg and Makuya Traditional Council. This construction and refurbishment of Traditional Council offices has the budget of R25 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

The procurement of 100 vehicles for Senior Traditional Leaders on the budget of R55 million is reserved for this financial year. [APPLAUSE]. Another 100 will be procured in 2024/25 financial year with the budget of R55 million.

In the 2022/23 financial year, we procured furniture for 27 Traditional Councils at a cost of R4,3 million. By 31 March 2023, the delivery to 23 Traditional Councils had already

been done, the remaining four will be delivered this month of April 2023. The department will purchase furniture for 20 Traditional Councils during the 2023/24 financial year.

Initiation school is a rite of passage which embraces both boys and girls in their teens. No one can deny the fact that initiation practice is an old age tradition which transcends generations. Due to the suspension of initiations schools as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 season saw a huge increase in the number of initiates. A total of 79 529 initiates were admitted in the various schools. The province unfortunately recorded four deaths during the previous season. The challenge faced was the increase of illegal initiation schools.

A Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) has been established. It consists of eight members, including the Senior Traditional Leaders, and it is led by Hosi Chauke. The PICC will ensure that all initiation schools are registered and meet the criteria. In collaboration with the Department of Health, the traditional surgeons and the caregivers are trained to enable them to perform their responsibilities and functions.

There will be effective monitoring of the initiation schools from the first day until the last day by the departmental officials supported by the South African Police Services to shut down illegal schools.

Hon Deputy Speaker, section 16 of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, 2019 (3 of 2019), provides for the constitution and reconstitution of the Traditional Councils by 31 March 2023. To ensure compliance with the Act, the department developed and implemented a project plan. However, due to the challenges raised by traditional leaders in the country on the matter, the project has been put on hold to allow the sector to engage with the national House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders to address the concerns. The target of 31 March 2023 as envisaged in the act will therefore not be met in the entire country.

Chapter three of the TKLA provides for the establishment of Houses of Traditional and Khoisan leaders from national to the local level. The Houses of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders' function is to promote and enhance unity and understanding among Traditional and Khoisan Leaders as well as to advocate for support and needs required by institutions of traditional leaders to government.

I am proud to announce that elections were held to elect the Executive of the provincial and local House of Traditional Leaders as prescribed by section 27 of the Act. Hosi Ngove was elected as the Chairperson and Kgoshi Rammupudu as the Deputy Chairperson. Both of them are with us here together with the entire Executive. The local houses also elected their executives. Please allow me to wish the leadership of the houses well, as well as to reassure them of the commitment of the department, and the entire provincial government to join hands with them in pursuance of sustainable rural development.

In the same vein, we have also deployed our Senior Traditional Leaders to serve in the national House of Traditional Leaders, those are Thovhele Ratshibvumo II, Rambuda, Ndavezitha Hosi Ntsanwisi and Kgoshikgadi Ntwampe.

Traditional leadership disputes remain a thorny issue across the country. To uproot this thorn, our government is in the process of finalising the establishment of an investigative committee as prescribed by the TKLA to assist in investigating claims and disputes.

We are saddened by the passing on of our beloved Senior Traditional Leaders in the previous year. We have laid to rest Kgosi Nkosi P J of Swazi-Mnyamane T C, Kgosi Mohlala M B of Tswako-Mohlala T C, Kgosi Mampuru M H of Babina Noko Ba Mamphela, Kgosi L P Langa of Bakenberg T C and Thovhele Makuya Ronald of Makuya Traditional Council. May their souls rest in peace!

In the 2022/23 financial year, the Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, approved the recognition of several new Senior Traditional Leaders. Senior Traditional Leaders inaugurated include, Kgosi K M Thobejane of Mafefe Traditional Council, Acting Kgosi A M Ledwaba of Ledwaba-Ndlovu Traditional Council, Kgosi Sebela M C of Sebela Traditional Council, Kgosi M S Sekororo of Sekororo Traditional Council, Kgoši Mogoboya M J of Bahlabine, Hosi Ndengeza T B of Ndengeza Traditional Council, Hosi Nkanyani M I of Nkanyani Traditional Council, Khosi Khakhu N V of Khakhu Traditional Council, and Khosi Netshimbupfe Mulatedzi of Tshimbupfe Traditional Council . As the government, we salute them.

The Budget I am tabling today is composed of four components: Administration which is mainly support, Human Settlements, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. In the 2023/24 financial year, the total Budget available for the department of CoGHSTA as allocated is R2,6 billion, a slight decrease on the previous year's Budget of R2,615,772 billion by 0,91%. The departmental budget allocation per programme is as follows:

- Administration is allocated R384,625 million, which is an increase of 13,56% from the previous financial year allocation;
- Human Settlements is allocated R1,351,903 billion, which is a decrease of 7,12% from the previous financial year allocation;
- Cooperative Governance is allocated R300,582 million an increase of 3,65% from the previous financial year allocation; and
- Traditional Affairs: is allocated R554,734 million which is an increase of 4,37% from the previous financial year's allocation.

As I conclude, may I also take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude to all contractors who voluntarily built houses to the needy in our province. We appeal for more contractors to come on board in our quest to alleviate the plight of the poor and the needy. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

Let me also extend a word of gratitude to my family, which gives me support at all material times and lastly to all the CoGHSTA stakeholders and the entire CoGHSTA team collectively for steering this department forward. The long journey of service delivery is endless. The covenant entered with the people of Limpopo will not despair.

Hon Deputy Speaker, once again it is my pleasure to present to you Budget vote 11 of the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs for the 2023/24 financial year. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House. Let us move to the next item.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Audio is missing]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 18 APRIL 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/ MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Honourable Members, item 2 up to item 6 will not be part of the session today.

[ITEMS 2 – 6 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS'S STATEMENTS

5. EXCECUTIVE STATEMENTS

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1: Second Reading: Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023 [B02-2023].

We shall call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to present the Budget Speech. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

**THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY**

(Address by Hon F F Radzilani, MEC for Transport and Community Safety)

Hon Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, the Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; the Executive Council Members under the leadership of the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; the Chief Whip of this august House, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon "Mapostolo" Mochadi; the Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane Sarah; and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane; Members of the Portfolio Committee

on Transport and Community Safety led by Hon Seono, the Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of this august House, the HOD and Senior Managers, the Management of the South African Police Service under the stewardship of Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Thembi Hadebe; of course led in this House by Deputy Commissioners.

The Chairperson of the Board at the Gateway Airports Authority Limited and the President of Trucking Association of South Africa, the leadership of the South African Council of Churches led by Rev Kgafela, the leadership of the department's fraternal organisations, the South African National Taxi Council, the Road Traffic Management Corporation, the National Taxi Alliance, the leadership of the South African National Small Bus Operators Council, the provincial chairperson of the Community Policing Forum together with the provincial Secretary and the leadership of the Community Safety Forums, our esteemed guests and government officials in the gallery, the people of our beloved Limpopo province who are accessing this Sitting through various platforms and members of the media, blessed morning to all of you.

Honourable Members, this Budget Vote presentation, and many others that preceded it, follows hot on the heels of Premier Chupu Mathabatha's resolute State of the Province Address. The address by Premier Mathabatha, did not only command the tone for government's activities for the next 12 months, but it was a resilient policy prescript upon which all departments must align their programmes of action. The different orations that are presented in this august House, are a meticulous presentation of the African National Congress's visionary leadership of delivering a better life to the people of this country and the people of this province.

We will continue to use the Legislature, as a site of the struggle for the advancement of the lives of our people. We remain greatly indebted to the people of this province, who continue to demonstrate their firm trust and belief in the ANC as their preferred leader of government. The recently convened Provincial Day of Prayer, that we coordinated under the guidance of the Hon Premier, was a demonstration of how our people still support their government. The Provincial Day of Prayer saw thousands of people flocking to the old Peter Mokaba Stadium because our people are alive to the reality that some of the problems that confront our society require all of us to join hands in prayer. The event was a phenomenal success on many fronts, and we shall be making a formal request to the Hon Premier to make it an annual occasion on our events calendar. We present these plans, conscious of the glaring challenges that besmirch most of our people.

Hon Speaker, we are unapologetic in our resolve to lessen the poverty burden on the shoulders of our people and deliver them to their re-imagined promised land. Our boisterous efforts of improving the lives of our people as enshrined in the iconic Freedom Charter and the ground-breaking Constitution, have been gravely weakened by the advent of the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic, and a stagnant economic growth. The recent stubborn spate of power outages, and global developments like the Russian-Ukraine conflict are washing our strides of rebuilding the economic ashore.

However, we remain optimistic that the future of Limpopo province - the province of the great Lawrence Phokanoka, the illustrious Mark Shope, the defiant Peter Nchabeleng,

the heroic Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke, and many other heroes and heroines of our struggle, is as bright as the sun.

We have descended to this august House from the tropical zones of Muyexe, the escarpments of the Nebo Plateau, the majestic shadows of the Blouberg mountains, the hills and the valleys of the Zoutpansberg, and the naturally endowed Waterberg, in pursuant of a common goal of making economic freedom a reality to our people. We are fully **aware** of the significance of the month of April, as a point of political convulsion into our democratic dispensation.

The iconic Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, a well-rounded freedom fighter, whose life was cut short by apartheid's mercenaries, was hanged during the month of April. Oliver Tambo, a celebrated liberation struggle torchbearer, departed from this world, during the same month. Who will forget the 10th of April 1993, when South Africa woke-up to the shattering news of the death of her beloved son, Cde Chris Thembisile Hani, whose death, was apartheid's last desperate attempt to put our transitional plans into disarray.

It was in April 1994, when throngs of our people, tired of apartheid's evil grip and draconian laws, flocked to the polling stations to elect a democratic government that was to rule them, based on their will. That was a watershed moment, that propelled this country on a developmental pedestal, and corrected the centuries' long injustices, which were festered by the apartheid rule. It is for this, and many other reasons, that we have placed a high emotive premium on this month, which is also known as the Freedom Month.

Apartheid and colonialism have played a catalytic role to tilt the economic fortunes of this country to favour a few. It is not surprising that after a quarter of a century of self-rule, this government is still grappling with insurmountable challenges of an unequal society. We have made significant strides in our quest of building safer borders and fortifying our immigration systems.

Hon Speaker and Members of this august House, the establishment of the Border Management Authority, a Schedule 3A entity must be viewed as government's courageous attempt to address the numerous challenges that are posing a security risk on our borders. This entity will streamline all the border management functions into a single entity which is also expected to cushion all the immigration challenges. The Limpopo province is placed as a strategic node that connects the country to the rest of the continent, and it is therefore susceptible to sporadic nefarious acts of cross-border crimes.

We will never get tired from galvanising and drumming-up support within our communities to build functional and effective community policing forums and community safety forums, in order to create safer communities. As the ruling party, we have also resolved that as part of our civic duty, we must mobilise our structures and units to play an active role in the activities of community policing forums and community safety forums to exert more pressure on the fight against the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide. Our fight against gender-based violence and femicide, domestic violence and child abuse will never cease to exist until all perpetrators are deservedly placed in custody. We must puke

against these primitive acts of gender-based violence, and report them to the police, even if it is our friends and families that are involved.

Hon Speaker, allow me to use the wise words of Mama Graca Machel, to holistically tackle COVID-19, let us also apply an equally comprehensive, vigorous, and unrelenting focus to eradicating gender-based violence as well”.

We are also aware that most of the gender-based violence perpetrators are bread winners, who use their socioeconomic advantage to subdue their victims into eternal silence. We must employ the services of our community structures and social partners to comb the perpetrators and wipe them out, of our communities.

Hon Speaker, for the 2023/24 financial year, the Department of Transport and Community Safety has been allocated a Budget of R2,484 million, which is reduced by 0,34% as compared to the 2022/23 financial year. Hon Speaker, Members of this august House, the Department of Transport and Community Safety is the highest revenue collector and contributes around 47% towards the income of the provincial government. The bulk of this income is generated through traffic functions.

I want to encourage honourable Members that when you see traffic officers working on the road, on the wrong side of the law, don't negotiate with them, just make sure you allow them to do their work. They are not negotiators; they are law enforcement officers. [APPLAUSE]

By the end of March 2023, the Department had collected an amount of R815,941 million, and we project to collect around R852,873 million in the 2023/24 financial year, R890,655 million in the 2024/25 financial year and a further R930,288 in 2025/26 financial year. These will be made possible through various revenue enhancement strategies, that are implemented with the support of the Provincial Treasury led by MEC Sekoati.

We are on Programme 1, which is Administration. This is a support programme to the core functioning of the department. Its allocation of R644,228 million, includes Compensation of Employees at R312,789 million, payments of contracts like cleaning services, security services, office space, machinery and equipment, and other transversal services. Upon taking office, we urgently addressed the vacancy for the position of the Head of the Department, with the view of bringing stability into the department. This process culminated in the appointment of Mr Stephen Matjena as the Head of the Department, and he is here leading the team from the department in this House, today.

We have also embarked on a rigorous recruitment drive, to fill other critical vacancies within the department. All these are done to ensure that this department must continue to provide unfettered services to the people of this province. We will soon be advertising a Learnership Programme, targeting 20 young unemployed candidates, who will be earmarked for the department's motor mechanical workshop. Most of the employees in that section are approaching retirement age, and if we do not implement a comprehensive succession plan, we will have serious brain-drain challenges, within the Government Garage section.

In our pursuit to professionalise the public service, we continue to implement capacity-building interventions, amongst the department's senior management personnel. Our plans are conscious of gender parity issues, and the empowerment of people with disability.

On Programme 2, which is Public Transport Operations with the assistance of the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury, we are engaged in a series of meetings with the Gateway Airports Authority Limited with the view of assisting the entity to be self-sustainable, and to rely less on government's financial backing. On the instruction of the Hon Premier, the entity has been directed to embark on a peer review expedition that will convert it into a competent and a dominant industry player.

Hon Speaker, of the R932,630 million allocated for the Public Transport Operations, an amount of R74,432 million is for Compensation of Employees, and a further R70, 494 million, will be apportioned to GAAL to sustain its operations. The allocation to GAAL is done with the understanding that government's grant must ultimately diminish as the entity's turnaround strategy starts to bear fruit. We shall not renege on our social pact, with over 20 million commuters who rely on our subsidised public transport that connects them between their homes and economic nodes. An amount of R767,229 million has been allocated for the Bus Subsidies Programme in this financial year. Through these subsidies, we have cushioned the economic hardships which would ordinarily be faced by millions of our commuters.

With the assistance of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the department has commissioned a study into the current public transport operations, and the routes they are covering. The purpose of this study was to ensure that the government can draw value for money, in this programme, and to revamp the current contract arrangement, which are almost becoming 'evergreen'. Government will certainly tread carefully, in this regard, and the revision of these contracts will be done in a manner that is responsive to the current volatile economic dispensation.

We are making a clarion call to all our municipalities, MEC Makamu, to ensure that the designs of their Integrated Transport Plans, are defined by public transport needs, and will avoid instances of oversupply, which in many instances leads to taxi conflicts and violence. Meanwhile, the public regulatory entity continues to watch over the applications of new operating licenses.

On Programme 3 which is Transport Regulation, we have allocated an amount of R850,132 million for this programme, with the bulk of the budget being dedicated towards the compensation of employees, and the construction of various traffic stations and the development of the Limpopo Traffic College, in Manenu. This programme hosts the crux of our services, and it has much of our workforce, who are our dedicated traffic officers. Because we are generally a service driven department, a total of R711,275 million for this programme, is spent on the compensation of employees.

Hon Speaker, in the past financial year, we completed the upgrading of Block B of the Traffic College, which was the construction of a 40 beds dormitory, at a cost of R18 million. This upgrading was done to improve the conditions under which our traffic officers are

trained. An additional R14 million has been set aside for the completion of Block C in this financial year. The kitchen and the canteen at the college as well have also been allocated a separate amount of R16 million. These projects must all be undertaken in the 2023/24 financial year.

We are also busy with the construction of the K53 and Motor Vehicle Testing Pit at the Thohoyandou Traffic Station. An amount of R18 million has been set aside for this project. We have also advertised a tender for the construction of the Seshego K53 and Motor Vehicle Testing Pit. An amount of R15 million has been allocated for the project. We are in consultation with our sister-department of Public Works and Roads Infrastructure, under the leadership of the MEC, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale to finalise the acquisition of land for the upgrading of the Mampakuil Weighbridge. Of the R24 million that is earmarked for the Mampakuil project, R3 million has been set aside to acquire land. Plans for the construction of the Dilokong K53 and Motor Vehicle Testing Pit are also afoot. The land is available, and the department is finalising the modalities around the construction of this project.

The department will continue with the maintenance of all traffic facilities. A budget of R6,6 million has been set aside for maintenance of traffic facilities. We are engaged in robust discussions with the Road Traffic Management Corporation to allow us to appoint 150 learners to be enrolled within the Traffic Learnership Programme in this financial year. Delays around this development have been caused by the mooted plans to re-adjust the curriculum from a 12-month training programme, to a fully-fledged 3-year diploma.

In terms of suppressing road carnages, we have outdone ourselves during the first 3 quarters of the past financial year. We were able to reduce fatalities by a staggering 20,8% during the festive period, because of the numerous intervention mechanisms that we employed. We view the reduction from 226 fatalities in 2021, to 179 in 2022, as a quantum leap, towards our efforts of reducing fatalities on our roads. This is attributed to the constant presence of traffic officers with speed cameras on our roads. We salute the Chief Director, Ms Mulaudzi, together with the HOD for the job well-done together with our police officers.

It was only after the beginning of this calendar year that the last quarter of the 2022/23 financial year, that we started to experience an increased number of horrific accidents with multiple fatalities. We are still reeling from shock from the accident that killed 22 passengers on the N1 outside Makhado on 13 February 2023. Subsequent to that, we also experienced another fatal accident in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality where 16 people lost their lives, including 7 learners. These fatalities are devastating to families, as they leave most of them without breadwinners and beloved members.

We started a process of employing new techniques during this past Easter long weekend where we placed our officials within the 10km radius on the N1 between Kranskop and Polokwane. Our manageable fatality records on the N1 are testament to the effectiveness of this methodology. On the taxi violence, our cordial relations with organised structures, like the South African National Taxi Council and the National Taxi Alliance, continue to bear fruit.

On Programme 4 which is Provincial Secretariat for Police Services, a great part of our mandate, as the department, is to perform an oversight function over the South African Police Services. We continue to enjoy cordial relations with the South African Police Service, under the leadership of the Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Thembi Hadebe. We are working around the clock with the police to devise intervention mechanisms in areas that have challenges of high crime rate.

We are placing concerted efforts of amplifying our crime fighting machinery in the Thohoyandou, Mankweng, Mahwelereng, Lebowakgomo and Seshego policing areas. We continue to record worrying patterns of contact crimes, and it is our shared view together with the Provincial Commissioner that we must deploy innovative ways to fight crime and protect our communities. Of the R56,563 million allocated to this programme, a sizeable fragment of it is dedicated to the sustenance of effective and functional community policing and community safety forums.

We have attested how the formulation of the CPFs, and CSFs has greatly contributed to the reduction of crime. The crime awareness imbizos conducted by the department and the SAPS, are assisting in the fight against crime and gender-based violence and femicide.

In this financial year, we will conduct a research project to investigate the impact of public protests on South African Police Service. Its focus will be on the Limpopo province, to assess the hotspots for public protests, the nature of the protests, the frequency thereof, the reasons behind the protests, the manner of response by the South African Police Service and the effect these have on the police service.

All these are our earnest attempt to build a responsive government that can make strategic interventions in the service delivery needs of our people. We have also conducted a series of crime awareness campaigns in the form of workshops throughout the province to address issues of rural safety, and conduct door-to-door campaigns to address drug and substance abuse, as well as crimes against vulnerable groups.

The department further managed to contribute to the fight against gender-based violence by conducting awareness campaigns with the recent imbizo held in the fourth quarter at Phiphidi village in the Vhembe District. In the past financial year, we have registered 300 Young Civilians on Patrol and 525 Extended Public Works Programme participants. These groups are critical towards the fight against crime within their localities as they help to debush crime hotspots and conduct patrols in some areas.

For the 2023/24 financial year, we will be increasing the number of Young Civilians on Patrol to 400 and will maintain the EPWPs at 500. We will sustain the momentum of conducting crime prevention programmes in our communities with the view of addressing crimes against vulnerable groups, rural safety and anti-drug and substance abuse campaigns and encourage public participation in crime prevention.

Central to our crime prevention strategies is the need to have effective community police forums and community safety forums. The 2022/23 financial period marked five years since the launch of these structures.

During the first and second quarter of the previous year, the department was hard at work relaunching these community structures for the coming five years as their existence is aligned to the local government electoral cycle. To this end, the department has managed to relaunch 28 community safety forums and 110 community policing forums, and workshops have been conducted to capacitate them to carry out their tasks with commitment and diligence. The province has dedicated a total budget of R15,241 million for partnerships. Almost 50% of this budget is allocated specifically for the payment of sitting allowances in respect of the community structures. The sitting allowance is for the reimbursement of the members' airtime, data and transportation in their crime fighting activities and efforts to build safer communities.

For the 2023/24 financial year, the department will conduct five outreach programmes to educate communities about gender-based violence, domestic violence, their rights and responsibilities and the type of services they can get from the government.

As I conclude, let me bring to the attention of this august House and the people of Limpopo that we have observed unprecedented levels of pedestrian fatalities during this past Easter long weekend. Close to 16 fatalities involved pedestrians. This means that we must heighten our road safety campaigns towards pedestrians in this financial year. What is more shocking with this ugly spate, honourable Members, is an emerging culture of drivers who drive away after being involved in these types of accidents.

Hon Speaker, our plans will amount to nought, if we overlook issues of prudent financial governance and accountability as we deliver our services. As the Executive Authority, I have had a series of vigorous engagements with the Head of Department and his Executive Management where I have registered my serious reservations about our inability to attain a commendable audit opinion. We have a history of obtaining clean audit opinions from the Auditor-General, but we have regressed substantially in the 2021/22 financial year. I am certain that the people of this province on whose behalf we are leading this government are also worried about this state of affairs.

Hon Speaker, I, therefore present this Budget of R2,484 billion of the Department of Transport and Community Safety to the people of the Limpopo province with the following breakdowns:

- Compensation of Employees : R1,135 billion for;
- Goods and Services : R372, 921 million;
- Transfers and Subsidies : R864 009 million; and
- Payments for Capital Assets : R111, 675 million.

Honourable Members, I am grateful for my Lord and saviour for giving me life and the opportunity to serve these people. I want to thank the Premier of the province, Hon Mathabatha, under whose tutelage and support we continue to lead, support and guidance from my colleagues in the Executive Council is highly appreciated. I am also thankful of the support from members of the portfolio committee led by Hon Rebecca Seono.

I want to thank the Head of Department, Mr **Stephen Matjena**, and his team of officials from the department for burning the midnight oil and ensuring that this department continues to be a provider of superior services.

I am also grateful for the support accorded to me from my family, my husband, Apostle Radzilani, and our children.

It is Rohini Nilekani, an Indian author and a philanthropist, who reminds us that, “We cannot be mere consumers of good governance, we must be participants and co-creators”.

Thanks, Hon Speaker, and may the faithful God bless us all. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Hon Radzilani. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and to report back to the House.

7.1.2 Presentation of the Budget Speech for Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

We shall now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Rakgoale.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(Address by Hon C N Rakgoale, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure)

Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; Chief Whip, Mr Mokgonyana E M; our Deputy Chief Whip, Ms Mochadi S M; leaders of the opposition parties, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, chairperson of the portfolio committee, Ms Makhurupetje, and the entire portfolio committee, chairpersons of committees; Members of the Provincial Legislature; Chairperson and members of the Roads Agency Limpopo Board, Head of Department, Mr Seroka, and the entire department; CEO of RAL, Mr Maluleke; and the entire team from Roads Agency Limpopo, heads of department, members of the media and all people of Limpopo province, thobela. Ndi matsheloni.

I am here once more to table and present our Departmental Policy Budget Vote in an endeavour to bring back hope and assurance to the people of Limpopo province that we are here to serve. We table this Budget Vote noting challenges of service delivery in some of our communities and we remain committed in addressing those challenges. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC-led government has made a firm commitment to ensure that there is reconstruction and development to our people. It also commits itself to transform as many of our people as possible into conscious agents of change for the construction of a winning and humane society to ensure access to a better life for all.

This was also demonstrated by sister departments that have already tabled their Budget Speeches and also made financial commitments all in a bit to realise improved service delivery in communities. As people, we have every reason to be proud of our historic gains during our 29 years of democracy. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is among the strategic departments that are tasked to see to it that there is improved service delivery. It is my strong conviction that the provincial government under the stewardship of Premier, Hon Chupu Stan Mathabatha, and his collective members of EXCO is continuing with the expansion of frontiers of human fulfilment of which President Mandela spoke about in 1994.

The fact of the matter is that our people are expecting more improved infrastructure investments in the province and the reality is that we are currently unable to address all service delivery concerns at a go due to budgetary constraints. Our people need new roads, new clinics, new schools and a full rehabilitation and maintenance of the existing infrastructure. More than before, it is expected that we should do more with less and still maintain the high level of service standards.

Honourable Members, allow me also to indicate that we are gathered here today a few months after Limpopo province was severely affected by floods. Eleven bridges were washed away across the province with Mopani and Vhembe Districts being the hardest hit.

Preliminary assessment reports indicate that 202 roads were badly damaged. These floods have reversed the work of rehabilitation and patching of potholes that were launched in August last year through “Operation Thiba Mekoti Ditseleng”. In the Budget Speech of the previous financial year, we committed that Road Agency Limpopo was going to sign Service Level Agreements with municipalities and CoGHSTA. This is for the purpose of capacitating municipalities in terms of roads maintenance and all is done in the spirit of intergovernmental relations and District Development Model that seeks to ensure that there is well-coordinated service delivery among others. I am happy to report that 10 contractors for maintaining internal streets in some municipalities have already been appointed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, on roads infrastructure challenges dominated the agenda of our business as a department and its entity. This particular situation required everyone to work hard towards resolving some of the service delivery challenges.

During the year under review we had given focused attention to the projects that we had committed to the people of Limpopo. We redoubled our efforts and embarked on a vigorous work of maintaining road infrastructure as part of our routine maintenance plan. In this regard, we have managed to register progress on roads throughout the province.

Following an outcry about the state of our roads in the province, we have taken a conscious decision to put more focus on rehabilitation and maintenance of our road infrastructure. This is an indication that indeed, we are a listening government. Rehabilitation work is currently underway in five districts as follows:

- In Waterberg District, we are rehabilitating 10 road networks that we are implementing in phases and so far we are currently on Phase 1. We have completed work on roads P85/2 from Settlers to Tuinplaas, road D626 from Pienaars River to Rust De Venter and road D1675 from Lephalale to Steenbokpan. We are progressing well on road D3502 from Magongoa to Mosesetjane which is at 96% completion stage, road D3110 from Ga-Seleka to Shongwane which is at 90%, road D887 from Tom Burke to Alldays is at 80%. The rehabilitation work is also underway and currently progressing well. Road D192 from R101 Waterval to R18 in Marken is at 30%, road D2702 from PPC to Dwaalboom is at 57% and road P134/1 from Mookgophong to Lushof is at 43%. We have completed the design on road D1435 from R101 Mokopane to Makapans Valley.
- In Vhembe District, we have rehabilitated 12 road networks and currently, we have completed Phase 1 on the following roads: Road P94/2 from R521 to Ponderfontein, road R521/P98/2, the maintenance of road P98/2 in Vhembe Phase 1 is complete, road P277/1 from P135/1 Masisi to Thohoyandou, road D3653 from Boxahuku to Bevula, road P135/1 from Bokmakirrie to Bend Mutale and road D959 from Makhado towards Air Force Base. We will soon complete the rehabilitation work on the following roads: D4 from Malamulele to Elim towards N1 is currently at 80%, D1483 from Musina to Ponderfontein in Vhembe is currently at 99%, P278/1 from N1 to Willysport to Thohoyandou is currently at 88%, D449 from N1 to Dopeni is at 50%, D1174 from Musina to Tshipise is at the detailed design stage, D1021 and D744 from Mopani to N1 Nzhelele Nature Reserve in Vhembe. The project's design is complete.
- In Mopani District, we have completed Phase 1 on the maintenance work on roads: D1292 from D1350 to R529 Nkambake, D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa and D3200 from R81 to Mokwakwaila. We are continuing with maintenance work on roads: D3840 from Giyani to Phalaborwa and progress is at 99% and road D11 from Ga-Mamaila to Kolobetona. The progress is at 90%. D3873 from Bokgaga to Lephephane in Mopani. Phase 1 progress is at 75%. D3880 from Lenyenye to D4139 Mosoroni in Mopani. Here, Phase 1 progress is at 90%. D3641 from D3812 Giyani to D3745 Altein in Mopani. Phase 1 progress is at 92%. D1909 from P17/4 to Timbavati in Mopani District. The progress is at 39% and D3179 from Medingeng to Malematsa and progress is at 25% completion. We are currently in the design stage for roads: D548 Georges Valley from R36 in Tzaneen to R71 Haenertsberg, D3180 from D447 Maraka to R71 Shayameriri and P43/3 road leading from Letaba Ranch to Eiland and the designs are completed.
- In Sekhukhune District, we conducted Phase 1 maintenance on roads: D856 from P95/1 Dennilton to R573 Moteti and progress is at 100% completion. D4356 from Arabie to Phetwane in Sekhukhune District and progress is at 100%, P51/3 from Groblersdal to Stoffberg and progress is at 99%. D2923 from Dennilton to Siyabuswa and the progress is at 95%, D2219 from R579 Ga-Moloi to R555 Ga-Malekana in Sekhukhune. Here the project is at the detailed design stage, D2484 from R555 Tukagomo to Mapodile, the progress is at 94%. D4250 from Apel to Malope to Mogalatsane in Sekhukhune; the project's design is completed; D1296

from Steelpoort to Riba Cross in Sekhukhune; the project is at the preliminary design stage; D4134 from Seokodibeng to D4140 Penge in Sekhukhune, the project is at the detailed design stage, P207/1 from Marble Hall through Roedtan road to Siyabuswa, progress is at 96%.

- We have commenced with Phase 2 which is at 25% completion, D4240 Maseveni, progress is at 73% and D4150 from Bothashoek to Praktiseer and progress is at 68% completion.
- In Capricorn District, in terms of Phase 1 maintenance plan, we have worked on the following roads: D1356 from N1 to Matseke to D879 Ramokgopa which is complete, D3600 from Moletlane to Mehlaeng is completed and we have commenced with Phase 2 which is at 25% completion, P18/2 from R518 (Zebediela cross) to Bergnek village is completed, P54/1 from Munnik to Morebeng. The progress is at 65% completion. D19 from D544 in Polokwane to D5066 in Mathapo, progress is at 95%, D4070 from Moepeng to Shotalane. The project is at detailed design stage, D3997 from D844 Sebayeng to D617 Ga-Moswedi. The project is at detailed design stage, D1200 from Mogwadi to Brookman, the project's design is completed and D688 Bylsteel the progress is at 65%, D4069 from Mashite to R37, progress is at 32%. Phase 2 of road D885 from Doornfontein to Immerpan; progress is at 27%, road D688 Bylsteel's progress is at 65%. The maintenance of Road D4069 from Mashite to R37 is at 32% completion stage.

We have also completed designs for the maintenance of an additional 33 roads across the province. It is our intention to work towards ensuring that work on those roads commences as and when budget is available. We are encouraging the private sector to come on board to support this initiative. Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to provide an update on road upgrading projects that we committed ourselves to focus on them in the 2022/23 financial year. Contractors have been appointed for the following road upgrading projects that will be carried out in phases in the coming financial year:

- In Vhembe District, we will upgrade road D3669 Mavhunga access and road D3671 from Musekwa to Maranikwe.
- In Waterberg District, we will upgrade road D3561 from N11 to Segole 1 and Segole 2 to GaRapadi.
- In Capricorn District, we will upgrade road D3278 from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek, roads D3436, D3428 and D5007 in GaRamoshwane, Ga-Rammetlwane and GaRamotlwana.
- In Mopani District we will upgrade road D3248 from Thapane access to Nwamitwa.
- In Sekhukhune District we will upgrade road D4283 from Glencowie to GaMalaka.

The following roads are at different levels of design stages for upgrading from gravel to tar. We hope to commence with the construction as and when budget becomes available. While still in Sekhukhune District, designs were completed for roads: D4260 from Malope to Phokwane and D4180 from Atok Mine to GaSelepe to Modimolle. The engineer is currently working on detailed design report for road D4199 from Apel to GaNkoana to D4190.

- In Mopani District, we have completed designs for road D3734 in Tshatshama.
- In Capricorn District, we have completed designs for roads D4090, D4093, D4094, and D4096 Malemati.

We have managed to appoint consultants for the following flood-damaged bridges:

- Bridge on road D3505 near Thutlane community in Mogalakwena which is within Bakenburg area.
- Bridge on road D3753 near Dzondo community in Thulamela Local Municipality.
- Bridge on road D3817 near Wayeni community in Collins Chabane Local Municipality.

Consultants have recently been appointed for designs of the following upgrading projects:

- In Sekhukhune District, roads D4055 from Mafefe to Moroke, D4227 and D4230, upgrading of Leolo access road, D4285 Maserumulepark, Leeuwkraal to Patantswane, D4328 Mohlalaotwane, Serithing to Ramogwerane, D4200 from Mphanama to GaNchabeleng, D2913 from Magakadimeng to Mpheleng, D3200 from Ga-Moroka to Mawa.
- In Vhembe District, road D3661 from Tshikonelo to Xikundu, D3710 from Dzingahe to Tshivhazwaulu, D2677 from Vleifontein, Nthabalala, Mpofu to Pfananani, D3746 between Schuynshoogte, Vyeboom and Davhana cross, D3717, D3736, D3642 from Hollywood to Gumbani, D3754, D3719 from Bungeni to Tshipuseni and from De Hoop to Nkuzana and D3640 from Ga-Mphabo to Mdavula.
- In Capricorn District, road D4032 Ga-Mothapo, Phomolong to Rampheri, D3135 Botlokwa old clinic to Sekakene village, roads D3370, D19 to Newlands, Setotolwane to Mapangula, D15 from Thakgalane to Morebeng, D3287, D3292 and D1589 from corner D1589 to Eldorado to GaDankie on D3292, D1809 from Nobody to Laastehoop to Mothapo, D3613, D2614, D3595 Madisha roads, D3332 from GaRankuwe to GaMoleele via Maribana, D5006 and D3389 from Percy Five to Mashashane, D23 from Wolkberg Nature Reserve, D3397 on R567 to Schoon to Lekhureng and D3617 Ga-Ledwaba.
- In Mopani District, roads D3804, D3805 from Xikukwane to Mbatlo, P43/3 from Letaba Ranch to Eiland, D3786 Mashishimale, road from R3 to R1, D3812 Homu 14B to Vuhehli, D3775 from Mhangweni to Mafarana, D3164 from Olifantshoek

through Rotterdam to Senwamokgope and Itielene and D3641 from Altein to Shangoni.

- In Waterberg District, roads D1231 from Mashashane to Mokopane, D3505 from Haakdoring to Segole, D180, D536 from Alma, D4426 from Bela-Bela to Leeupoort, D3575 N11 via Monte Christo to Pollen and D19 from Mamehlabe to Ga-Mathapo/Bavaria.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I must emphasise that consultants' work in business of construction of roads is quite important. These professionals do project feasibility studies, environmental impact studies, material investigation, detail designs, compile Bills of Quantities (BoQ) and drawings ensuring quality of services and work rendered. Therefore, they are critical in the value chain of infrastructure development.

The above-mentioned consultants are expected to complete the design works before the end of 2023/24 financial year. Hon Deputy Speaker, one of the ways to ensure that our roads are in a drivable state is by regravelling and blading roads while waiting for upgrading. The reality is that we do not have sufficient budget to upgrade gravel roads of about 15 000 km of the backlog.

Road Agency Limpopo will collaborate with the department in order to fast-track regravelling of roads in the five districts of the province and these are as follows:

- In Mopani District, it will regravell roads D3247 from Nwamitwa via Babanana village, road D3878 in Balloon next to Ga-Sekororo, road D3187 from Mokgwathi and Lekghwareng to Dzumeri.
- In Waterberg District, it will regravell roads D794 from Marakele to Bakkerspaas (Alma), road D3550 from Vlakfontein to Bakenburg, road D1958 from N11 to Mmapela in Mogalakwena, road D3534 from Limberg to Ditlotswana. This road connects people of Waterberg and Capricorn Districts.
- In Capricorn District, it will regravell roads D3332 from GaRankuwe to GaMoleele via Maribana, D3959 in Sebayeng to GaDikgale, D4016 from Mamphaka to Spitzkop.
- In Sekhukhune District, it will regravell roads D4328 from Mmotwaneng to Serithing, road D4252 from Mmatshatsha to Mphanama and road D4204 from Mmakopa to Ga-Seroka.
- In Vhembe District, it will regravell roads D3685 from Matavhela to Tshixwadza, D3923 from Xihosana to Mdavuala in Collins Chabane Local Municipality and D3695 from Tshandama to Siloam. I must indicate that these roads that I have just mentioned are roads that after the floods there were no paths at all.

The total amount of R96 million will be spent on re-gravelling these roads. In addition to those efforts, we are working towards our roads to be in a drivable state. Road Agency Limpopo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 10 local municipalities to do

routine road maintenance and potholes patching. Work has already commenced in various municipalities.

The following local municipalities have been identified: Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Musina Local Municipality, Polokwane Local Municipality, Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Bela-Bela Local Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Makhado Local Municipality, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality and Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality.

Those that have already started can see the progress made. I must indicate that people are working for this country. Hon Speaker, this is a continuation of pothole patching initiative called, "Operation Thiba Mekoti Ditseleng". This project saw road workers in all five districts in all cost centres doing the work on the ground. Through that process, we have been able to address some of the challenges and identified roads that require major rehabilitation. We have also appointed 22 household contractors who have been allocated to each local municipality to do maintenance work of our roads. In the 2022/23 financial year, they surpassed the target of 100 000m² and achieved 180 733,70m². Nine hundred and sixty-three jobs were created.

In 2023/24 financial year, the programme will continue with a target of 132 394m² and 1 941 jobs are targeted for creation. It is work in progress as the filling of potholes is a moving target due to the dire state of our roads as worsened by the recent rains. We will continue to re-gravel and blade our gravel roads in order to make them drivable. To this end, there has been an allocation of R100 million for the 2023/24 financial year for the purchase of heavy machinery and equipment. We will continue to procure new plant for our cost centres during the next MTEF and thanks to MEC Sekoati for the job well done.

We are currently in a process of recruiting driver operators who will be responsible for the maintenance of our roads. Our commitment as a department is to deliver quality roads network that connects communities to economic mainstreams, of which key industries are agriculture, mining and tourism. We are pleased with the fact that some in private sector understand and support initiatives of government and appreciating the fact that together we can do more.

In the 2022/23 financial year, our strategic partners in the private sector have contributed about R400 million as a way of co-funding the development of province's roads infrastructure. For this, we are humbly grateful as it provides relief to the provincial fiscus.

Hon Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in his State of the Province Address, alluded to one of the public private partnerships, when he announced the rehabilitation and refurbishment of single-lane steel bridge in GaMalekana village in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality. The project is estimated to cost R127 million as a result of investments from eight mining houses in the area who honoured their social responsibility initiative and committed to refurbish bridges while also preserving the history behind it.

Let me also mentioned that in the year under review, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) together with the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) signed a memorandum of agreement for the construction of new road interchange on the R71 near

St. Engenas Zion Christian Church. About R130 million was allocated for this project to commence soon. This will help to further ease traffic congestion on R71 road between Polokwane and Tzaneen. We have already seen noticeable improvements in terms of traffic flow after the completion of other intersection at ZCC road interchange along the R71 road.

We are also working closely with SANRAL on the design and upgrading of the following roads:

- In Sekhukhune District, roads D2919 from Tshikanoshi to Malebitsa and D3810 from Thomo to Hlomela.
- In Mopani District, roads D3878 from Calais to GaSekororo, D3187 from Mageva to Makhuva and D3135 Botlokwa clinic access road.
- In Capricorn District, road D5013 Ga-Mampa Service Road.
- In Sekhukhune District, there is an upgrading of R37 Section 1 from Driekop to Burgersfort. The construction is at 75% completion. Routine road maintenance is ongoing for the following roads: R37 from Polokwane to Driekop, R555 from GaMapodile (17,4 km) to Burgersfort, 37,4 km N11 from Mokopane to Groblersbridge Border Post and N1 from Kranskop to Musina.

As part of continuing to develop Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, there is an allocation of R30-million for the designs of road network which is the continuation of good work already done in the area. These initiatives, honourable Members, are evidence that indeed, it is all hands-on deck as the province forges ahead with infrastructure development even under difficult economic climate. The department through its agency will in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years amongst other projects, continues with the rehabilitation of the following roads:

- In Waterberg District, it will rehabilitate roads D887 from Tom Burke towards Alldays in Waterberg Phase 2 and road D3110 from Ga-Seleka to Shongwane in Waterberg Phase 2.
- In Vhembe District, it will rehabilitate roads D4 from Malamulele to Elim towards N1 Phases 2 and road D1483 from Musina to Ponderdrift in Vhembe Phases 2 and 3.
- In Mopani District, it will rehabilitate road D3840 from Giyani to Makhuva Phase 2, D11 from Lemondokop to GaRaphahlelo Phases 2 and 3 and D3873 from Bokgaga to Lephephane Phase 2.
- In Sekhukhune District, P51/3 from Groblersdal to Stoffberg in Sekhukhune Phases 2 and 3, D2923 from Dennilton to Siyabuswa in Sekhukhune Phase 2, D856 from P95/1 Dennilton to R573 Moteti in Sekhukhune Phase 2.

In Capricorn District, it will rehabilitate roads D1356 from N1 to Matseke to D879 Ramokgopa Phase 2, road D4070 from Moepeng to Shotlane from D4066 Phase 2, Road D3997 from D844 Sebayeng to D617 Ga-Moswedi Phase 2.

As part of improving our road infrastructures monitoring systems, we will through the entity venture into new technology which will assist in recording the conditions of the provincial networks which includes bridges through photographic recording vehicles and drone technology. We will also conduct research into new materials from mines for use in road construction supported by research companies, universities and mining industry. We will further support job creation activities by focusing on development into the use of labour-intensive activities using block paving. This block paving method of construction will assist the province to deliver road infrastructure in a more cost-effective manner.

For the 2023/24 financial year, Roads

Agency Limpopo will receive a budget from the department of an allocation of R2 billion for roads maintenance, upgrading of roads, strengthening partnerships and other operational costs. On infrastructure development for other departments, Hon Speaker, allow me to continue with infrastructure development activities that we have been doing on behalf of other provincial departments. When we presented plans for 2022/23, we made a commitment that we will commence with the construction works for several traditional council offices. Today I can confirm that, indeed, work has commenced in this multi-year projects and it's progressing well.

Traditional Council Offices: Bakone ba Matlala in Capricorn District is at 30% completion stage, Raphahlelo Traditional Council in Mopani District is at 45%, Bakwena ba Matsepe in Sekhukhune District is at 45%, Manoke in Sekhukhune District is at 48%, construction progress at Davhana in Vhembe District and Majeje in Mopani District are at 14% and Bakone Traditional Council in Waterberg District is at 22%.

I am also pleased to confirm that Mogashoa Traditional Council Office in Sekhukhune District which had encountered some challenges in its initial stage is now complete. Honourable Members, this then means that we are on the right track ensuring that we preserve the dignity of our traditional leaders who are, in essence, an extension and critical partner in the governance of the people of Limpopo. Under education infrastructure, Hon Speaker, Limpopo province through its Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure's mandate and long-term infrastructure plans is expected to deliver services in line with 131 School Infrastructure Programme.

The department has been hard at work to deliver quality school infrastructure in the 2022/23 financial year. Our learners deserve to be taught in a completed, functional and safe school infrastructure facilities that are conducive to learning and teaching. We are working tirelessly with the Department of Education to build schools across five districts in our province.

The department has successfully achieved the following milestones:

- In Capricorn District, Alldays Primary School in Senwabarwana village is 100% complete in this 2022/23 financial year.

The following seven schools have commenced with construction as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 financial year: Matsobane Primary School in Seleteng, Ga-Mphahlele village; Rakgoatha Primary School in Zebediela, Ga-Rakgoatha village; Rasema Secondary School in Botlokwa, Ramatjowe village; Seale Secondary School in Ramokgopa, Eisleben village; Sekete Secondary School in Moletjie, Kanana village; Dikoloi Secondary School in Senwabarwana village and Matsuokwane Secondary School in Senwabarwana village.

The following five schools are at final design stage and are awaiting for approval to commence with construction advertisement as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 to 2024/25 financial years: Potokela Primary School in Senwabarwana, Thabakgone Primary School in Ga-Mamabolo, Thabakgone village; Piet Hugo Primary School in Polokwane, Ladana; Rethusheng Special School in Polokwane town, Chita Kekana Secondary School in Zebediela, Moletlane village under Mopani District; Gidela Secondary School in Blinkwater village is 100% complete as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in the previous year 2022/23 financial year.

The following six schools have commenced with construction as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 financial year: Diphuti Primary School in The Oaks village, Chameti Secondary School in Mushiyani village, Napsadi Secondary School in Makgaung village, Ngwana Makhutswe Secondary School in Sofaya village, Ramatimana Secondary School in Bolobedu, Molototsi village; Sehonwe Secondary School in Bolobedu and Sedibeng village.

The following six schools are at final design stage and are awaiting for approval to commence with construction advertisement as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 to 2024/25 financial years: Ooghoek Primary School in Ooghoek village, Runnymede Primary School in Nwamitwa village, Ukuthula Primary School in Ka-Rhangani village, Vallambrosa Primary School in Mokgwathi village, Makgopele Secondary School in Skhiming village, Matimu Secondary School in Khujwana village. In Sekhukhune District, the following three schools are at various stages as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in the previous 2022/23 financial year: Leduma Mahume Primary School in Maserumule Park village under Nebo is 100% completed in this 2022/23 financial year, Mahlagaume Primary School in Bothashoek village is 100% complete in 2022/23 financial year, Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School in Dikgalaopeng is at 55% construction stage and previous contractor was terminated due to poor performance. The department is in the process of finalising the replacement of that contractor.

The following four schools have commenced with construction as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 financial year: Seboeng Primary School in Manganeng village, Dikgalaopeng Secondary School in Dikgalaopeng village, Rebone Secondary School in Maleetse village, Saint Paul Secondary in Luckau village.

The following nine schools are at final design stage and are waiting for approval to commence with construction advertisement as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 to 2024/25 financial years:

- Kopanong Primary School in Maleetse village;
 - Phaphamani Primary in Monsterlus village; Thabane Primary School in Mabotsha village
 - Hututu Secondary School in Makgatle village; Kopa Secondary School in Tafelkop village
 - Lekoko Secondary School in Ga-Marishane village;
 - Mahwetse Secondary School in Maretlwane village;
 - Moleshatlou Secondary School in Maila Mapitsane village and
 - Nkgonyeletse Secondary School in Ga-Mashabela village
- In Vhembe District, it is Marude Secondary School in Thohoyandou which is 100% completed as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in the previous financial year, 2022/23.

The following 3 schools commenced with construction as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 financial year: Masikhwa Primary School in Ha-Luvhimbi village, Mphakani Primary School in Mangweni village and Vutivi Primary School in Hlanganani village.

The following 3 schools are at final design stage and waiting for approval to commence with construction advertisement as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 to 2024/25 financial years: Pfumbađa Primary School in Mamuhoyi village, Mayeke Primary School in Xikundu village and Nkatini Secondary School in Shigalo village.

- In Waterberg District the following 4 schools have commenced with construction as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 financial year: Suswe Primary School in Bakenberg; Esselsdrift village, David Scara Secondary School in Modimolle (Informal Settlement), Matsibe Secondary School in Malepetleke village, Mmaphuti Manamela Secondary School in Modimolle (Informal Settlement).

The Mokhari Combined School is at final design stage and awaiting for approval to commence with construction advertisement as part of Education Infrastructure Roll-out Plan in 2023/24 to 2024/25 financial years.

The department will continue with its support to other departments through the provision of education infrastructure. The construction of 26 new school projects has commenced and prioritised to be completed in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years respectively. The schools are prioritised as indicated below. Ten new school projects are to be completed in 2023/24 financial year across the province: Masikhwa Primary School, Dikoloi Secondary School, Matsibe Secondary School, Napsadi Secondary School, Ngwana Makhutswe Secondary School, Rasema Secondary School, Seale Secondary School, Sekete Secondary School, Gidela Secondary School and Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School.

Sixteen new school projects are to be completed in 2024/25 financial year across the province: David Scara Primary School, Mphakani Primary School, Matsobane Primary School, Rakgoatha Primary School, Suswe Primary School, Vutivi Primary School, Sehonwe Primary School, Seboeng Primary School, Diphuti Primary School, Chameti Secondary School, Dikgalaopeng Secondary School, Matsokwane Secondary School, Mmaphuti Manamela Secondary School, Ramatimana Secondary School, Rebone Secondary School and Saint Paul Secondary School.

A total of 24 new school projects are at final designs stage and prioritised to advertise for the construction in 2023/24 financial year: Potokela Primary School, Thabakgone Primary School, Piet Hugo Primary School, Ooghoek Primary School, Runnymede Primary School, Ukuthula Primary School, Vallambrosa Primary School, Kopanong Primary School, Phaphamani Primary School, Thabane Primary School, Mayeke Primary School, Pfumbada Primary School, Chita Kekana Secondary School, Rethusheng Special School, Makgopele Secondary School, Matimu Secondary School, Hututu Secondary School, Kopa Secondary School, Lekoko Secondary School, Mahwese Secondary School, Moleshatlou Secondary School, Nkgonyeletse Secondary School, Nkatini Secondary School and Mokhari Combined School.

The department is currently looking at the innovative infrastructure plans to ensure that projects are provided with an alternative energy source such as solar panels and lithium batteries prior completion. The cost benefit analysis will be undertaken during design and project budgeting processes. The successful planning and implementation of the above-mentioned education infrastructure projects will be realised through commitment and dedication of technical teams within the department. The department's priority is to provide quality, sustainable and safe education infrastructure facilities to all learners in the province.

Under health infrastructure, Hon Speaker, the department is still committed to ensure that health care-services are able to function through quality infrastructure provided by this department.

We have made significant strides to unblock problems on the construction of Maphutha-Malatjie Hospital OPD project. The project is at 92% completion stage. We are pleased to announce that construction work has resumed this month, April 2023 and we anticipate completing the project during the current financial year. We have completed construction works of new 36 bed female general wards and the renovation of the existing 26 bed female wards, helipads and wastewater management at Letaba Hospital.

Work is progressing well at Bosele Emergency Medical Service Centre and construction is at 95% completion stage. The Lebowakgomo Emergency Medical Centre is at 50% completion stage. We acknowledge that this project is behind schedule. We will move with speed to recover the lost time on this project.

On transport infrastructure, the department continues to manage construction works at Limpopo Traffic College in Tshilamba in Vhembe District. Residence accommodation at Block B is at completion stage and in the 2023/24 financial year the department will complete the construction of residence Block C. Construction works for the

canteen/kitchen block will commence in April 2023. The department is also implementing K53 Testing Station where Thohoyandou K53 is under construction and Seshego K53 Testing Station is planned to commence with construction by the end of first quarter of 2023/24 financial year.

On sport, arts and culture, the department awarded and handed over sites for four libraries which are in Vleifontein, Tshaulu, Sekhukhune and Botshabelo. However, three contractors were terminated due to underperformance. Processes are underway for the appointment of 30 replacement contractors in the first quarter. One library, Botshabelo is at construction stage and is planned to be completed in the 2023/24 financial year.

The construction of Schoemansdal Museum is at completion stage. Furthermore, the department is at the final stages of planning and design for the construction of Limpopo Theatre. We are currently busy optimising the designs to acceptable budget. Construction is scheduled to commence during the fourth quarter of 2023/24 financial year.

The department is also responsible for the refurbishment and maintenance of nature reserves in the province. The maintenance of Letaba Nature Reserve is at completion stage while the maintenance of access road to Makhutsi Camp and Lekgalameetse has been completed. The construction of tourist chalets at Nylsvlei Nature Reserve is at 77% as well as the new base camp at Wolkberg Nature Reserve. Construction work is now at 82% at the new staff accommodation at Blouberg Nature Reserve. These projects are implemented through the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA).

On properties and facilities, in terms of managing the provinces' government land and buildings, the department will, in 2023/24 financial year, proceed with the task of ensuring that the province continues to grow its property portfolio by procuring buildings in Polokwane in order to reduce the lease portfolio. This is a strategic move by government to cut down on office accommodation spending. During the third quarter of 2022/23 financial year, we have been able to procure the Limpopo Gambling Board building and in this coming financial year, we have an allocation of R100 million for the purchase of another building as part of implementing the Executive Committee Resolution taken on that matter.

As the landlord of the provincial government, we will be embarking on an exercise to install prepaid electricity meters in state-owned properties in order to manage government spend on electricity. We have started with the process of identifying such properties which includes buildings used for residential purposes in order for the tenants to pay for own consumption. Moving forward, Hon Speaker, where residential properties are concerned, we are engaging with Risima Housing Finance to assist in the management of that portfolio in order for this government to start generating revenue which is equal to the efforts and other resources that are there to manage these accommodation facilities.

We are currently busy with doing tenant audits in our districts in preparation for the handover to begin. We urge those who are defaulting on rental payment to start making means to honour the contracts as things will start to be very difficult for them.

The intention is to ensure that we are able to provide quality accommodation with the assistance of revenue collected in order to maintain and even upgrade buildings that will respond to current needs brought about by the factors in the micro and macro environment. Allow me, Hon Speaker, at this stage to mention that it becomes critical for the province to start exploring green building as the Limpopo province is in the quest of addressing climate change adaptation by having energy and electricity as one of the Provincial Strategic Priorities. It becomes important for this department to explore strategies that will mitigate climate change issues such as, undertaking a Green Building Efficiency Programme to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment.

We further commit, honourable Members, to ensure that we spend the allocated R150 million in paying municipal rates and taxes and urge our municipalities to continue working with us and provide quality assured invoices in order for payments to be effected timeously. On this matter, it is both our responsibility to ensure that our people get services that they need at local government level.

The department will also continue with efforts to move Sekhukhune government offices from Lebowakgomo in Capricorn District to Jane Furse in the Sekhukhune District. The identified land has been surveyed and while awaiting for the finalisation of the diagram, there is a court interdict. We are hopeful that this matter will be resolved soon.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is one of the governments' interventions to fight against poverty and unemployment by creating temporary work opportunities and address issues of skills development in the communities. The department, through its Expanded Public Works Programme provincial coordination function, has overseen the creation of 99 716 work opportunities by various implementing bodies, namely; departments and municipalities against the annual target of 95 735 in 2022/23 financial year which translates to over achievement on the target.

In terms of demographics, 75% of beneficiaries were women, 32% were youth and 1% were people with disabilities. Although we have achieved more than 100%, we do acknowledge that there is still a challenge in attainment of 2% target for people with disability in all sectors. We are committed to ensuring that we achieve our demographic targets as EPWP jobs are matters of bread and butter for the majority of South Africans, including people with disability. To this end, we have collaborated with DEAFSA Limpopo as well as South African National Council for the Blind in Limpopo and through that, 141 work opportunities have been created.

Furthermore, 87 artisans have been successfully produced through partnerships with the Office of the Premier and merSETA (Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority). These artisans were trained in electrical, fitting, welding and diesel mechanic trades. In the 2023/24 financial year, as a coordinating department for EPWP, we will continue to provide support to implementing bodies and ensure that we get people of working age who are involved in the economic activities of this province through the programme and project implementation across departments and municipalities.

Administration, Hon Speaker, the department is currently implementing the approved organisational structure as at 28 July 2021. This will assist the department to achieve its mandates and strategic goals. We are in progress to implement the approved 2023/24 recruitment plan and capacitate Infrastructure, Finance and ICT units as these were areas of concern raised by the oversight bodies. The department has received unqualified audit opinion for the past 3 years. With the current appointments, the department is empowered with requisite capacity to discharge and deliver on its mandate. We believe we will be able to turn the corner and achieve a clean audit. The department will put efforts and measures in place to improve on SMMEs employment equity targets and persons with disability.

We will continue to maintain and submit quarterly reports to oversight bodies as these reports are audited and findings that were raised have assisted the department to improve on performance. Let me take this opportunity and thank the Premier of this province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, for steering the ship of service delivery to the people of Limpopo province. We are also grateful for the support we received from our oversight bodies that strive to keep us on track and be able to make the department accountable to the people of Limpopo through our oversight committees.

We continue to appreciate the work done by the portfolio committee chaired by Hon Makoma Makhurupetje as well as the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa), chaired by Hon Donald Selamolela.

I also thank the Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure family led by the Head of the Department, Mr Timothy Dikgole Seroka, for traversing this journey with me. Equally so, I am grateful for the support given by the entity leadership, Chairperson of the Board, Mr Matome Ralebepe and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gabriel Maluleke. The journey continues. Our work does not end here. We must continue to engage with our stakeholders on issues of service delivery and implement our plans within Budget and in the timeframes that we have committed.

I hereby present the Budget allocation for Budget Speech Vote 09 as follows:

On Budget allocation for the 2023/24 financial year, the department receives a Budget of R4,950 billion and it is broken down as follows:

Programme 1: Administration:	R462,501 million
Programme 2 Infrastructure Operations:	R1 billion
Programme 3 EPWP:	R84, 547 million
Programme 4 Public Works, Roads Infrastructure:	R3, 394 billion

The amount transferred to RAL from Programme 4 allocations is R 2 billion.

In 2023/24 financial year, we must leave no one behind. I thank you. Ha khensa. Ndo livhuwa. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie. Aa. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC, Hon Rakgoale. The Budget Speech for Vote 09 is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and report back to the House. We are now moving to Item 7.1.3.

We shall now call upon the acting MEC for Social Development, Hon Sekoati, to present the Budget Vote 12 for Social Development.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT]

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the ruling party, leaders of the opposition parties, chairperson of the portfolio committee, honourable Members of this august House, members of the media, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to you all. Thobela. Ndi mats Sheloni.

Once again, we meet in this august House which embodies the aspirations and hopes of the masses of our people. I am greatly humbled and filled with a huge sense of privilege to stand before you on behalf of my colleague, Hon Nandi Ndalane, the MEC responsible for Social Development to deliver the Budget Vote for the department.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to begin the tabling of this Budget Vote by honouring and thanking our hardworking social workers, who are the lifeblood of our department. It is truly our appreciation for the noble service they are providing to our people.

On daily basis, these unsung heroes confront a myriad of social ills such as gender-based violence, substance abuse, neglected children, domestic disputes amongst others, which threatens the social fabric holding our communities together. We therefore believe, we are justified when we accord them the recognition they duly deserve.

We indeed are always mindful of the capacity challenges in this sector. As a result of the 52 posts which were advertised and filled in the previous financial year, 31 were social work professionals. We believe this exercise will go a mile in improving our capacity and enable us to help more people on time effectively and efficiently.

The ever-changing culture of social work continues to define the heart and soul of what these professionals do. It is against this backdrop that the social work symposium was held in March 2023, to celebrate World Social Work Month, which is commemorated annually in March. The symposium was designed to be a refresher and re-engineering of focus session towards the needs and challenges of social work profession.

Honourable Speaker, one of the key lifelines of the department in terms of effective rendering of services to our people, particularly in the periphery of our province, is the existence of non-profit organisations. The department is funding 798 NPOs, of which the majority are drop-in centres. The 2022/23 Budget for the NPO funding was R264 million and it will be increased to R292 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, one of the fundamentals of our department's existence is to create a caring and self-reliant society. A perfect example thereof, is the recent workshop in which 28 young people between the ages of 18 and 35 years old were enrolled in a Youth Entrepreneurship Programme.

This involved accredited training in the repair of cell phones and tablets. They were each also given a new tablet and were assisted in registering their own businesses. This cohort of young people will hit the ground running and at the end of their training, should be able to create their own income and possibly create jobs for their counterparts.

The project was done in partnership with the Vaal University of Technology, Human Capital Learning Solutions, and was co-funded by BankSeta, through NEMISA. The welfare of our young people is key to the future of this province, and they remain central to our planning and foresight.

Therefore, in the 2023/24 financial year, youth development will be funded to the tune of R7,045 million for empowering young people and youth NPOs, as well as creating an environment where they will cease to become part of youth unemployment statistics.

Honourable Speaker, women empowerment programmes were also allocated R4 million in the previous financial year, with the intention on funding six cooperatives led by women. We are proud to announce that some of these cooperatives are with us today, displaying their produce outside. We are, therefore, happy to announce that a further R5,2 million, is allocated for the funding of women cooperatives, training, and development in this financial year. For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic which halted all activities in 2020, the department supported Golden Boys and Golden Girls from our province in Germiston Stadium, Gauteng province in 2022. Although Team Limpopo did not emerge as the overall victors, we dominated in the track events on the second day of the games, and we are truly proud of our team.

Team Limpopo was also applauded for the extraordinary cooperation displayed between the Departments of Social Development, and Sport, Arts and Culture, as well as districts and local municipalities, in ensuring participation in the games from the rural areas of the province, all the way to the national games.

The games were preceded by the older persons dialogues, in which Limpopo Older Persons Choir also impressed the stakeholders and delegates. The 2023 **Golden Age Games** will be hosted by the Mpumalanga province.

We look forward to Team Limpopo's performance at this year's edition. We also wish to thank the members of the portfolio committee for their support during the Germiston Games. It most, definitely gave our older persons a boost in their performance.

Our department has been assigned a specific role in the national strategic plan on HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and TB 2022 to 2025, which is mainly to contribute towards the prevention of new HIV, STI and TB infections.

To this effect, the department will train 645 implementers on social and behavioural change, to further reach 145 000 beneficiaries. A total of 10 327 beneficiaries will be provided with psycho-social support, which includes school uniforms and food parcels during the 2023/24 financial year.

The department will further strengthen coordination of structures through the signing of memorandum of understandings with various departments. Honourable Speaker, early this year we launched Chommy. It is a social behavioural change programme, which aims to help children between the ages of 10 and 14 years in order for them to be able to make informed choices to reduce HIV infections, substance abuse and teenage pregnancies amongst others. As the name “Chommy” is colloquial for a friend, this programme encourages team building and collaboration among children, allowing them to develop strong supporting networks to minimise involvement in risky behaviour. Children who participated in the launch were very impressive in displaying their level of awareness and development which is greatly welcomed in this regard.

I’m calling on parents to encourage their children to participate in programmes such as Chommy or related behavioural change programmes which in my view, will go a long way in reducing the unfortunate high levels of substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, and HIV infections.

Given the current circumstances in which our children find themselves, as a department, we commit to strengthen developmental programmes such as Chommy, YOLO, Men Championing Change, Boys Championing Change, families matter and traditional leaders’ programmes in our communities, so that we can prevent our children from going astray.

Honourable Speaker, the restoration of the functional family unit remains key in creating caring, safe and progressive communities. The department, therefore, has facilitated the participation of 26 018 family members in family preservation services.

In this regard, 11 248 family members have already participated in the parenting skills, and 145 people were reunited with their families. We aim to reach 30 000 citizens through family preservation services in the current financial year, with a further 8 900 through our parenting skills programmes.

Honourable Speaker, for the 2022/23 financial year, 2 083 children were placed in foster care. Currently, the province has a total of 36 984 children that need to be legally placed in foster care. These children continue to receive psychosocial services and supervision from social workers.

We are still waiting for the proclamation on the changes to the Children’s Act. This will be a huge step towards addressing the foster care backlogs. Further to these, there are currently 817 children who are placed in Child and Youth Care Centres of our province.

Following the National Association of Welfare Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations, or NAWONGO court judgement, which provided a national model for

funding of NPOs tasked with the care of children, the subsidy amount for children in child care centres has increased from R2 500 to R4 000 per child.

This is a three-year funding cycle that started in 2021 and will end in March 2024. There are 15 child and youth care centres in Limpopo, of which 5 are government run, R30,7 million of the Budget will be spent on childcare and protection services.

Honourable Speaker, community-based prevention and early intervention services serve as a response mechanism that seeks to address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. A total of 31 900 children accessed these services in the past financial year. We project that 33 000 children will access these services in the 2023/24 financial year.

The department will also strengthen the RISIHA (formerly iSibindi) Programme in all registered drop-in centres. We will further support 341 drop-in centres benefiting 23 563 beneficiaries. R20 million has been set aside for the RISIHA Programme, while drop-in centres will now receive R35 million, an increase from the previous financial year's by R22 million.

Honourable Speaker, as long as there is criminal activity, there will be victims. A total of 8 791 victims of crime and violence accessed social services and the victims of gender-based violence and femicide received shelter services.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the department trained 44 victims of crime and violence, on sewing and garment making. They were also given starter packs for their own businesses. This brilliant project was done in partnership with the NPO Nyamukara and funded by First National Bank.

Furthermore, on the subject of gender-based violence, we conducted GBVF dialogues in all five districts of the province from July to October 2022, targeting various stakeholders including the police, non-profit organisations and pressure groups. These workshops are a culmination of provincial GBVF Summit which was hosted in October 2022 and ultimately the second Presidential National Summit on GBVF.

Through the Victim Empowerment Programme, the department will be funding 67 VEP centres and one shelter during the 2023/24 financial year. The budget set aside is R20 million.

The department has increased the subsidy from R167 000 to R250 000 for all funded VEP centres. We believe that this increase will reduce the burden under which our VEPs were operating under and trust that this increment will provide much-needed relief and capacity.

Honourable Speaker, the effects of substance abuse on the socio-economic welfare of the people of Limpopo, is a cause for serious concern. The department is therefore, coordinating the implementation of the National Drug Action Plan.

The provincial substance abuse forum comprising of a group of competent individuals was launched in the 2022/23 financial year. To date, seven local drug action committees

have been established in the Capricorn and Waterberg Districts and we eagerly await more formations in other municipalities.

The fight against substance abuse and human trafficking needs a multi-sectoral approach and collaboration at all levels. It will, therefore, be beneficial for all concerned, including institutions of higher learning and research institutions who can join the fray by commissioning studies on the subject matter that will assist the department greatly. Further to this, the subsidy for substance abuse related NPOs will increase from R80 000 to R100 000 in the coming 2023/24 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, the department has donated 30 families with gardening equipment and seeds, which would help them produce food for themselves. During the event which was hosted at GaMmalebogo in the Blouberg Local Municipality, recipients were overjoyed with government's gesture and vowed to put to good use the donations they received.

As a department, we will continue with this important food security programmes. The department does regular community-based research and planning, to establish areas of service delivery for the department and other stakeholders.

In the current financial year, the research unit will be conducting a study entitled, "Factors associated with the rising incidence of gender-based violence and femicide." For this purpose, 30 research assistants will be employed on a year's contract at a cost of R2 million.

Honourable Speaker, I therefore, present the 2023/24 Budget allocations as follows:

Programme 1: Administration is getting R328,5 million.

Programme 2: Social Welfare Services is funded by R468,9 million.

Programme 3: Children and Families is allocated a budget of R669,1 million.

Programme 4: Restorative Services is allocated a budget of R261,7 million.

Programme 5: Development Research is allocated a budget of R217,2 million.

A total of R1,945 billion is therefore, allocated to the department in order to provide all these services.

Honourable Speaker, the journey to total emancipation by the masses of our people continues. During this year of decisive action to advance people's interest, we will spare no effort in discharging our responsibilities.

The sufferings of our people are a constant reminder that as public representatives, we carry the responsibility to provide hope and further to confront difficulties on behalf of our masses. We shall never relent. We need to lead with compassion and love as we forge ahead in confronting the many challenges in our midst.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Premier, for his compassionate leadership and support as well as fellow Members of the Executive Council. I will be making a cardinal mistake if I do not thank and appreciate members of the portfolio committee for their

guidance and always keeping us on our toes. This is good for our democracy and accountability.

Our people deserve nothing but the best of our potential. Honourable Speaker, let me also acknowledge and express gratitude to the Head of the Department, Mr Desmond Mahopo, and his executive management who run and monitor the programmes of our department daily, in the service of the people of Limpopo.

In the same breath I would like to thank and also appreciate the great teamwork we have with our agencies, SASSA and NDA, who play a critical role in the lives of the vulnerable and poor members of our society.

With those remarks, I would therefore like to thank you. Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. Ndo livhuwa. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sekoati, who presented on behalf of the MEC for Social Development. Thank you very much. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development for consideration and report back to the House. We are now moving to the next Item. We are now moving to Item 7.1.4, and we shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 7, Department of Health. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Address by Dr P Ramathuba, MEC for Health)

Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier, Hon Mathabatha in absentia; colleagues in the Executive Council, Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, our chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health in absentia, Hon Simon Mathe; and we wish him a speedy recovery, Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of the provincial Legislature, our Heads of Departments including the DG in absentia, leaders of the religious communities who are here, our invited guests, ladies, and gentlemen, ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Thobela. Goeie more. Lotjhani. Good morning.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the curtain on this Sixth Administration is surely closing. The journey has been long, rocky and at times tiring but most importantly, fulfilling. We come from a dark financial and administrative period, wherein as a department we could not even appoint critical personnel like nurses, doctors, and pharmacists on a permanent basis. We could not even procure necessary life-saving devices, and our workers were denied tools of trade. We want to thank Team Bophelo, Team Health for your resilience and endurance in ensuring that the department is kept afloat. We have stabilised our financial outlook and set the department on an upward trajectory. This department will cement the strides made over the years and further ignite hope for the future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt that this was the most challenging term for the healthcare sector. This will go down in the annals of history as an administration that was largely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our healthcare system was tested and stretched to a maximum. It was during this period that the resilience of our public health system was demonstrated; it was during this period that the patriotism and commitment of our public healthcare workers were demonstrated.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a sad and devastating occurrence, but also for us as a department it pushed us to find innovative and creative ways to the continuous rendering of healthcare services. It thrust us like all sectors in the Fourth Industrial Revolution where the use of technology was upscaled. The department had to find new ways of doing things. Our staff training and development were increasingly delivered online. Today as we speak, our specialists had to conduct work rounds with doctors and hospitals in rural areas online.

Recruitment which was also automated and continues to improve on a turnaround time. Just to make an example, after the approval of the appointment of doctors and nurses; it took us three weeks to do advertisement, shortlisting and interviews which were done on 24 December and 25 December and because we managed to do all these online, by 1 January, Limpopo was the only province which never had doctors marching to the MEC because their contracts had come to an end. If we were doing things in the old fashion way, we would have never been able to appoint them.

Hon Speaker, we continue our previous commitment to accelerating service delivery, especially to the rural areas because we are a rural province. Therefore, innovation is key for us. We use technology. The last outstanding CT scanner for the people of Sekhukhune District has been installed and commissioned at St Ritas Hospital in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality and it was handed over by both the Minister of Health, Hon Joe Phaahla, and the Premier of this province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha.

If the people of Sekhukhune are involved in an accident, they do not have to be transported to Polokwane for us to check if they have got head injuries or not; all the examinations and diagnoses are done in their own district and through technology the radiologists are able to interpret the results while sitting in Pietersburg or Mankweng. Is that not a positive outcome? [APPLAUSE]

Last year, we reported in this august House that breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among African women. We have lost so many lives of poor vulnerable women in our province and in this country because of breast cancer and due to late diagnosis because of not having access to diagnostic equipment.

We made a commitment, and we are pleased to report to this Legislature that technology has once more made it possible for us to deliver on our commitment. We have procured mammograms and installed them in all our five districts. You will find one unit in Tshilidzini for the people of Vhembe, and you will find one in Letaba for the people of Mopani, and you will find one in Mokopane for the people of Waterberg and in St Ritas for the people of Sekhukhune and Mankweng Hospital for the people of Capricorn.

Women in our province are encouraged to do regular checkups; there is no longer an excuse for not doing that. We do not have radiologists stationed in some of these facilities, but it is through technology that women in Vhembe, Tshilidzini can be examined on the breast by the radiographer, the radiologist in Mankweng and Polokwane will be able to interpret the outcomes and proper diagnosis will be made and treatment will commence and therefore, death can be averted. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, these are some of the lifesaving equipment that if we did not stabilise the finances of this province, we would have not been able to procure and we must appreciate the leadership of Hon Mathabatha. Because if it was not for his resilience in putting systems to deal with finances in the way we spent, this department would not be where it is today.

We are currently operating with one Magnetic Resonance Imaging, the MRI machine which is stationed at Pietersburg Tertiary and Academic Hospital. This simply means that when this machine is broken, doctors must pray for the patients; doctors must just deal with the situation and that is why you hear other doctors in other parts of this country referring patients to the President because they will always say how do you send me to the field without giving me the tools of trade. This has posed a major challenge regarding the turnaround time for patients requiring service.

Teaching and training for both radiologists and radiographers have been very difficult, but as we did with the Linear Accelerator, as we did with the Lodox system for forensic pathologists, as we did with all the CT scans that we procured, like we did when we digitalised all our x-rays in the whole province, we want to make another commitment today that MIR problems will be solved because two more MRIs will be procured. We are hoping that will be done before the end of this year because these are quite big and expensive equipment that you find overseas. They will be delivered because the orders must be issued now and not wait towards the end of the financial year. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, one of the setbacks of service delivery due to COVID-19 was the issue of backlogs, especially the surgical backlogs. As healthcare providers, our main focus was fighting COVID-19 and other areas of service delivery were ignored; hence we had to find new ways of addressing surgical backlogs. What started as a catchup strategy following the COVID-19 lockdown period, is now a unique and highly successful Rural Health Matters Campaign which is a legacy and will be sustainable as we will ensure that on a monthly basis, specialists will visit an identified district and rural hospital where patients will be operated on.

Hon Speaker, since its inception, this campaign has seen over 6000 patients benefitting from a variety of surgical procedures, whether you are talking about those who are having urogynecology problems, women who can't even laugh when we speak because when they laugh they pee on themselves; whether you talk about those who need paediatric surgery, children who got laughed at because their umbilicus continue to grow; whether you talk about ophthalmology where elderly women are subjected to brightness because of a simple operation that needs to be done which is the removal of the cataract, the maxillofacial surgery, and gynaecology. This campaign has changed the face of healthcare in the far-flung and rural parts of our province.

Rural Health Matters is made possible through the dedication of the department's own specialists and other health professionals, who embark on district surgical outreach every 6 weeks. These professionals are joined by volunteer specialists from other provinces and the private sector. Hon Speaker, I thought it will be important to allow me to single out one professor, the son of the soil, born and raised in the district of Vhembe, studied medicine, and specialised and came back to this province to serve the people of Limpopo. However, due to the politics of that time, he left the province and end up in the Free State where today he is the professor and head of the Free State, because he is the son of the soil; because he's passionate, and because he knows his province; since the inception of the Rural Health Matters Campaign, he has performed over 1 600 orthopaedic operations, of which about 200 are hip and knee replacements. Hon Speaker, these operations can cost one patient up to R250 000.00 in private facilities. So as the people of Limpopo, we are lucky, that we have him in our midst, and he is Professor Steve Matshidze. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, COVID-19 exposed our inefficiencies in the management of the healthcare system. The WHO defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not just a mere absence of disease and infirmity. This means that we must start doing things differently by reverting to basics and focusing on primary healthcare as our first step.

We have declared the year ahead as the Year of Primary Healthcare. This declaration is not a mere slogan or rhetoric without significance. This declaration is a living commitment to build on our existing capacity to prevent disease, prolong life and promote a healthy lifestyle among the people of Limpopo.

We have our fingers firmly on the pulse. We can feel the vibrations of life. At the heart of our rejuvenated approach to primary healthcare is the provisioning of a 24-hour service at most of our primary healthcare facilities.

We are remodelling our clinics and healthcare centres to be reliable, dependable, and attractive first points of entry for those in need of primary healthcare. We want our people to believe and have confidence in their local clinics and healthcare centres. Our approach is to reposition our primary healthcare centres as trusted points for routine care, screenings, preventative care, and professional medical attention for acute illness and chronic disease management.

Through this approach, we aim to broaden access to quality primary healthcare, reduce the cost of medical care and most importantly, aim to alleviate the burden on our hospitals. Hospitals should only deal with serious emergencies and complicated procedures. This will make the entire healthcare value chain to be effective and responsive. It is in this context that we are purposefully building capacity in our local clinics and healthcare centres.

This capacity includes the improvement of infrastructure, recruitment of more nurses, and adequate supply of medicines, especially children's vaccines. Primary healthcare is the first level of contact between the community and the formal healthcare system. It is the

foundation upon which the entire health system relies for improved health outcomes. In preparation for this deliberate effort to strengthen the base of the health system, the Limpopo Department of Health has embarked on several initiatives to ensure service delivery at primary healthcare during the last half of the 2022/23 financial year is optimised.

To this end Hon Speaker, we have since appointed 20 additional suitably qualified and competent primary healthcare facility managers. The department has introduced a competency-based recruitment process to identify suitable candidates with the capacity to take primary healthcare to new heights. In this financial year, a further 52 posts of operational managers will be advertised to increase capacity in the largest platform of the health system. We invite all young professional nurses out there to take up this challenge, and Treasury has already approved it, and the advert will be out soon.

Another progressive move was to convene a nine-day seminal capacity-building training and workshop for all operational managers, including those in acting capacity from primary healthcare facilities. We needed to level the playing field so that when we start to ask for your accountability, we would have trained you and you won't have any excuses.

The training was designed to address service delivery improvement, minimise adverse events that lead to medico-legal cases, and close monitoring of medicine stock availability through the stock visibility system. The workshop would not have been complete without empowering them on governance and information management improvement in their respective clinics in an effort to realise a clean audit outcome and ultimately improved patient outcomes. Tools of trade to facilitate communication can be laptops, smartphones and tablets have been distributed to them and we now expect them to have access to telephonic, internet and virtual platforms when we need them.

This will also aid referral of patients and soliciting medical advice from higher levels of care. Hon Speaker, the Hon Premier was spot on during the SOPA debate when he said the department was at an advanced stage in activating a number of clinics earmarked to operate 24 hours, a programme which was previously disrupted by COVID-19. The financial year 2023/24 being the year of primary health care means we will be hard at work ensuring the successful rollout of 24-hour services. This we will do in collaboration with our traditional leaders, trade unions, community members and other stakeholders.

Hon Speaker, currently, only 50 clinics by March 2023 are operating fixed 24-hour services, followed by a further 57 providing 24-hour coverage on an on-call system. We are therefore committing to this august House to work towards doubling the number of clinics rendering 24-hour services. At the end of this financial year, we must be able to register around 229 clinics operating 24 hours. We are committing, not promising. [APPLAUSE]

To achieve this objective, we obviously require qualified, dedicated, passionate adequate staff. To date, the recent recruitment drive brought in an additional 278 professional nurses with midwifery on a permanent basis to some of those clinics earmarked for 24-hour services. [APPLAUSE]

Another 300 professional nurses will be recruited in this financial year to further improve the pool of PHC staff. [APPLAUSE] This will go a long way towards strengthening and enabling service delivery across the various platforms of PHC... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Order honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Just to illustrate to you honourable Members, with these 278 that I have spoken about, already as we speak, Hon Deputy Speaker, you will be happy to hear that Masisi and Madimbo Clinics started with the 24-hour operations on 01 April 2023. [APPLAUSE] This also includes Tshiombo and Mavambe Clinics, Mpheni Clinic, Shigalo Clinic, Tshisaulo Clinic, just in Vhembe District. In Sekhukhunne, Makepsvlei Clinic, Nkoana Clinic and Elandsdoorn Clinic in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality have already started operating for 24 hours. [APPLAUSE]

And they said to me by the 1 May 2023, because there is one clinic that honourable Members want to see operating 24 hours which is Burgersfort Clinic where we saw a shameful situation where a woman delivered at the gate of the clinic because a nurse and a security guard said it is 06h45, we only open at 07h00. As of 1 May 2023, Burgersfort Clinic will operate for 24-hours [APPLAUSE]. This will also include Zaaiplaas Clinic, Tooitskraal Clinic, Mohlaletse Clinic, Motsepe Clinic, Marulaneng Clinic and Matlala Clinic. These are just clinics in Sekhukhune. In Waterberg District, Phagameng and Bakenberg clinics have already started operating 24 hours and the Shongoane Clinic will be following them.

In Mopani District, Madumane Clinic in Greater Tzaneen is one of the clinics that was supposed to operate for 24 hours, and we anticipate that it will also start operating for 24 hours on 1 May 2023. I'm glad today the MEC has brought the men in blue. We have appointed a new nurse who started working there, preparing the clinic to run for 24 hours. On her way from the taxi going home, she was raped, assaulted, and left to die. She called for help in the nearest household, and she was assisted, and an ambulance was called for her.

We operated on her, and we thank the Mighty God because she can recover, but the people in this nursing profession, are saying surely the community should have an idea on who might be responsible until they help the men in blue to arrest the perpetrator, it is going to be difficult for us to recruit any nurse to work at the Madumane Clinic. Therefore, the community must not suffer because of one individual. Let us help the police to arrest this man, he is our son, he is our brother, he is our relative, our cousin, he is our boyfriend. We sleep and drink with him. Let us expose him so that people can get services.

Hon Deputy Speaker and Honourable MEC for Treasury, Phalaborwa Clinic will be operating 24 hours starting from 1 May 2023 otherwise that Budget might be withdrawn. Mashishimale Clinic, Lorraine Clinic, Mabins Clinic and Charlie Rangaan Clinic and many others and I'm not going to count, I just want to demonstrate that we are no longer talking

about clinics running 24 hours. We are making a commitment that clinic so and so on this day is going to operate 24 hours.

Hon Speaker, change is painful and unfortunately for transformation to take off, there must be changes. For primary healthcare to improve and function better, the Department of Health of 2010 must be dismantled. The department is focusing on rearranging the management of Primary Health Services whereby mobile clinics, community health care workers and fixed clinics will be managed by the operational managers that we are appointing, and they will be stationed in a fixed clinic within a geographic area.

This will enable the operations manager to oversee mobile services resulting in resources maximally utilised by effective application. A cluster of these clinics will be accountable to the local area manager. Clinics within a certain municipality will be managed and supervised by a district hospital, therefore, the scope of the CEO will be expanded, and the CEO will now also be managing all the health facilities that are within your municipality. Consultations regarding these matters are underway. We know there is a lot of resistance regarding this, but we are doing this for the people of Limpopo because we need to improve service delivery and response time.

A pipe burst or blocked at a toilet in Moutse area will have to be fixed by a plumber at Philadelphia Hospital, and not to wait for a plumber to come from Sekhukhune District office which is here in Lebowakgomo. The district managers are here, and clinics report to the district, so the plumber must leave here and go to Moutse.

That is why we are changing and bringing these geographic services. When you hear unions saying we are changing their working conditions is when we are bringing services to geographic areas. We are saying a clinic in Mahwelereng must be managed by Mokopane and Voortrekker Hospitals and not wait for someone coming from Modimolle because that is what causing the challenges that we are facing. The focus is to deliver a preventative healthcare system and mainly communicable and non-communicable diseases which are responsible for a premature death.

While we are seeing a reduction in mother-to-child transmission, you will remember at some stage we regressed and today we are proud to say we are at 0,59%, meaning the children who are born by HIV-positive mothers in Limpopo, only 0,59% are positive. We want honourable Members to assist us deal with this 0,59% because 99,41% are born HIV negative. What an achievement! [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, we are concerned about our failure to achieve the 90-90-90 targets, especially the second and the third 90. Recent reports suggest that there is an increase in new infections among young women and a girlchild. Working with sister departments, civil society, and businesses under the umbrella of Limpopo AIDS Council led by Hon Premier, we commit towards the reduction of new HIV infections, increasing the number of people tested for both TB and HIV, increasing people initiated on ARVs so that finally we reduce the viral load of those infected because if we do that people are not going to be sick when their viral load is low. When the viral load is high that is when they get sick and unfortunately, they die.

The World Health Organization judges the functionality of a healthcare system by its low maternal and under-five mortality. It gives us pleasure to report that our maternal mortality has decreased from 93/100 000 deliveries in April 2022 to 75/100 000 in February 2023. This is an improvement after a regression that was registered in the 2020/21/22 financial years due to COVID-19.

The reduction was made possible by our obstetrics response teams which came up with initiatives focusing on the capacity-building of our clinicians. Hon Speaker, I must be honest, the attitude of staff is still a challenge within the department especially when it comes to maternal healthcare services. We must take time to celebrate and appreciate those who go beyond their call of duty. It is against this background that in one of the Sittings, an honourable Member presented a Members' Statement congratulating our midwife Tshililo Mphaphuli who distinguished herself during an emergency when her clinic which does not operate 24 hours, and which is now operating for 24 hours was closed and a woman in labour arrived.

Sister Mphaphuli, like Florence Nightingale, did not ask any questions, instead she focused on the emergency at hand, which was to deliver the baby, little did she know that not one, not two, not three but four heads would pop out from the perineum and all the babies are alive and healthy. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, meet our own Cecilia Makiwane. [APPLAUSE] She is very strong. In my registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa for 23 years, I have never seen such deliveries done in primary healthcare. She risked her profession, things could have gone wrong, but she did that because it was the right thing to do and not the right way. The right way might result in death. [APPLAUSE] How I wish all nurses can follow in her footsteps and we had to invite her so that honourable Members can share lunch with her.

Hon Speaker, an effective, responsive healthcare system means we must have reliable Emergency Medical Services and we would like to thank MEC, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale for the roads. The honourable Premier, Stanley Mathabatha's administration, has consistently, over the years insisted that the department must procure a minimum of 50 ambulances annually, owing to financial constraints to ensure that the fleet does not collapse.

It is my distinct pleasure to inform this august House that this department, as indicated earlier, has made tremendous strides in the management of our finances such that it has become possible to reprioritise the work plan within our Budget allocation. An amount of R500 million which will augment the R50 million allocated by the Provincial Treasury is earmarked for funding of this EMS. Therefore, we commit for the first time in the history of our province in a single financial year, since the dawn of democracy that we shall procure 500 Emergency Medical Services vehicles. [APPLAUSE]

This will simply mean that each crew will be allocated its own ambulance which will result in accountability and proper care, and together with MEC Radzilani when we see our ambulance parked in a shebeen, we will make sure that people get arrested, because

each ambulance will be allocated its owner. There will no longer be complaints that there are no ambulances. [APPLAUSE]

This is a commitment and not a promise and the orders have already been issued. We commit, we don't promise, and we will invite you next year when we hand them over. The Health Professions Council of South Africa is busy with the restructuring of the emergency medical profession, as we speak, a basic ambulance assistance course has been faced out, as well as the ambulance emergency assistant.

As a province, we are working with different institutions of higher learning towards a partnership of new curriculum. However, as a department, we are proud of some of our personnel whom we have amongst the EMS and whenever there is a disaster, whether in the province or outside the province, they always respond without failure.

Our rescue mission team continues to make us proud as a province. Last year, during the KZN floods they were amongst the first to respond to the call by the President to go on a rescue mission in KZN. When disaster hit both Turkey and Syria and the ambassador made a plea for assistance, our selfless warriors did not hesitate. Once more they volunteered and were in that dangerous situation. They did that all in the name of serving humanity. Honourable Members, allow me to present to you Robert Masubelele, Vicky Shipalane, Nicholas Nekhumbe, and Louis Markram. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, essential medicines are defined by the World Health Organization as medicines that satisfy the priority health needs of the population. People should always have access to these medications. As part of strengthening primary healthcare essential medication availability becomes central. We have seen major improvements in terms of stock availability in our facilities, however, more efforts are put in place to address the shortfall. We have seen stability in key programmes amongst others childhood vaccines, antiretroviral and anti-TB medicines that are being tracked continuously for availability in our facilities.

To sustain the stability and improve in other programmes an amount of R1,849 billion has been allocated just for medicine and a further R217 million towards dry dispensaries. Hon Speaker, we continue to fight against malaria in the province. Limpopo remains prone to malaria epidemics, and it has been reported in the past, but malaria cases continue to remain at lower levels, with the recent statistics standing at 1 745 cases and 24 deaths reported in 2022/23. While one death is too many, we must remember where we are coming from. In 2017/18, we recorded 18 977 and 160 deaths. Every year we continue reducing the numbers. We are confident that the numbers will continue to plummet until we record zero malaria-related deaths.

Limpopo province regrets being the leading province in the prevalence of measles despite fully implementing the Extended Programme on Immunization without a charge. Of the 1095 suspected cases, 347 were confirmed laboratory and 347 completed their isolation period. The positive news is that since the outbreak healthcare workers managed all cases well, hence we registered zero death. [APPLAUSE] The unfortunate situation is that 20 out of the 347 cases were from people who have been fully vaccinated translating to only 5,76%.

Hence we are making a clarion call together with the Department of Education to say all children from the age of 5 to 15 years can they be brought in for vaccination for measles. We will be going to schools and health centres, and we will even visit churches and traditional councils to get every child to be vaccinated. It has been proven to us that vaccines prevent diseases.

Hon Speaker, once again, our savings came in handy that this vaccination programme is made possible by the current 867 COVID-19 contractual vaccination employees, whom the department could have said your contracts have come to an end, but because of our savings, Treasury did not hesitate to approve that their contracts be extended, and they continue to assist us in the vaccination for measles.

The department has taken note of the cholera outbreak in other parts of the country and our outbreak response team is ready and has a plan in place. We will be working together with honourable MEC, Hon Makamu, and all our municipalities so that we make it regular to test our water and put all other modes of surveillance because our rural province has water challenges. We might find ourselves in trouble if we can have just one case of cholera. Those of us who have once treated cholera in this province know how difficult it is to manage it.

Hon Speaker, health is one of those sectors that are inherently labour-intensive, therefore the structure must address the core business of the department. As we have indicated we come from a painful past with a structure that was bloated at the top with no foot soldiers. For example, we reported in this august House previously that the department spends 76% of its Budget on the compensation of employees, leaving us with a mere 24% for goods and services, hence we could not buy these ambulances; we could not buy this equipment including capital spending while at the same time with serious shortages on critical personnel like nurses, doctors and cleaners. We want to report to you honourable Members that unpopular decisions were taken and that is why Fidel Castro House was always receiving memorandums. We took painful decisions which resulted in us reducing the compensation of employees.

The structure that has been reorganised has moved from eight DDGs to four. We are now cutting generals. You can't have generals without soldiers. Similar work was done on chief directors and directors. Now we have moved to districts and Hon Speaker, if I can make an example, you have a system that has a deputy manager for HIV testing, a deputy manager for rolling out ARVs, and a deputy manager for condom distribution. Even in finance, splitting of orders is not allowed, you must have one HIV directorate dealing with HIV and TB. And now with the threat of grants paper funding going down, we are not going to move. We are now starting to redistribute, because most of them are professional nurses who are trained on OSD level.

They are highly paid managers who will be best suited to managing our facilities from primary healthcare to hospitals. Consultations with relevant stakeholders will continue, and we are going to implement and there will be a lot of memoranda for our removal, but we are doing this for the people of this province.

The war against medico-legal problems continues. An interesting development in this area is the Noyila case in the Eastern Cape where the judge ordered that the Department of Health must provide some services that are required by the successful applicant instead of the department being required to pay a huge amount for future medical care. What was happening Hon Speaker was that the department would pay R45 million, and the following day that child is consulting, and we felt that this was a victory to say that the department can prove that they can provide services for this child, there is no need to give large sums but because people know that this case can close the tap, they are bringing all the top law firms in the country to challenge this judgement. How I wish that the judge who is going to listen to the appeal can be as sober as a judge and rule in our favour because that will be the end of these accusations. Honourable Members, the reality is that the child who was awarded R45 million will hardly see that money. The bulk of it goes to a lawyer.

The department has halved its medico-legal bill to R7 billion by changing accounting methods. The campaign continued with the launch of the first series of conferences on medico-legal matters that aimed at identifying the root causes of the problem with a view to the prevention of new cases as well as cascading the management of cases to the lower level of management. A programme of district visits has been developed and will be rolled out. During 2022/23 the department appointed 3 Heads of the Clinical Department, 2 Heads of the Clinical Unit and 23 medical specialists. The province currently has 124 registrars, these are the doctors who are training to be specialists so that they can reduce the quality of care which is part of reducing these medico-legal claims.

Hon Speaker, we are proud to announce that finally, the contractor has been appointed by the national Department of Health as it was presented by the Premier to presume the construction of the long-awaited Limpopo Academic and Central Hospital. [APPLAUSE] This facility will require highly specialised professionals since we will be expected to render services amongst others, organ transplants. Hence the department has embarked on a four-year strategy to prepare for those skills. To this end, the province plans on building up numbers to have 240 local registrars by 2025. In addition, the department will send supernumerary registrars to other universities to augment the number of specialists that we require.

As we speak, Professor Steve Matshidze has already taken some of our students, I have forgotten the actual number, but three of them have now been completed. There are others in Letaba, in the Mopani District that have been trained by him and they are back. There is an orthopaedic here in Lebowakgomo that has also been trained by him. He has now taken a lady, probably we will now have a female orthopaedic surgeon by the time she finishes.

We want to expand this, not only to orthopaedics but to all our specialists so that in four years' time when the academic hospital has been built, we have the skills that we will be able to utilise because it would not assist to have that building without necessary skills. [APPLAUSE].

Hon Speaker, we have observed a rise in the number of unnatural deaths in the province and most of those cases are attributed to the behaviour of members of the society

particularly, as the MEC for Transport and Community Safety always says that road traffic accidents are because of our behaviour as members of the society and interpersonal violence. We had a total of 5 473 deceased persons that were subjected to medico-legal investigations through Forensic Pathology Services, this is 219 more than the previous year.

Here we are talking about all forensic pathology, not just road accidents. Some people stab each other in a shebeen after drinking, so we are seeing interpersonal violence increasing. Now pathology services are experiencing pressure and it has resulted in a rise in the number of cases that is not proportional to the available resources, and this will be considered as an area of priority this year. As a result, Forensic Pathology Services have been overstretched but still managed to render services under those circumstances. This service continues to excel in the delivery of autopsies in high-volume incidents within relatively short periods.

We must remember that while forensic pathologists may not be visible to most of you, and they are not the celebrated doctors because you don't consult them, they might be your voice when you cease to exist. They might be advocate when justice needs to be served on you. That is why we must celebrate them today under the leadership of Dr Thakadu Mamashela, the man who, when there is a major accident, would throw away his diary and run to the scene and run to hospitals and perform autopsies on his own. Whether the accident happened in Tshilidzini or in Groblesdal or anywhere else, he leaves his diary and he doesn't say I'm a manager. Dr Mamashele, the people of Limpopo appreciate you even if we don't consult you, but we appreciate you. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, health infrastructure is one of the building blocks and critical pillars for healthcare delivery and it is a specialised kind of infrastructure, hence as a department, we also spent a lot of time building in-house capacity to make sure that we realise this objective. Working with the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure there are areas which we had to focus on internally, and for instance, in this past financial year we managed to renovate one of the old, dilapidated wards, we repurposed it at Pietersburg Hospital to become state-of-the-art ICU with 17 beds with the state-of-the-art technology.

The Mankweng Hospital has also completed the maintenance and refurbishment of the following sections, which is their theatre, their OPD, their Thuthuzela and ICU. We managed to do this because the Mathabatha Administration managed to save resources. All this is made with the sole purpose of making sure that our patients are treated in a place that is safe and preserves their dignity because the ANC government was clear in its campaign that it will deliver quality healthcare.

We have handed over a state-of-the-art maternity ward in FH Odendaal Hospital, with a theatre and work is in progress to complete neonatal and paediatric wards. At the end of the day honourable Members, we want to have a maternal and child healthcare centre, because President Oliver Reginald Tambo said a country, a movement, or a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future.

So as the Department of Health, we are keen, starting from pregnant women up to a child. We will also look after the adults, but the priority must be the maternal patients so that in all their stages of pregnancy they can attend one health centre, starting from when they give birth; and even when a baby is born prematurely the centre must have incubators; even when a child is growing, the mother will attend at the same centre.

Hon Speaker, nursing colleges are also not left behind. To date the department has completed the refurbishment of Giyani Nursing College resident Block D. This comes at the right time now that the department has received accreditation from the South African Nursing Council to train professional nurses on a new curriculum. The first group of 118 students started last month and they will continue until they complete and join the department and that will be done on an annual basis. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, in your oversight, you visited Knobel Hospital and reported to the MEC that there was a serious challenge. We went there like the servants who always listen and as we speak, the male and female wards, the storm-damaged staff houses, the laundry, stores and kitchen, and houses 1, 2, 3 and 9 have been renovated and those renovations have been completed and they are now utilised. [APPLAUSE] We are working on other areas. Just in one year, we have completed these and I think it is an achievement.

Major repairs and maintenance are also completed at Zava and Mudimeli Clinics. Enviroloo maintenance and repairs were completed at other 142 facilities. We are having challenges because we depend on underground water and due to the aggressive nature of the water, we had to attend to the water-softening plants, and we have started that work. Unfortunately, it damages most of our equipment, especially in our laundry at the clinic level. As part of the 24-hour clinic services, we have prioritised palisade fencing as a security measure in our facilities. I will not mention all of these clinics, but Mudumeli Clinic, Sehlale Clinic, Blydrift Clinic, Mamabolo Clinic, and others that we are finishing in one financial year.

There are pharmaceutical units that required extra room for storage, and we have been able to provide 12 prefabs in different facilities, namely: Ellisras Hospital, George Masebe Hospital, Witpoort Hospital, Kgapane Hospital, Van Velden Hospital, Letaba Hospital, Malamulele Hospital just to expand the storage. As a country, and indeed a province, we continue to grapple with the effects of loadshedding. The department has invested in the procurement of standby generators to curtail the impact on our facilities. The Limpopo Department of Health has delivered generators for installation, connected and stationed in seven facilities, namely: Messina Hospital, Evuxakene Hospital, Jane Furse Hospital, Blouberg Health Care Centre, Witpoort Hospital, Dr CN Phatudi Hospital, and Duiwelskroof Centre.

All these generators are new, and upgrades were conducted to some existing generators. In addition to that we have procured an additional 19 mobile generators with a capacity of 500 to 800 KVA, out of the 19, 17 have already been delivered and some of them are stationed at the head office. So, when there is a breakdown in Dr CN Phatudi or Philadelphia, we know that there will be a generator that is going to assist. Currently, we have just taken one generator to Mokopane because there was a breakdown and another

one is going to FH Odendaal Hospital because we are worried about the lifespan of the generator that is there currently.

The department is looking into alternative ways of energy supply. The supply of inventors in facilities; heat pumps for the boiling of water of which the department has done energy workload study to determine the sizes of batteries to be installed. The project will be rolled out in a few facilities as a pilot project. Following the pronouncement of the Premier on the installation of solar panels, the department has already started conducting all preliminary works and awaits guidance from the Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier. We are pleased to announce that we are not a department that folds its arms and waits for the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury. We have already contacted the Minister of Electricity and our team, and his team have already met, and work is going on.

The department has prioritised revenue collection as the only alternative source to augment its Budget deficit over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. 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 surpass the third quarter revenue target of R193 791 million.

We hope to sustain this, but the current public perception that health services are for free to all who visit our health facilities, irrespective of where you are coming from, irrespective of who you are, unfortunately, that is going to drag us back. We did not do well in the second quarter because of certain reasons, but again we did well in the third quarter. This is incorrect as patients are categorised in terms of affordability. Members of the communities that fall within the paying categories including those with medical aids, are urged to pay for the health services they receive in our health facilities as this will contribute to the funding of the health services in the province.

The public is, however, informed that services are still free at primary healthcare facilities such as clinics, mobile clinics, gateway clinics and health centres. We call on all our communities to visit these facilities for their wellbeing. Free services have also been extended for all COVID-19-related and Mental Health Services at the hospital level for low-income groups, the unemployed and those who are not members of medical schemes.

This financial year should allow us the platform to continue to build an efficient, effective, comprehensive, and inclusive healthcare system capable of delivering on the promises we made to the people of Limpopo. We will do this guided by the oath and promise to meet the electoral, constitutional, and legislative mandates given to us by the people of our province. This Budget should propel us to new heights of service delivery. It should resonate with the expectations of the people of Limpopo and assist in meeting their health needs.

Hon Speaker, allow me to present the Budget breakdown for Vote 7, Department of Health 2023. The overall Budget has increased by 4,6% from the 2022/23 main appropriation and increased by 0,8% from the adjusted appropriation. Within this allocation, equitable share grows by 7,1% from the main appropriation, whereas

conditional grants decrease by 6,4%. The increase in equitable share is towards stabilising the baseline from the previous MTEF reduction.

Equitable share increased by 3,7% from the 2022/23 adjusted allocation whereas conditional grants decreased by 11,7% from the 2022/23 adjusted allocation. The decrease in conditional grants is due to the discontinuation of COVID-19 funding. COVID-19 activities will be rendered within the total allocated Budget of the department. In monetary terms, the total Budget increases from the Budget of R23,6 billion in 2022/23 to R23,8 billion in 2023/24. The total allocation increased by an average of 3,5% over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

Hon Speaker, I am therefore honoured and indeed privileged to table to this noble House the Budget for Vote 7, for 2023/24 to the value of R23,8 billion, which consists of R19,6 billion equitable share, R3,9 billion conditional grants and R210,5 million own revenue. Hon Speaker, the Budget has been allocated for Programme 2, which is District Health Services, R12,6 billion and R2,9 billion has been allocated for Regional, Tuberculosis and Psychiatric hospitals. This allocation is important for the provision of specialised health services not primarily rendered in district hospital services as well as primary healthcare.

Malaria Control services are allocated R73, million from equitable share. Furthermore, an amount of R65,2 million has been allocated within the conditional grant. Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Programme funding including TB Services has been provided at R1,9 billion. An amount of R1,3 billion has been set aside for the running of EMS in the province. Included in this allocation is an amount to purchase 500 ambulances. Tertiary Services in the province have been provided R2,1 billion. These services continue to be provided in Pietersburg and Mankweng Hospitals.

An amount of R851,6 million has been allocated to Health Infrastructure Programme. An amount of R97,3 million has been set aside for the training of health professionals as part of our commitment to reducing vacancy rates. This amount covers medical students who are currently in Cuba and at the Limpopo medical school and nursing students and other medical schools in the country. Hon Speaker, to maintain the stock level at our clinics, health centres and hospitals, an amount of R1,8 billion for medicine allocation has been provided.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, I remain eternally grateful for the continued support and confidence that I receive from my colleagues in the Executive Council led by the Premier, Hon Mathabatha in the execution of my responsibilities. The Premier is also central in guiding us to spend our Budget allocation efficiently and within the prescripts of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999.

A special thanks go to the Portfolio Committee on Health for their robust, frank, and constructive engagements and continuous oversight. We also want to take this opportunity, painful as it is to thank the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for ensuring that the work we do is within the proper legal and constitutional framework. Our gratitude goes to our Acting HOD, Dr Mutheiwana Dombo, and all her generals from DDGs, District Managers, hospital CEOs, Clinical Managers, Nursing Service Managers, and Clinic Managers, and all of you this work is possible because of the sleepless nights

you spend in the Department of Health. You have put so much effort to ensure that our loyalty to this government and the people of Limpopo remains intact and unquestionable.

Let me also thank my family, my mother, my two children, and my siblings for being there especially because they are the ones who suffer the most when I'm not available to be with them. When I miss those school activities, it is painful honourable Members, but sometimes they get to have their aunts and uncles who continuously say, "mommy will be back one day".

Let me conclude by drawing from an astute revolutionary, a former President of Burkina Faso, a Pan-Africanist, Thomas Sankara, who said, "You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness. In this case, it comes from nonconformity, the courage to turn your back on the old formulas, the courage to invent the future. It took the madmen of yesterday for us to be able to act with extreme clarity today. I want to be one of those madmen." So, I want to be one of those madmen for the sake of the health of the people of Limpopo.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much honourable MEC and the Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health for consideration and report back to the House. We are moving to Item 7.1.5, and we shall now call upon the Speaker, Hon Molapo R to present the Budget Speech for Vote 2, Limpopo Legislature. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

(Address by Hon R R Molapo, Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature)

Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the House, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi; Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; leaders of opposition parties, Hon Maraga, Hon Smalle and Hon Maritz; Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane; chairs of portfolio committees, chairperson of the Oversight Mechanism Committee, Hon Maria Lekganyane; honourable Members of this House, acting secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Dr Isaac Nkuna; senior management and officials of the Limpopo Legislature, HODs of various departments present here today, distinguished guests, members of the public in the gallery, media houses, ladies and gentlemen, ke a le dumedisha.

It is my honour and privilege to address you on this special occasion marking the tabling of the Limpopo Legislature 2023/24 Budget Speech before this honourable House. This Budget is presented in this month of April following the celebration of key milestones, Human Rights Day and International Women's Month in March.

Noting the significance of these events is crucial, as the history of this country is inarguably shaped and defined by the anti-apartheid struggle which laid the groundwork of the democracy we experience today.

The trial of 22 women in 1969 illuminates the role of women in the anti-apartheid struggle when they were dramatically pulled out of their homes, during ungodly hours by the Security Branch to be imprisoned without trial in the most horrendous conditions.

The gender specific oral and written stories of threats and torture are better narrated by Limpopo women and mothers such as Lydia Komape, Sarah Moswane, Sophia Matsimela, Maria Makgoloane, Mmatsatsi Nchabeleng, Baese Shikwane and Joyce Mashamba. Shantini Naidoo vividly illustrates some of these in her book entitled, "Women in Solitary, inside the female resistance to apartheid."

Honourable Members, in honour of these heroines of the anti-apartheid struggle, we must therefore, strive to create better conditions for our people than the horrendous struggles and sufferings experienced by these anti-apartheid heroines. The historical context I alluded to inspires the Budget Vote I am presenting to this august House today, creating a better life for all through effective oversight.

As we are being the vanguard of the people, we have the constitutional responsibility to exercise oversight over the Executive, to ensure that they deliver on the promises made to the citizens. We are therefore, obligated to subject to scrutiny the Annual Performance Plans (APPs) tabled by the Executive to ensure that these plans reflect the objectives set in our manifesto to create a better life for all.

This means that, our oversight must move away from routine to being purposive, programme or project-oriented. To this end, oversight should focus on key priority areas, specific government programmes, plans and projects, including the implementation of conditional grants by the various executive organs.

Our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in his State of the Province Address indicated that, "The economic recovery of the province will be guided by specific plans, which are the National Economic Reconstruction, Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan. Through these plans, our deliverables should be measured against the attainment of an inclusive developmental economy."

These pronouncements are very useful not only for oversight but to measure the progress and strides that the province has made thus far. Key to the Socio-Economic Recovery Plan is the support to SMMEs and cooperatives. Procurement from local business and recognition of local manufacturers must be adhered to as a way in which the government can contribute to economic growth and job creation.

As an oversight body, we are therefore pleased that the Limpopo provincial government has allocated R14,195 billion for goods and services and R2,667 billion for capital projects during the 2023/24 financial year. This will go a long way in alleviating poverty in Limpopo.

It will be important for the relevant portfolio committees of the Legislature to monitor the expenditure of these funds and ensure that businesses owned by women, youth and people with disability benefit from the procurement. Our oversight must, therefore, shift from routine issues to bread-and-butter issues, to ensure that our oversight is developmental in approach.

Honourable Members, Thomas Kuhn in his famous book, *“The Structure of Scientific Revolutions”*, theorised of the need for a paradigm shift or movement from one level of scientific knowledge to the other. The Legislature should, therefore, strive to enhance its oversight by shifting from generalised oversight, towards project or programme specific approach which will improve the lives of the people that we represent.

Honourable Members, there is an emerging discourse in South Africa on moral and ethical leadership as deliberated in the South African Association of Public Administration conference held in 2022. Ethical leadership is a very important component of government, especially, in the executive departments and municipalities.

Ethical leadership promotes good corporate governance by paying attention to standards of good value. Our Committee on Ethics and Members Interests is functional and well-versed to deal with all ethical related issues and declaration of interests. Honourable Members, oversight is one of the core mandates that the Legislature exists to fulfil as provided for in our Constitution.

Reflecting on the significance of oversight, a French political scientist, historian and politician, Alexis de Tocqueville, once remarked the following, “As I see it, only God can be all-powerful without danger, because his wisdom and justice are always equal to his power. Thus, there is no authority on earth so inherently worthy, or invested with a right so sacred, that I would want to let it act without oversight or rule without impediment.”

Honourable Members, our responsibility to exercise oversight is fundamental to the protection of the resources that the public has entrusted us with. It is a responsibility that we cannot fail on, due to the fact that we are the representatives of the public, hence, wherever there is anything that involves the public, we must pursue it with vigour.

The South Africa-born American entrepreneur Elon Musk expresses this even more sufficiently when he remarked that, “I think whenever something is, whenever there’s something that affects the public good, then there is a need to be some form of public oversight.”

As the representatives of the people entrusted with the power to oversee public goods and services on behalf of the electorate, we cannot fail in this mission. Our actions or inaction may have implications regarding the betterment of people’s lives or aggravating their already debilitating living conditions.

In either case, through our actions or inaction, we remain accountable to the people as shown by the following words by John Stuart Mill, the English philosopher and political

economist, “A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury.”

Taking a leaf from the words of the President Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address when reflecting on the challenges facing our nation, he remarked that, “We cannot proceed as we usually would. The people of South Africa want action, they want solutions, and they want government to work for them.”

It is this spirit outlined by our President that we must embody as the representatives of the people. Honourable Members, to this end, the Legislature would like to appreciate the work done by our portfolio committees in exercising robust and effective oversight over the executive departments.

We continue to pride ourselves as an oversight body of the consistency in performance as demonstrated by the following institutions in our province:

- Provincial Treasury was able to obtain clean audit opinion for six consecutive years;
- Office of the Premier obtained clean audit reports for three consecutive years;
- Economic Development, Environment and Tourism obtained clean audits for two consecutive years; and
- Limpopo Gambling Board obtained clean audits for three consecutive years.

This is the result of the hard work informed by moral and ethical leadership of men and women in various structures within and outside these departments, the Audit Committees, Internal Audit Committees, Risk Management, Senior Management, CFOs, HODs and portfolio committees.

We also want to applaud and thank the work of Chapter 9 Institutions, especially, the Auditor-General, for continually working together with the Legislature to assist our portfolio and Standing Committees in holding the Executive accountable. There is power in collaboration.

Working together with all structures we will continue to enhance our oversight initiatives. In line with this principle, we appreciate the efforts of our committees in conducting oversight and robustly engaging with the Executive as required by the Constitution. For instance, in the previous financial year, we held 62 oversight committee meetings through which we produced 146 oversight reports detailing our findings and recommendations to the House.

The Legislature continues to play its oversight role of holding the Executive Authority accountable through the public hearing process. In this regard, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) has made a great stride on its oversight work.

It is currently processing the 2021/22 financial year audit outcomes and annual reports of all provincial departments and public entities. The committee is continuing with more public hearings in the 2023/24 financial year to hold the Executive accountable.

Honourable Members, Information Sharing, and Capacity-building Programmes are central to the empowerment of MPACs. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has been playing a crucial role in supporting the MPACs in the province through the provincial MPAC forums and other strategic sessions so far.

Vhembe District Municipality, Makhado Local Municipality, Musina Local Municipality, Waterberg District and Mopani District Municipalities and BaPhalaborwa had benefited from the support of the Scopa.

The Legislature encourages all the MPACs in the province to engage with Scopa on its forums to enhance oversight and financial accountability. The Scopa in the province will lead the process of re-establishing the National Municipal Public Accounts Committee.

Honourable Members, the Legislature through the Portfolio Committee on Education made several site visits to various schools in our province. We applaud the improvement in the Grade 12 final year results from 66,7% in 2021 academic year to 72,1% in 2022 academic year. This represents a 5,4% increase as compared to the last academic year.

The improvement in Grade 12 outcomes provides an important epistemological access to higher education as it attempts to address what Jonathan Kozol calls “Savage Inequalities” in our education system.

Members of the Legislature, working within the parameters of the ethnographic approach, visited public schools and all special schools in Capricorn, Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts to gather first-hand information in an attempt to answer the question, “What constitutes a good school?”

The challenges facing these schools were also mapped out and strides are being made to find better ways to improve the condition in these schools.

The Portfolio Committee on Education was able to visit some of the following schools for oversight on their infrastructure:

- Malamulele High School;
- Lwaphungu Secondary School; and
- Ratseke Primary School.

It is encouraging to note that the department has significantly attended to the infrastructural challenges that were facing these schools.

Honourable Members, several oversight visits by the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to various libraries enabled the committee to engage with communities on the challenges facing these facilities. During these oversight visits, contractors and service providers indicated the significance of ensuring good quality and completing infrastructure projects on time.

Through its mandate of establishing an effective, safe, and affordable transport system, the Portfolio Committee on Transport conducted site visits to various traffic control centres

and weighbridges. These include, Mantsole which is the Limpopo's biggest weighbridge on the N1 near Bela-Bela, the one north of Polokwane situated along the R101 and adjacent to the N1, Zebediela on the N1 adjacent to Nyl Plaza, and Rathoke on N11 near Marble Hall.

The facilities check compliance of goods vehicles and passenger transport in terms of National Road Traffic Act, so, once a vehicle is non-compliant, the vehicle is detained to allow for load corrections. Fines are issued to transgressors. The Portfolio Committee on Transport found out that overloaded vehicles use various escape routes such as R101, R37 Lebowakgomo, and the R576 Dendron.

Our province is mainly plagued by large vehicle involved in accidents, especially along the N1 which is a huge concern to us. All of these matters require effective monitoring and urgent intervention to minimise the challenges alluded to.

In collaboration with the Department of Transport, our Portfolio Committee on Transport makes efforts from time to time, especially during major holidays like Easter and Christmas to monitor the situation on our roads.

In the previous financial year, the Legislature conducted 16 site visits. It is still the Legislature's plan to intensify on site visits by among others, embarking on oversight to the Limpopo border posts to observe the state and functionality of infrastructure.

These visits will also assist in establishing and assessing the capacity of SAPS and vehicle deployments at the border posts. It is during such ventures that the issue of undocumented immigrants may also be explored as it has implications on the provincial Budget and the division of revenue.

Honourable Members, the audit outcomes for municipalities in Limpopo have significantly improved in the 2021/22 financial year. Moreover, as per Legislature's resolution, there is a reduction in the number of municipalities using consultants to prepare annual financial statements, and this is important.

The Legislature will continue to perform its oversight function on municipalities through the provisions set by the law to ensure that services are delivered to the people. Municipalities account directly to the municipal council and can only account to the Legislature through the relevant department of local government.

In terms of the MFMA section 133, and the Municipal Systems Act, 2000, section 47, the MEC for CoGHSTA has a responsibility to table to the Legislature the following:

- Audit outcomes of municipalities; and
- Consolidated report on the performance of the municipalities in the province in terms of MSA (Municipal Systems Act, 2000) section 47.

Flowing from these provisions and based on the outcome of the state of municipalities report, Greater Tzaneen, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena, Modimolle- Mookgophong, Bela-Bela and Mopani accounted to the Legislature through CoGHSTA. The indirect

intervention of the Legislature in the work of the municipalities is also enhanced through capacity-building initiatives that are offered to MPACs.

Honourable Members, the Legislature is committed through effective oversight and collaboration to ensure that economic development of the province is enhanced. The Portfolio Committee on Economic Development has managed to engage with LEDA and all its subsidiaries and divisions on their financial status and strategic plans.

Drawing from this, oversight visits were conducted in the Musina-Makhado SEZ and Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, Tshepong and Sefateng mines, and recommendations were made to ensure that local communities are empowered through procurement, skills development, and transfer.

Honourable Members, during the National Council of Provinces Week, the Legislature visited infrastructure development and agricultural projects in the Sekhukhune District. The targeted projects include the Flag Boshielo Dam, De Hoop Dam, Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture, and irrigation schemes such as Mogalatjane, Steelpoortdrift and Tswelopele.

Other infrastructure projects comprise the following:

- The Tubatse Single Lane Bridge;
- Thorncliffe low-lying bridge;
- Maroga Bulk Water Supply; and
- The abandoned D4420 Road in Atok.

During these visits, recommendations were made by the NCOP, and the MECs made commitments towards the implementation of these projects. These oversight engagements have yielded positive results.

Recent reports suggested that there is progress particularly on the Steelpoort Bridge as the MEC for Public Works has alluded to, which is critical in the socio-economic development and implementation of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone.

The Legislature conducted oversight visits in Vhembe District in Dovheni Irrigation Scheme, Nwanedi Packhouse and farms, Matsika Banana project and Madzivhandila College. In Waterberg District, the Legislature visited various projects such as Bakotudi Cooperative, Rejarenamile Cooperative, Galeboe poultry, Botsalanong Project, Colchester Livestock and African Cattle project.

Some of the recommendations by the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture included that, the department address the challenges of farmer support, water rights, alternative energy sources and also ensuring that farmers introduce younger generations in the agri-business.

A follow-up joint committee and stakeholder visit took place in Matiani village in order to address the issue of stock theft affecting communities closer to the Kruger National Park. While some issues have not been fully addressed, it is encouraging to see the provincial

government's response on the foot and mouth disease as well as filling of veterinary posts.

There is still a need to address other stakeholders such as SANPARKS, farmers and traditional leaders. As an oversight body, the Legislature remains resolute that catalytic projects such as the Makgoba Tea Estate, Zebediela Citrus, Norjax Tomato Paste, Lebowaqomo Abattoir, the Science and Technology Park should be resuscitated for the purposes of local economic development.

The Legislature visited reserves such as Potlake, Doorndraai Dam Nature reserves and Makapans Valley World Heritage Site. Key challenges identified were that there were infrastructural damages in most reserves. The Legislature recommends that a conservation budget be allocated to ensure that the reserves remain attractive in order to yield the necessary benefit to the local economy.

Honourable Members, all of the initiatives I have outlined thus far, serve as testimony that the Legislature is at hard work. We are committed through the effective oversight and working together with our provincial government to ensure that services are delivered to our people.

Honourable Members, section 118(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires a provincial legislature to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of a legislature and its committees. This is one of the fundamental roles that enables the citizenry to meaningfully partake in our legislative processes.

It is during these interactions with the Legislature that citizens are given an opportunity to make their inputs and, in some instances, obtain feedback on the progress regarding petitions submitted. In order for public participation to be effective, the citizens must be well-informed in order for them to make meaningful contributions.

Thomas Jefferson, an American statesman, and diplomat captures the essence of educating the citizens in a truly democratic state, "An enlightened citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic. Self-government is not possible unless the citizens are educated sufficiently to enable them to exercise oversight. It is therefore imperative that the nation see to it that a suitable education be provided for all its citizens."

This view is amplified by Africa's acclaimed literary genius Chinua Achebe, having observed the challenges facing African democracies remarked that, "a functioning, robust democracy requires a healthy, educated, participatory followership."

Citizens who are well-informed regarding legislative processes are key for the survival and sustainability of democracy and accountability. It is for this reason why the Legislature continues to run educational workshops on the role and responsibilities of the Legislature.

COVID-19 presented a challenge in the previous financial years; however, we have since made strides with more than five workshops having been conducted thus far. These workshops will even be more critical as we approach the general elections next year. The

Limpopo Petitions Act provides for members of the community to write a petition to the Committee on Petitions and Public Participation to express their concerns regarding matters relating to service delivery.

In collaboration with the relevant government departments or executive organs, the Legislature has demonstrated its commitment of being the vanguard of the people as can be illustrated by initiatives undertaken in the following matters involving ordinary citizens of our province.

Furthermore, in line with the spirit of our Constitution to reach out to the public, the Limpopo Legislature has ensured that among others, the following engagements with the public were undertaken:

- The committee conducted public outreach sessions in Dzanani village and Thohoyandou where educators, members of the school governing bodies school principals and school management teams from Vhembe East and West Circuits participated.
- The Legislature also held various sectoral parliaments. The Women's Parliament and Parliament for the Elderly were successfully held in our Legislative Chamber.

It is through these sectoral parliaments that the Legislature afforded individuals and groups from different sectors the opportunity to discuss matters affecting them. Sectoral parliamentary sessions are therefore useful mechanisms to promote and enhance participatory democracy.

In this financial year, we are planning to continue with our programme of having sectoral parliaments and educational workshops to educate the public on the role and responsibilities of the Legislature to enable them to participate effectively in our processes.

Honourable Members, law-making is one of the core mandates of the Legislature. The Legislature successfully supported the national Portfolio Committee on Basic Education in conducting public hearings on Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill in Vhembe, Mopani and Capricorn, Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts.

Public hearings were successfully conducted and were covered on different media platforms. They were well-attended by members of the public, organisations, and forums. The Legislature recognises the importance of capacity-building of its workforce in order to fulfil the core mandates outlined with the Budget Speech.

In addition to the provision of the bursary support to staff and honourable Members who are studying with various institutions, capacity-building and training workshops were facilitated in the previous financial year. These are ongoing initiatives to ensure that both staff and honourable Members are well capacitated to fulfil their functions and responsibilities.

Having outlined our key achievements and areas of focus in this Budget Speech, we remain resolute that we will use the available human and financial resources to vigorously

pursue our core mandate and priorities as outlined in our Annual Performance Plan as tabled in this House in March 2023.

Honourable Members, the total Budget allocation for Limpopo Legislature for the 2023/24 financial year is R492,4 million of the equitable share. This Budget shows an increase of 1,3% when compared to the prior year allocation. The slight increase is due to a correction of the shortfall on the compensation of employees' allocation.

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 main programmes of the Legislature as follows:

Programme 1: Administration

This programme has been allocated R181 million in the 2023/24 financial year in order to provide strategic leadership and administrative support to the entire Legislature.

Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Party Support

Facilities for Members and political parties has been allocated R192,7 million in the 2023/24 financial year to provide for the compensation of Members and support to political parties.

The allocation to programme 2 includes the direct charge of R52,5 million for the remuneration of Members as well as an amount of R119,3 million as required by section 34(5) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009. This R119,3 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 R118,7 million in the 2023/24 financial year to provide services related to oversight, public participation and law-making.

As I conclude this Budget Speech, let me take this opportunity to thank honourable Members of this Legislature for their support. I acknowledge the work of the Oversight Mechanism Committee, led by Hon Lekganyane, for your oversight role.

I would also like to thank the acting Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Dr Isaac Nkuna and the management for your commitment in fulfilling your responsibilities. Honourable Members, it is my honour and privilege to table the Limpopo Legislature 2023/24 Budget Vote to this House.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The Budget Speech is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House. We shall now move to the next Item. Hon Chair of Chairs will give us the announcements.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chair of Chairs, MECs, honourable Members and all our guests, kgotso. Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I wish to announce that after consultation with the Programming Committee, it was decided that when this House rises today, it will convene again on Tuesday, 13 June 2023.

The prolonged adjournment of this House is solely to afford the committees ample time to interrogate the departmental and public entities' Budgets, and the Annual Performance Plans, and to report back to the House. Committees are also requested to include in their engagements with departments quarterly reports. Committees are implored to stick to their schedules and time frames for the considerations of the Budget time processes by the end of June 2023.

Hon Speaker, the lunch for honourable Members will be served in the main committee boardroom and all guests will be served in the basement which is in Block 01.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

9. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Chair of Chairs. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much. The House is adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning, honourable Members, and welcome to our session. Today, we resume our Legislative Sittings following the House's adjournment, which allowed committees enough time to review the numerous reports and assignments before them.

We trust that the time allocated was adequate and the House is reconvening to afford committees an opportunity to report on their progress. Honourable Members, for the record, allow me to begin with this announcement.

During the recess, Hon Desiree van der Walt was sworn in on 05 May 2023, as a Member of the Limpopo Legislature representing the Democratic Alliance and assuming the leadership of the DA. She replaces Hon Smalle, who resigned as a Member of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature. Let's take this opportunity to welcome her. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you. Let's proceed with our programme. We are now moving to the next item.

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

**EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE PROVINCIAL ORGANISED CRIME UNIT IN
POLOKWANE FOR APPREHENDING DRUG DEALERS
(Motion without Notice)**

Hon Speaker, the ANC would like to convey words of gratitude to the Provincial Organised Crime Investigation Unit in Polokwane, together with its stakeholders, as they continue to crack the whip on drug dealers in our province.

In the evening of Wednesday, 07 June 2023, our men and women in blue apprehended yet another drug dealer in Bendor, Polokwane. The Provincial Organised Crime Unit received information about a suspect who was selling drugs at a tavern in Ladanna.

They followed up on the information that led to the suspect: he was closely monitored until he drove away to Bendor. The suspect was followed and was apprehended as he was entering one of the complexes in Bendor.

Upon searching his vehicle, sachets of crystal meth, rock and khat with an estimated street value of R500 000.00 was found. The 47-year-old suspect was immediately arrested, and the drugs as well as the vehicle were also confiscated.

The suspect appeared before the magistrate court on 09 June 2023 and was charged with unlawful possession and dealing in illicit drugs. Hon Speaker, as the ANC, we encourage our SAPS in the province to continue cracking the whip in their concerted efforts to save the lives of our people and build a drug-free province.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS APHIRI

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Desiree van der Walt, you are recognised.

MS VAN DER WALT

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES FOR THE PASSING ON OF MARLENE VAN STADEN

(Motion without Notice)

I hereby move that this House notes with sadness the passing of Hon Cllr Marlene van Staden, the Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality on 8 June 2023 due to cancer.

Mayor van Staden made history in 2016 to become the first opposition Mayor in Limpopo, and again in 2021 when her election as Mayor was decided by the toss of a coin. She

was deeply loved by our party, the people of Limpopo, and beyond, as an incredibly dynamic and forthright Mayor who lived and breathed our values and principles.

She will also be remembered for being instrumental in building solid relationships with civil society organisations to better capacitate and improve governance. Marlene was dedicated, resilient and a powerhouse in local government, her strength of conviction and sheer determination softened by a wonderful sense of humour and gentle kindness.

Always optimistic, passionate, and of course, extremely well prepared in her work, colleagues serving on the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA experienced this when she presented to them the status of her municipality recently.

Marlene is survived by her husband, Hannes, and two very young boys, Luan and Dian. Mayor Marlene touched the lives of many and will live on as a true example of a dedicated public servant, a loving wife and mother, and a true friend. She will be sorely missed.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. 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 van der Walt. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

POOR AND SHOCKING AUDIT OUTCOMES IN LIMPOPO MUNICIPALITIES
(Motion without Notice)

I stand here on behalf of the EFF to move the motion without notice to the House. The Auditor-General found in her report that in Limpopo, only two municipalities, Waterberg and Capricorn Districts received clean audit outcomes.

The audit outcomes in many municipalities are either not improving or regressing, and this has been the case for several years. The majority of these municipalities are engulfed by a lack of internal control systems and a lack of stability at the management level.

Of the 27 municipalities, only Mopani District Municipality received a disclaimed audit opinion in the 2021/22 financial year. The municipality has received two successive disclaimer audit reports.

Four municipalities, Musina, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Ephraim-Mogale, regressed from an unqualified audit opinion with findings to a qualified opinion because they did not adequately monitor and review their internal controls to ensure that these were operating effectively.

To make matters worse, there is uncertainty over the ability of six municipalities to continue operating. Poor governance systems coupled with poor leadership at the provincial level can be attributed to these embarrassing failures at the local government level.

Service delivery in this province is in serious jeopardy unless something drastic can be done immediately. Unfortunately, the government has run out of ideas. Only the EFF government in the 2024 elections, will turn things around.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mapoulo.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO MR JOHANNES MAROS MOSEHLA ON
BECOMING THE OLDEST COMRADES MARATHON FINISHER
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the ANC to present a congratulatory message asking this House to note that:

- The ANC takes this opportunity to applaud and congratulate the 81-year-old Johannes Maros Mosehla from GaMogashoa Village in Jane Furse under Sekhukhune Region. On Sunday, 11 June 2023, he became the oldest Comrades Marathon finisher.

- Not only did he become the oldest Comrades Marathon finisher, but when Mr Mosehla crossed the finish line at Hollywood Bets, Kingsmead, completing the iconic Ultra-Marathon in 9:26:10 seconds, he broke the long-standing record of 34 years set by Wally Hayward, who finished the race in 10:58:03 seconds in 1989 at the age of 80.
- Mr Mosehla was the oldest finisher of the 2022 event by six years, achieving a more than respectable time of 11:31:27. Mr Mosehla, a member of the Polokwane Athletic Club, completed his 10th Comrades Marathon, making him by far the oldest person to join the prestigious Green Number Club.
- By successfully completing the Comrades Marathon in ten separate years, a runner is allowed to choose an available race number, which then becomes his or her number in perpetuity. In any subsequent Comrades race, that number is worn by its owner on a green, rather than a white, background to give distinction to its owner.
- This is known as the Comrades Green Number. Alternatively, one can gain a Green Number by winning the Comrades Marathon three times or earning five gold medals, which are given to the first ten people who complete the Comrades Marathon.
- With a doubt, we believe that Mr Mosehla will participate in the 2024 Comrades Marathon to show off his Green Number and may even break his own record as the oldest-ever Comrades Marathon finisher, as he indicated that he intends to continue as long as he is still alive and strong.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Aphiri. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings in the name of Jesus.

**MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT, HON TINA JOEMAT-PETTERSSON**
(Motion without Notice)

I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise on behalf of the ANC, to announce a bereavement as a motion without notice for the House to note, that:

- The ANC dips its revolutionary banner as we mourn the sudden passing on of Cde Tina Monica Joemat-Pettersson.
- As the ANC, we are devastated by the untimely passing of Cde Tina Monica Joemat-Pettersson, a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the National Working Committee (NWC) of the ANC.
- Death has robbed our movement and the people of South Africa of a humble, dependable, and dedicated servant. The ANC pays tribute to this extraordinary freedom fighter whose sacrifices and commitment to the liberation of her people remain a source of inspiration to many young cadres of our movement.
- All those who love justice, freedom, and democracy, will sorely miss her intellectual sharpness, political maturity, and passion for defending those who are vulnerable in our society, especially women. In this regard, Cde Tina, was unrelenting in her gender activism.
- Comrade Tina has a rich history of struggle and service to the people of South Africa. She was a leader who had a calling to serve the people of South Africa and chose to surrender her own life at an early stage to the service of the people.
- Her life was a living example that revolutionary leaders are not born but emerge from experience. They are shaped and nurtured by the daily struggles of the people and the values of the freedom struggle.
- She was born in the Northern Cape. Cde Tina was an active member of the Azanian Students Organisation between 1985 and 1986. She was a teacher at Pescodia Secondary School in 1987 and at Homevale Senior Secondary School between 1992 and 1993.
- During the period 1989 to 1991, she was a tutor in History. From 1992 to 1993, she was a tutor in English for the National Education Coordinating Committee and the Education Development Trust.
- She was also a research assistant to the Head of the English Department at the University of the Western Cape in 1990 and a member of the National People's Education Panel in 1992.

- Following the 1994 democratic breakthrough, Cde Tina Monica Joemat-Pettersson served as a Member of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. She served as the MEC for Education, Arts and Culture and later as the MEC for Agriculture.
- At national level, she served as the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from 2009 until 2014. She was later appointed as the Minister of Energy. At the time of her passing, Cde Tina was the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police.
- A teacher by profession, Cde Tina continued to be a well of wisdom for those pursuing the goal of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa. She stood firm on her beliefs even when her stance attracted criticism or personal attacks.
- The ANC urges its members and activists to emulate the example of dedication, discipline, and loyalty that Cde Tina displayed. Even in death, her voice will continue to speak in defence of ordinary people.
- In her memory and in carrying forward the legacy she leaves behind, we must recommit ourselves to work towards a better life, anchored around the clause in the Freedom Charter that says, “All national groups shall have equal rights.”

May the revolutionary soul of this freedom fighter rest in eternal peace! I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Deputy Chief Whip.
[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members! Thank you very much. Are there any other motions without notice? If none, honourable Members, we may all rise and observe a moment of silence for the passing on of the Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality and the late Member of Parliament, Cde Tina Monica Joemat-Pettersson.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you.

Let's proceed, honourable Members.

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.

CONCERN BY THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE FOLLOWING THE PASSING AWAY OF A SUSPECT IN DENDRON POLICE CUSTODY (Members' Statement)

The DA has expressed concern over the death of 28-year-old Lucky Lehlogonolo Shikwana, who passed away whilst in police custody at the Dendron Police Station last week. The deceased was apprehended by the police for allegedly stealing a cell phone in Mogwadi Village.

According to the deceased's mother, who saw his remains at the state mortuary, he had injuries on his chest, and it appeared that his jaw was broken. This incident marks another instance of police brutality emanating from the Dendron Police Station. The case is currently under investigation by IPID.

Honourable MEC, through you Hon Speaker, it is simply unacceptable that, at a time when crime has reached an all-time high, corrupt individuals within the SAPS have become agents for the victimisation of South Africans by taking the law into their own hands.

The historical incapacity of IPID to hold the SAPS accountable directly contributes to the loss of public confidence in the SAPS. How many cases of alleged police brutality at the Dendron Police Station that are being investigated by IPID and what are the status of these cases?

Lastly, I would like to enquire if the MEC and the provincial commissioner have any plans to visit the police station and intervene, given that this is not the first incident. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable Members, I must bring to your attention that some of your interactions are significantly interfering with the proceedings of this House. It is not permissible to speak while a Member has the platform. May we proceed? Are there any other Members' Statements? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE EFF'S CONDEMNATION OF AN IMMINENT THREAT TO CLOSE THE
KGAPANE CLINIC**
(Members' Statement)

I, Managa Lilian, a member of the Economic Freedom Fighters, the official opposition party in this House, stand here to present a members' statement condemning the imminent threat to close the Kgapane Clinic in Kgapane.

This happened after a law firm of Talane and Associates, acting on behalf of their client Mr Tebogo Ramoshaba, litigated against the Department of Health in Limpopo, seeking to relocate Kgapane Clinic from the land he claims to own. This legal action followed unsuccessful negotiations to sell the land to the department.

It is alleged that the Department of Health and Public Works in Limpopo attempted to negotiate with Mr Tebogo Ramoshaba for the purchase of the land. However, representatives from both departments could not agree on the amount, resulting in the collapse of the negotiations.

It boggles our minds why this matter was left for such a long time without being resolved. Why was the clinic initially built on private land rather than on land owned by the state or by the municipality? This is yet another example of the many radical failures of the current government.

Our people deserve uninterrupted provision of primary health care services and other services. It is the EFF's view that both parties must resolve their issues without disrupting service delivery because the people of Kgapane deserve primary health care just like all other citizens in the province.

It is ironic to want to close a clinic which only operates within business hours, meaning that the people are not receiving full primary health care services 24 hours a day. No one has the right to punish the people by disrupting services because of the differences they may have against each other regarding the land in question, which they could not resolve over a period of time.

This illegal battle of land between the two departments and Mr Ramoshaba clearly reinforces the EFFs position, especially on the seven none-negotiable cardinal pillars. Cardinal pillar number one is clear on the need to expropriate land without compensation for equal redistribution.

In the context of this case, a person bought land for R600 back then in 1998, and somebody now demands millions for the very same land that was bought in 1998. It is for this reason that the Economic Freedom Fighters believes that the government must be the custodian of the land to curb such opportunistic transactions.

Finally, the Economic Freedom Fighters will continue to keep a close eye on the matter to ensure that services due to the people of Kgapane are not disrupted. The two

departments must make sure that the matter is quickly resolved to avoid panic and uncertainties amongst the people of Kgapane.

We call upon the MEC for Health and also the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide permanent solution to avoid services being interrupted.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I'm standing here on behalf of the EFF. Honourable Members of the House; the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Hon Ramalobela; ndi matsheloni.

SHORTAGE OF WATER IN THE VHEMBE REGION (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the current administration continues to disappoint our people in terms of service delivery, and there is clearly no hope for improvement in the future. The communities in Vhembe are facing severe water shortages.

The affected municipalities are Thulamela, Makhado and Collins Chabane. Among the areas affected is Khomele, Smokie Village in Ward 37 of Makhado, which has not seen a drop of water for four consecutive years.

There are households whose taps are rusting because they have not received water for almost 12 months due to low water pressure from the main line. The Vhembe communities are grappling with this water crisis at a time when the country is experiencing a surge in cholera cases.

This leaves Vhembe to be more predisposed to Vibrio cholera bacteria. Now the people of Vhembe are left with no choice but to use water that is not purified from the rivers, dams and springs.

Service delivery has not yet reached the people of Vhembe, who continue to drink water with animals. Cholera bacteria are transmitted when people drink water or eat food contaminated with the cholera bacteria.

The Vhembe District Municipality, as the water authority, is failing to provide safe drinking water to the people of Limpopo. We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, to investigate this matter and find permanent solution to the water problem in the Vhembe Region.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maraga. Are there any other Members' Statements? Honourable Members, we may now allow Members from the Executive to respond to or comment, if they have anything. The MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Radzilani, you are recognised. After that, the MEC, Hon Makamu, will follow.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, MEC for Provincial Treasury and all other MECs present here, Members of this august House, good morning to you all.

Hon Speaker, I rise to respond on the issue presented to this august House by Hon Phala. Let me appreciate the statement presented by Hon Phala and also confirm that it is true that we have a registered case in Mokgadi Police Station where the suspect, who was arrested due to common robbery, passed away.

It is alleged that in the process of the arrest, they found that the deceased was injured on the chest. This is something which, through the provincial commissioner, we have insisted that the investigation must continue. Particularly, when you look at the laws that govern our police, if the suspect is injured, there must be a provision for a doctor to attend to the person who is apprehended.

Since the report from the doctor was not available, the Provincial Commissioner, Ms Hadebe, directed the District Commissioner to investigate. On our side, as the department, through IPID, the investigations are ongoing. I have also noted the submission regarding how many cases in Mokgadi. Of course, upon standing here, I won't be able to account for those cases. I am not aware of them.

I will request this august House to give us time to conduct a thorough check because, we understand, as a province, we have number of police stations. Therefore, the focus is on the entire Limpopo, not necessarily on one police station.

I don't think it will also be relevant or good to test the capacity of IPID based on one police station. We also want to indicate that we will make sure to check on the cases registered with IPID, examining both those that have been concluded and those that are still in the process of being finalised.

We can't say they are not capable. Let's wait for that report. Thanks so much. When Members bring issues here, we have to be accountable, Hon Speaker. We are obliged by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It is part of our responsibility.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. We shall now call upon Hon Makamu, the MEC for CoGHSTA, to come to the podium.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council in this august House. I greet you all.

I will now respond to the issues raised by the Members, starting with the shortage of water in the Vhembe District Municipality, which is contributing to the cholera outbreak.

I want to address the challenges of water in the Vhembe District Municipality, which are currently being attended to by the department with the support of the water service authority for local municipalities. Members may be aware that over the past two weeks, there have been serious water challenges.

This prompted us, as the department, to hold a meeting to support the district municipalities, especially addressing the issue of the hospitals in Vhembe that were not receiving water. I can report that this matter has been resolved and the hospitals are now receiving water.

Regarding the cholera outbreak, I, as the MEC for CoGHSTA, had a joint meeting with the MEC for Health. We briefed the joint Committees of Health and CoGHSTA. I believe other honourable Members were part of that meeting where we presented the plans we have for dealing with cholera in our province, particularly in the Waterberg District and Musina Municipality, which have been significantly affected.

I think all honourable Members from both portfolio committees, CoGHSTA and Health, have considered our plans, including the establishment of a Disaster Management Centre to ensure success. This is why the province has been able to contain the cholera outbreak, despite neighbouring Gauteng facing serious challenges. We applaud the province for successfully managing these issues.

Another issue I want to address is the imminent closure of the clinic at Kgapane. Firstly, I must clarify that the land where the clinic is situated belongs to the Department of Public Works. The adjacent land, a playground, belongs to the municipality, and the municipality has sold it to a company called Ditika.

Ditika has tried to sell the land back to the government at a very exorbitant price. As a responsible government, we can't just give money to people when they don't deserve it. When selling land, negotiations must be conducted and the land must be valued for a reasonable price.

The contention with the landowner, represented by Ramoshaba Talane Artisan, arises because they are demanding an exorbitant price that the government is not prepared to pay.

As a government, we are actively engaging all parties to resolve this issue, ensuring that the people in the Kgapane area have access the clinic. We can assure the House that the Department of CoGHSTA, the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are working to resolve this challenge.

The House can rest assured that this problem is in good hands, and we are capable of resolving it. However, we also confirm that we will not misuse public funds by paying more than necessary for a place that we don't believe is worth the cost.

Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MECs for the responses that you gave. We may now proceed to the next item.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

6.1. Tabling of the 2021/22 Auditor General's Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes in terms of the MFMA

The MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, you may table the report.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Members of this august House, Opposition and Executive Council present here, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, Section 29(3)(d) of the Public Audit Act, 2004 (Act 25 of 2004) as amended, requires that when the Auditor-General issues a special report, the report must simultaneously be submitted to the relevant Legislature for tabling. In line with the provisions of the above-mentioned legislation, I, therefore, table the 2021/22 MFMA Consolidated General Report for consideration by this House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

6.2. Tabling of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003): In-year Monitoring Section 71(7) Reporting: 31 March 2023 by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

TABLING OF THE CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003

Section 71(7) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) provides that 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 the Municipal Budgets per municipality and per municipal entity.

The MEC for Finance must submit such consolidated statements to the provincial Legislature no later than 5 days the end of each quarter.

Hon Speaker, in compliance with the above-mentioned legislation, I, therefore, table the Consolidated Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) section 71(7) Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2023, for consideration by this House.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism

I now call upon the committee chairperson to table these reports.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, honourable Members, leaders of the opposition. Good morning.

I, Hon Mokaba, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LEDET for the 2022/23 Second Quarter be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, hereby support the tabling of the report by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. You may proceed, honourable chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LEDA for the Second Quarter of 2022/23 be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

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, hereby support the tabling of the report by Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You may proceed again, honourable chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LTA for the Second Quarter of 2022/23 be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to support the tabling of the report by Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You may proceed again, honourable chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and honourable Members. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LGB for the Second Quarter of 2022/23 be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move. 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 honourable chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Honourable chair, you may proceed with the next item.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LEDET for the Third Quarter of 2023/24 be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Simon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to support the tabling of the report by Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You may proceed, honourable chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LEDA for the Third Quarter of 2022/23 be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You may proceed, honourable chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LTA for the Third Quarter of be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the report as tabled by the chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Committee on LGB for the Third Quarter of 2022/23 be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Matlou Joshua, hereby support the tabling of the report by Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Violet Mathye. My apologies Hon Mathye. However, the first speaker on the list under the Economic Development is Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Ms Mapula Mokaba; Hon Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Official Opposition; and all Members of this august House. I greet you.

Hon Speaker, the purpose of the Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism in Limpopo is to promote economic growth, protect the natural environment, and enhance the tourism sector in the province. These areas are interconnected and contribute to the overall development and well-being of the people of Limpopo.

In its effort to integrate Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, the department also aims to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth that balances economic opportunities with environmental potential.

This approach recognises the importance of preserving the natural heritage in this province by promoting responsible tourism practices and harnessing the potential of the tourism sector, which will contribute to our local economy.

The former President of the ANC and the country, Cde Thabo Mbeki, who served as the President of South Africa from 1999 to 2008 had a deep understanding of economic development.

He emphasised the importance of sustainable and inclusive growth that addresses the historical injustices of inequalities and the structural challenges facing the country. This fundamental objective aimed to address the historical inequalities, promote African development and position South Africa as a leading economy on the continent.

Hon Speaker, following in those footsteps, Hon Stanley Mathabatha, who is the Premier of this province, also emphasises the need for a sustained economy and job creation in the province.

This involves implementing policies and initiatives that attract investments, promote entrepreneurship, and support key industries in our province, with the aim of stimulating economic activities, generating employment opportunities, and improving the standard of living in this province.

Hon Speaker, however, there are fundamental questions that need to be asked and answered by all honourable Members in this august House. The first question is: under what conditions will this development take place?

Do we, as a province or as the department, have the necessary fiscal and human capacity to address the challenges facing the people of Limpopo?

Do the leadership and implementers, particularly the administrators in government departments – specifically, the Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism – and other strategic subsidiaries, stand ready and capable of executing or implementing policies aimed at redressing the injustices of the past discriminations?

Hon Monama, does the leadership of the department place the right people in the right positions to implement such policies? Hon Speaker, when we have time, we should be able to answer these questions.

These questions are asked to remind ourselves of the oversight role we must play as empowered by legislation and other relevant policy documents. All these questions, as I have already indicated, are directed to us as honourable Members and those responsible for implementing policies for the benefit of our people.

We are delighted by the fact that the department, through powers vested in the honourable MEC, will soon appoint a board of directors responsible for the financial viability of the Limpopo Development Agency.

Our understanding is that this board should reflect the demographics of the province – people with skills and expertise, young individuals, and those with the necessary abilities. Over the years, all the boards in this particular province were characterised by older males, which is not ideal.

Honourable MEC, we hope that significant changes will occur. Perhaps these subsidiaries need to be re-energised with the relevant people to pursue the dreams of our province.

Hon Speaker, as I have already indicated, we have realised that the subsidiaries in the department do not include young people, and this is a worrisome factor. It does not include women. It does not include people with disability.

During our oversight visit to the Parliamentary Clubhouse, we noticed that many are men. However, we are pleased that in your incumbency, at least we have seen some women who are leaders as chief executives in those subsidiaries.

Hon Monama, we have got confidence in your leadership, given the fact that you are seasoned as an implementor, an administrator, and now you are responsible for leading this particular department. However, in our oversight work, we identified 27 unresolved resolutions for Scopa.

These unresolved matters arise from irregular, wasteful and fruitless expenditures, corruption, and a lack in consequence management. Hon Speaker, these unresolved challenges have caused stagnation in this particular department, especially in audit outcomes. We encourage the MEC to attempt to resolve those problems to the position the department correctly.

Hon Speaker, particularly the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, as long as there is no implementation of consequence management, irregular,

wasteful and fruitless expenditures will remain a culture of this particular department, and of course, not only this department, but various departments.

There is a pattern of deliberate and systematic criminal activities, because in various departments, no one takes responsibility. Our committee's observation is that most cases involving this particular criminal syndicate happened in these various departments, and there is a lack of consequence management – an absolute failure.

In my understanding, there is a complete failure in the leadership of the department to hold those involved in this particular syndicate accountable. The practice of protecting each other has reached another level and is condoned based on friendships and family relationships, particularly in subsidiaries like LEDA or Risima, etc. This is our observation.

When implementing consequence management for stealing money in this department, we only see letters being sent to the perpetrators of these crime syndicates, suspending them for six months. The mere fact that they are only suspend for six months without recovering the money or making any arrests is a problem that we have identified.

We must honestly interrogate, honourable MEC, these systemic programmes because they might be another factor contributing to the low voter turnout. During presentation by the IEC, some suggest that there is a low voter turnout in our province, and to a particular extent, this might be the cause of the problem.

Our people are not interested in today's boring politics because, to a particular extent, they think we are not appealing to them. Hon Speaker, when we are supposed to take decisions on serious matters, we are, of course, found wanting, Hon Monyamane, due to this particular culture.

If we examine the subsidiaries that are not incurring fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the department, the new leader is the honourable MEC. All these subsidiaries committed wasteful expenditures amounting to R64 million, and it is the fact.

Honourable MEC, this culture needs to stop because we have confidence in you, given your experience of serving in the government for so many years, and now, as the leader of this particular department.

One of the problems we are facing in the sixth administration is that one of the board members involved in a criminal syndicate, just resigned for no particular reason.

Generally, this has happened in various departments, such as RAL and GAAL. We must begin to scrutinise these failures so that we can take action against the responsible officials. Honourable MEC, another worrying factor is that one subsidiary had to be given money, especially without fully knowing their commitment to serving our people.

If they have been given IDP money, they should be able to return that money because they are supposed to generate profit. It is our responsibility, and Treasury continues to give them money for what purpose. This shows the level of incapacity in most of the leaders of these subsidiaries.

During our oversight visit to Lebowakgomo Abattoir, we discovered that the leadership of those subsidiaries did not properly service those projects. This indicates that they are not serious about executing their responsibilities.

Lebowakgomo Abattoir is supposed to hire more than 100 people and contribute to the Limpopo provincial economy. The project is compromised because of unnecessary, useless dealings, adding national losses that are not yielding any positive results. Honourable MEC, we should, by any means possible, try to resuscitate this project for the benefit of our people in Limpopo.

Honourable MEC, if you want to follow what Scopa said you should do, in this particular department, you will receive a clean audit. All these challenges are bestowed upon your shoulders to attempt to correct the incorrect practices that have been legitimised in government departments since the dawn of democracy.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. The next speaker on our list is Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the EFF Caucus, led by Hon Maraga and our Whip, Hon Ramalobela; the permanent Acting Premier of this province, Hon Sekoati; Members of the Executive Council present here today; and all Members of this august House, receive our greetings.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the lack of appetite to instil a culture of discipline and good practices at work within the departments. It takes a disciplined workforce to provide meaningful service to our people.

Poor service delivery in the department and its entities is taking a toll because the employees know that consequence management does not have a meaningful impact and those charged with misconduct are not tried.

The report shows that the department adjudicated only 15% of cases during the period under review which is a clear indication that the department is not serious about finalising these cases.

Hon Speaker, the delays in adjudication of disciplinary cases and unconcluded vacant posts led to the department falling short, especially in the finance management section during the period under review.

The portfolio committee resolved that the MEC must provide comprehensive report detailing the turnaround strategy to address both the delays in adjudication of disciplinary

cases and the fast tracking and conclusion of funded posts. The report must also indicate why there was slow progress in this regard.

This delay in adjudicating disciplinary cases is another form of fruitless and wasteful expenditure because officials are paid for sitting home and doing nothing. Surely, only a caring government will be concerned about this injustice.

Hon Speaker, it is evident that the commercialisation of state nature reserve for revenue generation and sustainability remains a pipe dream for the province because the department has no tangible plans to that effect.

Honourable MEC, the issue of the environment cannot be treated as a by-the-way issue, because this sector has potential to bring about change in unemployment in the province. The EFF, through its manifesto, proposes that some of the nature reserves must be used for environmental and educational purposes to nurture the younger generation's awareness of the ecological limits of the department.

Hon Speaker, LEDET's mandate is to promote and carry out economic development of the province in agriculture, commerce, finance, industry, mining, transport, housing, and exports, as well as investment promotion. Hence, more than 37% of the total Budget for the department is allocated to this project.

It is evident from the reports for the two quarters that the mandate of LEDET is far-fetched and remains a pipe dream because all the catalytic projects were reported to be either delayed or falling short in terms of their targets.

Honourable MEC, this is the situation we find ourselves in, the aftermath of COVID-19 and the high level of unemployment in the province. The under expenditure of 37% of the total Budget of R100 million in the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone infrastructure projects in the period under review was evident enough to show that no work has been done, and the project is assuredly a failure.

In addition, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ was allocated millions, but there was no amount of the expenditure reported in the period under review. This practice of nonreporting opens the floodgates for misuse of the public purse and corruption, which is, of course, synonymous with the ANC-led government.

Hon Speaker, in the 2020 SOPA, the Premier of this province came before this House and presented the operationalisation of the Lebowaqomo Abattoir and promised the people of Limpopo jobs and affordable red meat from the abattoir.

We can report to the people of Limpopo that more than three years down the line, the Lebowaqomo Abattoir is not operational, and there is no hope for it to operate. The people of this province were fed false hope by the non-faithful Premier of this province.

The same could be said about the Limpopo Science and Technology Park project. It is typical of the ANC-led government that is good at talking about services, but when it comes to implementation, dololo. Hon Speaker, the occupancy rate in the Industrial Park

is reported to be high, although the department has failed to provide information on the actual activities, whether they are invested in this nature or not.

The EFF demands that the department provide a progress report on all provincial priority projects and how they are contributing to the economy. If they are not contributing to economic growth, it means that officials responsible for the implementation and monitoring of these projects are not doing what they are supposed to do.

Priority projects must contribute to economic growth and create jobs for the people of our province. The implementation of the Tourism Safety Programme in this province is not coherent, creating uncertainty among tourists and may negatively impact the number of tourists visiting this province.

Hon Speaker, there is no hope in the ANC-led government because nothing is working. Instead, everything collapses at an alarming rate. The solution to our political and economic crises resides in adhering to the seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars of the EFF.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. We shall now invite Hon Phala to take the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

We met and engaged with the department to such an effect that as an entire committee, we were impressed by the MECs hands-on approach, as reflected in his responses. After the lengthy discussions on this quarterly report, these are our recommendations:

As a committee we recommended the following:

- The department should provide a report on how many tourist guides have been registered during the financial year.
- The LTA should provide a detailed report on how they will monitor the Tourism Safety Programme, as they have a partnership with the SAPS, and it is understaffed.
- The department should submit a report on how the vacancy rate affects service delivery.
- The department should have a meeting with GAAL to agree on the gate route from Zimbabwe to Limpopo to reduce road fatalities.

- LEDET should provide a 5-year report of the Marula Festival, excluding COVID-19 pandemic years. The report should include festival planning, number of tickets sold, and the number of people who attended the festival.
- LEDET should meet with the Department of Transport and Community Safety, to monitor the trucks from mines in the Tubatse, addressing the issue of high-speed driving and aiming to reduce or prevent accidents in the region.
- The department should provide a report on the type of support provided under the National Exported Programmes, including the manufacturing support programme and the programme to enhance local participation in the mining sector. This should also identify beneficiaries and outline the communication strategy for these programmes.
- LEDA should provide an implementation plan on the operationalisation of the Lebogakgomo Abattoir, including details on sourcing suppliers and potential markets.
- LEDA should disclose information about their investment ventures.
- A comprehensive report on Corridor Mining Resources activities, along with a plan indicating how the entity can start generating profit, should be provided.
- An update report on how Corridor Mining Resources and Sefateng Chrome mine are addressing the challenges faced by communities surrounding the mine, should be submitted.

Hon Speaker, regarding the LTA, as a committee, we recommended the following:

- The entity should furnish the portfolio committee with a report indicating the latest progress update on the contract and implementation of collaborations with PSL teams.
- The entity should furnish the portfolio committee with information about the support given to 82 SMMEs, including a list and the location of the supported SMMEs.
- LTA should regularly submit a report on the expenditure on local businesses and cooperatives, including those owned by previously disadvantaged individuals.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Mokaba, the floor is now yours.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council present here, leaders of the opposition parties and its members, honourable Members of this House, once again, good morning.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to debate on the 2022/23 Second and Third Quarter Performance Reports for the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism and its entities, namely LEDA, LTA and LGB. The portfolio committee has been briefed by the department and its entities on this programme.

Hon Speaker, LEDET has the critical mandate of growing the economy of the province as well as creating jobs to address the triple challenges of inequalities, poverty, and unemployment. The department has continued to play its role in regulation and creating an enabling environment for the economy to flourish.

It is expected that the entities, including Limpopo Economic Development Agency and its subsidiaries, Limpopo Gambling Board and the Limpopo Tourism Agency have the responsibility to implement the programmes. During the period under review, the department continued to be exemplary in paying invoices within the stipulated time frame.

This is very commendable as it enabled the businesses, especially SMMEs, to continue to operate and contribute to the economy and livelihood of many citizens. In terms of expenditure of funds during the period under review, the department has not been able to meet its target due to various reasons, including an unreliable bus system and funded vacant posts that had not been filled.

We urge the department to finalise the recruitment and fill all vacancies while prioritising critical posts and considering the employment equity targets. As the committee, we have continuously lamented the underperformance of the department in the adjudication of disciplinary cases within the allocated time frame.

We have been told that this is mainly due to delays resulting from postponement, unavailability of chairpersons and representatives of employees or delays by the chairperson. As the committee, we are concerned because this is not just an administrative process to tick a box but affects service delivery since employees with unresolved cases will not be able to fully perform their duties at work.

We urge the department to continue to find a long-lasting solution to these challenges. Honourable Members, the department has made efforts to achieve its priorities; however, our key concern remains the fact that the economy of the province still appears to be colonial with very little local beneficiation.

This makes it difficult for the economy to grow because fewer jobs are created in the province, and there are also fewer opportunities to establish the very chain of businesses, as the focus is only on production or raw material. We are aware that the department has developed an economic recovery plan and also has key catalytic major projects to address these challenges.

As a committee, we recommend the speedy implementation of these catalytic projects and plans to turn around the economy. Hon Speaker, the department has strategically mandated the Limpopo Economic Development Agency as the vehicle to drive economic growth in the province.

Despite the improvements in achieving targets by LEDA for the past two years, there are still subsidiaries that have not been performing as expected in terms of delivering on their departmental and revenue- generating mandate.

Entities such as New Era Life, Great North Transport, and Corridor Mining Resources still need improvement to become self-sustainable and the same applies to the Agri Businesses division. Efforts should be made to ensure that the entities have a direct impact on the province's economy. LEDA and the department should provide quarterly progress reports on these entities.

Hon Speaker, the delays in the implementation of various key strategic projects under the watch of LEDET are a major concern to the portfolio committee. A key case in point is the Lebowakgomo Abattoir, which the committee recently visited and has not been operational since refurbishment in 2012.

Ultimately, the businesses within will see a change in value for both forward and backward initiatives that are not able to be functional. This is the case with Mashashane Hatcheries and farmers' establishments which were supposed to supply the hatchery with eggs and the mortuary with broilers.

Therefore, we are missing out on the opportunity to create much-needed jobs through these projects and also contribute to revenue and enhance the growth of the economy. LEDET and LEDA should ensure that the project is operational by September 2023 as per commitment.

Honourable Members, the province has prioritised the implementation of special economic zones as key and catalytic projects. However, the committee is concerned that there is no progress in the implementation of these key projects.

For instance, the Musina-Makhado SEZ expenditure and implementation of the infrastructure project were reported to be behind schedule. This is one project that has potential to create many jobs and, therefore, should be expedited.

In the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, we welcome the progress made in purchasing the Mining Input Supplier Park as well as in registering the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park entity to facilitate operations.

We urge the department to prioritise the application for the designation of the SEZ by the Department of Trade and Industry and Competition. The department should also ensure that it safeguards the land for the SEZ and addresses the challenges of land invasion.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Gambling Board is mandated with the responsibility of regulating the gambling industry. Through its operations, the entity also plays a critical

role in generating revenue for the Limpopo province. While the entity continues to achieve its targets, the biggest challenge is illegal and online gambling, which is mushrooming despite the efforts of the Law Enforcement Agency.

It is more concerning that illegal gambling machines are found in spaza shops. It is important for business regulation stakeholders to play their roles in this regard, as these unregulated establishments pose a threat to the economy, and the government will not be able to collect revenue from them.

It is also of utmost importance that the law enforcement agency decisively deals with perpetrators in the gambling industry, particularly those who supply equipment and offer illegal gambling facilities.

Hon Speaker, natural resources, particularly biodiversity, play an important role in the economic growth of the province as most people are dependent on these resources. The protection and sustainable use and management of these resources are imperative.

The committee welcomes the progress made by the department in discharging this mandate, especially on environmental authorisation for various developmental projects. The department also needs to ensure that the commercialisation of nature reserves benefits local communities.

Of importance will be to ensure that there are resources to conserve the key biodiversity species which make this reserve attractive to tourists.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Tourism Agency has the critical mandate of promoting the province as a destination of choice for both international and local tourists. We welcome the report that the industry is recovering, and the province is now receiving a high number of tourists since the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, there are areas that the entity still needs to improve. For instance, the issue of partnership with the Limpopo-based Premier Soccer League needs to be implemented in a way that it improves tourism in the province and ultimately benefits the small business owners, thereby improving the economy.

The entity should also improve on marketing the state-owned nature reserves and attraction points in the province. We also welcome the report given directly to SMMEs through exposure in different tourism events and platforms. More efforts should be directed to these businesses owned by previously disadvantaged individuals.

Honourable Members, in conclusion, the committee continues to encourage LEDET to work with relevant stakeholders in playing their roles in creating favourable and conducive environment for businesses, especially SMMEs and cooperatives to thrive.

The platform should enable international investors to establish and operate their businesses in the province. It is important to ensure that the initiatives are directed towards turning around the province's economy and promoting beneficiation, especially in the fields of mineral and agriculture.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the portfolio committee, having considered and scrutinised the 2022/23 Second and Third Quarter Reports on LEDET, Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board, and the Limpopo Tourism Agency, I move that the reports be adopted as the reports of this august House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba. We shall now call upon Hon Monama to respond to the observations made by the honourable Members during the debates.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker of this House, Hon Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council present here, Leader of Government Business, HODs, honourable chairperson of the committee, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party, I greet you all.

Thank you very much for affording us this opportunity to come and respond to the salient and pertinent issues raised by the honourable Members in this august House. Our understanding as the department is that legislative oversight is a constitutional mandate and function. Hence, in your execution of your mandate, we will always be held accountable for every action or inaction that is taken.

In this context, we are taking note of all the issues raised, and we assure you that we will comply with the reports provided. We have submitted numerous reports as requested by the Portfolio Committee on LEDET, and these reports are available for reference.

We have also subscribed to what we call a capable, ethical and developmental state. Hence, in our recruitment process for the human capital we consider, we always recruit people with the requisite skills and competencies, and we are grateful for that.

In terms of the board appointments, these are public entities and any person appointed must meet specific requirements to serve on the board.

All board members are highly qualified for their assigned responsibilities. If there is feedback suggesting that someone may not be properly qualified, we will address that matter. Regarding the public advertisement, we can all acknowledge that the chairperson of LEDA was appointed as the chairperson of Eskom and has since resigned. Therefore, this is currently the only vacancy that we have.

The lifespan of the boards of the entities and subsidiaries that we have will conclude in December 2024. I found these boards in place and cannot change them. They are making a very important contribution, although there are issues that didn't go well, and I'm taking full responsibly for that.

The issue of unwanted expenditure is one that honourable Members raised sharply, and we will ensure that it is addressed at all material times. We cannot leave that unabated, as these are public funds, and we must ensure prudent utilisation of these funds.

There is also the worrying issue of the operationalisation of the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery, a matter that is giving us sleepless nights. We have since established a committee to investigate the matter.

Shenanigans on the part of the operator have been discovered, leading to the implementation of disciplinary measures, and we have terminated the contract. For this reason, the target has been moved to September because, by then, all systems will be in place, and we will be in a position to operationalise the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery.

. In terms of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, we have conducted an analysis of chronic expenditure, observed, and recorded it. We have put an implementation plan in place to ensure that we compensate for the loss due to the underexpenditure recorded there.

Regarding the Science and Technology Park, we are on top of the project and soon we will give a progress report in that regard. In terms of PSL games, the issue arose when they sought financial support. When considering providing funds my first question was whether they had a sponsorship policy, either as the department, or as LTA.

We recommended they draw up a small sponsorship policy. Even though they are in the PSL, they must be tax compliant. As a government, we cannot risk giving money to entities that are not tax compliant, because that money must address some of the social amenities we are facing as a country.

We will address the New Era Life and Risima issues that have been raised. The money transfer aligns with the PFMA, stipulating that we should subsidise them. This august House has taken a decision that the three D's (DDD) must be self-sufficient, as they are listed respective companies under the PFMA. We will handle that matter.

Regarding the legal issue drops us of the fiscus, we will try to work closely with SAPS and the Organised Crime Unit in the province to address this matter, which is of national importance. On the issue of tourism and marketing tourism destination strategies, we are top of the situation due to the Limpopo Socioeconomic Recovery Plan.

We will provide the detailed reports that have been requested. Our challenges include the non-performance of subsidiaries and delays in disciplinary cases, especially within the cumbersome 90-day period. However, when the person, particularly the culprit claims they are not ready in terms of representation, it may not align with what the public perceives as the travesty of justice.

We cannot just overrule that. We must not just say we are doing justice; it must be seen that we are doing justice.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Let's proceed to the next item.

7.4 Second Reading: Approval of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023 [B02-2023]

7.4.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism. Over to you committee chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the committee for the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Vote 6 on LEDET be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Mokaba. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Honourable chairperson, you can proceed.

MS MOKABA

I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the committee for the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for LEDA be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to second the report as presented by Hon Mokaba. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. You can proceed, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and honourable Members. I rise to move that the report of the committee for the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for LTA be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. You can proceed, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. In the final adoption for today from the Economic Development, Environment and Tourism committee, I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to move that the committee report for the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget on LGB be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, rise to second the report as tabled by Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to say all protocols are observed. Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Hon Speaker, I stand before you today to address a critical issue that affects the very fabric of our society: economic performance and its impact on our nation's progress. Our

country's success hinges on several key factors, including job creation, conservation, youth employment, the fight against poverty, inequality, and support for the manufacturing sector.

Firstly, let us acknowledge the importance of economic performance as the bedrock of our nation's stability and growth. A thriving economy creates a ripple effect, stimulating businesses, generating employment opportunities, and fostering innovation.

It is our duty as lawmakers to prioritise policies that bolster our economic performance, ensuring a robust and sustainable future for all. Hon Speaker, one of the paramount challenges we face is the urgent need for job creation.

Unemployment rates have been a persistent concern, honourable MEC, particularly among our youth. We must foster an environment that encourages entrepreneurship, supports small and medium-sized enterprises, and attracts foreign direct investment.

By doing so, we can unlock the potential of our youth, equipping them with the skills and opportunities they need to build prosperous futures. Honourable MEC, furthermore, I cannot stress enough the importance of conservation in our economic agenda.

We must recognise that sustainable development is not merely an option; it is imperative. Protecting our natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, and adopting eco-friendly practices are not only crucial for our environment, but also for the long-term viability of our industries.

Let us champion economic policies that promote responsible stewardship of our planet, for the sake of future generations. Hon Speaker, the fight against poverty and inequality should be at the forefront of our economic policies.

We must address the structural barriers that perpetuate inequalities, such as unequal access to education, health care, and other opportunities. By investing in social welfare programmes, promoting income redistribution, and empowering marginalised communities, we can build a society where every citizen has a fair chance to succeed.

I implore our government house to prioritise manufacturing support. A vibrant manufacturing sector not only creates jobs, but also drives technological advancements and spurs economic growth.

We must foster an environment that incentivises local production, enhances research and development, and invests in the skills needed for the industries of the future. Through strategic policies, we can reinvigorate our manufacturing sector, making it a cornerstone of our economic progress.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the issues of economic performance, job creation, conservation, youth employment, the fight against poverty and inequality and manufacturing support are interlinked and require government's utmost attention.

As Members of this esteemed Legislature, it is our collective responsibility to implore on government to implement policies that lay the foundation for a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Let us seize this opportunity to shape our province's destiny, working together towards economic excellence that benefits all citizens of our province.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Mathye. Our next speaker is Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings once more to the EFF caucus, led by Hon Maraga. Greetings to our Whip, Hon Ramalobela and also to the permanent Acting Premier Hon Sekoati ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, in the Legislature we don't have that tittle. Hon Sekoati is the MEC for Provincial Treasury. Thanks.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, you know what I am talking about; that he is acting. Members of the Executive Council, including Hon Makamu and all Members that are present here, please receive our revolutionary greetings.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the continuation of the colonial form of the apartheid economy because of the cadre of the ANC-led government. The economy of this province does not yet feel transformed beyond the production in exportation of raw material, with not much beneficiation evident.

Transformation cannot be reduced to mere lip service. There should be well thought-out plans followed by radical action, something that seems foreign to the ANC-led government. The issue in this country lies with the leadership of the current government, which appears to be fearful and overly inclined to favouring capital.

Hon Speaker, a typical example is the Sefateng Mine, primarily owned by the government entity Anglo Mining Resource. All strategic positions in the mine's operation are held by individuals of white ethnicity.

As a result, information concerning production, sales and finances is exclusively held by them. Despite the promises of dividends to the three communities intended to hold a 5% share in the mine, nothing has been provided to these stakeholders to date.

What adds to the distress is that the mine, owned by the government, expects the portfolio committee to celebrate with them for initiatives such as road re-graveling and the provision of mobile clinics. Sadly, this is offered as an intervention for the benefit of our people. As I repeat, it is disheartening to note that the mine is owned by the ANC-led government, and the concerning aspect goes unnoticed.

Hon Speaker, the list is endless in demonstrating the cruelty of the ANC-led government, which is against its own people, especially under the leadership of Premier Mathabatha, who appears to prioritise money over the people he pretends to lead.

Hon Speaker, the EFF would like to express concern about the department's allocation of R1,4 billion for the 2023/2024 financial year. This represents a significant decrease of R285 million or 16% compared to the adjusted Budget of R1,7 billion for the 2022/23 financial year.

Hon Speaker, of particular importance is the dismantling of the legal group, which holds the largest share of 25% of the total budget. Honourable MEC, individuals within the legal group must begin reporting on their part-time strategical performance if we are to receive meaningful results.

The backward pattern of budget allocations by the government is regrettable and disappointing, especially in the current context of massive unemployment and slow economic growth. A progressive and socialist state should not behave the manner exhibited by the current government towards the people of our province.

Hon Speaker, the truth of the matter is that we have a serious service delivery backlog in the province, with many of our people suffering, and yet budgets are being cut. The people of this province pay taxes, and therefore, tax funds should be channelled towards the provision of services, including job creation.

Furthermore, during the period under review, critical managerial positions, including the head of department, chief director, and director's positions remained vacant. The failure to fill these critical positions compromise the government's constitutional obligation to provide services to our people.

It is essential to highlight that the failure to fill vacant positions is one of the major weaknesses of this government. Hon Speaker, what is the progress of the Economic Recovery Plan for economic growth? Truth be told, there is no recorded tangible progress in this regard.

For this reason, the provincial economy remains stagnant, and joblessness continues to afflict our people. The transformation of the tourism industry is moving at a snail's pace, hindering economic growth and job creation.

Hon Speaker, the department, through its GNT subsidiary, planned to increase the number of passengers from 1,8 million to 12,1 million on their APP. However, we question how the department plans to achieve this when passengers consistently complain about the poor state and schedule reliability of the busses, often reporting late arrivals.

Our oversight indicates that there are not enough buses on the road, and those in operation frequently experience mechanical problems and breakdowns. Hon Speaker, speaking of GNT, this House must be provided with a comprehensive report on the mismanagement of millions of pensioner's funds and seek justice for the affected people.

The perpetrators must face the full force of the law. This is a serious matter as it affects the livelihoods of the elderly and their families. We must get to the bottom of it. Hon Speaker, the EFF proposed in its cardinal pillar five that, for industrialisation to be realised, the EFF government will engage in massive protected industrial development to create millions of sustainable jobs.

This includes introducing a minimum wage to close the gap between the rich and the poor, addressing the apartheid wage gap and promoting a rapid career path for Africans in the workplace.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Now, we invite Hon Phala to the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

The department is mandated to accelerate and promote provincial economic growth, protect, and manage the environment and natural resources, and transform and market Limpopo as a preferred tourist destination in Africa.

On the one hand, Limpopo is the gateway to Africa, bordering three countries and three provinces; arguably a very rural region. On the other hand, it has tried to become a province of opportunity. Though the two are not mutually exclusive, it has been difficult to balance the aspirations of the government with the inherent net outmigration of over 189 000 people leaving the province for a better future.

When evaluating the latest unemployment figures, it becomes clear that the department is not delivering on its mandate. Our ever-expanding unemployment rate, which has nearly doubled over the last six years, is now at 33,6%.

Hon Speaker, the DA supports the accelerated industrialisation through SEZs and industrial parks and applauds the MEC specifically for the work already done on the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone.

Honourable MEC, LEDET should improve their oversight roll over the following three entities: LEDA, LTA and LGB. With proper governance oversight, these entities can achieve clean audits, but it will require accountability and the removal of unwanted expenditure not being dealt with by the board.

Hon Speaker, a forensic investigation revealed that weak decisions by the GNT Board led to the collapse of Great North Transport. The turnaround strategy attempting to restore GNT to its former stability is in place, but the same entity ignored the 30% of staff eligible to take early retirement. This is unnecessary, as a recent DA oversight visit to all bus depots proved that expecting bus drivers and employed depots managers to turn around 80% of the dysfunctional depots, is ill-advised.

The vacancy rate at these bus depots needs to be addressed. For instance, on the day of our oversight visit, an assistant mechanic was on leave, and a body builder was repairing buses with mechanical issues. Hon Speaker, based on the DA's sight visit to these depots, we believe that the turnaround strategy should be revamped, but this time from the bottom up, engaging day-to-day staff members in these bus depots, rather than starting from directors and officers and moving downward.

Hon Speaker, Limpopo Province is rich in natural biodiversity. Most of the animals and plant species are present and protected in nature reserves and provincial parks. When environmental crime takes place, it robs the environment of ecological sustainability but also inflicts financial losses on private owners of the land, the state, and deprives the sector from creating job opportunities.

The main areas of concern for the department regarding environmental crime are the illegal hunting of elephants, the trade of ivory, the illegal hunting and trade of rhino horn, illegal cycad trade, and the keeping and breeding of large predators and deforestation.

Hon Speaker, it is therefore concerning that over the last three years, Limpopo lost 81 rhinos at the hand of poaching syndicates in the province and 580 in SANParks, parts of which are located in Limpopo.

Iconic animals like rhinos are major attractions for international visitors to South Africa, which holds approximately 80% of the world's rhino population and poaching impacts tourism possibilities in this province. The statistics on tourism for the period January to March 2023 indicate that a rapid recovery is underway in this sector.

During the first quarter of 2023, South Africa had 2,1 million visitors from overseas, an increase of 102,5% compared to the same quarter in 2022. These visitors spent R25,6 billion in our country. The largest share of these funds was spent in the Western Cape, Gauteng, the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, and the Northwest.

The LTA must have concrete plans in place to lure tourists to Limpopo, as our province boasts unparalleled beauty and value. Domestic travel, mainly to visit relatives and for holidays, increased by 41% in the first quarter. The three provinces visited were Gauteng, Limpopo, and the Eastern Cape.

The LTA must engage with all stakeholders to entrench Limpopo as a go-to destination for domestic and international visitors alike. It will boost our economy and create jobs.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Our next speaker is Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good afternoon once more. Thank you for this opportunity to debate on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, namely, LEDA, LTA and LGB for the 2023/24 financial year.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, the portfolio committee's preparations on the APP are aligned with those of the second and third quarter reports, and the priority issues remain the same. Therefore, this report further emphasises the committee's observations and recommendations as indicated in the previous report. Therefore, honourable Members should not be surprised by issues that are similar.

Hon Speaker, LEDET continues to focus on implementing the mandate of growing the economy of the province. The three entities, namely, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency and its subsidiaries, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency, remain the implementers of this specific focus.

Honourable Members, the committee noted the Budget allocated to the department and its entities for the 2023/24 financial year. For the indicated plans, we implored that the department and its entities should continue to utilise the allocated resources effectively and efficiently to achieve the targets in delivering services to the Limpopo citizens.

We also anticipate that the department will continue to generate revenue for the province, especially, through entities such as the Limpopo Gambling Board and LEDA and its subsidiaries. The department, its entities and their boards should ensure good governance.

We would like to encourage the department and the Limpopo Gambling Board to continue to achieve clean audits. We also urge LEDA and the LTA to improve and also achieve clean audits.

Honourable Members, in the past two years, our province has done well in securing investment commitments worth over R200 billion. It is, therefore, imperative for LEDET and the provincial government as a whole to ensure that the companies that meet commitments are regularly followed up to start locating in the province and implement the committed projects.

The government needs to ensure that catalytic projects such as the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone, the Lebowaqomo Abattoir, the broadband telecommunications network project, and the Industrial Park are implemented speedily. The implementation of these projects will create jobs, both during construction and actual operation.

Honourable Members, Great North Transport is an important institution in the province. It has both a developmental and revenue generation mandate to sustain itself.

Through GNT buses, a number of people are transported to different destinations daily. However, in recent years, the entity has experienced many challenges, including broken down buses, loss of revenue, and market shares.

The entity has been implementing a turnaround strategy with the provincial government and providing additional financial resources to improve the situation. The entity needs to show progress in a report and also provide an update on the status of the depots and buses, as well as progress on the number of passengers transported.

The entity should now reach a point where it does not have to rely on government grants, but on its operations. Furthermore, we urge GNT and the government to ensure that outstanding pensions owed to former workers are fully paid. We are glad that the entity has reported making progress in this regard.

Hon Speaker, the business regulation function of the department is very critical in contributing to the economy of the province. It will take concerted efforts and collaborations from key stakeholders and law enforcement in the government sphere to ensure compliance with these regulations.

Something of concern to us is the mushrooming of spaza shops, with the majority owned by foreign nationals. LEDET and its partners need to ensure that these businesses comply with business regulations.

Hon Speaker, another issue of concern is liquor regulation in the province. We have continuously pointed out liquor establishments near schools and higher learning institutions, which affect the learners and students.

Furthermore, the operating hours of some of these establishments go beyond midnight, posing a safety concern as some employees and customers have to walk home during the early morning hours.

We have recommended a joint meeting and oversight visit initiatives between the Portfolio Committee on LEDET, Transport and Community Safety, as well as Education to address business regulation, liquor regulations and overall safety in relation to businesses.

Honourable Members, the department's plan to regulate and sustainably manage environmental and natural resources is appreciated. The committee is impressed with compliance in this regard.

The ongoing implementation of nature reserve infrastructure projects and commercialisation plans is welcome, but they should benefit the locals. However, the department should improve the speed of implementing infrastructure projects.

Hon Speaker, in tourism, LEDET continues to ensure development, promotion and popularisation of tourism in the province. The department will continue to ensure transformation in the industry and also register tourist guides. Meanwhile, the Limpopo Tourism Agency continues to focus on marketing the province as tourists' destination.

Honourable Members, we urge the Limpopo Gambling Board to continue partnering with law enforcement agencies to root out the ever-increasing scourge of illegal and online gambling, which negatively affects the economy.

It is of utmost importance to eradicate illegal gambling activities as they pose a threat of harbouring and providing platforms for money laundering activities in the province.

Hon Speaker, having considered and scrutinised the Annual Performance Plans of LEDET and its entities for the 2023/24 financial year, I move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House and that the Budget for Vote 06: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities be passed.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I move accordingly. Hon Speaker, if you could track my steps and assess the work I accomplish today, I believe I should be recognised as one of the most productive Members in this House. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Mokaba. We shall now call upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Monama R to respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, Mr Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe; honourable Members of this House; Chair of Chairs; Members of the Executive Council present here; chairpersons of the portfolio committees; Deputy Chief Whip; accounting officers and HODs, and all members of the public in the gallery. Good day, once more.

Honourable Members, thanks very much for raising those issues that were isolated as the things that will make us turn the economic fortunes of the province around. We take those issues that have been raised very seriously.

This is because, our responsibility is to ensure that at all material times we put our hands on deck to ensure that we push all frontiers of poverty, inequality, and unemployment, but over and above to ensure that we fight the quagmire of underdevelopment in the province.

We also recorded that there is an overwhelming expectation of our people terms of the huge backlog in services that we have to deliver. Our challenges are, of course, formidable, but not insurmountable.

We are busy packaging an application, which is in its final stage, for Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ as an industrial hub. We met with the Deputy Minister who is responsible for this

SEZ, and by the end of June, he confirmed that they had made an application for Fetakgomo-Tubatse to become a fully-fledged SEZ.

We can confirm that we have acquired the Mining Inputs Supplier Park. There are already nine companies, if not firms, involved in beneficiation. The beneficiation must also qualify; it is not just a broad-based beneficiation but includes upstream and downstream processes in manufacturing and processing all the mining resources around the Tubatse area. We have met with the operator of the Musina-Makhado SEZ, and in October it, will be taking site.

We take note of what is happening regarding CMR, and we have instructed the board of directors to review the MOI (Memorandum of Incorporation) since we are the majority shareholder. They must further ensure that they dilute a shareholding to get more benefits from the investment, especially benefitting our own people, particularly the SMMEs, by strengthening the enterprise development ecosystem.

I fully agree with the observation by honourable Members, regarding our public entities and SMMEs. Our responsibility is to ensure liquidity, profitability, and sustainability, as they are the companies. With the, the filling of critical posts, we are on the verge of concluding the appointment of the HOD and the accounting officer for LEDET.

We have adopted several policies to turn the situation around by adopting the Limpopo Socioeconomic Recovery Plan, a Limpopo Township and rural economic strategy, and Limpopo Industrial master plan. We fully agree with your observation regarding GNT, and at some stage, Treasury has commissioned a PTO forensic investigation. We are on course in the implementation of the recommendation of that forensic audit, and those are the turnaround strategies.

Hon Phala, thank you very much for the congratulatory accolades and kudos that you have expressed to us. We are the second province in terms of the labour survey, as just released, showing that we have created 71 job opportunities. I believe we are on the right trajectory as a province in terms of industrialisation.

It is incumbent upon us, to ensure that, at all material times, we act within the accountability framework of public finance. Hence, we put all our efforts into making sure that the department is a trendsetter in obtaining unqualified audit opinions with no matters of emphases – a clean audit.

We are also addressing all the findings of other entities within the field of LEDA. We have shifted the chairs of the accounting authorities. We appointed a person who initiated the Gautrain and served as a former DG of the Department of Transport to oversee LEDA, addressing the challenges I have indicated.

In terms of tourism, we all agree it is one of those competitive advantages we have, both in domestic and international tourism. Limpopo offers outstanding landscapes, including the majestic Waterberg Mountain Range and vast forests.

Our province is known for its breathtaking views, unique tourist attractions and Unesco sites like Mapungubwe and **Makapan Valley World Heritage Site** in Waterberg. We are also home to the world acclaimed Kruger National Park, of which 70% belongs to Limpopo.

This is why we must manage it well because Kruger National Park is the wilderness calabash in our province and a world of tourism on its own. Like I have already mentioned, it attracts good opportunities that we can tap into. We can tap into both unrivalled and untapped potential we have in terms of tourism, so that we can generate numerous job opportunities in line with our integrated tourism marketing efforts.

We have addressed several mushrooming spaza shops, with a particular concern about the proliferation of these spaza shops owned by foreign nationals. This is a cause for concern, and that is why we are working with the SAPS in this regard.

Regarding the utilisation of the Industrial Park, we are already working on the R49 million investment in Seshego to accelerate the industrialisation of our province through catalytic mega projects like Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ and the Musina-Makhado SEZ, and I think we are on course.

All these reports, comments, and critiques we receive, we really appreciate as a department, and we are committed to improvement. We are not caricaturing anything, and honourable Members are not choreographing these things, these are the observable things that Members are encountering as they undertake their oversight responsibility. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Members, we are now moving to the next item.

7.5. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

I call upon the committee chairperson to present the reports.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Kedibone Lebea, rise to propose the consideration and adoption of the Second Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Maseko, you are recognised.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by Hon Lebea.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. You can proceed committee chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Kedibone Lebea, rise to propose the consideration and adoption of the Third Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, as the report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Speaker. I rise to support the report as tabled by Hon Lebea.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks. You can proceed, honourable chair.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Kedibone Lebea, rise to propose the consideration and adoption of the Fourth Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs as the report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Ngiyathokoza Sekela lakaSomlomo. Mina Sekutu Monicca Mochadi ngisikimela ukusekela ukwethulwa kwemiBiko yeKomidi ye-CoGHSTA, okwenziwe ngusihlalo wekomidi. Ngiyathokoza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker is Hon Caroline Mahasela.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, Leader of Government Business, Leader of the Official Opposition, honourable Members, Members of the Executive Council present here and the staff.

Hon Speaker, the committee, in its meeting with the department, received a briefing during the review of the second quarter that they had planned for 11 performance indicators and targets under the Administration programme. The department managed to implement six of the performance indicators, which translates to 54,5%.

This programme involves, amongst others, reviewing policies and skills development of officials for the department to implement its programmes efficiently and effectively. It is the core of the department wherein personnel oversee all the programmes.

Hon Speaker, the purpose of the Human Settlement programme is to ensure that there is 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. This programme is responsible for upgrading informal settlements and facilitating a process that provides equitable access to housing in an integrated and sustainable manner. The department planned to implement five output performance indicators, and all of them were not achieved.

The reasons raised by the department did not augur well with the committee; difficult terrains make it difficult to service sites and they cannot achieve the target on job creation because contractors are not reporting. The department showed poor planning, which becomes an obstacle for the province's citizens to benefit from the projects.

Creation of job opportunities has been a problem for a long time, and the department should submit a plan on how they are going to address this problem. Given the persistent underperformance of the department in the Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement programme, a different approach should be developed.

There were no targets for this programme in the second quarter, so nothing was achieved. Poor planning under this programme has been ongoing even in the previous financial years. The department must explain to the House what plan it has developed to address persistent challenges in the Human Settlements programme.

Hon Speaker, under the Housing, Assets and Property Management sub-programme, the department reported during the review of the third quarter that it has developed a template to be used by project managers when reporting progress on the site and including the indicator in the SLA.

The department reported further that the template will assist in reporting the number of jobs created per project. The committee raised a concern that the strategy that the department claims to have developed regarding the creation of job opportunities through the construction of houses seems not to be working.

There is no update on the 5,050 mixed housing units to be constructed at Altoostyd in Lephalale. The department must explain to the House how it is planning to achieve this target if strategies developed are not addressing the challenge. What is the progress to date on the Altoostyd project?

The committee will work with the department through oversight to ensure that the plans and targets are implemented as reported and as per the approved APP. The purpose of this programme is to provide technical and oversight support to municipalities to implement their mandates.

During the review of the third quarter, the department reported that it provides assistance and support to local and district municipalities as provided in section 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The performance of the programme was based on 17 planned targets in the quarter under review, and 16 were achieved, which is 94,1% compared to the 2021/22 financial year when the achievement was 87,5%. The committee commended the department for that great achievement. More must be done to ensure that targets are achieved.

Municipalities have a duty to create jobs through the Local Economic Development initiative, and the department must play a role in supporting municipalities. The department must explain to the House how many job opportunities, if any, were created by municipalities by implementing the Local Economic Development initiative.

During the review of quarter four under the Corporate Services sub-programme, the department did not achieve 46% women representation at the SMS level and 1,2% representation of people living with disability as planned targets.

The targets have not been achieved despite the department lowering the provincial threshold of 50% for women at the SMS level and the 2% threshold for people living with disability. The committee will continue to play its oversight role and ensure that these targets are achieved when the department will be filling its vacancies.

The committee noted with concern that many municipalities in the province are struggling to spend the allocated Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). There are municipalities that are affected by the stopping of MIG funds every year.

The provincial allocation for the 2022/23 financial year was adjusted upwards by R75,337 million, from R3,362 billion to R3,438 billion during the stopping. There are municipalities that are perennial underspenders of the MIG. The department must present to the House plans on how they aid municipalities that fail to spend the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports of the 2022/23 financial year with recommendations. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahasela. The next speaker is Hon Lawrence Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia and Members of the Executive Council, my party leader, and our Whip, greetings to you all.

Hon Speaker, firstly, I would like to express the EFF's concern that during the second quarter of the financial year in question, the department only managed to spend 34,7% instead of 50% of the funds allocated to conditional grants.

The underspending on ISHS, Upgrading Partnership Grant and EPWP Integrated Grant is deeply regrettable and a serious cause for concern. This province has a serious backlog in terms of infrastructure development as well as provision of basic services to the people, yet grants are being underspent.

Billions of funds in the form of grants have been previously returned to National Treasury because of the laziness to spend money to improve the socioeconomic conditions of our people. People need roads, electricity, and housing and yet the government continues to underspend funds that are meant to change the lives of the people.

Of most concern is the fact that there is no consequence management for responsible officials and politicians leading these departments. Sadly, the culture of not spending allocated budgets, including grants, is deeply entrenched in the Limpopo provincial government.

This anomaly happens across the entire administration in all departments and entities of the government of Limpopo. Hon Speaker, the EFF is shocked that none of the five targeted output performance indicators for this quarter in programme 2, which is Integrated Sustainable Human Development, were achieved.

The lack of political will in addressing the service delivery needs of the people is quite evident in this regard, especially in the provision of decent housing to our people. These radical failures derail job creation, and it is clear that job creation is not a priority in this department and government.

Hon Speaker, the state of affairs at Mopani District Municipality, Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Lepelle-Nkumpi and all dysfunctional municipalities cannot be ignored. These three municipalities reflect the state of the entire provincial administration, especially concerning the principles of good and clean governance.

Can the MEC please table the forensic investigation report into the unauthorised expenditure of R1,117 billion incurred by the Mogalakwena Municipality in the next Sitting? It is difficult to resuscitate these municipalities marred by corruption, maladministration, and bad governance because the entire provincial administration itself is in tatters and is rotten.

The state of affairs in these municipalities is a reflection of the deep rot in the entire administration system led by the Premier of this province, Hon Stanley Mathabatha. Truth

be told, the current MEC at the helm of this department does not have the political and leadership pedigree to steer the ship of this department in the right direction. The ship is sinking.

The lack of zeal to fill vacant posts and traditional council officers is a clear indication that the department does not take this sector, which represents African values and culture, seriously. I don't think you are representing the Africans in these departments.

All this department does is to elect and appoint royal leadership on behalf on the communities, dividing them in order to satisfy the greediness of a corrupt and immoral cartel whose obsession is to steal raw minerals in areas like Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts.

Traditional leadership is born into the role rather than selected; they are not elected in conferences like yourselves. We thought you knew this. Only Africans understand this very important principle of our culture. The EFF understands it very well. I seriously doubt that you are Africans, because you are Eurocentric in your approach.

The question remains whether you are Africans or not. It is for you to answer and demonstrate practically. Hon Speaker, once more, the department spent only 17,3% and 37,1% of the EPWP Grant and Informal Settlements Partnership Grant, respectively, during the third quarter; this is completely unacceptable.

The people of Limpopo want nothing else but 100% spending on all conditional grants. The level of incompetence, corruption and maladministration by the current administration is shocking, and it is destined to fail all the time. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker is Hon van der Walt.

MS VAN DER WALT

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and Members of the House. Before I present my speech, I would like to say congratulations to our chairperson, Hon Lebea, who celebrated her birthday yesterday.

Every report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA includes a reference to section 114 of our country's Constitution, which deals with powers of provincial legislatures.

This includes a mandate to "must provide" - not may - mechanisms to ensure all provincial executive organs of state in the province are accountable to it. The committee should also maintain oversight of the executive, including the implementation of legislation.

The question then comes to mind: Are we indeed holding all organs of state accountable? If not, why not? Are we implementing legislation at all times? I doubt it. If we did, we would not return the people's money back to Treasury.

During the second quarter, the department could not spend its allocated 25% of R2,4 billion. In the third quarter, the department spent R734 million, which resulted in the portfolio committee being very sceptical about whether the department will be able to spend its allocated budget.

There was a clear indication that there would underspending in the financial year. The fourth and final quarter of the financial year under review is a cause for serious concern. The third quarter report showed the adjusted Budget as R2,76 billion, but the fourth quarter only R2,61 billion.

A difference of a staggering R144,7 million, and we asked where these “missing funds” were taken from; it was the Human Settlements programme. Underspending on the conditional grants should be a top priority for the department. Urgent measures must be put in place to alert the department in time to prevent such underspending.

Note that this affects service delivery to our communities. It is not our own money, colleagues! It seems that “conditional grants” have a completely new meaning in this department. Why aren’t we spending it? It also doesn’t seem to improve with time. Why are we not reaching our targets?

The department is not able to reach all its targets, especially in the Human Settlements programme which is an ongoing concern. In the second quarter they achieved zero out of five targets.

The honourable MEC must tell this House what the reasons are. Is it capacity, poor planning, or no turnaround strategy? Are all staff in positions where they are actually fit for purpose?

The claim by the department that difficult terrain makes it very hard to service sites has been a valid challenge over years. The question that should be answered honestly is, why do we buy or build on such difficult terrain?

One such an example is the development in Koppewaaai, Ward 9 of Bela-Bela. Not at all suitable for RDP housing, as it is very expensive to build on and provide proper services on such a rocky and sloped terrain.

To make matters worse, it was a very expensive, overpriced land deal with many questions that remained unanswered about the people involved in this deal. The result is that communities are getting badly built houses. Some foundations are on such a slope that your bed would slide to the other side of the room if it had wheels.

During my visit a few weeks ago, there was still no electricity or water, and the project is now in phase 4. Why are there meters if there is nothing to use them for? How long do you want to keep women carrying heavy water buckets, especially on such a sloped and uneven terrain?

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the portfolio committee made recommendations that are still not adhered to or show no progress. Despite requests for progress reports on the

Altoostyd development in Lephalale, which the portfolio committee visited two weeks ago, it will currently only be completed in July 2031.

Bear in mind that the department purchased that land already in 2007, which is 16 years ago, for R39 million. The total value of government investment in this project is R669 million. If completed on time, it would have taken this government 24 years to complete one project for a community. This cannot be fair to poor communities, and it is not at all acceptable.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker is Hon Kedibone Lebea, who will provide a comprehensive summary of the arguments presented throughout the debate.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this esteemed House, distinguished guests, members of the media, both in the House and on various virtual platforms, a very blessed day to you.

Hon Speaker, the principle of “he who alleges, must prove” holds true. We will patiently await the disclosure of the other name for the Conditional Grant. The pedigree itself does not indicate idleness, indolence, or slothfulness. Regrettably, such words will never be attributed to the right. Nevertheless, upon closer examination, the left-hand side will consistently prevail.

Infrastructure is the backbone of economic growth. It improves access to basic services such as clean water and electricity, creates jobs and boosts businesses. Hon Speaker, our engagement with the department was very insightful. The committee gained an understanding of the spending trends early in the financial year. Scarce resources were allocated to support the communities in need, who rely on this government for long-lasting solace and comfort.

Underspensing, Hon Speaker, will unfortunately be unacceptable in the context of poverty, high unemployment, and the pressing need for housing in many communities. Hon Speaker, our interaction with the department over the second, third and fourth quarter reports, has reinforced the primary objective of our congress movement, the total liberation of Africans, the black majority in particular. This objective clearly impacts the improvement in the quality of the lives of all South Africans, especially the motive forces. They have also emphasised the main aims of the national democratic revolution as outlined in the Freedom Charter, a document endorsed by the mass democratic movement, for representing the aspirations of millions of our people. The ANC remains the beacon of hope to those who feel hopeless.

During the first quarter, Hon Speaker, we strongly condemned poor spending practices related to inadequate forward planning, procurement, project execution, contract

management with service providers and unnecessary delays in processing of payments. Overall, these challenges reflected poor management and a lack of consequence management.

However, Hon Speaker, we are pleased to note that during the second, third and fourth quarters, the chronic demon of insufficient forward planning has partly been baptised with fire, and we definitely have seen progress in this regard.

Quarterly reports are meant to assist the portfolio committee to play its oversight role, in line with the approved APP. During the second quarter, the committee had to track resolutions taken on how to monitor and ensure the department is able to implement its targets, as well as the recommendations made by the committee.

Hon Speaker, some of the decisions that were taken by the portfolio committee, involves the following:

- The portfolio committee needs to follow up on the R33 million advance payment that was made to the contractor involved the Maropong CRUs, in Lephalale. Honourable MEC, we cannot overlook this in our revolutionary journey; we need to understand what transpired. The funds in question belong to the masses of the people of this province.
- The portfolio committee will conduct oversight visits to all dysfunctional municipalities in the province.
- The department should acquire land in order to fast track the upgrading of informal settlements. This is a thorny issue. honourable MEC.
- The portfolio committee will monitor the construction of traditional council offices until they are completed.

Honourable MEC, as the sixth administration, which is renowned for being a very progressive and advanced parliament, we are eager to witness the unfolding events concerning magoši.

Hon Speaker, we are only mentioning a few of our decisions, in accordance with our observations during the first and second quarters. We are also mentioning it to highlight that as a portfolio committee, we are hard at work, and we would like to see the department implementing the targets, as outlined in their Annual Performance Plan.

It is unacceptable, Hon Speaker, that there are municipalities that are underperforming and in need of support from this department. The role of this department is also crucial as a cornerstone for service delivery, providing technical and oversight support to municipalities in implementing their mandates.

In the same vein, Hon Speaker, it has been reported that the Auditor-General, Tsakani Maluleke of AGSA, highlighted that Limpopo province had allocated a total of R1,1 billion for the preparation of the annual financial statements. Regrettably, only four of these

financial statements were found to be in order. This is an extremely unfortunate situation, honourable Members, and if we fail to address it here, it may be perceived as complicity and deriving satisfaction from the AG's findings. We condemn this in the strongest terms possible.

On that note, honourable MEC, we have observed and emphasised that while you provide support to several or rather all municipalities in the province, only a few actually comply with and benefit from this assistance. In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude to Bela-Bela Municipality, led by Cllr Gloria Seleka, for their commendable progress in transitioning from a disclaimer audit outcome to an improved qualified audit opinion. Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the performance of the audit team from the Capricorn District Municipality, under the stewardship of Cllr Mamedupi Teffo, to name but a few.

Furthermore, honourable MEC, the department has received a total allocation of R1,176 billion in Conditional Grants. During the second quarter, the expenditure stood at 34,7%, which is below the 50% benchmark, indicating progress made by the department. However, the department must strive for improvement, honourable MEC, and ensure 100% expenditure each quarter, in line with the performance indicators and targets. This approach will definitely help ensure that the department fully utilises its allocated Budget by the end of the four quarters.

Honourable MEC, above all the interactions we have had with your office as a portfolio committee, there are four thorny issues that we believe need to be addressed.

Regarding the Maropong CRU in Lephalale, reports have indicated the completion of only 20 units out of the targeted 44. The department should provide a progress report on the construction of CRUs in Marapong, Tshikota and Talana. Furthermore, we would like to be informed about the department's actions regarding the acquisition of land from the Tubatse landsite. Honourable MEC, we also seek information on your plans to protect the 20 units that are in Marapong, which are currently vulnerable due to prolonged inactivity of the project. The situation leaves them susceptible to theft and destruction, resulting in fruitless and wasteful expenditure – an outcome our portfolio committee aims to avoid in your department's operations.

Honourable MEC, we are also eager to receive updates on the developments in Tshikota (Makhado), and Talana (Tzaneen). It is crucial for us, particularly the people of Limpopo, to stay informed about the progress made in those areas. We kindly request that you provide us with the necessary updates and not overlook these matters.

On behalf of the portfolio committee, Hon Speaker, I move that the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, for the second, third and fourth quarters, be accepted as a report of this august House.

I appreciate your time and consideration, thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu, to respond to the observations made by Members.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for providing us with this opportunity to respond to the observations made by members of the portfolio committee after our briefing with them. I extend my greetings to all the Members, Members of the Executive Council and Members from opposition parties.

Hon Speaker, it is important to remind this House that on 13 June 1950, two acts, namely the Population Registration Act and the Group Areas Act, were approved by parliament. These two legislations served as the bedrock of the apartheid system that we are striving to overcome. It is disheartening to see some of the progress we have made being undermined, potentially leading us back to the dark days of our past.

Before addressing the specific issues raised, I want to respond to the concerns regarding additional expenditure incurred by the department due to building in areas which may not be suitable for habitation, as mentioned by some Members. It is our government's responsibility to ensure that essential services are accessible to the people where they reside. We should not push people away from their communities. As Hon Mapoulo knows, we are Africans ourselves and understand the behaviour and needs of our own people.

We are committed to upholding our African values and traditions. It is important to emphasise that a royal family has the authority to appoint a senior traditional leader or king. The government's role is to recognise this appointment, not to interfere with the family's decision-making process. These organisations should not approach these families with ulterior motives, such as offering donations or seeking personal gain. The responsibility lies with the members of the royal families themselves, not with politicians like us.

The other issue that I would like to address during my speech is the concerning spending patterns by the Department of CoGHSTA, particularly regarding the grant allocated for Sustainable Human Resources. It is not a secret that we have been consistently underspending on this grant. However, I want to clarify that when it comes to the Integrated Human Settlements grant, specifically the HSDG, (Human Settlement Development Grant), we have a strong record of performance. You can verify this information by examining the official records and obtaining evidence from the national department as we are recognised as one of the best-performing provinces in terms of constructing RDP houses.

If we examine the achievements of the fourth quarter, esteemed chairperson, we have surpassed our targets for the construction of houses. Although our plan was to build 4 598 houses, we successfully completed 5013 houses.

Unfortunately, we did not achieve the agreed-upon services for informal settlements, and we acknowledge that inadequate forward planning has been a significant challenge. As a department, we have recognised this issue and have initiated steps to address it. We

are now working on aligning our planning and implementation processes. However, this endeavour will require significant changes. We also share the Members' concerns regarding consequence management within the department. We assure you that we are actively working on implementing consequence management measures and will provide a detailed report to this House on our progress in due course.

Chairperson, I would like to address the issue you raised regarding the Vingerkraal project. Honourable Members who visited the project might have witnessed the government's commitment to providing services even to the remote areas. We initially began by upgrading the informal settlement and have now formalised it. More than 1000 sites have been demarcated to accommodate the residents. We are constructing houses and improving road infrastructure in the community. Additionally, we are addressing the water supply, which was previously lacking. I personally participated in the discussions about that project, and the community members expressed how it has positively impacted their lives. During our visit, we also witnessed job opportunities being created.

I would also like to highlight the challenges faced by our municipalities, which require our support. I am uncertain if Mogalakwena Municipality can still be classified in the same category as previously mentioned. The department, under the guidance of the Executive Council, placed Mogalakwena Municipality under section 139(1)(b), which involved the appointment of administrators. The municipality was facing significant issues at the time. However, I am pleased to inform you that the municipality has now achieved an improved audit outcome, transitioning from a disclaimer to a qualified audit opinion. We have appointed senior managers in that municipality, and now it has a full complement of senior positions. The municipality is beginning to function effectively and provide services. I encourage honourable Members to conduct an oversight visit and witness, firsthand, the progress that has been made.

We acknowledge that the Mopani District Municipality remains the only municipality with a disclaimer audit opinion. It is worth noting that some of the former Mayors, currently holding office in other political parties were part of the administration during the time when these challenges persisted. We should recall the state of affairs when Hon Premier Mathabatha assumed office in 2014, with numerous municipalities and departments receiving disclaimer audit opinions. If we compare that period with the present, we can confidently state that we are making progress in addressing the challenges faced by our municipalities. This demonstrates our commitment to resolving issues within our municipalities, while providing support as a department. I want to assure you that we are actively involved in supporting the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality. We are working closely with them to address the issues of poor service delivery in the communities, and we are taking a hands-on approach to ensure progress is being made.

We greatly value the guidance and counselling provided by the portfolio committee during the second, third and fourth quarters. The information shared has been highly informative and we are committed to utilising it effectively. It will serve as a valuable tool in terms of improving areas where our performance may fall short of expectations. We acknowledge that we are not perfect and recognise our mistakes and failures that may have occurred. As the department we are determined to address these issues and make necessary improvements. It is through this guidance that we can enhance our performance,

particularly in addressing the issue of spending, which is a significant challenge that our department must tackle. We would like to note that Hon Seshoka, although not present, can attest to the tangible progress made in constructing traditional leaders' buildings in our communities, including Raphahlelo, his hometown. Additionally, Hon Mapoulo will have the opportunity to witness the ongoing construction of approximately seven traditional council offices undertaken by our department.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Let us proceed to the next item on the agenda.

7.7 Second Reading: Approval of the Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill 2023, [B02-2023].

7.7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, on the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of CoGHSTA.

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Greetings once more, Hon Speaker. I, Kedibone Lebea, rise to propose the adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs, as a report of this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, your recognition is duly noted.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much. I, Joshua Matlou, hereby second the motion as presented by the chairperson, Ms Lebea.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Now, on to the next item:

7.7.2 Second Reading: Debate on Budget Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA.

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List, and we welcome our first speaker, Hon Mahasela, to the podium.

MS MAHASELA

Ke a le dumedisha gape. Yo a emego mo ke Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela; Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Leader of Government Business, Leader of the Opposition; le ge e le gore ba rena ga ba ba dumedise; honourable Members and staff ke a le dumedisha.

Hon Speaker, the Department of CoGHSTA received a total allocation of R2,591 billion for the 2023/24 financial year. This allocation is appropriated in accordance with the programmes as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan. The department briefed the committee on its targets which are funded. During our engagements, the committee encouraged the department to align the expenditure with the implementation of the targets in the APP, considering that the 2023/24 Budget was cut by R168,628 million.

Hon Speaker, it was reported that the purpose of the Administration programme is to provide effective leadership, management and administrative support to the department's core functions. The committee raised a concern that the department is not showing sufficient commitment to the purpose of the Administration programme. Therefore, the department must ensure that the budget is spent meaningfully, and the voters must have a sense and feeling that services are delivered. The department cannot always lament the lack of capacity, while it had employed qualified personnel to execute the departmental mandate. Vacancies that are funded and set as targets for this financial year must be filled without delay because today we are approving the budget for that purpose, honourable MEC.

We will work hard during oversight visits to ensure that the department commits itself to doing good for the society that we lead. All 15 key performance indicators and targets must be implemented, with no underspending, as you know that ke mathata a underspending. It is therefore important that we spend our finances ga re sa nyaka gore tšhelete e ye kua godimo – national government.

A budget of R1,351 billion is appropriated to the Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements programme and constitutes the largest allocation of the department. This is where the department faces challenges in terms of spending. In this programme, the department planned to implement 19 performance indicators and targets for this financial year. The committee observed that the department is facing serious challenges regarding the active monitoring of contractors by project managers on site. The department must evaluate its way of monitoring and explore other avenues that will be effective and efficient for the success of project implementation. Take an example of the implementation of the Marapong CRU project. The time it is taking to be completed, and the money that will be spent to complete the project. It clearly shows that the project managers of the department were not doing their work and delayed the completion of that project.

The department must also ensure that the contractors strictly adhere to deadlines and any failure should be punishable. Society is waiting patiently for the services to be delivered, and the longer we take, the consequences may not be bearable. Therefore, the department must implement consequence management for officials who neglect their duties.

The committee will continuously play an oversight role by visiting all human settlement projects implemented by the department. During his Budget Speech, our MEC for CoGHSTA reported that the department has acquired Ledibeng Echo Estate land, owned by Eskom, in Lephalale. The estate is comprised of 200 service sites. The land will be used to build houses. Furthermore, the department also acquired land from the Kikvorshfontein farm, in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. The land will also be used to build houses. The MEC indicated that the land is occupied as an informal settlement and will be upgraded.

The committee encouraged the department to ensure that all informal settlements in the province must be upgraded and play a role in reducing unemployment. The department must play a role in providing support to municipalities. It leaves much to be desired that time and again municipalities use the services of consultants to prepare their annual financial statements, but still do not get clean audits. Consultants are expected to be experts in their field, but when they are outsourced, and we do not get good results, it becomes problematic. The department must do more to build capacity and where that capacity is lacking as a result of the vacancies that are funded, they must be filled.

The department must be hard on municipalities to ensure that they fill funded vacancies with qualified financial personnel and engineers.

The department has set four performance indicators and targets under the Traditional Affairs programme. The planned indicators must be implemented without failure, especially considering that there are not many. The department must address the challenges faced by the traditional leaders over the fight for chieftainship. Matters that are in court must be fast tracked, to ensure the peace is sustained within communities. The department must ensure that the Traditional and Khoi-San Act (Act 3 of 2019), is known and understood by all traditional leaders.

Hon Speaker, the committee second the adoption of the APP and Budget for the 2023/24 financial year.

Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Member. We now invite our next speaker, Hon Mapoulo, to address the House.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I acknowledge and respect all protocols.

Hon Speaker, it is hard to comprehend and to seriously filter down the vision of the current government regarding this province and its people. Changing the lives of the people for the better is not the priority of this government.

For the record, the department is allocated a total Budget of R2,591 billion which is a decrease of R168,628 million compared to the previous financial year.

It does not make both governance and service delivery sense that you cut budgets, while our people continue to lack basic services like water, electricity, and decent housing.

Regrettably, the budget allocation for the Human Settlement sub-programme has decreased by 15,5%, when the majority of our people do not have a roof over their heads, especially during this winter season.

Any government in their rightful minds, will not cut or decrease the budget meant to build houses for the poor, but they will try their utmost best to rather increase the budget to build more houses for the people. You can only cut budgets when you have lost touch with the masses of the people, especially the poorest of the poor, because you have no idea what they are going through. Politicians and government officials make bad decisions because they are sitting in the comfort of their offices, which are fitted with air conditioners and other luxuries. They have no idea what the people are going through on a daily basis. They do not feel what the people are feeling.

We are heading for elections now, and we will see them flip-flopping to all the corners of the province, making empty promises, and providing the people with food parcels stolen from the Department of Social Development. Honourable MEC, the fraud at the Marapong community residential units in Lephalale, in the Waterberg District, between the department and the implementing agency, cannot be swept under the carpet. This House deserves to know whether the taxpayer's money wasted through this act of fraud has been recouped, and if not, why has it not been recovered? We also deserve to know whether criminal cases have been opened against the responsible officials, service providers and officials, and if not, why not?

Ka Sepedi ba re: molato ga o bole. Le ge o ka e buela leopeng, magokobu a a go bona. The EFF will continue to probe this matter to ensure that the truth comes out. It is our duty as the EFF to hold you accountable whenever corruption raises its ugly head. We are committed to promoting good governance and fighting for the rights of the poor and the marginalised who cannot fight for themselves. Hon Speaker, the EFF is deeply concerned and disturbed by the increased number of municipalities that rely on consultants for the preparation of their annual financial statements. The utilisation of consultants to achieve favourable audit outcomes is one of the channels through which taxpayer's money is siphoned and stolen.

The most concerning issue is the state's lack of capacity to provide services to its citizens. Moreover, the utilisation of consultants is a total waste of taxpayer's money, as officials in finance, supply chain management and other relevant sections within the municipalities are already paid to perform the same tasks that consultants are hired for. In the worst-case scenario, many municipalities fail to perform even when they have engaged the services of consultants. The EFF government is committed to banning consultants and abolishing the tender system. Our goal is to enhance state capacity so that the government can effectively carry out its functions.

Hon Speaker, the MEC must table a detailed report regarding the municipalities that utilised consultant's services and those who obtained clean audits. Additionally, traditional councils have suffered from severe neglect. The EFF conducted oversight visits to several traditional councils, including the kingdoms. It was disheartening to witness infrastructure constructed during apartheid lying in ruins, with the majority of these offices lacking basic furniture. The state of affairs is truly lamentable. The current state of affairs under this ANC-led government is indicative of a concerning trend. It appears that everything that it touches is in a state of disarray. It is evident that there is a lack of direction and clarity in your actions, and we are here to provide guidance. Rest assured that as we approach 2024, a transformative change will take place.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let us welcome our next speaker, Hon van der Walt, as she takes the podium.

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Speaker and Members, the debate today on the Department of CoGHSTA's Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the 2023/24 financial year cannot be done in isolation. In order to determine the real state of affairs we have to not only look and compare or rely on previous years.

The best benchmark tool is, of course, to compare ourselves with other provinces, like the Western Cape, and municipalities across the country that are getting it right, delivering services to their communities, governing well, and achieving good audit outcomes year after year.

Looking at this department's quarterly reports, which we debated earlier today, there is a clear indication that the department is in trouble regarding its performance. The Annual Performance Plan (APP) is informed by the President's priority interventions as highlighted during his SONA address. These interventions include a significant infrastructure rollout, a substantive increase in local production and an employment stimulus to create jobs.

There is no doubt that the Municipal Infrastructure Grant is a key factor for service delivery. However, many municipalities face challenges in implementing it independently, such as capacity constraints, issues with cadre deployment, the presence of unqualified financial officers and senior managers, as well as significant debt to Eskom and Water Boards inherited from previous political terms. In such circumstances, these municipalities need assistance from the department. However, what should be done if the department itself struggles to fulfil its budgetary and programmatic commitments?

The Auditor-General's report seems to concern only a few of us. One wonders why this is the case.

They provide great guidance, like assisting with control measures, pointing out our weaknesses, and giving clear warnings when we are doing it wrong. Just read, understand and do it right. In the A-G's consolidated report on local government outcomes for the year 2021/22 released on 31 May 2023, there are serious red lights, and we should take note and take action to avoid the same issues in the new financial year.

Some of the concerns raised were inadequate financial management and oversight, which led to audit outcomes remaining largely unchanged and delays in service delivery, as well as municipalities continuing to over-rely on consultants.

The Limpopo province spent R1,13 billion on financial reporting. This included R874,9 million on salaries for officials in the finance departments and R263,18 million on financial consultants, mainly because finance officials lacked the necessary skills to prepare credible financial statements.

Unauthorised expenditure of R2,57 billion and fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R160 million remains unacceptably high in our province where people are in dire straits to get services delivered.

Why are there delays in consequence management? What are you doing about this, honourable MEC?

Note that new municipalities under your watch have spent a combined R606,4 million on infrastructure repairs, 1,8% of the total value of the infrastructure assets, which is way below the National Treasury's 8% threshold.

As the custodian for local government, MEC, we request from you a comprehensive plan to turn around Limpopo's ailing municipalities and for you to utilise your constitutional mandate to assist municipalities in delivering services to communities, many of which have never had running water during our democracy.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. We now request the committee chairperson, Hon Lebea, to provide a summary of the deliberations conducted by the portfolio committee.

MS LEBEA

A very blessed day to you once again, Hon Deputy Speaker, with due respect to all the protocols observed by this esteemed House.

Hon Speaker, my colleagues in the portfolio committee have eloquently outlined their observations regarding the allocated Budget and Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. I would like to further emphasise the importance of the forward planning aspect highlighted by the MEC in today's discussions. During our thorough analysis and scrutiny of the

reports, APPs and Budget, we have retrospectively identified a persistent issue of inadequate forward planning within the department, honourable MEC, and this matter has posed significant challenges that warrant our attention and resolution.

As the portfolio committee, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the department for presenting us with a plan that encompasses a year of preparation before project implementation. This strategic approach will have a profound impact on the lives of the people in our province.

Hon Speaker, the department has informed us that their APPs for the 2023/24 financial year encompasses the strategic objectives and goals of the department to be implemented. These plans will include a substantial infrastructure rollout and an employment stimulus aimed at job creation and livelihood support. These initiatives align with the President's intervention priorities, as highlighted in the State of the Nation Address. The targets set in the APPs and Budget of the department align with the vision and goals articulated by the honourable MEC during the presentation of his Budget Speech.

The committee strongly encourages the department to prioritise the implementation of these identified priorities, Hon Maritz, with particular emphasis on addressing the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, lack of economic growth, and other obstacles.

Hon Speaker, programme 2, the Human Settlements programme, holds great significance for us as a portfolio committee. Our primary objective is to ensure the provision of housing development, facilitating access to well-located and suitable accommodation, basic services, social infrastructure, and economic opportunities. This programme plays a crucial role in upgrading informal settlements and ensuring equitable access to housing in an integrated and sustainable manner, in accordance with the constitutional rights to adequate housing.

Hon Speaker, it is important to highlight the challenges we have identified through our engagements with the department regarding the non-expenditure of the Conditional Grant. It is evident that these challenges stem from a lack of commitment within the administration, which falls beyond our oversight role as members. However, this lack of dedication raises concerns about potential sabotage within the broader operations of the department.

Hon Speaker, we strongly urge the MEC to ensure that the department achieves 100% expenditure of the allocated funds in the upcoming financial year. It is crucial to remember that the funds allocated to departments are based on plans presented in this august House. Therefore, as a portfolio committee, we expect nothing less than the full utilisation of the grant and budget.

Furthermore, honourable MEC, we emphasise the importance of implementing consequence management within the department. Over the years, numerous catastrophic incidents have occurred, and it is disheartening to witness individuals involved, Hon Sekoati, the personnel or administrators that were in the frontline of the

shenanigans being rewarded with lucrative employment opportunities elsewhere, either within the same province or in other provinces.

As a portfolio committee, we are resolute in our determination to address these issues at their core. It is easy to make promises and present a rosy picture, but without addressing the root causes of these problems, we will never achieve meaningful progress. We cannot afford to simply transfer personnel from one institution to another, be it another municipality or government department when they have been implicated in transgressions. Such actions only hinder our progress, leading to setbacks instead of advancement. Therefore, as a portfolio committee, we emphasise the importance of effective consequence management. Individuals and officials responsible for financial misconduct, financial mismanagement, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and misappropriation of funds must be held accountable by the department. These funds are intended to uplift and support disadvantaged individuals in our province, and it is our duty to ensure their proper utilisation to their benefit.

With this, I propose that the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the 2023/24 financial year be adopted by this august House.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lebea, for your insightful summary. At this juncture, we kindly request the honourable MEC to provide a response to the debates that have taken place.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and Members of the House, for the opportunity for us to come and make observations on issues raised by members of the portfolio committee regarding the APP and Budget for the Department of CoGHSTA for the 2023/24 financial year.

Hon Speaker, I would like to highlight that within the Budget, we have allocated funds to enhance our capacity by appointing additional officials to assist the department. We have already filled the position of CFO, who commenced duties on 01 June 2023. Furthermore, despite the loss of the DDG responsible for Human Settlements to another department, we have initiated a recruitment process to fill the vacancy. Consequently, all the allocated funds designated for Administration (programme 1) will remain untouched, ensuring that we proceed with the necessary appointments.

In programme 2, Sustainable Human Settlements, we have allocated R1,3 billion, representing the largest portion of our departmental Budget. We acknowledge that there have been delays in completing certain projects, including the Marapong project in the Waterberg District. To address these challenges, we have decided to assume direct responsibility for the implementation of the Marapong project, removing it from the oversight of the HDA. Regarding the concern raised about the R3 million advance payment, I want to assure you that a thorough investigation has been conducted. Those

individuals implicated in this forensic investigation have been identified, and disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against them. We are committed to ensuring accountability and taking appropriate action in these matters.

Certainly, there have been disbursements of grants, including the EPWP, and I can confirm that as a department, we have successfully filled all the required positions through the EPWP hiring process. Consequently, the grant will be utilised to its fullest to achieve its intended objectives.

I concur with the observation that our municipalities heavily rely on consultants for various tasks. Both the MEC for Treasury and I are actively involved in supporting these municipalities, trying to build capacity to ensure that they can handle financial statement preparation and enhance their internal capacity. Resolving this issue requires sustained effort and cannot be achieved overnight. It necessitates a comprehensive approach, starting from the recruitment process of competent individuals. The portfolio committee members are aware that municipalities receive the FMG (Financial Management Grant), aimed at strengthening their capacity. Additionally, the Provincial Treasury is making efforts to recruit young graduates from the financial sector and deploy them to municipalities. This is one of the measures we are undertaking to address this issue comprehensively.

Regarding traditional affairs, Hon Speaker, it is not uncommon for individuals to speak without factual basis, merely for the sake of speaking. However, I must emphasise that the claim that our provincial government is neglecting traditional affairs holds no truth. In fact, we stand as an exemplary province when compared to others in terms of our commitment to this aspect. We are proud to state that we are the only provincial government that ensures the regular payment of salaries to all recognised headmen. Furthermore, we extend this support to senior traditional leaders by providing them with remuneration and establishing well-equipped offices. It is crucial that individuals speak truthfully and responsibly, focusing on substantive matters rather than engaging in superficial discussions. Rest assured, we remain dedicated to the continuous support and advancement of our traditional affairs.

Hon Speaker, I would like to emphasise that our primary focus is on the Budget for the 2023/24 financial year, and we are fully committed to ensuring the complete utilisation (100%) of the allocated funds.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Let us continue with our proceedings.

7.8 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Over to you, committee chair.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; MECs present; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga; all Members of the Provincial Legislature. Good morning.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to move that the 2021/22 Annual Report for the department be considered and adopted by this august House. Thank you.

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 report as tabled. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.8.1 2021/22 Annual Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List, and we welcome our first speaker, Hon Monicca Mochadi, to the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Deputy Speaker, Mr Baldwin Matibe; Hon Speaker, Ms Rosemarry Molapo; Chair of Chairs, Ms Monyamane; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Mr Selane; Members of this august House; MECs present; Leader of the Opposition in absentia, I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am debating on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, which can be described as the jugular vein of the government of Limpopo.

In his speech, Nelson Mandela, the first democratic president of our country, said: "Freedom is meaningless if people cannot put food in their stomachs, if they can have no shelter, if illiteracy and disease continue to dog them."

Our former president understood that a hungry man, woman or child could not be truly free. He understood that eliminating hunger was not so much a question of producing more food as it was a matter of making a political commitment to ensure that people had access to the resources and the services they needed to buy or produce enough safe and nutritious food.

For generations, the land has been at the heart of division and conflict in our country. The bitter battles well into this century, across the valleys and plains of this province, along its rolling hills and rivers, were essentially about land.

Since then, agriculture has been divided into White, African and Indian; rich and poor; into a minority that could count on state support and those forced to fend for themselves.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I have the tendency of speaking fast. Unfortunately, that is my weakness. Today, however, as I am addressing this critical area that affects our people, sal ek bietjie stadiger oor die klippe gaan.

The 2021/22 financial year remains a sad year indeed. COVID-19 has indiscriminately affected the whole world. No region, industry, or business has been exempted. Indeed, we have lived through the various stages of a pandemic that has stalled progress and growth, a pandemic that has reversed the gains we have accumulated over the years. Despite the trauma that engulfed our people during the COVID-19 lockdown regulations, we need to increase our efforts as we move closer to the recovery line.

Under the Administration programme of the Department of Agriculture, it has achieved all six performance indicators with targets. It is a 100% achievement. The attained targets include conducting five risk assessments, compiling 20 security threat risk assessment reports, developing one ICT plan, developing one human resource plan, submission of one financial statement and the implementation of one communication strategy.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am humbled since our debate is taking place during Youth Month, while we are experiencing a serious threat of unemployment amongst young people in our province and the rest of the country in general. At times we forget that work is central to most of our lives. It enables us to get by in the world and is also the key to how we define ourselves and to our sense of self-worth.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as of 31 March 2022, the department has a total staff establishment of 3 142 posts, of which 2 108 are filled, while 1 034 posts (39,2%) are vacant. Additionally, there are 134 additional employees in the establishment. The vacancy rate of 32,9% is way above the acceptable threshold of 10%.

In terms of employment equity, the department has indicated that it faces challenges in retaining or attracting individuals possessing scarce or critical skills, as well as complying with employment equity requirements. Particularly, the department struggles to meet the target of 50% representation for women and 2,5% representation for people with disability.

There was also a high staff turnover amongst the female employees. At the SMS level the department has 31 SMS members, of which 16 are male, representing 52% and 15 are female, representing 48%. Overall, out of the department's 3,003 employees, 54% are male and 46% are female. Hon Deputy Speaker, in terms of employing people with disability, the department has achieved a rate of 2,2%, falling short of the 2,5% target. Additionally, there is a 7% representation of youth in the department.

Honourable Members, as far as the government is concerned, the aim is not to attend to the youth as if they are some separate and special species from outer space. Our central approach should be to ensure that young people are fully integrated into the social, economic, and political life of society.

Therefore, today more than ever, we require a programme of fundamental and radical socioeconomic transformation to ensure the words of President Mandela that, "... political freedom goes side by side with the freedom from hunger, want and suffering."

These imminent problems associated with unemployment present a significant challenge to many governments seeking solutions to the problem of unemployment. The fundamental approach utilised by many governments remains the creation of jobs within the informal sector.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the department supported 1 198 smallholder producers and 9 940 subsistence farmers through the Presidential Economic Stimulus Initiative (PESI) by providing production inputs. Additionally, a total of 151 producers were supported, with 15 in the cotton commodity, 102 in the citrus commodity, 1 955 in the red meat commodity and 4 240 in the grain commodity.

Hon Deputy Speaker and honourable Members, the agricultural sector is critical for economic development and is indeed the jugular vein of the government.

Why am I saying this? It is because it is the only department that can reduce unemployment and restore the dignity of this province. Therefore, our programmes of rural development, land reform, and agrarian reform must be integrated into a clear strategy that seeks to empower the poor.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when we read from the Book of books, Proverbs 20:22 says: "Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor crush the afflicted at the gate." We must integrate a clear strategy that seeks to empower the poor.

Higher food prices impact negatively on the purchasing power of the poorest of the poor in our province. Our short-term intervention measures should ensure that they provide safety nets for the poor.

Having said that, the disparities that still exist in our country, especially between urban and rural areas after almost 29 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 rural areas are still plagued by extreme poverty and a lack of food security.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is an unacceptable situation, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development must do more to correct it because they are the anchor of this province. They are the only ones who can save the unemployed people in our province and provide the required attention, funding, and expertise to the rural areas, enabling them to escape the cycle of poverty in which they are trapped.

There are many challenges that can and should be addressed in this province and the agricultural sector. These include the lack of access to finance, which inhibits the adoption of new technology and constrains innovation, resulting in a prolonged supply chain for procuring essential equipment at Mara Research Council. For example, the procurement of medication and gases for the branding of cattle takes a long time; and the lack of access to information, training and knowledge hinders business expansion and new investments.

At all times, the department is encouraged to enhance the capacity of the supply chain management section to ensure timely processing of procurement and contracts in general. It is essential that these processes are completed within 30 days, allowing contracted individuals to receive their funds promptly.

Honourable Members, we envisage a bright future for agricultural and rural communities in the future, provided that we take wise steps today guided by both the National Development Plan and public policy. We have agreed, as the portfolio committee, that agriculture is one of the most important sectors in terms of job creation and food security. I cannot emphasise it more.

Accordingly, as the people of this province, we have undertaken to embark on an agriculture revolution, and we have agreed to make dust when we start in September. We have planned to intervene to stimulate the growth of the agriculture industry in our province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the portfolio committee we have agreed on the following recommendations:

- Reports should be provided on all investigations that have taken place, including those related to fencing, the Norjax Tomato Paste Plant, the loss of livestock at Mara Research Station and computers, among others.
- The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development should furnish a report on its assets, including livestock (biological) and equipment (physical), such as tractors.
- The department should take a proactive approach in addressing foot-and-mouth disease prevention while ensuring that other veterinary services are not neglected. Neglecting these services could hinder our ability to export red meat, despite being a producer of red meat in this country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you are running out of time, so I request you to conclude your debate.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

The portfolio committee should express commitment to the presented report and acknowledge the significant challenges that the Department of Agriculture is facing.

The project should explore the potential of utilising alternative energy sources, such as solar power, to mitigate the high costs associated with Eskom electricity.

It is essential for the beneficiaries to ensure that the department's investment in this project yields fruitful results, making it self-sustainable and reducing the reliance on government support.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Department of Agriculture for their efforts in supporting farmers. May the relationship they have forged with farmers grow from strength to strength. We have to recognise the enormous farming potential within our province and strive to achieve economic growth that surpasses the national average. With your assistance, we can transform rural Limpopo, through reconstruction and development, into a thriving agricultural hub, setting an example to the rest of South Africa.

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Hon Ramalobela, on behalf of Hon Seshoka. You may ascend the podium.

THE WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I extend my greetings to Hon Speaker, the EFF caucus under the leadership of Hon Tshilidzi Maraga, Members of the Executive Council and all esteemed Members present here today.

Hon Deputy Speaker, how far has the department progressed in terms of the implementation of the Revitalization of the Agriculture and Agroprocessing Value Chain (RAAVC) since its approval, as this programme is key to economic growth in the province?

The EFF is worried that the implementation of this programme is moving at a snail's pace, resulting in the majority of youth remaining unemployed, and the economy is not growing. Equally, has the implementation of mega projects such as the Makgoba Fruit Development within the sub-tropical fruit cluster, the revitalisation of Zebediela Citrus and Limburg citrus as part of citrus cluster, and GaMoleele potato development within the potato cluster in Capricorn already commenced?

How is the continued partnership between the department and the Agricultural Research Council for livestock improvement contributing to the red meat cluster in Waterberg, and how much has the department spent on this partnership?

Hon Deputy Speaker, we also need to know how much was spent by the department on the empowerment of 120 unemployed graduates who were placed at commercial farms, and out of those, how many are now rising farmers and supported by the department? The concern is that the department places young graduates just to tick boxes without proper follow-up to unearth farmers from these graduates.

During the period under review, the department materially underspent the Budget by R98,786 million in total, of which R90,625 million relates to the Agricultural Farmer Support and Development programme. In 2020, the same finding was reported with underexpenditure of R81,996 million. What measures did the MEC put in place to avoid the recurrence of this poor performance, and what happened to the officials entrusted with this responsibility?

Farmer support and development are key to economic growth, but those who lack vision are definitely not aware of this; hence, they continue to cut the budget for this programme every year, rather than removing the rot in the department. The majority of farmers need support on an annual basis, and yet the department persists in reducing the budget. It is truly perplexing that such a position has been adopted.

The A-G reported that the Annual Financial Statements were not prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and lacked full records as required by section 40(1)(a) and (b) of the PFMA.

This happens despite the presence of officials in the finance section who are employed to prepare such documents and related materials. It raises the question of the chief financial officer's role if these documents are not prepared in accordance with the appropriate reporting framework. Any official in the department who fails to fulfil their duties or neglects their responsibilities should be dismissed, as we require the department's hires to provide value for money invested in them.

Of what use is the action plan developed to monitor internal and external audit findings if it does not ensure that root causes resulting in material findings are resolved? Such a plan must be revisited and properly aligned with the broader vision and goals of the department to respond properly to the challenges regarding these audit findings. Can this House be provided with a report from the SIU regarding the mismanagement of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) grant in supply chain management processes?

This is a long-standing matter dating as far back as 2018, but apparently, it does not find closure. Can the MEC table a full report on the Norjax Tomato Paste Plant in Politsi, Tzaneen, during the next Sitting of the Legislature? An investigation was conducted internally by Risk Management, and we need a comprehensive report in this regard.

During the period under review, the vacancy rate stood at 32,9%, which is above the acceptable threshold. What is the current status on this matter?

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is clear that everything in this department is half done. Everything is being taken for granted; hence, there is no progress on a number of activities. All this can be attributed to cadre deployment of the ANC-led government.

In conclusion, Hon Deputy Speaker and honourable Members, it is important to remember that action speaks louder than words.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Ramalobela. We now invite our next speaker, Hon Desiree van der Walt, to the podium to lead us in debate.

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Deputy Speaker, Limpopo is hoofsaaklik 'n landbou provinsie. Tog wanneer 'n mens die begrotings- en kwartaalverslae deurgaen, blyk dit dat dit dalk 'n afgeskepte department is.

Met R1,64 miljard, talle vrugte, bees, skaap, boerbokke, wild, mielies, sonneblomme ens. wil ek vra: "Waar sal ons hulp vandaan kom?" Ja, ons het groot, sterk boere ook, maar die jong opkomende boere sukkel, en word afgeskeep.

Met die min hulp en ondersteuning is talle moedeloos nog voor hulle 'n poging aanwend om te begin boer.

Hoe dra hierdie situasie by tot werkloosheid? 'n Vorige spreker het die potensiaal vir werkskepping genoem, maar die werklikheid is dat dit nie plaasvind nie. Die finansiële jaar se onderspandering beloop R98,7 miljoen.

The biggest contributor to the underspending of funds is the Agricultural Producer Support and Development programme with R90,62 million. In 2020, the same finding was reported with underspending of R81,9 million.

Additionally, underspending of R4,14 million and R2,81 million was observed in the Sustainable Resource Management and Administration programmes respectively.

Concerning the Conditional Grant, both the Land Care and CASP programmes utilised only 66% and 68% of their allocated budgets, respectively.

The portfolio committee acknowledges the concern regarding the excessive reliance on the Auditor-General's corrections. It is evident that the unqualified audit outcome could have seen improvement if senior finance officials had dedicated greater focus and effort, building on the previous year's results.

It is unacceptable when skilled financial officials fail to prepare financial statements in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and lack the necessary

support of full records, as required by section 40(1)(a) and (b) of the Public Finance Management Act.

The Veterinary Services programme unfortunately did not achieve any of its targets, with a decline in demand for various services observed in most cases.

In response to the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the Vhembe and Mopani Districts, the department reported the collection of 2 696 samples for surveillance. Additionally, 6 740 epidemiological units were visited, 1 717 dipping sessions were conducted on communal cattle, and 227 FMD vaccination sessions were carried out to manage the FMD outbreak.

The department should consider implementing a comprehensive awareness campaign to safeguard animals against disease and any outbreaks like FMD. Addressing the lack of commitment or any interest by farmers is crucial in this regard.

The Structured Education and Training programme successfully achieved 100% of its targets. Notably, 115 students graduated with higher education qualifications from the colleges, and the Agricultural Skills Development subprogramme, trained 404 participants.

Honourable MEC, we kindly request an explanation for the 39,2% vacancy rate in your department, which significantly exceeds the acceptable threshold of 10%.

It is imperative for your department to prioritise the implementation of audit action plans to attain a clean audit. Corrective and consequence management actions must be carried out accordingly. We hold you accountable for achieving a clean audit in the current financial year.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you for your valuable inputs, Hon Van der Walt. Our next speaker will be Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of opposition parties, Members of this august House and guests, good morning.

The department's current approach appears inadequate in supporting farmers effectively. It is impractical to allocate funds to projects when there are ongoing community conflicts related to resource allocation, which often leads to the mismanagement of resources that were intended for farming purposes. The department should resolve the disputes first before proceeding with farming initiatives, which include both resource allocation and training in farming techniques.

Hon Speaker, there are projects under the purview of the Department of Agriculture that have proven to be non-functional. Merely acquiring a piece of land does not automatically make you a farmer. You must have the necessary knowledge and skills to make a success of farming, which unfortunately seem to be lacking in these projects.

Hon Speaker, the department must, therefore, be more actively involved in the planning of these projects. This should involve regular supervised visits and providing support to farmers, enabling them to contribute sustainably to the province's economy.

The majority of the existing projects are unable to consistently contribute to our province's food security. It is these particular projects that the Freedom Front Plus wishes to express concern about. They fail to contribute meaningfully to the province's economy and instead act as a bottomless pit draining the department's resources. Without intervention, our province will face a significant food security crisis in the near future. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you for your contribution. I now hand over the floor to the committee chairperson to provide his perspective on the debates.

MR MASEKO

Ngigela ukuthi ngibonge uSomlomo. Ngibulise u-Chair of Chairs no-Deputy Chair of Chairs, ngibuye futhi ngibulise u-Deputy Chief Whip, ama-MEC wonke akhona la kule Nkundla le. Ngigela ukubulisa ama-Member we-opposition nama-Member wonke akhona ngapha kulomhlangothi wanamuhla.

Kubalulekile, Somlomo, ukuthi sizwisise nasikhuluma ngendaba ye-Agriculture. Sikhuluma ngendaba ebalulekile, enikeza abantu ukudla. Sikhuluma ngendaba ebalulekile eyenza ukuthi wonke umuntu avuke eze la kule Nkundla esikuyo. If bekungeke kube yi-agriculture ngabe asikho la, ngabe sifile yindlala.

Hon Desiree, what I am saying is that agriculture is a field of unlimited possibilities. As we celebrate 29 years of freedom and the achievements of the last two decades, let us be mindful of the need to further improve the lives of our people through quality provision of services.

As the portfolio committee responsible for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, we are committed to contribute towards nation-building and continuing to unite the people through our programmes. Additionally, we seek to promote development and increase the contribution of this sector towards economic growth and job opportunities. Agriculture is one of the most strategically important sectors; it has the potential to create numerous job opportunities and will contribute immensely to the GDP of the country.

The committee executed its constitutional mandate by playing its oversight role on whether the programmes of the department unfolded as planned, and the extent to which the department has performed on its 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan. The committee

found that the department is very active with regard to the implementation of its targets, particularly on upping the agricultural value chain as well as unlocking the potential of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs). However, we are worried about the underspending on support to emerging farmers. Our expectation as a portfolio committee is that funds should be fully utilised, as the purpose of the programme is to redress historical imbalances. We seriously take offense when money allocated to support the most vulnerable is not used for its intended purpose. This deprives this category of farmers from growing and becoming self-reliant and self-sustainable.

This is a matter that we raised with the MEC, and a commitment was made that the department would prioritise it. We have observed that an initiative has been launched in response to the challenges we brought forward. We commend the MEC and his office for their responsiveness.

The committee further resolved to improve agricultural productivity in the province and increase the sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product, alleviate poverty and create job opportunities, making the NDP targets a reality.

Honourable Members, throughout the entire province, we have observed below-normal vegetation conditions, indicating widespread water stress in most areas. These conditions persisted from the first to the last quarter of the 2021/22 financial year, significantly impacting agricultural production, particularly for livestock farmers in communal farming systems. To address this, it is crucial to maintain continuous implementation of drought mitigation measures, including the livestock feeding scheme.

The committee is, however, pleased with the allocation of departmental procurement to cooperatives and SMMEs owned by women, youth and people living with disability.

The committee resolved to prioritise the timely establishment of essential infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and market access to provide support to farmers. Additionally, the committee emphasises the importance of social mobilisation within farming communities and encourages efforts towards achieving targeted graduation rates in agricultural training colleges. By pursuing these initiatives, we can effectively combat the threat of poverty and work towards its defeat.

The committee noted that at the end of quarter four of 2021, agriculture expanded by 12% compared to the previous quarter. The growth is due to an increase in field crops, horticultural and animal production. The export of vegetables also contributed to the total value of exports, which grew by 8,5% and complements the implementation of the socioeconomic recovery plan.

It is recommended that:

- There should be a speedy implementation of capital asset projects to avoid backlogs and delays in service delivery.
- Serious intervention mechanisms should be put in place to address non-compliance with SCM processes, and action must be taken against perpetrators.

Anyone who fails to comply with SCM procedures will be regarded as acting deliberately and not making a mere mistake. We have confidence that the department's leadership will take appropriate action in such cases, without fear or favour.

- LDARD should avoid delays in procurement for production inputs and infrastructure projects for farmers.
- LDARD should provide a report on its assets such as livestock and equipment.
- The department should be proactive in addressing foot-and-mouth disease prevention and ensure that other veterinary activities are not neglected.

The committee welcomed the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agroprocessing Value Chain plan, as approved in the 2021/22 financial year, which is aimed at addressing gaps and revitalising primary production and strengthening agroprocessing.

The following projects commenced and are fully running during the year under review:

- Cotton commodity in the Sekhukhune District - 270 ha were planted and 428 tons were harvested, which is a positive development.
- Red meat commodity in Waterberg - supported through border fencing, stock water systems, an animal handling facility, and a multi-purpose facility.
- Vegetable cluster in Mopani.
- Revitalisation of irrigation schemes: Mogalatjane - 80 ha of cotton and 30 ha of dry beans were planted in the 2020/21 season, and 50 seasonal workers were employed through the EPWP.

This is our expectation, and we are calling upon the department to continue doing their work diligently.

Honourable Members, it was reported that in the 2022/23 financial year, the focus will be on installing an irrigation system on 120 ha and 26 ha of cotton will be planted.

It is unfortunate that in relation to the Revitalisation of the Agriculture and Agroprocessing Value Chain, we would like to bring it to the attention of the Legislature that the Tswelopele programme's progress has been hindered by ongoing investigations into community land claims that are still under investigation by the Regional Land Claims Commission. Only three out of four claims were successfully investigated. There is also an emergence of illegal land occupation by squatters, which threatens the future existence of the same strategic project, and therefore we call upon the department to take the necessary action to prevent the illegal occupation of land.

Hon Speaker, the continuous community conflicts in various projects are negatively affecting progress. The progress in the implementation of the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agroprocessing Value Chain plan was slowed down due to various factors, including court judgments in the Makgoba project, which halted the planned finalisation. This slowed down the progress in finding solutions to the community disputes at Limburg Citrus, and procurement challenges in relation to Zebediela and GaMoleele. These are characteristic of our projects, and it is imperative that we collaborate and find solutions to address these prevailing social challenges.

The AG reported that annual financial statements were not prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and supported by full records, as required by section 40(1)(a) and (b) of the PMFA. Material misstatements of non-guaranteed assets, which were identified by auditors in the submitted financial statements, have been corrected, resulting in financial statements receiving an unqualified opinion. This is the current status of the Department of Agriculture. As a portfolio committee, we agree on striving for a clean audit. The department has committed to working together to achieve this goal and ensure that we progress towards obtaining our clean audit.

As per resolution, it is agreed to diligently track and implement the recommendations of Scopa and previous portfolio committee resolutions. By doing so, the department aims to transform from an unqualified audit opinion to a clean audit finding. The supply chain management is strongly urged to avoid unnecessary delays in project implementation to prevent underexpenditure at the end of the financial year. It has been observed that certain actions are deliberately taken to frustrate project implementation, resulting in underspending. Underspending is considered a serious offence as it denies people their basic rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Your allocated time is coming to an end, honourable Member. I request that you kindly proceed with your concluding remarks.

MR MASEKO

In conclusion, it is recommended that the department collaborates with private sector partners and communities to identify the areas where support for farmers can be enhanced. This collaboration aims to promote the agricultural sector in the best interest of the masses.

I hereby propose the adoption of this report.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Please do not leave the podium, committee chair; we are moving to the next item.

7.8 Consideration and Adoption of the Report for the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

7.8.1 2022/23 Second Quarter Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The floor is yours, honourable chairperson.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. With all due respect to the observed protocols, allow me to rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to propose the motion that the 2022/23 Second Quarter Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development be duly considered and adopted by this august House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

I hereby rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

7.8.2 2022/23 Third Quarter Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Chairperson, over to you.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. With all due respect to the protocols observed, allow me to rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to propose the motion that the 2022/23 Third Quarter Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development be duly considered and adopted by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKOAMENG

I hereby rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

7.8.3 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Over to you once more, honourable chairperson.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. With all due respect to the observed protocols, allow me to rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to propose the motion that the 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development be duly considered and adopted by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Ke a leboga. Nna, Monicca Mochadi, ke ema go thekga tšhišinyo ka mo e beilwego. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We acknowledge the seconding of the motion by Hon Mochadi. As we proceed, we will now turn our attention to the Speakers' List. We kindly request Hon Aphiri to initiate the debate as the first speaker on the list.

MS APHIRI

Allow me to commence by expressing my gratitude to you, Hon Speaker, for granting me this valuable opportunity to speak before this esteemed House. Let me extend a warm and cordial good morning to each and every one of you.

I rise to engage with honourable Members during this significant month of June. It holds great historical significance in our country's calendar as it commemorates the protests of 16 June 1976, which resulted in numerous casualties. The youth of 1976 played a pivotal role in fighting against and overcoming the inequality and oppression inflicted by apartheid.

In the wake of the 1976 uprisings, many young people departed from South Africa and sought refuge in the frontline states, where they joined the liberation movement in exile.

The aftermath of the June events had dire consequences for the apartheid government. The international community was appalled by the images of police firing upon peacefully

protesting students, exposing the brutality of the South African regime and leading to global condemnation.

When Youth Day was declared on 16 June 1994, it was aimed at commemorating the memories of those who lost their lives and suffered during this day. It also aimed to uphold their legacy and principles of selflessness, determination, and devotion necessary for the success and growth of any society or nation.

The sacrifices of these courageous young people who fought for equal education will forever be etched in the country's history. Meanwhile, the weakened and exiled liberation movements received new recruits fleeing political persecution at home, providing impetus to the struggle against apartheid.

As part of its oversight function, the committee executed its constitutional mandate to assess the implementation of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's programmes and evaluate its performance for the 2022/23 financial year.

Madam Speaker, the agricultural sector plays a critical role in the economic development of both rural areas and the entire country. Therefore, our programmes focusing on rural development, land reform, and agrarian reform should be seamlessly integrated into a comprehensive strategy aimed at empowering the impoverished.

Madam Speaker, the escalating fuel prices have led to a drastic increase in food prices. These elevated prices, combined with high-interest rates, have reduced the purchasing power of households and exposed millions of people to food insecurity.

In light of this, we commit to collaborate with national government to provide support to both established commercial farmers and emerging farmers.

As the Limpopo government, our primary focus should be on the Mechanisation programme. We must ensure the adequate distribution of farming equipment to emerging farmers and those engaged in subsistence farming.

Furthermore, we must continue to extend our support to the numerous emerging farmers who have been driven to bankruptcy due to a lack of farming skills and experience. It is evident that many of these farmers have been forced into bankruptcy as a result of the exorbitant costs associated with inputs such as fuel, fertilisers, electricity and water.

The portfolio committee regrets to note that the department equipped only 10 ha instead of the intended 33 ha with infield irrigation systems in projects. The remaining projects had to be reprioritised due to pending water rights issues.

According to the department's report, the following projects are still under construction and have not been completed: Mogalatjane, TK family, Magadimana, Ditsebe Ngwana Mobu, Mazeli, Mosengoana, and Tafelkop.

As a corrective measure, the department has taken the following actions: continuing to provide assistance to farmers regarding planning and application for water rights,

maintaining regular interaction with contractors through emails, conducting site meetings, and performing special site inspections to ensure compliance with the contracts.

The challenge of water rights was reported as a pervasive issue, and it is imperative for the department to find comprehensive solutions to address it. This is crucial, as farmers are often forced to rely on summer crops or leave their land uncultivated due to inadequate water access. The portfolio committee strongly believes that the underexpenditure and insufficient support provided to farmers can be attributed to this overarching problem.

Madam Speaker, education plays a fundamental role in the growth and development of our province. It is crucial that we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing every child with equal opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to make a positive contribution to society.

The strategic plan outlines four areas that the departmental officials have identified as challenges requiring collaborative efforts: finance, human resource development, performance excellence, and stakeholder and community satisfaction.

During the oversight visits to the colleges, various achievements and challenges were brought to light. One notable challenge is that the colleges operate as sub-directorates of the department. This arrangement had led to delays and inefficiencies, as the colleges must adhere to all departmental procedures, particularly in procurement, which hampers the timeliness of their work.

There was also an issue of a high vacancy rate and concerns for safety of the students and employees in the colleges. The department also indicated that there was a plan to migrate the colleges into the Department of Higher Education, which did not materialise at the beginning of the 2022/23 financial year.

The committee recommended that the department provide regular updates on the operations of Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila Colleges of Agriculture, as well as updates on the migration processes.

Madam Speaker, let us take a moment to pay tribute to uMbhokodo Tina Joemat-Pettersson. We appreciate the support and guidance that Cde Tina provided during her tenure as the Minister of this department.

As the Limpopo government we recognise and appreciate the role played by uMbhokodo in promoting effective land utilisation. Joemat-Pettersson has consistently emphasised the importance of harnessing indigenous farming knowledge to ensure food security.

During her term of office, she has offered her assistance to the government in mobilising communities to produce food for domestic consumption. She has also expressed her commitment to ensuring that traditional leadership as a whole assumes a leading role in the agricultural revolution.

We commend her for advocating partnerships that involve elected public representatives and ordinary members of society. Without the involvement of leadership institutions, we acknowledge that the targets outlined in our Agriculture Plan cannot be achieved.

To achieve success, we must revamp our farmer support programmes by providing comprehensive assistance to new and emerging farmers. This entails identifying individuals interested in farming, providing them with proper training and establishing mentorship programmes in collaboration with former landowners to facilitate the smooth transfer of skills.

Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals requires our focused attention on multiple areas. However, one thing remains clear: the farmer must be at the centre of any successful endeavour.

Small-scale farmers must be evaluated and provided with the necessary support to ensure the growth of their operations. This support is crucial for them to be able to supply food to our country and, concurrently, generate more sustainable jobs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

As you conclude your debate, honourable Member.

MS APHIRI

As I conclude, it is recommended that the department maintains responsibility and accountability for the management and operations of the Mara and Towoomba Research Stations. Additionally, the department should provide the portfolio committee with a report detailing the breakdown of the biological assets (animals) present in these stations.

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, we are endeavouring to expedite the proceedings to allow for a single lunch break. If anyone wishes to take a short break, you are excused to stretch your legs and enjoy a cup of tea before returning. At this time, we will invite Hon Ramalobela, the next speaker on the list, to address the House.

THE WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of this House, revolutionary greetings once more.

Hon Speaker, agriculture is the cornerstone of the livelihood of the people in the province and one of the key pillars of the economy in the province. Therefore, the department is expected to massively contribute to economic growth and job creation in the province, but in its current state, this is highly unlikely to happen.

The department spent millions of rands on key projects without a return on investment. Worst of all, most of the projects are either delayed or have produced poor-quality workmanship.

Hon Deputy Speaker, all these occurrences are a result of inadequate governance and leadership practices within this department. This persistent issue fails to instil confidence and instead demoralises the people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, programme 3, Agriculture Producer Support, constitutes the department's core business and has been allocated over 60% of the Goods and Services budget. This programme is entrusted with the responsibility of directly supporting farmers through skills training and infrastructure development, which are essential functions of the department.

Hon Speaker, the department reported an underexpenditure of R158,678 million, with 82% of that amount, which is R130,528 million, attributed to programme 3. This underexpenditure not only adversely affects the poor but also hampers the production and success of the impoverished. Shockingly, the officials responsible for this mismanagement are rewarded with performance bonuses, which is a celebration of this detrimental act by the ANC-led government.

Agricultural producers require government support, which unfortunately remains elusive due to the department's failure to allocate sufficient funds for farmer assistance. Regrettably, the MEC and the department seem indifferent to this issue. Consequently, no officials were held accountable, and life carries on as if everything is fine. The EFF anticipates no substantial changes because the responsible MEC lacks the drive for success and seems content with mediocrity.

The EFF urges the MEC to formulate a comprehensive turnaround strategy to prevent the recurrence of poor performance across programmes, with particular emphasis on programme 3. Furthermore, the MEC should provide regular progress updates to this august House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this department's report reveals underperformance in several programmes during the period under review. For instance, there were shortcomings in drought assistance, irrigation support at Ditsebe Ngwana Mobu, and the provision of production inputs such as fertilisers and initiatives related to food production.

The lack of accountability for officials involved in these misconducts is a pressing concern as it perpetuates their recurrence. Both the MEC and the senior management of the department seem complacent with this underperformance, while our farmers bear the brunt of high production costs. Furthermore, these officials receive protection due to their proximity to political leadership, shielding them from facing consequences for their involvement in fraud, corruption, irregular expenditure, underexpenditure, wasteful and fruitless expenditure. The EFF expresses disappointment in the failure to implement crucial infrastructure projects, such as field irrigation systems and schemes due to outstanding water rights issues.

Hon Speaker, the problem with this department lies in its consistent failure to execute projects. They have become experts in avoiding project implementation. They must not exhibit laziness in their thinking and should utilise funds meant for improving the lives of our people. Supporting more farmers inevitably leads to the creation of more jobs. Additionally, the department should present a comprehensive progress report to this House regarding all catalytic projects within the province. We must assess the operational and functional status of the Mara and Toowoomba Research Stations to ensure they benefit both the department and the people of Limpopo. It is within our control to address these matters.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Ramalobela. The next speaker is Hon van der Walt. You may ascend the podium.

MS VAN DER WALT

Agbare adjunkspeaker, in die 2de kwartaal van die 2022/23 finansiële prestasieverslag het die department 23,7% van sy begroting gespandeer in plaas van 25%, en 85% van sy teikens bereik.

In die 3de kwartaal word die begroting aangepas met R136,3 miljoen (8%), en spandeer die department 25% van sy aangepaste verhoging ten bedrae van R444,5 miljoen.

Tydens die 4de kwartaal spandeer die department 26% oftewel R471,4 miljoen van sy aangepaste begroting. Dit bring die finansiële jaar se spandering op 91% waarvan die waarde R1,635 miljard, is.

The department is currently focusing on key strategic priorities that align with the New Growth Path, National Development Plan and the Medium Strategic Framework. These priorities have been identified based on the guidance provided by the Limpopo Development Plan. One of the department's efforts to contribute to economic growth is the coordination of Agri-Parks development in Limpopo.

In conjunction with the above, the Agricultural Policy Action Plan and the Nine Point Plan, the department aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased smallholder agricultural production (both crops and livestock).
- Development of agroprocessing and value-added enterprises,
- Creation of employment opportunities through upstream and downstream activities.
- Providing support to agri-businesses, including agricultural cooperatives and enterprises in terms of finance and market access.
- Offering veterinary regulatory services to mitigate the impact of foot-and-mouth disease.
- Extending and enhancing skills development and training in the agricultural sector.

- Coordinating a rural development programme to integrate rural areas.
- Achieving successful infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation.

We are currently falling short in this sector when it comes to creating employment. It is imperative that we take proactive measures. For instance, the agroprocessing sub-sector in the Western Cape serves as a significant contributor to addressing the issue of youth unemployment. This sub-sector provides employment to 45% of the youth and is instrumental in transforming the agricultural industry, with 47% of its workforce comprising women.

Let's aim higher because we have the capability to do so. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker on the list is Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of opposition parties, as well as the Freedom Front Plus leader, Members of this august House and guests, good morning.

Hon Speaker, I am going to keep my remarks concise as there is no need for extensive elaboration. Coming from a farming background, I possess firsthand knowledge of the subject matter. Therefore, I will proceed by stating what I have to say without unnecessary ado. When examining quarters two and three, it is evident that the same problems persist. It appears that the department's planning does not meet the required standard. Thorough research into projects should be conducted by the department before allocating funds and resources, avoiding unnecessary expenses at that particular stage of the project.

Hon Speaker, upcoming farmers need skilled mentors with a solid farming background. This is the key to their success and self-sufficiency. Only then can they contribute to the well-being of the province and nation as a whole. It is not sustainable to continue providing resources if the farmers are not willing to become self-sufficient.

Hon Speaker, the department should hold the farmers accountable if they fail to fulfil their responsibilities. It is unreasonable for them to continually rely on taxpayer resources without achieving sustainability despite years of assistance.

Furthermore, Hon Speaker, there are notable successful projects where farmers demonstrate a commitment to self-sufficiency and their hard work yields positive results. Let us endeavour to support and empower them, enabling their self-sustainability as well. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We kindly request the presence of the chairperson, Hon Maseko, to share his insights during the debate with us.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, distinguished Members of the Provincial Legislature. I extend my warm greetings to each and every one of you.

Honourable Members, as we started our day today, we were able to have something to eat, and for that, we must express our gratitude to the farmers. I raise this point because it is often overlooked and taken for granted, given the nature of their business. Go lema re go bapetša le ditšhila because ... [inaudible] However, the reality is that when farmers make mistakes, the consequences are immediate, catastrophic and impact all of us. The availability of an ample food supply is of utmost importance. as It poses a significant challenge even in situations where financial resources are abundant. A farmer is not just an entrepreneur but someone who coordinates production factors. They work tirelessly, taking risks, acting as historians, scientists and even weather forecasters.

Madam Speaker, central to the successful implementation of the departmental programmes, plans and targets is the farmer. In the Annual Performance Plan for the 2022/23 financial year, the department was allocated a total Budget of R1,657 billion, which was adjusted to R1,793 billion for all seven key programmes. This adjustment shows an increase of R136,318 million (8%) from the original allocation.

The portfolio committee was very concerned that the Agricultural Producer Support programme budget decreased by R84,538 million. During the quarter under review, the department spent a total of R444,552 million (25%) of the total adjustment budget. The expenditure aligns with our expectations and is in accordance with our plans. At the end of quarter three the total expenditure for quarters one, two and three was R1,163 billion, which is 65% instead of 75% of the Budget, indicating a possibility of spending less than anticipated, with the remaining amount being R630,136 million.

In terms of the achievement of targets in all programmes, the department has achieved 41 out of its 55 targets set in the third quarter. This represents about 75% of targets reached, indicating that they had approximately 25% of the budget remaining in the fourth quarter, coming very close to fully utilising the allocated amount.

As the portfolio committee we recommend that the department's initiatives and programmes aimed at achieving rural development must be re-examined, and if necessary, modified or changed to speed up the pace of development in the rural areas.

Madam Speaker, you may ask yourselves why a debate on agriculture quarterly reports is necessary. This is because you cannot address challenges without addressing food production, particularly in a country like ours where the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment confront us every day.

The department reported that it established three agricultural infrastructure projects instead of the targeted eight. The department completed one livestock infrastructure project due to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the Vhembe District, which necessitated the construction of an additional animal handling facility.

Improved infrastructure leads to the expansion of markets, economies of scale, and improvement in factor market operations. The development of rural infrastructure helps to enlarge markets with greater access to the production factors.

The portfolio committee was very concerned over the department's failure to implement any projects related to infield irrigation systems or efficient and environmentally controlled production structures. This is primarily due to unresolved water rights issues, leading to the reprioritisation of these projects.

The portfolio committee is greatly concerned that the department did not prioritise the acquisition of water rights for irrigation scheme projects before approving them as part of its plans. As a result, the committee strongly recommends that water rights be secured for emerging farmers before such projects are encapsulated in the departmental plans. This approach will avoid underspending caused by inadequate planning and ensure effective implementation of the projects. The current challenge lies in the approval of farmers before they receive water rights. The funding condition stipulates that only farmers with water rights can be financed. This matter has been extensively deliberated with the department, and we have reached a mutual commitment and understanding that prioritises compliance project registration. In the upcoming financial year, we aim to eliminate such challenges by implementing necessary measures.

In this very House, Members have debated unemployment figures and have also reflected on the issue of food insecurity. All honourable Members have agreed that agriculture is one of the most important sectors in terms of job creation and food security.

South Africa is projected to see the highest jobless rate globally. As the most industrialised nation on the continent, unemployment is estimated to hit 35,6% in 2023. Slow economic growth and stringent labour laws have a serious impact on unemployment.

The department is strategically placed to turn the situation around by implementing the following:

- prioritising farmer support and development for young farmers in key commodities such as timber, citrus, avocados, etc.;
- ensuring that opportunities for unemployed graduates and interns are filled as soon as they become vacant, as there are many unemployed graduates in need of such opportunities; and
- addressing the supply chain management challenges in the department to avoid further delays in procuring production inputs to support farmers.

Similar to the second quarter, the department's activities were redirected due to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in in the Vhembe District towards containing the

disease. The department also indicated that 328 samples were collected for targeted animal disease surveillance, falling short of the target of 1,258 due to more samples being collected during quarter one and two in response to the FMD outbreak and for decreasing the disease management area.

Similarly, in the second quarter, the department conducted 3,159 visits to epidemiological units for veterinary interventions instead of the planned 3,400 visits, as animal health technicians across the districts were responding to the FMD outbreak in the Vhembe District.

In response to the FMD outbreak in Vhembe, 83 vaccination sessions were conducted instead of the planned 74. The department reported that 517 veterinary certificates were issued for export facilitation, exceeding the target of 250. Both cases have exceeded expectations.

The portfolio committee noted with regret that 68 participants were trained in agricultural skills and development programmes, falling short of the target of 125, due to student unrests at Tompi Seleka College. This led to the postponement of the training sessions for farmers. Due to the circumstances out of our control, the target could not be achieved.

The portfolio committee requested the department to provide a report on what caused the unrest at Tompi Seleka College and whether the root causes have been addressed to ensure the resumption of training services and smooth operation of the college.

The agricultural colleges are critical national assets and need to be better positioned to make a real impact on skills transfer in rural communities. The spatial distribution of agricultural colleges covers all the agroecological zones of our nation and is also fairly distributed in most provinces. When an agricultural college does not meet expectations, it presents a challenge.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Kindly proceed by concluding your debate, honourable Member.

MR MASEKO

The agricultural colleges are of immense importance, and it is therefore imperative that agricultural training institutes are recapitalised and adequately resourced in terms of infrastructure, and that they build strong governance and become semi-autonomous. The students from colleges will be the champions of agricultural transformation and form a solid base for future commercial farmers in the country.

I hereby propose the motion, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you sincerely. The honourable MEC is currently compiling a response to the debates. We have reached the last item agenda.

7.9 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development: 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the portfolio committee to formally propose the adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as a report of this House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Do we have any seconders? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Monicca Mochadi, hereby second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. As we proceed to the final Speakers' List for the day, I kindly request Hon Rudolph Phala to initiate the debate.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to discuss the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Limpopo for the 2023/24 financial year. Today marks the final day for submitting matters of concern to this department. However, it is worth noting that many of the issues have already been addressed during discussions on the annual report or the quarterly reports, as they pertain to the same department. I will reiterate some of the key issues that we will closely monitor throughout the year.

One notable point to highlight is the statement by the chairperson, Hon Jerry Maseko, emphasising that when comparing the department's performance with its past, there is a noticeable turnaround and improvement in outcomes. There is even optimism that the department may achieve a clean audit in the future. This confidence stems from our ongoing oversight and observation of the department's progress.

It is worth mentioning that the current head of department has been in his position since December 2013, and the MEC responsible comes from the Department of LEDET, where he successfully turned it around and achieved a clean audit. Therefore, while there are some concerns that need addressing, they are not insurmountable. Upon closer

examination, we believe that the department can continue to improve. It is essential to focus on the upcoming 2023/24 financial year and move forward with a positive outlook.

During the course of the year, one issue we constantly raised with the department pertains to supporting emerging farmers in our province. It is crucial to provide them with the necessary assistance to improve their performance and enhance their agricultural output, as echoed by the honourable chairperson and other members in this forum. This support encompasses revitalising irrigation schemes to ensure a turnaround and better performance. Numerous irrigation schemes have collapsed over time, and it is our aim to bolster support for their restoration, enabling them to operate more effectively. Collaborating with the national Department of Water, we seek to address the matter of water licences. This entails maximising the utilisation of water resources stored in large dams for both agricultural purposes and the needs of our communities, serving human consumption and other vital applications.

We are highlighting this issue because when examining the large farms with dams, particularly in Sekhukhune - Loskop Dam, Flag Boshielo, and De Hoop Dam – we observed that they are full to capacity. However, the neighbouring communities are deprived of water for small gardens, human use, or other irrigation purposes. This disparity can be attributed to the legislation governing water licences. It is imperative to address this situation and ensure that people can benefit from the water resources available in the province.

Another issue that we raised prominently and intend to follow up with the department is the matter of foot-and-mouth disease, as reiterated by Hon Maseko and other Members, including Hon van der Walt. The outbreak of this disease poses a significant threat to South Africa's red meat industry, particularly in the eastern part of the Vhembe region and the northern part of the Mopani region. These areas are characterised by the coexistence of domestic animals such as cattle and wild buffalo from the Kruger National Park and surrounding areas. It is imperative that we pay close attention to these regions to prevent the occurrence of foot-and-mouth disease, as it poses a substantial risk to the entire republic's red meat industry.

Additionally, we are focusing on revitalising areas that have shown great productivity in the past. The Makgoba Tea Estate, Zebediela Citrus Farm and Tshivhase Tea Estate will receive considerable attention. We have learned that the Tshivhase Tea Estate has undergone a transformation and is no longer solely focused on tea production. As long as the land is utilised productively, creating employment opportunities and contributing to agricultural output, we are pleased with the outcome. We expect similar progress at the Makgoba Tea Estate.

Furthermore, we are directing our attention to the agricultural colleges mentioned by Hon Aphiri and investigating the causes behind the recent strike that occurred at one of these institutions. Our specific focus will be on the two agricultural colleges, Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka, as they play a crucial role in providing training and skills development for prospective farmers in this province.

We are also placing great emphasis on post-settlement support, Hon Speaker, to ensure that individuals who have received land restitution do not simply own it but continue to use it productively. The land was restored to them as a functioning farm, and it must remain as such. The department will collaborate with the national department to ensure that post-settlement support is provided to these individuals, enabling them to maintain productive farms. This also relates to the issue of land claims. We have recently engaged with the Commissioner of Land Claims in the province, who provided a briefing on their efforts to facilitate land restitution for the people whose land was taken away, particularly in this province.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the state of the state veterinary services in the province. We will closely monitor the research stations in the province, namely Mara and Towoomba to ensure they continue to deliver veterinary services effectively. The department will assess their recruitment practices to ensure they hire qualified professionals, including scientists, who can contribute to the field of state veterinary services and assist us in this regard.

The protection of wetlands in the province is another area of focus for us. We will collaborate with traditional leaders, municipalities, and communities, to prevent the disappearance, dumping, misuse and other forms of abuse that threaten wetland areas. Wetlands are integral to the ecosystem and play a vital role in maintaining the health of the land. We must ensure that these wetlands continue to fulfil their purpose in the future. Neglecting them could lead to desertification, where an area gradually turns into a desert due to a lack of water. The Sekhukhune area serves as an example of such desertification.

In our efforts to protect wetlands, we will ensure their proper care. Through collaboration with traditional leaders, municipalities, and other relevant stakeholders, we aim to put an end to desertification in the affected area. We will closely monitor the department's internal operations to ensure that the funds allocated from the provincial budget are utilised appropriately, serving the agricultural and rural communities in this province. We will scrutinise their expenditure to prevent any irregular, fruitless and wasteful, or unauthorised expenditure. Should such unwanted expenditure occur, we will take decisive action against the officials responsible for allowing that.

As we pass the Budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development today, we emphasise our commitment to closely monitoring its implementation throughout the year. This includes monthly and quarterly assessments until the end of the financial year on 31 March 2024, to ensure the proper utilisation of allocated funds.

Furthermore, the department has faced challenges in the past, such as the loss of 88 desktop computers, 120 laptops, and a herd of 101 cattle at the Mara Research Station. In recent meetings, we followed up on the actions taken to address these losses. We are confident that the department has addressed the matter, and we hope that such losses will not occur in the future.

The department has a crucial responsibility to protect endangered species, working in collaboration with the Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism

(LEDET). We sincerely hope that the MEC is fully attentive to the matter. It is disheartening to witness incidents like the discovery of a pangolin, one of the most endangered species in the world, in the boot of an official's car during a roadblock in Bela-Bela. How could this happen? How could a member of this department possess an endangered species that should be protected? We urge the MEC to pay the utmost attention to this issue and prevent its recurrence. The protection of all endangered species in this province, including trees and plants and pangolins, should fall under the diligent watch of the MEC. Moving forward, we strongly discourage any stories of items being lost under mysterious circumstances. Therefore, our focus will be unwaveringly directed towards the department throughout the year as part of our oversight mandate to monitor the Annual Performance Plan and Budget.

In light of the points raised by fellow Members during their debates on the Annual and Quarterly Reports, I will not dwell further on these matters. Rest assured; we will vigilantly monitor them.

I thank you for the opportunity, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. As our next speaker, we welcome Hon Ramalobela.

THE WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Executive Members in the House and esteemed colleagues. I extend greetings once again.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has been allocated a total revised Budget of R1,770,786 billion for the 2023/24 financial year. The allocated Budget represents an increase of R113 million or 6,9% from the 2022/23 main appropriation of R1,657 billion. However, we question the significance of this Budget and its increase if it does not contribute towards the general improvement of the lives of our people, particularly the farmers.

Hon Speaker, it is well known that we are dealing with an administration that often makes commitments but fails to fulfil them. They are notorious for making empty promises to the masses, especially the poorest of the poor, which includes emerging farmers.

Hon Speaker, the EFF expresses concern over the significant reduction in the budget allocation for programme 3 by R107,276 million, a decrease of 11,9% from the 2022/23 financial year's main budget of R902,603 million. Programme 3, which focuses on Agriculture Producers Support, is the core business of the department and has recorded the highest underexpenditure in the past four years. It is unjust to punish farmers by reducing their rightful allocations due to poor administration by officials in the department. The solution to this problem is to apply consequence management without bias or fear, in order to instil the culture of good practice in the workplace.

The discrimination against black farmers is evident and loud, to the extent that it echoes throughout the mountains. They are marginalised or treated as outcasts within the agriculture department.

Several commitments were made during the SOPA and the Budget Speech. One such commitment was to support a total of 2,750 farmers with production economic services, contributing to sustainable agricultural and agribusiness development. We would like to know how many farmers have been supported thus far in fulfilling this commitment?

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the slow progress in transferring the Tompi Seleka and Madzivhadila Agricultural Colleges to the nation, as the current status disadvantages the students from benefiting from the NSFAS bursary scheme. These colleges are deteriorating under the provincial department due to the incapacity of leadership to make the right decisions and think innovatively to save the colleges.

We urge the MEC to provide a progress report on how much of the allocated R158 million for academic support and infrastructure revitalisation was spent and on what.

Hon Speaker, this department's commitment to empowering the youth leaves much to be desired. In the Budget Speech, the MEC boasted about hiring 872 young graduates on three-month contracts. However, these graduates are expected to be unemployed from the end of this month, left exposed to Nyaope and vulnerable. We question what these young graduates have learned and contributed during this short period. The government's hostility towards black people is at an alarming level. Nibazondelani labantu laba.

Hon Speaker, we request information on the expenditure of the EPWP grant in the last five years and how many youths benefited from it. We urge honest and transparent reporting on this matter. Furthermore, there was a significant investment in Agra-parks, to facilitate market access and value addition for agricultural products. This province has established and finalised two or three Farmer Production Support units, with a commitment to build at least one per district. We kindly request the MEC to provide this House with a progress report on this commendable initiative and also explain why it did not receive adequate attention in the Budget Speech. Lastly, we seek an update on the current situation at the Norjax Tomato Processing Plant, as the government has invested over R100 million in privately-owned land. We would like to know the outstanding amount that the company owes to the landlord under the lease agreement.

Hon Speaker, the EFF suspects that the delay in finalising the forensic investigation into the Norjax Tomato Processing Plant may be due to potential implications for certain politicians in the ruling party and senior managers in the department. We are committed to pursuing this matter until justice is served. We will not tolerate any further poaching of pangolins.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon van der Walt, you are next on the Speakers' List.

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Speaker, South Africa is globally recognised as the number one food-secure country in Africa. However, we must question why, despite this achievement, six and a half million people still go to bed hungry. How long can we maintain our position as the top food-producing country in Africa without addressing this issue?

Limpopo takes pride in its thriving agroprocessing industry, which holds significant potential for increasing value addition, generating jobs, income, export opportunities and enhancing food security while reducing reliance on imports. Nevertheless, the industry faces various constraints. The upstream sector, in particular, grapples with frequent droughts, poor soil fertility, and high ambient temperatures. It also encounters challenges such as high production input costs for seeds, fertilisers and chemicals, as well as a lack of funding and commercial farming skills.

The red meat industry remains particularly vulnerable due to persistent difficulties containing foot-and-mouth disease. In 2019, systemic failures of this department nearly led to the collapse of the red meat industry at both the provincial and national levels. This was evident when foot-and-mouth disease, originating from infected cattle in the Vhembe area, was discovered in close proximity to Modimolle.

Despite the budget increase for programme 4, Veterinary Services, within the Department of Agriculture, allocated for vaccines and dipping cattle, the porous red line and broken fences allowed carriers of foot-and-mouth disease to move freely among cattle, spreading the disease. Oversight visits conducted by the portfolio committee last year revealed that little has changed. The dilapidated state of the red line and non-functioning dipping stations within the red zones pose a significant risk of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. This situation is like a ticking timebomb that can severely impact both commercial and subsistence farmers, jeopardising food security in the process.

This lack of biosecurity control measures not only threatens our agricultural industry as a whole but also affects game farming, and it is a matter of great concern. The department is urged to take this issue seriously.

Agbare adjunkspeaker, dit is kommerwekkend dat die eerste kwartaal se indiensnemings syfers aandui dat Limpopo Landbou 31,000 werksgeleenthede verloor het weens beurtkrag, hoë insetkoste, die swak rand, asook 'n toenemende gebrek aan water. Dit plaas ons boere onder geweldige druk. Die gebrek aan staatshulp vir kommersiële boere, asook die swak ondersteuning wat ontwikkelende boere onvang, plaas voedselsekuriteit direk in gedrang. Hou politici weg van die ontwikkeling van plase en opkommende boere, en fokus op 'n verenigde landbou sektor wat werkskepping en voedsel sekuriteit prioritiseer.

The status of the land restitution claims in Limpopo paints a grim picture. Currently, there are 5,916 registered claims, with 1,304 still pending. Among these claims, 601 are from the Sekhukhune District, and 119 research documents remain outstanding. To date, a

total of 972,260 million ha have been transferred at a cost of R4,5 billion. Additionally, R4,436 million has been disbursed to claimants who opted for financial compensation.

Community conflicts over the control of land and the lack of cooperation between departments in finalising claims have resulted in only 67% of the annual budget being utilised. It is evident that the ANC-led government is dragging its feet in concluding these claims. Disputed cases that go to court take an average of five to fifteen years to reach a resolution.

The DA supports a land reform process that effectively addresses historical injustices in rural communities, fosters economic inclusivity, and promotes growth and prosperity in the agricultural sector. It is evident that communities deserve restitution for the land they were dispossessed of, and this redress is long overdue. However, with the current annual budget of R7 million and 1,304 outstanding claims, it is projected that it will take approximately 12 years for the government to finalise the first round of claims. This timeline is not satisfactory and requires improvement.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon van der Walt. Hon Maritz, it is time for your debate.

MS MARITZ

Honourable chairperson, honourable Members, good afternoon. Although I may not be inclined to participate in debate, I find myself obliged to do so.

Honourable Members, I would like to reference the statement made by honourable MEC Mokone, where he mentioned that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has embraced a slogan of promoting agriculture and food production as a culture for all, rather than just a recreational activity for some. Firstly, I would like to express my concern regarding the use of the word “evangelising” in this context. As a Christian, I believe that using this term in relation to agriculture is inappropriate.

Honourable MEC, it is important to acknowledge the diligent efforts of our hard-working farmers in Limpopo who are responsible for feeding both the province and the country. These individuals receive little or no support from your department, and it is disheartening to see them being disregarded. If you believe that their work is simply a leisure activity, then you are misinformed and showing a lack of respect towards their dedication. While your department complains about the rising cost of fertilisers, these resilient farmers continue to toil and bear the burden of increased prices without assistance.

They engage in this pursuit because they possess a strong sense of integrity and recognise their responsibility to produce food for our nation. Hon Speaker, for these farmers, it is far from a leisurely activity when they have to repair and maintain public roads to transport produce to the market. It is not a leisure for them when they must bear the additional burden of investing in heightened security measures to protect their

infrastructure from constant theft of pipes, electric cables, and solar panels. Furthermore, it is certainly not a leisure when our farmers face droughts, knowing they have a duty to safeguard not only themselves but also their workers.

However, Hon Speaker, regrettably, we do have farmers in our province who engage in farming as a mere leisure activity. These individuals possess fully functional farms but fail to comprehend the dedication and hard work required to effectively manage a farm. They have allowed their farms to deteriorate and now engage in superficial actions solely for the purpose of satisfying departmental requirements and manoeuvring funds. Farming is not a leisure pursuit; it demands immense effort, and the department's failure to acknowledge this fact is evident. Honourable MEC, it is abundantly clear that your understanding of farming is limited if you perceive it to be a leisurely occupation.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. We now welcome Mr Maseko, the portfolio committee chairperson to the podium again for his remarks regarding the debates.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, with due observance of all necessary protocol.

Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the portfolio committee, we express our appreciation for the department's efforts in developing the APP and Budget. We believe that the allocated resources to various programmes will enable the implementation of some of our recommendations.

The department's financial management plan demonstrates their commitment and political will in addressing outstanding activities. We acknowledge their plans to undertake infrastructure projects throughout the province. Additionally, we commend their focus on providing and facilitating vocational, structural, and agricultural education. With this collective effort, we are confident in our ability to achieve our goals.

In conclusion, Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to emphasise that the portfolio committee has actively engaged with the Land Claims Commissioner in a formal meeting to discuss the land restitution process. While there have been notable advancements in the province, we have identified certain challenges, particularly in the Sekhukhune District. These challenges involve conflicting land claims between different chiefs, many of which are currently being resolved through legal processes. It is important to respect the legal proceedings and allow the Land Commission sufficient time to address these matters comprehensively. Overall, we have witnessed progress in the matter at hand, and taking into account the valuable inputs from various members of the portfolio committee, I hereby move for the adoption of this report by this august House.

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chairperson. Our last speaker to close this debate is Hon Mokone, the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development. I now kindly invite the honourable MEC to the podium.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, honourable MECs, Deputy Chief Whip, honourable Members, good afternoon to you all.

Hon Deputy Speaker, indeed, we are all expressing our complaints about hunger now, and the inability to concentrate. Hi Xitsonga va ri, sweswi loko ni ri karhi ni bamba, ndzi twa khwiri ku xurha. Loko munhu a ri karhi a bamba u twa khwiri ku xurha, na xilungu lexi va xi vulavulaka laha i mhaka ya ku vatwa khwiri ku xurha. A hi nge yelani na vona, mitirho ya vulavula. Katsongo ka katsongo, hi ta kala hi fika, laha hi humaka kona i kule. Muchaviseki Maritz, namutlha loko hi vulavula, wena u teka Bibebe, u ta teka tiko. Loko hi lava ku vulavula hi Bibebe yona yaleyo, wa hi arisa, kasi Xikwembu lexi ko va Xikwembi xa wena ntsena na? Hi pfumeleri na hina hi gandzela Hosi ya hina, hi yi ndhunduzela, hikuva yona yi hi nyika swakudya hi dya hi fana na vana va ka makhelwani.

Honourable chairperson, you may have noticed that most of the issues raised by the portfolio committee are quite similar, revolving around Norjax, fencing and education. These issues raised, are interconnected. As a department, you have heard Hon Phala and the chairperson mention that we have made significant progress. Just yesterday, we collaborated with Hon Sekoati, who is overseeing these matters. One specific issue we addressed is the COE, where 32% of our Budget is allocated to employee compensation. Considering our background, the department is actively implementing a turnaround strategy. We have already applied to Treasury to employ the necessary individuals, and I believe we will make significant strides in addressing this matter.

Hon Maseko, during his debate, mentioned and inquired about the projects we are currently undertaking. Specifically, he referred to the Matjeke project and the Tafelkop project. I had the opportunity to personally visit these projects last week, and I am pleased to inform you that we have successfully restored the confidence of our people. I will be meeting farmers in Giyani and Amandelkop, to discuss a way forward in supporting their projects.

We are currently addressing the issue of the Zebediela Citrus Farm. One of the concerns raised by the committee was the importance of not approving non-feasible projects. We must ensure that the projects we present to parliament are already concluded and ready for implementation. This was our agreed-upon approach.

Ladies and gentlemen, honourable Members, the matter of foot-and-mouth disease is a shared concern. Treasury has allocated us R70 million, and we are actively working on resolving this issue. When I was young, in 1982, if I remember correctly Va ku kuna vuvabyi bya milomo na swinondzwani. Even to this day, foot-and-mouth disease is not a topic of concern. We have gone almost a year without any cases. At this point, our focus

is on monitoring the situation. As Members have mentioned, this problem does not only affect us but the entirety of South Africa.

Honourable Members, I won't elaborate much since the portfolio committee chairperson has already provided comprehensive insights. He discussed the department, our agreements, and the report you have requested, which will be delivered to you promptly. Lastly, I would like to address the matter of agricultural colleges. Research and development play a vital role in any economy. That's where our focus lies. We are gradually progressing to that stage. Next week, I have scheduled an oversight visit to Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila Agricultural Colleges, to address the issues raised, particularly regarding the strike. We have resolved concerns at Tompi Seleka and we will work towards resolving the problems at Madzivhandila College. The issue Eka leswi a ndzi lava ku vula swona i ku, Komiti ya Mfumo wa Milawu yi ri a hi tirhisaneni na mihlangano yo ka yi nga ri ya mfumo.

The problems in the agriculture sector cannot be addressed by the department alone. It requires collaboration with the private sector, commercial farmers, and individuals who possess the necessary skills, including Afrikaners. These skills are not exclusive to one person; they belong to all of us.

As the MEC, I have initiated a programme to involve chiefs, traditional leaders, universities, and various stakeholders in advising the MEC. Together, we aim to construct the South Africa we aspire to have.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. We are nearing the end of our Sitting. Moving on to the second-last item:

8. MOTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE NUMBER OF SEATS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

I kindly ask the Hon Deputy Chief Whip to guide us in initiating this motion.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Deputy Speaker and distinguished guests, with all due respect to all protocol.

RATIFICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE (Motion without Notice)

I appreciate the opportunity to present the motion for the ratification of the report of the Rules Committee regarding the determination of the number of seats in the Limpopo Legislature for the upcoming provincial elections in 2024. Hon Deputy Speaker, the

committee conducted consultative meetings with the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) on 13 April and 19 May 2023. These engagements aimed to allow the electoral commission to outline the process and binding principles involved in determining the number of seats in the Limpopo Legislature for the 2024 national and provincial elections. Additionally, it provided insights into the implementation of the Electoral Amendment Act and received an update from Statistics South Africa regarding the current compilation of statistics in Limpopo.

Following the consultative meeting with the electoral commission, a session was conducted with all political parties represented in the Limpopo Legislature on 30 May 2023. The purpose of this session was to discuss the expected changes brought about by the Electoral Amendment Act. During the meeting, the parties acknowledged the following:

1. The need to review the Rules and Procedures of the House in preparation for a potential increase in the number of seats in the Legislature in 2024, as stipulated in the Electoral Amendment Act and Constitution. This includes accommodating independent candidates securing seats and public office in the Legislature.
2. The importance of collaborating with other stakeholders such as the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to ensure the availability of facilities such as housing for the additional Members of the Legislature. Additionally, there is a requirement to make budget and financial adjustments to account for the remuneration packages and necessary tools of trade for the additional Members.

The Legislature thus commits itself to this resolution and assures the IEC of its readiness to carry out the provisions brought about by the amendment of the Electoral Act.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I, therefore, move that this House ratifies the report of the Rules Committee, which was submitted to the IEC.

I hereby propose this motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The last item which we all have been waiting for:

9. MOTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE ON THE RECOGNITION OF HON DESIREE VAN DER WALT AS

**LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE AND HER DEPLOYMENT TO THE
VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE**

As we proceed to our final agenda item, we kindly request the Deputy Chief Whip to come forward.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**RATIFICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE ON THE
RECOGNITION OF HON DESIREE VAN DER WALT AS LEADER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE AND HER DEPLOYMENT TO THE VARIOUS
COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE**

(Motion without Notice)

I am here to present to the House the motion for the ratification of the report of the Rules Committee on the recognition of Hon Desiree van der Walt as the leader of the Democratic Alliance and her deployment to the various committees of the Legislature.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Rules Committee held a special meeting on Friday, 12 May 2023, to consider the two requests from the Democratic Alliance for the Legislature to recognise Hon Desiree van der Walt as the leader of the Democratic Alliance in the Legislature and to deploy her into the various committees in the Legislature.

Both requests were approved, leading to the reconstitution of the committees of the Legislature, as published in the ATC 05 on 24 May 2023. Hon Deputy Speaker, in line with the above-mentioned explanation, I, therefore, move that this House ratifies the report of the Rules Committee on the recognition of the leader of the Democratic Alliance and the reconstitution of the committees.

I hereby propose this motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby second the motion as proposed by the Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Phala has seconded the motion.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Is there important announcement to be made? Hon Chair of Chairs, you have the floor.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Acting Premier, Hon Speaker, honourable Members, good afternoon. June 16 is globally recognised as a historic day to honour the bravery of the youth of 1976. The Legislature is commemorating this historic day tomorrow, Wednesday, 14 June, at 10:30, in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Honourable Members are invited and encouraged to attend the commemoration hosted by the Legislature. The dress code is strictly school uniform. We are looking forward to hosting honourable Members tomorrow, all dressed in school uniforms.

Lunch will be served in the Committees Boardroom, and everyone is invited. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you very much, honourable Members. The House is adjourned to Thursday, 15 June 2023, at 10:00, in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

THE SPEAKER

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

We shall now have the opportunity for silent prayers and or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may all be seated. Honourable Members, Members of the Executive Council and staff members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Let's proceed with our Order Paper.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 125? Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker and all protocol observed.

THE DOWNGRADING OF GREATER LETABA MUNICIPALITY
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice that the downgrading of Greater Letaba Municipality from grade 3 to grade 2 is a serious drawback to service delivery and to the people of Letaba in general. Firstly, the municipality is redirecting money into wrong projects as a way of stealing money. Secondly, high salaries for workers as well as the failure to collect revenue are also cited as reasons for this downgrade and deployment of incompetent people. These are disappointing developments given the state of local government in Limpopo, and, therefore, I am not surprised by the latest MFMA (Municipal Finance Management Act) and Auditor-General's report.

Local government in Limpopo is dead and is characterised by all sorts of governance and leadership challenges. At the centre of these problems is corruption and maladministration at local government, and, therefore, the majority of municipalities are dysfunctional, with about six of them facing imminent collapse. It is just a matter of time.

The situation at Greater Letaba is compounded by the fact that the Mopani District Municipality is also dysfunctional. The Office of the MEC is also dysfunctional. Ba re pinyana ge e re ping, e kwele ping ye kgolo ge e re, ping! Local government in Limpopo

is in tatters. Therefore, the “EFF government” is waiting to resuscitate all the departments, including to revive the lives of our people. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mapoulo. Is there any seconder? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

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

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other motion without notice? There is none. Let’s move to Item 3. Do we still have another motion without notice? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the honourable Members in this majestic House.

THE ARREST OF A ZIMBABWEAN MAN BY THE POLOKWANE HAWKS

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to applaud the Polokwane-based Hawks’ Serious Crime Investigation members for arresting a 42-year-old Zimbabwean man masquerading as a Dentist in Polokwane without requisite registration. The Hawks team received information from the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) about someone who was allegedly practising as a medical doctor without a license in Polokwane. They acted swiftly and tactically visited the surgery.

The fraudster was found practising as a Dentist and treating patients while not registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. The accused was working at a medical practice registered in Polokwane. As a result, he contravened section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974. Consequently, he was placed under arrest after failing to produce the license to practise as a medical doctor, and he was also charged with illegal immigration. This accused is in custody and will appear again in court today.

Investigations revealed that Mr Taurai Chihoho has been employed by Dr R D Mahlatse since September 2022 and as a result, the said doctor will also be reported to the Complaints Handling Unit for unethical conduct for employing an unregistered person to practice as a locum.

We call upon society at large to be wary of unregistered medical practitioners and further encourage them to report all suspected illegal practices by unregistered persons.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selane. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

MS BOSHIELO

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other motions without notice? We are done with 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 Rule 200? Hon Van der Walt, you are recognised.

MS VAN DER WALT

Thank you, Speaker, morning colleagues.

WATER SCARCITY AND UNEQUAL WATER ACCESS

(Members' Statement)

Water scarcity and unequal water access are two pressing problems facing not only the province, but the country. The Watch Report seeks to keep the public and stakeholders updated and informed on the status of drinking water infrastructure, water quality and the indicative cost to restore functionality. Access to safe and reliable drinking water is embedded in our Constitution and consumers must be protected from potentially unsustainable and unsafe services. The interim report identified Limpopo as one of the four provinces with water supply systems in a poor and critical state alongside the Free State, Northern Cape and the North West.

Eleven sites were inspected in Limpopo and two, the Donkerpoort and the Thabazimbi chlorination plants were found to be in critical shape. An estimate of R114,5 million is required to restore existing treatment infrastructure to its original design capacity and operations, by addressing civil, mechanical, electrical and instrumentation defects at all 11 sites. The MFMA revealed that Limpopo municipalities spend an average of 1,7% on infrastructure maintenance; the benchmark is 8%.

Honourable MEC, what plans are in place to assist municipalities to maintain and/or upgrade their water infrastructure? And when can forgotten communities without any access to reliable water sources expect water services?

Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Van der Walt. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Ramalobela. [APPLAUSE]

MR RAMALOBELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the leadership of EFF under Hon Tshilidzi Maraga. 16:36

THE STRUCTURAL STATE OF GANKOANA POLICE STATION
(Members' Statement)

The EFF is disappointed that the structural state of GaNkoana Police Station which has been using mobile offices for ages now remains the same to date. Several submissions and concerns were made to the department in relation to the structural condition of this police station, and yet nothing happened.

This police station was once attacked by criminals and guns were stolen, now they are not comfortable operating through the night because of fear of criminals – those are the policemen. The police and administrative personnel are still traumatised, and therefore lock gates during the night. This means that the communities around the police station are not getting full service from the station as crime continues to soar in the area.

Recently, the Bapedi Royal House was visited by intruders and when the police were alerted about trespassing, the Royal House was told that the police can't get involved in family matters – really? The leadership of this police station does not inspire confidence at all, given their attitude when it comes to community issues.

We call upon the MEC to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of Ga-Nkoana on this matter of the police station. In conclusion, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, as the EFF, we are very much concerned about this issue. If nothing is done about it, we are heading to a failed state. By the way, who is the captain of this failed state? [Inaudible], le maphodisa ba tšhaba mahodu, ba tšhaba botsotsi. Mayebabo! [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Ramalobela. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Mayebabo! Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the caucus of the EFF led by Hon Maraga and our Whip, Hon Ramalobela. Greetings to the permanent acting Premier – I don't want to mention the name because I know I am going to be accused, but the person knows himself. Members of the Executive Council and honourable members, please receive our revolutionary greetings.

**THE TOTAL DISREGARD OF BATHO PELE PRINCIPLES BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN LIMPOPO**
(Members' Statement)

The EFF notes the concern of the total disregard of one of the Batho Pele principles, Value for Money, by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The principle demands that public services should be provided economically and sufficiently to give citizens the best possible value for money. Unfortunately, this principle has no meaning or expression in how the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development dealt with the investment in Norjax Tomato Processing Plant.

Norjax Tomato Paste Plant is a company owned by African tomato grower under the umbrella of APOL, which is owning 51%. These growers are jointly owning the company with white owned New Tech Company that owns 49%. The project is situated in Politsi industrial area, under Tzaneen Municipality of Mopani District. The objective was based on the need to get a processing plant for all tomatoes produced throughout Limpopo province. The aim was to establish a locally based processing plant for locally produced tomatoes.

The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development embarked on an oversight visit after the Auditor-General gave an audit opinion on unauthorised expenditure of more than R100 million invested in this projects.

During our oversight visit, the EFF was shocked to discover that the factory is left unattended, and the investment of more than R100 million was turned into a white elephant. This calls for concern because the matter has been dragging on for a longer time, all kinds of investigations were done, there is an audit finding, internal reports, and many other investigations reports. None of the recommendations were implemented which gives us suspicion that there is favouritism and protection by both department officials and politicians. Our suspicions are worsened by the delays in releasing the recent forensic report which was long overdue.

The EFF calls upon the MEC for Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to table all the reports and ensure that all the recommendations are implemented to the latter. In the immediate, the MEC must table a report to the House to explain how the department will deal with the issue of buying land since LEDA has rejected the offer to purchase the land the factory operates from. Failure to comply with these demands, the EFF would be left with no option but to approach Chapter 9 institution in defense of the public purse. All those that are involved must be brought to book. Mayebabo! I thank you.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any other Members' Statement? Before we can proceed, let me check with Members of the Executive Council if there is anyone to comment on the issues raised on the Members' Statement.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am concerned with this "mayebabo". Where does it come from? Let me start with what Hon Desiree Van der Walt has raised, which is one important area of development, but we also know that is all about human development index and also a challenge that is not facing only Limpopo, but the entire country as we know that South Africa is a country that has got issues of water. When the Minister held a summit in February 2022, one of the areas that he was raising was that we need to find lasting solutions, particularly in terms of water. We continue getting stories of people drinking water with donkeys and cattle, goats and so on. We continue to hear that people are not having access to water. It is because we know that it is only now that we have started to provide sources of water. We have started to build De Hoop Dam, we started to raise Nandoni Dam and so on. That is the problem. Yes - you can't have water when you do not have sources. South Africa and Limpopo do not have enough water.
[INTERJECTION]

MS MARAGA

Since when?

THE MEC FOR TREASURY

How many dams did we have before democracy? [INTERJECTION]

MS MARAGA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may pause for a while. Hon Maraga, we do not do that in this House. Please refrain from interjecting the honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Van der Walt, we need to find lasting solutions in terms of the risk that we have.
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, the MEC is responding. Can you allow him or give him the opportunity to respond?

MR SESHOKA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

No, I did not allow you to speak. Can you sit down, Hon Seshoka. You have been given an opportunity to speak, and you have raised what you wanted to raise. Can you now allow the MEC to respond?

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

No, sit down, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

I am not going to surrender. I am standing on a point of order. Your duty is to listen to a point of order and give a ruling. [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

On what are you raising a point of order, Hon Seshoka? Say it.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, on a point of order, I think you need to call the MEC to order because some of us are ready to rise.

THE SPEAKER

You are out of order. Can you sit down. Can you sit down? You are out of order, Hon Seshoka. Hon Seshoka, can you sit down?

MR SESHOKA

I am not satisfied with the response.

THE SPEAKER

No, sit down. The honourable MEC is responding. Whether you are satisfied with the response, that is something else. Can you sit down, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

No, sit down. You can't say the MEC is lying. You can't say that. Can you withdraw it? Honourable MEC, proceed.

MR SESHOKA

You did not even hear my point of order.

THE SPEAKER

No, sit down. You are out of order. Proceed, honourable MEC. Hon Seshoka, you have raised your concerns and I said sit down so that the MEC can proceed.

MR SESHOKA

You did not even I hear what I was saying.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Thanks for the advice. Honourable MEC, proceed.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

I now understand why they say breakfast it is the first important meal of the day. If you do not have it then, you will strive. I think what Hon van der Walt is raising, is an important matter that we will consider. We will make sure with the plans that we have as a government and the Department of Water and Sanitation is pursuing, should be able to relieve the people of Limpopo of the province of the water challenges that we are having in the province. It is not something that you can deal with overnight. You need to correct the source and make sure that it is clean water. It is not something that you just wake up and do. It is not an event. There are plans that the government has put in place to make sure that we have water in the province. I am talking about water, not mayebabo!

On the issues that have been raised in terms of the police, we will ensure that the MEC responsible for safety in this province is aware of that, and the matter is investigated. I hope that some people will desist from getting into the royal houses where they do not belong. I am sure that none of you are royalty. There are challenges in those royal houses. Please be concerned with those mošate and deal with those issues. . Thank you.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Let's move to Item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Is there any Executive Statement? There is none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

On consideration and adoption of the following reports Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, committee chair, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE] Committee chair, before you proceed, may you please consider the initial Order Paper, not the one that I saw in the morning which includes the fourth quarter report. Thank you.

ADV PHALA

Which Order Paper are we using for the debate?

THE SPEAKER

Yes. The one that includes the fourth quarter report.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much for that explanation, Hon Speaker of Limpopo Provincial Legislature. I take this opportunity on behalf of and in the name of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury to table the Performance Report of the Department of Provincial Treasury for quarter two for the financial year 2022/23. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Speaker. I am standing to second the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Masekoameng. Honourable chair, it is your turn.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of and in the name of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on the Performance Report of the Department of Provincial Treasury for quarter three for the financial year. 2022/23 be adopted as a report of this honourable House, Limpopo Provincial Legislature. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair, it is your turn.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to table a motion for the adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Performance of Provincial Treasury in quarter four for the financial year 2022/23. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the honourable chairperson for the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Lebea. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House including Hon Seshoka, distinguished guests, members of the media in the House and those connected on the social platforms, a very blessed morning to you.

Today, in 1955, General C R de Wet, was found guilty of treason for leading an Afrikaner rebellion of 1914. Someone might ask, who is General C R de Wet? General Christiaan Rudolf de Vet was a Boer soldier and a statesman regarded by Afrikaner nationalists as

one of their greatest heroes – you could only imagine, renowned as Commander-in-Chief of the Orange Free State forces in the South African Union from 1899-1902, and was a leader in the African rebellion.

Again in 1974, in a dramatic and unfortunate move, Minister of Defence, P W Botha, announced the replacement of South African Police by the South African Defence Force on the northern borders of Southwest Africa, now known as Namibia. Botha believed that the military forces would be able to resist the pressure exerted by SWAPO – I know that Members on the right understand what SWAPO is.

Hon Speaker, yet today, in 1976, the youth were planning a peaceful march – a march that was a site of a massive uprising known as the Soweto uprising which began as a protest against the government's system that insisted that the Afrikaans language be used as a medium of instruction in Soweto high schools, and unfortunately, it ended as a bloodshed where young people in their majority perished due to the hand of the oppressor. That is history, Hon Speaker, and it is still relevant today because it is the youth of this country that paved the way for us to live the life that we live today, and to be able, as the African National Congress led-government, to enjoy the fruits of freedom.

The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury has a constitutional obligation to oversee the performance of the Provincial Treasury in this province. Guided by this obligation, the committee interacted with the Department of Provincial Treasury to consider both second, third and fourth quarter performance reports of the 2022/23 financial year.

We have got a lot of concerns that we know and understand is not the responsibility of your department, MEC, but you do oversee as you are responsible for the money that is appropriated to some these departments. At the apex of our concerns as the portfolio committee is the exorbitant usage of consultants to prepare Annual Financial Statements (AFS). We need the department to assist these institutions of government that are municipalities in adequately building internal capacity in that we will be able to save the little resources that are appropriated to them year-in, year-out.

Furthermore, we implore municipalities to employ people with financial knowledge and required qualifications, and this has become a scourge, honourable MEC, and is no longer a challenge. We also noted as a portfolio committee a concern, a persisting challenge of the failure of certain departments of also preparing their Annual Financial Statements in line with the prescribed financial reporting standards.

We asked ourselves as a portfolio committee that if the departments are unable to prepare annual financial statements without the use of consultants, what will then happen to the institutions at local government, that are municipalities. That is seriously concerning, MEC of Treasury. A thorny and catastrophic demon in provincial government today, honourable MEC, are grants that consistently go back to the national fiscus while Limpopo is a province engulfed by hunger, poverty and inequality. We would want the department to come up with a strategy on how to mitigate some of these challenges, and that resources that are meant to alleviate the lives of the poorest of the poor in our province, keep on returning to National Treasury. While on the same breadth, honourable MEC, as a

portfolio committee, we have discussed more on revenue enhancement strategies in the province.

We would like to point out one issue amongst the few that we have discussed as the portfolio committee and that is the strategy of establishing a weighbridge in the Tubatse area that will assist in kick-starting the economy in that area. There was also a concern, honourable MEC, regarding the failure to apply consequence management within the provincial departments. This is a thorny issue that most of the portfolio committees see as we engage and interact with your department we are sharply raising it without any incumbents. We are sharply raising it believing that we will move towards the same way that we are driving at. Honourable MEC, it does not give us pleasure when people and officials that transgressed from one institution of government are promoted to other institutions of government in any other province and still, in our province Limpopo. We must deal with it. We must stop friendship. We must stop comradeship. We must make sure that the little resources that are appropriated to the people of Limpopo do serve that purpose.

Equally, honourable MEC, on the financial sustainability of LEDA and GAAL and other entities, we need to put more emphasis on these entities as it is debilitating the little resources that are there in the provincial fiscus. Some of these public entities, honourable MEC, should be wacked off the provincial fiscus as a matter of urgency. We further encourage the department to work closely with the Department of Education and RAL to ensure that they do pay their rates and taxes. It cannot be the provincial government that owes municipalities. This must be dealt with and adequately moved out of the register.

As a portfolio committee responsible for oversight on your department, we want to reiterate the fact that we do not want to witness vacant and funded positions in the provincial government. We have been talking about this, and we are beginning to sound like broken tape record. The vacant funded positions must be filled in the province, honourable MEC. We also discussed about the impact of the infrastructure delivery hub to capacitate the Department of Public Works to be able to adequately deliver on their mandate, that of delivering infrastructure projects in our province and let sector departments that are primary objective, deal with the primary objectives of their departments. In instances where there are infrastructure departments in those departments, Health and Education, adequately capacitate them. This project could be able to be dealt with on the ground MEC, at the right time with the right Budget without any amendment thereof.

The litigation strategies, in terms of the Department of Health, the medicolegal costs are depleting the fiscus, honourable MEC. We want to see you assisting the department in mitigating the challenges that are upcoming from the medicolegal costs. One thing that we should really applaud the department for, honourable Members, is the fact that in the fourth quarter, the department had paid their suppliers 100% within 30 days. Who are these suppliers, honourable Members? They are young people, they are previously disadvantaged people, women and people living with disability. That is worth commending, honourable MEC. Over and above, the honourable chair of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, the Department of Provincial Treasury is doing very

well. We are still on the fact of the Mashashane man, that you raised here that people when people are saying “haaa”, the department is responding through the MEC.

We are learning from the words of Desmond Tutu, who said to us, “if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality”. In this case, the people of Limpopo will never appreciate the neutrality of the Portfolio Committee responsible for Provincial Treasury. We will keep on robustly engaging the department without fear, without favour, without fear of being contradicted. I thank you, have a blessed morning. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Over to you Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Members of the House, the Chief Whip of the opposition, Hon Ramalobela, ndi matsheloni.

Hon Speaker, this department is a big disappointment to the people of Limpopo because it is not executing its mandate as expected. We must point out from the onset that the Provincial Treasury underspent on its allocation on sustainable resource management. This is unacceptable because Treasury must lead by example as far as its spending patterns are concerned since they are a coordinating department. Provincial Treasury allocates funds to other departments and entities, and they expect them to spend their Budgets as per their Annual Plans. What lessons is the Department of Treasury teaching to these departments and entities when they, themselves, underspend on programmes? What kind of leadership are they providing or demonstrating to the sister departments in relation to spending patterns in the province? We are not surprised why the departments, their entities and municipalities underspend on their Budgets because they learned from the best.

Hon Speaker, there is underspending on the filling of vacancies which has a negative impact on service delivery in the province. The filling of vacancies can go a long way in addressing the problem of unemployment in the province. Can we have the recruitment plan for the department presented to this House in the next Sitting because clearly this is one serious issue in the department. Hon Speaker, non-spending, or insufficient spending on conditional grants is a serious challenge in this province. Sadly, this happens under the watchful eye of this department. Every year conditional grants are returned to the National Treasury which diverts them to provinces in need. This is a very careless leadership and governance. In fact, it is a crime against humanity, especially the poor. How on earth do you return conditional grants when people need houses, better roads, water etc. Why are departments not paying rates and taxes owed to municipalities because this further deepens their situation in terms of their financial well-being.

Departments are part of the problem while municipalities are struggling financially. When municipalities do not perform, you get shocked like all of us when you know the

contributing factors. Municipalities like Mopani District and Mogalakwena local municipality continue to struggle under the watch of the provincial administration compromising service delivery. Given the 2021/2022 MFMA audit outcomes, there is clearly no political will to address the challenges faced by local government in Limpopo. Eskom debts are still haunting many municipalities, while poor revenue collection continues to define governance capacity of municipalities. The state does not have the capacity to provide good clean governance and deliver services to the people of Limpopo. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Van Der Walt, it is your turn.

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Speaker, the insufficient spending of conditional grants was raised by the committee in the second and third quarters as a matter of concern. Unspent conditional grants were surrendered to national departments [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Van der Walt, pull the mic towards you.

MS VAN DER WALT

What for?

THE SPEAKER

For recording purposes.

MS VAN DER WALT

The insufficient spending of conditional grants was raised by the committee in the second and third quarters as a matter of concern. Unspent conditional grants were surrendered to national departments for reallocation to other provinces. This is unacceptable, and these are the funds that could drastically change the lives of many of the people in our own province. Interventions to curb this waste and consequence management for the officials and MECs responsible need to become a reality for this waste of resources to end.

The committee noticed that throughout the 2021/22 financial year until the period under review, payments of rates and taxes owed to municipalities by departments remained a challenge. These funds form part of the revenue collection that municipalities need to be viable and Provincial Treasury needs to monitor and engage departments on a more regular basis to ensure payments are made.

During these quarters of 2022/23 financial year, the committee was informed about assistance offered on preparation of Financial Recovery Plans to financially distressed

municipalities and sessions held to assess progress made in respect of those municipalities. These are the types of interventions necessary to get our municipalities back to a reasonable financial health. Municipalities need to address key challenges which include compliance with legislation, filling funded vacancies in key positions, payment of outstanding electricity and water debts and improving poor revenue collection.

The province needs to increase and be much more efficient in its revenue collection through identifying and implementing revenue enhancement strategies that work in the province. While Limpopo Provincial Treasury does support departments in these efforts, there were concerns across all quarters in 2022/23 for the need of a more concerted effort. Another noose around the neck of province is the continuous funding of three entities in the province that are meant to be self-sustaining. The committee recommended that MECs of LEDET, Transport and Community Safety and Provincial Treasury should work on modalities to ensure that GAAL and LEDA are no longer budgeted for by the provincial government. Hopefully, we will start to see a turnaround in all provincial entities in the 2023/24 financial year and entities like RAL start managing their resources better with improved outputs.

The support of the Health Department by Treasury and efforts to reduce the litigation claims from over R14 billion to R 7 billion are welcome, but that amount is still too much of a threat to the department and the services it is meant to give to the people of Limpopo.

In the second quarter, investigations into irregularities on employee's provident fund of the Great North Transport were completed and the report was handed to the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to implement the recommendations in consultation with LEDA and GNT boards. Progress on this matter had been long overdue and a great concern to the committee.

In the period under review, Provincial Treasury indicated that the VBS investigation report had been handed over to implicated municipalities and the Hawks for further investigation and prosecution. The arrests, we are starting to see around VBS are the type of accountability we need to start seeing in order to curb corruption in our province. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Chair, Hon Phala, it is your turn. [APPLUSE]

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to debate on the three quarters of the Performance Report of Department of Provincial Treasury in Limpopo.

I dedicate this debate to that outstanding son of the soil, Professor Reikepetse Magapatona who left this country as a 22-year-old as part of the recruit detachment of uMkhonto weSizwe of the ANC. [APPLAUSE] He ended up in Bulgaria and Hungary. He went to University of Sophia and University of Budapest and studied Economics in Bulgarian. He passed a junior degree, an honours degree in Bulgarian, a Masters'

degree in Bulgaria, and a doctorate in Bulgarian. He became a professor of Economics in that country – an outstanding South African. Today, we have a branch of South African Bulgarians who have a new surname in Bulgaria – Magapatona. I don't know how they pronounce it, but they are there because of this outstanding son of South Africa. Many of us who did Economics here at University of Limpopo, being taught in English and Sepedi. We are debating the quarters of the Department of Provincial Treasury in Limpopo. Whether you like it or not, you know or you do not know, it is the same. This is the best performing department in the provincial government, and it is one of the best performing Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE] Whether you like it or you do not like it, it does not change the price of cheese in a restaurant.

On this department, we met for three quarters, as both Hon Lebea and Hon Van Der Walt articulated it also so well. They were able to indicate the issues we raised when we met the department. Internally, they are doing very well. We generally raise issues like the external work that Treasury must do. The performance of other departments or municipalities is not their job. Those departments have HODs, MECs and CFOs, even municipalities have Mayors, Municipal Managers, and CFOs. Treasury just guides them, tells them what they should do. It shows them the rules. It shows them the laws. It shows them how they should act. If they do not act, Treasury cannot be 100% held accountable.

One of the issues we raised is that we were concerned about the level of consequence management in relation to irregular expenditure that officials, who are found to have irregularly spent monies of the state in irregular expenditure. It looks like a number of them are not taken to task by various departments, and we want Treasury, because it has a role there, to hit hard on that matter. It will help to turn some of the departments in the province around.

We also raised the matter of strengthening the transversal audit committee of the province, which is the one ensuring that it is watching the departments and how they are performing during the course of the year and before the year ends. We want it to be strengthened so that it can better perform the task that it is supposed to do.

We also raised the issue of looking at enhancing revenue mechanisms because nationally, they are reducing our Budgets that we get from there. We must be creative on how we get revenue enhancement strategies so that we are able to raise monies and resources as a province. We should raise them and be able to move in that regard.

We are also interested in expenditure. We want all the departments to spend up to the last cent. If you spend up to 100%. If you were not able to spend all the money, just spend 99, something percent. Those are the issues that we wanted to raise sharply because when money returns to national, it goes elsewhere and does not return to serve the people of this province. We have seen in the past that there were departments and entities that were able to spend up to the last cent including RAL – those who remember the last days of what was called RAL in the past, not the creature we have now, Hon Rakgoale. In the past ten years ago, this thing called Roads Agency Limpopo, at that time, it was known as Northern Province Roads Agency. It was able to spend up to the last monies. At the end of the financial year, you would usually see the Chief Executive Financial Officer, Shivambu, will show you 45 cents or 10 cents in the account. I am talking about real things

that happened. That is what we want because we don't want that money to go back. When money goes back, it is a concern to us.

Hon Van der Walt has raised the issue of contingent liabilities correctly so. She is right and we agree that while it has been reduced from R14 billion to R7 billion as she correctly said, we are still very much concerned about it. It is still huge, and it is a threat to the fiscus of the province. We want creative measures in that regard to be taken. In Eastern Cape, Hon Ramathuba, Eastern Cape Health has gone to court, and has created certain things in that regard and it looks like the Eastern Cape helped them to reap benefits from that court case in relation to contingent liabilities.

We hope that we learn from people like those, on the measures they are taking as a province. We hope we will be able to improve and enhance the work that we are doing in that regard. We will raise up the issue of how we work with other bodies as Treasury because we are empowered by legislation to work with other bodies. That will enhance our work in what we do, including the matter we raised in the three quarters that we are debating, of various investigative reports of various types. Otherwise, some call it forensic reports and others call it investigations, others are SIU and other bodies whose reports, once done, we want the recommendations of those reports implemented. On many occasions, in many places, we have seen in the Department of Agriculture, you can mention it, there were investigations that were done, but once the recommendations were made it looks like they were not happy with the recommendations and left the report to gather dust. We don't leave a case because we spend money in getting investigation done. And because of that, if we leave the report at that, it means the money that we spent on the forensic investigation is fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Once it has been done and recommendations are available, those recommendations must be implemented.

The final point that we raised was that Treasury and the provincial government, Hon Sekoati, if there are things that are totally unimplementable, the Executive Council must meet and say, *taba ye e ka se diragale e bile e ka se tsoge ya diragala. E bonala e ka se tsoge ya kgonagala ka gore re ka se sa ba le tšhelete ya go hira nto yeo. Ke mehlala ye mentši.*

Mohlala wa mathomo, ke wa taba ya gore, 12 MECs for Public Works have announced that the Legislature of Limpopo Office is moving to Polokwane. All of them, from MEC Magadzi to MEC Chabane to MEC Thabadiawa Mufamadi, MEC Phandelani Ramagoma, MEC Ndou, ge ba fihla boMasemola le boNdalane ka moka ba fetile moo. Re re Lekgotlaheramela le bontšha le sa tlo ba mo go ya pele, ka gore go le aga, tšhelete ya gona ke ye ntši. Ba Khansele ya Bolekgotlaphethiši ba no fela ba re re re nyaka bo ramahlale ba re bontšhe diswantšho tše ba teroilego. O torowa eng ye o ka se e agego. O torowa eng? O torowa eng? E torowilwe kgale ka 1997. Re tšo patela R200 million for those drawings. O torowa eng, ga go sa torowa. Ga go sa torowa. Re ka se tsoge ra aga Palamente Polokwane. Re ka se ke ra tšea tšhelete ya go aga ditirelo tša batho, ra aga Palamente for R1 billion. R1 billion must help the people of the province. Ka fao, ke taba ye re re go, Mohlomphegi Sekoati from Finance side, and other MECs, Hon Rakgoale, let us look at it and see things of that kind. That is an example. There are 100 others. That

is an example that this Legislature has been announced by 12 of the 14 MECs that it is moving to Polokwane. We are still in Lebowakgomo.

The story that Lepelle-Nkumpi will come here and lease these buildings when we move, is not true. It is all false and untrue. Lepelle-Nkumpi has built its own beautiful offices there. These buildings, maribiši a tlo lla ka mo bošego ge re ka sepela mo, ge e le gore le a kwešiša. Maribiši a tlo dira moago wo wa ona ge re ka tloga mo. Re sa tlo ba mo nako ye telele. Taba ya gore re ka tšea R1 billion ra ya go aga moago Polokwane, lebalang ka ga yona, Mohlomphegi Sekoati. Lebalang ka ga yona, Mohlomphegi Rakgoale. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Thanks for having been seated because I am going to skip the MEC. MEC, you will come at the end to respond.

7.3 Second Reading and Approval of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023 [B02-2023].

Chair, it is your turn.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker of this Provincial Legislature of Limpopo. I now take this opportunity on behalf of and in the name of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Provincial Treasury for the financial year 2023/24. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chair. You should not move.

ADV PHALA

O sa nnyaka?

THE SPEAKER

Yes. That was the Annual Performance Plan, it will then be followed by the Budget Vote. Is there any seconder? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I second the report as presented by the honourable chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selane. Item 7.3.1, looks the same as Item 7.3.2 You were correct.

ADV PHALA

O a bona gore ke šetše ke feditše.

THE SPEAKER

Yes. You have coupled that. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE] We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Masekoameng. [APPLAUSE]

MR MASEKOAMENG

Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Protocol observed. Pele ke tla tšwela pele, re no tutuetša gore ka nako ya Kgwedi ya Baswa, le fele le etiša pele di-honourable tša baswa, ka kgwedi ya basadi, basadi. Ka kgwedi ya mokgatlo, mokgatlo. Before we waste our time, my colleagues and all speakers alluded to a lot of things which are of substance. I will try to summarise as I speak to tell what the department has done as the correct things.

Everybody who lights a candle and hides it under the table, does not know that the light is important to all. For a candle to give light to everyone in the house, it must be placed on the table. I will try to explain.

All government departments are regulated by the PFMA (Public Finance Management Act, 1999) and related legislations. The funds that the government administers are the taxpayers' money. Without the taxpayers' money, the government has no money to govern. The Treasury Department has set a good example that requires to be emulated. It has attained a clean audit for the past five years. Attaining a clean audit is non-effort for many departments. Many departments have not achieved a clean audit in the past five years. Failure to get a clean audit has resulted in the same departments returning funds to Treasury. The funds being returned are for service delivery. In the main, our people have no roads, no water, no access to housing and some are struggling to have food. Does democracy mean that money for service delivery must not be utilised for uplifting our province? Does human rights mean that moneys for people's welfare must be returned?

The example set by Treasury of complying with the PFMA and other legislation should be emulated. Attainment of a clean audit and non-return of funds made for the betterment of our people's lives is what all the departments must achieve. Inadequate spending on delivering services meant for community upliftment is equal to a genocide.

When we go to the conclusion, I do not want to waste time, money returned to Treasury, will result in reducing Budget for the next financial year. Why must we be given funds if we cannot use them to attain those objectives. Let us all lead by example Treasury has set and spend all Budgets and have a clean audit, year after year.

Lastly, the portfolio committee recommends to Treasury MEC that the money that is paid from the office is more than R200 million, so, the Treasury must make sure that they start to reduce that money by building our own building or buy properties I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Masekoameng. Hon Mphahlele, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MS MPHAHLELE

Ndi matsheloni. Ndi dovha nda dzhia tshifhinga itshi u vha livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndi dovhe ndi lumelise Mirado vhothe vha Vhusimamilayo. Ndi sa hangwi na Tshimebi Tshihulwane tsha lihora lihanedzi la EFF.

Hon Speaker, the failure to meet employment targets for people living with disability is disappointing to say the least. The people living with disability are historically marginalised, and we thought this administration would cater for their needs, but on the contrary, they are the ones who are ambushing and violating their rights. They continue to deepen perceptions, misconceptions, and the myth that people living with disability are less important than other groups in society. There will never be a true and genuine democracy when people living with disability do not enjoy the fruits of democracy. There is no true democracy when the government continues to violate and infringe upon the rights of people living with disability.

How many bursaries have been awarded to deserving employees in the current financial year for professional development, upskilling, and reskilling and who are the beneficiaries of the programmes? Why is the Municipal Finance Improvement Programme not yielding results because the latest A-G Report on Limpopo Municipalities does not look good. They will never improve municipal finance as long as corruption is still rife in these municipalities while nothing is being done about the situation. Politicians and service providers continue to connive viciously, looting, and depleting resources for their own selfish gain. An honest analysis of the Auditor-General's report will reveal to you that things are not as rosy as some in this House would want us to believe.

Hon Speaker, can we get a report from the department in the next Sitting of the Legislature in relation to Limpopo Audit Support and Improvement Strategy 2022? We need to know which departments benefited from this strategy, and how they benefited because the reality on the ground tells us something else if you look at the 2021/22 MFMA Audit Outcomes.

Furthermore, the legal claims against the state continue to rise daily creating a serious contingency liability on the part of state which it cannot service. These legal claims imply that the money that was supposed to address the service delivery needs of our people is now channelled towards legal claims. The government must find a workable strategic way of reducing its contingent liabilities, especially on legal claims. If the government does not fix potholes, and people get involved in accidents or their cars get damaged, they will sue the state. What do you expect? If the government does not ensure that doctors refrain

from medical negligence in theatres, people will sue them, and the state will have to pay. All these anomalies can be avoided if the government closes all these service delivery gaps in the province. Stop offering mediocre services to the people, they deserve better service delivery than what they are getting now. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Van der Walt, it is your turn.

MS VAN DER WALT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Provincial Treasury has been allocated a Budget of R457,7 million for the 2023/24 financial year and although it represents an increase of 11,7% from the previous year one wonders if it will be enough to allow the department to address and improve the non-compliance to legislation, poor financial and procurement management and poor conditional grant spending in government departments, entities and municipalities.

It is commendable that the department has managed to oversee the decrease in the provincial Compensation of Employees from 72 % to 65,7% in 2023/24. This is still not enough and more needs to be done, especially in departments like Health and Education that spend excessive amounts on Compensation of Employees but also have unacceptably high vacancy rates. We need to bring the province closer to the national average of 61,2%.

Revenue generation for the province may have surpassed the original target and met the adjusted target of R 2,167 billion but there is still a lot of room for improvement, especially in the form of perennially struggling provincial entities. Revenue enhancement strategies need to be explored and implemented to increase provincial revenue and boost the provincial economy.

R8,8 million is allocated for the Sustainable Resources Management Programme to inform 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 resources. While the department continues to carry out its mandate and responsibilities by ensuring the monitoring and tracking of the expenditure performance of all departments and public entities, it is still disappointing that departments continue to underperform.

It was not too long ago that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure was subjected to professional assessment in order to assess issues of governance, financial management and service delivery. This indicates a need for a report on the effectiveness of the Treasury Department's interventions when dealing with slow expenditure and failures in service delivery and underspending of conditional grants.

The amount of R11,2 million is allocated for the Municipal Support subprogramme in the 2023/24 financial year, with the aim of improving the capacity of Provincial Treasury to support our municipalities. It is, however, concerning that in previous years municipalities

have continued on a downward trajectory despite the efforts of Provincial Treasury. The MEC's concern in the Budget Speech that the province still has 8 out of 27 Municipalities that in the current financial year have adopted or approved unfunded Budgets shows the grim reality in the province's local government sphere.

Although the MEC indicated that Provincial Treasury is not against the use of consultants by municipalities, we are deeply concerned by the over-reliance and large cost of consultants. Some municipalities are so dependent that it brings the skills and qualifications of finance unit municipal officials into question. In fact, in the recently released consolidated report on local government audit outcomes for the year 2021/22, the Auditor-General expressed concern about inadequate financial management and oversight as well as an expenditure of R1,13 billion on financial reporting which included R263 million on financial reporting consultants and that was the third highest in our country.

We must acknowledge without the work of the Provincial Treasury, the situation in this province would be much worse but the levels of irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and the amounts surrendered to National Treasury due to underspending of conditional grants remains unacceptably high. Limpopo Treasury must also align and extend its monitoring and support to assist the provincial departments and entities to deal with threats like litigation that pose a serious threat to funds and to assist in ensuring the most efficient department spending in response to loadshedding as this may be another avenue for misappropriation of funds and corruption. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Van der Walt. Chair, Hon Phala, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I dedicate this debate to Khosi Ratshimphi Frans Phiriphiri Tshivhase. He was both a traditional leader in this province and a freedom fighter. He was born in 1900 and died in 1952. He fought the British and the Boers and was very defiant. He called himself, 'British Empire' and they called him, Empire Tshivhase – a brilliant, brilliant freedom fighter and patriot, Ratshimphi Phiriphiri Tshivhase. This government gave him the Order of Luthuli in Bronze for outstanding contribution to the struggle for a free, non-racial, non-sexist South Africa because of the Order he has achieved. [APPLAUSE] I am dedicating this debate to him, an outstanding hero of the people of South Africa, Ratshimphi Tshivhase [Inaudible] Phiriphiri.

We are debating the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Provincial Treasury for the year, 2023/24. We are now looking forward to what we want them to do. There are many issues that we think that they will focus on, and we hope that they will continue to perform better themselves as a Department of Provincial Treasury and continue to get clean audits and expand that clean audit to other auditees in the province because this department has been getting clean audit after a clean and clean audit after clean audit for a very long period. [APPLAUSE]

That is one of the things amongst others what they do that make them a best performing department of the provincial government and one of the best performing Provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. Amongst issues we raised when we met with them was how they should use the powers as Hon Masekoameng has captured the issues very well and Hon Desiree van der Walt captured those issues very well. Those are the issues that we raised that we want them to focus on using the powers they have in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 to help other departments and auditees to also improve and use those powers as much as possible. Hon Van der Walt has also raised a key issue that since they are holding the purse, they have to ensure that they look at the issue of compensation of employees so that those departments that need more humans to work in Education, in Health and so on, they should get people to go and work there and get money to hire nurses and doctors and specialists to help the people of this province, and in Education to get teachers and education specialists and other people.

But other departments, tše dingwe, aa! We want them to reduce the compensation of employees and focus on spending money on delivering infrastructure – schools, clinics, roads, bridges, libraries and all that. If you are a department, for example, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure – your name says it. We don't want to see metšholotšholo ya batho ge ba e tšwa mola ka nako ya ge e tšhaile re re ke ba eng? Ga be batho ba go ba le bokgoni, if you get a point. That is just an example. If you have qualifications, re nyaka goba letšholotšholo bjoo lehono ka gore ke bona ba thušago batho ba Limpopo ka thuto le ka maphelo. That is the point we raised, and we will continue to raise that matter going forward. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Van der Walt and Hon Masekoameng have raised an issue that we want an enhancing expenditure on infrastructure as much as possible. In an earlier debate – I think it is also relevant to this debate, Hon Van der Walt, you raised the issue of LEDA and GAAL that they are entities that are business enterprises that they should not be receiving a cent from the provincial purse, but they are getting money. Those are the once that we want to be winked off. Go tshweša letswele. Ge o tshweša ngwana letswele le dira bjang? Re di tsheša letswele gore di tšwe mo letsweleng la mmušo. O anya letswele la mmušo, Mohlomphegi Sekoati. Di tshweše letswele, di bitšwe. Di swere letswele kudu o ka re ke tau, di tšwe mo go lona. O di tloletše sekgopha mo letsweleng. Basadi ba tlotša sekgopha ge ngwana a ganelela go anya. Ga re tlotšeng sekgopha, Mohlomphegi Sekoati, go LEDA and GAAL, because they are business enterprises. There is no business for them for getting a cent from the provincial purse in terms of legislation, Public Finance Management Act, 1999 and others.

We are looking at the issue of R-walks. We are looking at the issue of officials who are doing business with the state. While at work, the person is busy sending invoices to deliver services. The person is not focusing on his job and is focusing on something else. The person spends our time, our money, even our resources – our computers and others delivering tissues to a municipality and papers in another department. We are going to pay much attention to that as much as possible. We are looking at what Hon Lebea said earlier on as the progress being made to ensure that the infrastructure delivery hub is functional and can help the provincial government.

Finally, we are also going to look at this issue of consequence management. Re boa go yona. In areas where there are people who have transgressed, action must be taken against people who have done wrong things. In this province, there are many and we are going to look at them in this committee and even in the other committees. When we sit, we are going to ensure that action is taken against them. For example, in this province, in this thing called Great North Transport, R300 million of Pension/Provident Fund is unavailable at the time when more than 1 400 workers are retiring.

Motho o berekile mengwaga ye 28, o ya gae, GaMolepo, ge a fihla gae, Mohlomphegi Masekoameng, mosadi ge a botšitša gore diphešene di ka kua o be go o bereka, le yena ga a tsebe gore di kae. Mosadi o thome go gonona gore o di jele le, o di jele le, o di jele le bao a di jelego le bona. O di jele le ba bangwe batho. Ke bothata taba yeo ka gore ngwana wa batho ga a di ja le motho. Mmušo ga wa mo fa phenšene. Taba yeo e a baba. Rena bjalo ja Maloko a Palamente gomme re emetše batho ba dimilione tše hlano ka mo profenseng, e re baba kudu ka lebaka la gore batho bale ga ba na maatla. Mmušo o na le maatla go feta bona.

When you arrive at home, and you are sitting under a tree every morning, your wife, bothers and everyone is surprised that this guy, working for 28 years, comes here and pretends as if he does not know where the money is. They think you know, and you have spent the money elsewhere. It is very harsh, honourable Members. Even if this was done by an individual, it is something that we are going to follow up. Even now, other workers have not been paid and a lot of them have already died, going to the grave without getting a single cent, It is very bad. We are highlighting that as an example of consequence management on individuals who are responsible for such an outstandingly bad situation that affected the people of this province in what is called the Great North Transport.

The other example is this thing called GAAL. Ke “gala”, akere! Re swanetše re e bitše ka Afrikaans – Gateway Airport Authority Limited . Ke gala, Mohlomphegi Boshielo, ka gore e a galaka. At one time, planes could not land at the airport for six months. That thing destroys businesses that are there at the airport. Tša dikoli tša go tliša dipahlo. There are lot of businesses that depend on the airport. When the airport dies, those businesses die. Ke “gala”. Ke “gal,” e a galaka. That is why we called it in Afrikaans, “gal”. Hon Van der Walt, gal, ke gal. Le yona re tlo e šala morago taba yela ya GAAL. Gala re tlo e šala morago. Re ka se e tlogela. We are going to follow it up.

Another one is called Roads Agency Limpopo. R500 million is allocated to them, and it is a grant called Provincial Road Maintenance Grant. Leina la yona o a le kwa ge o tseba Sekgowa – Provincial Road Maintenance Grant. They took money for road maintenance, and they built a dark road. To build a dark road is not road maintenance. You are building a new road altogether. Road maintenance is to patch potholes and do things of those kind. They take that one and spend it on something else. Even the name tells you before you can even look at the condition. Le yona re tlo e šala morago gore re bone gore batho ba ba gago ba be ba sa tsebe Sekgowa go no se tsebe gore nto ye ke Provincial Road Maintenance Grant. Ba re ke kerante ya go dira eng.

Ye nngwe ba re ke Mapungubwe Arts Festivals. There are seven of them, gomme di na le dipego tša tšona. At one time, a performer was paid while sitting in Canada. He never left his home. He is eating breakfast on the sofas there, Hon Ramathuba, and gets paid R3 million. O e bitša eng yona nto yeo. Re tlo e šala morago re kwe gore ge le patela performer a dutše kua kgole - ba re ke mang yena motho yoo. Ba tla mo tseba ba ba go tantsha kudu. O patelwa a le gona kua Canada. Ga e kgonege nto ye. O ka patela motho a dutše ka gae. O patelwa bjang? Ga e kgonege. Re tlo e šala morago gore re le patella motho a dutše Canada. Re tlo e šala morago gore go be le consequence management. Ba bangwe ba re lefelo ka Tubatse ke R8 million eupša ba e reka R116 million. Modimo wa Israele! ga e kgonege gore lefelo la R8 million o ka le reka ka R116 million, taba yeo re swanetše go e šala morago. Di-Hawks le SIU ba godimo ga yona. Le rena bjalo ka Maloko a Palamente re mo godimo ga yona, re na le bona gore e šalwe morago taba yeo ya gore lefelo le le kaaka, e le R8 million ge ba e lebelela ditsebi tša go lebelela naga, wena o e raka ka R116 million, o re ke taba ya mohuta mang?

Re sa tlo lebelela yela ya gore kua go Kgoro ya Thuto, ba pome lepokisi la dithentara tša National School Nutrition Programme. Ba re motho o tlišitše lepoki bošego le tletše, eupša ka moswane ge le swanetše gore le bulwe ba re le letše le pomilwe bošego. Le letše le pomilwe. Hee banna! Pomo e pomile, Modimo wa Israele! Re sa le mo godimo ga yona gore re tle re tsebe gore go tlile bjang gore lepokisana leo le tle le pongwe.

Re sa le le godimo ga taba ya gore batho ba ba tšere tšhelete ya setšhaba ba e beeletša go mogodišano wo o bitšwago Venda Building Society Mutual Bank. Re godimo ga yona le yona gore re tsebe gore e felela kae. Dilo tšeo re di šetšego morago. Ke tšona tšeo e le go gore re sa tlo di šala morago gore re bone gore ge ngwaga o e ya pele go na le consequence management because once there is no consequence management, go tla ba bothata because as the Legislature and portfolio committees, we are about consequence management! Consequence management and consequence management! Thanks, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, honourable chair. Hon Seshoka, the time allocated to honourable chair was 10 minutes. He was within the ten minutes, Hon Seshoka. I am not saying you must stand up.

MR SESHOKA

O a nthoma akere?

THE SPEAKER

No, I am responding to your reaction, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

There is nothing wrong with that, Hon Seshoka. May you please sit down.

MR SESHOKA

You must respond.

THE SPEAKER

What must I respond to?

MR SESHOKA

[cross-talk]

THE SPEAKER

You may respond, Hon Seshoka. Hon Seshoka, when the honourable chair was on the podium, you were talking to me and saying, time is up. I am now responding to indicate that he is within the 10 minutes. Can you sit down. Okay, sit down then. Hon Seshoka, sit down.

MR SESHOKA

[cross-talk]

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed with the Order Paper? We will now call the honourable MEC to come and respond to the observations that Members have made. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me first and foremost, thank the portfolio chairperson, Hon Kgolane Phala and the Members of the committee for making time to support the department, and for making sure that they continue to inspire us in terms of directing us in areas where we might not be doing well. They inspire us to do more and do as we are expected in terms of the Constitution.

Chair, we note most of the areas that were raised here, particularly the use of consultants in municipalities and various departments; the annual spending of conditional grants and equitable share which has got an impact on development in uplifting the people's lives. The issues of funded vacancies which we know that we are supposed to make sure that our government is effective through those warm bodies.

I must say that part of the challenges that we are facing as Hon Van Der Walt and the chairperson of the committee have raised is in terms of the compensation of employees which is taking much of the resources that are supposed to be meant for development and are directed to fund the warm bodies. That is very much important. Chairperson, I can say that we even had a special meeting yesterday as Provincial Executive Council to look at those and make sure that we do not go beyond where we are and continue to review some of the structures and make sure that they become structured for purpose so that we do not necessarily have warm bodies for the sake of it.

We are also impacted by the recent wage bill which is going to force us to reconsider the way we are doing things. There is technology that should be able to enhance the work that we are doing, therefore, we cannot continue to do things in the same old way. We believe that we should find better ways and means to reduce the cost of compensation of employees because it is quite high compared to the rest of the country. We are also doing some investigations in terms of the other provinces, and we have realised that we are above average in terms of the rest of the country. We are looking at that just to make sure that at least we can reduce. I believe that all our colleagues have agreed that we need to look at a scientific way of dealing with this issue of compensation of employees.

The issue of consequence management is something that continues to give us sleepless nights because it does take a long time for us to be able to see results. Although there are results, but it does take a long time. We still need to do more and make sure that every one of us is accountable for their own actions which goes hand-in-glove with the forensic reports that we are continuously following up to make sure that at least all of us can ensure consequence management.

On contingency liabilities, we cannot agree more, chair, and we are also following up on the Eastern Cape to make sure that at least we are able to take lessons and learn from them, and make sure that it does not recur in the province and continuously reduce these contingent liabilities because it poses high risk in terms of the sustainability of the province. If they were to lose most of the cases, it would mean that we will not be able to continue to provide services as a province.

We are looking at the issue of GNT and GAAL 8, chair. The main challenge with GNT is that at some point you were saying, it is supposed to be profitable. We know that there are also some challenges that are dragging it down. There are certain routes that are not necessarily funded where they will not be able to get any subsidies like, Bopedi Bapedi, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Phalaborwa and other areas where we believe there is a need to continuously support them. We are aware that they are not necessarily maximising the utilisation of the subsidy in areas where they are getting it. However, we still maintain that developmental space that they also play to make sure that we are at least able to balance. We do consider what the committee is saying. We will continuously make sure that they reduce reliability on the state funding.

We are also dealing with the issue of GAAL in that we are hoping to conclude the agreement with ACSA (Airports Company of South Africa) to make sure that they can take over and leave the state of the role that it has been playing. The weaknesses that we have in there, we have been trying to deal with them. However, due to the skills levels,

we believe that ACSA will be the entity in the best position to be able to take over Gateway Airport Authority Limited and be able to run it effectively.

Hon Maraga is not here. I thought I alluded to some of the issues of people living with disabilities because there is nothing like that, we have got people with disabilities. It is important as a Member of this august House that she does not go public and say it because people will say this what the Members of the Provincial Legislature are saying. I just wanted her to know that it is “people with disability”. Please, don’t say it again, Hon Mapoulo. It is people with disabilities. Let’s call it properly, otherwise those people will not be happy with us.

On dealing with the fallacy that has been expressed, we are equally shocked when municipalities are not paid rates and taxes, and when municipalities are getting audit outcomes that are not favourable. We are not happy because we are working with those municipalities daily. It is only unfortunate that we are strengthening the Provincial Treasury to focus on MFMA on a bigger scale. Unfortunately, due to the challenges that we had with organised labour, because then they had to fight for NQF levels in terms of the people that were supposed to be appointed in those positions, hence we underspent with R3 million of that dispute that we had which was taken to the public service and administration and the bargaining chamber. It took about eight months for us to ultimately agree on what to take. We believe in a few months we should have everyone ready and make sure that municipalities are more strengthened, and we are able to intervene timeously where we are supposed to.

We must also understand the challenges that we are faced with as a Provincial Treasury. Other municipalities are taking us to court whereas we are supposed to interventions and so on. I think at some point we also need the House, Chair, to be part of that struggle to make municipalities to be functional so that they will also account to this Provincial Legislature because we know they do not account to Parliament, National Assembly and portfolio committees. At this level, we have not heard some of those committees dealing with municipalities to at least focus on them in terms of their outcomes to make sure that they account. I think that will also help to strengthen the role that we are playing as a Provincial Treasury and as CoGHSTA.

On the issue of rates and taxes, we do consider. We will continuously make sure that we work with Public Works to ensure that every one of us is complying when it comes to that. Yes – we still have other national departments that should also come on board to make sure that we do not handicap these municipalities by not paying what is due to them. We do consider all those concerns that have been raised and want to thank the committee for their support. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC, for the response.

7.4 Consideration and adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health

Committee chair, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Good morning to honourable Members. I am tabling the second quarter report of the Department of Health for the financial year 2022/23 for consideration and adoption by this House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Joshua Matlou, hereby second the presentation as tabled by chair. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. Honourable chair, it is your turn.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby table the third quarter report for the financial year 2022/23 of the Department of Health for consideration and adoption by this House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second Hon Mathe, the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. Honourable chair, it is your turn.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the first quarter report of Department of Health for the financial year, 2022/23 for consideration and adoption by this House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. 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 report by the honourable chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Boshielo. [APPLAUSE]

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much. Hon Phala, we must go to Polokwane as the Legislature. Good morning. Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present today, Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party, Chair of Chairs, , Hon Sarah Nkome Monyamane; and her deputy Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

June 13, 2023 will be remembered as a great day in South Africa and a gain towards the achievement of the National Democratic Revolution. The National Health Insurance Bill was passed in the National Assembly after the majority progressive parties voted for it. Please underline, "majority of progressive parties voted for it". We now call upon the NCOP to deal speedily with the passing of this Bill for the President of our country, his Excellency, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, to sign it as the law before the rise of the Fifth Parliament in 2024. The African National Congress welcomes the passing of the National Health Insurance Bill as a catalyst for universal health access. This is historic development paves the way for all South Africans for free medical healthcare, effectively and sustainably relying on our vision of a caring society with access to services irrespective of income earners. This development is also in line with the government's Constitutional imperative of the recognition of healthcare as a fundamental human right of the ANC's vision of a better life for all.

The South African Communist Party in its statement reaffirmed that the passing of the National Health Insurance Bill is a massive development of a decisive epoch – an epoch of irresolvable rupture in the present unequal rational too tired healthcare. The irritational too tight health regime is persistent hurt the income and health inequalities which have worsened with every crisis of the exploitative capitalist system, and in that regard also the Congress of the South African Trade Union (Cosatu) welcomed the National Assembly's adoption of the National Healthcare Insurance Bill. Cosatu and many workers are in support of the NHI. The majority of South Africans, in particular, the working-class, have access of quality and affordable healthcare. This is not due to lack of resources, but due to the blatantly skewed distribution. Those, who have voted against this Bill and claim to represent the working class and the poor were exposed.

In our engagement on the second quarter report of the Department of Health, the committee resolved that the department must continuously report on progress made regarding the Audit Action Plan. Our view was that if fully implemented, the department will be able to improve its audit outcome at the end of the financial year. Among others were the poor internal controls, which was a serious challenge to the department. Major movable, tangible and capital assets were understated by R514 million, and the amount

was cumulative over the years. The department could not review its contingency liability periodically and as a result they were overspending against R2,8 million. The department must report to the committee about the progress made regarding this matter. The committee was also concerned about the revenue collection strategy of the department.

During our engagement with the department on the second quarter report, the committee observed that there was total revenue impairment amounting to R456 million which was 87% of the balance accrued by the department. In comparison to the previous financial year, the accrued departmental revenue was 45% or R355 million. The department must report to the committee whether the revenue collection strategy is effective and whether they will be able to collect money that is due to them. The department can create jobs and ensure that funded vacancies are filled and to increase capacity in terms of human capital.

The department briefed the committee during engagements on the second quarter report that patient admin officers will be employed. The patient administrative officers will assist to make sure that patients immediately register and receive their bills before leaving the hospital. If those bills are paid on time, this will assist the department to increase their revenue collection. The department further noted that they have submitted a plan with costs to the Treasury and it was waiting for the approval of appointing the admin officers.

During the view of the fourth quarter, the department reported that the overall expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year was at 99,5% with 94% and 100,2% spend on Programme 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7. The department has underspent by R120 million on Programme 6 for nursing colleges. The reason advanced by the department for this underspending includes delay spending on funds on compensation of employees, transfer of money to Cuba and the procurement of ambulances.

The committee noted with concern that the same underspending occurred in all the quarters of the 2022/23 financial year. The committee also noted an expenditure of 104,42% on EMS in Programme 3 in the fourth quarter as compared to 73% spent during the third quarter. The other concern is related to Programme 8, Healthcare Facilities, whereby 91% of infrastructure development was spent in the fourth quarter as compared to 61,3% which the department spent during the third quarter. The department must clarify this underspending because the Annual Performance Plan was approved, and it was also budgeted for in terms of the planning and allocated budget. Underspending on infrastructure is not acceptable given the shortage of infrastructure of clinics and hospitals in the province.

The committee also noted the improvement in the payment of invoices during the fourth quarter as compared to the third quarter. The department could not pay 105 service providers even though corrective measures have been taken. The committee requests a report on how the challenges related to late payment of suppliers have been resolved, and the report from the department is still outstanding. The department must further implement consequence management on officials who continue to delay payments of suppliers.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Health supports the adoption of the second, third and fourth quarter reports of the Department of Health by this august House. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Boshielo. Over to you, Hon Maraga.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Mulanga Buthano, mufumakadzi Vho Rosemarry Molapo, u fhiwa tshifhinga hetshi uri ndi vhe muñwe wa vhathu vha no khou ya u ita khanedzano. Kha vha ntendele, Mulanga Buthano, ndi lumelise Miraḁo yothe vha Phalamennde vha re fhanḁ khathihi na vhaofisiri vha bvaho kha mihasho u ya nga u fhambana hayo. Ndi dovhe hafhu ndi tou lumelisa lwa tshipentshela vhashumisani na nḁe vhane vha vha nga thungo ya tshanda tshanga tsha monde. Ndo livhuwa.

Hon Speaker, it's quite an honour for me to participate in this debate on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters. The department, Hon Speaker, must present a comprehensive report on contingent liabilities arising from the permission of patients which thus far resulted in people suing the department. Hon Speaker, during the second, third and fourth quarter debates on Provincial Treasury, all honourable Members did talk about this matter. The report that we are requesting must include the number of people who sued the state for whatever reason and how much is anticipated to be spent on those cases if patients win court cases against the state?

Furthermore, Hon Speaker, this House needs to know as to how much was spent by the department on contingent liabilities over the last five years. Well, if MEC can't divulge this information, we can safely report to this House that contingent liabilities in her department were sitting at a whooping R7 billion during the second quarter of the period under review. How many hospitals and clinics can be built with this money? How many doctors and nurses and other health professionals can we hire with this money? How many state-of-art health facilities and how many equipment can we buy with this amount of money to save the lives of the people of Limpopo?

We think that the MEC's work rate and performance is being overexaggerated by those who exaggerate whatever she does. The EFF also wants the department to equally present a strategic plan to reduce contingent liabilities and medico-legal cases in the department. This is because we can all see that the MEC is flip-flopping by appearing on television without addressing the real governance and administrative issues in the department. We know that the MEC loves media but this must be augmented by tangible governance and leadership capacity in order to transport and to steer the ship in the right direction.

The initial approved plan for the Limpopo Academic Hospital was that it would have about 488 beds. Now we are being told that the hospital will have 288 beds. This is the hospital that should serve the future generations. What is wrong with the current administration?

It seems as if the current administration is not ready to make investments that will benefit the future generations. Haa, hu vha hu tshi khou toḡa u itwa kumbu-kumbu. The low number of beds is indeed worrying and disappointing. Why do you offramp from the initial plan in relation to the number of beds? How many times did we as the EFF raise this matter to you? Didn't we raise it?

The most logical thing is that the more the beds you have, the more patients will be admitted and assisted and to some extent, it will relieve the burden the department is currently faced with.

Hon Speaker, what informed this backward thinking and what happened to money that was allocated to those beds that you reduced? The number of clinics offering 24-hour service in the province is now 50 out of 482 clinics. Clinics in Limpopo province only operate during business hours. It is for this reason that women in rural areas are turned back and told that clinics are closed and not yet opened. Does this mean that our people only get sick during the day? What kind of medical and scientific analogy is this, Hon Speaker? We can only describe this as an illogical thinking of highest order. The audit report for 2021/22 revealed that the department underspent by R120 million in Programme 6 of Health Sciences and Training.

Clearly, the department does not take this programme serious and it failed to link its service delivery needs for our people. Can the MEC brief this House about the Cuban programme of training medical doctors? Does the programme still exist, Hon MEC? If it does, we need explanation in this august House. [APPLAUSE]

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable Member. I recognise Hon Van der Walt.

MS VAN DER WALT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Before I start, I'm glad that the MEC is here. I called her two days ago she was very sick she couldn't speak. I'm glad you are here Hon MEC. The fourth quarter report shows that the department is at 46% of the 29 females out of 63 males total in senior management level posts but there is a concern that there are 0% for people with disability at SMS levels and only 0,4% from the entire department for people with disability as of 31 March 2023.

The department exceeded its targets in terms of revenue collected in the second quarter where they collected R45,9 million instead of the targeted R37,4 million. The department also exceed its target again in the third quarter by collecting R69,8 million instead of the targeted R38 million. However, in the fourth quarter, there was a significant drop and underperforming where they only collected R42,5 million of the targeted R77, 3 million. We should seem to increase revenue collection to offer more support to the healthcare service facilities. The underperformance in the period under review in the emergency

medical service programme to meet response stance in both urban and rural area was of a great concern.

The reasons given were of a reduction in the number of the operational ambulances, roads test per shift, leading to delays in the responsiveness to patients and also the result of the high mileages of fleet and ambulances which are not replaced at the same rate at their disposal.

They need plan in this fleet management to ensure that such concerns are avoided especially considering the importance of service which will always need to be proactive in this department. The drastic finance which needs to be targeted with regard to ideal clinic status is also worrying for the province and it raises concern of resources to achieve targets even though there is an intervention for all districts to develop and insecure plans to assist ideal clinics status for all primary healthcare facilities by mid-February 2023.

It is a positive standard that by the fourth quarter, the department did manage to meet and exceed targets for the ideal clinic status by attaining 23%; that is 109 out of 482 clinics instead of the targeted 15%. In the third quarter, the department underperformed on the ART and it remained in key rate by only achieving 67,3% from the targeted 90%. The ART charge remains a key rate achieving 75,8% instead of the targeted 90% on both the largely ideal clients who disengaged from care. The department indicated interventions to address both issues such as the implementation of doctor-to-child strategy and monthly district team monitoring tool and hopefully this will give improved results.

The underexpenditure of the budget in Programme 4, which is provincial hospitals reach a specialized 97,4% and Programme 6 which is Health Sciences and Training at 89,53% are also a concern. Given the responsibility of this department, it should be fully utilising the resources afforded to her. It is not clear why these budgets was not fully utilised but the department should seek to address this. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Van Der Walt. I recognise Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Chair. The Health Department in the province has severe challenges and is failing to give services to those in dire need such as the shortage of beds, ambulances, medications, equipment and a highly concerning backlog of surgeries where patients are sent home with broken hips and broken fractures. The majority of those patients that await surgeries don't have the ability to be taken care of at home and with the lack of medications, some spent their final days on earth in severe pain. Is that human?

Hon Speaker, in 2021/22 the Department of Health underspent by R120 million in Programme 6 which could've been used for ambulances. The poor implementation of ideal clinic status has affected a number of clinics from operating 24-hours. It's only 59 clinics that are operational for 24-hours and 118 clinics are on call. How do we know if the call will be successful during loadshedding for the patients to be assisted as the need?

The department stated that nursing college infrastructures is very poor, however, the majority of clinics and hospitals are also falling apart. The Freedom Front Plus would like to see the dignity of patients restored and we should strive to uphold the dignity for all who put their trust in us. We urge the MEC to please take the matter of shortage of medicines very seriously and she must find a way to solve the backlog of surgeries, even it means outsourcing it. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Over to you, chair; Hon Mathe. Hon chair, you are protected by the rules. It will be upon yourself whether you want to speak standing or sitting.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Let me assure you that there is no need for any panic, I'm as strong as PPC cement. Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present, Members of this august House, Deputy Chief Whip of the ruling party, honourable Members of the Opposition, some, of course, with objective opposition mentality and others with anarchic and subjective opposition mentality. Those are two different things: Objective opposition mentality and subjective and anarchic opposition mentality. Ke sekgowa; it's English.

The Portfolio Committee on Health ... I'm not going to be distracted or respond to any form of 'mara why mentality.' We have met with the Department of ...

THE SPEAKER

Hon chairperson, may you be seated for a while.

MR MPHAHLELE

I'm standing on a point of order, Madam Speaker. I heard (inaudible)

MR MATHE

I said maar why mentality. Maar why you breed it?

BACKGROUND

Maar why?

MR MATHE

Maar why you breed it?

BACKGROUND

Not marijuana.

MR MATHE

Not marijuana. Maar why you breed it? Now, the truth is, there is maar why you breed it? Maar hoekom you breed it? Why you breed it?

BACKGROUND

(Inaudible)

MR MATHE

It's English, I will teach you outside when we go for a tea break. The Portfolio Committee on Health met with the department for a briefing on the 2022/23 second, third and fourth quarters financial and performance reports. The purpose of the briefing was for the committee to monitor progress and performance on the eight programmes of the Department of Health and to monitor how the department was progressing with the implementation of its 2022/23 Budget.

We would want to objectively commend the department on its improvement regarding Emergency Medical Services. The department reported an increase in the availability of operational emergency targets. It was reported that the target on ambulance urban response is under 30 minutes and was at 81,4% against the 65% targeted. For the target on ambulance rural response is less than 1 hour was at 76,2% achievement was reported against the 70% targeted. This was an improvement from the previous second and third quarters where both targets were not met due to the reduction in the number of operational ambulances restored per shift.

We, however, raised a concern that communities are still complaining about the response time by ambulances. The department must ensure that strict monitoring of ambulances on call is implemented.

Hon Speaker and Members of this august House, the committee noted that as in the previous quarters of 2022/23, the target that was not achieved or reported in the fourth quarter related to the audit outcomes. During the 2022/23 second and third quarter briefing, the department reported that the target would be reported at the end of the fourth quarter. However, in the fourth quarter, the department reported that the target would be reported in the annual report.

The quarterly non-reporting of activities relating to audit outcomes as raised by the Auditor-General did not show progress the department was making in implementing the Auditor-General's recommendations. The committee urged the department to provide activity-based reports quarterly on the recommendations by the Auditor-General as per audit action plan as this will lead towards the department obtaining an improved audit outcome.

On Programme 1 which is Administration; in relation to the late payment of invoices, which Hon Boshielo has also reflected on, the department reported that it will not pay 67 out of 21 439 invoices within 30 days (which is 99,69% achievement) and in terms of academical language, this is what we call a distinction during the fourth quarter. (But, you have never achieved a distinction since you were a Member of Parliament.)

This was reportedly due to inadequate supervision by responsible managers for the invoices to be paid. The department reported that corrective measures were taken against the three responsible officials. The committee raised concern that non-payment of invoices on time had several implications. Amongst others was that they may accrue interest and such interest will amount to fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The committee directed the department to explain how it would manage fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred because of non-compliance to the stipulated 30-day period to pay suppliers.

The committee further directed the department to report on why supervision was not done as it was supposed to be done, what were the root causes, the actions and sanctions taken against the three responsible managers who failed to supervise payment of invoices? How much in monetary terms was included in the 67 unpaid invoices including interest charged?

With regard to Mother, Child, Women, Health and Nutrition which falls under District Health Services Programme, the department reported an achievement on the target for couple year protection rate (women protected against pregnancy by using modern contraceptive methods and not old contraceptive methods) as well as delivery of 10-19 years youth in facility rate (deliveries where the mother is 10–19 years old). This was due to improved availability of contraceptive or improved contraceptives stock levels at facilities. This achievement was an improvement from the first, second and third quarters of 2022/23 where the department failed to meet both targets due to inconsistent supply of contraceptives due to low stock levels.

The department met its target for immunization of children under one year in the fourth quarter as 77,3 % was met against the target of 75%. This was an improvement from the third quarter where the target was not met wherein 61,1% was reported against a 75% target. In measles dose and Vitamin A coverage for 12-59 months, catch up campaigns were conducted and both targets were met and exceeded. The committee commends the work well done by the department. Halalaah!

BACKGROUND

Mayebabo!

MR MATHE

When others say mayebabo! You will be saying halalaah! The department reported that the pharmaceutical services rendered from the depot were responsible for effective and efficient procurement, storage and supply of medicines and surgical sundries to all health facilities. The procurement of surgical sundries was done using national tenders awarded

by the National Treasury and National Department of Health while distribution of medicines was done by service providers on behalf of the provincial department. It was further reported that targets of 70% for availability of medicines at the depot and 80% for availability of medicines at hospitals were achieved.

However, for clinics, the target was not met and the report showed that the availability of medicine was at 77% instead of the targeted 80%. This target was also not met in the third quarter where 75% was reported against 80% that was targeted. The department reported that the challenge for non-achievement was due to inadequate support to clinics by hospital pharmacists. As part of intervention, the department reported that it would enhance its outreach programme to primary healthcare facilities. The committee requested the department to provide a report on plans and activities it would embark on to address the above-mentioned challenges of availability of medicines at clinics. The report should also indicate what was the ratio for hospital pharmacists that provided support to clinics and whether the current ratio is according to the norm.

But, of course, the department has already started with intervention in relation to the appointment of assistant pharmacists so that there is intervention in that particular part. That programme is already there. Halalaah! The department reported that about 23 projects were withdrawn from the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and a list of those projects was submitted to the committee. However, the committee raised concerns over the general maintenance of clinics that should be done. The department did not report on any progress regarding how much it achieved with regards to facility maintenance.

Over the last meeting the committee resolved that a joint meeting should be held with Public Works to resolve the maintenance and major infrastructure challenges. The department should also provide a full comprehensive report on all infrastructure projects completed in the year under review. The portfolio committee recommended that the department should accomplish the following activities:

- The department should desist from reporting that indicators or targets will be reported in the fourth quarter in all their quarterly reports and provide activity-based reports on a quarterly basis as per audit action plan as this will lead the department to obtain an improved audit outcome and this is our emphasis.
- The department should provide a report with evidence on reasons for overspending in both Programme 3 and Programme 8 and also, provide clarity on what was achieved in such a short space of time that they could not have achieved in the three quarters of the same financial year.
- The department should explain with evidence as to why there was underspending of the budget in Programme 6 at the end of the fourth quarter and which services were affected by the underexpenditure.
- The department should provide a report on plans and activities that it would embark on to address challenges of availability of medicines at primary healthcare

facilities or clinics. Normally when we speak about primary healthcare facilities we refer to clinics so that you have an understanding.

- The report should also indicate what was the ratio of hospital pharmacists that provided support to primary healthcare facilities and whether the current ratio is according to the norm.
- The department should provide a full comprehensive report on all infrastructural projects that were completed in the year under review.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, after scrutinising the 2022/23 second, third, and fourth quarterly Performance Reports of the Department of Health, the committee supports that these reports be adopted as reports of this honourable House. I thank you and halalaah! [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon chair. We will allow the Hon MEC to respond at the end of all debates. Let's proceed to Item 7.6: Second Reading and Approval of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023. Proceed chair with Item 7.6.1: Consideration and adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health of 2023/24 and Annual Performance Plan and Budget.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to present that this House consider and adopt the report of the Portfolio Committee on Health on the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Che Selane, hereby support the honourable chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Hon Mathe. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Over to you, Hon Boshielo again. [APPLAUSE]

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Ms Rosemarry Molapo; Members of the Executive Council present today, I can see Dr Ramathuba and MEC Hon Rakgoale; Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party, Chair of Chairs,, Ms Sarah Nkome Monyamane; Deputy Chair

of Chairs, Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen, thobela. Hon Speaker, the MEC for Health does not love the media but the media loves her because she accounts to the people of Limpopo on what's happening in the Department of Health and also, she provides important information to our people. A ke le homole hle.

Do you want to come and debate on my behalf? I'm going to repeat then. Madam Speaker, they disturbed me. The MEC for Health in Limpopo does not love the media but the media loves her because she accounts to the people of Limpopo on what is happening in the Department of Health and also, she provides important information to our people. [APPLAUSE] You can only reach out to our people through the media, especially social media. Keep on doing the good job, Hon MEC, and never be deterred by people who hardly appreciate the good work that you are doing but they are only looking at the bad side.

Our people are happy with your work including the organisation that I'm representing; the African National Congress. I'm saying this, Hon Speaker, because as we are speaking now, in Limpopo there are no cholera cases in our province because of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Health under the very same leadership of the MEC, Dr Ramathuba. [APPLAUSE] We only see it through the media but our province will never get it. It also happened during COVID-19; the department was on top of issues and we really appreciate that.

The department gave a report to the portfolio committee meeting in which Hon Managa was there and I hope she is going to talk about it – about their plans and we also had a joint meeting with the Portfolio Committee of CoGHSTA, the Department of Health and the Vhembe District Municipality to solve water crisis caused by the closure of pipes to clinics and hospitals in Vhembe District. That is the water that comes from Nandoni Dam. It hardly happens that committees, the department and district municipalities come together to be able to solve problems of our people.

This indicates the government in action and by working together we can do more. The Portfolio Committee of Health met with the MEC, Dr Ramathuba, acting head of the department; Dr Dombo and senior management of the department on 11 May 2023.

The department presented the Annual Performance Plan and Budget to the committee for consideration and tabling of its recommendations to this august House. In considering the Annual Performance Plan and Budget, the committee had to ensure that there is alignment in line with medium-term strategic plan from 2019-2024. Letšatši le a sobela, Mohlomphegi Seshoka, we are going home very soon. The Budget allocation serves as a key instrument to ensure the provision of quality healthcare services to our communities as outlined in the APP and I can safely say without any fear of doubt that the department is doing that. The Department of Health's overall Budget allocation for the financial year 2023/24 is R23,7 billion which indicates an increase of 4,6%.

The main appropriation of the financial year 2022/23 was 23,5% including an increase of 0,8% from adjusted appropriation. The committee noted that despite the increase as indicated, because of the NHI challenges that we have in the province, the Department

of Health might not be able to implement some of the programmes that they have. Programmes were allocated according to the following manner:

- Programme 1: Administration was allocated R312 million.
- Programme 6: Health and Training was allocated R633 million which was reduced from R730 million.
- Programme 7: Healthcare and Support Services was allocated R228 million which is an increase from R150 million from previous financial year.
- Programme 8: Health Facility Management was allocated R851 million. The budget was reduced from R1,1 billion to R851 million. That's why as the committee we raised a concern that at this moment we should not decrease the budget of the department in terms of the infrastructure. We should be increasing it.

Be rest assured, Hon MEC, that we will fight side by side to ensure that the Department of Treasury understands that we need to improve facilities for our people. Furthermore, the department reported that budget increase will not adequately address the health services' requirements and will impact negatively on its achievement to deliver on its strategic goals and objectives. The committee also noted the decrease in funding the maintenance of facilities, equipment, medicines which include vaccines, blood and laboratory services, security services and health technology equipment.

This will have dire impact on the provision of health services in public hospitals and clinics. The department must reconsider the allocation of these essential services and prioritise them in the current equitable share. Hon Speaker, having considered the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget, the portfolio committee noted challenges raised by the department in the previous quarterly report and recommends the following activities undertaken towards the department to deal with those strategies.

- In this financial year the department must submit a comprehensive report on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the adopted strategy to reduce medico-legal cases. We know that, Hon MEC, you are trying your level best to do this. Others will come here and indicate as if you are not doing anything while we know you are trying your best. We should give you the report that they can also stick for themselves.

The department must also give us a report on the commitment of all qualified Cuban doctors who have passed the Board Examination for employment in South African hospitals. This report must include students who are still studying in Cuba and the completion date of their programme. We need these doctors, Hon MEC, to come and assist you in trying to better the lives of all people in Limpopo and we will also need much of them because we know that NHI is coming, whether you voted for it or not. We will wait to have it. So, if you can do that, we will be very happy.

- The department must also report to the committee on a quarterly basis on progress regarding the completion of Maphutha Malatji Hospital as well as a detailed report on plans to complete two projects at Tshilidzini Hospital with timeframes attached. We went to Maphutha Malatji Hospital. We have a very good CEO there, Hon MEC, who knows what he is doing. He even reduces the mortality rate and all other things. So, he needs support and we will be so happy if this infrastructure can be

completed so that people of Phalaborwa and surround areas can get quality healthcare.

- In terms of Tshilidzini Hospital, I cannot stress more because it's more on the NHI which we are happy about. If you need us to come and assist you in this part, we are always ready. I do not on my All Stars but next time I will come in them to assist you. The department must also provide reported capacity-building for managers and a comprehensive strategy to improve leadership in healthcare facilities. Hon MEC, you know that there are other CEOs of institutions who are not doing their best and at this moment where we are, we need people who will be able to service our people. We can't afford to give our people shoddy services. They voted for us with the faith that we will take care of their health and I think we can be able to do that.

I know leadership, Hon MEC, that there still needs to be done and as a committee we also need to ensure that we assist you in this regard. Quality assurance and record keeping for audit purposes should be prioritised and relevant managers must be adequately trained and equipped to improve audit outcomes. If you do this Hon MEC, in the next Auditor-General's report, I can definitely assure you that you will get a clean audit which is not very far. The department must submit a comprehensive report on the approval and finalisation of department's organisational structure.

The vacancy rate for clinical and operational staff and the cost that the department is currently spending on compensation for employees is huge. Honourable Members, you must take note that the Department of Health and the Department of Education, like the chairperson of Portfolio Committee for Provincial Treasury has said, are labour intensive departments. So, we need nurses and doctors to be in our hospitals and clinics.

Some people, I can see, are commenting on the high compensation expenditure. We need more doctors, nurses and more specialists. Hon MEC, if you can fund those posts, I think we can get what we want too. And also, the department must seriously address the challenges of shortage of essential posts for cleaners, ward attendants and general workers at healthcare facilities.

We went to facilities like Duiwelskloof Health Centre which is expected to work 24-hours but they don't have cleaners, ward attendants and general workers and the nurses there have to do it by themselves. Maybe if you can help us, especially in those clinics and healthcare centres that are operating for 24-hours.

The department must come up with a turnaround strategy on laundry management, especially at clinics and hospitals to promote clean hygiene to our patients.

The department is doing very well in terms of dealing with backlogs in surgeries that require specialist services. We urge the department to continue to explore other avenues to deal with the current outstanding backlogs to restore faith in our public health facilities.

The intervention strategy in dealing with this backlog must be supported by all of us because it is a good initiative that we have seen the MEC taking and ensuring that we provide healthcare for all.

A comprehensive audit on all health facilities and infrastructure projects completed partially or incomplete from last financial year must be submitted to the committee indicating budget allocated, timeframes of completion, challenges and intervention plans to ensure that those projects are completed as planned.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Health, after discussions and consideration of the two reports supports the Department of Health's Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2023/24 and tables both reports for adoption by this august House to improve the lives of our people for the better. Together we can do more. I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo. Over to you, Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker again for the time to debate the Annual Performance Plan and Budget reports. The Economic Freedom Fighters is worried that the department has since 2014 to date, experienced a growth in medico-legal cases due to medical negligence in healthcare facilities. I don't wanna sound echolalic. However, allow me to repeat because this is a thorny issue. For the period 2014/15-2021/22, the department has registered about 1 773 cases in carrying liabilities amounting to R8 billion. What does this mean? This means that the Budget for the department is spent money on medico-legal cases instead of being used to provide or to render services to our people.

Whatever the strategy you have adopted Hon MEC to deal with these issues, it's not vacuum because medico-legal cases keep on raising every year. Coming to the Cuban medical programme, there is no specific allocation for the Cuban medical programme and we are being told that there is no money to fund such an important programme when there is a dire need for doctors to provide services here in the province.

Who should then be not be admitted in this programme? We are now being told that Cuban training model focuses on prevention while the South African training model focuses on treatment. The Economic Freedom Fighters is alarmed by these disappointing developments because the question is whether the government didn't know that Cuban training model focuses on prevention when they first introduced it to South Africa.

We are being led by confused people who want to confuse everyone around them and everyone here in the province. What is happening, MEC? Can you please take this House into confidence about the developments of this programme.

Hon Speaker, with regard to Veritas Digital, can the MEC table a comprehensive report to this House on Veritas Digital since it was introduced in 2022? Coming to the hospital

matters, Madam Speaker, what are the developments in relation to the incompleteness of building at Maphutha Malatji Hospital there in Phalaborwa subregion in Mopani. This building has been on an incomplete state since time immemorial. Nothing has been done to rescue this situation. By how much did the hospital exceed and by how much has the project exceeded and how much was added?

There were some outstanding things which were not yet delivered at Tshilidzini Hospital like the RO machines and our renal dialysis machines. Are the water purification processes complete and are the renal machines delivered, Hon MEC? The service providers were paid and therefore they must deliver as per contract agreements. The government has developed a culture of outsourcing even on the very smallest things. They even outsourced the provision of tissue papers, plastic spoons et cetera, et cetera. Hon Speaker, at the centre of internal control challenges, there is poor record-keeping in financial management and all sorts of problems within supply chain systems. Has the approval of organisational structure been finalised? If not, why not? Maar why?

The EFF is worried about the maintenance of healthcare facilities around the province. The majority of these structures are literally posing a serious danger to the workers and patients. Coming to the EMS services, Hon Speaker, the EMS service here in the province is dysfunctional and is characterised by all sorts of problems ranging from broken vehicles and poor working conditions. There is no political leadership in this department to address challenges that they are faced with. The big question, Hon Speaker, is maar why? Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Managa. Over to you, Hon Van Der Walt.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. May you allow Hon Van Der Walt to present her speech?

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Speaker, let us not forget that when we speak in this House there are staff members in this department, especially medical staff, who are still trying to do their job and they do it very well under very trying circumstances in this department. The 2023/24 financial year displays an increase in the total Budget allocated to the department but presents a worrying reduction across some significant programmes. The Health Sciences and Training Programme was reduced from R713,6 million to R 683,9 million, Health Care Support Services was reduced from R228,2 million to R150,7 million and Health Facilities Management from R1,098 billion – Chair, can I be protected, unless Health is not that important in this province

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You are protected.

MS VAN DER WALT

... to R851,6 million. It remains to be seen how this will impact healthcare services in the 2023/24 financial year.

An increase in funding the District Health Services, Provincial Hospital Services and Central Hospital Services programmes are welcomed changes. We are hopeful that a large increase in Emergency Medical Services from R994,5 million to R1,3 billion will see a much-needed increase in ambulances, EMS equipment and EMS staff. Furthermore, we hope that the MEC will honour her pronouncement in her Budget Speech to procure 500 ambulances in this financial year.

The 2023/24 financial year seems destined to face the very same historical challenges that have gone unaddressed in the previous years. The medico-legal litigations in the province have reached unacceptable levels and threaten to bring the province's health system to its knees.

For the period of 2014/15-2021/22, the department registered 1 773 cases of incurring liabilities that amount to R8,4 billion. Despite the existence of a strategy to reduce these claims, they have continued to increase. This indicates an ongoing culture of negligence, malpractice and poor healthcare in our health facilities. It is for this reason the committee has requested a comprehensive report on the progress made on the implementation of the strategy to reduce medico-legal cases.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) Programme seems to be another challenge that the department needs to address. The national department allocated R1,5 billion for the implementation of the NHI in its 2023/24 Budget but there were no plans in the provincial department's Budget or APP for the implementation of the NHI Programme. But, Hon Boshielo stands here and brags about the vote in Parliament yesterday but let's see you implement it successfully because eight provinces under your watch have got very poor health services.

Infrastructure development thereof and the maintenance projects are one of the most crucial factors that this department needs to navigate in giving people of Limpopo adequate healthcare. As a committee, we noted a reduction in Health Facilities Management budget to R851,6 million from R1,098 billion in the previous year coupled with capacity challenges and low expenditure of the budget.

While the infrastructure development work done at Maphutha Malatji and Tshilidzini Hospitals are promising, they are a drop in the ocean compared to the major infrastructure overall needed at many of our healthcare facilities if not the most. It is also worrying that both these hospital's infrastructure projects exceeded their budgets, especially Maphutha Malatji that exceed its budget by R90 million. You could build another facility with that money. It is clear that there is a need for plans to improve this infrastructure budget as

well as the management of existing and planned infrastructure development and maintenance projects.

Hon Speaker, another historical challenge that this department continues to grapple with is the failure to reduce the Compensation of Employees cost that remains far too high and is worsened by the fact that the department has very high vacancy rates. The 2023/24 APP failed to display how the department planned to address vacant critical posts although the Budget did indicate an intention to advertise 52 Operational Manager positions and to recruit 300 professional nurses.

The department needs to address challenges of vacancy rates for clinical and operational staff as well as filling the posts for cleaners, general workers and healthcare facilities.

The committee also identified the need for comprehensive reports on the department's plans to achieve its ambitious targets of 193 clinics on ideal clinic status and 229 clinics operating 24-hours, either on call or straight shift for the 2023/24 financial year. Chair, there is a lot to do in one of the most highly priority portfolio not only in Limpopo but also in the country. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Van Der Walt. Over to you, Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon, Speaker, I want to quote Hon MEC in her Budget Speech when she said, "What started as a catch-up strategy following the COVID-19 lockdown period, is now a unique and highly successful Rural Health Matters campaign which is a legacy". Hon MEC stated that it was highly successful. I don't know who to believe because according to questions asked by the MP, Hon Van Staden on Question No. 2474 to the Minister of Health, Hon Dr Phaahla on 15 September 2022 about surgery backlogs, the answer given was that in Limpopo there were 45 690 surgeries backlog as of 15 September 2022.

Hon MEC, in your speech you said that over 6 000 patients benefitted from a variety of surgical procedures. Does that leave 39 000 plus patients from September 2022 to date? Hon Speaker, the duration of backlog given by the Minister of Health in Limpopo is very concerning as he stated that:

- Orthopaedics starts from 12 months to 2 years
- Neurosurgery's duration is ± 5 years
- General surgery's duration is ± 12 months
- Ophthalmology's duration is ± 4 years

With these durations, the majority of patients are sent home without medication. Hon MEC, although 6 000 surgeries were done, you still have a long way to go. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Over to you, Honourable chair. You are the last speaker on the debate, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for this opportunity and all protocol observed. Those who engage on certain labels maybe those labels still remain. I'm going to start by quoting Gabriel Lewis. Gabriel Lewis in his book once said, "When a new one comes, he will want to assert himself either relevantly or irrelevantly. But mainly, he will do so that he is remembered for his irrelevancy. That is why there is a new thing and new trend here of something. Maybe that's why they speak of mara why mara why.

Let me join my colleagues and welcome the Budget Speech presented by the Hon MEC for the Department of Health. We are debating the Budget Speech on the eve of June 16 which many of us regard as a month that has revolutionarised the whole country and changed the minds of liberals to start thinking freely. It is a month that we must celebrate with courage because the June 16 revolution played a role and brought back the image of a black person.

We are happy that in recognition of this month, the President of the Republic of South Africa had enacted the National Health Insurance which capitalists and liberals hate the most. The Department of Health was allocated R115 million to the Cuban Programme in 2022/23 financial year. It is Cuban, not Qban. Let us pronounce it correctly. During the briefing of the APP it was reported that there was no specific allocation for the programme. In a report to the committee dated 13 April 2023, the department stated that there were 137 students on the programme. Out of 137 students, 125 of them returned from Cuba and wrote the final exam and passed while 12 did not qualify for the final exam.

They will re-write in June/July 2023 probably by now they are busy rewriting. The committee noted that the programme will not admit new students due to unaffordability in the province and, of course, because training in Cuba focuses on prevention while South Africa training model focuses on treatment. Those are the two different things if we were to speak medically: Preventative approach and treatment approach. The introduction of National Health Insurance was mostly contemplated to fulfil the constitutional mandate under section 27 of the Constitution; the right to healthcare.

The national department allocated R1,5 billion for the implementation of the National Health Insurance in its 2023/24 Budget. Despite this pronouncement in the provincial Budget Speech and other provincial plans, there were no plans reported to implement the NHI programme but those things will be futile since there is a process. I hope Hon Van Der Walt, that in your spare time ...

MS VAN DER WALT

I don't have spare time.

MR MATHE

I mean by the time when you can donate; even when it's 30 minutes, teach people about what we call objective opposition. Teach them, I will pay for the costs. [LAUGHTER]

I will also pay for their accommodation and transport. The establishment of Limpopo Academic Hospital was pronounced in 2017 by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance. In 2019, it was pronounced that R3,9 billion was budgeted for. The department had previously reported that this was a national project and not directly implemented by the provincial department. In a report dated 13 April 2023, the department reported on various milestones in relation to this project.

We commend the department on the sod-turning for the establishment of the Limpopo Academic Hospital. Give us an opportunity to speak because when you speak, we gave you the opportunity to speak.

THE BACKGROUND

[interjection]

MR MATHE

The committee directed that there must be a breakdown on the expenditure since the inception of Veritas Digital from May 2022. It was previously reported that regional head office trained pharmaceutical depot and five clinics were spent thus far. With regard to transfer of skills from departmental employees, skills were transferred to employees in records and contract management. In a report that they submitted to the committee on 13 April 2023, it was reported that the department spent R249 953 million as of 31 March 2023.

The committee directed the department to give a detailed progress report on the scanned files on a quarterly basis. The department must submit a report that includes hospitals and clinics that were completed and how many more that still need to be scanned and the cost thereof? The committee visited Maphutha Malatji Hospital to inspect the incomplete buildings and get a report from the hospital management. This was done following the Auditor-General's report that the project exceeded the original budget by R90 million.

The department reported that the budget was approved and paid off by the Provincial Treasury and during the said visit it was reported that the contractor will assess the status of work on site and final budget of the outstanding work will be determined. The committee directed the department to report on the status of the project providing the assessment by the contractor and progress on the completion of hospital on a quarterly basis.

There is still much that needs to be done. With regard to Tshilidzini Hospital, two main projects were implemented by the department. The first one was critical for play beds. The department reported that wards with beds were complete but however, the restoration of reverse osmosis plant, which is a very deep science but in your common English it will be water purification processes. In deep scientific language, Hon Mapoulo,

we call it reverse osmosis and delivery of four renal dialysis machines were outstanding. The second one was for the installation of laundry machines.

The department reported that the building was complete and the washing machines were delivered. It was however, discovered that machines were bigger than the space and the building required some minor demolition works to accommodate the size of machines and this would require more budget to be allocated. The committee directed the department to give a progress report on two projects and explore avenues to recover costs from the person who only drafted the plan or the person who did the architectural work on the washing bay where washing machines were supposed to be installed in order – to explore avenues to recover money from that person who was responsible for architectural work. Ke mohlomphegi wa go torowa dipolane. In the course of 2022/23, the committee raised concern about poor internal controls. The AG raised a concern that lack of capacity and leadership at institutions had a negative impact on the internal controls. In addition to that, there was poor assurance by managers amongst issues where internal controls were never applied or enforced and poor record-keeping in financial management. The department must provide a progress report on capacity-building for medicals, strategy to improve leadership in the institutions, improving quality assurance by managers and most importantly, improving record-keeping for all its purposes.

The committee observed that it has been more than five years since the department reported that its organisational structure was fragmented and not aligned to its core business. The challenge with compensation of employees was first reported to the committee in 2020. Several turnaround strategies were also first presented to the committee. The department's compensation of employees was reported to be at 74% while there was a vacancy rate of 37% for clinical staff and 45% for operational staff.

The committee raised a concern that the approval of organisational structure was prolonging while the department was appointing more staff. The committee directed the department to submit a comprehensive report and the status regarding the approval and finalisation of the organisational structure, the vacancy rate for clinical and operational staff and the percentage the department was currently spending on compensation of employees.

Since the introduction of Independent Development Trust, the department had a capacity challenge to maintain existing infrastructure. The committee noted that despite departmental capacity challenges and reduction in budget, the expenditure of the existing budget was very low throughout the quarters. The 2022/23 budget allocation was also reduced from R1 098 367 million to R851 063. The department must submit a report and plans in place to improve the maintenance of infrastructure at healthcare facilities and also the programmes of activities will be affected by the reduction of the budget.

The committee noted the issues pointed out as challenges raised by the department in the 2022/23 APP and Budget. A number of recommendations were made to help the department to resolve challenges. The committee will be expecting quarterly progress reports on issues as well as expenditure patterns of the department. Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Health having considered the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2023/24 financial year further supports that the report be adopted as the report

of this honourable House and that the Budget of Vote 7: Department of Health be passed. Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon chair, Hon Mathe. We shall now call upon honourable MEC for Health to come and respond to the debates made by honourable Members. She has been allocated seven minutes. Thanks. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of this august House, Leadership of the Opposition Parties, Members of the Opposition Parties who are present here, Leader of Government Business, my colleagues in the Executive Council, honourable Members of the ruling party, the African National Congress and most importantly, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health. Let me appreciate Hon Speaker, the opportunity that you have given us to clarify some of the issues. Firstly, let me appreciate and welcome the inputs from the chairperson of the portfolio committee and Members of the portfolio committee, Hon Boshielo and also Hon Van Der Walt for that constructive criticism from the three of you.

We also welcome inputs from the destructive opposition party but, we do welcome their inputs. Hon Speaker, on the issue of contingency liabilities, the department has always provided all information that honourable Members need at all times. We have never been in a single day not being able to upraise the portfolio committee in terms of how much in terms of litigation, our strategy plan, what are we doing to be able to deal with this and to curb these contingent liabilities.

Honourable Members came here as if they are prophesizing the R7 billion as if it's something new. Hon Members, there is a revelation which the Department of Health doesn't want to tell you not forgetting that this thing might be a problem.

Honourable Members, during the Treasury debate, they have raised a question to say, 'We commend Treasury for working with the Department of Health to be able now to reduce contingency liabilities from R14 billion to R7 billion.' So, this is not a prophecy, it's not a magician who came here to give us information that we don't know. This is the information that the department is always updating.

We must also remind honourable Members that on Judge Robert Griffiths on the (Inaudible) case which we also referred to it on the Budget presentation that that came as a breakthrough for us to say Judge Griffiths was very clear when he said that allowing common law to be developed for us in order to offer those rehabilitation. What he was simply saying is that, instead of paying the 30 million lump sum, prove to the court that you can provide those services rendered.

That's where we saw it as a breakthrough and we then started our process of having maternal and child healthcare centre of excellence in each and every district so that whenever we go to court we will say if you are saying this is a child who is seeking some

renal perfusion we can be able to provide future care because what was the problem, Hon Speaker, is that today the judge made a ruling of R40 million and the department paid that R40 million

Two days later the very same child is queuing at Mankweng Hospital so, it's double dipping because when they queue in Mankweng we don't charge them because they are coming from a poor background whereas as the state we have already paid another R40 million and where does another R40 million go? It goes to the lawyers and to their parents.

That's why we say this is a breakthrough. However, we just want to warn that lawyers from top firms in the country are coming together to challenge and appeal this ruling. This is where these honourable Members are supposed to be supporting us to say, "if they win this ruling, it's a backward judgement for us". So, Judge Griffiths was one of the progressive and sober judges whom we do appreciate.

Hon Speaker, on ambulances, we have noted the progress that is there in terms of response time, but, equally so, as the chair from this portfolio committee was right and correct to say that we are also not happy as the Department of Health with the current response time even though we have seen some improvement we are still not happy. That is why we want to report to this House that the order of 500 ambulances is still on track. We issued the order immediately when the Budget was activated. It was the first order to be issued.

We are following up all those service providers. We know that it's a National Treasury tender which we are participating in. We are still on track to say that, by September, all those ambulances must be delivered and handed over to the people of Limpopo and we are quite sure that that is going to happen, Hon Speaker, and that will happen for our people. On the issue of the academic hospital, I'm not sure where some of these Members got their information. I'm not sure whether it's a failure to add one plus one and make it eleven. I don't know because we were very clear when the site was handed over.

Fortunately, I was with MEC Sekoati and the Premier that day. It was a site of 488 beds and what we said was that our wish as a province is to add another 200 to make it 688 beds and we are going to fight for it. By having fought for this to reach this level, we are still going to fight as long as we can still breath oxygen and stand here for the people of Limpopo. The 488 beds are the ones that are being built there with another 200 more.

So, you see, our fellow is able to minus them. We said we want more but you minus by 288. That's a problem of understanding and listening is a skill, honourable Members. Honourable Members, under surgical backlogs: Yes, we reported here, and we are the only province that has Rural Healthcare Matters project. On every last week of the month we visit every district and we are not operating in less than 300 and its true that we are now operating at 6,7.

Honourable Members must go and read. I'm not sure whether I must google the articles as to what did the Minister say. What I have found was that Eastern Cape has got a backlog of 5 393, North West has 5 503, Limpopo has 4 229, Western Cape has got more than 5 000. Can you hear that, there could have been a problem of adding instead of 4

200 and say 42 000 or 45 000. That could have been an error. But what I don't know is where do I get that 45 000? I'm challenging every Member who has got 45 000 people who are waiting to be operated on to bring them because in our latest visit last month here in Lebowakgomo, we were doing orthopaedics. During the work round I asked every patient to tell me how long have they been waiting for their bones to be fixed. I asked all of them.

None of them went beyond three weeks and we are talking about people who used to wait between six and 12 months just to fix their bones. If you look at cataract removal, those who ended up and used to stay for 4 to 5 years, when we started this project in 2020, we had a guy who stopped working since 2013 because of that cataract. We started with that and we cleared them and we are now on track in terms of fighting the surgical backlog.

Honourable Members, if you say there are people who are not operated, we can go and operate them. On Cuban training we should understand and appreciate that the programme is still on. A decision was taken by the national government we have got many students in Cuba and the challenge was when they come back to get spaces for internship training. There was a lot of fights, remember, because South African universities are now starting to wake up and produce more doctors than before.

We felt that we needed to first deal with that backlog of those who are still studying before we could resume the programme again. But also, as a province, in 2016 we were bold and started the first ever medical school since 1994. The first ever post-1994 breakthrough medical school was established here at the University of Limpopo. People said over our dead bodies, this thing won't be successful and it won't fly. They are still breathing oxygen and they are sitting on the other side. We have produced the first group and the second group just graduated this year. The third group will be graduating from our own doctors produced by our own universities. The training is not only in Pietersburg or Mankweng, we even take them to district and rural hospitals because we are training doctors with the mentality of understanding that rural healthcare matter. Doctors who understand that preventative healthcare in that clinic will also understand as to how to deal with it. We are there and we are on course.

Even the specialists, when we started here in 2016 we were not sure whether we could ever produce specialists in our province. Year-in, year-out we will show you the graduation of oncologists that we produce here. Today as I speak now, we have got 115 medical doctors who are specialising in Pietersburg and Mankweng, not anywhere. We also have got eight specialists who are super specializing because we are planning to run that medical school. We are planning ahead.

We have taken some of them to Groote Schuur Hospital and some of them are in Free State University while others are in Steve Biko Memorial Hospital so that they come back with their supper speciality like we did with Dr Malenga who is a radiologist and like we did with Dr Muavha who is our urogynaecologist and many others that I can share with you.

Those of you who think we are just here not knowing what we are doing are very lost. Hon Members, the province is producing its own doctors. Yes, we cannot be relying on other people to produce what we need as a country, especially after Hon Boshielo has made such a brilliant presentation on the National Health Insurance which will need those resources. We also need to produce our own.

Hon Members, on the issue of Maphutha Malatji Hospital, we came here and presented at length Treasury has also presented that and Public Works is currently busy in making sure that this issue is finalised. The clinics are running 24-hours. We are not ...

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, there is a point of order there. I recognise Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Can I continue, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MS MARITZ

I just want clarity from what the MEC [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, may I address you. You are not allowed to make follow-ups when the MEC is on the platform.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

I want to advise Hon Maritz irrespective of this issue to say you have raised issues.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Can I finish? I want to respond to Hon Maritz, honourable Members.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz. I'm still on Hon Maritz, honourable Members. Hon Maritz, you were given an opportunity to debate. Now is the opportunity for the MEC to respond on the debate. You are not allowed to make follow ups. That's what I'm saying.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, may you allow honourable MEC to conclude.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, the honourable MEC is misleading the House. I have got facts here.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, no. Honourable Members! Honourable Members! ...

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members! Honourable Members, I'm not going to allow any of you to speak. Hon Van Der Walt, what I'm saying is procedural and it's in terms of the House Rules. Honourable Members, can you listen. What I'm saying is that you were given an opportunity to debate so now is the opportunity for the MEC to respond. You are not allowed to interject while the MEC is on the platform. Hon MEC, can you proceed. I'm not going to allow any Member to speak. Honourable Members, the procedure is that if the MEC is trying to respond and you are not satisfied with the treponse, you don't do what you are doing, Hon Van Der Walt. We don't make follow-ups. No, that's the procedure.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Lena le bolela eng ka gore le no bolela All for you is that you are just talking.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

No, you are not doing it according to the House Rules. Hon Van Der Walt, let me hear from you.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Naa le bolela eng. Ka gore mang le mang o a bolela le lena le nyaka go bolela.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

No, I'm chairing. Proceed, Hon Van Der Walt.

MS VAN DER WALT

It's not a point of order but a point of clarity.

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MS VAN DER WALT

It is not a point of order but a point of clarity. The point of clarity is that you said that Hon MEC had an opportunity to respond but the matter is that nobody is standing here and say that we had an opportunity to speak. I thought the Hon MEC could set the facts or figures on the table. She has a right to a point of order because if you haven't had a factual reply from the Minister on the stats that the MEC is talking about, maybe she started it from somewhere. She wants to prove that the Minister said that there was a 45 000 backlog that they ...

BACKGROUND

No.

THE SPEAKER

No, honourable Members, you are losing it now. Can I respond, honourable Members? You are losing it. There is no way in this Rule Book whether you have raised your issues and the MEC is responding. You come up and say these are follow-ups. There is no way, honourable Members. According to the rules, you debate and after your debate the MEC responds and if you are not satisfied, you will come and raise it in the next Sitting. Proceed, Hon MEC.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker,

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

No, I'm not going to allow you.

MR SESHOKA

Point of order, Hon Speaker. On a point of order, Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

No, I'm not going to allow you or else if you don't want to cooperate you are going to leave the House. If you don't want to cooperate, Hon Seshoka, you will go out.

MR SESHOKA

Point of order, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

No! no! As the Speaker I'm saying, No. If you don't want to cooperate, Hon Seshoka, get out. This is the time for the MEC to proceed. Hon MEC, proceed.

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order.

THE SPEAKER

Hon MEC, proceed. I'm not going to allow you.

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, it's only Hon Maritz who raised a point of order and I was responding to her point of order. I don't understand why Hon Seshoka on which point order do you want to raise it now because I was responding to Hon Maritz. That is why I'm saying, honourable MEC, proceed because it's only Hon Maritz who raised a point of order and not you. Proceed, Hon MEC.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

You can't raise a point of order after I responded to Hon Maritz.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE SPEAKER

Proceed, honourable MEC. I don't care. Proceed, Hon MEC.

BACKGROUND

[interjection]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker, on the issue of clinics operating 24-hours, we want to report the progress over what we have seen so far. Yes, indeed in the previous financial year, it was only 50 clinics that operated 24-hours. However, as indicated during our Budget Vote, we have seen quite a number of clinics since 01 April 2023 that have been activated after the appointment of our 278 professional nurses to be at clinics. For instance we have seen that at Hlomela-Khakhala, Zaaba, Raphahlelo, Thomo, Basani and Idani Clinic in Mopani.

You also go to Waterberg, Pienaarsrivier, Bakenberg, Hlanganeng; just to mention a few you will see that. If you go to Vhembe District, there is Mhinga, Shigalo, Mavambe, Levubu, Mpheni, Tshiombo, Tshisaulu, Masisi and Madimbo. These are just to show you progress that since that day we made commitments we have seen a number of clinics across the districts opening 24-hours. I must also indicate that the current challenges we are faced with in terms of National Treasury is that provinces must fund from their baseline. From their equitable share of 7,5% increments, that is going to regress us on this matter for clinics running 24-hours because we had planned that each and every quarter we are going to appoint new professional nurses to activate new clinics.

However, because of this we are forced to do that and it might be a challenge. Lastly, Hon Speaker,

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable MEC. .

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

... on the issues of vaccine availability, I must indicate that there is serious progress in terms of clinics, just to share with you honourable Members so that you understand, the issue that makes medicines to be running short is because of poor leadership. We have addressed this by bringing all our operational managers for training to understand that.

On the issue of SVS, ...

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

... we will also look into that. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members for your patience. We are now at Item 8: Snap Debate on Youth Month. The first speaker is Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker in absentia, Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Chair of Chairs, Leader of the Official Opposition, Members of this august and majestic House, last year in this majestic House, we said that we are not going to wear school uniforms in remembrance of the generation that came before us. We agreed to wear our academic regalia by decorating ourselves in the manner in which Hector Peterson would have loved to see us. This is done correctly so with our revolutionary consciousness to

acknowledge and celebrate the goal which these martyrs fought for. It is important to remember and preserve the collective wisdom of this generation in the face of challenges we are faced with today.

This simply suggests that for us to forget or you forget the past, some acts will hinder progress and the ability to learn from this regard. Hon Speaker, Abram Onkgopotse Tiro, the then President of the University of the North's Student Representative Council (SRC), when he was addressing the people in graduation speech ceremony said, "Our history is written in blood and no amount of lies and propaganda can erase it because our struggle is the struggle of memory against forgetting." His youth was further equipped by Milan Kundera who said that the struggle of a man against power is a struggle of memory against forgetting.

Hon Speaker, indeed, our struggle is a struggle of memory against the struggle of forgetting. How can we easily forget that apartheid was a crime against humanity? The very same system that committed political genocide against black people is now 47 years of landless struggle against colonialism. A new colonial project of a special type where our people suffer deliberately, a systematical of the designs and architect of apartheid. June 16, Hon Speaker, allows us to commemorate those who lost their lives during the Soweto uprising, honouring their sacrifice by ensuring that their memories are not forgotten.

June 16 holds significance as we commemorate the historical event known as Soweto uprising which took place in 1976 here in South Africa. Understanding the relevance of June 16 requires us to recognise the historical injustice in context and also the impact it has in various aspects of society. The Soweto uprising was primarily led by students and young people protesting against the vexatious and draconian regime on educational policies.

Today June 16, serves as a reminder of the power and energy of that people to drive social change and highlight the importance of youth empowerment, activism and address contemporary issues in the attainment of economic freedom in our lifetime.

The Soweto uprising was a significant political milestone and a turning point against apartheid. It also serves as a call to continue searching for all forms of discrimination, inequality and injustice. Soweto uprising play a crucial role in shaping educational reform. This event ultimately led to the transformation of the educational system with a focus on dismantling apartheid policy and promoting socially inclusive education.

Hon Speaker, how can we forget that the introduction of Afrikaans as a compulsory medium of instruction in black South African schools created a problem for the people of this country. How can we easily forget that the system brought unequal access to quality education in South Africa and it is a struggle which we must continue to wage even today. How can we easily forget that countless of people were incarcerated, tormented and machine gunned in favour of a free and democratic society.

That was a pure political genocide, Hon Speaker. We are forever indebted as this generation by the forever fearless, courageous, radical and militant generation of

Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, Abram Onkgopotse Tiro, Thamsanqa Rhubusana, Tsietshi Mashinini, Steve Biko, Oscar Mpetha, Peter Mokaba, Frans Mohlala, Ephraim Mogale, Norman 'Fellow Fighter' Mashabane and many others who fearlessly and tirelessly fought for the attainment of democracy and freedom in this country.

This generation profoundly changed the socio-political landscape of South Africa. The strategic defeat of apartheid in 1994 brought us unresolved challenges of poverty, inequality and lack of quality education, high unemployed graduates and jobless growth. This challenge is negatively affecting youth of this country to realise economic freedom in their lifetime. What lesson can we learn from this previous generation? This generation had the zeal and oomph to fight access to free quality education.

What is it that the youth of today can do to honour the role played by these previous generation? In following the ideals of Frantz Fanon, "Each generation must, out of its relative obscurity, discover its mission. Fulfill it or betray it". However, we must acknowledge that the challenges confronting the youth of today are a dark consequence of a brutal colonial and apartheid enterprise. At the centre of this particular problem, Hon Speaker, Vladimir, the then leader of the Russian Federation's ideas are similar to those of Frantz Fanon.

Lenin formulated and expostulated the scientific question; what is to be done, Hon Seshoka? This question remains relevant even today given the nature of the challenges, the degree and the extent to which these challenges affect us daily. . We must answer this question at a time when our country suffers a serious political backlash from US-led imperialism and new colonial project which add and threaten our leaders so that they succumb to the international pressure due to the newly reformed economic block.

A new colonial project ended up in making sure that we forget everything about the past injustice. A new colonial project which ended and ensuring that we forget that they funded apartheid government to commit black genocide. Hon Seshoka, the youth are graduating in their majority with no guarantee of employment. The youth are fighting to be represented in Parliament and government structures but still there is no free and quality education. The unemployment rate of young people is at 63% with no hope for success and our government and other strategic industries or sectors for our economy lack leadership with requisite skills to realise the developmental agenda for South African government.

Our people are still landless. We have not yet created a state-owned bank. We have not yet nationalised the mines and other strategic monopoly industries through the bank. We have not even yet expropriated land without compensation for the benefit of our people.

Hon Speaker, to answer that, the National Development Plan speaks about high quality education which must be accessible and affordable to all. This NDP also recognises the critical role of technical and vocational tertiary education and training that must play an important role in addressing country's skills development needs and achieve the developmental goal. This NDP also encourages the TVET colleges to develop curriculums which help the government also to half unemployment and also to reduce inequality.

This is because TVET concepts were established by this particular precious government to assist learners and new generation to acquire skills and knowledge rather than the demand of the economy. We must also encourage the youth to play part in the curriculum development so that they serve the community at large. We must encourage them to continue doing courses which will make them to create jobs to be employers but also to be employable.

To answer some of the Lenin question, we also need to resume land restitution and redistribution programme so that we check how our people, in particular, leaders from various political organisations how they have acquired land. The land debate question must stop if it is debated showing that we will get answers or we get closure in this particular problem. To answer this, Hon Speaker, the youth cannot continue to enrol for courses such as Human Resource Management.

The youth constitutes the majority in the electoral processes. They are the ones who suffer from our failures to deliver services. They are the ones who see us every day when the department fails to fill critical funded posts. They are the ones who see us every day and every year when Budgets are returned to the national fiscus. They are the ones who see us every day when leaders steal government moneys, they resign with no consequence management. They are the ones who see us every day when we implement consequence management when we just write letters of suspension to perpetrators for six months that they should continue looting.

They are the ones who see us failing to deliver the promise like it happened in the Anglo-Boer War, Hon Matlou. Our people were promised bicycles that they must continue to fight in a tribal war (Inaudible) of the Afrikaners and English.

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable Member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

The colonial government, Hon Speaker, did not give people what they promised them. (Inaudible) many people in that era and they started to find themselves against the regime.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, we are not immune to be confronted by students and young people in general in this particular country in fighting for free and quality education. We are not immune when young people are about to fight against high unemployment rate whereas they have graduated in their majority In order for us to defeat this unjust possible crash, let our institution implement the precious policy we have and some of the legislation that we have developed without fear. They must also do so with solid intention of helping our people without failure. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. I recognise Hon Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

Ke lotšha Kgoro ye e hlomphegago. Somlomo ndiyabulisa mntanasekhaya nawo woke amaLunga akhona namhlanje. as we are reminding ourselves especially us as the generation of 1976. I'm standing here knowingly that I have participated heavily in that struggle. Hon Speaker, let me tell you while standing here on behalf of those who have died who are not yet satisfied. You are an embarrassment to the entire African continent in the manner in which our youth are treated.

The youth that are benefitting today are the youth that belongs to the ANC Youth League so that they go and get tenders from your ANC strategic procurement policy and fill them so that they go and flaunt to the poor. That's what you are doing. You are number one in terms of making sure that you steal money and give it to your young ones and doing fraud without caring for the poor masses. When we think that the strategy was meant to encourages all spheres of government and each and every department, but today when you go and check in the midst of people who are given tenders, we can come and give you a proof and names of those who are benefitting in all the departments that they are from ANC.

The Department of Health is worse. What is this on the youth of the country? You, the Limpopo government, you have taken plus minus 1 600 students to be social workers. Today they are smoking nyaope. You call them drunkards because you created them to be drunkards. You created them to smoke nyaope because you are heartless. Those children I think they must pray God and make sure that this government goes down immediately even before 2024.

The majority of young people are leaving this province to go and seek for greener pastures. All of you who are here you have got children in your homes including you the Speaker. They are staying at home; ke malofa, because of your own making. Today you have got children each one of you, ga ba bereke because of your tenders policy which is killing people and the country. Whether you say what or what, we are going to put a blame on you because when we look what Daniel Mantsitsi, Super Moloi, Kgotso Seakgole, Ellah Serwale Masinga were doing when they were marching in the streets of Phefeni and Soweto, they were marching for nothing.

They never (Inaudible) If they were prophets, they were not going to do it for you because you are here to flaunt. Ba tšhaba ... ka mesepelo Sa lena ke go no tla mo ka di-Mercedes Benz tše dikoto go kgantšhetša batho ba ba le loketšego ka mmušong. Guys, "Mene mene tekel opharsin." Continue to do what you are doing. The people are looking at you and don't think you will fool the people forever. You can't. If you think you are going to lead until Jesus Christ come, shame! Count your days! Count your days! The majority of have made the youth to suffer. Believe me, come 2024, the majority of you are going to be arrested.

Today I'm telling you, when the (Inaudible) has been taken into this House, Ge le bolela gore ga le tlo aga moago kua toropong ya Polokwane, hee banna!

There are people who are benefitting in this House. They are becoming billionaires day in and day out because of those who are rented buildings in town.

We know everything. We are going to bring the mountains here. All of you are going to be embarrassed and others are going to be arrested here. I'm telling you. A successful government starts by prioritisation of young people. Mmušo wo o sa hlocomelego bana ba wona o ra go reng? I'm telling you today that when you see batho ba e hwa, batswadi ba bona ba le ka mo ntlong ka lebaka la gore mmušo wa ANC ga se o fe bana ba mošomo. Bana ba ba bolaya batswadi. Le lena, you are going to follow suit. Your children will kill you because you are the only one who are working at home. All your children are not working. Don't come here and think that we are not going to do what we meant for.

In many cases young people are leaders of technology and digital frontier to promote social development including among those who are marginalised. I can't give an example of a young person in Egypt. A young technology entrepreneur from Egypt created a smart glove and a smart bracelet and is now brazen to help individuals who come here and even blind learners to communicate with teachers who are not necessarily trained to teach them and those people who are deaf.

Now, if we give the young generation an opportunity, believe me, tthabologo ke ye ntši mo nageng ya ga bo rena. Old people are still sitting in offices meanwhile the majority of our young children are not working. Whether you close your eyes you know that what I'm saying is true and you know why you are here. You come and lie and think because people are looking at you on TV they don't know that you are lying. Even if the media can follow you hundred times a day you are always lying.

Young people are demanding greater inclusion and meaningful engagements not what you are doing in quoting history. You talk about people who created the youth league and you think you are pleasing them in that day. You are not pleasing them but you are failing them. The more you praise people like Billy Masetla, Frans Mohlala and Peter Mokaba, the more they will never be happy because they are the people who know the truth.

But, you came here and praise them as if you love them. If you love them, by tomorrow cancel all tenders and employ young people to serve in the likes of all departments. Now you come here to tell us lies and play with words. We don't need words; we need practical things to happen. We need our children to come and work. We can't go back, believe me, Hon Speaker, you must be warned as I conclude. The day is coming when the youth of this country, in particular, the youth of this province, will revolt against this government.

Believe me, if you think it's councillors who are feeling the heat, le lena le tlo ba le tšhabela dintlo tša lena I'm not a prophet; I'm not Bushiri and I have never be one. The problem is that you are going to face hell. You are going to face revolt in this province because of the the number of these youth and lena ke lena le ba išitšego nyaopeng, ke lena le ba išitšego bjale, gomme le tla mo le ba botša gore ke bana ba go tagwa, ke bana ba go tsuba nyaope, it's you who have driven them to be like that. Thank you very much.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

I recognise, Hon Van Der Walt.

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Speaker, tomorrow marks the 47th Anniversary of the 1976 students uprising where Hector Peterson lost his life on June 16. Sadly, this seems to be a forgotten story of our youthful heroes and heroines who lost their lives in the June massacres that followed two days after June 16.

Just to mention a few of our fallen heroes, Japie Vilankulu was shot 6 times with the 7th bullet landing in his head leading to his fatal fall. On June 18 Sipho Mavimbela never came home. He was amongst 34 people mowed down by the police in Alex, eight of them being school children including 17-year old Sipho, 12-year old Shadrack Kekane and 13 year-old Godfrey Mahapo.

Sadly, four years later the then undemocratic, the apartheid Parliament tabled the Cillie Commission report about the causes of the 1976 uprising which exonerated the actions of the police.

Hon Speaker, this year's National Youth Month is celebrated under the theme: "Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future", but in Limpopo, our provincial government has failed so far to create an environment that encourages economic emancipation for the majority of our youth and has instead created a provincial and local economy that has largely been exclusionary to them.

More still needs to be done in stimulating provincial economic growth and local economic development that will create opportunities and jobs for our youth in this province. Departments like LEDET have a huge role to play in supporting and developing entrepreneurship amongst our youth, encourage innovation amongst our youth, creating funding opportunities and engaging other departments and private sectors to employ our youth and offer internship opportunities. We need youth who are ready to compete in the job market.

Twenty-nine years into democracy, we have come a long way as a country. The youth of South Africa no longer find themselves forced to learn under one language. They have an option of learning from one of the 11 official South African languages across both public schools and private schools.

However, it is unfortunate that one side of the coin sadly outweighs the other. COVID-19 has only further exposed the environment within our schools that today's youths are still subjected to as this province is still scrambling to get rid of pit latrines and repair or upgrade poor infrastructure due to lack of maintenance and corruption.

Almost 13 women and children are raped each and every day in our province; Limpopo, a province where high school students fall off in huge numbers and sadly never sit for matric exams. Nationally, the youth remain the most vulnerable in the labour market with

the first quarter of 2023 results showing that the total number of unemployed youth between 15-34 years old increased by 241 000 to a total of 4,9 million.

Provincially, our vacancy rate of social workers and community development officers sits at over 40% while social worker graduates sit at home and our communities especially the youth are in desperate need of social services. There is also a backlog in criminal cases that include victims who are youth. There is nothing sadder than a youth being killed by his own youthful peers due to crime and trauma that is caused by the poor socio-economic conditions in society.

We have NYDA whose impact can only be described as a drop in the ocean on its effect in the province since its inception. As we revisit the strong foundation that the youth of 1976 built, we need to ensure that we build further from the foundation already laid. One can only hope that those with executive powers will address the youth's challenges so that next year when we stand on this podium, both sides of the coin will be positive. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I recognise Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think I must also talk loud like the previous Members so they can hear me. Before I start it's a privilege for me that many of you know me very well. I wanted to tell you about the youth quickly but just give me some time.

I was born deaf and I learnt to talk as I was a small child. I can only hear 30%. So, it's difficult for me to sometimes use difficult words because if you don't know how to pronounce them, it's gonna be a big problem. So, that's why I also find it from the youth that are blind and deaf because it's a great challenge to talk to people if you don't know exactly how to pronounce certain words because of the lack of hearing.

You must also bear in mind that if I can't pronounce words properly it's not because I'm stupid, it's because I decided to live in a normal environment. I didn't take my deafness as a challenge or as a tool not to work. It's difficult for me sometimes. You must always need to understand me and bear with me. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

Youth Day offers nothing to celebrate, instead, it shines the spotlight on the many challenges and problems faced by young people and disabled people. How can government celebrate the fact that it has let its young people down?

Unemployment is at an all-time high and there are no signs of things improving any time soon. About 65,7% of households in Limpopo are on grants. Hon Speaker, the constant exposure to violence and other social ills often causes youth to resort to violence themselves. This results in youth being imprisoned, dropping out of the school and having to face a bleak future.

The province should protect youth because they are our future leaders even if they are disabled. They all need to be protected. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Our last speaker is Hon Boshielo.

MS BOSHIELO

Hon Speaker, Ms Rosemarry Molapo; honourable Members of the Executive Council present here, Chef Whip of the majority party, Chair of Chairs, Leaders of the Official Opposition, honourable Members of this august House. ladies and gentlemen, thobela. Hon Speaker, history has no blank pages. Lest we forget, who collapsed the Limpopo government to be under Section 100 in 2011? Who were the beneficiaries?

Let me just repeat what I said. I said; lest we forget, who collapsed the Limpopo government to be under Section 100 in 2011? Who were the beneficiaries of the tender system including feeding schemes and laundry services in hospitals?

BACKGROUND

The ANC.

MS BOSHIELO

The same organisation, the ANC, fought for freedom of this country from apartheid and the same beneficiaries were brought here in this government to be MPLs. I wonder if you walked from Polokwane to Lebowakgomo because you said people have cast their votes. So, it's the same walk from Polokwane. And also, the same government make sure that you stay at Parliamentary Village and not in a shack. I am very surprised that DA has adopted the status of freedom fighters. It is very interesting, Hon Van Der Walt, that the oppressor is singing the praises of the oppressed.

We are where we are because of our liberation movement; the ANC and (Inaudible) structures that defeated apartheid and it will take a long to correct that mess it caused. That is why as the ANC we are calling for the TRC processes to be opened so that those who caused pain to our people are punished and justice is served. Who introduced Bantu education in our country? There are things that were not good in South Africa.

Hon Speaker, June 16 is dedicated to the youth of 1976 who stood up against apartheid government and laid down their lives to fight for freedom and the right to quality education.

Indeed, this year marks 47 years since Soweto uprising in which many children lost their lives once they fought against the system that sought to strip them of their identity and break the spirit and it is celebrated under the theme, "Accelerating youth economic emancipation in a sustainable future". When June 16 was declared Youth Day in 1994, it was aimed at remembering the memories of those who died under apartheid, Hon Van Der Walt, and suffered during this month as well as to carry on with their legacy and

principles of selflessness, determination and devotion that is necessary for success and growth for any society or nation.

The sacrifices of these courageous young people who fought for equal education will forever be entrenched in the history of this country. Challenges faced by the black youth, in particular, of 1976 and 2023 are not the same. There is still no access to free, fair and compulsory education. There's still no access to quality healthcare services and unemployment is still a huge challenge amongst the youth. But, as the ANC-led government, we are not blaming anybody but taking the bull by its horns.

To alleviate the plight of black youth in this country, we need, among other things, legislation that will stipulate that 50% of government procurement must be reserved for the youth. not 30% as it is currently being. Hon Mapoulo, government will always procure services. So, there is no way in which you can deal with that part. So, what we want is that this procurement tender system must benefit youth and we said all of them not certain youth.

In addition to that, the government must support digital entrepreneurs, which is where the interest and future of the youth lies. This will assist in breaking the chain of digital monopoly and youth underdevelopment. Hon Speaker, we visited China a month ago. In China in terms of digital economy, Hon Sekoati, they are very far. Actually, they are on 7D when we are still at 3D. The youth there are not filled in universities.

They are in colleges learning entrepreneurial skills but also learning how to service people better and also instilling patriotism with servitude. Before we can even start pointing fingers at us, we need to be able to show ourselves what we have done. Hon Speaker, let's be honest. There is nothing much to celebrate when millions of youth are without jobs. Almost a quarter of a million young people lost their jobs in the first three months of 2023.

This means that a total of 4,9 million young people are unemployed with an increase of 1,1% compared to the previous quarter according to Stats SA. There is nothing good to celebrate about this Youth Month. Many young people of South Africa have given up on life. They have turned to drugs and gangsterism. There is no day that passes without hearing a story of yet another gang murder or someone hit by a stray bullet and of someone's daughter being abused. People are now scared to walk the streets freely because of the youth that are now out of hand.

We are asking ourselves if going to university after matric to further studies is still relevant if young people will only graduate to add to the statistics on the percentage of the unemployed graduates with no value to add to the society through their experiences. There is no will from us to come up with a plan to be able to assist this graduated youth from higher education.

Yes, we assist them in terms of paying for their funds through NSFAS but I think we need to do more and be able to place them at work when they are done.

In the spirit of Thuma Mina, we must not only talk but act. We must walk the talk by fast-tracking our pace to improve the lives of our people. What is this economic freedom that is needed, it is:

- Characterised by a fundamental shift of the ownership patterns of the economy.
- By the return of land to our people. History does not have blank pages. We could not pass the expropriation of land without compensation because our opposition on the left did not support us. We will not give up. We are still trying to return our land to our people.
- It is also characterized by the creation of employment opportunities for both our youth, in particular, women and children. We still insist that we need a state-owned bank that will be able to fund initiative started by our youth.

Youth radicalism have brought about the agenda of radical economic transformation as the main agenda in government. It has forced the nation to begin to speak about expropriation of land without compensation.” We are saying to our Members that let’s ensure that opportunities are shared with youth, women, military veterans and people living with disability.

The entire country is encouraged to participate in Youth Month by recognising the present and future role of the youth in shaping socio-economic landscape. We need a tangible, realistic and courageous programme that will be aligned with ambitions of young people because that’s what the scale of the challenge demands. We need an inclusive agreement because everyone has to play his or her part on curbing challenges faced by the youth of today.

The provincial government will be commemorating youth day tomorrow, June 16 at Vhembe District. We expect the Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stan Mathabatha, to address young people about plans the Limpopo government has for them. including skills development and empowerment programmes of fairness government and institutions. Let us give hope to our young people, they are indeed our future. No nation will prosper without investing in the development of its youth. I know that this is a tall order for all of us as public representatives but let’s join hands together and ensure that we develop our youth for the future. Aluta cocntinua! I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Boshielo. Let’s move to Item 9: NCOP Business. Over to you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Madam Speaker, Leader of Government Business, I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ and all protocol observed. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for affording me

an opportunity to present Motion for the Ratification of the Appointment of Special Delegates who attended NCOP Plenaries.

Madam Speaker, House Rule 226(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders for the House read together with section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides for the designation and appointment of Special Delegates when the House is not sitting.

In line with these provisions the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the following visual NCOP Plenaries when the House was not sitting:

- 20 April 2023: Hon E M Mokgonyana, Hon T P Matibe, Hon N S Monyamane;
- 02 May 2023: Hon F J Maseko, Hon S M Mochadi, Hon M A Mokaba;
- 03 May 2023: Hon R R Molapo, Hon T B Matibe, Hon E M Mokgonyana;
- 04 May 2023: Hon M G Makhurupetje, Hon F P Mdaka, Hon M A Mokaba;
- 09 May 2023: Hon C B D Selane, Hon M R Seono, Hon N M Lekganyane;
- 12 May 2023: Hon R R Molapo, Hon T B Matibe, Hon E M Mokgonyana;
- 11 May 2023: Hon M A Mokaba, Hon S V Mathye, Hon C B D Selane;
- 15 May 2023: Hon K M Lebea, Hon M C Mahasela, Hon M J Maseko;
- 17 May 2023: Hon N M Lekganyane, Hon C B D Selane, Hon M C Mahasela;
- 18 May 2023: Hon M A Mokaba, Hon M C Manthata-Mahasela, Hon N M Lekganyane;
- 23 May 2023: Hon S P Boshielo, Hon C B D Selane, Hon M J Matlou;
- 24 May 2023: Hon N M Lekganyane, Hon M A Mokaba, Hon C B D Selane;
- 25 May 2023: Hon M A Mokaba, Hon S V Mathye, Hon C B D Selane;
- 30 May 2023: Hon M R Seono, Hon C B D Selane, Hon N M Lekganyane; and
- 31 May 2023: Hon M G Makhurupetje, Hon M C Manthata-Mahasela, Hon F P Mdaka.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolve to ratify the appointment of the above-mentioned Special Delegates in line with the above-mentioned provisions. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to support the Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any announcements, Hon Chair of Chairs?

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Lunch will be served at the committee boardroom. Honourable Members, tomorrow you are all invited at Mudavula Stadium in Vhembe District for the Youth Day celebration. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 20 June 2023 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2023
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]

Honourable Members, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Let us proceed with Order Paper.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of Economic Freedom Fighters to raise a concern about the rulings of this House from the past few weeks. Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the procedure of this House and how the rulings are taken, taking from the previous incidents. The honourable Members feel that the House is degenerating to chaos because the Members are prevented from raising their points of order.

This comes as a result, that the Members of this House have been unhappy with the way you take decisions, and the way they are treated in this House. It is a serious concern, because when you gave a ruling that the point of orders are destructive, that is what is happening and that is worrying us.

We would like to ask where did you get that rule? Which rule says that the point of order is a distraction because in the Rules Book, 104 tells you that, the point of order can be raised in any point of the procedure and then the honourable Presiding Officer should give a ruling on that matter.

However, before you even listen to the point of order, in many times you find yourself calling that Member, interjecting him or her, and telling him or her that she or he is not allowed to do that. As such, we feel that you are contradicting your own rule which is Rule 18 subsection 4 that mandated you to be patient and rule, not to abuse.

So, with that Hon Speaker, it is our humble request that you consider allowing Hon Deputy Speaker for such a role as you are learning from him.

Secondly, the fact that, Hon Speaker, you go and ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you are now addressing the House. Can you raise that point of order without addressing the House. Let me correct you. In terms of the House Rules, if Members are not satisfied with the ruling of the Hon Speaker, there are procedures to be followed.

Go and read the Rules if you are not satisfied with the ruling. Go and read the Rules, they will tell you what to do. You will have to write a letter to Whippery if you are not satisfied, not to do that in this House. May you sit down, Hon Seshoka. No, may you sit down. I want to proceed. No, I know what I am doing.

MR SESHOKA

You do not know what you are doing. You are inconveniencing us. You always take decisions emotionally. You are always emotional in this House. There is no Rule that says the point of order is a distraction.

THE SPEAKER

May you sit down, Hon Seshoka. I have responded to you. Let us proceed, honourable Members.

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**KZN COP AND HER BROTHER ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO BRIBE
THE OFFICER PROBING MULTIMILLION JEWELLERY ROBBERY** (Motion
without Notice)

I, Mmaishibe Seono, rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House for the House to welcome the arrest of the KwaZulu Natal police officer and her brother for allegedly trying to bribe the investigating officer who was probing the multi-million jewellery robbery that took place at Savanna Mall on 12 May 2023.

The KwaZulu Natal police sergeant and her brother drove to Limpopo to bribe the investigating officer with an amount of R40 000 in order for the officer not to oppose bail of the five accused in the multi-million jewellery robbery case, but find themselves behind bars, instead.

The officer in question met with the investigating officer and gave him R37 000 in cash and drove away with her brother. Little did she know that her meeting with the investigating officer was the setup, and she was being monitored through the entire process.

Officer Slindile Dlamini who is 37 years of age and her 33 years old brother were arrested on Wednesday, 14 June 2023, and appeared in the Polokwane Magistrate Court the following day on corruption charges. Their matter has been postponed to 21 June 2023.

Hon Speaker, though the officer's interests at the Savana Mall Jewellery heist are still unknown at the moment, her arrest has definitely sent a strong message that the Limpopo province has no space for criminals. Everyone found on the wrong side of the law or trying to defeat the ends of justice shall be arrested without any slippery.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. I, Donald Selamolema of the African National Congress, stand here to second the motion.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TRAFFIC OFFICER DIES AFTER BEING KNOCKED BY A CAR WHILE ON DUTY IN MOPANI DISTRICT (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move that this House notes the passing of a traffic officer, along the R71 next to Kolobe Lodge in Mopani District on the morning of 15 June 2023. Further that, the law enforcement officer, Ms Itani Robinah Ravele, was attached to the Phalaborwa Traffic Station.

That her untimely passing was a result of a Nissan LDV that knocked her down while she was on duty at the scene of an accident. This House must, further, note that the cause of the accident was allegedly brake failure and speeding of the breakdown recovery vehicle.

This is not the first time a traffic officer lost a life while on duty due to reckless, drunk driving and unroadworthy vehicles. Further calls for harsh sentences for drivers who endanger and end the lives of those making efforts to enforce the law.

We call on this House to send condolences to the family, colleagues, and friends of Ms Ravele.

May her soul rest in peace! I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Van Der Walt, you are recognised.

MS VAN DER WALT

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Van Der Walt. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to greet the EFF caucus, particularly Hon Managa and our whip, Hon Ramorobela, in his absentia.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO BENNY MATLAMELA ON WINNING THE RED
BULL DANCE YOUR STYLE IN LIMPOPO**
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House note that:

- Benny "Skinnyboii" Matlamela emerged as a winner at the Red Bull Dance Your Style Limpopo qualifier on Saturday on 17 June 2023, in Polokwane.
- This is evident that we have abundant talent in Limpopo, hence the delay in constructing provincial theatre is seen as a serious setback to the youth of the province.
- As the second stop of the tour, Polokwane played host to the talented street dancers, each competing for a chance to showcase their moves on the grandest stage. Skinnyboii secured a spot in the national final, scheduled to take place on 02 September 2023 in Durban.
- His captivating performance, effortless moves, and magnetic stage presence wowed the enthusiastic crowd who voted him to be the winner. Benny's exceptional

skills and artistic expression ultimately propelled him to victorious, securing his place in the upcoming national final.

- The winner of the national final will earn the opportunity to represent South Africa at the 2023 world final in German, Frankfurt, on 04 November 2023. The EFF encourages the government to harness and nurture such talent. This would go a long way in changing the lives of young people.

Furthermore, the EFF will continue to support and encourage talented youth like Benny Matlamela and we wish them well in the next leg of the completion. The sky is the limit. We are looking forward to him winning the world championship in Germany later this year. Go, Benny, go! I so move. Thank you. [APLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou imela u tikedza likumedzwa lo vhaliwaho.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

APPROVAL OF 527 INITIATION SCHOOLS ACROSS THE PROVINCE BY DEPARTMENT OF COORPORATE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADIONAL AFFAIRS IN THIS WINTER SEASON (Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, the African National Congress welcomes the decision by the Limpopo government in the Department of Cooperate Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs which has approved 527 initiation schools across the province for this winter season that commenced on our starting date, 16 June 2023. From the total number, 328 of the schools are for males and 251 are for females.

As the ANC, we call upon the Department of CoGHSTA under the stewardship of MEC Makamu to ensure that at the centre stage of all these initiation schools, safety remains a priority. We are saying this as we are informed by the fact that previously the province has been plugged by illegal initiation schools and such acts put the lives of the unsuspecting nation at risk.

There has to be strict measures in place to ensure that only legal initiation schools operate. If found, the operators of such schools should be brought to book and receive harsh punishments. In the year 2022, more than 200 initiates, many below the age of 12 which is not allowed, suffered severe injuries at the hands of bogus traditional surgeons at the illegal initiation schools in the Setswaneng area.

The department should further emphasise that all initiation schools should comply with Limpopo Initiation School Act. Among others, the Act indicates that no traditional surgeon or any other person is allowed to perform rituals without the certificate of fitness issued by the registered medical practitioner.

The Act further indicates that no person under the age of 12 can be allowed to the initiation school. No person can abduct or force another person into initiation school. We are encouraged by the words of the MEC, Hon Makamu that, "We will spend all force to ensure that the lives of all the initiates are protected. There has been zero tolerance for the people who want to take chances by running the initiation schools without permits."

We believe that the MEC will stand by his words, and this will, indeed, happen as he said. We call upon this honourable House to play the oversight role through the relevant portfolio committee to ensure maximum adherence and governing of initiations and ensure the preservation of life.

Lastly, we wish all initiates a successful rite of passage in this initiation season and a safe return at the end of the respective initiation schools across the province. Indeed, we would all be celebrating them as they come back, as some of us have been to the mountains as well. I so move, Hon Speaker. thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. Is there any seconder? Hon Masekoameng, you are recognised.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand here to second the motion as raised by Hon Mdaka.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? There is none. We are done.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Is there any statement by Members in terms of House Rule 200? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Members of the House.

**UNEQUAL TREATMENT AND DISCRIMINATION OF THE STUDENTS FROM THE
REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED PRIVATE COLLEGES BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF BASIC EDUCATION**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF has noticed with dismay the discrimination and unequal treatment of students from the registered and accredited private colleges or institutions by the Department of Basic Education.

Department of Higher Education has approved, registered, and accredited Lyceum and SANTS private higher education institutions to offer the programme in Diploma: Grade R. Students have enrolled and continue to enroll in this programme based on the understanding that the programme has passed all the accreditation processes.

Students who enrolled and acquired the abovementioned qualification from Lyceum and SANTS respectively continue to face discrimination from schools under the national Department of Basic Education when applying for experiential learning or jobs.

The reason given to these students is that their programmes are not in line with the Department of Basic Education requirements even though the national Department of Higher Education still has the programme in their accreditation database and website.

They are discriminated against because their programmes were self-funded, and that priority is granted to those students whose programmes were funded through National Students Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and Funza Lushaka.

This is unfair discrimination at its best by the Department of Basic Education. The Department of Basic Education, further, deliberately discriminates against students from the abovementioned institutions through the departmental circular No. 49 of 2023 in specific reference to 4.1 which gives priority to the University of North-West students whose qualifications were sponsored by the department and 4.2 which discriminates against those students who do not have Bed (Bachelor of Education) in Foundation teaching.

How come the Department of Higher Education approves, registers the private institutions, and give accreditation to programmes to be offered and the Limpopo Department of Education consider them null and void?

What could be the compelling reasons for the Limpopo Department of Education to discriminate against self-sponsored students against the NSFAS and the Funza Lushaka sponsored students?

What justification can the Limpopo Department of Education make for closing employment opportunities of students who had already enrolled for Diploma: Grade R before the issuing of department circular No. 49 of 2023? [INTERJECTION].

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, may I address you. In terms of Rule 199, because you want me to always say it. In terms of Rule 199 section 2, the presiding officer may be recognise a Member' Statement for not more than two minutes. May you conclude, honourable Member. Yes, that is the Rule. May you conclude, Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

Considering uri vho dzhia minwe ya miminetse yanga ndi dovhohole. What are the plans of both the Department of Higher Education and the Limpopo Department of Education for already qualified but unemployed and still registered students in private institutions like Lyceum and SANTS?

We call upon the MEC for Education in Limpopo to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the students whose future lies only in education. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any Member' Statement? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Without the waste of time, I am going to present the Member Statement on the rezoning of game reserve to give way for the building of the mall.

**DELAY IN REZONING GAME RESERVE TO GIVE WAY FOR THE BUILDING OF
THE MALL**

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the core mandate of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) is to pursue inclusive economic growth and development as well as decent job creation in Limpopo through sustainable management of the environment as a natural base, promotion of trade and investment opportunities, optimising tourism opportunities and leveraging the growth of all prioritised economic sectors in the province in partnership with other key stakeholders.

However, this mandate does not seem to be implemented for the people of the Botlokwa area under Molemole Municipality, in Capricorn District, who have since waited for the rezoning of a game reserve for the construction of a huge mall which will create jobs and meet economic needs of the people.

It boggles our minds why the department is causing this delay in rezoning the game reserve into an area to build the mall because, indeed, this has a direct impact on service delivery. To make matters even worse, adequate public participation has not taken place, to the dismay of our people in Botlokwa - even after promises which were made by the leaders of the province.

Our people were sold false hopes. The Botlokwa people have been waiting for the construction of this mall for ages with no material progress except empty spaces. Furthermore, the environmental impact assessment was also not conducted as expected, which means that the construction of the mall is far from starting. This is governance and leadership at its worst. The EFF call upon the MEC to investigate this matter and provide lasting solutions to Batlokwa, as their patience is slowly running out. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Member' Statement? There is none. Is there any response from the Members of the Executive? MEC, Hon Radzilani, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon speaker. Deputy Speaker, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the House, all honourable Members, and our officials, a blessed morning to all of you.

Hon Speaker, last week during a Setting of this august House, the EFF through Hon Ramalobela presented the Member' Statement regarding the state of the Apel Police Station in GaNkoana within the Fetakgomo Municipality, in Sekhukhune District. Hon Speaker, in accordance with the House Rules, protocols and the democratic efforts of this government, we are obligated to respond to the issues that the EFF have raised.

It is, indeed correct Hon Speaker, that we are still in the process of finalising the clearance of the site, which is earmarked for the construction of this police station. The House should note that at this present moment, the site belongs to both the Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Lepelle-Nkumpi municipalities. We will engage MEC Rakgoale to try and fast-track the finalisation of the allocation of the site because that is where a new police station will have to be constructed.

Another point that was raised by the EFF is with regard to their police station being attacked by the criminals and that the guns were stolen in the process. On that part, we want to put it on record that we took the matter very seriously. Hence, there was an additional deployment or allocation of four police officers into the same police station in January this year as a way of building capacity and strengthening the administration of that police station for our police officers to be able to discharge service delivery to the people without any problem.

Police Commissioner Lt Gen Thembi Hadebe has also indicated that there will be more police officers allocated to this station from the current intake. The police station, Hon

Speaker, operates on a 24-hour basis. There are occasions where the gate is closed for numerous reasons. It is not true that the gates were closed because officers at the station were traumatised, but the gates were temporarily closed on the day in question because two members were 'posted' to hospital guards and one member was on leave on the same day.

So, it was virtually impossible for the officer who was on duty to lead the station and also expected to attend to other crime scenes. We are confident that the allocation of additional officers to the station will go a long way, and it is also a demonstration of our commitment as government to build the capacity at our stations and ensure that they are able to respond to the needs of our communities.

Regarding the issue of the Bapedi Royal House, the matter is under investigation with case number 157/04/2023 opened. It has been escalated to the level of the district. Together with the office of the Provincial Commissioner, we are closely monitoring the situation at this station, and we are doing everything possible to ensure that the station continues to be of good service to the people of GaNkoana. Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there any other response? MEC, Hon Ramakhanya.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Ndi khou livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Ndi matsheloni to the Hon Deputy Speaker, colleagues, honourable MECs, Members of the House, chairperson of Scopa, my chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, and all members in the House, I greet you all.

Hon speaker, we are still in June month, which has taught us that education of the black child is critical and important. It should be taken seriously around any other area, be it urban or rural or in our borders of Limpopo and South Africa.

We, as the department as the honourable Member Hon Maraga has indicated that, we have approved policies as the ANC-led government that also allow private institutions to be able to run colleges as they have applied within our laws.

At the same time, there are requirements and set of standards that as the department would set to say, this is how we regulate private colleges. Those that have got money, as Hon Maraga will be aware, can determine their curriculum and sometimes, they do not even account to the standards of South Africa, but they want to account to the international standards.

We then set up standards and requirements to say anyone who want to be in our schools to teach a black child, not to be able to be undermined or to have low self-esteem because of the type of education that they will be given, need to adhere to. Hence, Hon Maraga, we have put up policies not only in Limpopo, it is just that you are the Member of the Limpopo Legislature, but the whole of South Africa.

We have, then, since identified that when we were integrating the ECD from Social Development. You will remember that the Early Childhood Development centres when they were still called creches anyone, inclusive of any Member of the Legislature, can go and open a creche. It did not require you to have any set of standards or qualifications.

However, now we are saying we want to integrate from birth to five years. The children have to have the knowledge of being taught so that when they enter the school level, which is primary, they are ready just like any other children from any urban families that can afford the ECD.

Hence, the whole issue now of us setting a standard to say any person who previously assisted the community by forming a creche, we are putting a standard of the specific requirements of qualifications.

Most of them would have maybe just a certificate on caregiving for the child or caring for the children and whatever. Hence, the programme says any other person who is in the ECD space and has got any qualification, can go to the orientation and qualification to the University of North-West because then we are sure that you have qualified to be called the teacher because you have got qualification from any other place.

However, private colleges will continue to have their curriculum, and they will resist. You can go and check, Hon Maraga and Members. You will find that they are other private schools that their exams would come from Britain and other countries. When these learners pass, they will always go to those universities that are recognised by those countries.

You will know that when we even do the results, they are two results that we do. Minister will announce the results for the private colleges and public schools. We continue to protect, Hon Speaker, our public education by making sure that even if you are within us, there are set of standards that you should be able to adhere to so that the black child can continue to be protected to receive better education. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Is there any response? MEC, Hon Monama, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable colleagues in the EXCO, honourable Members of this august House, Chief Whip of the majority party, HODs and accounting officers present here, members of the public in the gallery, and chairperson of the portfolio committee, I greet you all.

I am advised to respond to the subject regarding the delay of rezoning the game reserve area to give way to the building of the mall raised by the Hon Seshoka. I must emphasise and agree with you that we share the same sentiments in terms of the material outlining

and exclusively, the mandate of the Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism.

We also wanted to confirm that we have since received that request from Machaka Traditional Council to withdraw the declaration status that Machaka is a protected environment.

The request was made on the ground that the Machaka Traditional Council had earmarked the area in question for the development of the mall. As the LEDET, we know that we are responsible to consider that in line with section 29 of the National Environment Management Act under the Area Protected Act of 2003, Act No 57 of 2003.

Part of the process, I think, in terms of the de-proclamation entails the issue of 60 days notice for public participation. That process has been done. There was no appeal that has been received, hence, waiting for the approval.

The LEDET had since withdrawn the legal status of Machaka protected environment, as it is referred to on pages 58 and 59 of Provincial Asset 3376 of 03 March this very same year. The whole process of the Machaka protected environment area was done in close corporation with Batlokwa Traditional Council.

It is not true that there was no consultation in that particular matter because when the process has been concluded, a special meeting has been held with the community. That is where all decisions are being processed.

Machaka Traditional Council has since appointed the developer, and that is the process. Who must start with the application for the sewage and the land industrial area because it was never earmarked for that, and also for the means to be used for the development with the Molemole Municipality, as it is their area of jurisdiction.

The same developer must apply or appoint what we call the environmental practitioner (EP), who must then prepare the EIA, environmental impact assessment. That assessment must be submitted to the LEDET for consideration because, as LEDET we are the regulator for that. We have checked that in our record because we have a system that even when I am here, I can be able to check if we have that application and we have not yet received it.

If you need more details, you are at liberty to request for it, but also, we agree that we are here for economic development. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Thanks very much for the responses given by the MECs.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? There are none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any Tabling of Committee Reports, Others Reports, and Papers? Yes, there are.

6.1 Tabling of the 2021/22 MFMA Section 131 Report on the Assessment of Annual Financial Statements for Municipalities in the Province

MEC, Hon Makamu, you can come to the podium.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Tabling of the 2021/22 MFMA Section 131 Report on the Assessment of Annual Financial Statements for Municipalities in the Province.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker, colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the majority party, chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Members of this august House, and leaders of the opposition parties, I greet you all. It is a pleasure, and I am honoured, Hon Speaker.

In terms of Local Government Municipality Management Act 56, Act No 56 of 2003, section 131(2)[a] and [b], the MEC for Local Government must assess all annual financial statements and report to the provincial legislature any omission by the municipalities in order to address adequately those issues within 60 days.

It is an honour for me to report to this House that the report indicates the assessment of the action plans, use of consultants commissioned by municipalities, and it also indicates the proposed remedial action to be taken to address the issues raised by the Auditor-General in the aud report of these municipalities.

In line with the provision of the above-mentioned legislation, I hereby table the 2021/22 Report on the assessment of Annual Financial Statements for municipalities in the province for consideration by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture

Committee chairperson, you may come to the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the chairperson of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, I hereby tabling the 2022/23 second quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by the Hon Chairperson of Committees.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair. Honourable chair, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. With the least power vested in me, on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, I hereby table the 2022/23 third quarter report for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any second? Hon Masekoameng, you are recognised.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand here to second the report by Hon Chairperson Committees. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER.

Thank you. Honourable chair, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once again, on behalf of the committee chairperson, Hon Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, I hereby table the 2022/23 fourth quarter report for the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report by the honourable chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Maseko will be the first. Hon Maseko, you may come to the podium.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me the opportunity to debate the second, third, and fourth quarter report for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Greetings to yourself Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council, ANC and the department, Hon Nakedi Sibanda Kekana, Leader of the Opposition; Hon Maraga, Members of this Provincial Legislature present and administration.

Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture; deserves applause for the job well done so far. The development of the government's new outcome-based performance management approach articulates the priorities determined by the ruling party's manifesto. Therefore, the manifesto had been realised by the department.

It emphasises the need for national, provincial, and local government to cooperate and collaborate to achieve the determined outcomes. Department worked tirelessly in reaching targets in most of its critical programmes.

Regarding gender-based violence, the rate at which women are abused, violated and some killed in South Africa remains worrying and unacceptable. Many are killed by the people they know; people they love; and people they trust. Between April and June 2022, 855 women and 243 children were killed in South Africa. Over 11 000 assault GBV cases, with female victims, were opened with the police. That is according to Stats SA.

The committee acknowledges the progress made by the department on gender-based violence and awareness campaigns. The quarterly target of two was achieved at the end of the quarter under review. While awareness campaign was implemented on 17 February 2023 at Lesedi Special School in Makhuduthamaga Municipality where 60 people were reached, the other campaign was implemented on 24 February 2023 in Sekhukhune District where 100 people were reached.

Regarding Cultural Affairs, the committee says the value of culture and arts cannot be underestimated as we struggle to maintain our individual and collective identities and build our respective communities. The department planned to organise one social cohesion in the mentioned building programme during quarter four and achieved this target after hosting Morongwa Phukane on 17 January 2023 at Muti wa Vatsonga Tsonga Kraal Museum in Mopani District.

The quarter target of promoting 200 artists was exceeded by 142. More artists were promoted due to the additional funding for the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture during the Vukani Event hosted on 04 March 2023. The 34 artists were supported during the World TP on 24 March 2023 in Polokwane District.

The quarterly target of five was achieved at the end of the fourth quarter through the community conversation dialogues held. It was important, that statutory and non-statutory bodies supported the total of 18 members of the commercial language committee, where they were supported during this quarter in order for them to be able to execute their responsibilities emanating from the business plan for the 2023/24 financial year. Therefore, the annual allocation Budget increase from R84 million in 2022/23 to R85,1 million which is 1,2% for this financial year.

Regarding the Libraries and Archive Services, the target regarding the construction of the four new libraries, Botshabelo, Vleifontein, Sekhukhune, and Taung was not achieved due to the poor performance of the contractors. On this one, as the committee, we are not happy and we are not impressed.

It tells you that there was a challenge in terms of appointing the necessary service providers that got capacity because they could not move on with this project on the basis that service providers did not have the capacity, which is something that we would not accept..

I think, in the future, we need to tighten our process of supply chain management and make sure that the service providers with the necessary capacity are afforded an opportunity to do the quality work. Archiving and Library are not only about the preservation of the heritage or a cultural tradition, but they are also fundamentally about our identity and who we are as people of Limpopo.

There is a saying that, "charity begins at home", but also the critical advice. Migration from one belief system to another possesses negative ramifications for our children. It has not been easy for parents to make their children feel the same zeal for their books. More often, black children attending private affluent schools are encouraged to learn English as the superior language to their own native or mother tongue, which is a challenge for us, particularly as the black communities in Limpopo.

It has not been easy for their parents to make their children feel the zeal. As a result, they avoid speaking their mother tongue to avoid feeling rejected by their groupies. They become inferior to their mother tongue, and they are no attempts to ensure that we take them back to learn their language and take pride in that language. Nathi siyezwa ukuthi we make them feel ukuthi English is the most critical medium of instruction and they love English more than their mother tongue.

That is a weakness on our part, and it is a matter that we need to deal with, and then consider. As parents and teachers in government, we have a major role to play. We must always emphasise the importance of learning to appreciate one's mother tongue in order to gain self-awareness and to be able to learn: to be able to read and write in their respective mother tongues.

Strengthening the self-esteem of every child in the province and preserving our indigenous languages will ensure that the evolution of our society will not change our heritage foundation but only adjust it.

We will not be able to adjust it if we are not able to yield progress. Our department must continue to prioritise the building and upgrading of libraries in our communities, especially in rural communities. It is a fact that most of the rural communities and rural schools do not have libraries. They do not have access to the necessary relevant information.

Regarding unemployment through the detention programme, we are saying that unemployment undermines human dignity. It is a terrible frustration and humiliation for a parent to be unable, due to unemployment, to provide for the family.

It is equally demoralising for young people to fight it because there is no work waiting for them when they leave school, college, or university. It is reported that the department failed to fill vacant funded posts, including the human resource section. It is recommended that the department must provide the reasons for understaffing and further furnish the committee with the report indicating the progress of filling the vacant funded posts.

The country is in a mood of ensuring that vacant posts in the government institutions are filled. We should also join that party and make sure that we fast-track the solution to the challenge of unemployments that our people are facing.

As much as we applaud the department for exceeding the quarterly target of creating 54 EPWP job opportunities by aligning the jobs created through the arts, culture and recreation programme; as a portfolio committee we recommend that commitment must be assured of the report presented, and meaningful presentation of the enormity of the challenges that are confronting the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture in relation to job creation.

The last one, Hon Speaker, is around the building of the performance arts centre and theatre in the neighbourhood of Hon Phala Rudolph. He will tell you that, there are so many promises regarding that request. We will raise fresh five issues depending on the programme of the project that we planned as government. Nna e sa le ke fihla ka mo Lekgotlatheramelao ka 2019, every year you will be told that there are some technical designs, the budget escalation from a particularly small amount of money and doubling of the monies and so forth about the theatre.

Unfortunately, this financial year if I am not wrong, honourable MEC of Sport, you were allocated some funds. If I am not wrong under correction, I think we must begin to take this matter seriously. We should say whether we are ready to build the theatre or not. If we are ready to build the theatre, then let us put money into the theatre, because it is the critical establishment that will build arts and culture in the province.

It will improve the life of our artists and a lot of talent will be exploited out from that process. It is a matter that needs a serious political decision. Honourable MEC, through you Hon Speaker, in this matter we must either be in or out. It is very much important that we need

to put much focus on this matter because it has got a critical role to play in ensuring that there are huge employment opportunities that can be created.

We can expose a lot of talents to our ordinary rural people who have got talent but do have not space or a platform to display. As I close, Hon Speaker, the committee having considered and scrutinised the departmental 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan Report recommends that the department should furnish the committee with the progress report on the same matter on the provincial theatre, from this year and what they are going to do.

What progress have you made so that we ensure that we play the necessary oversight to ensure that we get on the ground and assist in the project. As the portfolio committee, we commit ourselves to the province as presented.

We pledge that we will do everything in our power to play the constructive oversight role to ensure that this department moves to a particular level which will be the clean audit. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. Hon Mphahlele, you can come to the podium.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, leader of the opposition party; Hon Maraga, MECs present here, Members of the Legislature and members of the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, the MEC must take this House into consideration on the litigations of the appointment of librarians, while the department is dealing with them. Why would the department not appoint 205 librarians who were contracted to them but chose to reroute or advertise the same posts?

This is so suspicious. Is it because you want to appoint your relatives and friends, and that you regret having appointed those librarians? What is happening? The same librarians occupied these posts and now you want to advertise them. For what good reason, because already there are people occupying these positions and they have acquired some experience over a period of time?

All you had to do was simply appoint them on a permanent basis, because the majority of public libraries are experiencing a serious shortage of librarians. The librarians who were occupying these posts were already in the system but why do you remove them now? Can the MEC brief this House about the latest developments on this matter because it is, indeed, a worrying matter.

It has a serious psychological and emotional impact on young librarians who were excited about being employed and having a livelihood. Why does the department pay the local artists low rates as compared to the national artists? How do you give the local artists confidence and boost their morale when you still pay them at such low rates?

Local artists need more support than already established national artists. Therefore, they must be given priority. It is for this reason that the EFF is worried about the provincial theatre which is long overdue and has not been constructed, as Hon Maseko already alluded about the theatre.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed that there was no planned target for the museum infrastructure upgrading and maintenance for the quarter under review, which is the second quarter. The EFF is worried because museums and the role they play in communities are not taken seriously by this government.

Can the MEC present a comprehensive progress report on the construction of the Schoemansdal Museum and the original completion date, which was 17 April 2023 and whether the targeted date of completion was met. That date which was earmarked for usage has been turned into a target date for completion as the original date has never been reached.

Museums are primarily educational institutions. What makes them public institutions is their preservation of culture and their educational work. Museums represent a major public social investment in most modern societies. Can the MEC provide a comprehensive progress report in the next Sitting of the Legislature about Seleteng, Mavalani, and Mahlabathini Community Libraries.

How far is the department in terms of processing final payments for the final accounts amounting to R7,2 million as it was reported in quarter two? Furthermore, can the MEC also present a progress report on the three new libraries, Tshaulu, Sekhukhune, and Vleifontein, which were transferred to IDT after the contractors were terminated for failure to accelerate the projects according to the project schedule.

Why were there no planned targets for quarter three on the support of statutory and non-statutory bodies? Does this mean these bodies are of less significance in society? For your information, statutory bodies play an important role in ensuring that there is compliance within the law, while non-statutory bodies, on the other hand, work to achieve their objectives which may or may not be in line with the objectives of the Legislature. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, you may come to the podium.

MS PHALA

By the second quarter, the department had spent 44% of its annual allocated Budget instead of 40% as indicated in the APP. The report, further, indicated that the deviation was due to accelerated expenditure on equitable shares and the rolling out of mass participation in sporting events within the province. Further, by the second quarter, the department was within the 50% straight-line projection.

The department was almost able to make 100% payments to valid invoices, but they fell short and were able to make 99% payments of valid invoices within 30 days. One payment was paid outside 30 days due to insufficient funds on item levels. The process of shifting funds took longer than anticipated.

Deliberations in quarter two included that the department is to submit a detailed report of how much was spent on the provincial theatre since 2018. This was as a result of the committee noting the ballooned cost estimation from R200 million to over R500 million.

As a committee, we requested the department to submit a detailed report on the cost of constructing the provincial theatre. The department tried to indicate that the main cost drivers were due to the new projection design. We, as a committee, then recommended that there is a need for the department to benchmark with Mpumalanga province to learn how they built their provincial theatre.

The quarterly target of one under social cohesion and nation-building was achieved in the third quarter. Department hosted the Mapungubwe Arts Festival on 10 December 2022 in Polokwane Cricket Club, in Capricorn District. The Committee sought clarity on the appointment of the contractor who hosted Mapungubwe, as the report indicated that the bid was advertised but no bidder was awarded.

The department explained that the bidders did not meet the requirements and resorted to piggybacking the contractor who hosted Marula Festival at LEDET. As a committee, we requested the financial breakdown of this event and indicating all activities with financial implications, to which the department submitted.

On the construction of new libraries, as a committee, we were left disappointed with the progress reported and the termination of three service provider contracts that failed to perform as expected. The termination was a result of appointing people lacking the necessary skills.

We advised the department to develop a mechanism to thoroughly check the previous performance of the contractors and blacklist those who failed to perform. The committee, further, indicated that consequence management should be applied to the contractors who failed to comply. Public Works should include the department in the appointment of contractors to ensure that IDT performs according to the APP of the department.

These were some of our recommendations to the department by the third quarter of 2022. We recommended that the department should:

- Prioritise the employment of the librarians and library assistants on a permanent basis;
- The department should strengthen the security of the libraries by electric fencing, installing alarm systems and physical securities; and
- Provide progress on the appointment of the new service providers in the three libraries after construction was halted due to the poor performance of contractors.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Phala. Hon Selane, you may come to the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in his absentia, leader of the official opposition, honourable Members of this majestic and august House, chairperson of the portfolio committee: Hon Mokgadi Aphiri, greetings.

Hon Speaker, sports, arts, and culture are significant aspects of the society, and they have an impact on individuals' continuity. They play a pivotal role in shaping social interaction values and identities. They also contribute to the overall being and the development of the society. Having said so, we recognised the significant role of Sport, Arts, and Culture in the promotion of social cohesion, national unity, and positive societal change.

We believe that these domains, sports, arts, and culture could, of course, be the tool for reconciliation and education, but also fostering a sense of identity. We continue to view sport, arts, and culture, as the portfolio committee, as the vehicle for breaking down racial barriers and promoting racial equality. However, sport, arts, and culture could also transcend division and bring people from different backgrounds together to foster a sense of unity for a shared purpose.

It is precisely so, because Tata Nelson Mandela saw sport, arts, and culture as an opportunity for young people to develop essential life skills such as discipline, teamwork, and resilience. He also emphasised the importance of sports in youth development and education, recognising its positive impact on the personal growth and well-being.

Tata Nelson Mandela also believes in the power of arts and culture to preserve and celebrate heritage, tradition, and diversity of cultural identities. Tata saw these particular social components as the symbol of national identity and unity. We are empowered as the portfolio committee by section 114, subsection 2 [a] and [b] of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Standing Rule of the Legislature to conduct oversight over the department through the executive authority to ensure that the department is accountable.

Of course, Hon Speaker, the overall mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture is to promote arts and culture in this particular province, creating active participation in sport and recreation so that it alleviates discrimination. Promote multilingualism and protect our heritage. This department, was, of course, assigned the powers and functions to develop and implement the provincial policies, and the programmes related to the three domains that are already indicated.

Department considered that the people of Limpopo, in terms of sport and culture, should remain a priority, especially in sport, arts, and culture, necessarily because they remain the cornerstone for social cohesion and nation-building. We are delighted by the fact that the department was able to spend 93% of its annual allocated Budget, especially at the end of the fourth quarter.

Department was able to pay the invoices within the prescribed time of 30 days. However, there was, of course, a deviation that we recognised. This deviation resulted in the suing case for infrastructure protection for the libraries. That, of course, was the loophole, due to community disruption and failure by the contractor to develop a better plan to cover the time lost which resulted in under-expenditure.

However, this department through our oversight work as the portfolio committee, was of course, advised to develop the plan to monitor all the implementation and progress of all the infrastructure projects. They were advised to do so, so that they can be able to monitor the skills of the contractors who are given such responsibilities.

What was critical at the centre of such advice was that the department must ensure that they engage with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure so that in each and every project which is supposed to be implemented, it is included so that they can avoid not to be accountable, because we have seen instances where the blame game is the order of the day; where the department will tell you that the responsibility to construct some of the libraries lies under the IDT which is in the hands of the Public Works.

We hope and believe that if they are included and incorporated, especially at the time of the appointment and so forth, probably the department will have the answer as far as why contractors delay. Why certain projects are, in actual fact, not on time?

We also noted that the recruitment process for the librarians and library assistants was deviated. However, we have also advised the department, as the portfolio committee, to fast-track the process of filling the funded vacant posts focusing on equity, gender equality, and people living with disabilities.

It was discovered during the Scopa, especially on that hearing, that only two people in human resources management were appointed since the department was unable to conduct the interviews. The committee, of course, noted that with great dissatisfaction.

Such disappointment could not sit well with the portfolio committee, but we have advised them to make it the point that they fast-track the processes of recruitment and selection so that they deal with those abnormalities.

We have also raised a concern, as the portfolio committee, that most of the libraries as much as they do not have personnel, some of their contractors have expired. The department also delayed, especially, in placing those librarians.

We really, as the portfolio committee, advise them to fast-track the appointments of those librarians, necessarily because, if such action is not happening it will mean that our

libraries, other assets and other essentials are not safe. This means our people will not have access to libraries.

Department was also advised to speed up that process as I have already indicated. What is critical is the fact that the department must engage with the municipality in entering or developing a plan to enter into the memorandum of understanding between themselves and the municipality to avoid the administrative confusion which we have experienced during our oversights.

Necessarily because, honourable MEC, some of the libraries are situated in the municipalities; where, in actual fact, there is confusion especially at the level of service. You will find that some officials are not aware as to whom must service the library.

It is either the municipality or the department. If there is such a memorandum of understanding, such agreement is entered between the municipality and the department, surely we would be able to minimise some of the problems you encountered in those areas.

of The committee has also advised the department, and I think Hon Maseko has already articulated quite a number of decisions and Hon Phala on the recommendations that they have made. As the portfolio committee, we said that the department must implement the Scopa recommendations and all the recommendations that we have made in our oversight and committee working meeting.

With that being said, we request that this House, as it was necessary for us to come here to present, consider and adopt all these reports. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selane. Regarding the response by the honourable MEC for Sport, Arts, and Culture which is item 7.2, the MEC will come and respond at the end of the debate.

7.3 Second Reading: Approval of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023 [B02-2023]

7.3.1 Consideration and Adoption of the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture.

7.3.1.1 2023/24 APP and Budget for Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Committee chairperson, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the chairperson, Hon Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, and all the honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts, and Culture, I

hereby table the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget Vote 10 for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and Adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to second the report as presented by Hon Selane.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Maseko, you may come to the podium.

MR MASEKO

Siyabonga mHlonitjhwa. Hon Speaker and protocol observed. Hon Speaker, there is this long-distance runner known as Emil Zátopek from Czechoslovakia. He is best known for winning three gold medals at the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, who said an athlete cannot run with the money in his pockets. He must run with hope in his heart and dream in his head." This is so true if one considers the role that the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture has to play in giving hope to our athletes.

Overall, sports and games teach us many rememberable lessons and things in life. However, it is up to us to decide whether we want to be speed up or not. Honourable MEC as the committee, we acknowledge the inclusion of mother tongue in the Mapungubwe Programme. We saw more Mayors, other MECs, and MPLs taking part in the marathon. I hope other Members like the Hon Chief Whip will join us in the marathon, as part of our resolution to a healthy lifestyle. Annual Report indicates that the sport and the creative industry is the major contributor to economic and social development. Their role is recognised by the government including the political declaration of the 2030 Agenda.

Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts, and Culture met with the department with the sole mandate of scrutinising the Annual Report and its performance during the year under review. Specifically, the Annual Performance Plan stipulates the strategies that the department will use to review its goals and identify the performance measures to assess the relevant service levels of the outcomes or inputs to be achieved and compare with actual programme results with the explanation of the performance achieved.

As the ANC-led government, we acknowledge the Budget of R621,8 million allocated to the department and we urge the department to spend it according to its plans and targets in order to achieve its strategic objectives.

Since maximising access to sport, recreation, and physical education in every school in Limpopo is one of the strategic goals of this department, it is of utmost importance that we begin at the school level to instil the love for the sport.

For noting, the department is important for various reasons: (a) It is the vehicle for social cohesion; and (b) Most significantly, it is important due to its educational and emancipatory roles.

This is why as the committee we view this R621,8 million Budget as inadequate. We, as the Premier and Treasury, are looking at increasing the Budget so that the department may pursue its mandate effectively in the interest of the people of our province.

Regarding Administration, the committee sees the Budget allocation for the department administration increased by 15% from R181 to R209 million in this financial year, which is a positive development. It has been reported that the department planned to pay 100% of the valid invoices submitted by the service providers within 30 days. Our call to the service providers is to submit valid invoices so that the department can be able to achieve its target or plan.

The department also planned to implement the 22 skills developments intervention, two capacity building programmes, six health and wellness programmes, and six gender-based violent and femicide workshops that will be conducted during this financial year.

This indicates that the department will focus on and prioritise improving leadership, governance and accountability, and professional meritocratic and ethical government administration. Emphasis needs to be on the interaction with the key stakeholders and social compact, as well as mainstreaming of gender empowerment on youth and people living with a disability. Ga ke tsebe gore ke bolela nnete, Mohlomphegi Sekoati. Am I right? So that if I am not, I must correct it. Ke mo kwele a e hlaloša maloba.

On Sports and Recreation, the overall Budget has increased from R83,1 to R104,2 million for this financial year. This is another increase. We applaud the commitment of the government to continue to increase the allocation for this department.

The 2023/24 Annual Plan for the department, the department has planned to support 1000 athletes through sport academies. Support six sport academies, train 100 people to deliver on academy programmes, and support five schools through their academics. The 500 people will be trained to deliver club development, 223 local mix programmes will be supported, and one provincial programme will be supported.

These are the targets of the department, and we are going to ensure through our oversight role that they get implemented. Let us call on all the people of Limpopo and the government to embrace and support different sports, especially those that remain in the shadow of soccer in the country. Not to mention my colleague, Hon Selamolela, who forever misses goal opportunities during the Legislative Games. We also want you to improve at that level. All that we are saying, o mesa a le ka fase ga pala.

[LAUGHTER]

Different sport codes in the country and the province will start enjoying the limelight so that they can become popular among the athletes, as well as the spectators so that when there are games, we can see the MECs there and see the MPLs there. The participants will be motivated by just our availability in such activities. Their values are more.

For example, let's see the department talking golf to the rural area. Asingayisi kuma-Urban area i-golf sifike siyidlalise those people who sit in the estates of the urban. Let us try it, Hon Monama and Hon Kekana, to take it to the peripheral areas where we do not even know if they call it golf.

The sport which has always been known as the elite sport in Africa, where there is little to no chance for some communities to even get the glimpse of the game must now be promoted to the advantage of the economically poor communities of the province.

Of course, we acknowledge the 18 Hole Golf Course along the N1 at BoTlokwa, Motsweding post in Molemole by Capricorn District Municipality. However, the committee recommends that the department needs to take it over to functionality because this is a sport that can meliorate the smooth revenue and attract tourists. It is high time that the youth in the rural sporting talent get their due from all the stakeholders including the government, public, and spectators.

Regarding Cultural Affairs, as it was highlighted in the State of the Province Address, "... there were about 10,2 million young people aged 15 to 24 years across the country, of whom 34,5% were not in employment, education or training."

This is the responsibility of this department to make sure that all these young people that are here are getting busy through the number of activities, including sport and culture because those are the only things that can build cohesion within the society.

We are also confined with June 16 Speech by the Hon Premier Stanley Mathabatha, hence announced that they will be 4500 advertised posts in this financial year. We want to make a humble appeal to all Executive Members of the Council to ensure that these posts are filled as a matter of urgency so that we bring hope to our poor people.

In a country such as South Africa, honourable MEC, where we have so much unemployment, we are amazed that the department has not seen the potential economic benefits of sport, arts, and culture. Apart from the obvious benefits, if they are managed properly, they can potentially help unbid poverty in many countries.

Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture continues to work harder like they are doing now by ensuring that all the races participate fully in cultural and provincial events. Hunger will be an issue of the past. This is one way to strengthen the community cohesion and the feeling of the self-belonging through the implementation of cultural and arts programmes.

The committee acknowledges that the department should maintain its focus on these key mandates being the social cohesion, moral regeneration, and job creation; targeting young people, women, and people who live with disabilities.

This will be through the department's continuation of support for the main events and empowerment of the artists ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

May you conclude, Hon Maseko.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

In conclusion, we must say that, as the ANC, we are happy with the programme brought by the MEC, Hon Grace Nakedi Kekana. The MEC is ideally positioned to become an instrument for peace and harmonious resilience for the different cultures of our province. Ours is to ensure that we support her activities and ensure that she realised all the targets. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mphahlele, you may take the podium.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, leader of the opposition party; Hon Maraga, MECs presents here, Members of this august House and members in the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, the MEC during the Budget Speech 2023/24 mentioned that the Budget increase in each programme was aimed at addressing the key priorities as outlined in the APP. Further, stating that amongst key issues are the construction of the provincial theatre and the building of libraries as alluded to by the Hon Premier during the State of the Province Address.

Having said this, can the MEC brief or table the progress report on much talked provincial theatre? Why is this project not taking off the ground? What happened to the money budgeted for the construction of the provincial theatre, because clearly it is now apparent that the construction of this theatre will never see the light of the day. The only reason we are told about the delay is that detailed designs took longer than expected. There has to be a better reason or explanation than this weak excuse.

We do not expect the MEC to thumb suck on this very important matter affecting the youth of our province. The EFF expects nothing else but a coherent report and answers on this matter. We will never rest until the truth comes out.

How much has been spent so far on this project on logistics like architectural drawings and designs? This government keeps on postponing the harnessing and development of

local talent for the youth of this province, hence we continue to see social ills increasing in society.

The youth cannot wait to have access to the provincial theatre. Unfortunately, their dreams of harnessing their talents through this facility diminish day-by-day. MEC, can you tell this House how much did the department receive from the national Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture in the form of conditional grants during the financial year 2022/23? How much was spent and for which projects?

Furthermore, how much of unspent funds were returned to the National Treasury or Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and why? Hon Speaker, can the MEC table a comprehensive report to this House on the construction of Mulamula Library, Botshabelo Library, Vleifontein Library, Sekhukhune Library, and Tshaulu Library and how much was spent so far on the construction of each project?

Timeous delivery of library books was a challenge for the department during the 2022/23 financial year. What is the turnaround time for delivering books in community libraries? We ask this because the majority of community libraries experience a serious shortage of books, hence illiteracy rate continues to be an issue in those areas.

The APP is silent on the maintenance of the libraries for the 2023/24 financial year. Does this mean this programme is less significant and it has no bearing on the improvement of the lives of our people? The overall Budget for programme 4, Sports and Recreation, has increased from R83,1 million in the 2022/23 financial year to R104,2 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

How many athletes have been supported so far through sport academies and how much was spent on this support? It was indicated in the APP that 19 school sport structures will be supported and 106 people will be trained to deliver school sports. Did you support these structures as planned?

The decrease in number of people who will be trained to deliver school sport decreased from 475 during the 2022/23 financial year to 106 during the financial year under review, which is a serious setback to sport development in the province.

We need leaders who will be able to make sober decisions in the best interest of the people, not what we continue to see in the current administration. No amount of justification can make this sound right. It is completely wrong and unacceptable. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Phala, you may come to the podium.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

The department's Annual Performance Plan aims at contributing to the creation of a diverse, socially cohesive society with the common national identity and efforts to improve economic growth; and promoting culture, conserve and manage the cultural, historical assets and resources of the province by rendering various services.

Hence as a committee, we sought clarity on how the allocated Budget of R13 million for language service will be utilised. Department indicated that the 2023/24 allocation to language services is earmarked to contribute significantly to the promotion of indigenous languages and took us through the Budget breakdown.

Annual Performance Plan indicated that 26 community dialogues will be hosted to foster social interaction. Seven statutory and non-statutory bodies will be supported; 1200 practitioners will benefit from capacity-building opportunities and 2500 artists will be promoted.

It was reported that eight projects in the creative industries will be supported, and 12 gender-based violence and femicide campaigns will be implemented. APP indicated that the progress on the construction of the provincial theatre will be at 25% at the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

Budget allocated to the Archive Services during the 2022/23 financial year was R6,6 million and increased to R10,9 million for the year under review. Ten record classification systems will be approved, eight archive and records training sessions will be conducted, and 15 oral history projects will be undertaken.

Department also plans to conduct seven public awareness programmes in archives during the year under review. If implemented well, the communities will benefit from the planned outputs in such a way that they will have access to relevant resources that will assist them in their daily lives.

Department has planned to host one annual youth camp where 120 learners will be attending, and 220 indigenous games clubs will be supported. APP under the school sport sub-programme outlined that 25 000 learners will be participating in school sport tournaments at the district level. The number of learners who will be participating in schools sport tournaments at the provincial level will be 6525.

Annual Performance Plan also indicated that 1033 learners will be participating in national school sport championships, 19 school sport structures will be supported and 106 people will be trained to deliver school sport.

As the committee, we recommend that:

- Department should ensure that the targets as outlined in the APP are achieved and on time;
- Ensure the implementation of all the committee resolutions;
- Prioritise the permanent employment of librarians and library assistants;

- Department should strengthen the security of the libraries by electric fencing, installing alarm systems, and physical securities.
- Furnish the Committee with a report indicating the progress of filling the vacant positions;
- Department should avoid delays in the construction of libraries as they were planned as it appears in the APP and these delays been identified as some of the major contributors to the undesired audit outcomes of the department;
- Department and implementing agents should do proper planning and monitoring to resolve this anomaly which recurs on an annual basis; and
- Department and municipalities should finalise the Service Level Agreement (SLA) to ensure that libraries in all five districts are being maintained and upgraded annually.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Selane, you may take the podium.

MR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Deputy Speaker; the Hon Chair of Chairs in absentia; the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mokgadi Aphiri; the honourable Members of this august House; the leaders of the opposition parties, greetings.

Having scrutinised the departmental annual report, as a portfolio committee, we then realised that this Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is a candidate for a true audit. Therefore, the honourable Members came here, they have also debated around the things that we have noted and the things that we expect the department to do. We did say that the department should ensure that for it to survive or succeed in their attempt to obtain a clean audit, they should be able to implement the Scopa resolutions and all other recommendations that we have put forward as a portfolio committee. They are able to implement those resolutions, indeed, we will be able to obtain a clean audit.

Various issues that were contemplated in the third, fourth and even first quarter reports also find expression in our annual report, just because we must re-emphasise what should be done as a department so that the department will have the sense of what in actual fact the portfolio committee wants. In that sense, we reiterate that the department will be able to obtain its clean audit.

We encourage the department, honourable MEC, that you should be able to report to this portfolio committee on a quarterly basis, but of course there is a need for the department to fast track the process of recruitment and selection and to fill all funded vacant posts,

posts such librarians and library assistants, so that these people can do the work .If there are no people, it means that services are going to be compromised and our people will continue to blame us.

We want the report for this particular department to continue to upgrade and maintain sports facilities in various communities so that it contributes to a range of physical and mental health issues. The department must also be advised or encouraged to develop a Memorandum of Understanding, with municipalities to service all libraries and municipalities. They should do so at the same time build more libraries in the rural villages. The department must continue, as an advice from the portfolio committee, to maintain and upgrade all the museums because it is museums that attract investors.

On infrastructure project, we advise the department that they should be able to develop a system that in actual fact will be able to monitor the system of all infrastructure projects so that they avoid under-expenditure which we have seen before. We have seen that in most of the libraries, there are no security. We advised the department to strengthen libraries with electric fencing, alarm systems with all the physical securities so that our property or assets are not getting lost.

I do not want to waste time, but this is what the portfolio committee has recommended to the department so that coming year when we come here, the AG should be able to tell us that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has indeed obtained clean audit.

With that as it may, we request the honourable House, as I have already indicated that it considers and adopt this report, because the portfolio committee has already done its own oversight. Thank you very much. I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. We shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Kekana to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

A ke go leboge, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, Members of the Executive committee; the Chief Whip of the ruling party; the Leader of the opposition parties, Hon Moraka, all honourable Members present here; all the officials present here, good day.

Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge that from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we really acknowledge the input as brought forth by the honourable Members. Where improvement is needed, we promise that that we will, indeed, make sure that we will improve for better of services to the people and the communities.

Honourable Members, I am tempted to start the issue of the provincial theatre which I think it is the elephant in the room. Let me indicate to the Members on my left to say that it is, indeed, one of the priorities as enshrined in the manifesto of the ruling party to make sure that we invest in the infrastructure so that we will be able to accelerate the economy

of this country which will best improve on the creation of jobs and to address the triple challenges that we are facing.

Let me also, programme director, indicate that from the provincial theatre, out of the request as alluded to by honourable Members that we need to provide a comprehensive report pertaining to the progress so far. I would like to indicate that as we are speaking, the bid document was received on 20 September 2022 from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the costs were found to be far more than the initial costs as estimated. Today, we are proud to report that out of the efforts, of course emanating from the very same implementing agent, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure together with our department were able to make sure that there is a vigorous engagement with the consultants. At this stage we are proud to report that the escalation prices that were alluded to before the engineers we were able to down scale it to the tune R316 536. In that way, it will be on this escalated price that we will embrace the specifications as alluded to the provincial theatre. We will not be compromised. We still remain in accordance with the prescripts, in accordance with the standard norm for the construction of the theatre with the national department and even across the country.

Programme Director, I think I must also indicate the stages of the design of the construction of the theatre will be commencing in August. I will first start with the stages as highlighted in the Bill of Quantity and as submitted by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, our implementing agent as done by the engineers. On stage two, there was a preliminary redesign estimate which commenced on 7 February 2023. Stage three details the redesigns of 20 April 2023. Phase three, compilation of allocation of quantity and tender which was completed on 25 March 2023. Stage four tender award, the procurement of contractors after the finalisation of the designs with consultants commenced on 26 June 2023, which already happened. Stage four, the tender award will be on 9 August 2023. Construction payment application 25 August. Stage five Sargent order and shortening 15 September. Stage five construction on 18 September. Stage six completion of project 17 September 2026. Stage seven retention period and the project closure by 18 September 2026.

As we are speaking right now, we are proud to report by the 18 September 2026 will be the implementation period and the project closure, meaning the project shall have been completed on 17 September 2026. For now, we are happy to report that in terms of the township economy with the good relationship/collaboration that we are having with the local spheres of government, the Polokwane Municipality is now done. The issue of the township established plant has been approved by the Municipal Creditor Tribunal. The consultant for the designs for the bulk water have been appointed and the consultants from the designs for internal roads are being appointed. Thus far, we are up and running with the issue of the state theatre.

Honourable Members, let me also respond to other issues as raised by the committee members. On the issue of Seleteng, Runnymede, Mavalani we are talking about that, because they are officially opened. Everything is under control with the libraries. On the issue of Mulamula Library, the contractor went back. During December 2022, the progress was at 93%. We applaud the progress as registered by the Bela-Bela Library, and on a

weekly basis there is an assessment team which is constituted by the implementing agency together with our department to check the daily progress as pertaining to the Mulamula Library. The department is anticipating the provision of this library in this current financial year.

Hon Speaker, in terms of the four libraries as already alluded to the Sekhukhune, Vleifontein and Botshabelo and Tshaulu, for Botshabelo, we are registering the 20% progress, and we hope that the project will be handed over in September 2023. As for the Vleifontein, Tshaulu and Sekhukhune upon the termination of the contractor. The implementing agent and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is now in the process of procurement. The adjudication and appointment, the evaluation and administration are at an advanced stage. The appointment will be done on 30 June when the site handover will commence on 12 July 2023

Programme director, on the issue of conditional grants for the 205 librarians to say why do not appoint them permanently automatically, that is not how we are operating. We are operating in line with the prescripts, because we understand that upon the finalisation of our organisational structure, those 205 librarians were on conditional grant, and they were on a temporary basis. For us to appoint them permanently, which we are almost on the process to implement the permanent appointment of the 205 librarians, we need to do due diligence and the due processes. They must also undergo the recruitment process like any other person. Be rest assured that upon the finalisation of recruitment, which is already done, about 90% of those librarians were interviewed. We are waiting for the vetting processes to be finalised. Meaning that so far 90% of the initial librarians will be appointed permanently so.

On the issue of the maintenance of the museum, Hon Maraga, we are happy to indicate that out of the museums that we are having in the province, the Dzaŋa Museum, Muti wa Vatsonga, the department has budgeted R600 000 for each year for maintenance and for restoration of the boreholes, a thatched roof house and maintenance, more especially at Muti wa Vatsonga. We are very much proud of the assistance that we are getting through partnership. We are told that there is an issue of the grid and the electricity in the past. A person who is related to that area, Hans Merensky has provided us with lifetime electricity. We do not have to bother with the issue of electricity in that area. The Public Works has done provisional assessment for other libraries and museums, and has completed it at the end of the third quarter. In future we are going to make sure that there is a plan in place, to make sure that there is prior three conditional assessment done by the Department of Public Works so upon commencement of the maintenance, we do not have to wait for the conditional assessments for the conditions of the libraries and museums.

The issue raised on the empowerment of local artists vis-à-vis the national artists, I want to indicate proudly that in all our activities, the end of year activities that we are conducting are assisting in improving the local content of about 90% if not 95% of our local artists as they are considered at the main activities of Mapungubwe. The other activities that are leading during the year are almost 98% of the local content. On the issue of the national service providers that, is a complex criterion. We want to do national building and social cohesion. We need to embrace those national artists which will serve as the crowd pullers so that our stadium is, as and when we render the event, full to the capacity. In that way

they increase the revenue of the department and make sure that we empower our SMMEs who will be selling, the street vendors will be selling their items and their exhibitions of their goods at that particular event, hence the differentiation between the national and local artists. The main issue is the issue of social cohesion and the creation of revenue, which will benefit our SMMEs.

In terms of the public awareness on archives today as I am speaking, the HOD was supposed to be here, however, she is not here. There is an awareness on the archives in Mopani, if I am not mistaken. The awareness progress is unfolding to make sure that we conscientize the people about the issue of archiving information. The retrocity of library of archives that was launched in May in terms of the SLA in municipality on the usage of the library is in the process of been finalised because we know for a fact that in terms of the prescripts, it is the sole responsibility of the department. The libraries are one of the functions of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. In areas where the municipalities have constructed their own libraries, we are, indeed, finalising the SLAs with them to make sure that they meet all necessary requirements so they will at the end of the day not utilise the site for any other purposes other than the libraries ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion MEC.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTRE

In conclusion, we also note the inclusion of other sporting activities, Hon Maseko, to say it is important to the department. We must also include other sporting activities and sporting codes. We are happy to report that yesterday we have just arrived from Loftus Versfeld Stadium. We had a meeting with praise band for the Blue Bulls and there are certain agreements that we have reached. We still have to finalise that and make sure that we develop the rugby, in particular in Limpopo and for other sporting activities. We call upon the collaboration in the municipalities, because there is money that is enforced for the sporting facilities and activities - the money that is reversed out of the municipal NIGs. Instead of them redirecting that money to other projects, they should intensify all the municipal infrastructure so that we include other sporting activities.

Lastly, let us render support to the netball players, the Netball Cup which will be played from the 26 July up till 6 August as part of supporting other sporting activities, in particular, the female sporting codes. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.4 Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Committee chair, you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to table the 2022/23 Second Quarter Report for Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you may take the floor.

MR MATLOU

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you very much. On the left they are reluctant to support, but they are part of the committee. Hon Speaker, I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to present the 2022/23 Second Quarter Report for Road Agency Limpopo for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable chair, please proceed.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you so much. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to table the report of the 2022/23 third Quarter Report for the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder. Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair, proceed please.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you so much. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to table the report of the 2022/23 third Quarter Report for Roads Agency Limpopo for consideration and adoption of this august House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Masekoameng, you may take the floor.

MR MASEKOAMENG

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I think the departing point should be to indicate that one is exploring, through the Rules and Orders of this august House, a section that we hardly get Hon Maseko must withdraw what he said here of course by Hon Mathye. [Inaudible] I think the Deputy Speaker, Ace Matibe, is a very good distributor to this income, he is leading to the goal scorer. That matter will be [inaudible]

Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker of the august House; Members of the Executive Council of our beautiful province Limpopo; Chief Whip of the majority party of the National Congress and Chief Whip of this august House, Hon Seshoka; colleagues, friends and compatriots; chairperson of this portfolio committee, Hon Makhurupetje, allow me today on 20 June 2023 to stand here before you and to greet you in that name of that brave battalion who shook the world [inaudible] in the struggle for freedom and justice, the 16 June 1976 generation. It is a fact that a week ago, the House had an opportunity to have a snap debate in honour of that generation. We do so today as we greet you in the name of this battalion that we build on the foundation of that particular snap debate. We do this because of a very managed and a very long tough struggle, a struggle that is also of [inaudible] Our struggle is also a struggle of memory against poverty. That is, in our daily dealings on our own struggle, we must never forget how yesterday was for-that will be necessary to inform how tomorrow must be.

It is a fact that on 4 June 2023, the portfolio committee met and received the quarterly report from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity, Road Agency Limpopo. This, we did in line with the dictates of the Constitution, in line with the dictates specifically for section 26 and 27 of the Financial Management Act and House Rule 45 of the Standing Rules and Orders of this august House. In as far as the first and second quarter of the department is concerned, one of the key issues is that when we noticed the progress of the department in as far as meeting its indicators and targets for the set two quarters.

We have also noted that the department has just finalised and approved new organisational structure. This progress, which is going to be recommended, but in this regard, we had requested the department to continuously update the committee on the implementation of this new organisational structure. With this organisational structure, it is necessary to ensure that the department aligns itself in terms of using the human source and available resources, channelling them together to ensure that service delivery must be delivered on public infrastructure.

We have noted in that regard and also implore the department to take advantage of this particular organisational structure to ensure that that they capacitate the CFO's office and ensure that there is an appropriate relationship between expenditure and achievement of targets. One of the concerns that we have raised this far is, as far as the department is concerned, Hon Rakgoale, we budget most but the targets are not actually met. We have said that you need to take advantage of this new organisational structure to capacitate the CFO's office and also other relevant offices to ensure that there is ample appropriate expenditure to achieve targets.

We also implored one of the key challenges that does not only face this department but face all other departments, own revenue collection. We have reported this as a portfolio committee that in as far as the second and third quarters are concerned, much work must be done to ensure that we improve on revenue collection to ensure financial viability of the province. In that regard, we have implored the department to ensure that efficient and effective collection are put in place. We have also requested that the department must continuously do this progress report on remedial action in respect of audit findings. This, we have felt strongly as a portfolio committee that, if it is done it will continue to make a significant contribution to ensure that the department moves towards the desired audit outcome.

In these two quarters, we had the opportunity to also coordinate and conduct oversight on the cost centres. We have noted that most of the cost centres, and that is a debate that we also had in the august House that some of the cost centres have aging staff and worn-out yellow plant or machinery. We have said, as a portfolio, that the department must put in place a plan to deal with the aging human resource, but also put, quarterly, the plan that the committee spoke about in as far as the worn-out yellow plant is concerned.

Hon Maseko, just like wise as you are worried about the issues of infrastructure in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the very special project that we have alluded to, the special project of the theatre. The Department of Public Works, Roads and

Infrastructure, as an implementing agent of the provincial government, we have implored on this particular department not to only look into that particular project, but many other projects that remain uncompleted - this include the Maphutha Malatjie Hospital in Phalaborwa. We have implored, as a committee in relation to that particular project, as a matter that requires attention as it overlaps to the portfolio.

We are also concerned about the compliance of the employment equity in as far as the Road Agency Limpopo is concerned, in as far as, the second and third quarter report of the Road Agency Limpopo is concerned. First and foremost, we were concerned about compliance with employment equity at senior management levels. If you look at the structure of the SMS structure of Road Agency Limpopo, it does not depict what we actually desire to see as far as our struggle for the democratic struggle for revolution. We have an idea creating that national democratic society that we all want to live in [inaudible] It is a matter that, Hon Makhurupetje as an imbokodo is very worried about. It is a matter that we have strongly implored on the portfolio to correct.

We have also, in as far as quarter two and three reports are concerned for Road Agency Limpopo, dealt with the escalating cost for road construction and maintenance. The costs for road maintenance and construction of new roads continue to escalate and in the current economic conditions, it is very difficult to build and do maintenance, unless new avenues are explored. To this regard, we have implored on the department and the entity to explore various technologies and initiatives that will reduce the costs of construction and maintaining our provincial roads. This, we do because we have an understanding that in an effort to build roads and maintaining roads, it is the only way we can facilitate economic development in our province. That is the only way to win the battle that generation of 1976, whose aspirations to see the current generation getting job opportunities and living in an economy wellbeing, fought for.

To that regard, we have also requested the department and entity to continuously give us progress of incomplete roads that will turn the bermuda roads in the province. One of the serious issues that we have mentioned in this quarter for both the department and the agency is the issue of signage on our provincial roads. You would agree that wherever you go in the province, signage has become a serious problem on our roads. We have implored on the department and the agency to look into that particular matter in that regard.

As far as Scopa is concerned, as for these two quarters are concerned and as far as Road Agency Limpopo is concerned, we have commended the entity for getting support in as far as [inaudible] management in concerned from mining houses which is coming on board from the spirit of private partnership to support road and infrastructure delivery. To this effect, we have requested the MEC and the agency to work side by side with other sector role players to ensure that we increase the basket on contribution of road maintenance and road construction. This includes among others, the farmers in our province who are using our road infrastructure and whose huge trucks and equipment are continuously damaging our roads. We strongly believe that they too have a role to play in the spirit of social cohesion where everyone's hand must be on board for infrastructure development.

The growth and development strategy of the province indicates that road infrastructure delivery must equally play a role in terms of job creation, especially for young people. In this regard we have requested the agency and the department to keep us posted or briefed quarterly, as a portfolio, for the jobs that are continuously created in the process of constructions of roads and maintenance. We strongly believe that for every cent spent in construction, for every rand spent in construction, it must go a long way for creating just an opportunity for yet another young person to be at work. In this regard, we request continuous reporting. To this effect, the second and third quarter of both Road Agency Limpopo and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure have been thoroughly dealt with by this particular portfolio committee. It is against this background that I move for the adoption of this report by this august House. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Hon Seshoka, you may take the floor.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the caucus of the EFF led by Hon Maraga; Members of the Executive Council present here and Members of this august House.

Can the MEC table a comprehensive progress report to this august House on the implementation of digital transformation initiatives and their impact contribution on the organisational business continuity. It is a fact that the current systems were not aligned with business requirements and, therefore, cannot be relied upon for future progress in this regard. The EFF is deeply concerned that there is a lack of intelligent reporting such as a centre of excellence, which will empower business with dashboards to predict trends and future interventions. As reported, the business lacks a coherent collaboration and information sharing platform, hence no single customer relationship strategy exists.

Sometimes it is important to run the department like a business in order to achieve tangible results for the benefit of the people. The principles which apply in business can be borrowed for application in government, because majority of these principles are universal. The lack of progress on ICT transformation and functionality to enhance organisational business continuity is completely wrong and unacceptable. The department must report progress in all its programmes to avoid service delivery delays and continuation of under development.

The EFF is disturbed that, like in the first and second quarters and previously reported that there has been no progress on debts that have been prescribed as per Prescription Act No. 68, 1969. Why does the department wait for the debt to be prescribed and not collect the debts before they are prescribed? This level of incompetence is shocking to say the least. The EFF is shocked that in the previous financial years, and also this financial year that the department's quarterly reports always indicated administrative cleanliness wherein there would never be challenges and planned interventions as reported. Further noting that the information would be hidden behind administrative performance indicators that seem not to reflect the true picture of the administrative challenges and planned interventions.

This is criminality of the worst kind, and this is indicative of symptoms of a mafia state which only exist to play shenanigans by hypnotising the minds of the people by creating a wrong impression that all is well when in fact everything is terribly wrong. Why should we trust all the financial reports coming from the departments of this administration, because clearly they are not a true reflection of what is happening on the ground. Books are being cooked to paint a rosy picture when in fact that is not the case.

The EFF is worried that compliance with key legislation at RAL remained unchanged with findings as of 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. Furthermore, RAL continues to experience challenges with regard to the effective and efficient implementation of company specific compliance checklists assessed and updated, and submitted to the board of directors to ensure strict adherence to statutory and regulatory requirements relevant to RAL business. The entity fails to adhere to procurement processes, contract management, supply chain management, Budget and expenditure control, and adherence to delegation of authority and Treasury regulations.

The infrastructure assets register is not regularly updated in this entity; there is also lack of review of processes by senior employees and inadequate document management process which continue to trouble this entity. The province has a backlog of 13 916km of gravel/unpaved roads that need immediate attention. RAL is the worst performing entity in the province, hence it is struggling to fulfill its mandate. It is shocking that 68.3% of the provincial road network is not paved, hence community protests in demand of paved roads continue to increase. RAL need a total of R138 billion to upgrade all gravel roads in the province.

How much money in the form of conditional grants was returned to National Treasury in the past five financial year and why was this money not spent on building quality roads and bridges for the people of Limpopo. RAL is characterised by such problems like community protests, backlogs, and Bermuda roads; road accidents on Limpopo roads, safety measures; nonpayment of nine contractors and sub-contractors. RAL is like a problem child always getting into all sorts of trouble, because of mismanagement, as well as poor governance systems.

The EFF is concerned that they use the Asset Management Plan that was submitted to Treasury and not to the committee as expected. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, as the custodian, reports quarterly to the committee on the submission of compliance and review of the new AFM clients in an endeavor to the planning of the new documents. This is not happening as expected, they underplay the role of the committee to the department and entity. Can the MEC brief the House on the 12 facility units to be provided during the quarter under review. If they will, where in the province will they be.

The EFF note with concern that during the 2021/22 financial year, 21 facilities were to be built and the department did not achieve any target regarding this output. This is shocking to say the least. It is incompetence of the highest order, which should never be tolerated by the people of this province. Lack of capacity on authority due to site loses is cited as

one of other underperformance in this regard. This excuse is laughable and should be dismissed with the attempt it deserves.

The permanent culture of leasing office spaces is a permanent culture of looting state resources the property owners' in government are using. We know that most of the property owners are your friends and that is the reason why you do not want to buy offices for the departments, entities, and municipalities. You want to continue renting to feed yourselves with the 'cuts'. The EFF will organise a massive [protest] to expose these in the department, especially when it comes to renting the office places for entities, municipalities and government departments. There must be a strong legal justification why properties have been given long contracts, some even 30 years.

Can the MEC explain to this House, why. There was no plan for maintenance in 2022/23. The last **spend Landbank building** has dilapidated under the watchful eye of the ANC-led government -the same government which claims to be responsible. It is clear that maintenance is not the priority of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as per provision of post strategy. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Van der Walt, you may take the floor.

MS VAN DER WALT

Thank you, Speaker. It would appear as if our speech responses were like déjà vu. It is issues that have been recommended previously, however, these have not been considered or addressed. It is imperative that the department urgently expedites the matter of filling critical vacant positions of individuals with the required skills and knowledge to perform their functions. The employment equity targets for women and people with disability must be prioritised at senior management level.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer in both the department and RAL must be capacitated with people who can overcome most of the current financial and supply management challenges within this department. The most important challenges to be addressed include targets that have not been achieved, resolving the misalignment of budgets, the reduction of the value of irregular expenditure, addressing the number of poor year-end audits, ensuring operational expenditure spending within budget, and dealing with deviations from procurement regulations and policies.

The department must table a report on the reduction of the staff debt account in relation to prescribed debts. These must include items such as staff bursaries, salary overpayments, tax deductions and non-deductions, GEPP payments and non-payments within the department.

The issue of effective and efficient consequence management must be implemented, mitigation on institutional risks and implementation of such consequence management is critical in order to arrest the poor performance of the entity and discourage misuse or mismanagement of resources by the department and RAL officials.

A report should be tabled on poorly performing contractors in construction. This report should detail the action taken against these contractors and whether any funds have been recovered for any shoddy work undertaken, or whether they have been blacklisted from doing any further business with the government.

The filling of vacancies such as the roads work superintendents, admin clerks, road works foremen, roads workers and driver operators at cost center must urgently be undertaken to resolve the crisis of the Limpopo roads network backlogs. There should also be a succession plan in place as the department simultaneously deals with the ageing staff at cost centers and transfer of skills.

The re-prioritisation of the DPWRI budget must be managed and a cost vs benefit analysis must be conducted on the issue of hiring equipment vs purchasing of own equipment and machinery and the management and servicing of these. An analysis should be undertaken on relooking at the cost of road upgrades per kilometer and best practices and options from across the spectrum should be considered to source a cost-efficient method.

The department must also urgently develop a plan, in terms of dealing with the challenges of the yellow fleet maintenance and repair processes. Far too many of these assets lay idle as they await repairs, and these must be put to good use in assisting with the large backlog in the road infrastructure. This would include expediting the appointment of fleet managers/controllers of fleet within the cost centres.

There must be an update on the improvement plan on under-spending regarding infrastructure budget expenditure, as well as disputed invoices like the SIU invoices disputed, as the investigations were not initiated by RAL, and invoices not paid due to insufficient funds for the projects to achieve a target on percentage of eligible suppliers to be paid within 30 days.

The department needs to have Personal Training and Development Plans in place for employees to foster a culture that encourages employees to enhance their skills within their departmental roles. The Fixed Asset Register remains a challenge and this must be given priority ahead of the next audits. The Non-Infrastructure Asset Register must also be updated ahead of the next audit.

In conclusion, there is a need for a keen focus on filling critical vacancies, there must be a clear strategy in respect of the community liaison and dispute resolution within communities, there must be consequence management on project managers and other crucial operational staff to ensure optimal use of state resources and most importantly, a concerted effort to implement recommendations for historical challenges within RAL and DPWRI. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Van der Walt. Chair, Hon Makhurupetje, it is your turn.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, Ms Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe; the Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; MECs that are here, specifically I must greet my MEC, Hon Christian Rakgoale; all honourable Members of this august House including the portfolio committee, all protocol observed and good day.

The first person who presented here, Hon Selamolela, has indicated that they are debating the second quarter and the third quarter report for 2022/23 financial year for both the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and RAL. Indeed, he was in detailed of the outcome of the briefing by the department. Although others when were debating, I am not sure whether they were in the same meeting with us on 04 May 2023. I think it is important for me to start by indicating to the august House that on the date that we met with the department, it came to our attention that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has been placed under precautionary assessment by the Premier, Hon Mathabatha, as per the media statement dated 18 April 2023.

It is said: "Limpopo Premier, Stanley Mathabatha has appointed a team of professionals to assess issues of governance of leadership and financial governance and service delivery in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure."

As the committee, we have noted that we have not received formal communique there are observations we shared with the Office of the Speakership and presiding officers accordingly - we have agreed what would work with them. We therefore applaud the Premier for a giant step he has taken to intervene to ensure that the people of Limpopo receive expedited service delivery on roads and infrastructure in the province. We are eagerly waiting for the outcomes of the assessment, and the committee will ensure that with all the efforts, we work closely with the MEC to ensure that the implementation of the findings is implemented without delay.

Like I have said, Hon Speaker, I am just going to highlight a few areas where I think my colleagues might not have dealt with, but I think generally they have presented as a committee during the second and third quarter what our observations were. One of the matters that we have observed that we think needs to be considered and the committee was concerned about is that, the ICT project seems to be blank. The department has noted that in 2021/22 in the third quarter, but the second quarter they managed to develop a cloud [inaudible] by covering and business continuity architecture. We think this matter must receive the necessary attention. The committee raises concerns because we normally have challenges where we realise that and as and when some targets are being achieved administratively. When you look at some of the physical performance, you find some terms of property management, it was indicated that 12 accommodation units were supposed to be provided during the quarter under review for a quarterly target of 3, only 1 was achieved and the committee raises a concern that we already alluded.

The committee has already alluded that there should be improvement in terms of facility management to self-maintained government properties, land and buildings. There is a concern of the committee that government buildings are dilapidated, and maintenance does not appear and it should be the priority of the Department of Public Works as per

the provision of the proposed maintenance strategy, which we have incorporated directives by the National Department Public Works, 2015 in line with section 13(1)(d), 2006. Maintenance plans are developed annually to cover within the medium-term expenditure period. The committee also observed that while the maintenance is a transversal issue, but it seems like other departments do not give this function the necessary attention it deserves. Therefore, we are pleading to avoid further decapitation and depreciation of important assets and that all other departments must be able to consider this item as their function as well.

In terms of some areas relating to RAL that the Auditor of South Africa raised, 52 findings during the 2021/22 financial year and in addition to the improved strategy, the entity must develop a plan of action to avoid repetition of findings. We are raising this matter because we are concerned that out of 52 only 9% were clear in quarter two. Our concern is whether that will be able to be cleared within the expected timeframe, as well as the irregular expenditure that is increasing, from R5,4 billion at the beginning of the financial year, to R6 billion at the end of the second quarter. This, as well as the contribution, relates to contracts procured between 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2021/22 and they are still running, which we are concerned that there is a possibility for further increment of irregular expenditure.

The compliance in terms of the legislation was dealt with. We, as well, indicated that in the quarters under review second and third quarter, we are concerned that the budget was spent - like all your road infrastructure programme. You have a situation where you have spent 135% of that quarterly target in terms of the expenditure, but that does not relate to the targets in terms of the performance which we have emphasised and budgeted on. I, as well, just want to indicate that we will continue to monitor the work of RAL through the department. The department needs to ensure that they continue to report on certain activities as some of them we no longer mention them.

I will mention a few as I have already indicated. The department to provide quarterly updates on the implementation of the approved organisational structure, but especially on the development of integrated human resource plan, which is informed by the vacancy rate of filling the Chief Director's post. Capacitation of the office of the CFO to show appropriate expenditure can achieve desired service delivery objectives. Progress reports on ICT transportation and functionality to enhance business continuity, ensure effectiveness and efficiency system on correction to reduce debt account on quarterly basis, notwithstanding the motive using directorate to submit debts in time to avoid incurable debts.

Development of implementation of measures to deal with noncompliance to deal with client departments in respective of physical planning is necessary, especially in submission to UAMPs and IPS leading to withdrawal in late submission of projects. Progress in filling of the positions of road works attendants, admin clerks, road works foreman, road works drivers, driver operators for cost centres. For us the directional and functionality of the yellow fleet and call centre is our priority. Alignment of road workers with road prescripts for teams, as the department uses EPWP workers to render services, which we think they need more training and continuous assessments on capacity of cost centres to give services, especially on equipment that I already spoken to.

The improvement plan on underspending regarding the infrastructure budget for, that kind of budget cannot go back to National Treasury, because we think it is really required for service delivery. **Prioritisation** of gravel roads to tarred funded roads by provincial equitable share considering the backlog of financial constraints. Provide progress on bermuda roads, political commitments, hotspots consolidation, consolidated priority lists from each district municipality and matters relating to ongoing community protests.

Hon Speaker, I think am here to support the presentation by Hon Selamolela that we recommend that this report be adopted by this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje.

7.6 Second Reading which is the Approval of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023 [B02-2023]

7.6.1 Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

Committee chair you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to present the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we have any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selaelo Donald Selamolela stand to second the report.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair proceed.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to table the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Roads Agency Limpopo for consideration and adoption by this august House. They are all Budgets for Budget Vote 9. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there is a seconder? Hon Lekganyane, you may take the floor.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, second the motion as tabled by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. We will now move to the Speaker' List. Hon Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. Hon Speaker, Ms Rosemarry Molapo; Hon Deputy Speaker, Baldwin Matibe; honourable MEC, Hon Rakgoale , and officials of various departments present, Hon Chair of Chairs; Hon Chief Whip and all honourable Members. I greet you all in the name of the African National Congress.

Hon Speaker, allow me to salute our 1976 generation of young people who managed to take our struggle to higher hights. There is no doubt that this generation of young lions and lionesses could message our struggle for liberation of our country South Africa. They faced the brutal Apartheid forces that armed short at with 3:00:20 However, they were determined to lay down their lives for us to enjoy the freedom that we are enjoying today. Others have decided to the African National Congress while other remain outside the country [inaudible] In June 1976 uprising the apartheid regime was no longer able to govern in that way, our people never looked back. All this action and the ANC's muscular actions strategy internationally the underworld armed struggle help much towards the nonracial, nonsexist and the free and democratic South Africa. We know as we all know that the National Democratic Revolution and the struggle for change is still long. However, we appreciate that the ANC which is the oldest organisation on earth would reach the struggle through the emancipation of the President of Presa which is now development programme of our government.

However, we aware that freedom and governance are having new challenges. The challenge of corruption, access to land for the development of our people, poverty and high crime rate, just to mention but a few. We hope new party do not have a clue of what it is to exist and are born day by day. It might not be an exaggeration that the number of seats in Parliament might be equal to the number of parties that will be in existence to contest these seats in the next general elections in our country.

Believe it or not including those who have nothing to offer. They foundations will present in our beautiful country. [inaudible] the President with no membership following. That is democracy but unfortunately, they have divided our people. There will only be one President of the ANC and that will be Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. Those of you who have

ambitions forget. We call on all our people to support the African National Congress and show the prophets of doom who wants to take us back to the apartheid days.

Hon Speaker, I rise here today on behalf of the MEC to debate the APP and Budget speech of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and how she is intending to address the problem. Let us not find fault like other parties but give credit where it is deserved. The work of the department visible for those who want to see it. [inaudible] is attainable before the ANC government came into power.

Other parties organise people to demolish our infrastructure bid by bid in the name of service delivery. Our young people are not brave enough or proactive like the youth of June 1976 youth enough except for the provision to the right entitlement instead of bidding for project implementation. They organise themselves into business forums to demand 30%. They stop projects which slows down the implementation of projects which sometimes leading into mitigation. We should find ways to make this a punishment offence in which government departments to deliver much needed services in the name of certain issues.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the Budget Speech as presented by the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. The Budget Speech lays the foundation for the department in terms of how money will be spend based on the key indicators and targets outlined in the Annual Performance Plan. The policy statement also includes the monies that were appropriated to its entity, Road Agency Limpopo. The equitable share for the department inclusive of the transfers to its entity is R4, 950 billion. The appropriation has increased by 12% as compared to the previous financial year of R4, 359 billion.

As discussed with the MEC together with the department, the portfolio committee is recommending for more money to be given to RAL for more [inaudible] in actual fact those departments that fail to spend money must be taken away from them and be transferred to RAL. We cannot accept a situation where money is returned to National fiscus. Money must be spent, money that comes to the province must be spend in the province that is what we must aim for. As we go towards next year, we know that roads and water are the key issues that people want and as a portfolio committee we have discussed this matter. We must find ways to make sure that more money is transferred to RAL and to the Department of Public Works and final to RAL to make sure that the road infrastructure is actually good.

I was just watching TV this morning you might have seen even yesterday that the issue of roads infrastructure in our country is actually a big issue. Agriculture is complaining farmers is complaining and everyone is complaining that are not very good are not in a good state. It is costing a lot to our economy and so on. The road becomes more of a priority than any other time in our country. That is why portfolio committee there is a need to transfer money more and to make sure that it is spend. Including to make sure that there is capacity, and we believe that, that will be done as I am debating here.

The committee engaged both the APPs of the department and RAL to assess the targets that will be achieved this financial year. Under programme three which is the EPWP, the department has planned to 1 461 job opportunities. Most of these jobs will be created

would be created through in-house projects at the cost centres, while other jobs would be created through renovation and construction projects. We are aware that EPWP jobs mostly assist unemployed for a period of twelve months to earn wages. The department should explore avenues to skill the beneficiaries, so that at the end of the contract they continue to feed their families. The department must ensure that EPWP employees are monitored during workdays to mitigate risks of them signing in and do nothing. I am sure all of you when drive around you can always see it a culture that was always there during the Apartheid regime and it will carry on and on. We need to break it culture where people just want to do nothing for earning money. We must make sure that do something for what you are paid for. You must indeed be productive and make sure for economy of our country and at the end of the day there is something that you can show them you have done.

On Road Infrastructure, the department planned to implement eight performance indicators. In this regard, the department planned to blade 50 000km of gravel roads. We take note that the target is reduced by 10 000km from the previous financial year. The committee raised a concern regarding the reduction and the department must elaborate to the House why a reduction while the appropriation had increased. It is something that maybe we have been told but as for now it is actually tarred that can blame them. But I do not blame them. There is a need for an explanation on why the reduction while the appropriation has increased.

On the eight performance indicators the committee was briefed that three of the performance indicators were based on addressing the internal audit challenges and Auditor General of South Africa's findings. The Committee was concerned during the engagement that the entity is not effectively implementing the Auditor General's 'Audit Action Plan' which resulted in increased Irregular Expenditure of R6 billion. The department and the entity must ensure that this Irregular Expenditure is reduced this financial year.

We welcome that RAL is addressing audit findings is critical, but previous experience showed that the aspect is not taken serious by the entity. The department must implement consequence management against officials who do not have the desire to address the audit findings and a report must be submitted to the committee.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, there are several roads infrastructure projects by the MEC other are at advance stage especially to those committees that on the ground to such. Plans to some to deal with potholes, etc. The committee welcome this move as the last stage of expediting the [inaudible] in our province. If people know what is happening with projects in their areas, there will be no need for protest actions. We also call upon the yellow fleet to come back as said by my chairperson previously the other day. All service contractors must be capacitated with that machinery. All activism posts they must just not be filled, they must be filled with deserving and well-trained people. We will be on our way to [inaudible] of potholes in our province.

Lastly, we appreciate the work, the MEC, Hon Rakgoale and her team are hard at work. She has been to all districts engaging with all stakeholders on her plans in a short space of time. MEC, we salute you. Keep up the good work. The MEC needs people, hard

workers like you. Please do not be corrupted. I thank you, Madam Speaker, and honourable Members of the Committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka. Hon Seshoka, it is your turn.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to represent the EFF in the debate for the Public Works Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Greetings once more to the EFF caucus led by Hon Moraka; Members of the Executive present here and Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, it is noteworthy for the House that Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has been placed under “professional assessment” by the Office of the Premier. The functionality of the organisational structure leaves much to be desired with the department having acknowledged that critical posts took long to be filled. The delay in filling critical positions is the root cause of the snail pace service delivery in this department and the cause of many of its current problems.

Hon Speaker can the MEC tell this House how many critical vacant posts did she fill within its establishment as per the 2023/2024 approved recruitment plan. Furthermore, operational units are not performing as expected and therefore compromising the mandate of the department. In terms of the core mandate of the department, it is expected to facilitate and coordinate the provision of provincial government building infrastructure, management of provincial land, buildings and roads infrastructure and Coordinate Expanded Public Works Programme. This mandate will never be realised for as long as operational units are dysfunction and not doing what they are expected to do.

Hon Speaker, can the MEC table a comprehensive progress report in this House on the following projects in the next Sitting of the Legislature:

- construction of the provincial state theatre,
- refurbishment of the Parliamentary Village, Premier’s Guest House at Parliamentary Village and Premier’s official residence at Dalmada,
- Lebowakgomo Government Complex,
- Government Guest Houses in Giyani and Thohoyandou,
- Refurbishment of the palace,
- Refurbishment of the former palace in Thohoyandou.

But Hon Speaker, it remains unclear as to who stays at the Premier’s residence in Dalmada. It appears that this facility has been a white element for a longer period of time. Can the MEC brief this House as to whether this facility has been occupied by people or not. If not, the EFF will pass a motion in this House to convert this residence into an orphanage home.

Hon Speaker, how far is the relocation of essential services from Lebowakgomo to Sekhukhune? This matter is long overdue and there is no tangible progress recorded so far. The EFF noted with disgust that noncompliance by client departments in respect of the fiscal planning cycle, especially, submission of the IPMPs leads to the withdrawal and late submission of projects. Regrettably, consequence management does not apply to responsible politicians and officials. We deliberately mention politicians, because they are not mentioned whenever there are shenanigans going on in government departments. Only officials get to be blamed because they are easy and soft targets. Consequence management in the current provincial administration has got eyes. Half the time politicians are the ones who instruct officials to do wrong things and when trouble comes, they wash their hands and blame officials. The EFF government will hold both politicians and officials accountable for any wrongdoing. The provision of infrastructure in this province to turn the economy around is still a serious challenge.

Hon Speaker can the MEC brief this House on the implementation of the Limpopo Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan which provide framework for a provincial wide infrastructure Development plan and strategy. Why is the department failing to attract professionals with rare skills like engineers to capacitate the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure? Those professionals with rare skills do not stay long in the department. What is happening MEC? What are the push factors forcing these people to leave?

Hon Speaker can the MEC brief this House about the retention strategy of officials with rare skills in her department. We expect nothing else than honest responses on all matters raised. Hon Speaker, truth be told the burning of government buildings is fuel by factions and is active within the ANC-led government. The hub for tenders, Hon Mdaka, we must not deceive the people of Limpopo by saying there are other people doing all these things accept the ANC themselves. It is through this rhetoric statement and shifting of ball posts by the veteran members of this House by the latter speaker that the department is finding itself in the mess that it is now. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Van der Walt, you may take floor.

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Speaker, it is quite concerning that we are here to debate the Budget and APP for a department that is currently placed “under professional assessment” by the Premier. The terms of reference and reasons behind this have not been made available to the committee or the chair of our committee. We believe that in the interests of transparency and in line with the oversight role that the committee plays, the details around this must be tabled and the committee must interrogate the information on hand.

The portfolio committee has recommended that the CFO’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 audit 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, a part of this planning must be to look at its aging staff as I previously alluded to, as this could be a risk in the years to come if there is not sufficient skills transfer. 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.

The committee recommended that the department provides a quarterly update on the implementation of the approved organisational structure, considering that the Office of the CFO had not been adequately capacitated, which led to a lack of appropriate expenditure and service delivery objectives being fulfilled. It further emphasised the need for a sound management system to improve the performance reports against supporting information, which validated that reported achievements were indeed accurate and complete.

There must be more conditional assessments done on our roads and there should be a planned schedule as to when these roads will be due for maintenance and the relevant budgets must be planned accordingly and ahead. With the proper planning in place, the province will not be subjected to the numerous protests related to road infrastructure challenges. The department needs to fast track addressing the backlog on road rehabilitation in all our districts. A maintenance plan must be urgently implemented to address these issues.

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? MEC here again, is an example of where the state owns property that could be utilised for provincial departments, yet we still embark on the 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 channeled towards filling potholes and tarring of roads.

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 government we are able to track and monitor and take care of our assets.

Part of the maintenance must be the assessment as well as regular maintenance of the storm-water drainage. There appears to have been some confusion as to which department this falls under 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, Roads and Infrastructure project. This will determine the number of work opportunities from the programme that have had the desired results of poverty alleviation and gainful employment, and not as a means of cadre deployment, but one that is based on adequate and relevant skills for the right job. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Van der Walt. Chair, Hon Makhurupetje, you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, thank you so much. I really appreciate that members of the committee have already debated like, Hon Mdaka, va ri xibamu xibele etindleveni, mi vule hinkwaswo. Ndza khensa. Indeed, the MEC is one of the leaders that she really worked very well with the committee, and I support her, she must not be corrupted. [LAUGHTER]

Hon Speaker, Hon Mdaka, has indicated that this Budget of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is R4,9 billion which is an increment of 12% from the R4,3 billion in the previous financial year. We are happy that some items when there is an increment include EPWP and road infrastructure for that we really appreciate that the right budget areas have received that increment. Secondly, we even see the Budget for Road Agency Limpopo has increase from R1,5 billion in the previous financial year to R2 billion in this financial year which constitute to almost 30% of the budget that confess what Hon Mdaka said that indeed we are going to have acceleration of roads in the province. We need more budget in that area. We really appreciate that we see that it is included there.

We are not necessarily very happy, honourable MEC, because we think we need to take into cognizance what the AG has said the maintenance of roads, assets management each year in the audit reports hence altered roads are assets to this entity. The new two performance indicators that are there that will start to be assess it is whether roads that are tarred the target is to visually assess 3000 km while towards 6000 km of gravel will be assess during the year under review. The Roads Agency Limpopo receives the conditional grant for maintenance as well as for the tar road network.

During this financial year they are indicating that 1 million of square meters of roads will be rehabilitated. The target is more than doubled more than the previous financial year. Furthermore, that 495 square meters will be surfaced and reseal and it more 3000 from the previous financial year. The acceleration of road maintenance and targeting is based on the proper utilisation of the Road Management Grant. However, the new construction of gravel roads remains very low compared to the actual in the previous financial year. We are concerned that as a committee that this financial year we are told that the construction of roads from gravel to tar we are going to increase from 40 km to 55 km. We are concerned because, honourable MEC, there is a number of roads, a substantial number of roads. In terms of that substantial number of roads kilometers tarred, some will

be maintained some will be completed in one financial year. We are just concerned when we compare the number of kilometers that we are tarring annually it is very low.

The number of expectations out there is very high. We think this matter should be looked at. Our major concern is the 3km that communities were promised. We want to give an example with the road from Mashamba to Mulovheni when we went there to oversee as the portfolio committee, we realised that only a few kilometers have been made from Mashamba. There are still more kilometers on the side of Mulovheni going in that direction of Mashamba. We don't understand we were giving example of that one but there are many kilometers away and we are not able to get the report on the progress that is going to be done in terms of the multi-year of those projects. If a road is 20 km, this year you will do 3 km and we expect that during the next financial year you will proceed another 3 km until the road is completed. We have a challenge as a portfolio committee, we think that the MEC must find a way of ensuring that, that is taken into cognisance.

We said on a quarterly basis we will be able to receive the report in relation to procedure effective and efficient mechanism or for area rental to the department to ensure that revenue collection is increased. The department should make a clear space audit to accommodate provincial departments, capacitating the maintenance limits to conduct space audits and to ensure that conditional assessments of effective maintenance of government departments.

We always talk about the transfer of R293 towns. We think that the progress is not actually happening faster, especially with the transfer of title deeds to municipalities. We think this programme is very slow. Capacitation on asset management unit and verification of assets in the Immoveable Asset Register in accordance with the mandatory requirements of the Treasury. The allocation of essential services from Lebowakgomo to Sekhukhune District and the engagement with CoGHSTA, we think we think this as well is not moving with the speed as expected by the committee in that area.

Regular maintenance of prestige buildings I will not emphasise much on that. Progress on the establishment of our appropriate systems to verify completeness of reported number of opportunities and work created. Another matter, honourable MEC, that we think was a very good programme it needs to be continued we think it can be able to assist is the Thiba-Mekoti campaign. We think it is one programme that needs to be continued and given more attention.

On this basis I therefore support Hon Mdaka that the APP and the Budget be duly adopted by this august House. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chairperson. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to come and respond to the debates. [APPLAUSE]

BACKGROUND

Malibongwe!

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to yourself Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; the MECs present; the Chief Whip of the ruling party, Hon Mokgonyana; the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane; chairperson of our portfolio committee Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje; members of the committee; honourable Members, good day.

Let me take this opportunity, Hon Speaker, and appreciate the portfolio committee, firstly, on the work that they do when they play oversight. Which every department needs to be able to improve all the weaknesses that they are able to identify and are able to share with us in terms of the screws that needs to be tightened as we continue to do the work.

I will respond to, but not all the issues that have been raised, because most of them are not necessarily new issues. We are aware of them as you keep on raising it with us and we are trying our level best to make sure that they are addressed. The issue of revenue collection, I think I must also indicate that the directorate on its own has challenges, but because now a Chief Director has been appointed and has started to work, we anticipate that we will start to see the improvement to that revenue collection and, indeed, as we have said that we must then see as to make sure that they collect revenue to assist us as a department.

On the issue of remedial action from the AG, we must indicate that I agree with the portfolio committee that, indeed, we must be seen moving in that aspect to make sure that we are able to respond to what has been raised by the AG so that it is able to assist us to improve on the audit outcomes as a department.

The issue of the aged infrastructure, particularly the yellow fleet, I must indicate that we appreciate Provincial Treasury and the National Department of Transport that they have committed to allocate at least R100 million as a start. I must indicate that we have procured it, it is just that when you give these service providers a term within three months, you tell the they must deliver. After you have processed payments, they tell you they are busy with other things it is going to take another six months, because they must be shipped, I must indicate the yellow fleet is on the way we have processed the payments for that, we have already done that, and we will continue. One other thing that is critical is the maintenance plan of the same yellow fleet. It is something that we need to consider.

On the issue of other private stakeholders working with us on building the roads, I must indicate that the National Department of Transport has started with updates, they have requested to submit a list of all the roads that we think are not necessarily be transferred but, we work together with the private sector to ensure that we are going to work together specifically with those that do use the roads. They are used by mining, and particular the farms around that particular road. We keep on maintaining but after a short space of time due to the heavy vehicles that are travelling on those roads from time to time, they get damaged. I must indicate that, as a province, we always work together with mines that assist us. I think almost all mines in the province we have an agreement with them, and

we will keep on updating on which roads that will have to help us. We are going to work together with the Department of Transport, nationally, as they are engaging.

On the farmers that were participating or that were working with us, it was only the two. I must indicate that we have submitted those roads to the National Department, so as they engage nationally to ensure that they help us to identify which are farming groups can be able to come on board as we are going to build roads.

Hon Seshoka, we have already started in terms of using technology. Firstly, we have got road asset management system in the province that was able to collate all the roads infrastructure in the province. It can tell you how long the road has been built and the level of maintenance. How much will be needed to utilise to maintain the road. I think that system you can access it yourself. That is if you want to access it, you can. We have also made sure that we avail it to the group so that we take it further and that even the engineers that are appointed are able to use them to identify what kind of material we are going to use, what kind of infrastructure we are to use and what kind of material, that system is there.

Secondly, we have what you call a pothole reporting App, you will be able to get it on your internet. Wherever you see a pothole, Hon Seshoka, take a picture of it and it will indicate and tell you in which area you are. You can be able to monitor after how long that pothole was patched. I do not know what digital technology you are talking about. We have already moved as a department, and we are able to try and respond to some of those issues. You can then try and come and tell us that it is not working. We need to see what needs to be improved. The issue of lease, if Hon Seshoka is indeed attending meetings of the portfolio committee, he will be able to understand that issue. Already we have bought Limpopo Gambling Board a building. They are using it. We are busy engaging some of the land for some of the offices so that we can have a price so that we can be able to negotiate a price. If we must buy it, in what period can we be able to do that and at what price, so that we are able to negotiate that price exorbitantly.

The issue of filling of posts must acknowledged, although we have appointed four chief directors that have already started. We are in the process of appointing other deputy directors. We have already shortlisted, it is a question of waiting for a date for the interviews and these other posts that we have advertised. Since it includes the operators of the very same yellow fleet that we have ordered, we should make sure that we move with speed so that by the time the yellow fleet arrives we do not wait for operators. At least by the time they start the yellow fleet, we will be able to make sure we utilise them.

I think that we are noting some of the concerns, and we will be able to improve and that we will be able to share like the chair has indicated. They need a progress report on the bermuda roads and the political commitment that we have made for the 3km. For some of them we do 3km, they have committed that it is going to be a multi-year starting in this financial year. We were able to do the 3km so that we are able to move. Like I said, I will just pick on some so that we are able to respond. We are noting the concerns as much as we can, Hon Seshoka. I am standing in for someone else but I am sure that, that person can tell you that most of these issues we will be able to clarify you. In terms of what needs to be done.

I agree with Hon Mdaka that we make more money that can be directed to RAL, because our road infrastructure, honestly speaking, in the province is dilapidated and also that people have been waiting patiently. As and when, committees in particular, are able to hear that they have the documents that they can tell our honourable Phala, they are able to give letters that have been signed for more than 10 years in terms of the commitment that have been made, we will do this, we will do this. At least we are able to say we need to stop the writing of letters and make sure that we implement what we have committed ourselves to. We cannot say, it was not me it is government that has committed that we are to build a road for you. Some of them have designs that they have made for those years. We will just be look into those designs so that as and when we do get money, we are able to commit to some of those roads. I think chair, without waste of time, we are working very well with the portfolio committee and as and when they want reports, we are able to deliver.

The operations Thiba-Mekoti ,Hon Makhurupetje, we are back on it but I think the engagements that we had last Friday with the Minister of Transport has been able to indicate that as Limpopo, we are one of the provinces that has not yet been able to respond to the pothole patching App. As and when we don't that, you find that sometimes it is doing the opposite, in terms of what has been raised by people. What we are going to do is to look at the budget that we have and the grants. We are going to check if we are able to appoint young people who studied ICT who will be able to track, on a daily basis, which potholes and after how many days have been patched so that as and when we do Operation Thiba-Mekoti, we should be able to respond to it.

National is able to track the work that we do. They are able to go and do Operation Thiba-Mekoti, but you find that it does not give true reflection. If we can follow that, it can be give us that advantage that, as national, they will be able to see the progress and spend the grant and give us more money. Thank you so much, honourable chair and all members of the committee. We are indebted to you, and we will continue to work together with you. We know this is a very critical period and a very critical, sensitive one, Hon Seshoka. Actually, on the issue of saving money, much as I work with the portfolio committee, we realised that we were presented with the manual for technology. **There is a brick or pavement, to safe the bricks.** Yesterday, I had a session wherein I was able to say can you quickly tell us what was presented by the National Department of Transport and it seems as if the narrative is cheaper, but when they were explaining it is not necessarily cheaper.

As a province, Hon Makhurupetje, we are engaging the Smelters the load of 'black the whatever' product that you see as you pass. We want to start using it. We are engaging with them so that they also give us those material in order to for us to use it to patch potholes. We can say, we can combine them with lino, they say lino is a certain kind of clue that we can use it and combine it with other materials. We want to see if it cannot be cheaper than ashfall because ashfall is very expensive. Those engagements are on, we will be able to check. The reality of the matter is that with the lino price difference is only R500. The question is how cheap is it to do it. The only cheaper way is the lino and the utilising of bricks The only thing is that it can service the maintenance part. Maintaining an ordinary road can be cheaper, so we also check and engage if indeed if we can utilise

that, can't we save a little bit of money so that we are able to do more roads. The brick that we use on these roads as alluded by the President, part of that road is going to use the bricks in complying. The contractor will be back on site very soon. Thank you so much.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. This brings us to the end of the debates. Let us go to item 8, which is announcements.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at 10:00.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much; you may be seated. Honourable Members of this august House, Members of the Executive Council, 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 Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**ANC'S WELCOMING OF ARRESTS IN VEHICLE ROADWORTHY CERTIFICATE
FRAUD INVESTIGATION
(Motion without Notice)**

I, Che Selane, on behalf of the ANC, hereby table a motion without notice for this House to note that:

- The ANC welcomes the arrest of 12 Limpopo vehicle examiners and administration clerks in connection with an investigation into the fraudulent issuing of vehicle roadworthy certificates.
- The aforementioned group is accused of issuing roadworthy certificates without testing the vehicles.
- The arrests were made on Wednesday, 21 June 2023, at various locations, as a result of the culmination of a lengthy investigation by the Road Traffic Management Corporation and National Traffic Anti-Corruption Unit.
- The suspects, who were employed by a privately owned vehicle testing station in Polokwane, manipulated the system into issuing roadworthy certificates without physically testing the vehicles at the station. These offences were committed

between 2019 and 2021.

- As we welcome these arrests, Hon Speaker, we equally make a clarion call to the courts to impose harsher sentences on these individuals. This is especially important because vehicles that are not roadworthy are a major contributing factor to road crashes and fatalities across the country.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Selane.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we have any other motions without notice? Hon Manganye, you are recognised.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Economic Freedom Fighters party leader and Whip, as well as all honourable Members in the House.

EFF'S CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO LEBO MALOPE FOR FLYING THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLAG HIGH ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to table a motion without notice for this House to note that:

- The EFF congratulates Lebo Malope for showcasing his modelling skills in Paris, France last week. Lebo is from Limpopo, Ephraim Mogale at Elandskraal village near Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture.
- The Limpopo born model, Lebo, will forever cherish A-listers from Beyoncé to Rihanna, Jay Z, Lewis Hamilton, Zendaya, Kim Kardashian and Naomi Campbell watching him as he walked for Pharrell Williams' debut show for Louis Vuitton Men in Paris last week Tuesday.
- This is a testament that given an opportunity, the youth can do wonders with their talents.
- Coming from a poor province such as Limpopo to model at one of the biggest international modelling shows in the world is a significant achievement for the 18-

year-old boy.

- The EFF is proud of Lebo's achievements, and we appeal to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to give him support to harness and nurture his talent.
- We congratulate Lebo for flying the South African flag high on the international stage and for making the people of Limpopo proud.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Manganye.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any further motions without notice? Hon Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

ANC'S WELCOMING OF THE SENTENCING OF JAPHTER MABETLELA FOR MURDERING LEOGANG PRUDENCE LEDIGA (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that:

- The ANC welcomes the sentencing of a man who strangled a woman to death on Tuesday, 19 June 2023.
- The Limpopo High Court in Polokwane sentenced Japhter Mabetlela, aged 34, to life imprisonment as he was charged with the murder of Leogang Prudence Lediga in May 2020.
- The accused conspired with the victim's mother and murdered her because the mother wanted an insurance payout, which would be paid upon the passing of her daughter.
- The victim's mother, who is already serving a 10-year sentence after pleading guilty in 2022, washed her daughter's lifeless body, and changed her clothes before the police could respond to the scene.

- Hon Speaker, we commend the work of the National Prosecuting Authority and the investigating officer who worked tirelessly on this case, ensuring that justice prevails for the life that was cut short.

May her soul continue to rest in peace! I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke ema go thekga se se boletšwego. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have 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 Members' Statements in terms of Rule 199? Hon Mapoulo, you may go ahead please.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, party leader, and Chief Whip of our own organisation, my colleagues on the left, greetings to you all.

**INCOMPLETE ROAD PROJECT IN MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG: AN EMBLEM
OF ANC'S FAILURES
(Members' Statement)**

I rise to present the statement on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters regarding an incomplete road project in Extension 10, Ward 13, Modimolle-Mookgophong.

Hon Speaker, it is quite depressing and sad to see projects collapsing under the watchful eye of this municipality.

Projects get started, and they never get finished. Not only in Modimolle-Mookgophong, but it is a general norm to have incomplete projects in all our municipalities. These incomplete projects are primarily due to political negligence and poor community participation and other ills that are exacerbated by the ANC.

The road project in Extension 10, Ward 13 Modimolle-Mookgophong is one such project that remains incomplete, with no contractor on site.

This 5 km road, dikilomitara tše hlano, fela, which was budgeted at a cost of R19 million, started in 2019 and is still unfinished up to the current year, 2023.

After realising that the project offers a great opportunity to steal money, they turned it into a multi-year project.

Just imagine, a 5 km road turned into a multi-year project. The municipality misused the conditional grant meant for this project to pay workers, as they realised their payroll was in the red.

That is a criminal act because, remember, most of the municipalities did not implement what is promised to the community in the IDP, and that is a criminal offence.

You will leave this House, and within seven days you will present to us a list of all municipalities that did not implement the IDPs. You will go to the police station and file a case against all those municipalities. If you are not going to do it, we will act ourselves.

The contractor claims that the department did not pay him, and he has no money to complete the project. Additionally, the contractor has an obligation to pay workers, and it becomes difficult if the department is not paying him. The government is the primary reason why people are not receiving services they rightfully deserve because they do not pay contractors. I blame the MEC because he is responsible for overseeing these municipalities, and now we are at a standstill.

We are dealing with a government which sabotages service delivery while pretending to provide it.

It is our understanding that projects are budgeted for, so why is the government not paying contractors when, in fact, there is a budget to pay them? This is because they need, "kamina kawena kayena". If you don't get that, you don't pay contractors.

It is for this reason that all government projects must be investigated for possible corruption activities.

We call upon you, the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Basikopo "Ronald" Makamu, to ensure that your house is clean. Within seven days, we need case numbers of all municipalities that did not implement their IDPs in accordance with the law.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any other Members' Statements? Hon Managa, you have the floor.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo, Muhulisei Vho Rosemarry Molapo. Kha vha ntendele ndi lumelise vhashumisani nga nne vha re kha tshanda tshanga tsha monde. U bva afho ndi dovhe hafhu ndi tuwe ndi ye ndi lumelise Mirado vha Khorotshitumbe vhothe vha re fano. Ndi lumelise vhadzulazwidulo vha dzikomiti u ya nga u fhambana havho khathihi na Tshimebi Tshihulwane na tshanda tshavho, Muthusa Mulangadzulo na vhone ndi khou ri, hu rini.

Ndo fara tshitatamennde tshi no bva sibadela tsha Polokwane tshi no khou amba nga ha u sa farwa zwavhudi ha vhalwadze vha no khou lwala vhulwadze ha dzitswio (chronic kidney failure).

CONCERNS OVER SKEWED HEALTHCARE PROVISION FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE IN POLOKWANE HOSPITAL (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters is concerned about the skewed provision of healthcare by the Department of Health in this province. Our observation is that patients suffering from chronic renal failure are ill-treated and neglected by the department. Patients are kept in the hospital for a long time without being attended to, raising false hope while the patients are in dire need of treatment.

The Economic Freedom Fighters has noticed that there are about four patients suffering from chronic renal failure who need chronic renal dialysis and are staying at the hospital only for three weekly treatments.

Those suffering from chronic renal failure require dialysis or a transplant, whether it be haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis or auto peritoneal dialysis, which is supposed to be done at least three to four times per week for three to four hours, depending on the severity of the patient's condition.

The only time a patient should be kept in the hospital is when they have an acute condition and need acute dialysis. However, in the case of patients with chronic renal failure in need of chronic renal dialysis, this can be done as an outpatient service.

Therefore, the question posed by the Economic Freedom Fighters is, how much does it cost the department for one patient to stay at the hospital? Why is the department keeping those patients at the hospital, making them wait on the waiting list while they are already in the hospital?

We call upon the MEC for Health to investigate this matter and find a lasting solution for these patients at Polokwane hospital.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Are there any other Members' Statements? There are none.

Are there any comments from the Executive? Hon Makamu, you may proceed.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

Maybe the first thing I should do is correct the new name I got. I am Rodgers and not Ronald. Therefore, Hon Mapoulo, remember, I am Rodgers Basikopo Makamu, not Ronald.

Hon Speaker, let me welcome the statement about the situation in the Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality. The honourable Member, Hon Mapoulo, spoke about "kamina kawena", which is taking place. In my opinion, Hon Speaker, I don't believe it necessitates any further investigation. The challenges faced in Modimolle-Mookgophong have been well documented and are well known.

We are supporting the municipality. There was a time that we considered placing the municipality under section 139(a), even while we were supporting them.

However, I want to clarify that as a member of the ANC and the MEC for CoGHSTA, I support each and every municipality, irrespective of any political party governing that municipality.

For recording purposes, it is important to note that the Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality is currently led by the Democratic Alliance, with the support of the EFF and the Freedom Front Plus. As a result, the ANC functions as an opposition party within that municipality. [APPLAUSE] Therefore, the responsibility falls on the political parties currently governing the municipality.

On a sombre note, I wish to extend my condolences and say may the soul of the late Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgophong, Cllr Marlene van Staden, rest in peace.

Today, during a Council Sitting a new Mayor will be elected. We hope that the EFF will come to the party in ensuring effective governance of the municipality and that the right individuals lead it to address the challenges as previously mentioned by a fellow Member.

In our view, the support provided to the municipality can be resolved through collaboration among the parties governing there. Hon Speaker, we believe that the support we offer to the municipality will also play a significant role in addressing the concerns raised. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Sekoati, you may respond.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Chief Whip of the majority party, Members of the Executive Council, and distinguished Members of this august House. I agree with Hon Managa that renal care is an essential service that requires significant improvement and deserves serious attention from the Department of Health.

However, it is also important to note that renal care services are not typically provided at the provincial healthcare or primary healthcare level. Hence, many patients come to the tertiary healthcare level seeking these services.

When patients come for treatment, their needs and care levels vary. For anyone in need of renal dialysis, a thorough evaluation should be conducted to determine their readiness and suitability for the procedure. In some instances, patients may remain at provincial hospitals while waiting for dialysis due to their medical conditions. This means they might not necessarily be ready to undergo dialysis. They must first be monitored before being considered for dialysis.

It is important, honourable Member, that if we had these services at a regional level, they would assist in prioritising those who are truly in need. Sometimes, we are under pressure to have patients come in for dialysis as soon as it is their time, but upon arrival, their medical conditions may not allow them to undergo the procedure. This is an area where I believe we can find common ground. The province has made strides in improving renal care, as most patients were traveling to Gauteng for renal dialysis. Therefore, we can proudly say that we have made progress, and the new hospital, which will be at a tertiary level, will allow us to enhance the service and elevate it to a national level of care.

However, what is even more important is that prevention is better than cure. Hence, primary healthcare plays a vital role in ensuring that we don't reach a point where we require dialysis. Therefore, the responsibility of our health lies in our hands. Let us take care of ourselves. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, 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 Financial Fiscal Commission 2024/25 Annual Submission of the Division of Revenue

Honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Chief Whip of the majority party, my colleagues in the Executive Council, leadership of the opposition in the opposition benches and Members of this august House.

**TABLING OF THE FINANCIAL FISCAL COMMISSION 2024/25 ANNUAL
SUBMISSION OF THE DIVISION OF REVENUE
(Tabling of Report)**

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Financial and Fiscal Commission and in compliance with the provisions of section 220(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 as amended and Section 9(1) of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Act, 1997 (Act No 97 of 1997) as amended, I table the Financial and Fiscal Commission submission for referral to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and subsequent report to this august House.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House. Thanks very much. Let's move to the next item.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Education

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, hereby present the 2022/23 Second Quarter Report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the report as tabled by Hon Mdaka.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mdaka, you may proceed.

MR MDAKA

Thank you again, Hon Speaker. I, Falaza Philemon “Magabaza” Mdaka, on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, hereby present the 2022/23 Third Quarter Report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Mdaka.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Mdaka, you may proceed.

MR MDAKA

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, hereby present the 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I thank you very much.

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 motion as tabled by the acting committee chairperson, Hon Falaza Philemon “Magabaza” Mdaka. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers’ List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Caroline Manthata-Mahasela.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members who are in this august House; our Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, Education is the procedure of learning where knowledge and skills are carried from one generation to another, and, thus, they move from that generation to another. It is also important to begin life that way. I am sure it is clear about that.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Education met with the department for discussion, consideration, and adoption of the quarterly performance reports. The purpose of the briefing was to get progress reports on how far programmes of the department are implemented, as well as the implementation report on recommendations made by the Auditor-General.

The NDP highlighted the throughput rates as the main challenge of the system of education. The transition from one phase to the next also has some implications on learner performance due to expectations as they move through phases of schooling.

The Department of Education has been faced with challenges of providing teaching and learning in schools as per the curriculum policy. These are as a result of the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected and disturbed the process of teaching and learning in schools.

Schools were expected to comply with COVID-19 regulations and the standard operating procedures as prescribed by the Department of Basic Education, and as such adjust the new normal schooling process.

Challenges of insufficient infrastructure, water and teacher shortages were cited as the main challenges affecting schooling. Efforts were made to bring relief to schools in order to continue with teaching and learning processes.

During the second quarter, the committee concentrated its attention on the status of the project in relation to the projections at the start of the year. It is at this stage where the committee must assess the state of affairs around the priorities and commitments that were made and check if they are adhered to.

In the third quarter, the committee focused much on the relationships between the inputs and outputs on key programmes of the department, meaning that the committee must continue to seek progress on such to satisfy itself with the use of resources in the implementation process and achievement of its output.

The Fourth Quarter Report is most pertinent in that it arrives in close proximity to the next budget tabled by the Executive. It is at this stage where at least 80% of the work would have been achieved.

As a result, the momentum generated by the work done over the last three quarters not only prepares a committee to issue a judgement on the success or value of the projects, but to do so in conjunction with its consideration of the next financial year's budget. It effectively becomes a key verification mechanism for the committee in relation to the sound planning of the department.

The department's Budget expenditure in this quarter is at 98,5%, as many of the programmes are far lower than the expected Budget expenditure norm. The department has since spent 98,5% of its allocated R37,6 billion to date.

It is further portrayed that the department has underspent on almost all the programmes with the exception of Public Special School Education and Public Ordinary School Education where 99,1% and 99,4% was spent respectively. However, the department has drastically underspent on ECD programme, which is far below 90% Budget expenditure.

The Portfolio Committee on Education visited the 13 special schools in the province and made certain recommendations to the department, which must report to the committee on progress made before 30 September 2023 regarding the following:

- The department must ensure that all special schools in the province are provided with hostel or boarding facilities, appropriate sanitation facilities and school furniture suitable for the needs of learners with special needs;
- It must build proper schools for learners with special needs;
- It must ensure that teachers are trained on special needs education;
- It must develop an exit plan or strategy for learners with special needs; and
- It must also ensure that there are therapists, nurses, and other relevant specialists in special schools.

The portfolio committee made further recommendations to the department regarding all the challenges they are faced with and must report to the committee on progress made before 30 September 2023.

The department must:

- Ensure that all public schools are provided with sanitation facilities and water;
- Improve infrastructure programme to address infrastructural challenges and curriculum delivery support in schools; and
- Report quarterly on projects, plans and commitments made both in SOPA by the Premier and in the Budget Speech by the MEC for the Department of Education.

Hon Speaker, the committee after scrutinising the Second, the Third and Fourth Quarter Performance Reports of the Department of Education, I move that this report be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela. The next speaker is Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou lumelisa vhashumisani na vhaeni vhashu vha re ngei ntha. Ndi khou lumelisa Tshimebi Tshihulwane tsha Lihoro lashu la EFF na

vhashumisani nae. Ndi khou lumelisa Mirado yotha ine ya vha hafha nga ngomu Lufherani lwa Vhusimamilayo. Ndi khou amba hezwi ndo rumelwa nga Lihoro la EFF.

Hon Speaker, this department is the champion of underspending. A classic example is the period under review. Underspending was recorded from programme 1 to programme 6 of the department during the second quarter. This is embarrassing and disgusting.

The culture of underspending compromises service delivery, and it must never be tolerated and accepted as a norm. It must be rooted out completely. Underspending was also evident on such crucial programme as scholastic stationary, ECD centres, school furniture as well as filling of crucial positions.

This is the direct invitation of dysfunctionality and collapse of the already poorly led department. The performance of the political leadership in this department leaves much to be desired and unless something drastic is done to correct the situation, the department is going down.

The EFF is disappointed that there was no scheduled maintenance project completed in all the targeted schools. Again, we are told about budget limitations, but how do you set targets and not set aside budget for implementation of the projects, in this case the schools that were earmarked for maintenance? It does not make sense at all.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Education recommended that the department must report to the committee on progress made before 30 September 2023.

The committee recommended the following:

- The department must ensure that all public schools are provided with sanitation facilities and water.
- It must improve Infrastructure Development programme to address infrastructural challenges and curriculum delivery support in schools.
- It must report quarterly on projects, plans and commitments made both in SOPA by the Premier and in the Budget Speech by the MEC for the Department of Education.
- The MEC must table a comprehensive progress report to this House in the next Sitting to take Members into her confidence that indeed the mandate of the committee was carried out.

Hon Speaker, what is the department's plan to improve on the 2023 matric results? Furthermore, what is the department's plan to reduce the number of learners who drop out of school because this is one of the reasons for escalating illiteracy in communities?

The EFF notes that the class of 2023 could not complete the Grade 10 curriculum because of the rotation time-tabling model that most schools adopted due to COVID-19. We are concerned that most of the learners in matric this year lack the foundational curriculum knowledge of the work expected in Grade 12.

What is the plan to assist these learners in order to achieve good matric results this year? The EFF is disturbed that almost half of the bursary holders were placed within six months upon completion due to mismatch between vacancies and subjects' qualifications of bursary holders.

The mismatch only arises when the department is disorganised. It only happens when people do not know what they are doing. Lastly, Hon Speaker, this mismatch is shocking and embarrassing, to say the least. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Maraga. The next speaker is Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. In our province where we have been struggling for years to improve our education performance outcomes, we really have to do things differently. We have to go back to the basics as well as getting into proactive mode instead of reactive mode.

Analysing these reports and the way they are written is telling a story of "being stuck" in a template. Pages which are just a repeat from a previous report is a waste of time, energy and is just a proverbial "ticking the boxes" exercise. Can it really be that absolutely nothing changes from one quarter to the next, except the figures? One can easily argue that no wonder we don't improve as nothing changes.

Quarter 3 saw 28 schools with learners who were not funded due to noncompliance as public ordinary schools only receive funding on condition that they submit their audited annual financial statements. There should be no repetition of noncompliance from these schools. One independent school underperformed in 2021 in Grade 12 results, which led to their subsidy being withdrawn for the 2022 academic year. In the fourth quarter, three independent schools were listed after having failed to qualify for their subsidies due to noncompliance.

With regard to the appointment of therapists to schools and the cost related to it, we need to ascertain whether we have consulted the national Minister on the possibility of engaging her counterpart, the Minister for Health, to enter into an agreement to have these therapists doing their community service years at our schools, especially our special need schools. Many students do not get placed, yet they have to do their practical years, and we know there is a dire need in education for these services.

Both quarters reported on Early Childhood Development (ECD) being transferred from the Department of Social Development. We know there are multiple challenges including budgets, lack of classrooms and qualified teachers in this field. ECD is crucial in preparing children for school, particularly where our children come from environments of low stimulation.

We need formal Grade R classes at every primary school in the province. A formal curriculum based on a thoroughly researched understanding of the cognitive development is required to prepare a child for success in Grade 1 and beyond. A strong language acquisition is important to ensure that learners enter Grade 1 with the necessary linguistic skills to process learning and learning materials. A formal qualification for Grade R teachers is non-negotiable. The recognition of qualified people as Grade R teachers and the registration and compensation of these professionals as such is necessary.

In conclusion, Speaker, in the global knowledge economy success depends on quality education. Those with quality education can fulfil their potential. Those without it are destined to remain excluded from opportunities and dependent on the state to survive. Let's do better for our children. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Maritz, it is your turn.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, regarding quarter three, the department spent 57,9% of the allocated budget, and they did not supply even half of their plans with sanitation facilities, which is very concerning as the department always say that sanitation is a priority. Why doesn't the department appoint reliable contractors who can deliver? This is an ongoing problem.

On Programme 5: Early Childhood Development, the expenditure was 83,6%, which is concerning. The children are our future, and they deserve better. Regarding the 23 schools which were closed, the concern is that those buildings are going to be vandalised. The department should decide if it is going to use the buildings or rent them out, and there should be security to prevent vandalism.

On Programme 6: Infrastructure Development, the expenditure was 93,5%. It is very concerning; the balance could've been used for maintenance of several schools that are in need of maintenance, which we saw during our oversight visits. The balance could've gone a long way. The department must get reliable contractors that can do the job within a given time frame. Regarding the 28 schools that were not funded due to noncompliance, the department must help those schools to become compliant to help the children because they are the ones suffering due to noncompliance by the principals and staff.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Hon Mdaka, acting chair, it is your turn.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable MECs, Hon Leader of the Opposition, Hon Chief Whip and honourable Members. Allow me to greet you all in the

name of the African National Congress. I stand before you on behalf of the chairperson of the committee, Hon Violet Mathye, who could not be here requested me to represent her in this debate.

Indeed, as highlighted earlier on, the issue of us as a committee meeting the department for a briefing of the 2022/23 second, third and fourth quarter financial and performance reports took place. I believe that all Members who came here were part of that meeting. The purpose of the briefing was to monitor the performance of the seven programmes of the Department of Education and to monitor how the department was progressing with the implementation of its 2022/23 plans and how it spends its funds.

Madam Speaker, the department has plans. I am not responding on behalf of the MEC. It is like our department does not have plans. It has plans which were adopted by us as the committee, and that is what we are debating today. The committee used those quarterly performance reports to conduct its oversight role on how the department is spending public money, and thereby delivering services to our communities.

Madam Speaker, allow me start to quote the icon of the world, Nelson Mandela, when he said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" and Malcolm X on education when he said, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." Albert Einstein the world renowned philosopher once said, "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and only cease at death." Victor Hugo said, "He [One] who opens a school door, closes a prison." Why am I raising or quoting these different quotes by various leaders, including our own icon? It is because education is the solution to many of the challenges that we face, including how we debate the issues presented to us. Education is the solution. We will always make sure that we debate to provide solutions to the challenges that we are facing as a nation.

Madam Speaker, the challenges that we face, viz., high rate of crime, high poverty levels, spiralling unemployment, inequality in our society and low economic growth, etc., can be resolved through an effective educational system including those who can take action and take the country to new heights. Our system should be able to produce future learners with Maths and Science who can contribute to technological innovation, who can become seasoned entrepreneurs, and not tenderpreneurs, thereby creating employment opportunities for others and not those who learn to be only certificated and finally demand jobs from government.

The vision of the department, as outlined in its mission statement, is to achieve excellence in provisioning of innovative quality basic education, not forgetting that we have set a target for ourselves that by 2030, we should have dealt with the issue of illiteracy and numeracy problem that is bedevilling our province and the nation at large. These are topical issues at the moment. Some of us are products of adult education. We learnt from home. We are products of ABET. We were fired from schools for no reason in 1978, but we never stopped studying to this day so that we can contribute properly to the advancement of our nation as a whole. If we do what we are supposed to do, we will no longer be lamenting about our kids being unable to read and write. Yes, our kids cannot read or write. We have been saying this for years now. The question is, what is it that we are doing about it?

The Department of Education takes the biggest chunk of the more than R64 billion that is allocated to the province yearly, if I am not mistaken. We see the expenditures and the Auditor-General's reports and our quest for clean audit. Our clean audit should be when our kids are able to read and write every; when we can produce more than 80% pass rate every academic year; and when we can pass the majority of our children from the foundation grade to the high school, not through progression, but through merit. Yes, the progression policy is there to make an intervention, but it can't just be a norm.

Madam Speaker, allow me to quote one American author, Leo Buscaglia, who once said, "The best students come from homes where education is revered: where there are books, and children see their parents reading them." Therefore, parents must be involved in shaping the education of their children, not by participating in school governing bodies to fight for the appointment of local teachers when there are vacancies, but by supporting them to read, inculcating the culture of reading books by reading books as parents themselves. The involvement of parents should go beyond just sloganeering or just participating in parents' meetings and SGBs.

The reports indicated that on Administration, which is programme 1 of the department, the department managed to spend 97,3%. If you get 97% in an exam, that is a good pass. That means the department is doing something. It is spending the money. It is not just spending money; it is spending money for the right cause. I disagree with those who are saying it is embarrassing when the department is ready to spend. Maybe they are like me who is from an ABET-kind of a situation, and therefore, cannot understand some of these figures. To me, 97% to me means the department has done something. On Public Ordinary School Education, whose purpose is to provide public ordinary education from grade 1 to 12, in accordance with the South African Schools Act, the department spent 99,8% of its Budget. Therefore, I do not need to elaborate on this. I do not understand why some Members did not see this; maybe it is just by omission. I can go further to say the department has spent 99,4% of the budget allocated to programme 2 in quarter 4 of the 2022/23 financial year, which is commendable.

Hon Speaker, let us make sure that we correct those who are in positions of power in a proper manner and not just criticise for the sake of criticising. However, with regard to the target of absorption of bursary holders, only half of the total of 602 bursary holders were placed within six months upon completion due to mismatch between vacancies and subjects' qualifications of bursary holders. It boggles the mind as funding of the programme is supposed to be informed by shortages of critical skills in the department. How come that we are unable to place bursary holders? The department must explain why this happened. Now what happened to the other bursary holders who were not placed? Why did you only place 60% and not 80% as approved in the APP of the 2022/23 financial year. These are the areas that we need to focus on, particularly if we want them to be employed and not just let them go home and join those who have graduated and doing nothing.

As I move towards conclusion, on Independent School Subsidies, the purpose of the programme is to support independent schools in accordance with the South African

Schools Act. The department again spent 98,9% of the allocated budget to the programme to date, which is okay. I don't think I need to go further and further.

Madam Speaker, as stated in the reports, the number of learners in public special schools is 8 840 compared to 8 159, while the number of therapists in special schools is 42 as presented in the APP and not 32 as reported in the Fourth Quarter Report. Nevertheless, our position and recommendation as a portfolio committee is that therapists must be appointed in all special schools as a matter of urgency.

Hon Speaker, notwithstanding issues that need further clarity and action by the department, the committee after scrutinising the 2022/23 Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports of the Department of Education supports that these reports be adopted as reports of this honourable House. We would like to emphasise that the brief of the department is to educate a child and not to build structures.

It is not an overexaggeration to say the department has a huge task of improving the quality of our results in all grades. Our Grade 12 results are a thorn in our flesh. We are always regarded as much lower as compared to other Grade 12 results in other provinces. Ours should, therefore, not be about building structures, but building human beings and moulding leaders of tomorrow. We should leave the provision of classrooms to the Department of Public Works and concentrate more on our core mandate in line with the department's vision of achieving excellence in providing innovative quality basic education from foundation stage to Grade 12. The Chinese proverb says, "Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I'll understand." We must, therefore, continue to involve our people in all aspects that affect their lives. Our learners must be actively involved in their own educational development and not just take a passive seat nor carry books to school every day and not read them. Let us read books ourselves for them to copy from us and imitate us.

Lastly, allow me because I have educational issues here to quote Aristotle once more, when he said, "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." Education will bear sweet fruits for the nation in the end. Let us be a reading nation. Let us be a winning nation. Teachers, parents and learners, and communities together, let us unite for the education of our children.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable acting chair.

7.3 Second Reading: Approval of Budget Vote 3 and Schedule: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Education

Acting chair, Hon Mdaka, it is your turn.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you can see, I am the acting chairperson, and I was called last night. I was awake until 2:00 in the morning to try and prepare myself for this moment. I had to be assisted by the Deputy Speaker on item 7.3.1.1: Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Education.

I, Falaza Mdaka, on behalf of the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, hereby present the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Education for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as tabled by the acting chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Hon Philemon “Magabaza” Mdaka, who could not even sleep last night.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. You are done, honourable acting chair. You can move back to your seat. We are now on Second Reading Debate on Budget Vote 3. We shall now refer to the Speakers’ List. Hon Manthata-Mahasela, it is your turn.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I did sleep. As I have already greeted everybody in this august House, let me just continue with my speech.

Hon Speaker, education helps society to alleviate poverty and hunger, and allows people to prosper. The existence of human beings is fruitless without education. An educated person has the ability to change the conditions around him. Education develops a meaningful outlook in society. It plays a major role in individual empowerment and self-dependence. Education provides the nation with manpower, promotes national unity and uplifts public awareness. A country needs different kinds of manpower such as doctors, teachers, nurses, judges, economists, administrators, and other technical manpower. It makes all people to be conscious and understand their classes if they live in a class society.

We welcome the Budget Speech as presented by the honourable MEC. The MEC presented an amount of R38,188 billion as an appropriation for this financial year. The department’s expenditure is financed by the equitable share, conditional grants, and own revenue sources. The overall budget has increased by 4,8% and the equitable share accounts of 89,3% of the total Budget. The committee is of the view that the appropriation for this financial year is spent accordingly and helps the province to improve its matric

results, and also be on a higher rating than the previous year because education is very important. Limpopo province is a rural province. If the department could roll up its sleeves, those who are going to pass Grade 12 will help their families and communities out of poverty and then prosper.

During his SOPA, the Premier announced the following projects that will be implemented by the department:

- Construction of 10 new school projects for the 2023/24 financial year;
- Building of 150 classrooms;
- Attending to schools that have inadequate sanitation; and
- Ensuring that 105 000 children aged 0–4 years access registered ECD programmes in community-based centres throughout the province.

The committee, therefore, implores the department to report quarterly on the implementation of these projects. The committee commends the department for its plan to supply 200 schools with indoor and outdoor resources, and encourages it to continue with reading, writing, spelling and Mathematics competitions. This helps the learners to gain exposure and confidence about what they learn and also to become Mathematics wizards.

The committee observed that the majority of learners who pass junior schools to higher schools are struggling to read and spell words. The department must put pressure on schools where learners do not know how to read and spell words because when they meet their peers from other schools who know how to read and spell, they become a laughingstock and, as a result, their self-confidence diminishes.

The EPWP programme is allocated R17 million that will be used to appoint 562 young people in the 2023/24 financial year. This allocation has been slightly reduced as compared to the R18 million that was allocated in the 2022/23 financial year. This allocation is critical in that young people who are out of school and do get little work experience are able to improve their living conditions, although slightly. These types of jobs should also involve skills training so that when those contracts end, those young people continue to make ends meet or are absorbed on a full-time basis as school administrators.

The committee will implement its oversight role over the department to ensure that these projects become a success because they enhance the functionality of the schools. The department should report to the House through the committee on a quarterly basis on the implementation of these projects.

Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the APP and Budget for the 2023/24 financial year. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manthata-Mahasela. Hon Managa, it is your turn.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters notes that the total Budget allocated to this department for 2023/24 was R38,188 billion. Furthermore, the overall budget has been increased by 4,8% year on year from R36,445 billion main appropriation in 2022/23 to R38,188 billion in 2023/24. Despite this increase, it has never translated into tangible service delivery on the ground, which is unfortunate and regrettable. Our understanding is that any budgetary increases must translate into more service delivery, benefiting more of our people.

The Economic Freedom Fighters rejects this budget from the onset because it does not prioritise service delivery needs of our learners. It is meant to feed corruption appetite of those who are at the helm of the department; it has nothing to do with catering of educational needs of our children. Conditional grants made up 89,2% of the total Budget. Can the MEC report to this House if no conditional grant was returned to National Treasury in the previous financial year?

Despite the increased allocated budget, small schools are not allocated teachers, and schools end up using people who are not trained to teach ECDs. Furthermore, ECD educators work under strenuous conditions while earning peanuts. They do not enjoy the same benefits as medical aid and housing allowance that other teachers are enjoying. The ECD teachers work for the rest of their lives without any pension fund, and when they retire, they retire with nothing. Recently in one funeral of an ECD teacher in Capricorn, the family members accused the school manager and the circuit manager of not making sure that the ECD teacher is hired permanently and enjoys benefits like all the other teachers. Little did they know that the problem was not with the school manager and the circuit manager; the problem was with the system. School managers and circuit managers are on the firing line for the failures of the department.

In small schools, Grade R and Grade 1 learners are taught in a multigrade system because of a shortage of posts. This compromises the foundation of education to our learners as these learners just come to school to eat and sleep. All schools must be provided with ECD teachers in order to give our children a proper educational foundation.

Hon Speaker, how many storm-damaged schools were maintained and repaired in the previous financial year? Can we get a breakdown in terms of districts regarding the number of storm-damaged schools which were maintained and repaired? The department spends a lot of money on Mvula Trust to build ablution facilities in schools, but thieves steal and vandalise the facilities. We call upon the MEC to prioritise hiring security guards in schools not only to protect the infrastructure, but teachers and learners as well.

The department promised to start feeding learners with instant soft porridge from April this year, and there was huge excitement on the part of learners. In the majority of schools, the instant soft porridge was not given in April because service providers complain that the department is underpaying them while the instant soft porridge is expensive. This causes confusion amongst parents, as some schools continue to feed learners with soft porridge while other schools fed learners with soft porridge only in April.

In conclusion, despite the EFF's cry over the years, circuit offices remain understaffed, with no subject advisors to give teachers support in schools. Madam Speaker, this is the government of the ANC for you. I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, it is your turn.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. A tool that our children can use to end poverty and unemployment despite their circumstances of birth, geography, race or gender is education. It is thus important that this department realises its important mandate to monitor the standards of the provision, delivery, and performance of education. Budget planning is the perfect time for a caring government to correct shortcomings in the Department of Education and should propose a way forward that will support positive, outcome-based programmes to benefit the education of our children.

Whilst noting that the Department of Education received the biggest allocation of the budget of over R38,188 billion, it means nothing if it is not spent on what is needed for our children's education, or worse, if it is spent wrongly, as is the history of this department over many years. I can speak on this factually as I previously served on this committee from September 2009 till election 2014 in Limpopo and many years in Parliament as well. The province having the worst matric results and unacceptable dropout figures is proof amongst other factors. It can never be justified that 91,1% of the total Education Budget is spent on compensation of employees. Such a huge outlay of resources on personnel will leave nothing for the core mandate of the department and ultimately shortchange our learners.

Hon MEC, what is your department spending in this budget on teaching our children to read for meaning, and what are your set targets? PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) report released recently stated that one in five Grade 4 children cannot read for meaning in any language. More than half of Grade 6 children can't read for meaning when tested on Grade 4 levels. These tests show that we have lost at least a decade of progress. Limpopo registered low reading scores at Grade 3, Grade 6 and Grade 9 level.

It is also worrying that the Early Learning National Assessment (ELNA) emerging literacy by language showed that Sepedi, Tshivenda and Xitsonga all ranked below the national mean of 64%. Limpopo was also second last on emerging literacy by province and also below the national mean. What precisely have you allocated from the mere 8,9% remainder in your budget towards ensuring all our children can read with comprehension in Grade 4. If learners can't read, they are doomed before they even begin.

An allocation of over R1,486 billion is made for Infrastructure spending this year, does this include the eradication of all pit toilets in our schools? If not, when will all the pit toilets be replaced? The MEC confirmed in the Budget Speech that water and sanitation infrastructure projects for 137 schools are under construction, but the scope of these is

not clear and it remains to be seen what impact they will have on our ailing school infrastructure.

In 2013, when the norms and standards for public school infrastructure were signed into law, they immediately banned plain pit latrines and a deadline was set to eradicate them. Yet in Limpopo, we still have around 200 schools with pit toilets, and this is not acceptable as they are death traps as recent history has shown us. The Infrastructure Development budget is far too little to deal with the demands of our collapsing infrastructure, let alone the demands of the new infrastructure that is needed. This has resulted in an infrastructure backlog and infrastructure maintenance backlog that continues to grow at a faster rate than the amount of budget for Infrastructure Development.

Will this infrastructure allocation also address 93,95% of schools without laboratories; 93,3% of schools without libraries; and 85% of schools without computer centres?

Hon Speaker, as it is, our classrooms are overcrowded, and there is a serious shortage of desks and chairs. This is in no way conducive for quality learning conditions. Is the budget addressing this, if not, why and when will it?

The MEC mentioned in her speech that the National School Nutrition Programme was allocated a budget of R1,6 billion and will serve meals to learners in 3 552 primary and secondary schools and also to 35 special schools, but it is an embarrassment that this programme still has to deal with challenges such as suppliers who do not deliver food, substandard quality of food and food not being stored properly because of poor infrastructure. The increase of learners to benefit from scholar transport from 47 276 to 59 905 learners this year is welcome, but the safety of the learners and the compliance of service providers with traffic safety regulations remains a major problem that must be better managed.

In conclusion, I have to emphasise the aging infrastructure of our special needs schools, their hostels and lack of appropriate learning materials.

This sector has been the stepchild of this department for far too long and its needs should be addressed in this budget. They are our children and should also be educated in a dignified and well-resourced environment. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Maritz, it is your turn.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the MEC stated in her Budget Speech that the department has planned and budgeted the following for this financial year:

- Renovation of 31 ECD centres;
- Construction of one low-cost ECD centre in Mopani East;
- Funding of 2 109 ECD centres;

- Conducting advocacy workshops for all new ECD centres still to be registered; and
- A call for funding for the new ECD centres for the 2024/25 to the 2025/26 financial years will be advertised.

However, the department does not utilise the full Budget that is allocated to it. In quarter 4, the department only spent 83,6%. The balance is R104 million and could have been used for renovations and funding of ECD centres.

Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus urges the department to find reliable contractors with experience and good references. We all know that the same challenges will face the department regarding the contractors appointed; they won't perform, and the children will be the ones suffering. If there is less corruption, there will be more development. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mdaka, you may come to the podium.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as you are aware, this debate is about the APP and Budget of the Department of Education. I, therefore, once more greet all honourable Members, MECs, and invited guests in the gallery.

Hon Speaker, the committee commended and welcomed the briefing by the department that the following new projects will be implemented during this financial year:

- Rapid response intervention will be strengthened and internalised in all 32 circuits in the 10 districts that performed below 65%. Mediocrity is not supposed to not be a norm in the province. We need to make sure that we perform above 70%, or even above 80%. Why can't we get that pass rate? The committee was briefed that R70 million was set aside for these intervention plans.
- Again, we are implementing as the department has planned. There will be intensive training on curriculum management for the district support to support all principals of underperforming schools. There will be induction workshops for newly appointed SMTs on their roles and responsibilities. You will find that people are sitting on their laurels. They must be hard at work and there must be managers who are in charge of the future of our kids. Training for the SGB members on the code of conduct so that they do not become an impediment to the way the department is run, compilation and auditing of social and financial systems.
- The department planned to renovate 31 ECD centres in our province as the foundation stages are more important.

The committee will work with the department to ensure that all these plans are implemented. When I say the committee, I refer to the opposition parties who are also

members of the portfolio committee. We have to work together. We cannot politicise the issue of education. We must make sure that, indeed, we bring change.

However, they have a long way to improve the functionality of our schools. Therefore, the department must develop a strategy on how the intervention plans will be implemented. Since there are public funds involved, we must make sure that we never fail.

It was reported that the National School Nutrition Programme received an allocation of R1,6 billion, which is quite good to realise that we take this issue of feeding our children seriously. However, we should not be like other provinces, where you find that because of the tenders issues and so on, the kids end up not getting the food every day.

During the engagement with the department, the committee noted the discrepancy in the APP and what was said by the MEC. The MEC reported that the department is planning to roll out school breakfast to all primary schools. The APP is silent about the rollout of school breakfast to primary schools. I hope the MEC will tell us how this is going to happen because it is not there in the APP.

It was reported that, again, in the Vhembe West and Waterberg districts, learners in schools that receive school nutrition will be supplied with meals with additional protein products. The choice of only two districts was a serious concern for us because the Deputy Speaker and I are from Vhembe. How did the department arrive at that decision?

We, therefore, feel that all learners must receive food with protein. I have seen the small kids, honourable Members, on the WhatsApp group where the vulture was waiting for the child who was dying from hunger and possibly malnutrition. The vulture was waiting to finish off the child. It was there on social media. You might have seen that. I do not remember that country. After all, I do not want to mention another country as I belong to South Africa.

I am afraid that we might have a similar problem here in Vhembe when there is a problem of food nutrition. However, the department managed to explain to us that this is just a pilot programme. It will roll out to all the provinces so that our kids get food with more nutrients than what they are getting at the moment. It can also assist in making sure that their brains function properly and that they have the energy to read and understand, and to reproduce whatever they have learnt.

Another pressing issue that we considered in this year's APP is the safety of learners in public schools. The committee observed that the department is not considering the provision of safety in the APP. Most of the schools are terrorised; learners and teachers live in fear because of gangsterism in schools. Most of these schools are in rural areas. Maybe the department must in future develop a plan on the safety matter and include it in the APP.

We know that funds are always a challenge, but we should, indeed, do something to make sure that learning takes in a safe environment where everyone is involved. In other areas, without specifically referring to the name of the school, you might have seen in the news

that teachers and learners are dying. We do not want it to be a very serious problem where we lose lives in our province.

In conclusion, as we have had a long day, Hon Speaker, allow us to indicate that as the committee, we support the adoption of the APP presented by the department and the Budget presented by the MEC, as the reports of the House. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. We shall now call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, to come and respond to the debate. Honourable MEC, you may come to the podium.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Ndi matsheloni. Thank you, Hon Speaker. We want to thank the acting chair. His energy and laughter have also influenced us. We are okay this morning. Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; colleagues; honourable MECs; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Hon Violet Mathye, who is represented by Hon Mdaka; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition in the House; honourable Members of the House; DG Mashaba and team Education present here today, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, let me start by appreciating all the issues that have been raised by the honourable Members of the House. I want to confirm that we take note of the issues that they have raised. Where we need to go back to the drawing board to assess and improve, we are going to do that.

Let me also confirm, Hon Speaker, that this week for the Department of Education continues to be its best week as we know that each week, we have got a target of what we want to achieve. In supporting sports in our special schools, this morning we just received the special Olympic team that was in Germany through its chairperson, Dr Mathews Phosa. They have just landed at O R Tambo, and we have got a team of SBGs and communication welcoming them. As Limpopo, we were represented by three athletes from Tshilwavhusiku Special School, Rehlahleng Special School, and Ndlovu Youth Centre.

In terms of the awards that we have won as Limpopo from the Special Olympics, Thato Mohlala from Rehlahleng Special School has won two bronze medals in table tennis for both singles and doubles competitions. Tshedza Rathumbu from Tshilwavhusiku Special School has won the silver medal in table tennis, and he is from Ravele. [APPLAUSE]

With that, Hon Speaker, it shows that as the department we are hearing what the Legislature, through the committee, wants us to do. I think the debate this morning also focuses on us improving and strengthening the special schools. We have heard you. We are starting with sports, and we will continue to do that.

We have declared war. We are on a good track to improve infrastructure, and the following is being done in terms of addressing the issues raised on the infrastructure:

- We are providing sanitation and reticulation with taps and pumps in all our schools in the province. If you are following us, you will see that from both reports that the Members were debating, we have started to improve on the plans.
- We do not leave the site before we improve the school. We have started to include the kitchen facility as you have seen that we did win position 1 at national level for the kitchen facility. Now we have also included paving to reduce dirt in our classes in all the schools where we are painting and doing maintenance.
- On sanitation, we look at the ages. You will remember that the Komape Case in Limpopo was about the setting of the toilet that was for an adult. We have to prioritise our happy feet and the small ones. When we do our sanitation, Hon Speaker, we are also now prioritising and looking at the ages. If you can go to our sanitations that we are building now at our primary schools, you will find the ones that fit the happy feet and the ones that go by the ages and the setting for the older ones.
- We have also started with the demolition of a pit latrines, which for us as the department is an achievement. You will remember when we speak about sanitation, we have to eliminate pit latrines, and we have started. The school that has just officially opened last week is our first school, among others, where we are going to intensify the demolitions of pit latrines. Therefore, we are saying to you as the Legislature we heard what you want us to improve.

There was a question on the mismatch on Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme, which is being run by the DBE and ourselves; we are indeed listening. However, like I indicated last week when I was answering questions, in Limpopo there are specific subjects that we are gradually prioritising, and we need that. We will always assist those who are going to school. For us not have a mismatch in Limpopo, we will always profile what we need as the province. With regard to the learning gaps created by COVID-19, the department, as presented during our Budget, will develop a catch-up programme to address the learning gaps that were there because of COVID-19.

Under the ECD, we needed to have a verification programme. Since it has been completed, the first round of maintenance has been done through the implementing agency, Public Works. We have since officially launched ECDs and accepted them in our department. Already, our ECDs have got the curriculum because our responsibility is to offer education and the correct path that the learners have to take.

We have since opened the Masisi ECD Centre as one of those that have been maintained and upgraded by Public Works. Masisi ECD Centre is replenished. We will be following up in all 27 municipalities of our province to check the ECDs beyond just the maintenance and upgrading thereof to verify if we have got the materials, toys, and coding programmes for them.

The issue of underexpenditure that has been raised was due to the maintenance programme that was not completed during the term under review, but currently, we have done that. Underspensing on the school furniture was due to contract delays. You would remember that the contract that we are still using as the department was done before COVID-19.

Since we have been able to be out of COVID-19, discussions with the service provider have been concluded. Committee members would agree with me that we have started to deliver the furniture. On the issue of the slow progress of maintenance and our failure to spend in terms of what we had planned to achieve, we are currently having a panel of contractors that we are using to assist the implementing agency deal with maintenance.

In terms of the learner dropout, which is one of the issues that we have raised, Hon Speaker, you would remember that the statistics have gone down both in primary and secondary schools. However, as the Department of Basic Education, beyond just introducing the meals at schools to reduce the dropout rate because of poverty, Hon Mdaka has further explained the importance of the food that we provide so that we do not have any learners that stay away because of poverty.

At the secondary level, we are addressing the issue of the General Education Certificate (GEC), where we are going to address the challenges. Our learners who will exit at Grade 10 will be accepted at TVET colleges, and that is how far we are planning together with the Department of Higher Education.

Hon Speaker, all ECD practitioners have to be trained and we need to upgrade them to NQF level 6. As they upgrade, we need to prioritise vacancies for them so that they can apply just like any other person and be employed.

You will remember that as the department we have been given a task to assess all the infrastructure challenges that are there. When we presented the Budget, which is under debate now, we did indicate our plans in terms of how we are going to deal with that.

I want to thank the committee for the support and the oversight visits that it conducted. As the department, when we get feedback, we start to understand how we should do things differently.

The community out there together with the SGBs does appreciate your oversight visits as well because through your assessment and feedback, we are able to do things quicker.

However, what is important about the oversight visits is that in one year, the department together with the committee from the Legislature can be able to visit more than 3 000 schools in the province.

It is important to share because I have seen that as we debate the report under review, there is an argument that keeps coming up that there is no change. What is change? Change is when we are making something different, or we are altering or modifying it.

The fact that we are debating the report that has been presented to the Legislature through the committee means that there is change. It is just that it is not 100%. I would urge Members to desist from saying there is no change; rather, they should argue correctly and say, there is change, but it is not 100%.

I want to pose a question to honourable Members of the Legislature who are saying that they are not supporting the Budget to be used, what is it that you are saying to the community that has elected you to Parliament? Then you are saying the Department of Education should close up shop and sit at home until you have changed your minds. That cannot be possible under this ANC-led government. We need to continue to give change to society.

We are aware that as Basic Education, our role is to strengthen the economic activities by producing an entrepreneur learner of the 21st century, and by that, we will have quality graduates who can stimulate the economic activities of our country.

With regard to rapid response intervention, we have started with the accountability sessions with underperforming schools for both accountability and support. On behalf of the Department of Education, we want to thank the honourable Members for the debate and the issues raised. As articulated, before 30 September 2023, we should be able to submit the updated report on how we are dealing with our APP. Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.5 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Committee on Oversight Mechanism:

7.5.1 2022/23 Second Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature

Committee chairperson, you may take the podium.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, honourable MECs present here, honourable Members and Leader of the Opposition present here, I greet you all.

On behalf of our chair, who is attending to a family bereavement, because she has lost her mother, I hereby request this honourable House to consider and adopt the 2022/23 Second Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature. Thank you, Hon Chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, acting chair, Hon Matlou. Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second another acting chairperson, Hon Leswafo Joshua Matlou, for the report that he has tabled in the House on behalf of the committee. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala.

7.5.2 2022/23 Third Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature

Hon Matlou, you may take the podium.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby request this House to consider and adopt the 2022/23 Third Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report presented by Hon Matlou. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

7.5.3 2022/2023 Fourth Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature

Hon Matlou, you may take the podium.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby request this honourable House to consider and adopt the 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second Hon Leswafo Joshua Matlou, the acting chair. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate. The first speaker is Hon Masemola. Hon Masemola, you may come to the podium.

DR MASEMOLA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, honourable MECs present here, Chief Whip as well as the Deputy Chief Whip, Leader of the Official Opposition and other opposition parties, Hon Premier in absentia, esteem Members of the Provincial Legislature, comrades, friends, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all.

We gather here today to debate the report presented by the Committee on Oversight Mechanism for the 2022/23 financial year. Importantly, therefore, this debate coincides with the 68th celebration of the adoption of the Freedom Charter that was adopted on 26 June 1955, an important document that remains our maximum development plan which guides our approach to development and the framework within which the national democratic revolution is advanced.

Importantly, therefore, this honourable House, which is the seed of democracy in our province, should continuously work hard towards the utter realisation of this document of historic significance as we change the lives of our people.

The extent to which we have moved in its implementation is evidenced by the progress made through socioeconomic transformation and the key milestones achieved, well-documented and recorded in bettering the basic conditions of our people, the course of national importance to which we remain committed.

As honourable Members, I suppose we will continue to demonstrate our collective efforts to fundamentally change patterns of ownership and ensure that the production resources of our country benefit the primary motive forces of our revolution.

At the centre of the process that we are undertaking are the primary agents of change, class-conscious social forces in society which believe in social justice based on access, equity, participation as well as human rights.

Equally, Hon Speaker, this Sitting is taking place at the time when yesterday, on 26 June 2023, the University of South Africa celebrated its sesquicentennial, which is 150 years of existence of any organisation since its establishment in 1873 – a real milestone in the learning, teaching, and research space as the institution of higher learning that boosts more than 1 million graduates in various fields of study over the period of its existence.

Therefore, it remains a constitutional imperative of this House to continue to hold the Executive accountable and primarily locate the people at the centre of the law-making process and the overall administration activities of government as the Freedom Charter says, "The People Shall Govern!"

We met with the administrative leadership of the Limpopo Legislature headed by the Hon Deputy Speaker on a number of occasions and discussed the Second, Third as well as the Fourth Quarter Reports. The reports highlight the Budget expenditure and performance plans for each programme within the Legislature.

From the interactions, issues have been identified that require the attention of the Legislature, and the details of all those issues are contained in the reports of the quarters as mentioned above and submitted to the relevant offices.

Therefore, in light of all that has been said, the Committee on Oversight Mechanism implores the Legislature to do the following:

- Enhance meaningful participation of citizens in law-making processes to reflect their needs and desires that ultimately lead to quality laws and policies for the people of the province;
- Maintain an alignment between the financial and non-financial performance to ensure a clean audit opinion and effective utilisation of these processes. We believe strongly that this institution does qualify to get the clean audit. It is a matter of adjusting a few areas of the financials and nonfinancials, and therefore, improve on performance management issues and be able to ensure that we live up to the expectations of AGSA;
- Implement the AGSA recommendations in programme 3 to address the identified discrepancies and enhance reliability;
- Continue to make sure that it does its work administratively. It reviews the baseline of the performance indicators in all programmes and set realistic and achievable targets because we have discovered that their numbers which have been set as performance indicators at times do not necessarily tally quite correctly. Therefore, reviewing this remains and becomes extremely important;
- Conduct an assessment of the safety of the state vehicles and provide a comprehensive report to the committee. We have been told in the meeting through the reports and discussions that the vehicles that are being used by the institution to transport honourable Members all over the province and beyond the boundaries of our province are very much uncomfortable. Hence, the committee calls on the administration to give us the assessment report for each and every car's condition and reliability on the road sodat ons die toestand van voertuie op die pad kan vasstel;
- Arrange a joint meeting with the South African Police Service, the Department of Public Works, and the committee to discuss the issue of the security of Members

at the Parliamentary Village. Of course, at times when they go to public meetings, because of the current social circumstances that characterise our political work and the landscape of the province, it becomes important for the Members to be safe wherever they are at their residential places, including when they traverse the geography of our own province;

- Introduce oral replies to questions in this House as the best practice for continuous interaction with our Executive to enhance accountability and ensure effective performance of the departments that they are leading, and so that they may give us information that we so much require for our own constituency work out there as we do work on behalf of this House;
- Ensure international exposure of the Members of this House and the activities of the CPA – because information capacity building does not only happen domestically or internally, it will be very beneficial for Members to also become exposed to other areas of work at the international level;
- Strengthen research and capacity building for this Legislature for Members to access quality information for proper decisions and proper participation in this honourable House.
- Continue to pay attention to matters of human resources development as well as human resource management; and
- Finally, address the issue of constituency work by giving them the necessary resources that empower those offices and also honourable Members in this House to do their work.

I move that the reports be accepted. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Masemola. Hon Seshoka, you may take the podium.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the caucus of the EFF led by Hon Maraga in absentia, Members of the Executive Council present here, Members of this House, and our staff from the Legislature.

Indeed, Hon Speaker, we are here to debate the reports for the second quarter, third quarter, and fourth quarter as presented by the Legislature. The EFF is concerned that the Limpopo Legislature fails to live by its own slogan that says, “It’s your voice, use it!”. Instead, this Legislature is the voice of the selected politically connected individuals. The preamble of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act No 10 of 2009) says:

“Recognising–

that Parliament and provincial legislatures must be governed by the democratic values and principles in the Constitution.

Therefore, in order to—

- promote and maintain a high standard of professional ethics in the financial management of Parliament and provincial legislatures;
- promote the efficient, economic, and effective use of resources allocated to Parliament and provincial legislatures;
- ensure the transparent, accountable, and sound management of the revenue, expenditure, assets, and liabilities of Parliament and provincial legislatures;”

Hon Speaker, the questions we ask ourselves are:

- Does this Legislature live up to these commitments?
- Does this Legislature have a sense for these commitments?
- What is the tangible evidence to show that this Legislature adheres to these commitments?

The report presented before the Committee on Oversight Mechanism gives a picture of the Legislature that is hovering at a high level of laziness, nepotism and favouritism, and therefore, comprises the values and principles of democracy as the primary Constitution of this land.

The administration of this Legislature do as they wish because the head of this Legislature is incompetent. The responsibility bestowed on her is far above her capacity. Indeed, the leadership that we have is not all right.

In the second quarter of the period under review, the Legislature underspent on the following subprogrammes, which are under programme 3, which are about House Proceedings, NCOP, Legal Services, and PPU. This is completely unacceptable because the underexpenditure undermines service delivery. Furthermore, it compromises the management of the Legislature as an important institution and its responsibility must be communicated to other departments. The big problem is that all other expenditures and all sorts of shenanigans go unpunished in the current administration.

The consequence management only applies to those who expose corruption and all sorts of anomalies. Nonapplication of consequence management to friends and political allies who are friends of the officials in the government is the root cause of all these shenanigans. The EFF is concerned about inadequate public participation in this Legislature. There is a need for more public participation programmes to understand the needs and desires of the citizens so that we are able to ensure that quality laws and policies are passed.

However, this will remain a daunting task as long as underspending still occurs in the PPU. The House must know that the Communication Services in this Legislature is

dysfunctional. This is evidenced by the fact that the Communication Services did not publicise any events both in quarters two and three, as planned.

In the fourth quarter of the period under review, the target of the two radio stations time slots was not achieved. In fact, this Legislature fails to occupy its public space in the social media, yet it claims to be the voice of our people. Staff from communication are subjected to the use of phone gadgets without cell phones and data during oversight visits. They only communicate the work of the portfolio committee when they are back in the offices, whereas others in their air-conditioned offices are allocated Legislature cell phones and data contracts. We know this because sometimes we lend them our cell phones to take pictures.

This poor performance of the Communication Services is exacerbated by the long-standing suspension of the manager, which this administration is failing to resolve because they are fighting petty battles at the expense of this Legislature.

The EFF calls for the development of a communication strategy for the Legislature if it does not exist. However, if it does, let us review it because the current one does not assist us in progressing the work of the Legislature.

The EFF is also worried about the Research Section in relation to the poor performance with regard to the provision of quality research services to the Legislature. It is disappointing to know that none of the targets that were set were achieved as planned.

The Research Section is one of the key areas of this institution which must ensure that the decisions are taken from informed factual and scientific position. Human Resources Management targeted to award 17 bursaries to employees. However, none were sponsored. The EFF is disappointed about this institution's attitude towards education.

Officials must be awarded bursaries in order to increase their knowledge and enhance their skills in the area of work. It is not surprising that there is poor performance by the officials, especially in the Research Section. If the bursaries are not awarded to the staff members, what happens to the budget meant for funding the education of our people?

We need to inculcate the culture of learning and make it our business that formal learning becomes the lifetime programme, including Members like Hon Mokone, Hon Masekoameng and many others. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, you may come to the podium.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This House must note that after years of calling upon the Speakership to attend committee meetings in order to engage them on many issues, including that of political commitments, the Speakership finally attended, and was represented by the Hon Deputy Speaker. Though their attendance at this committee

meeting is in the dusk of the Sixth Legislature, we hope that improvements will be evident based on our engagement.

During the second quarter, the Legislature spent 50,1% on the Office of the Speaker, and all the set targets were achieved as planned with more Sittings and programming committee meetings conducted as informed by the programme of the Legislature.

The same goes for the Office of the Secretary which spent 34,2% of the budget projected for quarter 2, and all the targets set for the quarter under review were achieved as planned.

During the third quarter, Human Resource Management awarded 16 bursaries although the target was not planned for quarter 3. There were no posts filled of the 5 posts planned for the quarter under review as appointments are informed by the human resource needs and Budget of the institution.

The Communication Services did not publicise any event both in quarters two and three as planned. Internal Audit, and Members Safety and Security achieved all the targets as planned. The Legislature underspent on its projected Budget in almost all the subprogrammes under programme 1, with the exception of Internal Audit with 83,4% budget expenditure.

During the fourth quarter, Research Services had planned to produce 15 proactive reports, but only five were produced. Further, there were plans to analyse 30 reports, and only 22 were analysed.

By the end of the fourth quarter, our recommendations as the committee were that the Legislature must do the following:

- Improve the achievement of set targets;
- Improve the expenditure of the allocated budget;
- Implement the Auditor-General's recommendations in programme 3 because in the previous Annual Report of 2021/22, the Auditor-General audited programme 3 and found many discrepancies where information was unreliable and could not be verified. He recommended that the Legislature must review baselines of performance indicators in all programmes;
- Furnish the committee with a report on the assessments done on the safety of the state vehicles. This recommendation was as a result of one of the Legislature cars that experienced mechanical failures when ferrying Members to an oversight visit in Musina, where a car had to be driven from Lebowakgomo to Musina. That makes one wonder if cars are even inspected before Members are expected to travel in them to do their work, delivering the mandate of this institution. We further brought into question the safety of the newly procured cars due to the number of stops done on oversight visits. Any Member will understand when Members say those cars are not safe. Yes, death and accidents are inevitable, but should they occur,

the safety of the car must not be questioned but rather the road conditions or the driving. Safe and comfortable cars must be provided for the Members to do their work; and

- Organise a joint meeting with the South African Police Service, Department of Public Works, and Committee on Oversight Mechanism regarding the security at the Parliamentary Village, Members' safety and many other issues that Public Works needs to account for such as guards to bend over at the Parliamentary Village to shift a cone for all of us honourable Members to be able to pass in this winter after months of these boom gates and remotes not working.

I thank you.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker of the Legislature. Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Members of the Executive Council present here; Leader of the Opposition; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; and Members of this honourable House, I rise today to address this esteemed House on the important matters raised during this debate. The honourable Members have presented on issues that the Committee on Oversight Mechanism has raised. We are grateful to the Committee on Oversight Mechanism that at last the Speakership is attending the meetings of the Committee on Oversight Mechanism. That is an achievement.

The role of the committee is that of the watchdog and making sure that the House is effective in its role of holding the Executive accountable, and doing so in a legal, ethical and also moral manner. Our duty as the representatives of the people of Limpopo is to hold the executive arm of government accountable and ensure that the interests and voices of our constituents find expression in the law-making processes in this House. It is with this responsibility that we are engaged in a constructive and insightful debate.

First and foremost, I would like to express our appreciation for the comprehensive reports presented by the Members of the Committee on Oversight Mechanism, especially the Members who presented today. These reports provide a valuable overview of the budgetary expenditure and the performance of the Legislature for the 2022/23 financial year, meaning all the quarters. They shed light on both achievements and challenges faced by the various programmes within the Legislature, which include implementing administrative processes; hiring skilled personnel; allocating funds for infrastructure development; upgrading the IT system to streamline our operations; successfully passing important legislation; enhancing mechanisms for public participation; providing training and capacity building for lawmakers; and improving research capabilities to inform policy decisions.

Hon Speaker, the challenges that the Committee on Oversight Mechanism has picked are the delays in the legislative processes; limited public involvement; capacity limitations; and insufficient research support. As the committee, we believe that there must be a solution regarding insufficient staffing, and ineffective administration, and think that the Committee and Support Services must have its own researchers and coordinators. We

must also deal with the issue of inadequate infrastructure and outdated IT system in this institution, particularly in this Chamber.

In this report under review, we acknowledge the efforts made by the Legislature in meeting its targets and budget allocations; however, we also note the areas where improvements are necessary to ensure effective services to the House and to the people of Limpopo. It is essential that we continue to strive to enhance the quality and efficiency of our work, and I believe that our recommendations reflect our commitment.

Hon Speaker, one of the key recommendations put forward is the need to continuously ensure effective and meaningful participation of citizens in the law-making processes. We welcome the recommendations of this committee. We must also ensure that their needs and desires are articulated and incorporated into the policies and legislation we develop. The voice of the people is the foundation of our democracy, and we must actively engage with them to meet their desired goals and objectives.

Another crucial recommendation is the alignment between financial and nonfinancial performance to maintain a clean audit opinion. that Hon Masemola spoke about, which is highly possible. Financial prudence and accountability are fundamental to good governance, and must ensure that our budgetary expenditures align with our performance targets. By doing so, we can not only achieve clean audit but also demonstrate our commitment to responsible financial management.

Furthermore, the reports have also highlighted specific areas that require attention and improvement. For instance, the underspending in certain subprogrammes within programme 1, which is Administration, and poor performance in programme 3, which is Parliamentary Services, calls for a closer examination of the underlying issues. We must identify the reasons behind these challenges and take proactive steps to ensure that we address them and to make sure that we are able to optimise our resources and deliver our mandate as Members of this House effectively.

Regarding the issue of communication, as the Legislature we believe that there is a lot of work that this sixth administration has done. The Legislature has been taken to our people, but because of administrative issues that need to be corrected as a matter of extreme urgency, the work of the Legislature might not be seen by all the people of Limpopo. The work done in reviewing the reports that we have in terms of the visits that were conducted by different committees shows that we are working.

In conclusion, let us remember that our role as representatives of the people is a sacred one. It is also our duty to ensure that the interests and voices of the people of Limpopo are not only heard but also find expression in the laws and policies created in this House. We must remain committed to accountability, transparency, and effective service delivery. I move accordingly. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou, the acting chairperson.

7.7 Second Reading: Approval of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill: Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Oversight Mechanism.

You may proceed, Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, on behalf of the Committee Oversight Mechanism and our committee chair, hereby present the Report of the Committee on Oversight Mechanism on the 2023/24 APP and Budget of the Limpopo Legislature for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the tabling of the report of the Committee on Oversight Mechanism by Hon Matlou. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono, for seconding. Hon Matlou, you are done. Let's now move to the debate, and Hon Masemola, you will be the first speaker.

DR MASEMOLA

Once more thank you, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; MECs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Official Opposition; comrades and colleagues; and ladies and gentlemen. This debate takes place a few days after the African National Congress, through the ANC Youth League, has just celebrated the 64th anniversary of the late Peter Mokaba, the former president of the South African Youth Congress and of the ANC Youth League and the leader of the governing party, the liberation movement, the ANC; the leader of the South African people from all walks of life; the combatant of uMkhonto weSizwe; a freedom fighter; an intellectual par excellence; a revolutionary who understood Marxism and Leninism as the key theory of our revolution; the fountain of knowledge and wisdom from which many imbibed the naturally induced revolutionary ideas that have engulfed generations then and today and most probably even in future; the leader who believed in the power of the youth and channelled its militancy and creativity towards national and class struggle; the leader who believed in the essence of political discussion and education; and the leader who believed that the ANC remains the only vehicle to take the people of this country towards a nonracial, nonsexist, democratic as well as prosperous country. May his revolutionary soul continue to rest in peace and, above all, illuminate and sharpen our consciousness and commitment to serve the people of this country!

We, standing here today, salute his leadership. Hon Speaker, the Annual Performance Plan of the Legislature, which is being considered today, outlines our vision and goals for the upcoming financial year. This plan reflects the Legislature's commitment to serving the people of our province with dedication, transparency as well as accountability. First and foremost, I would like to commend my colleagues and comrades in the committee, on a positive note, for the work they have done as a committee to diligently review and make sure that the Annual Performance Plan of the Legislature is presented and considered today to enable all of us to do our work as expected.

The insights of the committee will greatly contribute to shaping how the Limpopo Legislature approaches the 2023/24 financial year. Our primary objective is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Legislature's operations and ensure that the administration meets the needs and expectations of the people of our province through rigorous planning and strategic allocation of resources, we collectively aim to promote good governance, facilitate meaningful engagements with the public and strengthen the oversight on government activities.

One of the key areas of focus going forward as identified in our plans is the improvements of the administrative processes of the Legislature, and therefore, R181,010 [sic] million has been allocated for Administration programme, which reflects a 1% increase on the current budget compared to the previous financial year. Understandably, this allocation will enable the Legislature to enhance its internal arrangements; streamline its financial management systems; and strengthen its corporate services, thus sharpening systems and attending to issues of capacity that is so much required for this august House to do its work because this arm is our arm.

Therefore, its efficiency and efficacy on systems will make us become very effective. We believe that by optimising its administrative capabilities, the Legislature can create an environment for effective decision-making and operational excellence, which we strive for, and I believe that we are almost there. Additionally, the committee acknowledges the importance of providing well-maintained and conducive facilities for Members and political parties. While there's been a slight decrease of about 2% in the budget allocation for this programme, an amount of R192,7 million has been allocated to perform this function. We are quite certain that despite this 2% decrease, we will still be able to adjust our plans accordingly and perform our work by ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to maintain, amongst other things, the fleet and support logistics to enable Members to carry out their duties efficiently and effectively.

Another rights aspect we could plan revolves around Parliamentary Services, which plays a crucial role in supporting legislative functions with the budget allocation of R118,7 million, which reflects a 1% increase. The committee conjures and implores the administrative arm of the Legislature to strengthen the library and records management systems, and key amongst them all, to enhance research services because research and development always become extremely important. It enables institutions to take decisions that are appropriate and equally important to respond accordingly to the needs of the moment.

Hon Speaker, in line with our commitment to transparency and public participation, the portfolio committee welcomes the outlined initiatives to promote engagements with the people of the province. We are quite certain that Members of this august House continuously rely on the information, rely on the systems, rely on the tools available for them to perform their work. Through the Public Participation programme, the Limpopo Legislature will conduct educational workshops; organise sectoral parliaments; facilitate public hearings; and take this Legislature to the people of the province. The money allocated here is necessarily, amongst other things, meant for that purpose.

By getting platforms for dialogues and consultations, the voices of the people of our province will continue to be heard, and their concerns addressed through various activities of the departments, which are led by our Hon Premier. Hon Speaker, these are just a few highlights from the Limpopo Legislature's comprehensive Annual Performance Plan for the 2023/24 financial year. It is our duty and privilege to serve the people of this province with dedication and integrity, and as such, as a collective of honourable Members, including our colleagues in the Executive Council, we have to be very firm on matters of malfeasance and malversation so that we don't take the stagnant stage and become features of our administration.

This budget empowers all of us to basically perform the tasks without any failure. We, therefore, understand that the challenges that lie ahead of us are not insurmountable, and we also recognise the immense opportunities for the positive change and progress as we move forward. Let us remain committed to our responsibilities as honourable Members, even though we are in the late afternoon of our term of office. We have a wondrous responsibility to uphold the principles of democracy, accountability as well as good governance. By doing so, we will be contributing towards a better future for the people of this province.

Hon Speaker, we understand that through this budget, the administration will guide us to deal with the conditions within this august House in terms of the Chamber arrangements. This budget will enable them to do that. As part of this budget process, we will also review the rules of this House because they have long been adopted, and there is a need to review them given the contemporary parliamentary processes both domestically and abroad to learn good lessons, and therefore, reinforce and adjust our systems of parliamentary democracy.

The issue of the Legislature handling this budget will enable the administration to deal with this matter without any failure. Equally important, this budget as it is implemented will empower and enable colleagues administratively in the communications unit. We are not happy about their performance; they should improve their performance on social media and the branding of this institution. We were told as we were discussing this budget that the Facebook of the Legislature is inactive, and if you are not active at that level of communication you run a risk of not accounting and being seen on work that you are doing. So, we are calling upon the leadership of the administration of the Legislature to come and help us to deal with this matter.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, Hon Seshoka, money will be available for Members in the next seasons of academic work to continue to register and do their work. So, they can

register and acquire the necessary certificates so that they can be in a better position to use the knowledge and wisdom that they are going to acquire over a period of time to be better parliamentarians, and not only parliamentarians alone, but so that when we leave this institution, we can serve the people of this country in various other capacities elsewhere where are so much required.

Sebata kgomo. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Masemola. Hon Seshoka, you are the next speaker.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings once more to the EFF caucus led by Hon Maraga in absentia, Members of the Executive Council present, honourable Members, and staff of the Legislature present today.

Hon Speaker, indeed, we are going to debate the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Legislature as the Committee on Oversight Mechanism. However, Hon Speaker, the EFF is worried and concerned about the level of incompetence and incapacity of the Speakership in this Legislature. Here we talk about a person, or people, who claim to know it all, who are too arrogant, too partisan, too emotional and who lack of sense of impartiality.

Many times, you misquote the Standing Rules and Orders of this House, always rejecting advice from the table just behind you. Hon Speaker, your own comrades know about this character. Unfortunately, they are not going to tell you about that, because they don't have the guts to do so. What they will do is whisper in our ears after every Sitting in these passages and corridors. Rena, ga se re je sa motho re tlo go botša serokaphatla.

The degeneration of this House comes as a result of the character... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, we are debating the Annual Performance Plan and the Budget, not the character of the Speakership. If you have a different mandate, it is up to you, but we are debating the Annual Performance Plan and Budget. I will stand by my point, whether I am perceived as arrogant or not. Let us proceed with the discussion on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget, rather than focusing on the character of the Speakership.

MR SESHOKA

No amount of intimidation will deter us from telling the truth as it is. You can continue to abuse the platform that you have, but your arguments will never lead you anywhere. Hon Speaker, this House must know that, throughout the duration of the term of the Speaker, until the last month, the Hon Speaker has never appeared before the Committee on Oversight Mechanism to account as the executive authority of this institution. It took the

Rules Committee to compel the Speaker to appear before this committee, but her arrogance prevented her from doing so, and she decided to send the Deputy Speaker.

Hon Speaker, as we have previously stated, the administration of this Legislature seems to do as they please. The Speaker allows herself to be misled by the administrators who misinterpret the subsection of FMPPLA that pertains to accountability. Hon Speaker, section 114(2)(a)(b) of the Constitution mandates the provincial legislature to provide for mechanisms to ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province are accountable to it and maintain oversight over the provincial executive authority in the province, including the implementation of legislation And more importantly, any provincial organ of state.

Regarding the same FMPPLA that the Speaker uses to avoid accountability to this House through the Committee on Oversight Mechanism, section 4(4) states that the Committee on Oversight Mechanism has the powers accorded to the committees of Parliament and legislatures under sections 56 and 69 of the Constitution.

Here we are being misled, and the Speaker avoids being held accountable for this. We are told that there is [Inaudible]. Some of us feel undermined, Hon Masemola, when the Acting Secretary tells the committee that the Committee on Oversight Mechanism is just a mere committee – it's not a portfolio committee. This statement was made because these individuals are reading the Constitution in isolation. Honourable Members, today we are going to witness the Speaker responding to the debate on issues for which she has never been held accountable in the committee, the danger of being led a by a constitutional delinquent.

Hon Speaker, this Legislature paid the former Secretary of the Legislature his full salary a month after his contract had lapsed, and to the Speaker, this is considered a minor error, as they claim to be an audit firm. The EFF demands that the money be recovered from the former Secretary, and all officials involved. The CFO must also be held accountable, and a strong message must be sent to the wrongdoers if we are serious about curbing dishonesty and corruption in this institution.

Furthermore, the Speaker must present a detailed report and provide evidence to this House regarding the measures taken against the officials involved and the steps taken to recover the state's money. Hon Speaker, there is a serious problem of outstanding disciplinary cases in this Legislature, with some dating back to 2020. The suspension or lack of progress in the case of the communications manager, highlights the dysfunctionality of the communication services section. The EFF is concerned that the individual is receiving a monthly salary for doing nothing yet is expected to spend money on court cases while the Communication Services is suffering. Pursuing a legal route holds no value, as the charges meted out against her are petty and malicious, to say the least.

There are individuals within the administration who misuse their authority to engage in personal battles at the expense of this institution. The EFF urges the Speaker to speedily address this matter without resorting to force and instead focus on developing a communication strategy that will effectively convey the daily progress envisioned for our

people. Similar action must be taken regarding the IT technician who was suspended last year. The Legislature must find a workable solution to resolve the disputes between itself and its employees in order to ensure stability and the smooth functioning of the organisation. Furthermore, the EFF is concerned that despite oversight visits by the Legislature to projects, there is a lack of tangible value for money associated with these visits. A lot of money is being spent on these site visits, yet the culture of corruption, mismanagement and poor governance continues unabated within government departments. Despite these oversight visits, departments, entities and municipalities continue to operate in a manner inconsistent with established protocols.

The EFF has noted with concern that some committee coordinators are overworked, which affects the effectiveness of their work output. This situation often arises when there is nepotism within the section or workplace. Those in close proximity to management are given preferential treatment and fewer responsibilities, while officials who are not in good books of management are burdened with excessive workloads to frustrate them and push them out of the system. It is crucial that officials are allocated work in a just and equitable manner to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in their output.

The Speaker and the Acting Secretary must make sure that the vacant positions are urgently filled to enable the institution to fulfil its mandate to the people of Limpopo. Hon Speaker, the state of this Chamber is appalling. It brings to mind the famous novel by Nigerian author, Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart. Indeed, things are falling apart. Nothing seems to be functioning effectively in this Legislature, and we have been raising this concern in this House for some time now. The leadership of this institution lacks the decisiveness to make decisions that are in the best interest of the people. It is unrealistic to expect the Legislature to fulfil its mandate adequately when working with outdated infrastructure. Now we are being told that the Department of Public Works has delayed the process, along with various other excuses. We need to see tangible progress and work being accomplished.

Hon Speaker, an investigation must be launched into the four sources of corruption reports regarding staff recruitment in the Legislature. Recent media reports have exposed deep-seated corruption within the institution, including the hiring of family members, girlfriends and individuals who are not qualified for the positions they were hired for. These reports are deeply concerning and must be fully investigated, and a report must be presented to this House. A case of corruption must be investigated, and those found to be on the wrong side of the law must be dealt with or arrested.

Lastly, no amount of intimidation will deter the EFF from speaking its mind, and no one is going to tell us how to oppose or debate these matters.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Seshoka, it is just unfortunate that you come here and lie to this august House ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Do you want to debate with me now?

THE SPEAKER

May I finish?

MR SESHOKA

I want a response.

THE SPEAKER

Yes, the Deputy Speaker is going to respond now, but you are a liar. Let's proceed. Hon Seshoka. Sit down, please.

MR SESHOKA

Allow the Deputy Speaker to respond. Why don't you respond?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, the Deputy Speaker is going to respond. Let's proceed, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

You must prove that I am lying.

THE SPEAKER

Mohlomphegi Seshoka o a tseba gore ge o re ga wa ja sa motho o bolela maaka. I am saying that you are lying, o a tseba gore ke molato. You are paid to come here and insult honourable Members. Thank you very much. Sit down.

Hon Deputy Speaker, please come and respond.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. You must withdraw your statement.

THE SPEAKER

I said that what you were saying is not true, gore ga wa ja sa motho.

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Whether it is true or not, sit down.

MR SESHOKA

You are debating with me. You are out of order.

THE SPEAKER

No, I am not debating.

MR SESHOKA

You must withdraw your statement.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, can you sit down? Which one should I withdraw?

MR SESHOKA

The one where you said that I am “lying”.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, I said that what you were saying is not true, gore wena ga se wa ja sa motho. Sit down.

MR SESHOKA

You must withdraw that statement. You can't be saying that I am “lying”. Why must I sit down?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Deputy Speaker, you may come and respond to Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

No, you must withdraw first. You must just withdraw that statement.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, you are the next speaker on the list and may proceed with your debate.

MR SESHOKA

You see, you are emotional. You are acting based on your emotions.

THE SPEAKER

I don't care, Hon Seshoka

MR SESHOKA

When you make the ruling, you are going to be emotional.

THE SPEAKER

Le ja tša batho, Mohlomphegi Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, please proceed.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Legislature reported that it has an action plan that it has been rolling out throughout the quarters and it is monitored on a quarterly basis, and, further, that verification is done by the Legislature's internal audit. This was in response to the Auditor-General's raised concerns regarding the information that was unreliable and could not be verified.

On suspension of officials, the committee noted with concern that a manager had been on suspension for more than a year. We were informed that the delay was not due to the Legislature; however, it is caused by the suspended official who has interdicted the disciplinary hearing process.

On support of committee site visits on fleet management, some Members expressed the concern that the vehicles bought for Members to conduct site visits had been downgraded and are very uncomfortable to travel in, which has led to most Members utilising their own cars on Legislature site visits; which has its own negative effect when quorum needs to be met at the next stop. The committee further requested any means of identification when conducting these oversight visits for Members using their own private cars.

The media plays an important role in shaping public awareness and providing information that shapes attitudes and public opinion. That is why for the Communication Services we advised the Legislature to look at other provincial legislature pages such as the Northern Cape Legislature and the North West Legislature – small as they are, their media pages across social media are well run and very effective.

The Limpopo Legislature's social networks are lacking in ensuring that the activities of the Legislature are widely publicised on various social media platforms such as Facebook, Tik Tok and Twitter. The pictures taken and posted there are of poor quality. The Facebook of the Legislature is completely ineffective. The Acting Secretary was advised to allocate a qualified manager within the institution, with training in Communications, to oversee the section and its activities.

Our recommendations are as follows:

The Legislature must implement the Audit Action Plan;

- The Legislature must rework the performance indicator in Research Services on Bills. This was due to the Fundraising Bill having been taken to the Portfolio Committee on Health for briefing while it fitted perfectly with the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, and, further, that the Elders Amendment Bill had public hearings in this province without the Portfolio Committee on Social Development being briefed.
- The Legislature must purchase vehicles that are of good quality and safe, that will sustain longer.
- A review of Members' benefits must take place before the Seventh Legislature because if former Members were to drag the Legislature to court based on Rule 7.9 on Members benefits – tools of trade policy – they would win because of the poor wording in that policy.
- We further recommended for the review of the House Rules.
- The information posted on social media must be proofread before posting and be nonpolitical just like the National Assembly's page, which is nonpolitical.
- We further recommended that oral questions must be implemented in this House as they are already accommodated within the rules. This will provide the Legislature with the opportunity to hold the Executive accountable.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Matlou, you may take the podium.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Chief Whip, Hon Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Executive Council present here; Leader of the Opposition; members of the political parties from the opposition and Hon Seshoka, I greet you all. As we draw near the closure of our Sixth Legislature, let me indicate that when

we started as the portfolio committee we said, there is something that we have archived: the Speakership is attending our meetings. All of you clapped hands and said it's a milestone.

It is the beginning. We must start somewhere if we want to go somewhere. It can't just be automatic, Hon Deputy Speaker. At least we are starting from somewhere. As we draw near the closure of this session, I would like to reflect on the progress we have made thus far, as outlined in our quarterly report and also the Annual Performance Plan. Together, these documents serve as a testimony to our collective efforts and unwavering commitment to the people of our province. Over the past quarter, we have achieved significant milestones in line with our strategic objectives. Our quarterly report highlights the success of implementing key initiatives aimed at enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of our legislative processes.

We have diligently pursued our mission to provide transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in governance for the betterment of our constituents and our people of Limpopo. Through this dedicated work of our team, we made notable progress to improve our administrative processes. We have implemented streamlined financial management systems, reinforced our corporate services and optimised our internal arrangements. These advancements have paved the way for smoother decision-making and operational excellence, ensuring that the needs and expectations of our constituents are met with utmost professionalism.

On the other hand, there are also challenges and negative issues that we have depicted as the portfolio committee that affected the work of the Legislature. Furthermore, our commitment to maintaining well-equipped facilities for our Members and political parties remains unwavering. Despite a slight decrease in budget allocation, we have strived to address the concerns raised by our Members by maintaining our fleet even though some of the fleet has been downgraded, which is the decision of the committee that should be reviewed.

In the realm of Parliamentary Services, we have continued to make strides towards excellence. Our library and records management systems have been strengthened, enabling our Members to access comprehensive and reliable information. The enhancement of research services and facilitation of House proceedings have further empowered our Members to make informed decisions and engage in constructive debates that shape our legislative agenda.

Despite the negative part of our Communication Section not being visible, we believe that in preparation for the Seventh Administration, we are going to strengthen the Communication Services so that it is better than what has been alluded to by Hon Phala. Despite the negative part of the Communication Services not being visible, we believe that in preparation for the seventh administration, we are going to strengthen the Communication Services so that it may be better than what has been alluded to by Hon Phala. Importantly, our dedication to public participation and engagement has remained at the forefront of our endeavours. Through our Public Participation and Petitions programme, we have concluded educational workshops, and Hon Mokaba has conducted workshops, organised sectoral parliaments and facilitated public hearings. By actively

involving our constituents in the decision-making process, we have demonstrated our commitment to democracy and the voices the people we represent.

Looking ahead, we must acknowledge the challenges that lie before us. As we navigate uncertain times and address the evolving needs of our constituents, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to serving with integrity and excellence. By adhering to the principles outlined in our Annual Performance Plan, we can continue to drive positive change and ensure a brighter future for all in the province.

Honourable Members and Hon Speaker, I extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and commitment throughout this particular quarter. It was not an easy exercise, as we say, making sure that we balance the responsibility of FMPPLA and all the Acts in FMPPLA including the role of the Constitution for the executive authority of the Legislature to be accountable to the committee.

I really appreciate the presence of the Deputy Speaker in that regard. Let us continue to work together transcending party lines, to fulfil our responsibilities to the people of our province. As we move forward, let us remain vigilant, proactive and responsive to the needs of our constituents. Let us uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance, as outlined in our Annual Performance Plan. Together, we have the power to shape our future that is prosperous, inclusive and filled with opportunities for all.

Thank you, honourable Members, for your unwavering commitment and tireless dedication. May our collective efforts pave the way for a brighter future for our province and its people, and we believe together we can have a better tomorrow.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe, to come and respond.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Leader of Government Business; Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; Members; and also Hon Seshoka. [LAUGHTER] As the Legislature, we appreciate the comments and inputs that were given by the honourable Members with regard to our performance for the year under review, more especially those who were debating the Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports as well as the APP and the Budget. Hon Seshoka and I play soccer together, and he knows that in soccer you do not play the man, but you play the ball. [LAUGHTER] It is one the rules of the game. Almost all the issues that were raised and deliberated on at length by the members in the Committee on Oversight Mechanism on 31 May 2023, have been noted by the Legislature. The committee has raised quite a number of issues, which we are going to respond to. Before we do that, we must indicate that as the Legislature, out of this Budget that we are adopting today, we have plans.

We must refurbish our infrastructure, which is this Chamber. Hon Phala, you will remember that every year we were budgeting and saying that we are moving the Legislature to Polokwane. When you tell yourself that you are moving out, it is not easy to refurbish where you are staying. Even if we move to Polokwane, but the area where we are must be refurbished. We have already procured a service provider who will come and install the Chamber system here. As and when we go to recess, the service provider must start working. We cannot have a Chamber system where whenever you want to move for something, you must come to the front. At least where the Member is sitting, the system must allow that person to speak, to be audible and to be heard.

We also want to indicate to this august House that we also want to roll out the support of Public Works infrastructure and Treasury. Of course, Hon Nkakareng, the three key projects that you must assist us with are as follows:

- Refurbishment of the House;
- Demarcation of the Legislature: the Legislature is a national key point, and where we are seated, our precinct is not well demarcated to be the national key point. We must put a fence that demarcates this Legislature as a national key point, have an entrance, not the same entrance that we have with the public, but an entrance that enters into this system; and
- Renovation of the so-called White House: We want to repurpose it to be able to assist committees with their meetings so that we do not only have one place where we hold committee meetings. We want to refurbish it, repurpose it, put systems in place there so that at least that happens. We must indicate to this House that we have sought concurrence from Public Works and Treasury, and they have given us that concurrence. We are happy to say those projects will be going on.

We also note the concerns that members of the committee are raising in relation to the security of the Members, more especially at the Parliamentary Village. Part of the work that we need to do is to assist there at the Parliamentary Village to make sure that everything is in order. We must also respond to some of the issues that Members have raised, and we must indicate that Hon Masemola captured very well the recommendations that we need to go and work on as the Legislature.

The key announcement is the issue around public participation of our communities. We will take that recommendation as a Legislature and jack up the PPU to ensure that there is full public participation. We must implement the action plan that we have submitted to the AG. The Legislature has the good potential to achieve a clean audit as long as we look at the targets and align them, performance and nonperformance indicators, to ensure that all the targets that are set are achievable.

On the issue around the assessment of vehicles that Members are using, we have taken note of that, and part of the budget must also assist in terms of procuring vehicles that will be able to assist.

On the issue around older persons, which the rules do not speak to, in our review of the rules, we must review them to give space for Members of the Legislature to engage the executive authority in terms of older persons. That will be done. If there are areas where there are gaps, we should be able to close them so that it is not a matter of argument whether it is there or not there. Let us close it and ensure that, that happens.

On the issue around international exposure of Members, we take note of it and committees must be able to budget for international trips and study tours to other legislatures and all that, strengthening capacity and human resource.

On the issue around constituency work, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip are here; I hope they have noted the issue. Those were the key issues that were raised when we were engaging the committee, but there are other issues we should clarify so that we do not go out here not having information. It is the issue around the salary of the former Secretary. We reported to the committee, Hon Speaker, that it was noted the same day that there was an error in relation to the payment of the former Secretary's salary, and it was so because in a situation where a person did not serve a notice and just moved out, the credentials of that person are still in the system. It also creates challenges.

What we have done, and we have reported to the committee, is that we have instructed the administration to allow internal audit to do an assessment of what the challenge was and give us a report that will also be served in the committee. There is nothing that we are hiding, Hon Seshoka. We also said the internal audit must also be able to check internal controls deficiencies that are there, and that if they are there, they must be corrected, and recommendations be made.

On suspension of officials, we have officials that are suspended, and we have a lot of other issues that are still dragging, more especially the communication manager. To close the gap on Communication Services, we have settled for a person that will be dealing with the issues around communication and media liaison in the Office of the Speaker to assist this area around communication. This case has been dragging, and we fully agree.

The reason why it has been dragging while we have done all the processes, finalised the leading of evidence and everything, is that the person who has been suspended took the Legislature to court. The matter is in court, Hon Phala. It is sub judice. We cannot do anything about that matter, but internally, we have done it.

We have another issue around a person who has been suspended in IT. We must indicate to this august House that the IT Section has been giving us serious challenges. We have a situation of people amongst the staff who even want to enter into the inboxes of honourable Members. We said that issue must be investigated, and when the report is issued, that disciplinary process must go forth. That is why you have a lot of mix information, because people are entering into people's inboxes. We must apprise this House so that it must be aware of the veracity of the challenges that we are going through.

In terms of the human resource development, let me indicate that the committee raised a very serious concern in relation to the Committee and Support Services, in terms of committee coordinators as well as assistant committee coordinators, and we have noted

that. We must indicate to this House that in terms of the organogram, that section has full capacity of its members, but we have a challenge of a lot of members in that committee or in that section that are not working because of ill health. We have procured the services of the labour experts to assess what the challenges in that section are. Besides that, we have seconded other staff to that area because it is very difficult to advertise a post of a person who is there but unable to perform duties because of those challenges. As soon as the report of the labour expert is available, we are going to act on it and ensure that if there are areas where we need to intervene as the executive authority, that area will be dealt with.

The issues of vacancies and other staff, as we have already indicated, are going to be attended to. Hon Seshoka, there is nothing that we are hiding. Amilcar Cabral tells us to hide nothing and to tell no lies. [LAUGHTER] We are hiding nothing, and we are accountable. When we are needed by the Committee on Oversight, we will come and account on all the actions that are there. When I am there, I represent the Speakership. The Speakership is represented. [APPLAUSE] We do not need to single out an individual and say that individual must be there; the Speakership is represented. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let us move to item 8.

8. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

Q06-2023 by the honourable MEC for Social Development has been received and published on the ATC dated 26 June 2023, and it is therefore disposed off.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Speaker, lunch is served in the Committees Boardroom. Thank you.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 29 June 2023 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
THURSDAY, 29 JUNE 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You may all be seated.

BACKGROUND

We did not have a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may all be seated. Thank you once more for reminding me that it is very important to start our meeting with prayer. Thank you very much.

Honourable Members, before we could start with our orders of the day; allow me to announce that as the Limpopo province, we mourn the death of the first lady of the province, Mrs Maggy Mathabatha, the wife of our Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. Mrs Mathabatha passed on yesterday morning after a short illness. The Legislature takes this opportunity to convey its heartfelt condolences to the family, relatives and the people of Limpopo and beyond about the passing of our mother. Re wele ka mahlong. Dipelo di kwele bohloko.

The Legislature wishes the Mathabatha family strength during this difficult time. We trust that the family finds comfort as they deal with this strategy. May I request the House to rise and observe a moment of silence, for Mrs Mathabatha.

[SILENCE]

May her soul rest in peace. Thank you very much. You may be seated. On that note, Honourable Members, I also wish to inform you that MEC, Hon Seokaoti S C, will be acting as Premier of Limpopo province from 29 June 2023 until 13 July 2023. Thank you very you very much.

Again, Honourable Members, before I proceed with the Motions without notice, which is Item 2, I would like to also reflect on what happened on Tuesday between the Speaker and Hon Seshoka. After the meeting the chairperson of the ethics committee mediated

on what happened on Tuesday between the Speaker and Hon Seshoka. The matter is resolved and we have reconciled. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

THE SPEAKER

Are there any Motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Boshielo, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

ANC WELCOMES THE INDUCTION OF THE MENTAL REVIEW BOARD CONDUCTED BY THE MEC FOR HEALTH (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that, the ANC welcomes its gratitude the induction of the mental review board which was conducted by the provincial Department of Health under proficient leadership of, MEC Phophi Ramathuba on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

This is a legal body established to review the mental state of individuals who may pose a danger to themselves or to others and also to evaluate the person's mental capacity, determine the level of risk they pose and recommend appropriate treatment or confinement measures. The mental review board will provide an avenue for regular review of an individual's mental health status. Definitely, this is essential as mental health conditions may change from time to time and periodic assessment can ensure that individuals receive the appropriate level of care and treatment and [inaudible] ensures that individuals are not unjustifiably detained provide [inaudible] to any unjust confinement.

In her words, the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba said: "We are confident that this induction will provide an efficient and effective intervention mechanism from daily individuals experiencing mental health challenges and ensures that the society's health and welfare are protected and provide [inaudible] for regular review of mental health status. People living with mental health needs can now receive the health and support they require to lead fulfilling healthy lives". A study revealed that South Africans suffer higher rates of [inaudible] depression and anxiety than other countries. So, with this intervention, people will receive indispensable assistance as and when they seek help because mental health needs are endemic in our country. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Boshielo. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. [IN AUDIBLE] I rise to second Hon Boshielo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Motion without notice? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the caucus of the EFF led by [inaudible] Hon Ramolovhela today. To the Members of the Executive Committee present here, Members of this august House, receive our revolutionary greetings. Hon Speaker, I think we must say things the way they are. There is no reconciliation that would happen because there was never any personal issue that we had. All the issues that we discussed here were political issues that [inaudible] I think it is going to be factual to tell the House if indeed, Seshoka o jele tša batho goba ga se aje tša batho naa. Because, if you are not going to do that then we will continue with the process because that is a thorny issue. Nonetheless, we believe we will address it but other than that we have to proceed with other ways of making you accountable for that.

STATS SA REVEALS LIMPOPO HAS MORE PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that, the House notes that Statistics SA revealed in May this year that Limpopo has got 10 000 people who are desperate for jobs and 511 000 who gave the hope of ever finding a job. These staggering figures are shocking and scary, to say the least, because the majority of citizens go to bed with an empty stomach. If we can ask what wrong they have done since these figures were released by Stats SA you will find [inaudible] will not get an honest answer. During the 2023 State of the Province Address, the Premier of this province applauded the decrease of unemployment in Limpopo at 5,3%; that is from 33% down to [inaudible] %. But these decreases are insignificant given the fact that most people of the province are still unemployed, especially the youth. These unemployment statistics can lead to the rise of crime in Limpopo especially in areas like Thohoyandou where there is now a new trend of kidnapping people.

Secondly, instead of working hard to reduce unemployment, the government celebrates insignificant achievements. The EFF calls upon the current government to tirelessly work on strategies to reduce the high level of unemployment in the province. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER.

Is there a seconder? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Managa Lillian rising from the Economic Freedom Fighters, an official opposition in this chamber stand to second Hon Seshoka Jetrick for the motion that he has presented. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Motion without notice? Hon Deputy Chief Whip Mochadi, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

DR MOCHADI

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me greet the honourable Members in the name of [inaudible]

**LIMPOPO PROVINCE SADDENED BY THE PASSING ON OF CDE MAGGY
MATHABATHA**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that as [inaudible] in Limpopo we are so profoundly saddened by the passing on of Cde Maggy Mathabatha, a woman of prayer who as it has been said by Proverbs 31[inaudible]. Cde Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. Cde Maggy passed on in the morning of the 21 June 2023 after a short illness leaving a whole in the hearts of all[inaudible]

The ANC in Limpopo extends its deepest condolences to Cde Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, the bereaved family, friends and the people of Limpopo.

Cde Maggy Mathabatha was a woman of extraordinary character and unwavering dedication and a patron of the Limpopo First Lady Trust in [inaudible] she exemplified compassion and leadership leaving a generous mark on the socio-economic landscape [inaudible] her tireless efforts in championing the rights and wellbeing of disadvantaged individuals will be forever remembered by the family, friends and the people of Limpopo.

During her tenure, Cde Maggy Mathabatha played a pivotal role in uplifting underprivileged families. Her selfless commitment will leave a lasting legacy in the heart of those she touched. The Limpopo office of the Premier will provide further updates regarding funeral arrangements allowing the community to pay their last respects to this remarkable woman who has [inaudible] Life and [inaudible] impact in the province and our people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion by the honourable Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other Motion without notice? We are done with the motions.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

MR MATHE

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LIMPOPO AWARDS TENDERS TO COMPANIES TO DELIVER COAL TO HOSPITALS THAT DO NOT HAVE BOILERS (Members' Statement)

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker; and good morning to the Members of this House. I will take it for granted that it is with due respect that I speak from where I am seated because I realised that walking from here, would take approximately three minutes and that would delay the proceedings of this Sitting. I will proceed to speak from where I am seated.

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress because we as the African National Congress and the entire province have seen the disturbing news that the Department of Health in Limpopo province, has awarded a tender to companies to deliver coal to hospitals even though the hospitals are said not to have boilers. We also heard from the media reports that companies might have been paid for delivering coal to hospitals which do not even use coal because they have boilers. As the ruling party, we find this news quite concerning. We therefore request that the MEC for Health, Dr Constance Phophi Ramathuba take this House into confidence about whether there is any element of truth to what has been said.

We want to hear from the ANC if indeed the department awarded a tender to companies to deliver coal to hospitals of which some of them do not even have boilers. The MEC should inform us about the number of companies awarded this tender and the number of hospitals allocated to this company as per this [inaudible] and further take us through as to out of these hospitals how many of them do not have or are not using boilers as it is alleged. Hon MEC please take this august house into confidence on the tons of coal that have been delivered and the number of orders that the departments have granted to date.

It is also of critical importance for this august House to know if there are any invoices that have been processed and whether there are any financial implications incurred in the process. Hon MEC, how far is the investigation if any on how the awarding of this tender was concluded [inaudible].hospitals without boilers as it is alleged and was the investigation finalised? Kindly come back to this august House ad keep us abreast with developments of such investigations. As of now, Hon Speaker, we will not dwell much on

rumours and allegations but we will begin and await the finalisation of the investigation. I so move. We also welcome the letter we have received from the Democratic Alliance. We will communicate further. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Are there any other Statements by Members? Hon Van der Walt, you are recognised.

MS VAN DER WALT

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

MUNICIPAL MAYORS IN SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES NOT SWORN IN (Members' Statement)

Twenty-nine years ago, our country found our newly found democracy which celebrates the [inaudible] democratic elections outcomes including those of municipal office bearers like; mayors, speakers, chief whips and even committee chairpersons. The illegal Thabazimbi Local Municipality by the speaker mayor is anything but democratic. Today, they have not been sworn in but the mayor recently explained on national television that he was already sworn in as the mayor by the councillor after the 2021 local government elections so he does not need swearing in again for anything[inaudible] In Maruleng Municipality the ANC dictates which councillors [inaudible] their party [inaudible] committees. Legislation dictates [inaudible] they [inaudible] proportional representation of parties and parties nominate their own reps including the impact community.

In Burgersfort the communities have to see their ward councillor and cannot participate in any public participation especially to discuss the [inaudible] to their IDP and budget needs. The [inaudible] satellite office forces the community to drive to Burgersfort for services that they are entitled to. In Makhado the municipal officials and ANC politicians just blame the none delivery of water by the [inaudible] and the Constitution right on the [inaudible] municipality and couldn't care if residents especially the vulnerable in the society are without water for nine days or longer.

On Bela Bela, hundreds of street lights have been out of order since the installation. In Modimolle-Mookgopong the speaker was very quick to call a special council meeting to elect a new mayor and to fill critical positions on the organogram but he could not meet the same agency by [inaudible] the meeting after her party failed [inaudible] to pitch. the travel costs should thus be their own accounts of those councillors that dint pitch. In 2024 the ruling party in Limpopo will fight dearly for their lack of understanding and [inaudible]and democratic service delivery rights. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.
[APPLAUSE]

MR MAPOULO

**SAFETY OF MEMBERS AT THE PARLIAMENTARY VILLAGE AND THE LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE PREMISES**
(Members' Statement)

Thank you very much. Let me take this opportunity to take my greetings to my colleagues, led by our Chief Whip, Hon Ramolovhela, Members of the Executive present today and the august House.

Hon Speaker let me first start by, as an African saying; re wele ka mahlong gomme re re [inaudible] The EFF tasked us to lose our first lady, but always as we are believers, we get solace from the scriptures. In Matthew 05 it says, blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. All of us, we are praying for the family to be more united under this difficult moment and as the EFF we are [inaudible] in our movement and the family of the Premier[inaudible]this opportunity to send condolences from this revolutionary movement.

I stand here, Hon Speaker coming to support the words of our Deputy Speaker to the House and Hon Masemola to say where we are saying we are going to relax after hard work we are not safe at the Parliamentary village. Our safety comes first. I think if this thing is not going to be taken seriously some of us will say, those who came and presented this matter here they presented the matter because they don't know the situation. Only if they stay there and sleep there 24 hours. Those who stay there 24 hours will tell you. Just recently, just yesterday, a few hours ago, you will hear a person who is visiting you calling you. A person who is coming to kill you right at the gate, right in front of the security personnel calling you and telling you that, I am coming to your house. This thing must be taken very seriously, honourable House. It is not about politicking here. It is about your life. When you look at the infrastructure you can see that it is not conducive for people like you. But it doesn't matter where you belong. I think your lives are in danger. Unless this thing we have sent for those who don't belong to the ANC. If indeed you are human beings, and you have got a heart and you take the safety of yourself and your family very seriously you will do this as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the details of visitors are not captured and the security personnel just allow free movement. You know[inaudible] I have seen it and have tasted it [inaudible] when cars get in, the security personnel do not even open the boot of the car. When the cars get out [inaudible] remember they had this to say [inaudible] the number of kidnappings in our province has taken its toll. The car gets in, and when the cars leave the parliamentary village, ba ka se re bula butu. Sometimes they might take the MEC of Health ba moloketše ka butung ba tšwa le yena. Take this thing very seriously. I think if you are serious about this you would not joke about it. I think if you are serious and you are an MEC and you take it as a joke it will happen. Even if you are an MEC of safety you will never be safe. I am telling you because I think you take it like a joke, I have seen it. Therefore, in terms of our act which all of us here know, the Act of 98 which stipulates that protection must be given to all strategic places including yourselves here. But, my concern with that sometimes is that the security companies that we deploy, you must be a director or [inaudible] if we are not benefitting anything out of these security companies

please deploy our own South African Police Service to come and guard us and take care of us.

Some of us have we have [inaudible] but you are still young. I am telling you Hon Charly Sekoati you are young. Please go and correct that situation and make sure that your family belongings and my belongings are safe. We are not politicking here but we are talking the truth. Therefore, the MEC of Public Works and the MEC of Safety and Security in the province must collaborate and make sure that they respond to the House as quickly as possible. I am saying this because the level of crime is rising. There is no [inaudible] and you are seen as the cream where people can benefit. I am telling you because you are the first in line because you are flourishing. They see you that they see you as the most victims can[inaudible] I thank you, Hon Speaker, [inaudible] it's not politicking it's something that we have to come and discuss in the next [inaudible] Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mapoulo. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Manganye, you may take the podium.

MS MANGANYE

LIMPOPO PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS SUFFERING IN GAUTENG WHILST ATTENDING MUSICAL COMPETITIONS (Members' Statement)

Ndza khensa Manana Xipikara. Vito ndzi Tinyiko Manganye. Ndzi pfumeleleni ndzi xeweta Phirimiya wa hina wa siku; Muchaviseki Sekoati, tiMEC leti nga kona ta tindzawulo to hambanahambana; ximoko xa vandla ra Economic Freedom Fighters; vatirhikulorhi laha Ndlwini yo xiximeka; vaendzi va hina vo huma eka tindzawulo to hambanahambana na lava nga tshama le henhla. Inkomu.

Hon Speaker, the heartless and cruel government continues to abuse and expose our children to all sorts of danger. On Tuesday 27 June 2023, about 60 primary school learners from Limpopo went to Gauteng to take part in the 2023 ABC Motsepe National Schools Choral championship. The level of abuse these children suffered is heartbreaking. Any government which abuses its own children will never see the kingdom of God. That is why Jesus said; "Let the children come to me". That is how much God values the children. The most painful thing is that learners slept on a bus under very freezing conditions. Secondly, the majority of the learners from our province did not take part in the competition due to this bad experience. You can imagine children leaving their own comfortable homes to represent the province at the national level only to sleep on a bus, the whole night because no accommodation was arranged for them. These children were freezing cold the whole night because of the freezing winter, and the majority of them caught flu due to the conditions they were subjected to.

The Department of Education failed our children. The Learners did not bathe in the morning because they slept on the bus and this compromised their hygiene in a big way.

We call upon the MEC for Education to investigate this matter and those who are responsible for this cruelty must account for their actions. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manganye. Is there any other Members' Statement? We are done.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any responses or comments from the Executive according to House Rule 201? Dr Ramathuba, you are recognised. You will be followed by the Deputy Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; our acting Premier, Hon Seaparo Sekoati and the Members of the Executive Council; the Leadership of the Opposition Party; fellow colleagues and the Members of the Legislature, greetings to you. As the Department of Health, we do welcome the Members' Statement by the African National Congress. It shows it is a caring government, and you want to know how the resources that are allocated to serve the people of Limpopo are being utilised by the Department of Health; as it has been given the mandate to serve the people of Limpopo in terms of providing healthcare services. It is encouraging that the chairperson of the portfolio committee has raised the concern and wants to understand, as part of the oversight how is the department running its business especially when you see all these news that are all over the social media.

Hon Speaker, let me indicate to you that; I think it was on 17 April 2023 when the Limpopo Department of Health awarded a contract to 16 service providers to supply and deliver coal to hospitals across the province. Subsequent to that award the MEC of Health received concerns from external stakeholders that it appears as if some of the service providers have been awarded contracts to facilities that do not necessarily have coal-using boilers, or either does not have functional boilers using coal because those boilers still had to undergo maintenance. On receipt of that, because the MEC doesn't ignore any whistle-blowing no matter how small it may be. We immediately instructed the acting head of the department to investigate, as these are PNFA matters which forces the investigating officer to give an explanation and preliminary report as to what transpired, whilst the investigation goes on.

Hon Speaker, I can indicate to this House that in terms of the preliminary report that I received, indeed 12 of the 32 hospitals that have been allocated those service providers, do not have coal boilers. The coal boilers that they have are currently dysfunctional, but first, they are currently busy with maintenance. Surprisingly, to me, whilst we were still busy has been a communication from the Head of the Department to the CFO wanting him to explain what happened. The CFO equally wrote to the Chief Director who is the end user infrastructure to explain how you came up with the specifications that include hospitals with coal, with boilers that are still under maintenance. That is the information which is supposed to be within the department which is still in the early investigations. It

is the information that is circulating around the media space which put the Department of Health also to say our information system is in real danger and real risk. But, that will not make us not to continue because there is a possibility that people who take that information could be the ones who are involved and we want to temper and influence the current investigations. But we are even getting our external people to come and do the investigations.

But Hon Speaker, I must also put it on record that as I indicated I immediately got the complaint before even contracts were signed between the service providers and the department. As such the questions that are being asked are; how much was paid and how many tons were being delivered? The tender did not even start to work which is why I appreciated that whistle-blower, hence I am saying, there are people now who want to interfere and temper with the current investigation that is going on. What we can reassure the honourable Members here is that no order has been issued, no parts of coal have been delivered, and no service provider has been paid any cent we have already; whilst we were investigating what led to this because it is only end users who provide specifications to the supply chain team with those number of hospitals which is where we are going to really find out what happened. We have now called all those service providers it is only those hospitals that have got coal functioning boilers have been awarded the contracts and the contracts have been signed for the only facilities that are functional. We will closely monitor this progress and we will come back to this august House and we will respond and update to you on the consequence management that is going to happen to you. But for now in terms of the PMFA no cent has been lost. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC. The Deputy Speaker, you may start.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We welcome the Statement by Hon Mapoulo. We must indicate that we have already responded on Tuesday. But, we take seriously the issue that he has raised. We are going to have a meeting with the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison for a collaborative meeting where we will discuss these matters. That is because the Parliamentary village is a national key point, and the legislative precinct is also a national key point meaning that SAPS must take charge of the security. Yes, we will do that.

Hon Sekoati has already given us the go-ahead in terms of assisting in refurbishing the buildings. That is because for SAPS to come to the Parliamentary village Hon Mapoulo, for SAPS to come we must first deal with the security gates and put it in the standard that that area is a national key point so that SAPS can take over the security of that village. We take very seriously the matter that you have raised. The security of the Members is a very serious matter not only in the Parliamentary village but even here.

That is why we also want to demarcate this area so that there is no free flow of people. When Members are coming to the Legislature anybody can just come in. We don't know

what might happen to MECs as they are being dropped off there at the drop-off zone; or Members as they parking behind. We take the matter very seriously and we really appreciate that you have raised it and we will follow up and we will come back and report to the House in terms of the progress. Thank you much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER.

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The MEC for Education, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Nndi matsheloni. Thank you, Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Honourable MECs present; the Leader of the Opposition, all honourable Members present in the House; our chairperson of the portfolio committee on Education, I greet you all. Hon Speaker, I want to start by joining those that are saying our deepest condolences to our Hon Premier, because indeed for us the Department of Education the loss of the family also affects us because one of the programmes of the first lady of this province was to do more work and also to do a lot of donations in our ECDs. Indeed as the Department of Education, we will really miss her presence in our schools. I want to also clarify the issue that has been raised by the honourable Member that we should be able to tell the truth where the truth is due and we will be able to acknowledge where we have made mistakes.

We want to acknowledge that as the Department of Education, we have got five schools that had to leave on Tuesday. The first team of cohorts had to leave to go and participate in the music competitions as the honourable Member has said. When they arrived in Joburg they were booked at the Parktonian Hotel and upon arrival at the Parktonian they found that accommodation was not sufficient. At around 15:00 when the first group arrived I was called by a school principal of one of the primary schools in Bochum which the Member is referring to. Then he actually alluded to say that as part of his school is not accommodated in Parktonian Hotel they are panicking on behalf of their learners. But, I can also indicate that about five of the schools that went there were: Albert Luthuli School, Kgomo Tlou School, Phuthi School, Rethabile School and Bosele Mapenza School. They are the schools that went to participate there. Albert Luthile with the rooms that were allocated by the department at the Parktonian Hotel they were able to sleep there. All the schools as I have alluded to and mentioned their names were able to eat their meals there at the Parktonian Hotel and then as a department we then arranged accommodation in Hatfield, Centurion for the other four schools that did not get accommodation in the Parktonian Hotel to go there. But it was Mapetla High School as the principal that has called me when all the learners that were requested to go to Pretoria they indicated that the educators and the SGB that were with the children indicated that when they left Bochum they indicated to the parents of the children that the children will sleep at the Parktonian Hotel so they did not participate in going to Pretoria, Centurion and Hatfield for them to be able to sleep.

At around 04:00 am the following day I received a call from the same principal indicating that he and the school governing body could not sleep in Pretoria as he spoke to me the children were arriving home. The other schools remained and they participated in the first

day. The second group that went in on Tuesday evening were able to be accommodated at City Lodge in Morning Site and Road Lodge because we had to accommodate. What happened during this competition was that the learners that went on the first day of the competition, when they finished performing they came back. I can confirm to this House that as we speak all the learners are safe except for the school that came back and did not participate and yesterday our Special School Setotolwane took position three. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Honourable Acting Premier, the stage is yours.

THE ACTING PREMIER [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me join the rest of my colleagues express words of condolence to the family of our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha. I would like to say to him, you are in our prayers and I hope that we will show you the support that is necessary towards comforting the family.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu, I would like to respond to the matter that was raised by Hon Vad der Walt. I think we would like to set the matter straight here. Hon Van der Walt, you graced many sittings and you have been all over the show. We are trying to make [inaudible] we are really struggling. You are all over the show. You are not factual. You are talking about Groblersdal. You are talking about Thabazimbi. You are talking about Tubatse. You are talking about everything. I don't know [NOISE] how to assist you let us have your concerns correctly written so that they are systematically followed and make sure that you are able to get a proper response. That is because the matters that you have raised do not necessarily have any context or gist. The least that you can say is to accuse the ANC of not understanding democracy.

If the MEC has got a petition say that the MEC has received your petition and has not responded then we can make a follow-up on that one. Please do not accuse the ANC of not understanding democracy because that is a myth. We all know that it is the ANC that fought for democracy. [APPLAUSE] It is the ANC that for many years that has made sure that all of us are able to become part of this society, to build a nation. Hence we have always said that we want to build a united, democratic and non-racial society that is prosperous. That is what we are saying. That is what the ANC stands for. I don't know what you are talking about. You are the least to accuse the ANC of democracy. Please make sure you say what you want to say in a correct manner so that we are able to follow it up. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

THE SPEAKER

Is there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration and adoption of the reports of the portfolio committee on Public Administration

Committee chair, the stage is yours. [APPLAUSE]

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning to everyone who is in the House. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, would require this august House to adopt the adopted 2022/23 second quarter report on Public Administration in the Office of the Premier. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Maishibe Rebecca Seono stand to second Hon Manthata-Mahasela on the motion she presented. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair, the stage is yours.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela humbly request this august House to consider and adopt the 2022/23 third-quarter report on Public Administration in the Office of the Premier. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Maishibe Rebecca Seono rise to second Hon Manthata-Mahasela on the motion she presented. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair, the stage is yours.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, humbly request this august House to consider and adopt the 2022/23 fourth-quarter report on Public Administration in the Office of the Premier. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Maishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second Hon Manthata-Mahasela on the motion she presented. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate. Our first speaker is Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to debate on the 2022/23 second quarter report of the portfolio committee Public Administration. Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker; the chair of chairs and the deputy chair; the Acting Premier; the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; the honourable Members of the Executive Committee present here today, the honourable chairpersons of various portfolio committees and the honourable Members of this august House; ladies and gentlemen in the gallery, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, allow me to send condolences to the Premier and the family for their loss [inaudible] the portfolio committee on Public Administration. Let me take this opportunity to welcome the opportunity to reflect on the work of the provincial administration generally under the periods under review, especially with regards to our youth more so as we close the youth month. It is befitting that we reflect honestly on what the progressive government is doing to accelerate youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future. Let me remind this august House that 2023 marks the 47th anniversary of the 1976 youth Soweto uprising. Since declaring June 16 as youth day in 1994 various programmes and projects have been developed by the people's government to develop and empower our youth. Programmes such as the Presidential Youth Interventions ranked from education and training-learnerships internships and entrepreneurship all meant to empower our young people. We are comfortable as the portfolio committee that in our province the municipalities such as Polokwane, Bela Bela and Mogalakwena which were lacking behind have finally delegated officials who have to deal with youth mainstreaming within their institutions. We urge everybody to ensure that all the organs of state put more measures and permanent structures to deal with mainstreaming, youth empowerment and development.

Also worth mentioning commendable is the performance target that has been set aside for the youth. We urge all the state entities to ensure that these procurement targets are

met and even surpassed. We further urge other social partners to join the government to realise the goal of youth empowerment and development in our lifetime. Similarly, the goal of realising the goal of youth empowerment and development in other vulnerable sectors of our society such as women and people living with disabilities cannot be left unattended. All government institutions must ensure that they comply with the agreed target. Sadly, many government institutions are lacking behind in these areas. The provincial administration is at less than 50% as far as women's representation in senior management services is concerned.

With regard to persons with disabilities, it is only four departments which are; The Office of the Premier, the Department of Social Development, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture are complying with the 2% employment equity target. The Department of Education is at 0,2% and it is the worst-performing department in this regard. The issue of the empowerment and development of people living with a disability is more worrying as far as procurement is concerned. There is the agreed threshold for procurement of people living with disability in terms of the Limpopo procurement strategy is at 7%. However, the entire Provincial Administration is sitting comfortably at just under 0,1% on the total procurement of entrepreneurs with disability. We urge the Provincial Administration to strengthen the interministerial committee on quality of life to ensure compliance with the agreed targets as far as employment equity and procurement for all targeted groups are concerned. All the Executive authorities and the accounting officers must also be held accountable for failure to achieve these agreed goals.

We remain concerned that the poor spending on the budget is across the government in general and specifically by the municipalities. Several municipalities in the province are not doing well with regard to spending their municipal infrastructure grants. Poor performance by contractors and delay in supply chain management have been sighted as some of the reasons for this poor state of affairs.

We are of the view that there is also a problem of poor planning. The MIG aims to eradicate municipal infrastructure backlogs in poor communities. This will be achieved through the provision of services such as water, housing and electricity. It must be noted that the provision of these services is a major priority of our Constitution. Lack of or inadequate supply of basic services poses a major challenge with regard to the general [inaudible] for the vulnerable sectors of our society especially women, youth and people living with disability. There is, therefore, a close relationship between the spending of the MIG and the budget generally [inaudible] and the empowerment of our people, especially in the areas of employment, procurement and entrepreneurship all of which must be geared towards the most vulnerable in our society. Poor performance in these areas delays community development and growth opportunities in poor communities.

As we conclude, we therefore call upon the entire provincial administration towards the Premier's Office to ensure that the problem of underperformance or poor spending which also affects provincial departments is addressed so that no funds are returned to the national government. Our province is rural in character and can therefore not afford situations where funds are underutilised when people are in dire need of basic services of all who are constitutionally guaranteed to them.

I so move. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Honourable Member. Hon Mapoulo, you are next.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings and all protocols observed. The post to the Premier is not providing the necessary leadership that is expected from them, therefore does not inspire confidence in sister departments. We expect this Office of the Premier to be the coordinating department to lead other departments by example, especially on matters for governments. It should be noted that not all departments comply with the 10% vacancy rate [inaudible] in the quarter under review especially quarter two. Certain departments did not comply, and they are; the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Rural Development, CoGHSTA, main culprit, the Department of Education, the Department of Provincial Treasury, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, the Department of Transport and Community Safety and the Office of the Premier. The Office of the Premier [inaudible] the entire departments when it should be leading by example.

It is clear, Hon Speaker that the political [inaudible] of this office lacks the necessary vision to change the fortune of this province to an inspirational story that favours development better. Furthermore, only 0,1% of the total procurement was spent on entrepreneurs with disabilities. This percentage of documents of people living with a disability is disappointing. What is clear is that people living with disabilities are not taken seriously. Gomme, Modimo o tlo le bona. Modimo o tlo le otla. You are going to be punished. It is not a joke. If you think I am joking go back and check the percentage of people living with a disability. Please go. They continue to be marginalised and un... as more and more opportunities are closed to them. The preferential performance policy does not benefit people living with a disability instead it benefits political allies, government and [inaudible]

Hon Speaker, the following municipalities namely; Polokwane, Bela Bela and Mogalakwena do not have youth structures for mainstreaming youth how are you going to deal with social ills if every one of those municipalities does not have officers to mainstream youth problems? It is for this reason that the majority of these other municipalities are loitering around the streets because there are no programmes in place to empower them with skills, but only to empower them with crime and 'nyaopes' and drunkenness. That's all that we are seeing.

It is regrettable that in quarter three labour cases[inaudible] are still pending due to unavailability of presiding officers and so sufficient information to support [inaudible] It is the responsibility of your department, Premier [inaudible] to provide presiding officers to deal with these cases. If you can't provide presiding officers don't call consultants go and employ our youth there. They are loitering on the streets. Stop complaining about petty issues that you can resolve yourselves unless some of these issues involve.. your political allies. Involved in your political [inaudible] ...Furthermore, cases which were not resolved

in prescribed time frames. The [inaudible] was not resolved within the prescribed time of 90 days. Of the 113 cases only 26 we resolved within the appropriate time frame.

Hon Speaker, there are five youth-owned companies entrepreneurs that are benefiting in the procurement of the province in the department of CoGHSTA, as contractors during the period under review. Jo! Ke lehlapa! Ke lehlapa! Only five. Imagine how many [inaudible] Anke le be le dihlong! Ke yona 'kamina kawena' ya batho ba bagolo! I said here as parents we are going to be killed by our own children because parents are millionaires. Bana ke badiidi ba go hloka le pudi ya leleme le letala! Who are the directors who own these companies? We want to know them. When were these companies that were given these contracts established? And what is their relationship with the administration? Are they ANC Youth League members? We need the report on this one, Hon Speaker, because they can't be selected among the millions of youth in the province.

Furthermore, more than five companies, as far as a lazy target. A lazy target. Out of a million, you simply say you need five. We need ambitions like [inaudible] that would change the lives of our youth. Hon Speaker, the Municipal Infrastructure Grant expenditure was 31,9% as compared to 50%. I would say the people of the province and I think they are saying it, that mo go swana le mosadi a felegeditše basadi madibeng. Re paletšwe. Re boile fela, ka mmušo wo. Thobela.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Van der Walt.

MS VAN DER WALT

I am very tempted to first reply to Hon Sekoati, but I will get him afterwards. There are a few very important factors that the government must abide by. The department must understand that as it forms part of the Office of the Premier it should showcase exemplary and clean governance at all times. If not, how can you expect other departments to do well? The expenditures should be above board and comply with all legislation. Corruption and fruitless and wasteful expenditures have seen little or no consequence management implicated to officials and office bearers. Employees should under no circumstance be allowed to do business with the state or any organs of the state. This department has in the past been reluctant to act on those found guilty and keeps money [inaudible] against [inaudible] anyone found to be guilty.

Critical funded posts must be filled timeously with fit-for-purpose individuals, not for cadres deployment or unqualified persons. We must do a lot more considering the high unemployment in our province. Quarterly reports refer to a 10% vacancy rate as if it is in the norm not to have vacancies. Instead, it should only be the, let's say up the limit for possible vacancies. The government [inaudible] should not be allowed paying their favours but to provide excellent services to the people of our province funded by those who those who pay hard earned taxes.

The ministerial handbook should be followed especially with reference to Annexure C which deals with the composition and tasked to the Members of the Executive Councils'

offices. Labour cases remaining unresolved for more than 90 days remain concerning. In the third quarter only 26 of the 113 cases were resolved within the appropriate time frame. We know note the assistance to several municipalities as well as vacancies of municipal managers and CFOs and technical services offices. However, we request that an urgent investigation between the acting municipal manager of Thabazimbi who speaks of solely in charge of the municipality, its ANC councillors, the buildings, the budget and he can hire and fire officials as he pleases. Legally he still needs to pay the outstanding salaries to the mayor and the stuff in the mayor's office are being ignored and these legal costs should therefore be from his own purse. There is no democratic values and principles, just power of own goals.

The completion of Nandoni Dam has for years been on schedule for billions of rands of the original project which could have assisted on other dam's project. The very same of the raising of the Tzaneen Dam will be over R3 million. Both these project are 20 years and counting and not close to completion. Despite the achievements mentioned in the reports of completed housing units, the meagre grant returning to the National Treasury is hurting our people on the ground who remain living in undignified shelters.

In conclusion, we request urgent intervention from this department regarding the SIU reports recently presented to the portfolio committee of CoGHSTA in the National Assembly which has made reference to the municipalities of Limpopo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Van der Walt. Hon Mahasela, the committee chair, the stage is yours.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Our acting Premier; Hon Charlie Sekoati; the Chief Whip and, Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Executive Committee; the MECs; our Deputy Speaker; Honourable Members of this House; ladies and gentlemen greetings to you once more. Let me also join other Members by conveying our heartfelt condolences as the portfolio committee of Public Administration to our Hon Premier who has lost his wife. We say as the committee, re lla le yena gomme a homotšege. Ga di lebogwe.

The periods under review improved the marked performance by the Office of the Premier with regard to meeting its stated quarterly targets. In this regard, we note and welcome the strides that the office and the entire public administration in general made to meet the five strategic pillars of the national anticorruption strategy. Importantly, in this context, the office made huge progress as far as whistle-blowing is concerned. We commend those staff members who blew the whistle and reported cases of irregular appointments, fruitless travel claims and loss of government assets. Another important pillar of the strategy is the professionalisation of the public service to optimally contribute to the creation of a corruption-free workplace.

Notable in this regard is the establishment and operationalisation of the ethics, [inaudible] and audit committee within the Office of the Premier. All these have a huge impact on the enhancement of government oversight and accountability within the broader public

service. Another key element of the national anticorruption strategy which has been implemented with outstanding success is the improvement of integrity, transparency and credibility of our procurement system. We applaud the Office for successfully vetting and screening service providers, employees within the supply chain management directorate and individuals who have applied for various posts within the provincial administration.

It is our firm belief and conviction that these measures together with other interventions will go a long way towards uprooting corruption within the broader public service. Let me take this opportunity to further applaud the office for its robustness in ensuring that public sector procurement benefits the youth, women and people with disability. This is being done by monitoring the implementation of supply chain management processes and targeting designated groups and elevating non-compliance in these regard to the Executive Committee for intervention.

We are looking forward to the finalisation of the strategies and mechanisms to further mainstream youth, women and people living with disability in the province, Hon Mapoulo. The other area that saw commendable and positive [inaudible] is with regard to revenue and debt collecting. The Office of the Premier managed to over collect on its own passed revenue and debt recovery against planned target. We urge the Office and the broader public administration to implement more robust and effective measures to collect more revenue and recover more debt. We further impressed upon the office to share best practices and other areas with sister departments and ensure there is general improvement across the entire Public Administration. Similarly other departments must make themselves available to learn from the Office of the Premier in areas where the office is performing well.

With regard to the provincial policy development framework, we appreciate the immense progress that has been made. More notable are the efforts by the Departments of Health and the Department of Education to comply with the framework and it ensures that their policies are uploaded on the framework portal. It is our firm believe that our capacity to excel in this area of policy development will be given more impetus by the memoranda of understanding that the provincial administration has entered into with the institutions of learning such as the University of Limpopo, Venda and Unisa, Tshwane and Vaal universities of technology on research and development. We urge all the government employees to take advantage of these opportunities and better themselves academically.

Related to this and eagerly awaited is the research programme that the Provincial Administration has commissioned with these institutions on the impact of COVID-19 on the socio-economic development in Limpopo province. We believe the research will inform more well-targeted response and interventions to deal with the utter effects of [inaudible] Whilst the above are highly commendable there are [inaudible] one of them relate to the high vacancy rate within the public administration.

More than half of the provincial departments do not comply with the accepted 10% vacancy rate. Some of these departments are: the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, which is 25%; the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), which is 24%; Provincial Treasury, which is 19%; the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, which is 16% and the

Department of Education which is 14%. We reiterate the call that all government entities should urgently develop and implement plans to meet the accepted targets. As we do this we must not lose sight of also meeting the employment equity target for the designated groups. In this area as well the Provincial Administration is not performing well.

We are confident that the Office of the Premier working together with other sister departments can ensure that the entire provincial administration meets its developmental[inaudible] We urge everybody to ensure that we provide the much-needed employment opportunities for our people. I see that our DG is here with his entourage and I am sure that they are listening. The public sector can contribute immensely in this regard by filling all the critical and funded posts notwithstanding the constrained financial resources at our disposal. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Let's proceed to Item 7.3. Consideration and adoption of the Budget Votes and Schedules. Committee chair, you may take the stage.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon, Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, humbly request this august House to consider and adopt the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget on Public Administration in the Office of the Premier. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Seono, you may take the podium. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second Hon Manthata-Mahasela with the move. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Hon Seono will be the first speaker to debate on the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Office of the Premier. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker, I thank you for affording me the opportunity to debate on the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Office of the Premier. Hon Speaker, I greet everybody and all protocol observed. Today it's going to be a big day. Hon Speaker, this Budget for the Office of the Premier, Vote 01, marks a complete departure from the notion of always talking about progress to the deliverables and the actual work of delivering on the mandate of the government as articulated in various pronouncements and policy statements.

The Budget is an instrument through which we should realise the commitments that we make; amongst them is the fulfilment of our people's desire for social development, economic development growth, and the creation of jobs to curb the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The fulfilment of the basic human rights of our people initially articulated in the Freedom Charter and later enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic is an inescapable past bestowed upon us by history [inaudible]

We are confident that with the capable leadership both at the Executive and Administrative levels in the Office of the Premier, the Office will continue to deliver on the promise of the attainable clean audit for he served the entire provincial administration. It is a conviction that most of the targets that we have set for ourselves in the APP will be achieved. This condition is born out of the experience of the past financial year. We specifically refer to the issues of sustaining the various interventions geared toward the attainment of [inaudible] youth development and employment.

We have noted the progress that was recorded in as far as the implementation of the Youth Development Strategy is concerned. Interestingly, all the provincial departments and municipalities have assigned dedicated officials and structures to deal with [inaudible] and expressed our gratitude that now the machinery for youth development and empowerment is effective and truly capacitated to deliver on the commitment made for the sector. We expect to see tangible results as the office disbursed R10 million in startup capital for the Limpopo youth development [inaudible] established in partnership with the National Development Agency. We call upon other public offices and the private sector to join in the youth development in our province, more importantly as the youth develop themselves to tap into this resource and to be the masters of their own destiny.

With regard to preferential procurement targeting the youth, we applaud the Office of the Premier and the entire Public Administration for achieving the goal of ensuring that 15% of the entire procurement spent is geared towards the youth. We hope that this will be exceeded as the year progresses, we further commend the Office of the Premier for successfully facilitating the [inaudible] of 50 young [inaudible] for learnerships at the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. Additionally, more than 100 students, 20% of whom were awarded bursaries by the Office.

Hon Speaker, it is our conviction that through Vote 01 Budget and the APP, the Office will be able to increase the speed and pace through which youth development and empowerment programmes are implemented in the province. Through this and other initiatives, we should realise the goal of accelerating youth development for a sustainable future. Achieving this will be special [inaudible] for the young people who laid down their lives during the June 16, 1976, Soweto uprising and beyond.

It is our expectation that the same energy and momentum that is displayed towards youth development and empowerment will be employed towards the development and empowerment of women and improve the status of our society. These are the most vulnerable sectors of our society that require collective [inaudible] and their development and empowerment. We appreciate those government departments or those that have achieved 2% women representation across all levels, those that are still behind should catch up.

We further call upon the provincial government to finalise the women empowerment and women empowerment [inaudible] strategy and [inaudible] rights and empowerment strategies and ensure speedy and seamless implementation. Our province is peculiar in character and therefore will require peculiar intervention. We are comforted by the words of our Premier who recently remarked that; we have tightened our grip in repositioning the development of women, youth and the disabled at the centre of the government agenda. If we go this way we will continue unabated, Hon Speer. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Hon Mapoulo, you may take the stage.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you once again. Hon Speaker, the EFF notes the increase in [inaudible] of the employment. Furthermore, the budget allocation total is R238 million. This increase does not excite us at all because the Budget increase in the Office of the Premier do not translate into any kind of development for the lives of our people. The EFF always advocated for progressive Budgets that are people concerned with development and development orientated. The EFF does not approve any Budget that is not radical and progressive enough to change the lives of our people for the better.

This department has the tendency of taking a Budget of malicious [inaudible] with no intention whatsoever to [inaudible] the lives of our citizens. Why should we concur with a Budget that is not going to support businesses that are owned by people living with disability [inaudible] I will fight with our acting Premier [inaudible] Why should we come here and support the Budget that is not going to support the lives of young entrepreneurs [inaudible] in the province. We know for a fact that the Budget only benefits the people who are sharing whiskey with. Open the [inaudible] for all young people to benefit as long as they have all the necessary requirements. Do not use political elegance as a token for young people to get jobs and to get business from our government. When you open more opportunities for more people to do business with the state you will be creating more jobs for the people. It is clear that your understanding of economics is limited because you we taking these opportunities to school you on the ...on relations between business and job creation.

The EFF is also concerned that the Sekhukhune District Offices are still in Lebowakgomo instead of Sekhukhuland. Why must the people of Sekhukhune travel to the Capricorn district to get services when their offices could be relocated to the Sekhukhune region for better access to services? It's like the one-stop centre that you killed for the province for [inaudible] to come to Polokwane and get that one-stop centre office to get that access to our government. This matter is not overdue and we are [inaudible] That it is featured in every report but it does not get resolved. It is forever hanging for this budget ... could be dealt with us the same blow as the watchdog centre [inaudible] You will be told that you are no longer going to Sekhukhune. Bana ba Hlabirwa'a Hlabirwa. Bana ba Hlapogadi'a Phaahla. Bana ba [inaudible] Ba a di bona. I am not surprised because some anomalies

only happen when the state is not [inaudible] to find solutions to a simple matter such as the one of Sekhukhune District Offices.

The EFF is disappointed that the department failed to implement the directive as recommended by the Public Service Commission. The failure of the department to implement the service is clear that there is no political will to change things for the better but the better by improving government systems. There are communities that are growing exponentially with regard to the [inaudible] the expansions are not accompanied by all the required services such as schools, clinics and other [inaudible] This administration does not understand the concept of forward planning. As they continue to be exposed to government issues. We are lacking capacity as a state and we are a falling state every day. Everything thing that you touch is collapsing. Everything that you touch, e na le lephera. E tlo bola. Ke a leboga.. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Van der Walt, you are next.

MS VAN DER WALT

Hon Speaker, the budget allocation for the Office of the Premier is R338,8 million, which has three programmes: Administration [inaudible] And development services and government policy[inaudible] Reference in the report is made to 2021/22 [inaudible] problems of provincial departments and its entities...remains the top department performer with five clean audits[inaudible] which is the only [inaudible] where we have seen clean cleans audits for the last three consecutive financial years.

Education is a priority, the departments with remaining outcomes programmes for the past five past years and [inaudible] for the 4,5 [inaudible] This is extremely concerning as these two departments need a lot more than just [inaudible]" More resistance [inaudible] for improvement". It needs to improve to unqualified audit. Every expert intervention is needed. I[inaudible] to have [inaudible] turn of [inaudible] between 2010/14 were already in the so-called ICU. Why is there no improvement? Has the Auditor-General's corrective measures could be taken seriously [inaudible]any any consequence management action taken? Our qualified officials [inaudible] are [inaudible] for the departments in charge.

The people of Limpopo have had enough and will make choices at the ballot boxes in 2024. Reference is made with regards to capacity building through and memorandum of understanding with the of the local [inaudible] capacity building to the province [inaudible] it doesn't mention it. It could be Unilim, Univen or Unisa[inaudible] would then provide [inaudible] The Public Service Commission Act determines that the subject to its provisions and the Constitution. Commissioners will be appointed by the President [inaudible]330 is specific with regards to the functions of the commission yet some departments undermine this and fail to implement the directives or recommendations by the public services commission. I think this is serious misconduct.

Any consequence management action is taken or is this just a new word or phrase in this government's dictionary? According to the committee report the spatial planning land use

management has been in the Legislature for the last six years and the bill is not moving towards finalisation Are we able to do proper long-term planning and rapid growth in our province? We are getting closer to the end of this term and Premiers as the custodians of the government of the province always leave behind a legacy. I am afraid to say that our Premier, his legacy will be the inability to create jobs for the people of our province of Limpopo. Since he took over as Premier unemployment has risen to the double figure in ages. It is not a good legacy in anyone's terms. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mahasela, it's your time. [APPLAUSE]

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me also thank the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Hon Acting Premier; the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Executive Council; Honourable Members in the House; ladies and gentlemen; let me also acknowledge the DG[inaudible]

Hon Speaker, we do understand that the job of the opposition is to condemn everything that the government is doing. Your job is to oppose whatever we do even if we do nice things, you oppose. That is your job. Honourable Members and Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank the august House. O ka se re nywenywenywe.

Let me thank the august House for giving us this moment to reflect on the work of the Office of the Premier under the leadership of Comrade, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mahasela, there is a hand there. Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

I totally agree with the other Members[inaudible] I strongly believe that it is out of order for the Member [inaudible] to say that a Member ke lemenemene. I will humbly request the Member to withdraw that statement.

MS MAHASELA

I withdraw. Askies. Let me take this opportunity to thank the august House for giving us the opportunity to reflect on the work of the Office of the Premier. Under the Leadership of Cde Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. I also have to convey my condolences to the Premier and his family on the sudden loss of Ms Mathabatha, our first lady. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

I have already said that in my first debate. Madam Speaker, we welcome the good work that the Office of the Premier is doing and continues to do to[inaudible] leadership,

coordination and support services to the entire Provincial Administration. We have no doubt that the Office is discharging these responsibilities diligently. This [inaudible] of the Office of the Premier through its programmes; be it Administration; Institutional Support; Planning; Coordination; Monitoring and Evaluation is reflected in the number of clean audits that the Office has been receiving.

This alone puts the Office in a whole position to lead the rejuvenation and revitalisation of the entire provincial administration. As the saying goes, charity begins at home. The same thing can be said about the spending patterns of the Office of the Premier. In the recent past reporting period, the Office achieved over 95% expenditure of its Budget. Its financial statements are rated amongst the most compiled with the best accounting practices.

When it comes to revenue collection and debt recovery or the payment of service providers within the prescribed period of 30 days the Office of the Premier performed above expectations. The Office achieved 100%. Le a ekwa? About 100% [inaudible] when it comes to the payment of service providers within the prescribed period. [APPLAUSE] It must be said now that all these achievements will remain hollow if they do not filter down and positively impact other government entities and departments. For them to be meaningful and sustainable they must translate into above expectation achievements by the entire public administration. Together with other support entities like the Provincial Treasury, we urge the Office of the Premier to go down to the struggling departments and entities and empower them with knowledge, skills and expertise so that they too can turn the tide. Their success is also our success.

There are many examples that can attest to this assumption that through cooperation they can exceed expectations. For instance, as things stand now all the government departments have successfully implemented the five strategic pillars of the national anticorruption strategy. It is an important achievement because at the heart of the strategy is the inculcation of ethical, accountable, professional, developmental and corruption-free public service.

Whilst there is room for improvement, the overall [inaudible] within the provincial administration is at near acceptable levels. A number of departments have attained the required employment equity targets for the designated groups, women and people with disabilities at all levels of the provincial administration. We hope that as improvements of heads of the Departments of Health, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism unfold we will not lose sight of the imperatives of the employment equity at this level.

We commend the Premier for ensuring that the positions of HODs of the Department of Transport and Community Safety and Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs which is called CoGHSTA are filled with capable and well-qualified individuals. We hope they will use their skills to meaningfully contribute to the [inaudible] of the Provincial Administration in the same vein we support the call made by the Premier to ensure that there is maximum stability and continuity within the HOD and the Chief Financial Officer levels of the Provincial Administration.

This is more important as we move closer towards the end of the Sixth Administration and the ushering in of the Seventh one. A smooth and seamless transition is required in this regard. These measures should always be divided within the recently adopted 2020/30 Limpopo Human Capital Investment Strategy at the core of which is the development of strategic partnerships with the relevant stakeholders and partners for the provision of training and skills development that are necessary and specifically tailored to meet the provincial development imperatives.

We welcome the much progress that has been made across the entire Provincial Administration in meeting the various targets that have been set aside for the designated groups in relation to procurement and presentation. We, however, believe that we must raise the bar to new levels. There must be an increase for the 2% equity target for women representation at the senior management levels of the provincial administrations. The same should happen in relation to the 25% procurement set aside for the designated groups. This call is informed by the peculiar circumstances that face [inaudible]

Indeed different circumstances call for different measures. All the above achievements attest to our conviction that through collaboration we can achieve a lot. We must therefore forge strategic partnerships within and outside the Provincial Administration to drive economic recovery and reconstruction. We are witnessing the truths of such collaboration in the implementation of the Limpopo development plan. The Premier's economic growth advisory council the impact catalyst initiatives and other interventions are yielding results but we need more of these partnerships in the area of renewable energy. We eagerly await the development and implementation of a renewable energy strategy and implementation plan. We hope that this will outline among others the types of partnerships and projects that will help the province harness their abundant renewable energy sources that is [inaudible] This sector has a huge potential to contribute towards employment creation during the construction and operation spaces of the projects.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, it is only through corporation and collaboration that we can achieve common goals and bring changes. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the acting Premier, Hon Sekoati to come and respond.

THE ACTING PREMIER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mahasela and Members of the committee for the issues that they have raised as they are very much important and pertinent to this department. The Office of the Premier [inaudible] its primary responsibility is coordination and ensuring that that there is proper and good governance that is taking place within the province in ensuring that all departments are compliant with the laws that are supposed to be followed in [inaudible]

I would like to take this opportunity to express words of gratitude particularly for Members who understand and acknowledge that there is progress that has been achieved by this

provincial government. I want to sympathise with those who say that the Premier of the province has never done anything in terms of improving governance in this province. Those who were part of the history of this province know how this province was when it emerged from Section 100. The Premier of this province has been able to ultimately ensure that there is good governance and also finances are in a good state for the province to continue to function. Meaning that the Premier has been able to ultimately make sure that the people of the province are able to get the required services that they are supposed to be getting.

Having said that, it does not mean that there are no weaknesses. It does not mean that there are no setbacks. It does not mean that in every area we have been able to achieve everything that we have set for ourselves in terms of our plans. That says that we are committed as the Office of the Premier to ensure that at least we continue to go the strength of the province in terms of economic and social and make sure that our people are able to [inaudible] of living their lives and spending their lives in this province.

One of the myths that we need to be dealt with is the issue that the provincial government has the responsibility to create jobs. There is a difference between creating jobs and filling vacancies. I think Members must be able to understand that. Filling vacancies is to ensure that [inaudible] in government ensure that there is efficient provision of services to our communities. The issue of government creating jobs relates to government creating an enabling environment for businesses to create jobs. Hence when you listen to the survey [inaudible] it will tell you that in this province we have been able to increase jobs by the activities in agriculture; the activities in mining and so forth.

Well, there are services as well but it is important to understand Hon Mapoulo that it is not the responsibility of government but it is the full responsibility of government to create that enabling environment for businesses to create those jobs. So, when people talk about vacancies we do take it seriously. We do understand what the portfolio committee is saying about filling those vacancies but also in terms of the levels of vacancies that have not been filled. But they are also looking at the Premiers' Office and the Provincial Treasury they are looking at a situation where they are able to reduce the compensation of employees in the province. But for us to do that we need a scientific method and approach for us to be able to ultimately say this is how far we should be able to reduce the compensation of employees.

That is because if you look at the national average COE in terms of 61% and as a province, we are at 68%. We are saying we have actually moved from 68% to 65 % but now with the wage bill, it would actually take us back towards 70%. We are saying we need for us to be able to fill the vacancies we therefore need to look at the warm bodies to do a comparative analysis with all other provinces as to why others are able to provide efficient services with less human resources and ours is still very high. So we need to have that comparative analysis and be able to understand why are we at this level because that will be able to help us to make sure that we are able to free more resources that will be able to go to the development of the people of the province not just warm bodies where we have got people doing the same not necessarily utilising maximally the benefits that we can get out of each rand that we are paying.

We are looking to make sure that [inaudible] filling of vacancies but it is also about efficient utilisation of the resources that we are having so that we can have more development in the province because we do not have anything outside of what we are having and therefore if we are continuously taking more resources towards compensation of employees it means the level of services will actually decline and go down to a level that is very much unacceptable. Hence you are seeing all this movement that is very slow. That is because we are trying to work with all departments to make sure that ultimately that analysis is scientific and we are able to ultimately embark on a process that will be able to help the province.

Regarding the issue of employment equity, we are saying that it is not a choice for us to be able to reach the levels that are required in terms of employment equity. It is an agreement with all the departments that all the positions that are going to be filled from now onwards should be positions that are going to make sure that we are able to ultimately achieve that employment equity that is requirements that are going to require in all departments irrespective of any department but everyone must make sure that we all live up to that expectation and objective in terms of employment equity. We have heard about the issues of employment, we believe it is [inaudible] we are actually working towards that and we are hoping with the monitoring that we have both at the provincial and Office of the Premier we should be able to exceed those targets that have been set, in all departments.

We're also looking at the issues of consequences management which have been very slow. However, now that we are strengthening consequence management and we have agreed that all the Members of the Executive Council also need to be responsible to make sure that there is consequence management if people do not comply in your departments. Hence today we are holding as a province for all HODs and all CEOs a workshop on regular expenditure and framework on misconduct to make sure that indeed there is consequence management in the province. We are hoping that should yield fruits. However, it will be upon the shoulders of all of us to make sure that we monitor and get committed to that.

With regard to the issue of moving the regional offices from Lebowakgomo to Sekhukhune, let me indicate that there is progress. We are at a level where the [inaudible] has been contracted and a lot of work is going on. The only challenge that we have is that we have had two groups of people; that is ba ga Mohlala and some groups that were challenged that the land that we have been given to develop belongs to them. We are dealing with that with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. They are supporting us in court. We believe that it is not something that is insurmountable. We should be able to overcome that. But there is a lot that is going on with the provincial government and the district municipality including the Makhuduthamaga Municipality to make sure that ultimately the people of Sekhukhune are able to get services closer and in their own district. There is movement in that regard and we are hoping that in no time the people of Sekhukhune should be able to get those services closer to their homes.

The issue of young people I can say indeed is part of the provincial risk profile that we have looked at, but also their importance as an asset for this province for development now and in the future.

With those remarks, I would like to once again thank the portfolio committee for guidance and also for making sure that they continue to provide us with a council in order to ultimately live up to good governance in this province.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you once more. Let us proceed to Item 7.4. Consideration and adoption of the reports of the portfolio committee on Social Development. Committee chair, you may take the stage. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members of the Executive Council here, bjalo ka modulasetulo wa komiti ye ke kgopela Ngwako o thekge pego ya kotara ya bobedi ya 2022/23. Ke a leboga

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Ndi khou livhuwa, Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou tikedza zwe zwa ambiwa nga Muhulisei Vho Matlou.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you make take the stage.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, request this august House to consider and adopt the 2022/23 report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Nna, Makoma Makhurupetje, ke ema go thekga pego ye e boletšwego ke modulasetulo wa komiti, Joshua Matlou. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair, you may take the stage.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. [inaudible] go thekga pego ya kotara ya bone ya 2022/23 ...

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Xi Tsonga 02:38:22

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Our first speaker on the list is, Hon Mochadi. [APPLAUSE]

DR MOCHADI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Acting Premier, Hon Sekoati; Deputy Speaker; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Members of this august House; the MECs present here today and guests in the gallery, I want to greet you all in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

BACKGROUND

Amen!

DR MOCHADI

Hon Speaker, [inaudible] to debate the second, third and fourth quarters of Social Development.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee on Social Development was briefed by the Department of Social Development on second quarter, third quarter and fourth quarter performance reports for the 2022/23 financial year. The second quarter performance report marks six months into the financial year during this quarter under review. The expectations are that the implementation of the programmes is in progress in relation to the set target and budget.

Madam Speaker, the committee noted and commended the department on its expenditure during the second quarter where by 49% of the projected budget was spent. It is an achievement because the unspent budget was only 1% below the norm of 50%. However, the genuine underspending from quarter one was reported on both restorative services, development and research. It has been observed that the trend of underspending in these programmes is continuing from the previous financial year of 2021/22 in terms of the performance of the overall programme from the previous quarter

to the second quarter the department reported a performance of 42 targets against 44 targets that were approached in the APP.

The department had a mandate to create jobs for the downtrodden masses of this province in order to alleviate poverty and improve the standard of living of the people of Limpopo. The question of [inaudible] jobs is not a choice for the department but a policy matter all over the country. The EPWP jobs [inaudible] wants [inaudible] they must be implemented from the first quarter because it is already known that these jobs will be part of the APP and are funded through conditional grants. It is unfortunate when the conditional grant is not taken seriously. The committee expects the department to spend 100% of the target for this programme without deviation.

The committee will appreciate and welcome 100% of EPWP jobs created in all quarters of the financial year. This is the programme on which the department must excel on. Food security is the availability of food and the ability of individuals within communities to access, afford and outsource adequate foodstuff. The department must ensure that through its programmes it implements and increase the number of households accessing food through the food security programme the achievement of food security in the previous year identified by us was another target that was not achieved by the department during the second quarter. The department is expected to be knowledgeable that increasing food prices and lack of income as a result of unemployment are among the most crucial features contributing to food insecurity in South Africa. Then it is therefore crucial for management to understand the impact of [inaudible] poverty and inequality on households from [inaudible] The department must make sure that this programme is implemented correctly and alleviate poverty in communities.

When we read John 06: 10 - 12 Jesus said: "Have the people sit down". There was plenty of grass in that place and they sat down. About 5000 men were there. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. Madam Speaker, inequality in our country and in our province is the issue that cause poverty. Now if only five loaves and two fish can feed 5000 men it means we can do better in this department for the people. The committee received a briefing that following the [inaudible] 2021/22 audit outcome report the Department of Social Development and its audit outcome management plan to address. Under financial management services, the department planned to resolve 90% [inaudible] the department managed only to achieve only 22% in the third quarter which was an improvement from 39% in the second quarter. The department further reported that the reason for s...deviation from the previous financial year was still under investigation.

The department should provide a report on the outstanding findings on the timelines for the conclusion of these findings. The committee is seriously concerned about the lack of capacity in the supply chain management of the department as the AG identified that the internal systems are inadequate and there was none compliance with supply chain management procedures. The issue raised by the AGSA must be treated seriously by the department because [inaudible] they are addressed the department will achieve better audit outcomes. The committee was concerned because it was during this quarter of the

engagement with the department that we have seen that they did not reach the threshold that the AG want the department to reach.

The committee wants to encourage the department to address these challenges hoping that the annual report will bring better improvement results in relation to supply chain management. We have also observed that there was a challenge in the finance section of the department. The department must work hard that the annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with what is required by the A-G. The department must capacitate its finance section because it is its cornerstone in terms of realising clean audit outcomes. The office of the CFO must be capacitated with the skills necessary to perform financial duties, and those who need training must be trained.

The committee noted with dismay the lack of tools of trade for social workers was still one of the continuing challenges facing the department. The committee resolved in the previous quarter that the department must prioritise the matter and ensure the provision of tools of trade for social workers. The department previously recorded 47% vacancies and an approved organisational structure which shortage sparked both at the senior level and the production level. The filling of the 22 posts with a budget of R32 million was prioritised for the 2022/23 financial year. The committee appreciated the department on the programmes meant in ensuring that the vacancies were filled in during the quarter under review. We applaud the MEC because it was very important that these positions be filled. Thank you for doing it. As the committee, we appreciate it.

The committee was concerned that an oversight visit to Seshego treatment centre in October 2022 further revealed several challenges surrounding the arrangement, from using a medical doctor from Botlokwa who is committed in Botlokwa as well. It is unacceptable. We need a permanent doctor at that treatment centre because the people who are there need proper care and proper prescription so that their lives can be improved.

The department reported that it was using a volunteer doctor from Botlokwa Hospital as an interim measure whilst the procurement processes for the services of a medical doctor are underway, for instance, the volunteer doctor comes once a week which the treatment centre does not need once a week cure. For instance, it becomes a problem when the volunteering doctor takes one day and the other day for admissions. This results in the underutilisation of available staff for example on the day of the visit there no [inaudible] in the admission or the [inaudible] ward and the overall admission in this centre was very low. The department must find a way to deploy a doctor who will reside in Polokwane to be assigned to Seshego treatment centre on a permanent basis.

In the previous days, the department struggled to achieve the equity target for women in SMS level. In the third quarter equity target for an appointment, SMS level was overachieved by 52%, which shows that the MEC when we account to the portfolio committee takes us seriously and we appreciate [inaudible] The committee commends the department on the job well done, however, the equity target of people with disability should not only remain stagnant at 2%. Even though it is a yardstick it needs to be improved. If there are those with the required skills they must be afforded an opportunity [inaudible]

During our oversight to the department on the fourth-quarter report the department reported that there was a challenge of fruitless and wasteful expenditure in relation to GaPhasha Selatole. This is a long-standing issue here at GaPhasha Selatole. We as the portfolio committee emphasise that the Honourable MEC must take this very seriously. GaPhasha Selatole must be taken very seriously and it must be improved. This challenge has been standing and it cannot be [inaudible] all the time. It means whatever we are saying is not taken seriously with the good work that is happening we want this one also to be taken seriously.

As I conclude we noted that previously the department struggled to transfer money to NGOs[inaudible] that time amongst others were due to noncompliance of [inaudible] their requirements were not equating to their request. However, the committee observed in the fourth quarter that the department spent 97%, which is R254,97 million of the allocated R264,028 million in transfers to NPOs but we have noted that there is a problem of monitoring and evaluation from this department because we are not just throwing the money to the NGOs and NPOs. We need to know what is happening at the end of the day because if we have taken money to NGOs and NPOs and we go and still fund the same programme in the communities we are serving then there is a serious problem so we need this monitoring and evaluating committee to take charge to monitor the money to the cent which has been used. Therefore, as I said the department reported a shortage of staff including [inaudible]

The committee encouraged the department to address the consistency challenge of lack of tools and the department reported that the budget of R10 million for the maintenance DSD and one sports centre and office in 2023/24 is set aside. The committee encouraged the department not to delay the maintenance of those centres because some of them are now dilapidated the department must explain if the maintenance also includes the GaPhahla Selatole one-stop centre. The committee supports the adoption of the reports. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mochadi. Also, we would like to apologise for the inconvenience of the technical errors which occurred during your debate. Maybe that is why Hon Deputy Speaker, on Tuesday indicated that a service provider has already been appointed for the installation of a new chamber system. So, please just be patient it will be ok. Let us proceed. Our second speaker is Hon Managa.

MR MAHLANGU R V: 03:04:33–06:09:10

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me also start by conveying my message of condolences to the family of the Premier of the Limpopo province, Stanley Mathabatha on the passing on of his wife, Mrs Maggie Mathabatha. Tshivenda tshi ri a dzimana u la malombe fhedzi mukosi a a phalalana. Mulangadzulo, rine a ri lindeli u hfufha murumba u saathu u lila,

ndi ngazwo vha khou vhona ndi khou kona u zwi amba namusi. Ndi a tenda uri Ma Afurika vho pfa.

Hon Speaker, the lack of tools of trade for social workers in this department is worrying and disturbing. The department expects social workers to perform at their best and yet they do not have the necessary tools of trade to do the work. It does not make sense at all. In the 2022/23 financial year, R18 450 million was earmarked for the purchasing of tools of trade and a year plan for the procurement of tools of trade for social service had been developed.

Can the MEC provide a comprehensive report regarding the implementation of tools of trade plan? Such a plan must take the House into confidence that something is being done about the plight of social workers in this regard. Hon Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters is disturbed that more than 800 qualified social workers are idling without jobs.

Most of these social workers were beneficiaries of government bursaries and now they are just dumped like there was never a plan or a vision in place when their studies were funded by the department. During the period under review, about 1975 EPWP job opportunities were created, and the target was 2 600, thus resulting in a variance of 625. The failure to reach targets in terms of job creation or any other target for that matter is criminal and unacceptable. It cannot go on like this.

There are hundreds of youths out there who are looking for jobs and yet the government is denying them these jobs which clearly have funding and budget available. This is not acceptable. Hon Speaker, the department previously reported a 47% vacancy rate of the approved organisational structure with a shortage of staff both at the senior level and production level. A 47% vacancy rate is scandalous and shocking. Where else does this happen besides here in Limpopo?

Hon Speaker, how many people could have benefited from these jobs and how many families could also have benefited? In 2022/23, the department prioritised the filling of 52 posts with a budget of R32 million. By the end of the first quarter of 2022/23, the indication was that a total of three posts were filled. Scandalous is an understatement, the level of incompetence is shocking. Hon Speaker, noncompliance to the procurement processes, and unreliable performance information as alluded to by the AG are some of the serious anomalies in this department.

Furthermore, the victim empowerment centres in Limpopo are faced with funding challenges which affect their sustainability. This defeats the purpose for which these centres were established, and we expect nothing more than dysfunctionality and collapse. The Seshego Treatment Centre continues to be characterised by all sorts of shenanigans amongst them are low admissions, waiting list and lack of a dedicated doctor and many other challenges in the centre.

Hon Speaker, the department is struggling to implement key programmes like poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods, and youth and women development programmes which are one of the ways to combat poverty, empower vulnerable groups and create

employment. It was evident in the first quarter and the second quarter when the department underspent on these key programmes that they do not take them seriously. Furthermore, shocking, and more disturbing things continue to happen in this department. Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that the department is still providing youth with non-accredited fly-by night bogus training.

The scourge of GBVF remains an ongoing challenge in society today and continues to threaten the safety of vulnerable groups, mostly women and children and yet nothing concrete has been done about it. There was an increase in the number of reported cases of violence and crime in the third quarter and yet there is no ambition to counter this increase in crime levels. All these failures are a direct indication of a failed state unfortunately citizens are the ones who are on the receiving end.

In conclusion, let it be registered in this august House that as the opposition our job is not only to oppose, however, we are here as the opposition to make sure that whoever is having tasks at hand must execute all those tasks and must be accountable and take all the responsibilities. Let me also refer the previous speaker to the dictionary to check the meaning of the word "opposition". [APPLAUSE]

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker is Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I would also like to send my deepest condolences to the Premier and his family on the sad loss that they have experienced. We wish them strength during these trying times.

The portfolio committee has made recommendations and awaits the issue of the lack of alignment between the performance report and the budget expenditure. In addition, the under expenditure in critical sub-programs of both the youth and women development as well as poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods programs need prioritisation as they aim to empower the vulnerable and poor individuals and households. It is imperative that the department continues and places a huge emphasis on allocating resources to benefit the most vulnerable people, especially victim empowerment and anti-substance abuse services.

In addition, the issue of progress reporting on concerns and problematic areas from previous quarters must be tabled and ventilated or addressed. The department had undertaken to resolve 100% of the AG's findings, this after the deviation of prior years of fruitless and wasteful expenditure for Ga-Phasha Selatole NGO.

Hon Speaker, the department's challenge in struggling to pay NGO subsidies timeously due to their non-compliance with the central supplier database requirements needs to be addressed. I find it quite strange that when I go to the department, I find NGOs who have not been paid and when I enquire in the department, I get a response that says NGOs

are paid timeously, but we now get a report from the same department that says NGOs are not paid timeously.

This has been a historical challenge and the department must advise on what plans or actions have now been put in place to remedy the situation. There must be proper financial management against budget to ensure that the department is not faced with cash flow challenges as was the case in the past.

The portfolio committee requests as a matter of urgency that the department urgently table a report on all invoices not paid currently in the system, that is more than 30 days old. The status of these payments or invoices; the amounts involved and the reasons as to why they have not been paid.

Hon Speaker, there remains a concern within the department on the equity targets for women at the SMS level, the department had only achieved 45,4% and that is 10 over 22 against the target of 50%. The trend here indicates a continuous decline from previous years, which were at 52%. There is a major concern and a challenge in the childcare and protection services sub-programmes. The fourth quarter report indicates an increase in the number of child abuse cases, with 690 cases being reported against a target of 380, which in any event is quite high and unacceptable.

Hon Speaker, we as a province and government are failing these abused children. It cannot be acceptable that we have these levels of abuse against the most vulnerable of our society. In addition, the department reported underspending of 84% on the issue of children placed in foster care. About 2664 children were placed in foster care, against a target of 2470. This is sad because it shows a caring society and a non-carrying society.

Hon Speaker, under the Community-Based Care services for children, 39014 children were reached, which exceeded the target of 31900 by 7114. This creates an issue and concern for drop-in centres and NGOs funded by the department, as these centres and NGOs were faced with challenges because of the cuts in subsidies, which impacts their cash flow and limited funding. Whilst we applaud the department for achieving more with less budget, this cannot remain a sustainable model and these drop-in centres and NGOs viability also becomes a challenge and is at risk.

About 12076 of the targeted 10380 victims of crime and violence received support services, while 67 of the targeted 20 victims of crime and violence were accommodated in shelters. Both targets were exceeded and 99% of the budget was reported. Again, well done to the department, but if you look on the flip side of this, it shows and indicates a very concerning society and the department and government that need to do a lot more.

In conclusion, it is imperative that progress regarding outstanding issues from the previous quarters must be tabled to the committee as these need to be ventilated; NPOs must be capacitated and have the necessary expertise to run their programs to avoid non-compliance with the department's policies and processes. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. I will now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Joshua Matlou. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker present here, Chief Whip of the Legislature and Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; Leader of the Opposition parties; the Acting Premier; Members of the Executive Council present here; distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen.

It is critical that the management of the department implement the recommendations and solve the findings of the Auditor-General. In those recommendations, we felt that if the department can manage to deal with those findings, it will be counted amongst the best-performing departments in the country. There were a few findings from the previous years and the department must...[inaudible 3:11:38]. We note that some of the findings were from the AG and were recurring and were resolved. The department must address those issues with immediate effect.

The committee resolved that the department must develop a clear management plan to address these issues and report progress quarterly to the House through the committee. Hon Speaker the challenge of social workers in the department is not a new issue at all. In the previous year, the department agreed to purchase the tools of trade which will be provided to the social workers to enable them to do their work easily.

During the engagements of the second quarter report, the department still reported the lack of tools of trade for social workers as a persistent challenge and the committee viewed this as a lack of commitment from management to solve this challenge and it would be necessary that consequence management be instituted against offending officers. An allocation of around R18 450 million was set aside in the 2022/23 financial year to purchase those tools of trade. The committee recommends that the department must provide a detailed progress report regarding those procured tools of trade to this House through the committee.

Hon Speaker, the committee noted and was concerned about the lack of commitment in terms of the management of the Seshego Treatment Centre. The centre should have not been allowed to run for a long time without a dedicated medical practitioner or a medical doctor. That centre is critical in terms of rehabilitation and detoxication of young people who have been admitted as addicts of substance abuse. The centre also assists in one way or the other to relieve stress for those young people who cannot handle peer pressure when they are outside of that centre. The department must place a permanent medical practitioner or doctor in the centre on level nine. Currently, a medical doctor from Botlokwa Hospital was helping that centre. We want to thank the doctor for the work that she/he was doing because she was of great assistance to the department. Madam Speaker, we know women and girls are most survivors of victims of GBVF, however, this does not mean men don't experience GBVF. This scourge is prevalent largely because of the systematically perpetuated gender inequality. It is a human rights issue ... [3:14:32 inaudible]

In the past two years, the department briefed the committee that GBVF shelters will be built; in the 2020/21 financial year, the department committed to establishing at least one shelter per district since there are two shelters, which Huis Maroela and Khuseleka in Mopani and Capricorn Districts. At the time of engagement in the third quarter report, the committee noted that these shelters are not going to be realised and the department provided a clear progress report on what it has done since the inception of the plan to date.

The committee will work with the department during oversight to make sure that the building of shelters is realised. Hon Speaker, the committee noted and was concerned that during the third quarter review, the department's budget was adjusted by R119,415 million, however, it was not clarified by the department what was the adjustment for and which programmes it was going to be addressed. It is critical that when APP targets are adjusted, the portfolio committee is briefed. Also, when the budget is adjusted, the committee must be taken into confidence so that it can be able to do oversight over the adjusted budget. The department must explain what the adjustment was for and how it will be used.

The third quarter budget spending was at 72% of the total allocation which is slightly below the norm of 75% which was a great job. The department must improve its spending on Restorative Services, which according to the report they have spent 65% which was the lowest of all the programmes and followed by Administration at 66%. Underspending in programme 4 is continuing from quarter one and the department must make sure that this trend must not continue to quarter four.

We commend the department for the assistance provided to the vulnerable children. The department provided community-based care services to children under programme 3. During the period under review, the committee noted that a total of 35 036 against the 23200 which was the set target and was reached through community-based prevention and early intervention programmes. This means that the department exceeded the set target by 11836.

During the fourth quarter, the department reached 39 014 which exceeded the target set on the APP, which was 31900, by 7114. It was not the first time that the department exceeds its set target, but it is important that when targets are exceeded, there must be no financial implications. Must I repeat that, it should be noted that when targets are exceeded, there are no financial implications because the extra services would not have been budgeted for. The department must report to the House if there were financial implications that prompted them to exceed that target.

During the public hearing on Children's Bill for Mopani and Vhembe Districts, there was an outcry from the older stakeholders about how DICs are run by the department. Issues raised included subsidy cuts without communication, lack of communication and support by the department, and DICs being inundated by unfunded beneficiaries. The department has poor communication with its stakeholders. [inaudible 3:18:49—3:19:10]

In the fourth quarter, 12076 of the targeted 10 830 victims of crime and violence received support services while 67 of the targeted 20 victims of crime and violence were

accommodated in shelters. Both targets were exceeded and spending of 99% was reported. Under this programme, the department provides victim empowerment services in partnership with NGOs which are mainly victim empowerment centres operating from SAPS facilities.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the department planned to fund 897 NPOs which includes VECs. During the committee oversight visits to VECs last year, the SAPS's intention to remove VECs from their premises was reported as the challenge. The department must address the House on how the matter will be addressed and must also submit an action plan to address these issues. One of the consistent challenges facing the department was the late payment of VECs which led to VEC staff working without receiving their stipends on time.

The committee will implement its oversight role to children from...[inaudible 3:20:31] is no longer delayed and we are happy because the report that we got from when we visited Sekhukhune is that they were paid on time. The department reported that it provided a skills and entrepreneurship development programme in the fourth quarter and both targets were exceeded due to partnership and collaboration with other stakeholders including Vaal University of Technology, NYDA, Avocado vision, and other important NGOs.

However, underspending was reported despite target overachievement. The trend of exceeding targets and underspending was also observed in the previous financial years. The department must brief the House about this underspending. With those few words, we believe that we are a government in motion and all those issues that have been reported and as oversight committee of this Legislature, we support and move that this House adopt the second and third quarter report of 2022/23. I so move.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, very much honourable committee chair. Let us proceed.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I Leswafo Joshua Matlou hereby table the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and the Budget of the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Selane you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I Che Selane, rise to second the tabling of the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan and the Budget of the Department of Social Development as presented by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. We shall now refer to our Speakers' List, and the first speaker will be Hon Monicca Mochadi.

DR MOCHADI

Thank you, Madam Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Acting Premier, and all protocols observed. Madam Speaker, I rise to debate the APP and Budget of the Department of Social Development for the financial year 2023/24.

Hon Speaker, on 26 June 2023 we celebrated 68 years since the Freedom Charter was adopted at the Congress of the People in Kliptown on 26 June 1955. We said, we, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know, that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty, and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality; that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people.

So, Hon Speaker, I want to diversify for my learned friend and honourable Member who said the ANC has lost democracy, they never knew democracy until we came with Freedom Charter; until they hear from us that we the people of South Africa. I want ... that we the people of South Africa, we want to see implementation and ANC-led government until this far. In other countries where God freed them like Finland, they never had the service delivery we had. As you know that in South Africa within 30 years all the rural areas have been electrified. [APPLAUSE]

We have a good story to tell. The National Party failed, and we are not failing. We are improving lives daily. Madam Speaker, we have improved lives and that is why we see people here calling themselves the opposition as our grandkids, so we are not threatened.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members can you allow Hon Mochadi to continue.

DR MOCHADI

God will never punish people who set people free, he will punish people who come to lie to people. Madam Speaker, we welcome the Budget Speech of the Department of Social Development. We believe that the appropriation will help the department meet its target as approved in their APP. Madam Speaker, the committee was briefed by the department that the overall budget of the department is...Hon Seshoka give me an opportunity to debate...[INTEJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Members let's allow Hon Mochadi to also enjoy her allocated time.

DR MOCHADI

Madam Speaker, as the committee we were briefed by the department that the overall budget of the department is R1, 9 billion which is an increase from R1,7 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. This translates to an increase of R157,628 million. The main share of the budget was allocated to Children and Families at R669,107 million or 35,48% of the total budget followed by Social Welfare Services at R468, 941 million which is 23,2% of the total budget. The Administration budget is R328,558 million or 16,7% of the budget. I'm so sorry the budget is just floating; things are running away.

The department must work within the confines of the budget and the Public Finance Management Act of 1991. The committee was also briefed that the transfers and subsidies budget allocation increased from R271,1 million in 2022/23 to R299,7 million in 2023/24. The stakeholders that were included in this allocation were the NPOs transfers at R292,357 million in 2023/24, which is an increase from R264,028 million in 2022/23.

Madam Speaker the committee welcomes the increase and hopes that the department will do well in the alleviation of poverty among the poor people and the people who have been previously marginalised. The department must also make sure that there are no delays in the transfers to the NPOs. We recommend that the department must start to do checks and balances in advance in relation to requirements from NPOs and abeyant funds to bounce back. It is critical that due diligence is done for a smooth transfer and that beneficiaries receive aid on time.

Madam Speaker, the committee was concerned about the allocation of capital assets the department reported that the total asset budget allocation has decreased from R26,4 million in the 2022/23 financial year to R12,7 million in the 2023/24 financial year and this is unacceptable because we still have outstanding issues. The budget allocation is for ensuring the completion of the constructed projects and for the payment of final accounts for district offices and accommodation.

In the previous year, the department reported that shelters for gender-based violence will be established in various districts. The department must explain to the committee and the House how this will be established because the reported target is from district offices are ... The department reported a staff shortage including vacancies in senior positions ... due to the continuous reduction of the compensation of employees' budget. Other critical vacant posts at SMS include the following, chief director of financial management services, chief director of children and families; chief director of district management and service delivery coordination; chief director of community development services.

The department should elaborate on when and how these vacant posts will be filled because they are critical to the smooth running and success of the department. The committee encouraged the department to address the persistent challenge of the lack of tools of trade for social workers. This must be re-emphasised because they can't move

from one point to another without these resources. The department now implies that the challenge is becoming a problem and cannot be accepted.

In the previous financial year, one of the challenges faced by the department was the lack of tools of trade and adequate office accommodation. We are still rolling over the same problem. It needs to be taken very seriously and be reversed so that better offices and tools of trade can be given for the staff to be able to work. These challenges must be addressed, and the department must explain to the House if there is a plan in place to address these challenges and if the plan is available, it must be submitted to the House in the next quarter.

Hon Speaker, the department reported that it set aside a budget of R10 million for the maintenance and repair of Department of Social Development (DSD) one-stop centres and offices in the 2023/24 financial year. The committee encourages the committee not to delay the implementation of maintenance to those centres because some of them are now dilapidating and the department must explain if the maintenance also includes the Phasha-Selatole one-stop centre. Madam Speaker, the committee support the adoption of the APP and Budget for the 2023/24 financial year.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Managa you are our next speaker.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is quite an honour for me to participate in the debate on the APP and Budget of the Department of Social Development, for the financial year 2023/24. The Economic Freedom Fighters is the official opposition in this province.

Hon Speaker, the department continues to set targets which they do not achieve resulting in service delivery being compromised. The department, as mandated, focuses mainly on key sector priorities, transformed developmental social welfare, gender-based violence, drugs and substance abuse, social protection of children, comprehensive social security, and sustainable community development interventions, as well as the implementation of services for older persons and people with disabilities.

Unfortunately, half the time this mandate is not fulfilled by the department hence most of our people continue to suffer in communities because of lack of service delivery. Furthermore, the department is not adequately maintaining food security to vulnerable households and individuals in various community-based centres. As a result of this lack of support poverty continues to ravage our people in the province.

Can the MEC brief the House on the number of NPOs funded to continue operations in communities during the period under review? Furthermore, can the MEC brief this House on the number of GBVF victims provided with psychosocial support to victims of GBVF during the year under review? The EFF is shocked that the department had not been able

to absorb the social workers' graduates since 2013 whose education was funded by the department.

If these graduates were never employed since 2013, who is responsible for the social and welfare issues of our people in communities because the people who are supposed to take care of them are sitting at home unemployed? We have been complaining about the plight of social workers in this House for years now and nothing seems to happen. During the 2021/22 APP, the department reported that there were 1 229 unemployed social worker graduates. Unfortunately, most of these social workers are forced to seek employment in other provinces and abroad.

The ANC government encourages brain drain to the detriment of the province because they train young people for the benefit of other provinces as well as other regions such as Europe. Hon Speaker, how many orphans and vulnerable children have been provided with food parcels and school uniforms during the year under review? There is no determination by the department to provide childcare and protection services to promote the safety and security of children in need of care and protection.

There are many children who experience child abuse and yet there are no tangible programmes to protect them. Furthermore, children placed in foster care need more support from the government, but such support is not forthcoming. What is the plan by the department to implement the budget of R116,142 million set aside for childcare, protection services and foster care? The Economic Freedom Fighters is not convinced that this budget is enough to address the challenges faced by our children daily.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, any government which does not care for its citizens in particular its children is doomed to fail. The future of this country lies in our children and therefore it is the responsibility of the government to take care of and protect our children because they are the future of this country.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Maharaj, it is now your time to debate.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department's total budget increased to R1,9 billion, however, the budget programs 1 and 5 had been reduced. Although an amount of R15,3 million was allocated for the appointment of social workers to deal with the gender-based violence, substance abuse and issues affecting women and children over the MTEF period, the vacancy rate remains very high and is a serious cause for concern within the province.

The allocation of R10,233 million in conditional grants towards the EPWP must reflect positive productivity and outcomes. It is also imperative that the R10 million allocated towards infrastructure projects for the maintenance and repair of the Department of Social

Development (DSD) one-stop centres and offices in 2023/2024 are carried out effectively and efficiently.

Hon Speaker, the department cannot have a repeat of the previous financial year, where the department struggled to meet targets and underspent on program 4. These funds are necessary for the poorest of the poor and any sort of under-spend or zero spending is detrimental to the benefit of our people in the province. It is also concerning that the department faces serious budgetary constraints whilst simultaneously having a high vacancy rate of 43% of a shortage of staff at both senior and lower levels. The filling of these vacant posts must be urgently addressed to ensure that we do not experience a challenge in assisting our almost 2,8 million grant recipients.

Hon Speaker, the lack of both tools and inadequate office space remains a challenge to effectively service and perform the functions required. Whilst the department indicates that infrastructure maintenance will be prioritised, this movie has been playing on for many years – it's time to act and no longer preach about it. This is specifically towards offices and one-stop centres.

As a result of the department being unable to meet the EPWP targets of the previous financial year, these targets have therefore been reduced to 2500 from 3000 from the previous year. We find this situation unacceptable, given the province's high unemployment rate and the hunger that our people face. Whilst we understand and appreciate that these are not permanent jobs – in the tough economic climate we find ourselves in, any form of assistance to households would assist in lifting that burden faced by many families.

Hon Speaker, whilst we talk about and encourage Women Empowerment programs, it confuses us, why the budget allocation for women empowerment programs has decreased from R6,8 million to R5,28 million, with a targeted 17000 women. We welcome the decision for the department to assist and partner with NGOs and to continue funding and supporting, well-run, effective, and efficient NGOs.

It is imperative that the department works jointly with the NGOs to develop plans in ensuring that they have the necessary capacity and expertise to run programs and most importantly to manage the funds in accordance with the policies and regulations. The committee further recommends that the department urgently table reports on Phasha-Selatole, Sempupuru and Shiluvana Frail Care Centers. Lastly, the committee further recommended that the childcare centre in Driekop in Tubatse should be attended to as a matter of urgency. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I now call upon Hon Matlou. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Hon Speaker of our Legislature, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Acting Premier, Members of the Executive Council, the Leader of Official Opposition. Hon Speaker, in line with the

National Development Plan, State of the Nation Address, by the President of the Republic and State of the Province Address by the Premier, the department's other mandate is to prioritise the reduction of poverty and unemployment, development of youth and women, support and strengthening of cooperatives, and fight crime and violence including GBVF. The department executes these tasks based on the approved performance indicators and targets set out in the Annual Performance Plan. The committee was taken into confidence by the department that the budget of R1, 9 billion will be spent according to the approved APP's targets. You might remember that when we presented the third and fourth quarters, there were complaints that the budget was adjusted, and the committee was not informed.

The committee welcome the increase of compensation of employees by 1.14% from R1,307 billion in 2022/23 to R1,322 billion in 2023/24. Of critical importance is the inclusion of R15,3 million for the appointment of social workers to deal with gender-based violence, substance abuse and issues affecting women and children over the MTEF period. It was reported in previous years that it was a pain in the neck of the department and the committee believes that social workers who are funded by the department to complete their qualifications will now be absorbed even though not all. The committee will do oversight work to ensure that the targets are achieved by the department.

In relation to financial management services, the department planned to resolve 100% of the audit findings by AG in this financial year. The department further planned to put effective internal control mechanisms in place such as training of SCM officials, fast-tracking investigations and implementing appropriate consequence management to improve 2023/24 audit outcomes.

Lack of internal control systems, including challenges with record management was amongst the issues raised by the AG in the 2021/22 financial year audit report of the department. The committee will work together with the department during oversight work to ensure that the planned targets for this financial year are implemented. The department must ensure that commitment is there to implement consequence management.

Hon Speaker, you will remember that in our previous debate, we complained about the tools of the trade; the issue of centres; the transfer of funds to NGOs; issues of assets; the Ga-Phasha Selatole issue; district offices accommodation; vacancy rate; the allocation of R10,233 million for EPWP. If these issues can be addressed by the department with the committed budget as it has been said, we believe that as a province we will be able to go somewhere.

The committee noted that the department is envisioning introducing a digital record management system to improve on the current manual system. The department must outline a plan for how the digital record management system is going to be implemented and what will be the cost implications. The department must avoid a situation where the system will be costed while work is in progress. The digital system plan must be submitted to House with costs for approval.

Hon Speaker, the committee welcomes the increment of the compensation of employees by 1,1% from R1,307 billion in 2022/23 to R1,322 billion in 2023/24. Of importance is the inclusion of the R15,3 million for the appointment of social workers to deal with gender-

based violence, substance abuse and issues affecting women and children over the MTEF period. It was reported in this House that social workers whose studies were funded by the department and the province of Limpopo to complete their studies will not be absorbed into our system.

Hon Speaker, old age is a sensitive phase. Elderly people need care and comfort to lead a healthy life without worries and anxiety. Lack of awareness regarding the changing behavioural patterns in elderly people at home leads to abuse of them by their next of kin. The Committee welcome the department's plan to fund residential facilities benefitting 542 older persons. The target was slightly increased from 537 in 2022/23. In addition, 13 400 older persons will benefit from community care and support services. As you are aware that most of our African elderly people get support through community care and support services and this service is taken to their residential areas.

The target increased from 9 250 in the 2022/23 financial year. A budget of R64,025 million is set aside to provide services. The committee will conduct oversight honourable MEC to ensure that this programme is implemented. While we believe that on the humanitarian programme, even though there was a reduction in terms of budget as you exceeded in the third quarter in terms of the NPOs you supported, we believe that this time you will lobby the NGOs and be able to reach or exceed your targets as long as it doesn't have financial repercussions to the department. As the chairperson of the committee, I move that this House adopts the APP and the Budget of this department.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon speaker; the Acting Premier, Hon Sekoati; colleagues in the Executive Council; honourable Members, Leader of the Official Opposition; ladies and gentlemen. Hon Speaker on behalf of the Department of Social Development I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Mathabatha and Moshoeshoe family. I have personally lost a dear friend. We used to call each other sisters. Only God knows and may her soul rest in peace.

Hon Speaker, our department is a caring department with a major responsibility of making sure that the lives of vulnerable women, youth, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities are always protected. We should continue fighting gender-based violence from all angles. Hon Speaker, as the department we are really impressed by the manner in which the portfolio committee is assisting us in their oversight role.

Hon Speaker, we appreciate the issues raised by the committee during the debate. The portfolio committee will be updated on a regular basis on the issues raised by the Auditor-General. We take the issue of tools of trade of social workers very seriously and it is an

issue that will want us to go and ask for extra funding from the provincial Treasury; we hope to do that as soon as possible and the portfolio committee will be updated in this regard.

Hon Speaker, regarding the NPOs, we must assure this House that all qualifying NPOs will be paid on time. Poverty alleviation, youth, and women development are our key focus in our day-to-day operations. Regarding the Seshego Treatment Centre, we are pleased to announce that a full-time professional doctor has now been appointed. Furthermore, the provincial Treasury has deployed a full-time officer who will be responsible for the infrastructure issues. The remaining vacant post will be filled as soon as the provincial Treasury allocates funds.

The Ga-Phasha- Selatole issue will be referred to the State Attorney and the portfolio committee will be regularly updated. Hon Speaker, it is true that a lot of social work graduates are unemployed, and this is mainly due to budgetary constraints. The committee will be regularly updated on employees who benefit unduly from the performance bonuses. There are critical vacancies which need to be filled as a matter of agency and some of the vacancies are at the chief director level. In the process of filling in these vacancies, we shall make sure that our equality targets are realised.

Hon Speaker, the noncompliance by the NPOs is a matter of extreme concern, but we have dispatched a team of officials to assist them. As I conclude, the economy of the country is dictating that we will induce costs in various programmes. Once again, I would like to thank the portfolio committee for their oversight role. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Honourable Members we are left with one department and there is a request that we break for lunch and proceed after lunch. Hon Matlou you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. With all due respect, we request that we proceed with the program, and we will go to lunch when we are done.

THE SPEAKER

Okay let's proceed with our Orders of the Day.

7.7 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

I now call upon the committee chairperson. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker, I Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, hereby table the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF CHAIRS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke eme mo go thekga modulasetulo wa komiti ya Dinamelwa le Polokego, Mohlomphegi, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. You may also take the podium because you are our first speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF CHAIRS

Hon Speaker, the Hon Premier in his absentia, our deepest and sincere condolences to him and his entire family, the Acting Premier who is the Leader of Government Business, Hon Seaparo Sekoati, the Leader of the Official Opposition in her absentia, the Chair of chairs, Hon Nkome Monyamane, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, and the Deputy Speaker. Greeting Hon Speaker and all honourable Members gathered in this august House.

Hon Speaker, indeed, we are mandated by the Constitution in terms of section 114 that we must perform a legislative oversight over the department to ensure that the Department of Transport and Community Safety, together with the leader responsible are accountable to the portfolio committee. Hon Speaker, this committee together with the House note with concern, probably with the deliberate confusion whether at the level of the management of GAAL nor at the level of management of the department which they want to bring to the portfolio committee.

I'm saying this because this report was supposed to have been debated long ago, and because of administrative deficiencies, it is brought to this House today I'm not so sure whether they wanted to incorporate all the reports or what. We did have ample time to interact or to bring this report to this august House for adoption. I'm saying this because the very same GAAL could not submit the report on time to the portfolio committee. On 11 May 2023, the committee was briefed about the report which was supposed to be submitted a long time ago. We are very worried because this is one of the disturbing phenomena that we can't continue and appreciate; necessarily because as the portfolio committee, we take our work seriously if people submit late at the level of GAAL or those who are responsible to program this report, are not doing justice to the committee.

However, Hon Speaker, we did note in the report that there are many problems regarding administration and leadership in government and GAAL. As a result, all of us have seen

that in GAAL there was a situation where the entity was recategorised from a certain level, from level 7 to level 2 because there were lots of vacancies in this entity. As the portfolio committee, we tried by all means to engage with the entity together with the responsible leader, the MEC in various meetings and we recommended or took decisions which I think will be reflected on the report and show that there are a lot of improvements in the entity.

However, we did note as the portfolio committee that in this entity there are lots of irregular expenditures which were incurred and as a result, the entity could not implement consequence management as it is expected. We are very much worried about the situation where people just resign, and no one takes responsibility, and it is the very same entity that the provincial Treasury continues to provide with resources or money so that they can function properly.

Unfortunately, due to the incapacity of the management at that time the leadership of the entity could not run the entity efficiently and that is the reason why some of them left the entity and some of them left because in our suspicion they have squandered. We felt that there is a need for the honourable MEC together with those that are leading the entity to implement consequence management. Hon Speaker, be that as it may, many issues will be debated in the reports that we are still going to entertain after this one. I think let me do justice to pose here.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Ramalobela, you're the next speaker.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE MINORITY PARTY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the EFF caucus under the leadership of Commissar Maraga in absentia, greetings to the Acting Premier, and I hope you enjoyed your birthday, greetings to all the MECs present here, greetings to all the officials that are here. On behalf of the EFF, I would like to pass our heartfelt condolences to the Premier on losing the mother of the house, and we are saying may her soul rest in peace.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed and disturbed that qualified audit opinion by the Auditor-General is derived from recurring findings spanning from previous audit reports. Amongst these is material misstatement of accrued paid leave, deposits received and documentary evidence for payment of transactions which amounted to R1 232 241 in total.

Furthermore, the annual financial statement was not submitted for auditing within the prescribed period after the end of the financial year, and when submitted it was not prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and that is a concern. The culture of not doing things according to the book is deliberate and is meant to hide corruption, and that is a fact. Despite this anomaly, none of the responsible officials were fired for sleeping on duty which is not surprising. Consequence management does

not apply in the current administration, that is why politicians and officials in government do as they wish.

Appropriate steps against officials who had incurred fruitless and wasteful and irregular expenditures are not taken hence the entity continues to be in trouble. This entity is one of the most troubled entities in the current administration. Nothing seems to be working in this entity. The entity is marred by such challenges as board incompetence, poor leadership, and governance as well as the shortage of staff in key and strategic positions. Entities should not be sucking money from government coffers because they are expected to generate their own revenue and be self-sustainable. Entities are expected to generate their own revenue, grow the economy, and create jobs for the people of Limpopo. And that was stated in the nonnegotiable cardinal pillar number 3 of the EFF, where we said we must build the state capacity.

Regrettably, government entities in the province have collapsed including GAAL. They rely on government bailouts and at the core of their problems is cadre deployment in the appointment of boards. At some point, the board Chairperson of GAAL possesses a degree in social sciences. Board members should in the main be qualified in business-related educational qualifications. It is a norm in the ruling government, what they do is that they would take a biblical teacher and put him or her as a financial officer in the municipality.

Hon Speaker, during the period under review the entity has performed below par when it comes to its revenue collection targets. Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that most personnel within the management echelons were in acting capacities during this period. When you have this type of situation in an organisation, instability is more likely to occur. It is inevitable. Officials in acting capacities are not confident enough to take decisions and part of the reason is that they are interested in permanent appointments therefore they want to treat everything carefully because they want to be appointed permanently to those positions.

Hon Speaker, the entity is embroiled in lawsuits involving a few labour disputes 4 with its former employees and service providers amounting to over R23 million. The MEC must table a comprehensive report to this House on this matter to take us into confidence in relation to the details and progress. This report must be tabled in this House as a matter of urgency. In my conclusion, unless something is done about this, we will become a liability in society. We will become an irritation and become a stumbling block. So, it is upon our shoulders to make sure that this thing works. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Ramalobela. Hon Phala, you are the next speaker.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Please allow me to convey my deepest condolences to the Hon Premier on the passing on of his wife; a mother to their children and his lifetime partner

and further convey my condolences to their political organisation on the loss of their own comrade.

Hon Speaker, GAAL was unable to submit its report under review within the prescribed time in the House and as such formally requested for exemption. The Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety was therefore briefed on this 2021/22 Annual Report Report on 11 May 2023. An amount of over R39 million was transferred to GAAL, which was later adjusted to R77,908 in the third quarter.

From this adjusted budget, the entity was able to spend R57 million, with an underspending of R20 million. The entity had obtained a qualified audit opinion which was an improvement from the disclaimer obtained in the previous financial year. Hon Speaker, as the committee we expressed concern that for the past five years and beyond, the entity had failed to extricate itself from dire audit outcomes to an acceptable one.

During the year under review, most personnel within the management were in their acting capacities though plans were underway to fill critical management positions. These included the appointment of various acting CEOs and the resignation of the company secretary. On the business development programme, though marketing projects were partially implemented, the entity still required marketing think tanks with broader marketing tools that would have penetrated the marketing environment to expound Polokwane International Airport.

An appealing turnaround strategy that would have attracted investors and brought high possibilities of generating more revenue was desperately needed to sustain the businesses of the Polokwane International Airport. Hon Speaker, at the end of our engagements on the annual report, as the committee we recommended that the entity institute consequence management processes because of fruitless and wasteful audit expenditure in its audit findings emanating from misstatements and failure to submit relevant documentation for audit purposes.

There was a serious significant human capacity shortage at GAAL which was worsened by the moratorium on filling vacancies until the reconfiguration phase of the department was completed. Internal control systems were then recommended to be strengthened to guard against irregular operations that can lead to unwanted expenditures and the lack of supply chain management compliance.

We recommended that the entity needed a decisive board and management that will act boldly and in unison in the interest of the people. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the next speaker, Hon Seono, the committee chair. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to debate the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited. Hon Ramalobela you don't know why it is called GAAL, because you don't see any importance of attending committee meetings; as a committee, we only see Hon Ramalobela here in the House; Hon Ramalobela is the Chief Whip of the EFF. Ever since Hon Ramalobela came to the Legislature, he has only attended the strategic planning of the committee.

[CROSS TALK]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members. Order, order.

MS SEONO

The House is debating the Annual Report of GAAL today because the report was submitted outside the prescribed period. The committee was briefed about this report on 11 May 2023. However, the entity requested an exemption and that was granted. It must be brought to the attention of the entity that exemptions normally cause delays in terms of the organisation of the committee and derails oversight in terms of quality and compliance. The entity must ensure that in future deviation is avoided so that you can braise yourself of the quality of oversight that will be implemented by the committee.

Hon Speaker, during the interaction with the entity, the committee observed that there is a lack of internal controls which resulted in fruitless and wasteful, and irregular expenditure. The committee recommended that the entity must implement consequence management against the officials concerned.

The committee noted that the newly appointed board of directors were in the process of finalising the proposals for a public-private partnership with the national flight operator or any other willing partnership as part of the repositioning and renewal of Polokwane International Airport. We hope that the public-private partnership will enhance the movement of people, goods, and services from Polokwane to Gauteng through the utilisation of the airport, allowing the economy to operate more effectively and efficiently in Polokwane.

Hon Speaker, the committee also believe that the airport will continue to look for efficiencies to increase its competitiveness and be more financially viable. The entity must submit the proposal to the House on the finalisation. The committee further noted that the entity is faced with the challenge of vacant posts. The vacant posts derail the smooth operations of the airport. The committee directed the board of directors to fill the vacant posts within the entity so that it has full capacity in critical posts.

The committee was concerned that the entity audit outcomes were not showing a sign of improvement. Although the entity obtained a qualified audit opinion which is an improvement from the disclaimer of the 2020/21 financial year, still the entity must work hard to extricate itself from the dire audit outcomes. The qualified audit outcomes are derived from the recurring findings spanning from previous audit reports.

There were material misstatements of accrued paid leave, deposits received and documentary evidence for payment of transactions which amounted to R1 million in total. The annual financial statements were not prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and were also submitted outside the prescribed period. The board of directors must hold the responsible officials accountable to rectify the anomaly that transpired during the financial year under review.

The committee noted with dismay that there lack of governance within the entity. Most of the personnel in critical positions like the CEO were appointed in an acting capacity. Also, two members of the board of directors had tendered their resignations. The newly elected board of directors must appoint skilled personnel with the capacity to work and work hard to turn the airport around and make it more economical.

The committee further noted that the entity failed to achieve its target of revenue collection. The entity planned to achieve a target of R22 million as revenue and only collected R10 million. The entity explained that the reason for the failure was the downgrading of the airport for the first six months as well as the recovery from COVID-19. The committee directed the entity to implement all the strategies and the committee's recommendations to turn the airport around.

Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the entity's annual report with all recommendations as the report of the House.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. honourable Members.

7.9 Consideration, and adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

I now call upon the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2023/24 Second Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mokaba you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

I rise to second the tabling of the report by Hon Seono.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable committee chair you may table the next report.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2023/24 Second Quarter Report of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited, for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Selane you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF CHAIRS

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Ke eme mo go thekga modulasetulo wa Komiti ya Dinamelwa le Polokego ya Setšhaba. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable committee chair you may table the next report.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2023/24 Third Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela you are recognised.

MS MAHASELA

Ndi khou livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou tikedza muvhigo wo swikiswaho nga Muhulisei Vho Seono.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable committee chair you may table the next report.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2023/24 Third Quarter Report of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited, for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Boshielo you are recognised. Order, order Hon Mathe and Hon Seshoka.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby stand to second the tabling of the report by the committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable committee chair you may table the next report.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report by Hon Mmaishibe Seono.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable committee chair you may table the next report.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited, for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

I rise to second the tabling of the report by Hon Seono.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and our first speaker is Hon Mapula Mokaba. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKABA

Hon Deputy Speaker, Leader of Government Business, honourable MECs present here, Leader of the Official Opposition, the Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members. Good afternoon.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the committee was briefed by the department on the second, third and fourth quarter reports of both the Department of Transport and Community Safety and Gateway Airport Authority Limited. During the quarter under review, the committee appraised the department on a few issues that were part of the recommendations.

The committee recommended to the department ensure that corrective measures are applied to employees who failed to comply with the disclosure of financial interests while doing business with the government. The disclosure of financial interest is required to prohibit double dipping by government employees while there are many people out there who need the services of the state.

In terms of Regulation 18 of the Public Service Regulations, 2016, all SMS members are required to disclose their financial interests. The department is expected to act against employees found to have a conflict of interest. Honourable Members, the committee further recommended that the department in conjunction with the provincial Treasury should consider exploring the alignment of its skills development programmes with those offered by the National School of Government within the broader objectives of the National Development Programme.

The department should review the skill capacity within the department and ensure that those who need to be further capacitated are assisted. The department must develop a mechanism that those who are chosen and have agreed to be assisted and are indeed present during the training, and consequence management must be instituted against those who are honouring those training because that will constitute fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the committee noted that the department was allocated R2,366 billion in the 2022/23 financial year which was later adjusted to R2,492 billion, and the adjustment was to ensure an efficient transport system and safety on provincial roads. The committee was concerned about the underspending incurred by the department during the second quarter and only 23% of the total budget was spent.

In the third quarter, still, on expenditure, the department managed to spend 69,76% of the adjusted appropriated budget of R2,491 billion and that was during the third quarter and the department managed to spend 23% of the budget, which amounts to R579 million. The department must give reasons for this.

During the third quarter briefing by GAAL, the committee noticed a decline in the number of passengers and aircraft movement at the airport. The committee recommended to the department explore other avenues that can attract domestic and international flights to utilise the services of Polokwane International Airport as part of increasing aircraft and passengers' movement at the airport.

The Gateway Airports Authority Limited has a duty to create quality and permanent jobs. The officials and Members of the Limpopo Legislature must be encouraged to utilise the airport's services when they are deployed to do work in Gauteng. The Department of Transport and Community Safety's officials and the Executive Authority must lead by example and utilise the services of that airport. If there is an act that prohibits the Executive Authority to utilise the services of that airport, we must review that act.

We cannot promulgate the existence of the airport and not use it. Hon Deputy Speaker, the department must also tighten the security and safety at the airport. The committee noted that the 23 kilometres radius perimeter at Polokwane International Airport is partially fenced. The committee recommended that by the end of 2024/25 the entire perimeter should be fenced with an intruder detection system.

The committee will work with the department to ensure that this recommendation is implemented because it is critical. The committee noted that during the fourth quarter review of GAAL's report, there was overspending on the procurement and acquisition of goods and services. The committee urged the entity not to deviate from the targets as approved in the Annual Performance Plan.

Hon Speaker, public transport, which is affordable, is of critical importance in Limpopo province considering that we are a rural province where most of the electorates rely on social grants. However, the Department of Transport and Community Safety must make it easy for the residents of Limpopo to move from one town to another. People must have a choice to either use public transport that is managed by the government in the form of buses or use taxis.

The committee raised concerns during the interaction with the department in the fourth quarter about the absence of bus depots in areas like Musina and Phalaborwa as well as the effectiveness of the electronic vehicle monitoring system in some buses. Musina is designated as a Special Economic Zone and there will be a huge economic activity in Musina. The committee recommended that the department must develop a plan for the establishment of bus depots.

Hon Speaker, and honourable Members, the committee supports the adoption of second, third and fourth quarter reports of both GAAL and the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Hon Ramalobela. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Firstly, I want to say sorry to my chairperson. I wish I was a Holy Spirit because my chairperson needs me and the government in waiting needs me. So, I ought to choose between the committee work and EFF's work, but I will correct that. Normally I would report to my chairperson, even yesterday I was with her, and I will correct that.

[CROSS TALK]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Order, order Members.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed that during the quarter under review, the department could only manage to spend only 23% of the allocated budget, which translates to R1 131 177. Furthermore, of the two quarterly planned targets, only one target was achieved which translates to 50% achievement. What is the point of setting targets if you are not going to achieve them?

The departments only set targets for malicious compliance because most departments and entities do not achieve targets that have set themselves. This anomaly has a huge implication for nonservice delivery in a province which has a serious backlog of service delivery. Hon Deputy Speaker, the department's inability to achieve 100% in the reduction of fruitless and wasteful and irregular expenditures due to municipal overdue accounts which further accumulated interests is indeed very worrying.

It is disappointing for the department not to achieve important programmes like not conducting customer surveys around police stations and the number of quarterly progress reports on Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Power of Attorney (POA) compiled. Customer surveys are important to understand service delivery patterns offered by police stations in communities. The only way to understand challenges at police stations is to ask community members and villagers around the police station about their satisfaction regarding service delivery.

During the period under review, the department was only able to obtain 10% of the detection of incidents of fraud and corruption. This shows how relaxed and passive the department is on the issue of fraud and corruption. Fraud and corruption are not one of

their priorities. Well, we do not know what their priorities are because nothing is happening in communities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is regrettable that during the period under review the department was yet to commence with processes towards the procurement of new subsidised bus network services planned. If you do not understand the importance of public transport and its impact on the people, you will not treat this matter as an urgent matter. Hon Deputy Speaker, underachievement, especially regarding performance targets for speed operations is unacceptable.

Speed is one of the causes of fatal accidents on our roads and it must be controlled. Performance targets must be achieved to save the lives of the people. Furthermore, the effectiveness of Court Watch considering the number of cases that are thrown out of the court must be revisited. You need to establish if it is still serving its purpose and reconsider how you need to improve the system going forward.

It was indicated that in most of these cases, their dockets are closed due to a lack of investigations or they are withdrawn for further investigations, which seems to be endless in some instances. Hon Speaker, the absence of a bus depot in areas like Phalaborwa and Musina as well as the effectiveness of Electronic Vehicle Monitoring Systems in some buses is very disappointing.

Honourable MEC, you need to put the issue of buses on your priority list. Most of our people rely on buses to go to work. We know how they are suffering. If you continue to undermine the significance of buses to the people and the economy, then it's a pity you have no idea what you are doing in that department.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Ramalobela. Our next speaker is Hon Katlego Phala.

MS PHALA

During the second quarter under review, only one of the two planned targets was achieved, which translated to 50% achievement. It is commendable that the department exceeded its revenue collection target of over R180 million by collecting over R237 million. The committee noted at the time that the department spent over R519,278 million on compensation for employees, which was 46,92%.

However, there was an underspent because of the inability to fill critical vacant posts. The department indicated that it had adopted the Transversal SCM Policy from the provincial Treasury which was used for procurement processes and advertisement of posts in subsequent quarters.

The committee expressed its concern about the department's inability to achieve 100% in the reduction of fruitless and wasteful and irregular expenditures due to municipal

overdue accounts which further accumulated interests. During the third quarter, the committee was not impressed with the fact that the department has yet to commence with processes towards the procurement of new subsidised bus network services planned. While the delays with the process were due to the reluctance of Sekhukhune District Municipality to sign the Intergovernmental Authorisation Agreement (IAA) municipalities, the committee believes the department could do more to conclude the agreement soon.

The department then however indicated that it was anticipating the full operation of the new subsidised network service by 31 March 2024. Hon Deputy Speaker, during the fourth quarter we applauded the efforts by the department to establish up to 88 functional Victim Empowerment Centres, spearheaded by the Department of Social Development, Faith Based Organisations, and other stakeholders.

As the committee, we expressed our concern that no adequate resources were channelled to these centres and that there were no concrete plans to roll out these centres at all 104 police stations. As we noted the purpose and role of the Court Watch as indicated in the performance targets, the committee expressed that its scope was not adequate to closely monitor the progress of various cases before the courts. This was demonstrated by the number of cases that failed to reach the courts or were thrown out of the courts with victims of domestic violence receiving no justice at all. By the end of all these quarters, the committee recommend that the department should have a balanced allocation and spread of newly designed road networks in critical areas when the new system is implemented in the 2024/25 financial year.

The department must ensure that the process of awarding new bus contracts is conducted in accordance with applicable supply chain management systems informed by transformation and empowerment imperatives in the province. The department should also strengthen intergovernmental efforts aimed at reducing the number of pedestrian accidents in provincial and municipal routes in the province. In conjunction with other relevant departments, they should ensure that there is provision and supply of adequate resources to Victim Empowerment Rooms in various police stations.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Hon Rebecca Seono.

MS SEONO

Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe, Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo, the Acting Premier, Hon Sekoati, Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Selane, the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monicca Mochadi, honourable Members of the Executive Council present in this House today, honourable chairpersons of various portfolio committees of the Limpopo Legislature, honourable MPLs, and Hon Ramalobela.

Hon Speaker, the committee commends the department for achieving its target of revenue collection during the second quarter. The department during the approval of the APP had targeted to collect R180 million and collected R237 million. This is a great achievement for the department and the committee encourages the department not to drop the ball and collect more. The collection of revenue is the most basic task of government, as revenue is necessary for the operation of government, and the provision of the common good, through the social contract to fulfil the public interest and enforcement of its laws. This necessity of revenue was a major factor in the development of the society.

The committee observed that the department had underspend on administration. The spending on compensation of employees during the second quarter was 46,92%, instead of 50%. The underspending was because of the inability to fill critical vacant posts. The committee could not comprehend why critical posts could not be filled while they were funded. The department must explain to the House why those posts could not be filled.

The committee further noted that the department underspend on goods and services. The spending stood at R138 million which is 35,21% of the total budget of R393 million. The department must capacitate its procurement section to avoid delays in terms of procurement of goods. We have noted that most of the departments are debtors to the municipality. The department was able to collect revenue but fail to pay its dues to the municipality.

The debt resulted in fruitless and wasteful, and irregular expenditure because it accumulated interest in the municipality. The department must act against officials who caused the fruitless and wasteful and irregular expenditure. The committee recommended that the department must work towards reducing the fruitless and wasteful and irregular expenditure in this financial year.

During the third quarter review of GAAL, the committee noted that the entity underspent by 69% on the compensation of employees. The entity delayed the filling of critical vacant posts. In terms of the approved APP of the entity, those posts were planned to be filled in the third quarter. This implies that the entity failed to achieve its target during the quarter under review. The department must explain to the House what the cause of the delay was, while the posts were funded.

In Business Development Programme, the entity must work hard to ensure that its marketing strategies are effective and are able to attract more business. The entity must develop strategies to grow that airport to stimulate economic growth by creating more jobs. The entity must not only wait for the aircraft to land, but they also must lobby the aircraft and international passenger flights to utilise our airports to increase aircraft movement create economic activity and generate income.

The committee noted that there are uninhabitable buildings at the Polokwane International Airport. The committee resolved that the entity must renovate those buildings to attract clients and tenants at the airport. The committee commended the department for achieving all its targets under the Transport Regulation programme in the fourth quarter. The department planned to achieve 7 performance targets, and all were

achieved. The performance targets involve vehicle compliance inspection, speed operations, vehicle weighing and drunken driving operations.

The department aimed to reduce road fatalities and crashes by 5% during the 2022/23 financial year. This is a great achievement, and the committee encourages the department to not lose focus on this programme. The committee supports the adoption of the three quarters of both Department of Transport and Community Safety, and GAAL to be the reports of the House.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair please don't go.

7.11.1 Consideration and adoption of the reports of the portfolio committee on Transport and Community Safety

Honourable committee chairperson, you may table the reports. Hon Seono there is a hand, please take your seat.

MS VAN DER WALT

I rise on a point of order that Hon Seono when making her salutations earlier, greeted everybody but left the staff and table staff. Before she greets us again, maybe she must greet them too.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

She forgot because she was greeting Hon Ramalobela. [LAUGHTER] You can continue Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, for the financial year 2023/24, for consideration and adoption by this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable committee chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Makhurupetje you are recognised.

MS MAKHURPETJE

I, Mmakoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to second the tabling of the report by the committee chairperson. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You can continue committee chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby table the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Gateway Airports Authority Limited, for the financial year 2023/24, for consideration and adoption by this august House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable committee chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

I Leswafo Joshua Matlou stand to second the tabling of the report by the committee chairperson. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Second Reading Debate on Budget Vote 8, Department of Transport and Community Safety, and our first speaker will be Hon David Che Selane. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Hon Chief Whip; Hon Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Premier in absentia; Leader of Government Business; Leader of the Official Opposition; Chairperson of Committees, Hon Nkome Sarah Monyamane; Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, Hon Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono; honourable Members of majestic and august House, Hon Van der Walt.

Hon Speaker, as we close this month of June, we should not forget the courageous and forever fearless, radical, and militant lifetime president of the young people of this country. President Peter Ramoshoane Mokaba. The man who brought the apartheid National Party government down to its knees; it is now called democratic something; the man who radicalised the youth of South Africa and made sure that the government of the National Party is ungovernable and unworkable.

Hon Speaker, we do so, to celebrate his life together with his generation of Fawcett Mathebe, Cde Jerry Ndou, Norman Mashabane, Ephraim Mogale, and many others who contributed to this country to attain democracy and freedom. Hon Speaker, Peter was known for his strong advocacy for the empowerment and mobilisation of youth. He believed that young people had a crucial role in the struggle against apartheid. He

believed that the generation of the 80s which he grew up with had resisted apartheid at all costs.

Mokaba saw a generation that was fearless and that had the potential to challenge and dismantle the oppressive National Party government. Hon Speaker, Mokaba further emphasised the need for young people to be politically conscious and actively engage in a struggle for freedom and equality. He believed that the youth should not be passive recipients of change, but rather active participants and leaders in shaping their own destiny. President Mokaba believed that the youth should also be educated so that they become future and responsible leaders.

He did not believe in an uneducated youth who fight for positions in government, without meeting the expected standards. Peter Mokoba was a master's degree graduate when he was leading the ANC youth league in this country. We hope and believe that the youth of today would emulate him and follow in his footsteps. [APPLAUSE]

Furthermore, Mokaba advocated for the empowerment of young people through education, skills development, and access to continuity. He also emphasised unity and solidarity amongst young people, transcending the division of wages and ethnicity. He believed that young people had the power to bridge the social gap and cultural divide; if they worked together and creates a united front against the remnants of neocolonialism of a special type.

Hon Speaker, Gateway Airports Authority Limited has the mandate to manage all nonprivate airports, including Polokwane International Airport in compliance with the South African Civil Aviation Authority Act, 40, of 1998 and other relevant legislations and other administrative acts. The key objective of this entity is to establish a globally competitive integrated platform to send aviation links to the economic sector. It has also an objective to serve as a catalyst for sustainable job creation and public sector investment.

Hon Speaker, we do acknowledge that after the closure and reopening of the airport which was due to non-compliance with regulations and COVID-19 restrictions, the entity was still, and it is still trying to stand on its feet. We have noted that more funds were spent on maintenance, trying to close the gaps identified by SACAA and the hardships caused by COVID-19, where most of the tenants were lost due to inability to keep up with the rent at the airport and therefore, they had to vacate the space which they were renting.

Hon Speaker, since the establishment of this entity in 1995, this entity still depends on the government for its survival to date. In these 28 years of its survival, the revenue it generates has never sustained the entity till today and of which is a challenge. Obviously, the expectation is that the entity as a state-owned company, should contribute to provincial revenue so that it lifts the economy of this province.

Hon Speaker, it is obvious that the existence of GAAL depends on government funding. This entity in its current form, is not profitable. Many turnaround strategies have been tried but still did not yield any positive results; instead, labour relations tensions brewed

between the entity, and it's dismissed or suspended officials who were responsible for the misappropriation of funds which I have already alluded to.

Hon Speaker in as much as GAAL is funded by the government and is unable to generate revenue; it depends on government grant which is allocated annually as its revenue is not enough to sustain its operation. However, the government led by the ANC, under the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety continue to allocate funds to this entity and this is mainly for the maintenance and management of the airport operation, but while we discovered as the portfolio committee, during the previous interaction with the portfolio committee, the department and the entity were in a process of repositioning itself, where a public-private partnership was proposed.

The fundamental aim of that interaction was to explore other business opportunities as the current business model has not brought any positive results as especially in relation to revenue generation. It was also indicated in the 2023 Budget Speech, that with the assistance of the Office of the Premier and provincial Treasury, the department is engaged in a series of meetings with Gateway Airports Authority Limited with the view of assisting them so that their reliance on government for financial backing which is a good posture.

However, GAAL will be left with the mammoth task of ensuring that the airport sustains its category and standard. I have already indicated that before it was reduced from category level 7 to category level 2, but now it will be able to sustain its category by ensuring that all safety and security features of the airport are adhered to and not compromised. This includes the fact that the airport should be profitable.

Furthermore, the board was also tasked with ensuring that critical posts of the Executives are filled because many of them were in an acting capacity. Hon Speaker, we want to appreciate that young people are managers; young people my age are managers in that airport. Women are also managers in that airport. Because of vacancies in the boards at that time, GAAL demonstrated both political and administrative deficiencies.

However, honourable MEC we are very much delighted with such improvements in the last financial year. We must commend the institution, especially considering the recruitment and appointment of young people. Because if those young people are not part of that entity they were not appointed, we were going to be worried because the department's HOD is very young, and the management of that institution is also very young and women also included. It is a great achievement for the struggle which we want to realise, and we want to applaud you honourable MEC. [APPLAUSE]

The mere fact that the entity is dealing with compliance in supply chain management and SACAA regulations, which was conducted as planned in all the quarters, gives us hope that indeed the employee will not only be equipped with the necessary tools to comply with the requirements of SACAA but to implement what the AG and the portfolio committee believe in. What makes the portfolio committee and the AG worried now, is the failure to take disciplinary steps against the officials who made the entity incur fruitless, wasteful, and irregular expenditures.

In all the committees we serve we have warned the departments, especially those that do not deal with transport and community safety, those that write love disciplinary letters, to officials who have done wrong things, especially when we know that after six months the very same letters will not be in existence. Obviously, this in the eyes of the public would be seen as a conspicuous barbaric move to encourage the perpetrator to do more wrong things in various organisations or institutions which they serve.

Hon Speaker, we want to thank the honourable MEC for the milestone she has travelled in making sure that the institution has capable young and energetic people who assist this province to achieve greater heights.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selane. The next speaker will be Hon Ramalobela.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. All protocols observed. Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that the department will be transferring over R70 million in grants to the Gateway Airport Authority Limited. This supports our view that government entities in Limpopo have collapsed and that they are not self-sustainable hence the department of Transport and Community Safety continues to pump money into GAAL. Government entities must be able to generate their own revenue, grow the economy and create jobs for the people. Unfortunately, government entities in this province rely on government bailouts instead of being self-sustainable. These moneys are being channelled to entities as bailouts could go a long way in addressing service delivery challenges of our people in communities. Just imagine what R70 million can do in our communities, we can drill boreholes, instead of pumping money into these entities.

The EFF is disturbed to see so much money being wasted on collapsed and dysfunctional entities which have no bearing on the lives of our people. Our people need water. This transaction is even mentioned with so much excitement and pride in the reports as if it is progressive and revolutionary action.

Hon Speaker, employment equity statistics within the department is something all of us should be concerned about. Furthermore, it is unacceptable that out of a staff complement of 2050, 54% are males the rest is occupied by female employees which is 46% of the overall staff complement. The EFF strongly condemns the backward and barbaric mentality that men perform better in the workplace than women. So, we need to accommodate our women. They can do it too like men. Like my MEC for Transport and Community Safety, my chairperson is a woman, my party leader is a woman, and they direct me, and I submit.

It is for this reason that women are mostly marginalised in the workplace especially when it comes to promotions in senior management of the departments. Most worrying is that youthful employees constitute 19% as compared to 35% of employees who are over 50

years. The department must target the youth in its recruitment drive to bring fresh energy and fresh ideas into the department.

Hon Deputy Speaker, like the previous financial years once more the department excluded important indicators such as fraud and corruption and irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures. The lack of desire by the department to prioritise dealing with these issues means that they are an accomplice. They like what is happening in this department and they condone it.

We need focused leadership that will be irritated by corruption and all its associated anomalies and take decisive action. The VBS enablers and participants are thinking about the hawks knocking on their door instead of delivering services to the people. This is the problem of appointing people who have dark clouds over their heads to lead government departments. These people are already tainted and still, you expect them to deliver.

Hon Speaker, the department should ensure that remedial actions on the findings and recommendations made in various surveys and research studies in various police stations by the department itself are implemented. The implementation of the findings will ensure best practices and improvements in various police stations around the province.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Ramalobela. The next speaker will be Hon Katlego Phala.

MS PHALA

As a committee, we were taken through the APP by a youthful HOD, and the department must be commended for appointing the only youthful individual as its Head of Department. [APPLAUSE] We hope that this will be the steps for the department in addressing the committee's concern that the department's youthful employees constitute only 19% as compared to 35% of employees who are over 50 years.

Hon Speaker, on Transport Operations the department is mandated to ensure that communities in areas with little productive economic activity have access to areas with economic activities and services like health care, access to grant pay points and education by providing reliable public transportation. The existence of 26 bus contracts which have been in existence since 1997 at a cost of over R687 million is cause for great concern to the committee.

It is therefore commendable that the department was finally addressing the unequal spread of subsidised buses influenced by apartheid spatial planning patterns that still lingered 24 years into democracy. Four district municipalities were reported to have signed the Intergovernmental Authorisation Agreement (IAA). As a committee, we were impressed by the progress, and we equally call on the Sekhukhune District Municipality to come on board to join all other districts; this would ensure that new bus contracts are completed to provide consistent public transportation to all the commuters in the province.

The bus contracts will finally be re-advertised in the coming financial year. These advertisements can be expected in the 2024/25 financial year, this new composition of bus operators contracted being reconfigured will ensure that deserving and historically disadvantaged bus operators are also empowered economically.

On Transport Regulations, the increasingly high number of pedestrians who continue to die on our roads was raised sharply and the committee were concerned about setting the performance target of a 5% decrease in road crashes and fatalities. As part of our engagements, we advised the department to strengthen intergovernmental efforts aimed at reducing the number of pedestrian accidents on provincial and municipal routes in the province; and further engage LEDET on their positioning and awarding of taverns permits near roads as this often contributes to road fatalities, when pedestrians walk intoxicated into oncoming cars on roads.

Hon Deputy Speaker on matters of the Provincial Secretariat for Police, we continued our calls for the Provincial Commissioner to grace us with her presence at meetings. The last time the portfolio committee was addressed by a Provincial Commissioner was when the current National Commissioner was a Provincial Commissioner of this province. It is, therefore, for this reason that as a committee we commend the current MEC for hearing our concerns and frustrations as a committee as we were finally graced by a Provincial Commissioner's presence in our meeting. We were able to engage in long-standing security matters and ongoing ones.

Hon Speaker, the poor representation of SAPS in meetings hindered the committee from effectively engaging on pressing safety issues and forming a clear picture of the state of SAPS in the province during the rising crime stats. We engaged on matters including rape, police station infrastructure, and stock theft that affects many of our rural communities where we again emphasised the thorough involvement of both the Departments of Transport and Community Safety and Agriculture and Rural Development, to collaborate efforts to combat stock theft in the province.

The stock theft units have only 77 officers with 34 vehicles including 2 quadbikes and a truck at their disposal to combat stock theft provincially, which is inadequate. Of the 6761 cattle that were stolen during the fourth quarter, only 1041 were recovered and of the 9436 goats stolen, only 812 were recovered.

These figures indicate the significant financial losses incurred by farmers, including subsistence farmers who are dependent on their livestock for a living. Stock theft is much higher than reported as the low arrest and conviction rates serve as deterrents for the reporting of such crimes. We further engaged on the concerning rise of mob justice and the need for more personnel; as a committee, we welcome the 987 new constables who were trained and placed at different police stations – to which a breakdown report on their allocation was requested.

A further 349 trainees have been sent to the training colleges as part of addressing the shortage of personnel within the SAPS. During past oversight visits by the committee to SAPS garages, most garages were inadequately resourced and needed additional

assistant mechanics among many challenges. The addition that SAPS was in the process of appointing mechanics and artisans to address challenges within the SAPS garages is a step in addressing challenges experienced in garages.

While the committee expressed our satisfaction with the seeming functioning of Community Policing and Safety, we expressed our concerns about the inadequate allocation of resources to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively and efficiently within their communities. It is, however, hoped that the R15 million budget allocation would also address these concerns. Hon Speaker, GAAL continues to struggle to sustain itself, however, last year's presentation on plans by the entity sparked some hope and, if implemented as presented during the portfolio committee meeting, we might just see progress on GAAL. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker is Hon Rebecca Seono. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEONO

The Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; the Deputy Speaker, Hon Baldwin Matibe; the Acting Premier, Hon Seaparo Sekoati; the Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Nkome Sarah Monyamane and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Che Selane, the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi; honourable MECs present in the House today, honourable chairpersons of various portfolio committees, honourable Members of this august House and in particular Hon Van der Walt and in particular Hon Ramalobela.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we noted and welcome the departmental allocation of R2,4 million as the total budget allocation for the financial year 2023/24. The budget allocation for the department includes transfers to the Gateway Airports Authority Limited. The committee will work together with the department to ensure that the funds are used in accordance with the approved APP.

We welcome the transfers of R70 million to GAAL and believe that it will assist to enhance capacity and development in that entity. We have noted that the entity is engulfed by a number of challenges that need the attention of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must not sit on their laurels but must ensure that all strategies adopted are implemented including consequence management.

In this financial year, we need to feel the changes that bring development in that entity, and we want to see huge and tangible developments in relation to the Polokwane International Airport where economic activity will take place. The committee will work together with the department and GAAL during oversight work to ensure that performance indicators and the targets set out in the entity's APP are implemented.

The committee welcomes the appointment of the youthful Head of Department by the MEC. However, the committee raised a concern about the employment equity statistics at the department. The department must make sure that it balances its employment equity

in line with the Employment Equity Act. Out of 2050 staff members, 54% is dominated by male while 46% is female. Youth employees constitute only 19%. The committee will work together with the department in making sure that the entity in terms of employment is brought to a balance.

We believe that appointing a youthful HOD, your oversight on GAAL will bring its turnaround strategy to reality for self-sustainability. The committee was concerned about the fruitless, wasteful, and irregular expenditure. The Board of GAAL must work hard to ensure that these unwanted expenditures are eliminated this financial year because they derail progress in that entity. The board must act against officials who derelict their duties. These expenditures are totally unacceptable and cannot be left unattended.

During the interaction with the department on its APP, the committee was briefed that there are efforts to provide accessible and affordable public transport. The committee welcomed the efforts and raised a concern about the commitment of the department to renew existing tenders and bus contracts which have been in place for over 20 years to date. The department must review those contracts and make sure that they are awarded justly and equitably to qualifying service providers.

The committee supports the adoption of the APP and Budget as the reports of the House.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, committee chair, Hon Seono. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker; the Hon Deputy Speaker; the Acting Premier, Hon Charles Sekoati, my colleagues in the Executive Council; the Chie Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of this House; the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety; honourable Members of this august House, the HOD of the Department Mr M Matjena and all senior officials; ladies and gentlemen in the public gallery.

Hon Speaker, allow me to join those who spoke before me and start my presentation with messages of condolences to the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, his family, and the people of this province on the loss of our dear mother and first lady of the province, Mme Maggie Mathabatha. We will keep the Mathabatha family in our prayers, as they are dealing with this bereavement. We pray that the family find comfort as they are busy with preparations for the funeral.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the debate as presented, and we view this process as a fundamental oversight assignment that is meant to show that government departments are executing their service delivery function in an accountable manner. We remain

answerable to the Legislature, and we will always look forward to robust engagements which are not only critical to our work but are also helping us to serve our people better.

We welcome and appreciate all the inputs from honourable Members of the portfolio committee led by the chairperson Hon Rebecca Seono. These contributions will assist the department to work harder to ensure improvements on the services we give to our people. Hon Deputy Speaker, we have noted concerns raised by honourable Members regarding noncompliance with the legal requirements that governs public administration to promote good governance and failure on the part of the entity and department to achieve some of the targets that we set for ourselves.

The late submission of the annual report of the entity, I want to bring it to the attention of the House that this is the matter that was brought before. The annual report needed audit report which was completed very late because GAAL requested postponement of the submission of the annual financial statements which led to the delay of the audit report. The late submission of the annual financial statements was mainly due to vacancies in the financial section and the House should also note that all these positions have since been filled.

We are also finalising the appointment of the CEO to bring stability to the entity. The downgrading and honourable Members are aware was forced by safety issues picked by the South African Civil Aviation Authority and they have since been addressed. It was once brought to the attention of this august House, that due to noncompliance, there were 14 issues that were picked up that the entity was not in compliance with, but as we speak now, all those issues have been resolved.

We have noted honourable Members that you have raised sharply the issue of the entity failing to collect enough revenue to sustain itself financially. This is a matter that the House keeps on raising and I want to bring to this House honourable Members, that through a comprehensive turnaround strategy, the entity has managed to identify revenue streams that will then assist the entity to be on its financial feet.

We welcome the proposals by the Members of the committee to encourage all of us to utilise the services of the airport because most of us frequent Gauteng and other provinces, but we prefer to be on the ground instead of using our own airport. I hope going forward Hon Mapoulo, when you go to Gauteng, we will see you with your luggage approaching the airport. So that we minimise blaming the entity, it is not about the entity and its management when it comes to revenue, we should also assist to resolve these honourable Members. Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, on the implementation of the consequence management, this is a matter that we don't even want to delay as the department.

We encourage honourable Members, and portfolio committee members to also familiarise yourselves with all the laws and regulations that govern the public administration. Where the wrong has been done, you also make sure that you follow due process before you can implement consequence management. By so saying, I'm not saying as a department we want to run away, it is just for honourable Members to understand that some of the delays in implementing consequence management are not deliberate. It is because you

must investigate so when you apply consequence management you must not be found to be irrelevant. You must be guided by the outcomes of the process.

We are busy implementing that, to make sure that officials who contributed to non-compliance to laws and regulations, its either their actions might affect the unwanted expenditure or part of the failure to disclose the financial interest and those officials will be taken to task. Regarding the issue of cadre deployment, and appointment of people without requisite skills, we are inviting honourable Members, you are more than welcome to approach the entity; to approach the department, we know that in terms of the Constitution of the Republic, we must be transparent; we must be honest, and we must be accountable.

You must come and check for yourselves. The chairperson of the Board of GAAL has got 21 years in the space of aviation; and the CEO who was acting, is highly qualified with a speciality in scarce skills, in terms of the required skills in public administration. On Friday 30 June 2023, I will be engaged in a day-long meeting with members of the board and management of GAAL. Honourable chair of the portfolio committee you are also invited together with the committee. The great part of our meeting will focus on the entity's turnaround strategy; audit findings and the issues that were raised by the South African Civil Aviation Authority when the airport was downgraded.

We are embarking on this rigorous exercise to ensure that the entity shall not repeat similar errors that led to the downgrading of the airport in 2021. Coming to the department I think I don't want to delay this Sitting unnecessarily so, but when it comes to the nondisclosure of financial interest; consequences management, these are issues that we are making sure that we deal with them. It will not be easy for me Hon Deputy Speaker, with due respect to respond to the issue raised by Hon Ramalobela especially when he was alleging that for the quarter he referred to, the department set three targets, and only one was accomplished.

It can't be possible, the department has got four programmes, I'm sure when Hon Phala was here, you might have learned one or two. because we did not come to this House being experts, we also utilised this time and space to also capacitate and empower ourselves in areas where we individually have some gaps. So, I will also encourage the honourable Member because it won't be easy for me to account for three targets in a quarter and one is achieved, unless it is attached to a particular programme within the department.

We have noted the issue of employment equity and it is something that we are taking seriously under the stewardship of the Hon Premier, we do have the Exco resolution on the matter that all the departments must do their best that they work towards reaching the target.

Hon Speaker, regarding underspending, it is true that we have underspent our budget, we have allowed 4% because of a number of factors which include the following: an approved requirement plan which was only implemented in the next financial year and outstanding on goods and services was also delayed by litigation process where the

government had to defend in court, it continued implementation of the preferential procurement regulation.

The holdup had a bearing on our spending pattern and many other government departments were also affected. We were also affected by the lapse of the transversal contract for the procurement of traffic officials' uniforms. The budget meant for this function could not be spent because the contract has expired and there was no way that government funds could be spent on a non-existing contract. It is something that we are working on because, in these offices where we are given the opportunity to serve our people, we are not supposed to wait for the contract to expire. We must be equal to the task to make sure that we try and work hard.

It is true Hon Phala that the target we set ourselves in terms of revenue collection, we surpass the target as the department, and we appreciate this because this was also due to the contribution of honourable Members who from time to time when we go to meetings, they will want to find out how much have we collected.

Hon Speaker, on issues relating to policing in the province, we will never falter on the Police Secretariat Support that we provide to the community policing and safety forums. We are counted among the provinces with the best model of community safety in the Republic and we shall not deviate from this practice.

Hon Speaker, yesterday, on Wednesday 28 June 2023 we joined the Deputy Minister of Police in the Republic of South Africa, Hon Cassel Mathale where we oversaw the Passing out Parade 148 of Police Constables from the Thabazimbi Police Academy. This cohort is part of the 10000 trainees who were recruited in 2022 after the Presidential announcement to inject additional human capacity within the South African Police Services and this will go a long way.

We also welcome the inputs that we need to move with speed in terms of the implementation of the National Transport Land Act. It is true that almost 4 districts have come to the party, and we have already set a date for a meeting with Sekhukhune District so that we finalise the signing of the memorandum of understanding. This implementation of the act will assist us because it is bringing a new approach to the management of bus-subsidised contracts.

Hon Ramalobela, let me assure you, it will never happen under our watch that you can undermine the people who go all out, regardless of the list of all these political parties, and vote for the African National Congress. When we talk about the subsidised bus contracts, this is the initiative of the ANC-led government to try and assist the poor people. So, there is no way we can neglect our people and we also do our part by reminding ourselves that don't neglect the people who gave us power. We are also looking forward to getting this power because looking at you we can see that you are running the programmes of government.

It is not a sin for you to admire, but we want to promise you that, that one isn't going to happen under our watch.

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Honourable Members raise issues during their debates and when we afford Members of the Executive to respond, you become impatient. Hon Mapoulo the MEC was responding to the issues raised. Let's proceed, I think we are now done with the Second Reading debate, and I think we are left with a few items, and we will move with speed.

7.12 Motion for the Suspension of the House Rule 173 to allow the House to proceed with the Third Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill

I will now call upon the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and good afternoon to honourable Members. Hon Speaker Rule 173 allows that unless otherwise provided in these rules, not more than one stage of a Bill may be taken on the same sitting day if an objection to a further stage is made by four or more Members.

It has therefore become necessary to invoke the provisions of House Rule 5 to suspend the provisions of House Rule 173 to allow the House to further deal with the Limpopo Appropriations Bill, 2023 [B02-2023] today. I move accordingly Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2023, by the MEC for the Provincial Treasury. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Ke a go leboga Mospikara, ka gore le šetse le tshetše kgomo mokokotlo. E re ke laetše gore now that the Limpopo Appropriations Bill, 2023 [B02-2023] has gone through all the relevant stages of the Legislative process of this House, I now move that the Bill be Read for the third time in terms of the provisions of House Rule 170.

I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I Leswafo Joshua Matlou rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Sekoati. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now going to adopt the schedule by schedule of the Bill and those who agree with the Bill will say "Aye" and those who disagree will say "Nay" Schedule 1, which is the definition?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 2, appropriation of money?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 3, amounts listed as specifically and explicitly appropriated?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

BACKGROUND

Schedule 4, conditions for appropriations?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 5, authorisation of expenditure?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 6, spending before the commencement of the Appropriation Act of 2024/25 financial year?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

I will ask the Secretary to read the short title.

MR M J NKOANA [ON BEHALF OF THE ACTING SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act shall be called the Limpopo Appropriation Act of 2023.
Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, we are now going to adopt vote by vote of the Bill. Vote 1: Office of the Premier?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 2: Limpopo Legislature?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 3: Department of Education?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 5: provincial Treasury?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 6: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 7: Department of Health?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community Safety?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 12: Department of Social Development?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now on Item 8; I call upon the Hon Chief Whip to come and move the motion.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I wish to announce that after consulting with the Programming Committee, it was decided that when this House rises today, it will go on recess and reconvene on Thursday, 31 August 2023 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Monyamane you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE SPEAKER

Announcements by the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I have got a few announcements, the first one is that the NCOP has brought us a draft provincial week programme which will start on the 11-15 September 2023 just after we come back from recess. The theme of the provincial week is "Building viable provincial and municipal infrastructure for effective delivery of services to communities".

We are announcing it because it will take place just after a week after we came back. It will be the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure and the Department of CoGHSTA that will be affected by the NCOP week. So, we might communicate with the relevant committees while we are in recess. The second announcement is that it is SARS tax season, which will resume on 7 July 2023 and honourable Members are by law expected to submit their tax returns. The Legislature has arranged a few-day session with the South African Revenue Services to workshop honourable Members as we always do.

The date of the workshop and the venue is as follows: the venue will be Parliamentary Village; the date will be 13 July 2023 and the time is between 09:00 and 16:00. We urge all Members to be part of this so that you don't have tax challenges.

The other announcement is that the Hon Speaker will lead the delegation to the Premier's family, for a sympathetic visit tomorrow, Friday 30 June 2023 at 10:00 in Sterpark, Polokwane.

We urge honourable Members to be there more especially on time because there are a lot of stakeholders that are visiting the family. If we do not adhere to 10:00, you might find other stakeholders there. All of us must be there at 10:00. Lunch is ready. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The House is adjourned to 31 August 2023 at 10:00, in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
VIRTUAL SITTING
TUESDAY, 25 JULY 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

I have already welcomed everyone who is in this meeting including the staff members. Since this is a Special Sitting, item 2 – 6 will not be part of the session today.

[ITEMS 2–6 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

We shall move to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Draft Resolution

I will allow the Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mokgonyana, to present this item.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Good morning to honourable Members and staff in this special Sitting.

Madam Speaker, in terms of the provisions of section 16(3)(b) of the Remuneration of Public Service Office Bearers Act, 1998 (Act 20 of 1998) a provincial legislature must by a resolution of the Provincial Legislature if in session or if it is on recess within 30 days of the next ensuing sitting having regard to the provisions of subsection 1 and the upper limits set out in the said notice determine a salary and allowances of the Premier concerned.

Madam Speaker, I, therefore, move that this House notes the provisions of section 6(3)(b) of the said Act resolve to determine the salary and allowances of the Premier of Limpopo Province as follows:

Schedule 1, Column 1, Grade A, pay level 1, position: The Premier's total remuneration is from 01 April 2022 R2 398 068, that the determination of salary be with effect from 1 April 2022.

The total remuneration package shall include the following element: A basic salary component equal to 60% of the total package which constitute the pensionable salary. An amount of R120 000 p.a, to which section 8(1)(d) of the Income Tax Act 1962 applies. This amount is included in the basic salary component. An employer's pension benefit contribution equals 22.5% of the pensionable salary and a flexible portion for the remaining amount of the total remuneration.

I therefore move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip, for the motion presented. I would then ask for a seconder to the motion. I recognise Hon Mathe Simon.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Good morning to all Members of the Legislature. I, Simon Mathe, rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Essob Mokgonyana. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathe.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Speaker, are there any announcements?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and greetings to all honourable Members. The announcement I have for today is that we are going to have lunch virtually. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker.

MR MATHE

Hon Deputy Speaker, the announcement was supposed to say – "When will this money be paid?" That was supposed to be the announcement.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Deputy Speaker, re hlapa kae matsogo?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Don't worry, Mathe, I knew that question would arise.

MR MATHE

Please, make the announcement.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Deputy Speaker, there is nothing wrong if you could clarify them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. After processing the motion today, Finance staff are ready to process the salary. As soon as we receive the *Gazette* from Government Printers, this will be processed. We have agreed that before Friday, when there's a salary run, it will be processed. Thank you very much, Madam speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. You are now clarified, Hon Mathe and everyone.

MR MATHE

Yes, thank you. Are we getting it on Friday or what?

THE SPEAKER

Everything is ready. Immediately we receive the *Gazette*, Finance staff will then just enter. Thank you very much.

MR MATHE

People are quiet; yet they know that we must ask this question.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Allow me – Hon Mathe, you will talk after the meeting. Other things will be discussed after the meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned to Thursday, 31 August 2023 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you. Hon Mathe, we will then proceed with your question, the Chief Whip will respond.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
POLOKWANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much, you may be seated. Hon Premier in absentia, Members of the Executive, Members of this august House, Chief Whip of the majority party, members in the gallery, members of staff, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

Honourable Members would recall that when the House rose on Thursday, 29 July 2023, we resolved that it would resume its business on 31 August 2023. This was to afford the Legislature the opportunity to refurbish the chamber, as well as install a new chamber system. Both projects are yet to be finalised.

We experienced some delays in the appointment of a contractor for the refurbishment of the Legislative Chamber, but it is projected to be finalised by November this year.

Based on the above exposition, an appeal was made to the Polokwane Municipal Council for the utilisation of their chamber as an alternative venue for the remainder of the Legislative Sitzings.

Approval to use the chamber was granted, and in accordance with section 110(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, read together with section 2(2) of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act 2004, and Rule 24 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Legislature, I hereby declare the Polokwane Municipal Council Chamber and its surroundings as the precinct of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

Thank you.

Honourable Members, I also wish to take this opportunity to inform this House that the Legislature has received a resignation from Hon Desiree van der Walt as a Member of the Limpopo Legislature with effect from 01 August 2023. This letter was then followed by another letter from the Democratic Alliance, which intends to fill the vacancy left by Hon van der Walt, on 04 August 2023.

Hon Evelyn Rayne Wilson was sworn in as a new Member of the Provincial Legislature, representing the Democratic Alliance. She replaces Hon van der Walt as the leader of the DA caucus in the Legislature. Let us welcome her, honourable Members.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you very much. Let's proceed with the business of the day.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

ANC WELCOMES ARREST OF LIMPOPO TRAFFIC OFFICER ACCUSED OF GIRLFRIEND'S MURDER (Motion without Notice)

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that the ANC welcomes the arrest a Limpopo traffic officer for allegedly killing his girlfriend.

The 34-year-old Kabelo Duba has made a brief court appearance before the Polokwane and Lebogakgomo Magistrates Courts respectively, and was remanded in custody for further police investigation. The suspect is facing charges of murder, unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition, theft of the deceased's mobile phone and lastly, defeating the ends of justice.

The perpetrator, attached to the Polokwane Provincial Traffic Department, was apprehended by members of the Provincial Murder and Robbery and Tracking Team on Thursday, 24 August 2023, in Penina Park, Polokwane, where he resides. This was after he was positively linked to an incident in which the body of an unknown woman was found dumped under a bridge near Chuenespoort on 17 August 2023, after a team comprising of detectives from the Murder and Robbery and Tracking unit worked around the clock on the case and conducted a thorough investigation.

During the arrest, he was found in position of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition.

After informing the next of kin, the victim was later identified as the 26-year-old Kedidimetse Moshe, who was a student at the Tswane University of Technology, Polokwane campus. May her departed soul rest in eternal peace and may her family find solace in the fact that the perpetrator of this awful act is behind bars and will pay for his crimes.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Do we have any seconders? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we have any other motions without notice? Hon Maseko, you are recognised.

Honourable Members, I am told the mic on the podium is not working... [Inaudible]

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. All protocols observed.

**ANC COMMENDS SUCCESSFUL BRICS SUMMIT PROMOTING FREEDOM
CHARTER PRINCIPLES**
(Motion without Notice)

I, Funani Jerry Maseko, rise on behalf of the ANC for this House to note that the ANC welcomes the successful BRICS summit, which reaffirms the centrality of the Freedom Charter.

Hon Speaker, the recent 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, successfully promoted the mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism of BRICS and Africa. The summit was held under the theme: “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism.”

The summit emphasised the maxim of the Freedom Charter, “There shall be Peace and Friendship!” President Cyril Ramaphosa demonstrated leadership and authority with great emphasis.

The Freedom Charter emphasises the importance of South Africa being an independent state that respects the sovereignty of all nations while promoting world peace through negotiation.

Hon Speaker, with global transitions and crises, a more just and inclusive global government system is urgently needed. The outcomes of the BRICS conference reaffirm the ANC’s commitment to an international order that safeguards our common interests and belongs to the BRICS progressive family of nations.

The BRICS outcomes are encouraging as they promote the primacy of inclusive multilateralism. South Africa leverages its membership within BRICS to advance common

development goals with other BRICS countries and the world, more in particular the African continent.

Hon Speaker, the summit's declaration reaffirms our commitment as the ANC of putting people first by promoting peace, a more representative, fairer international order, a reinvigorated and reformed multilateral system, sustainable development, and inclusive growth. This outlook is consistent with the ANC's advocacy of a better Africa and the world.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maseko. Do we have any seconders? Hon Mathe S, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, hereby rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Maseko.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Phala K, you may proceed.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

DA RAISES CONCERN OVER ALARMING INCREASE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER DEATHS ON DUTY (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move that this House notes the alarming rise of our law enforcement officers' tragic deaths while on duty.

We acknowledge the recent death of Officer Sonia Hlanganani, a 31-year-old woman, who was killed on 11 August, while performing routine duties on the R524 in Ximixoni village outside Saselamani. The officer suffered a fatal accident when a minibus hit both her and the light duty vehicle she was inspecting.

This comes after Limpopo traffic officer Itani Ravele, was killed in June 2023 while on duty at a collision scene on the R71 outside Phalaborwa. She was investigating the scene when she was struck by a tow truck driver.

Hon Speaker, I propose that this House extends its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the officers who have tragically passed away while on duty enforcing the law.

This alarming increase should prompt this House to endorse a zero- tolerance policy for reckless driving on our roads, which will protect our officers and other road users while imposing stricter consequences on irresponsible drivers.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala. Do we have any seconders? Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Evelyn Wilson, stand to support the motion as presented by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Hon Lebea, you may proceed.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the ANC for this House to commend the good work done by the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs under the supervision of MEC Baisikopo Makamu...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebea, {Inaudible}.

As part of the Women's Month programme, MEC Makamu was at the forefront of a programme to restore the dignity of over 400 families in the Collins Chabane Municipality.

A total of 428 families benefited from a windfall of houses which the department has constructed to decrease the housing backlog in the province. Two families, headed by females, received fully furnished houses which were a donation by the service provider as part of the Women's Month festivities.

We welcome and applaud this gesture, and we want to reiterate that the ANC, as the leader of this government, is the only organisation that knows and understands the social economic challenges faced by our people and is working tirelessly around the clock to improve the lives of our people.

This is a move, Hon Speaker, that clearly articulates the hopes and aspirations of the Freedom Charter, "...that there shall be houses, security and comfort. The people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security."

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we have any seconders? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ndza khensa Muchaviseki Xipikara. Ndzi yima ku seketela leswi nga vuriwa hi Manana Lebea. Va le ku rileni swinene. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou

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 Wilson, I did not receive any indication from the DA in terms of a Member's Statement.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker, there was an email...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

May you rise, Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Sorry, Hon Speaker. It was communicated to you, but there must have been a problem with the emails... [Inaudible].

THE SPEAKER

I cannot hear what you are saying, Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Yes, Speaker, according to the list, Hon Maharaj was supposed to deliver a Members' Statement today... [Inaudible]. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

The Chief Whip of the DA, may you elaborate on this, please.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We did send an email indicating that Hon Wilson will be delivering a Members' Statement... [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

I am going to allow you, Hon Wilson, and I will follow up on the emails afterward.

MS WILSON

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker

**MOGALAKWENA MUNICIPALITY'S CONTROVERSIAL VEHICLE LEASE RAISES
CONCERNS OVER MUNICIPAL SERVICE AND COSTS**
(Members' Statement)

Since January or February this year, the Mogalakwena Municipality has been leasing a fleet of vehicles at a monthly cost of between R32 and R35 million per month. Over 7 months this is a total of over R200 million.

This beggars belief, and it is very clear that the town has not benefited from the decision. The streetlights are not working, and the town is filled with potholes, that the DA councillors have repaired. The infrastructure is rapidly collapsing, and services are still not being adequately delivered, if at all.

These moneys could have been used to buy a fleet, instead of lining the pockets of the politically connected, perhaps?

Now it appears that, in order to cover the cost of leasing vehicles, commercial sites in the town are being subjected to a 43,6% increase in electricity tariffs, and starting tomorrow, residents will be required to pay ridiculous fees for waste disposal at the landfill site.

This has become a case of Peter robbing Paul to finance bad decisions. The situation is being carefully monitored.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Is there any response from the Executive? Hon Makamu, you may proceed.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I will investigate the matter as presented by Hon Wilson to this House, but it is worth noting that the facts might be something else.

To talk about R32 million a month, I don't think there is a budget available to fund such an amount. I am, however, making a commitment to investigate the matter.

She might be new in the house... [Inaudible], but we will intervene as the EXCO through section 139.

[Inaudible] To accept and appreciate the service delivery, but not to say, [Inaudible].

Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for the response, MEC Makamu.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? Hon Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip of the majority party, colleagues in the Executive Council, Leader of the Opposition, chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

As a nation, we are diverse people. We are set apart in our native tongues, in our brave tribes and our colourful cultures. We are united in our diversity.

This is not only the motto of our National Coat of Arms. It is the real effort and a continued endeavour by the ANC-led government to celebrate our differences and preserve our rich cultural heritage. It is a call to all of us to unite in a sense of belonging and pride.

In our efforts to celebrate these differences, we are honoured with the responsibility of preserving the age-old tradition of traditional initiation. This is the rite of passage for young boys and girls in their quest to become men and women.

Initiation schools are our valued customary educational institutions that have for many decades helped shape healthy communities. They are one of the avenues used by our young boys and girls to attain knowledge as they transition to adulthood.

In this ever-changing age, where technology and Eurocentric sense of life thrives, we are proud to continue with protecting traditions that are at the very core of the identity of our people as Africans.

Our province has consistently and annually seen thousands of parents submit their children to be admitted to initiation schools. Not only does this serve as evidence that this practice is held in high regard by our people, but that they also believe in the security measures we as a government have put in place to protect the lives of their children.

In the year 2022, our province recorded an almost 90% increase in initiation school applications from traditional communities compared to 2019, due to the COVID-19 backlog. We approved a total of 680 schools, accommodating 74,916 initiates, with just over 12,000 of them being female.

This year, we hosted a total of 587 legal male and female initiation schools, which is 93 less than last year. With the decrease in the initiation schools, the province also experienced a decrease in the number of initiates, totalling 68,328. We annually experience the highest intake of initiates in the country. Comparatively, the total admissions of initiates in all eight provinces in 2023, was below 5% of our total admissions in the same year. Even so, we continue to be one of the provinces that experience the lowest number of lives lost.

This year, we unfortunately lost three lives, those of Sekolo Madimetja, Tshego Matsepe and Brian Matakura. May their souls rest in peace!

While we celebrate the decrease in the number of deaths we experienced in comparison to last year, we can all agree that even among over 60,000 initiates, one death, is one too many. As a government, we continue to thrive for a death-free initiation process. Our responsibility as a caring state is to continue to cultivate this safe environment for our people to thrive.

It is important to note that the relative success our province continues to enjoy is not isolated to the Department of CoGHSTA alone. Our strategy rests in the concerted efforts and dedication from all our diverse stakeholders. Therefore, it is important for me to thank my colleague, the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, led by Hosi Chauke and Kgoši Rammupudu, the provincial NPA represented by Adv Tshwane, our provincial SAPS led by Lieutenant-General Hadebe, the media and the community at large for continuously working with us to safeguard our initiates and uphold the law.

Our working relationship is a demonstration of the unique approach that Limpopo takes towards hosting this important tradition. It is what sets us apart and ensures that our province preserves the right for this tradition to continue for our children and our children's children.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for the executive statement.

May I check with each of the political parties represented here if there are any comments on the Executive Statement made by Hon Makamu. Hon Wilson, you are recognised. Would you like to comment?

MS WILSON

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Absolutely, we must respect all the doctrines and traditions of every South African regardless of where they come from and regardless of their background.

I am very happy to hear that we are all agreeing that no life should be lost. [Inaudible] We must also ensure that our women and children are not named in such a way that they will suffer lifelong struggles.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Hon Lebea, you may proceed.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are thankful as the African National Congress that, indeed, the MEC is living up to the aspirations of the Freedom Charter that says, "... all nations and groups shall have equal rights."

What does that say? Hon Speaker, it says there shall be equal status in all organs of state, the courts and in the schools, [Inaudible] for all groups, and races where people shall have equal rights to develop their own culture and customs.

All national groups shall be protected by law, and they should take pride in their national heritage. We, as the African National Congress, assert that these initiatives have achieved significant success as our young girls and boys learn about cultures that go beyond South African traditions.

We extend our sympathy to the families who have lost their loved ones: the families of Sekolo Madimetja, Tshego Matsepe and Brian Matakura. We appreciate that the department is working to mitigate the fact that one death is one to many.

Honourable MEC, this demonstrates your strong political commitment to achieving a death-free initiation process. We would also like to express our gratitude to all stakeholders who were part of this programme to ensure the preservation of every life. We, as the ANC, truly acknowledge and appreciate the excellent work done by the Department of CoGHSTA.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Lebea. Honourable Members, before we proceed to item 6, may we all rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of those who passed on.

[SILENCE]

May the souls of all those who passed away rest in peace! Thank you, you may be seated.

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 Departmental/ Institutional Annual Reports for the financial year ending 2022/23 by the Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker, my colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the majority party, and all honourable Members of this august House, good morning.

Madam Speaker, allow me to indicate to this House that Annual Reports are important mechanisms. by which the Executive accounts to the Provincial Legislature with their entities.

Madam Speaker, section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act 1999, (Act no 1 of 1999) as amended provides that the executive authority responsible for a department or public entity must table, in the provincial legislature, the Annual Report, financial statements, and the audit report of those departments within one month after the accounting officer of all the departments and entities has received the audit report.

Based on that, Hon Speaker, I, Seaparo Charles Sekoati, as the Leader of Government Business in this House, and on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, hereby table the Departmental and Institutional Annual Reports for the following departments for consideration by this honourable House.

- The Office of the Premier.
- The Department of Education.
- The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- The Department of Provincial Treasury.
- The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities as follows: Limpopo Gambling Board. Limpopo Tourism Agency, and Limpopo Economic Development Agency.
- The Department of Transport and Community Safety.

- The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and its entity, Roads Agency Limpopo.
- The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture,
- The Department of CoGHSTA.
- The Department of Social Development.

Madam Speaker, the outstanding Annual Reports are for the Department of Health and Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL).

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, the Leader of Government Business. The Annual Reports are referred to the relevant portfolio committees and Scopa for consideration and to report back to this august House.

6.2 Tabling of the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature, by the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Leader of Government Business, Members of the Executive Council, and all honourable Members. Good morning.

In compliance with the dictates of section 6(c) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act 2009, popularly known as FMPPLA, I, Mathibe Tshitereke, the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, hereby table before the House the Annual Report including financial statements for the financial year ending 2022/23, to be considered by the relevant committee of this House.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and to report back to the House.

Thank you very much.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

Over to you, committee chair.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susan, rise as the acting chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to present the 2022/23 fourth quarter report, to be considered and adopted by this august House.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Do we have any seconders? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Makhurpetje, stand to second the report as presented by Hon Mathye.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair over to you.

MS MATHYE

Thanks again, Hon Speaker. I, Susan Mathye, the acting chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET, rise on behalf of the committee to present the 2022/23 fourth quarter report for LEDA, to be considered and adopted by this august House.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we have any seconders? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the committee report as presented by the honourable acying chairperson, Susan Violet Mathye.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, over to you once more.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Susan Violet Mathye, the acting chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism rise again on behalf of the committee chairperson to present the 2022/23 fourth quarter report for LGB, to be adopted by this august House.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any seconders? Hon [Inaudible], you are recognised.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, over to you again.

MS MATHYE.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Susan Violet Mathye, the acting chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET, rise on behalf of the committee to present the 2022/23 fourth quarter report for LTA to this House for consideration and adoption.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any seconders? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will now move on to the debates and refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to debate the reports as tabled by the honourable acting chairperson for the department and the various entities forming part of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

Today, as we come to the end of Women's Month, I want to commemorate Manche Masemola, a woman from Sekhukhuneland, who died in 1928 due to her Christian faith. Her death resulted from an accident at a mission school, while participating in a Christian religious ritual. The Anglican Church later recognised her as a saint. If you go to England, you'll find the Saints there at the headquarters of the Anglican Church. St. Mark's, St. Matthews, St. Gregory, St. Paul, St. Thomas, and Rudolph. [LAUGHTER] Next to them, you will find Manche Masemola. They are all in London.
[Inaudible]

Today, we are debating the reports as tabled by the honourable acting chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of the Department of LEDET and its various entities for the fourth quarter. These reports have been tabled in this House for ATC announcements and are part of committee reports as tabled in the House.

When we examine these reports, particularly focussing on the Limpopo Gambling Board, we find that its performance is commendable and among the best performing entities of the provincial government in terms of audit outcomes and how it is able to manage its affairs as an entity.

Our concern is the filling of the vacant positions within the entity. Filling these positions is crucial to ensure the continued effective functioning of the Limpopo Gambling Board.

When we look at Limpopo Tourism Agency, we also note the issue of vacant positions within the entity. Furthermore, we are keenly interested in the entity's efforts to support SMMEs in the province, facilitating their greater participation in the tourism sector. In addition, we wish to emphasise the importance of enhancing the agency's marketing efforts and branding for Limpopo. While they are making progress, we believe there is room for improvement, and we encourage them to strive for 100% commitment in branding Limpopo effectively.

In relation to that, and it is imperative that we raise it from time to time, is the matter of better marketing of Kruger National Park. A significant portion, more than 60 or 70% of Kruger National Park is located within the Limpopo Province. However, the neighbouring province has taken advantage on marketing and advertising. When people from the international community and elsewhere visit Kruger National Park, they often mistakenly think it is in the neighbouring province and not in Limpopo. That is why that province has an international airport that attracts tourists due to the abundant fauna and flora found in Kruger National Park.

In relation to LEDA, which is the largest entity of the provincial government with its numerous subsidiaries, we have concerns about the oversight over these subsidiaries. We call for an enhancement of oversight over these entities. Additionally, we are keen on improving the regulation of unlicensed small shops, including spaza shops.

Regarding this issue, we are particularly concerned about the health and environmental compliance of general businesses in the province, especially those located in the villages. We are aware that some people live in these businesses, using them for sleeping and washing, while also selling food items such as bread and perishables.

We urge immediate attention to be given to this matter as part of the oversight mandate of regulations in the province. Neglecting health compliance could result in our people buying expired food in the villages and townships, posing health risks to our population. Similarly, the lack of environmental compliance may lead to challenges related to public health.

This matter has been directed to LEDA, and we emphasise the importance of addressing it. In relation to the Department of LEDET, which oversees these entities, we are exploring a way forward. The Public Finance Management Act states that a 3D business enterprise should not be budgeted for or receive funding from the state. Nevertheless, agencies like LEDA and others continue to get money from the state.

Besides that, this Legislature has passed a resolution to halt this practice. Consequently, a turnaround strategy will be developed in this department to address this issue and ensure that the entity is gradually weaned off state funding, e tshwešwa letswele. Basadi, bat la tseba. This is Women's Month. Ge ngwana a tshwitša letswele Hon. Makamu they take a lot of [Inaudible]. That it is bitter Hon Sekoati. The breast of the provincial government must be so bitter, that this entity will not be able to continue hiding within it.

Regarding LEDA, Hon Speaker, we are concerned about the R300 million pension/provident fund of Great North Transport that our people were supposed to receive but did not. Many of them have retired and returned to their villages without receiving their provident or pension funds.

As a portfolio committee, we are deeply concerned about this matter, and it will be a topic of discussion in every meeting to ensure that even the last person receives his money. It is very sad, Hon Speaker to witness someone who has worked in an urban area driving a bus, retire, and go to a village in GaMolepo, only to find enquiries by his wife, family, and brothers about his pension money. They are often suspected of misusing the funds which is painful for the ordinary person sitting under a tree as they haven't actually received the money.

Therefore, we are deeply concerned, and as a portfolio committee, we are actively pursuing the matter.

The last point, Hon Speaker is in relation to an issue that has been raised numerous times with the honourable MEC of Agriculture as part of the triangle of the work of this department and the entities. It concerns the transformation of the provincial economy into a colonial economy that is able to benefit the people of this province. In a colonial economy, raw material such as fruit and vegetables are produced.

These raw materials are transported to metropolitan areas such as Johannesburg and Durban where they are processed into various goods and products. These finished

products then return to the villages and are sold in the malls and shops, where we purchase them again.

Essentially, in a colonial economy raw material extracted from the soil through mining or agriculture, are exported to advanced economies where they are transformed into other products, and then returned for purchase by the same people.

This is a matter, Hon Speaker, that we are actively pursuing with various departments in the provincial government to bring about a turnaround.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. Hon Phala K, you are the next speaker on the list.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

In the quarter under review, the department has stepped up to meet most of its targets. However, LEDA remains fixated on the revitalisation of doomed projects such as the Lebowaqomo Abattoir and the Mashashane Hatchery which the committee is running aside from.

Hon Speaker, progress at the R247 billion Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone remains at a snail's pace and reaffirms the DA's longstanding view that LEDA is simply not up to the task to effectively manage a project of this magnitude. With digital technology and procurement software available at the drop of a hat, it is unacceptable that procurement can still be cited as a reason for not meeting targets and if it is indeed the reason, officials need to be held accountable for these unacceptable delays.

Hon Speaker, the slight improvement in the provincial unemployment statistics, down from 33,6% to 31,6% in the second quarter should not instil complacency. When the ANC put Premier Mathabatha in charge of the province in July 2013, the official unemployment rate was 20%, a stark contrast to the 31,6% as released earlier this month.

Hon Speaker, poor management within Great North Transport remains a cause for concern. R9,3 million in penalties must be paid over to SARS because statutory payments such as tax and pensions were not made on time.

A general household survey from 2019 indicated that only 1,7% of Limpopo households have access to internet at home. This is the lowest nationally, followed by the Northwest with 3% access and the highest in the Western Cape with 25,8% of households having access at home.

Although the initiative to install Wi-Fi on buses is a great step to narrow the digital divide, it is concerning that GNT is prioritising non-essential supplementary services to their commuters at the expense of critical operational requirements.

Hon Speaker, GNT has not been financially viable for 8 years and recent oversights to their 8 bus depots by the DA confirmed that the turn-around strategy has left depots under-resourced and understaffed to provide logistical and mechanical support to the dwindling fleet.

Current challenges facing GNT include:

- Failure to meet its contractual obligations to provide a sufficient fleet of buses by the fourth quarter of the 2022/23 financial year’;
- Unreliable schedule pick-up times which leave commuters in the lurch.
- Lack of roadworthiness of GNT buses; and
- Persistent challenges at GNT bus depots.

The funds utilised for the installation and maintenance of this Wi-Fi project, could have been used to improve the operations of GNT or to service the buses.

The lack of information on the tender process, contract amount and time frames are concerning and must be addressed.

Hon Speaker, tourism remains one of the province’s main economic drivers. Over 80% of global travellers expressed the importance of sustainable travel, with almost 70% expecting the travel industry to offer more sustainable travel options in the future.

When it comes to sustainable travel in 2023 and beyond, it cannot be about returning to the old ways. LTA has to focus on creating awareness on healthier holiday choices to preserve the environment and it is therefore disappointing that the entity incurred an under expenditure of R4,17 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

Hon Speaker, we would further like to encourage LEDET to restore our provincial parks to world class destinations and LTA should promote them as such.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Gambling Board must be commended for achieving 100% of their performance indicators and for their resilience in an ever-evolving environment. During the quarter under review, the entity collected a total of over R207 million, exceeding the targeted amount of R178 million by R29,8 million or 17%. The collected amount includes levies, annual license fees, interests, and other sales from 370 licensed sites.

According to the International Monetary Fund, Sub Saharan Africa could experience a permanent decline of up to 4% of real gross domestic product after 10 years if the world splits into 2 trading blocs centering around China and the USA. The department needs to brace itself for this eventuality by reinforcing trade agreements and adhering to timelines in the special economic zones.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Hon Mathye, you may start your debate.

MS MATHYE

Eka Manana Xipikara, Mupfuni wa Manana Xipikara, Ximokonkulu xa Huvo ya Mfumo wa Milawu wa Limpopo, Vachaviseki hinkwavo va Huvo ya Mfumo wa Milawu na vuendzi hinkwabyo lebyi byi nga kona. Avuxeni.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to debate on the 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Performance reports for the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, namely LEDA, LTA, and LGB. The portfolio committee has been briefed by the department and its entities on these reports on 01 June 2023.

Hon Speaker, the department has reported that the economic growth of the province was lagging behind the targets, with unemployment reaching 30%. This is a cause for concern to all of us. Therefore, we need to work together to ensure that there are programmes and projects that will turn the situation around. Most importantly, we urge LEDET and the provincial government to eliminate the bottlenecks that hinder the growth of the province's economy. More efforts should be made not only to attract foreign investors, but also to empower the locals.

Hon Speaker, the committee has made several recommendations regarding the economy. This includes the fact that the department should expedite agro-processing projects and provide the latest progress reports on the various projects, including the Lebowakgomo Abattoir, where there was a commitment made to operationalise it by September 2023. The department should also specify the areas of exports and products exported and finalise the designation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. On supporting and incubating businesses, the department needs to ensure that there is economic activity and report on the areas and businesses supported.

Hon Speaker, as a committee we have continued to highlight the fact that the economy of the province is still colonial, with the focus being on raw material production and export while there is very little local beneficiation and manufacturing. Due to this current situation, the economy of this province struggles to grow faster, and fewer jobs are created in the province. There are also fewer opportunities to establish the value chain of businesses that could assist the locals, especially the youth and the women of this province, hence the high unemployment rate. We urge the department to start implementing the key Catalytic Mega-projects to address this challenge. These include the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone, and the Lebowakgomo Abattoir. With regard to infrastructure in the SEZs, there must be reports on progress vis-a-vis the invested amount. It is against this background that the committee recently embarked on a study tour to the Coega and East London Special Economic Zones in the Eastern Cape to learn best practices and key lessons.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, which is a 3D entity, has been mandated to drive economic growth programmes in the province. LEDA and its subsidiaries are expected to generate revenue and ensure self-sustainability while also delivering on their developmental mandate. So far, the entity has not been achieving the targets in revenue generation and is still reliant on the government grant. We expect subsidiaries such as New Era Life, Great North Transport, Corridor Mining Resources, and Limpopo Connexion to improve and become profitable. The programmes that they implement should also contribute positively to job creation and economic growth in the province. In terms of reporting, the committee has continuously reminded LEDA to submit quarterly financial reports together with the performance reports. We urge LEDA to comply and submit these reports.

Hon Speaker, the board of LEDA and its subsidiaries play a pivotal role in providing oversight on the entity's activities. We urge the department to capacitate the board with suitable and capable individuals. We urge the department to open these opportunities for Limpopo citizens who are capable and not have the same people on the board. It will also be important to ensure that those serving on the LEDA subsidiary board, are not the same people who serve on the LEDA group main board. This will ensure better oversight, avoid conflict of interest, and improve the functionality of all boards.

Hon Speaker, Great North Transport continues to be an important institution in our province, especially due to its developmental mandate of transporting various Limpopo citizens to different economic activities daily. However, in recent years, the entity has experienced a number of challenges, including broken down buses, loss of revenue and market share to other operators. GNT has been implementing a turnaround strategy with the provincial government providing additional financial resources in order to improve the situation.

We have requested the entity to show and report progress on the GNT turnaround strategy implementation and also provide updates on the status of bus depots and buses, the routes and progress on the number of passengers transported. The committee has noted with concern that there are still many former employees who are owed their pension funds. This matter has already been alluded to by Hon Phala during his debate.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Gambling Board continues to successfully implement its mandate of regulating the gambling industry, even though there are challenges of illegal, and online gambling. We appreciate the contribution that the entity is making in revenue generation as it continuously surpasses its targets, thus assisting in improving provincial coffers. These higher revenue collection rates should be maintained.

Hon Speaker, the committee welcomes the report that the entity is running its affairs well. This is commendable. However, we are concerned by the delays in filling the vacant posts due to delays in verifications by the South African Police Service. We urge the entity to plan well and engage with the SAPS on time to ensure that the posts are filled, especially considering that the industry is continually increasing and requiring more manpower. The entity should also continue creating awareness about illegal and responsible gambling. We need responsible gamblers to ensure that our focus is not only on generating revenue, while families of the gamblers become poorer.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Tourism Agency continues to implement its critical mandate of promoting the province as a destination of choice for both international and local tourists. We are happy with the reports indicating that the industry is continuously recovering, and the number of tourists is increasing, with Limpopo province among the top 3 recipients of tourists. However, we still believe that the entity needs to do more in marketing provincial tourism, hospitality, and recreational facilities we are offering, particularly those that are state owned. These include the state-owned nature reserves such as Lekgalameetse, Doorndraai Dam, etc., as well as Kruger National Park and the World Heritage Site.

Hon Speaker, the committee has further indicated that the Limpopo Tourism Agency should work hard to achieve a clean audit, and we look forward to the updates in this regard. Furthermore, in carrying out its mandate, the entity should assist in the resuscitation of local tourism forums, district tourism forums and provincial tourism forums and ensure that these structures are operational. The entity should also continue to support the SMMEs and provide reports on those that are supported.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the committee continues to urge LEDET and its entities to play their role, together with relevant stakeholders, in creating a favourable and conducive environment for businesses, including foreign investors and local SMMEs to thrive. It will be important to ensure that the initiatives that are implemented are geared towards turning around the economy of the province to have beneficiation and manufacturing, which will eventually create jobs for the citizens of Limpopo, particularly the youth and women.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the portfolio committee, having considered and scrutinised the 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Reports of LEDET, Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency, I move that the reports be adopted as the reports of this honourable House.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye.

- 7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Oversight Visit Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Over to you, committee chair.

MS MATHYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Susan Violet Mathye, the acting chairperson for the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, rise on behalf of the committee to present the following oversight reports to the House for consideration and adoption: Oversight visit to Doorndraai Dam on 04 December 2022.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we have any seconders? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the honourable acting chairperson.

THE SPEAKER.

Thank you, Hon Phala. Honourable chair, over to you once more.

MS MATHYE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. The second oversight report pertains to a visit to the Makapan Valley Heritage Site.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Do we have any seconders? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand to support the report as presented by the acting chairperson, Hon Mathye.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable acting chair, over to you yet again.

MS MATHYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The third oversight report pertains to a visit to racing totalisers and vending sites.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Do we have any seconders? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the report as presented by the acting chairperson.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable chair, you may present the next report.

MS MATHYE

The fourth oversight report pertains to a visit to the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and the Mashashane Hatchery.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any seconders? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Lekganyane, hereby second the report as presented by the honourable chairperson.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List, and the first speaker on the list is Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for this opportunity to debate on the various oversight reports that the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism undertook.

These oversight visits took us to various places in the province within the jurisdiction of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

This year, 2023, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the movement of the people of South Africa, the United Democratic Front. I, therefore, dedicate this debate to the first president of the United Democratic Front of the Northern Transvaal, Cde Peter Mampogoane Nchabeleng.

He was an outstanding patriot, combatant, and leader of our people. He fought the apartheid regime, went to Robben Island, got banished to a rural area called Apel.

Regardless of the regime harassing him all the time, he became the first president of the United Democratic front. He continued to do the work as a commander of uMkhonto we Sizwe underground. He was an outstanding, outstanding hero of the people of South Africa. [Inaudible] He died in police custody in April 1986. When we laid him to rest in May 1986, we laid him to rest with the epitaph of: 'A Combatant for Life, a Patriot to the End, Mampogoane Peter Nchabeleng.'

In this period, we carry hundreds of his political children using that epitaph of being a combatant for life, a patriot to the end. Hundreds of his political children embraced this epitaph, including prodigal children and others, such as Frans Mohlala, Peter Mokaba, Norman Mashamane [Inaudible] and all his political children. When we laid him to rest, we laid him to rest with the same epitaph that were laid to rest in the political [Inaudible], symbolising Peter Nchabeleng, a combatant for life, and patriot to the end. [Inaudible]

I, therefore, dedicate this debate to the memory of the United Democratic Front and its outstanding leader, Peter Nchabeleng.

As indicated earlier, we visited many areas within the jurisdiction of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Two of the areas we visited was the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir and the Mashashane Hatchery, both of which we visited on the same day.

When we visited these two areas, we were utterly disappointed to find that they are not operational. At the chicken abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery, there are multi-million-rand machinery installations intended for the work to be carried out at a chicken abattoir and a hatchery, but they are non-operational. Some of them are gathering dust and cobwebs.

It is against this background that the Hon Premier of this province has been announcing in all of his State of the Province Addresses since 2019 that the Lebowakgomo Abattoir, and you can verify this, Hon Thabo Mokone was the MEC for LEDET during that time, would become operational that year, and he intended to hire 120 full-time workers. Hon Mokone has been present here every year. The Premier made the same promise in 2020, 2021, and 2022, and this year, he reiterated his commitment that the Lebowakgomo Abattoir would become operational, and 120 full-time workers would be hired.

We went there and it is not operational, and it is a matter that we want to be attended to by the department as much as possible, so that the multi-million-rand machines that are lying there, gathering dust, are able to be put to work, because they are very expensive.

Regarding the jobs that were supposed to be created by the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery, they have not materialised. The region itself is non-functional and has deteriorated since our visit.

The second report that was presented was regarding our visit to totalisators. These are people who operate small gambling machines and small casinos at a "local" level.

We visited these places, and we found many things that we believe should be brought back to this House. According to the reports we presented, the Limpopo Gambling Board must monitor compliance among these totalisators. It should also persist in overseeing responsible gambling practices in these establishments and continue its efforts to combat all forms of illegal gambling taking place in the province.

In the course of its work related to gambling and monitoring, the Limpopo Gambling Board must collaborate with the police, including community policing forums and community safety forums. This collaboration is essential to engage the communities where these totalisators are located, enabling the resolution of compliance, responsible gambling, and illegal gambling challenges within the province.

One concern we have regarding gambling and totalisators is the issue of "gambling hobos". These people, once they receive their salary or acquire money, go to casinos or gambling places, continuously wagering their money until their cards display a zero balance. They are referred to as "gambling hobos" because they are not the dirty hobos that you find on the streets; rather, they dress in suits and ties, and go to work for 29 days in a month. However, on the 30th day, ah! O ka se ba tsebe. Modimo wa Isirael. O ka se ba tsebe. Ka motšheneng. Ba e tšere go fihla karata e felela. Re swanetše go swara taba yeo. The gambling board must look at it. The gambling board must investigate this matter, especially the issue of "gambling hobos; it requires attention.

The biggest issue pertains to gambling BEE (Black Economic Empowerment). We aim to include previously disadvantaged groups, women, youth, and black individuals in the sphere of gambling ownership so that the black individuals are not just the gamblers on the machines but can also have a stake in these facilities.

The other areas we visited Hon Speaker, were the Makapan Valley Heritage Site and Doorndraai Dam.

In relation to the Makapan Valley Heritage Site, we made several important observations. Makapan Valley is a world heritage site, and we emphasise the need for significant attention from the department to ensure it continues to attract tourists. LEDET should market it, along with our other nature reserves in the province, with the utmost urgency through efforts by the Limpopo Tourism Agency and other relevant initiatives as part of a comprehensive strategy.

In relation to game and nature reserves, particularly this world heritage site, the department should continue protecting the fauna and flora in those areas to prevent unnecessary veld fires and the reduction of animal populations due to illegal activities such as killing and poaching by criminals.

Therefore, we discourage the commercialisation of state-owned nature reserves in the province. Hon Speaker, the condition of the access roads leading to the game reserves

is not very good. These roads are essential for providing tourists, especially those who travel from far, with a safe journey to their destination.

The current state of these access roads is far from ideal, particularly during and after periods of rainfall. We believe that these roads should be upgraded and maintained to a standard that ensures ease of travel for all visitors.

To achieve this, we propose that these access roads be improved. By doing so, the access roads will not only enhance the travel experience for tourists but also encourage them to share their positive experiences with others when they return to their places of origin.

Hon Speaker, I thank you very much for providing me with this opportunity to voice our concerns.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. The next speaker is Hon Phala K.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

World Heritage Sites are cultural or natural sites considered to be of 'Outstanding Universal Value', which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee. These places or buildings are thought to have special importance for everyone.

These are catalysts for employment and sustainable tourism and should be embraced as our nation's jewels. It was therefore very disappointing to visit Makapan, which was inducted as a world heritage site in 1999, to see nothing but decay and neglect. The road to the site was inaccessible to normal vehicles and we had to proceed on foot. The administrative block was in ruins after a fire 4 years ago, which is yet to be repaired and there were only two guides on duty.

Hon Speaker, this unacceptable state of affairs cannot be tolerated, and an urgent turn-around strategy is required to fix the road and to rebuild the admin block. An interim mobile facility also needs to be placed there so that government officials deployed to the site can utilise it.

An operational budget is required, coupled with an aggressive marketing campaign, to promote the site to local and international tourists.

Doorndraai dam is a place of extraordinary beauty; it is the longest stretch of dam in the province, spanning over 14 km. It has great potential as a water sports haven for tourists. The site has basic camping facilities only. The area has around 50 rare breeds of Tsessebe antelope, and it is concerning that no game counting, and little or no overall game management takes place.

A helicopter tender went out to count the game in November 2022, but it did not take place.

There are nine officials employed on the reserve, including three rangers. This is inadequate, as there were formerly 13 rangers appointed. The nature reserve is a stone's throw from Gauteng and has massive potential; yet it lies there, under resourced and underutilised by tourists.

LEDET must focus on state owned nature reserves in their books and ensure optimum profit through turn-around strategies which include aggressive marketing.

The underspending by LTA during the previous financial year would have gone a long way to market these sites effectively to become the go-to destinations in the province.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. The next speaker is Hon Mathye Violet.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker.

The Portfolio Committee on Oversight conducted oversight visits and gained first-hand experience at all the sites I mentioned earlier.

Hon Speaker, in November 2022, the committee embarked on an oversight visit to Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve, Makapan Valley World Heritage Site, as well as the Mokopane 4Racing Totalisator Site in the Waterberg District. The oversight visit focused on the progress in the 4Racing Totaliser gambling activities, infrastructure projects, sustainable natural resource management and activities in the state-owned nature reserves and world heritage site.

Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve, Hon Speaker, is one of the 43 state-owned nature reserves under the custodianship of the Department of Environment and Tourism. This nature reserve, covering approximately 6,824 ha, comprises three camps, accommodating day visitors for picnics, caravan/tent camping, fishing, water activities, and a few chalets. During our visit, the portfolio committee observed that this nature reserve has strong potential to become a prominent tourist attraction and a valuable revenue generator for the province.

Hon Speaker, we commend the department on the work done so far in developing the infrastructure, particularly for both camping and day visit facilities. However, we have observed a number of challenges that need to be addressed. These include the poor marketing of reserves, the high vacancy rate, poor internet and connectivity challenges, inadequate maintenance of facilities, insufficient budget and resources for managing

biodiversity activities such as water supply, census collection, veterinary services, and breeding programmes. Additionally, we have also noticed the absence of clearly defined youth development programmes, which is a priority since the majority of the workforce in nature reserves are approaching retirement age.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee has impressed upon the department to aggressively market the state-owned nature reserves and also offer promotional packages to attract more visitors, including the honourable Members of this august House. The biodiversity of both plants and animals in the reserves, remains a key attraction point, and we therefore urge the department to protect them, especially the rare and endangered species.

Hon Speaker, while we welcome the department's plans to commercialise the nature reserves, there should still be nature reserves that are managed by the department. The youth should also be involved, and vacancies filled. It should be noted that some of the challenges experienced in Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve are also applicable to other reserves, therefore the department should ensure that it prioritises issues covering a number of reserves including the Potlake Nature Reserve in Sekhukhune District, which the committee also visited in August 2022.

Hon Speaker, the Makapan Valley World Heritage Site spans about 55, 000 ha of land in total and it is located near Mokopane in the Mogalakwena Municipality. This highly regarded site was inscribed jointly in 1999, alongside the Taung Scalp and Cradle of Humankind, and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005. There are a total of 72 caves, with only three of them being accessible.

As a committee, we are concerned that despite the importance of this site, there is no infrastructure development taking place. Due to a lack of maintenance and poor development, there is a threat that it could lose its status as a renowned site. The existing infrastructure, including a burnt building, is dilapidated. The condition of the access road connecting from the main road (R101) to the site is very poor, which demotivates tourists. There is also a lack of ablution facilities and rubbish bins at the cave sites. The committee has also learnt that there is an existing land claim on the site by the Mugombane Mandebele Tribe, Kekana Tribe and GaShamane Community, which needs to be addressed as well.

Hon Speaker, the committee has also noted with concern that, unlike in other nature reserves, there were no departmental staff dedicated to the site, except for a few contract workers and EPWP employees. Those employees did not have the requisite tools of trade for the maintenance of the site. This requires urgent attention from the department, especially in infrastructure development and ensuring the maintenance of its status as a world heritage site. The site should also be aggressively marketed to attract more tourists.

The Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB), which is an entity of LEDET, is mandated with issuing licenses for gambling activities, regulating, and monitoring gambling sites in the province in terms of the Limpopo Gambling Act. Through the gambling industry, the LGB is able to collect a significant share of revenue for the province, while the industry also creates employment for Limpopo citizens. However, for problem gamblers, gambling can

have devastating consequences. The Mokopane 4Racing is one of the entities run by 4Racing Pty (Ltd), which is regulated and monitored by the Limpopo Gambling Board. During the visit, the committee was informed that the licensee is compliant, although there are areas for improvement.

The portfolio committee noted that the site also has problem gamblers, and we have recommended that the Limpopo Gambling Board ensure compliance by all licensees and also conduct more awareness on responsible gambling. All legal sites should have signage outside and certificates to show that they are compliant. Furthermore, over the years LGB has reported that it was grappling with illegal and online gambling, and we urge the department to continue to work with law enforcement agencies to conduct awareness and eradicate illegal gambling. Regarding the 4Racing site, we have recommended that the company should meet all its conditions, contribute to the local community, and fill vacancies to create more jobs for the local communities.

The portfolio committee has visited the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone and the Mining Input Supplier Park on 11 and 12 August 2022. This is one of the flagship mega projects in the province, alongside the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. Our communities are anticipating that they will get jobs and business opportunities from these projects. We welcome the progress made in the preparatory work to ensure that the SEZ can be operational as well as the acquisition of the Mining Input Supplier Park from Glencore; it was long overdue.

The committee has noted that the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ still has not been declared as an SEZ by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). We urge the department and LEDA to finalise the required documentation and processes to facilitate its declaration and begin operations. We have noted with concern that there are incidences of land invasion into the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ land, and this should be stopped urgently. We, therefore, urge the department to engage all the relevant stakeholders in its development initiatives and work with law enforcement agencies where necessary. We further noted that Glencore, which owns the Mining Input Supplier Park, will still have a stake in the SEZ. It is, therefore, recommended that a clear partnership agreement be developed stipulating the shares, roles and responsibilities of each partner.

Hon Speaker, during our oversight, we also visited Sefateng Mine and Tshepong Mine, both of which fall under Corridor Mining Resources, a subsidiary of LEDA. Of the two mines, only Sefateng is operational; however, it has not yielded dividends for the community shareholders or LEDA since underground operations commenced. We urge the department to work with the mine to improve its operations and create business and job opportunities for the local communities. There should be more skills transfer and training to empower the locals. Implementation of Social Labour Plans should follow proper consultations to address the community's needs. In Tshepong mine, the department, LEDA and CMR are encouraged to ensure that the operations recommence, but proper feasibility and profitability studies should be done.

The oversight visit to the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and the Mashashane Hatchery is one of the issues that was highly emphasised by Hon Phala during his debate. The Lebowakgomo Abattoir is not operational, despite the assurance that it would be

operational by September of this year. We are awaiting the processes to commence, but as of now, it remains non-operational. Also, regarding the Mashashane Hatchery, this project can create a number of job opportunities and agribusiness prospects for youth and farmers in the province. However, during our visit, we noted that most of the houses were vandalised.

During the visit in May 2023, the committee noted with concern that despite the state-of-the-art infrastructure development in the abattoir in 2010, the abattoir remains non-operational till today. As a result, the Mashashane Hatchery is also non-operational even though there are employees at the facility. This has a negative impact because the farmers who were supposed to supply both the eggs and the chickens for slaughter cannot benefit. Most of the farmers' houses for raising the parent breeding stock have been vandalised, meaning that raising the day-old chicks is not possible at the moment.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the effort made to secure the current investor, Goseame. However, it will be important for the department and LEDA to ensure the project be recommissioned and operationalised in the current year as per commitment. All other stakeholders, especially farmers and former employees should be engaged and retrained as necessary. We also look forward to the progress made by the department and LEDA in resolving water and electricity supply challenges especially in Mashashane, where there are full-time employees.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thanks very much, Deputy Speaker of the House, Hon Matibe Baldwin Tshitereke; the Speaker of the House, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Mokgonyana; the Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council, committee chairpersons of the portfolio committees and my chairperson and the acting chairperson, Hon Mathye, Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen, the CEOs and deputies representing the departments, the public entities within our jurisdiction and the subsidiaries, good morning.

It is my honour and privilege also to join a galaxy of leaders who have commemorated the honourable role played by our unsung heroines of our struggle as we celebrate the august Month which is dedicated as the Women's Month. We take note, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, on the issues that honourable Members have observed as and when they are carrying their legislative oversight as part of the constitutionally mandated functions to hold us as the executive accountable in terms of the execution of our responsibilities as executives. To achieve that, Hon Phala, on the filling of not only vacant, but vacant funded posts that are there, we did our part in filling all those positions in LGB. In LTM, we had the vacancy of the Chief Marketing Officer that has been filled and position of the Chief Financial Officer that has also been filled and other critical positions that have been there.

I think you are quite correct that we are one province that is hosting the world renowned Kruger National Park with 70% of the landscape in terms of the proportion into Limpopo,

but it is not marketed. Kruger National Park as is in the wilderness [Inaudible] Khalabashe, that is where you can find the Big Five” in one area – the Safari, the Khohona, [inaudible] marketed. We will be able to attract tourist for our country. That is the issue of marketing.

With regards to the subsidiary, I cannot agree more with what the honourable member has said . The enhancement of the capacity of the subsidiary is under legal, and is one issue that needs to be optimised for us to realise what are the strategic objectives of those subsidiaries that are there. The foreign national's spazas, there are mushrooming of spaza shops in our township. As a department, we have also adopted what we call a trend, the Township Economic Equivalent Development Programme where we try to utilise all the spaza shops. The challenge that we have is that as much as we have these mushrooming and the continuation of the spazas in our country, these are the spaza shops that when they apply, they need a condition. But, suddenly, they are leased out to the foreign nationals which we do not longer comply in terms of the regulations which is a cause of concern that on a continuous basis we are working collaboratively with Sars to ensure that we report those laws and withdraw some of them. We will go and close today, and tomorrow they are open. These are health hazards, and these are harder than we think. We are experiencing problems, and we call upon all to assist us in terms of whistleblowing to ensure that they alert us when they witness this type of a situation.

It is true that LEDA has 3-G listed companies in terms of Public Finance Management Act, and as such it had to comply because we need to have a funding. We are busy with what we call a sustainability programme which I think we are trying to diversify. It should be made self-sufficient, and that like in any other company without a tendency of any grant. The R3 million that has been injected in the GNT, I think at some stage, the PTO has commissioned what we call the forensic investigation report, and that report is there, and we are on the process of the operationalisation of that missing report. It is true that there was a problem in terms of honouring the statutory obligation, your medical and your pension which is a dilemma that has been confronting us. We are busy processing all the outstanding requests for pensions and other fringe benefits that these employees who have resigned, they enjoy. With regards to the contribution of the statutory contribution, like your Sars and Sassa and so forth. Those are the things that [inaudible] if you don't, which might cause fruitless and wasteful expenditure going forward.

I think it was a valid point, the reality of our province, we also have the rural economy that I think if we can look into it, the economy of the state and the economy of scope, we are moving towards the rural areas while we have your odds and so forth. That is the type of the economy that we need because they create more job opportunities rather than to have an urbanised economy-type of a situation.

Hon Phala, thanks very much, morwedi wa Phala, now that there is a son, the father and the daughter. Thanks very much about the submission of chicken abattoirs in Mashashane. We are sending a high level team led by the constituted by the SAP, as well as LEDA and the department. On a continuous basis, we check the progress on how far are they so that they are able to unlock and perhaps is an opportune moment that I have to share with you. We have a service provider, but that service provider has taken been taken to court. He was once a former MK of MPL and he is the one who has approved that loan, R33 million. That is why we are struggling with the process. There is

an that element that we are throwing what we have just reaped so that we get to the other side. I think we are regulating that transaction based on that to be operational.

I think we all know that Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, is one economic instrument that as a province, in terms of the developmental plan and industrial plan and master plan that we have is there for huge roll out plan of the infrastructure for metallurgical industry, agroprocessing and so forth. All those properties that have been there like your land, .notoriously because we can't invest in the land that we don't owe, and the profit that don't have a permit. We have since secured that permit, but there was the element of the red flag, and we are busy with that matter. It has a potential to create something like 24 000 job opportunities. These are some of the strategies that we are trying to employ as a province.

In GNT, you are quite right, at some stage, we had what we call MIG contract for leasing of the buses. We are still busy, and we are participating in the transversal contract. How do you then enter into a contract if the majority of the buses are still stuck. They are not operational. We are still paying licences for those buses. Why are we not disposing off those buses if we are to generate more revenue. I think the turnaround strategy is working on trying to operationalise and so forth. We need everyone's support so that we are able to achieve as an entity.

With regards to tourism, the tourism should be understood as the outbound and inbound tourism, but we are investing more on domestic tourism tours. Lessons through COVID has taught us that we had to access something like 16 500 international tourists. If we invest on that, whatever comes, if we invest in the domestic or the [inaudible] bounce, you are able to stimulate and attract an aggressive marketing strategy in terms of tourism to profile and market our province.

We are not doing well in terms of the refugee. I think as a province, we need to record that. We are helping out in investment. We are one province that up to so far, we were able to count in and mobilise about R320 billion worth of investment. They remain plans as long as we don't have significant implementation of the follow-up processes of those investment opportunities. This year, we are also planning an investment conference on 16 and October as an endeavour to ensure that we have a process of investment in the province. Even yesterday, we had a number of investors in the manufacturing, more especially in Tubatse, in automotive and in battery making or manufacturing. There are lot of companies that are waiting, and we already have more than eight to 10 companies at the value of R5,5 billion that are interested just to make a reply in Tubatse. But they are waiting for us in terms of the establishment processes to be finalised so that they come and make that. [inaudible] also is part of course for the beneficiation that is responsible for beneficiation, both downstream and main stream of the mineral resources that have in the province. The high levels of [Inaudible] that we have to accelerate, job opportunities, job creation so that our people, more especially, our SMMEs are able to derive economic liberty , economic spin offs so that the economy can grow faster because globally, the economy is not growing as it because of the structural conditions that are there in confectioneries.

The new era, CMR and the submission of the reports, I think we fully agree about that. I also have to explain in terms of the holding companies to demystify the means, why other people holding the board positions in the subsidiaries, how it is structured in terms of the LEDA Act. The holding company has got a board of director which is the accounting authority, and those board of directors also serve in the subsidiary. That is the Act. If the portfolio committees advising as they wanted to review that Act. It is within their campaign and jurisdiction to do that, to review that Act, it will and to make a submission to be able to comply accordingly. We also need to understand what is the Article of Association in terms of how boards are structured. For now, I think all boards are still in operation. Their term of office ends in December next year. If ever we have to inject some new blood, but also if there are some already, those are the things that I think we can consider in terms of women empowerment and so forth.

LGB, thanks very much for committing the good work that is done. We also have to report, Hon Phala there. We are the only department in the province that we are able to maintain clean audit. We have improved in terms the two entities, on top LGB and Limpopo Agribusiness. They are all four. That is the good work, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the oversight role, the robustness of the portfolio committee in making us accountable. There was [inaudible] improvement in terms of clean administration. We really appreciate your support. [APPLAUSE]

With regards to Makapan Valley, I agree with the concern that Makapan Valley has been one of the two UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) and together with Mapungubwe which is a cradle for human kind in Vhembe. So, these are our heritage sites which we need to ensure that a good state of them to ensure that we deal with this matter. The totalisator and the casino that we have, it is true that we need to monitor the compliance part of it and ensure that they are compliant and so forth. In the event that we do not promote, we have signed an agreement with what we call responsible gambling in South Africa. That are sisters, and also the legality part, we have signed a contract with LEDA. That is where our country has been praised, and we are trying to stop all the illicit trafficking of other things for illegal gambling, robust of the value that has to come back to be invested in the country for the social amenities that have to done.

I fully agree that the commercialisation part, Hon Speaker, is that, of course there is that element, we said that we need to appoint a transactional adviser to advise us in terms of what is commercialisation. It is a commercialisation of concession, because the state still has to own but the hospitality part which is not creating more revenue is one thing that will generate more revenue that is sustainable resource because it has as a huge potential to attract tourism and nature reserve. Of course, economy of those are the issues. We are looking into one Limpopo collection to ensure that as they roll out their network in terms of the [inaudible] also go to the nature reserves so that you get your wi-fi and access to all these thing of the various places, that is one other issue. The mining supplier part in Tubatse, we are finalising the packaging of the application for the fully-fledged Special Economic Zone. By the end of this month, we will be making that submission to the DG and the Cabinet They are two and in all what we are doing, w I think we are doing quite well.

The issue of one of the [inaudible] is one of the global mining company that we have. I think we have 50% of ownership in terms of the land and the property there, that is what we call unincorporated joint venture as we are finalising and reviewing that. With regards to Sefateng, I fully agree with you there except that in Sefateng we are owning only 55% government. We are only going to divide it after 20 years for R100 million. I have instructed the board so that we become a minority shareholder and get more money in terms of the sustainability in majority shareholding, and also to appoint the transactional adviser to assist us in that regard. We also have to review what we call the memorandum of Incorporation. How do we sign a memorandum of incorporation or a company that is generating more than R500 billion per annum, but you are not getting anything. It means that there is something wrong with the MOI that we have entered into as government. We have got the money license last year. We are busy looking for an investor to come and invest as a company sort of [Inaudible]. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

As you move towards conclusion [INTERJECTION]

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

As I move towards conclusion, thanks very much for affording us the opportunity for rigorous submissions that we got from honourable Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much. I gave him more time because he got a clean audit. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports on the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

Committee chairperson, it is your turn.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thanks, Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committees on Agriculture, Rural Development and Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, I, Mabogahla Isaaih Masekoameng, acting chairperson, mandated by Hon Jerry Maseko, hereby move that the report of the Joint Stakeholders to curb foot-and-mouth disease in Matiane village by the Portfolio Committees on Agriculture and Rural Development and Economic Development as it appears on the ATC be adopted as a report of this honourable House, I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here to support the motion as presented by the acting chair, Hon Mabogahla Masekoameng. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speaker's List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mathye Violet.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) confirmed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and has already proved costly for commercial farming sector and could even be even more devastating to small-scale farmers.

FMD is highly contagious, affecting cloven-hooved animals such as cattle, sheep and goats, and is characterised by lesions, high fever and lameness. While seldom fatal in adult animals, the disease can cause sudden death among young animals, seriously hampering production and compromising the future of herds, according to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. It does not affect humans.

The Portfolio Committee on Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism conducted oversight visits to Matiane village and recommended that an urgent meeting be convened including all stakeholders, SANParks (South African National Parks), traditional leaders, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Safety and Security, Department of Public Works and CoGHSTA to find a way of curbing outbreak, spread and prevention of FMD through Matiane village. The findings were as follows:

- The fence between Punda Maria gate and Matiane was vandalised over the last few years and has not been reconstructed despite marathon of engagements with the SANParks;
- Farmers and communities were very much concerned that the Kruger National Park fence was not being maintained as it is old and rotten, and since it is the main cause of spreading an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease;
- An area of about 3 km was said to be without fence, hence the free movement of buffaloes, hyenas, elephants, lions etc. inside and outside Kruger National Park to Matiane village;
- The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land and Reform and Rural Development is satisfied that controls have been put in place to curb the spread of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the province, following the 2022 outbreak at Collins Chabane Local Municipality in the Vhembe District Municipality;

- Limpopo is one of the three provinces endemically infected with FMD due to the presence of infected buffaloes in Kruger National Park. These buffaloes also have a high prevalence of corridor disease which are TB and Brucellosis; and
- The municipality was in the past in an FMD-free zone according to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), which meant that there were no trade restrictions on cloven hoofed and related products. Other infected provinces are Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal.

On Joint stakeholders' engagement to curb the outbreak and spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Matiane village, stakeholders were invited to present on challenges and solutions aimed at addressing the FMD outbreak. During the stakeholders' engagement, stakeholders made their presentations and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism was unfortunately not represented in the meeting even though the Portfolio Committee invited them. Similarly, the SANParks and the Kruger National Park was not present, even though the Portfolio Committee on LEDET was requested to invite them to come and account in this important stakeholders' engagement session.

Agriculture in South Africa contributes around 5% of formal employment, relatively low compared to other parts of Africa, and the number is still decreasing, as well as providing work for casual laborers and contributing around 2,6% of GDP for the nation. The World Organisation for Animal Health has temporarily suspended South African FMD-free international status, forcing it to ban all exports of potentially infected animals.

In briefing the portfolio committees, the South African Police Services (SAPS) encouraged the livestock farmers to always abide by Act 57 of 1957 which makes it compulsory that whenever farmers sell a cattle or livestock, they issue a letter with particulars of the farmer and buyer, and even the registration of the car delivering the livestock. The SAPS indicated that this would help the police to curb livestock theft. The SAPS encouraged farmers to have their livestock branded with identification marks. The police indicated that this would help them to identify stolen livestock and assist them during court proceedings. The SAPS highlighted the fact that road fence theft is causing fatal accidents in the road. Farmers were encouraged to take care of their livestock so that they do not stray to the roads and cause fatal accidents. Farmers were encouraged to refrain from hiring illegal and unknown shepherds since most of stock theft has been attributed to those unknown and illegal immigrants.

It was recommended that the portfolio committee request the Department of LEDET to develop an Inter-Governmental Committee which will discuss the issue of Kruger National Park fence further as well as the way forward to assist in eradicating foot-and-mouth disease completely.

With regards to the traditional leaders, Matiane and Josefa traditional leaders graced the meeting and were worried that since 2016 when they met with the Minister for Agriculture, they were promised that the fence will be fixed, but to date nothing has happened. They

suggested that if the fence could be moved away from Matiane Village to about 10 km inside the Kruger National Park, maybe that could resolve the problem.

The traditional leaders lamented on how South Africa was so disrespected by the illegal immigrants from Mozambique and Zimbabwe who illegally enter the country, steal their cattle and even build illegal structures on their land. They urged the Departments of Home Affairs, International Relations, Defence and all relevant institutions to start protecting the borders and curb illegal immigrants before citizens could take the law into their own hands to defend themselves from those illegal activities in their country.

The portfolio committee recommended that National Parliament, Departments of Home Affairs, International Relations, Defence, SAPS and all relevant stakeholders must work together to assist in solving the problem of illegal immigrants and borders control to avoid conflicts between neighbouring African countries and South Africans.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Portfolio Committees on Agriculture and Rural Development and Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, I hereby move that this Joint Committee Report on stakeholders' engagement to curb the spread and outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease through Matiane village in Collins Chabane Municipality around Vhembe District be adopted as a report of this honourable House. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Mathye. the next speaker on the list is Hon Raine Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thanks, Hon Speaker. The time old saying that "prevention is better than cure" is no more applicable than on the strategy of the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease in Limpopo. The oversight visit with the Agriculture Portfolio Committee in May 2022 in the Vhembe District near the Kruger National Park fence raised multiple red flags around the prevention and combating of foot-and-mouth disease in the province.

The dilapidated state of the red line as well as non-functioning dipping stations within the red zone is affirmation that there will be another foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the province. Although the increase in the budget for the Department of Agriculture for Programme Four, Veterinary Services, was utilised for vaccines and dipping cattle, the porous red line and broken fences allow foot-and-mouth carriers to move out and mingle with cattle, spreading the disease again. Delays in procuring vaccines from Botswana is a concern and directly affect the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease in the province.

The South African National Parks (SANParks) does not maintain the Kruger National Park's fence surrounding Matiane village. Fence breakages by elephants allow buffaloes and other FMD carriers to spread the contagious disease when these animals mingle with our cattle. The dipping tank facility at Mavambe village was overgrown, a clear indication

that it was hardly utilised despite the latest outbreak of Foot-and Mouth Disease earlier in 2022.

During the oversight, it was evident that the Muhuyu dipping tank was just being repaired, maintained, but not utilised. Engagements with farmers revealed that the Shakadza dipping tanks were last utilised for bi-weekly dipping of cattle in 2012 and the borehole was also not functioning, and it was clear that the dipping tank was repaired just prior to the oversight visit.

The red line in Lambani is non-existent, and it is a responsibility of the Department of Agriculture to mandate Public Works to erect a fence and maintain it. However, the departments are seemingly shifting this responsibility from one department to another. It is concerning that at the time of the oversight visit, the high number of vacancies in animal technicians responsible for disease control has not yet been filled, and we believe that this attributes to the foot-and-mouth outbreaks.

It is clear that the lack of cohesion between the relevant departments creates a threat of continuous foot-and-mouth outbreaks, which can be avoided if the fences of the Kruger Park and the red line fences are properly maintained. The lack of bio-security control measures is threatening our 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 and prosperity for all our farmers. The persistent foot-and-mouth outbreaks affect all our farmers, but it is particularly the small scale and subsistence farmers who are suffering due to the prohibition of moving livestock to auctions. What they also need is a government that can protect its own people and their interests through proper control measures and containment of the Foot-and Mouth in the red zone.

We agree with head veterinarian for Karan Beef, Dr Dirk Verwoerd, who stated recently that, “the first government objective should be to get the measures in the control and surveillance zones working effectively again and that the new endemic foci such as Vhembe and a specific node near Potchefstroom should be ring vaccinated along with the slaughter of all positive cases. The control measures should also include returning to the preventative vaccination programmes in the FMD endemic areas using locally produced vaccines that are regularly matched to the circulating variations in the Kruger National Park. Many communal and subsistence farmers are battling a variety of diseases and face other economic hardships, making educational programmes ineffective without proper law enforcement. Under the realities of the current situation in South Africa, compliance to FMD control measures will only occur if there is a partnership between the state, private sector and cattle owners with tangible benefits to all,” Dr Verwoerd concludes.

Without these preventative measures in place as well as a well-funded budget, the department’s red meat massification strategy will remain a pipe dream. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. The next speaker is Hon Masekoameng on behalf of Hon Maseko.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thanks, Deputy Speaker. All protocol observed.

Hon Speaker, foot-and-mouth disease is an acute, highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and buffaloes. This disease can cause serious production losses, and it is a major constraint to international trade and domestic trade in livestock and meat products including milk. The main economic impact of the disease comes from trade bans and the inability to move or sell animals and animal products from affected areas.

Hon Speaker, it has been scientifically proven that humans cannot be infected with foot-and-mouth disease virus, so meat from an infected animal is safe for human consumption. However, the infected meat can act as a source of infection to other cloven-hoofed animals if it is not heated to inactivate the virus. The outbreaks at the time have occurred in the foot-and-mouth disease free zone. As a result, South Africa was unable to export animals and fresh meat to other countries. According to official statistics, South Africa produces approximately 21,4% of the total meat produced on the African continent and 1% of global meat production. The livestock industry also contributes 34,1% to the total domestic agricultural production and provides 36% of the population's protein. This shows how economically damaging the foot-and-mouth disease situation could be.

The challenges are first that the control of any animal disease is not solely government's responsibility. Other stakeholders like farm owners and managers are obliged by legislation to prevent the spread of disease. Another problem is that the current measures are unfortunately short term and don't take all the issues at play into consideration. The veterinary authority, which is part of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, needs extra funding through a special allocation from the national Treasury, to tackle these outbreaks and continue its normal work. This requires political support from Cabinet and Parliament.

Hon Speaker, as we speak now the red line gates in Limpopo, such as Masisi and Lambani red line gates, are all not operational, as identified by my colleagues. Livestock and livestock products can move freely from the redline zones to free zones. There are no longer guard houses and gates are not monitored daily. For this reason, I can safely say our department is not serious about preventing foot-and-mouth disease from spreading.

The Portfolio Committee found that Lambani and Masisi red line gates are white elephants wherein officials are paid every month for doing absolutely nothing since no services were rendered at the gates. The red line fence to control animals from moving out of the area was also vandalised and is completely not there. The portfolio committee was very much concerned that such a situation made the fight against the spread of foot-and-mouth disease a difficult battle.

South Africa relies on its neighbours, mainly Botswana, to supply it with foot-and-mouth disease vaccines. This needs to be addressed to ensure prompt action against future outbreaks – the country must be able to produce own vaccine and distribute vaccines fast. It is time for the Limpopo and country to look at a long term Foot and Mouth Disease plan that accommodates all role players.

The department reported that awareness and vaccination campaigns were done throughout Collins Chabane, Giyani Municipalities, Thulamela and Musina Municipalities. However, Matiane village was viewed as the core area for the outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease because of the constant contact of cattle with buffaloes from the Kruger National Park. The SANParks fence dividing Matiane with Kruger National Park has many holes or damaged areas wherein buffaloes, elephants, lions, wolves etc can escape to Matiane village and make contact with cattle and people.

The fence has been damaged by elephants and people who enter Kruger National Park for animal pouncing and to access drinking water by cattle. This fountain inside the Kruger National Park is a central area where cattle and buffaloes contact each other frequently. Logically, when the cattle come back to the village after mixing with buffaloes inside KNP, hence the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. It is also because of the broken fence buffaloes can walk freely at Matiane village thus the area is regarded at the epicentres for the outbreak and spread of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Hon Speaker, there is a need for proper working relationship amongst the local traditional leaders, surrounding communities, Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, SANParks and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to solve the outbreak of foot- and-mouth disease through Matiane village. Serious engagement needs to take place between the stakeholders to address the prevention and outbreak of this disease. prompt action against future outbreaks – the country must be able to produce own vaccine and distribute vaccines fast. It is time for the Limpopo and country to look at a long term foot-and-mouth disease plan that accommodates all role players.

The department reported that awareness and vaccination campaigns were done throughout Collins Chabane, Giyani Municipalities, Thulamela and Musina Municipalities. However, Matiane village was viewed as the core area for the outbreak of the FMD because of the constant contact of cattle with buffaloes from the Kruger National Park. The SANPark fence dividing Matiane with Kruger National Park has many holes or damaged areas wherein buffaloes, elephants, lions, wolves etc can escape to Matiane Village and make contact with cattle and people.

The fence has been damaged by elephants and people who enter Kruger National Park for animal pouncing and to access drinking water by cattle. This fountain inside the Kruger National Park is a central area where cattle and buffaloes contact each other frequently. Logically, when the cattle come back to the village after mixing with buffaloes inside KNP, hence the outbreak of FMD. Also because of the broken fence buffaloes can walk freely at Matiane village thus the area is regarded at the epicentre for the outbreak and spread of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Hon Speaker there is a need for proper working relationship amongst the local traditional leaders, surrounding communities, Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, SANParks and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to solve the outbreak of FMD through Matiane village. Serious engagement needs to take place between the stakeholders to address the prevention and outbreak of this disease.

The Kruger National Park fence must be maintained and guarded to avoid posing a serious threat to the economic development of the province in terms of red meat market. The surrounding communities must also be engaged more especially by the local traditional leadership to stop their tendency of vandalizing and damaging the fence for pouching wild animals.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the theft of cattle and pouching of wild animals in Matiane and surrounding villages and in the Kruger National Park by our Mozambique brothers will escalate into a serious challenge which might be wrongfully attributed to xenophobia if not addressed.

Hon Speaker, we foresee a situation wherein South Africans might take law into their own hands to protect their cattle and goats which are stolen by the illegal Mozambique immigrants. It is for this reason that we call upon all relevant law enforcement agencies to put serious and strong measures in place to stop the theft and pouching in and around Matiane village. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Masekoameng. We shall now call upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to make observations and inputs made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIROMENT AND TOURISM

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker in absentia, Honourable Members, MECs present and chairpersons of the portfolio committees.

We take note of all what has been raised. The mouth-and-foot disease has an implicating impact on the economy of our province. Recently, as a department, we have undertaken an outward mission to go to Saudi Arabia. Our red meat was red and it was no longer allowed to go outside the country. However, we resolved that matter. This need a joint engagement of all the stakeholders to curb foot-and-mouth disease outbreak through the engagement, liaising and so forth. We are full aware, and we are also engaging the order management agency that will be launched in November by the Presidency. One of the challenges is around the issue of managing the foreign nationals who destroy and vandalise our fences. We are also engaging SANParks and Kruger National Park to make

sure that on a continuous basis, they fix the fence. On a positive note, during BRICKS summit, we are one of those provinces that we committed to the body of the province that we have secured the contract whereby our channel is going to add all the [Inaudible] and other small scale traders in that industry.

We take note of what has been raised, and we apologise on behalf of our personnel that they did not manage to attend the public hearing and stakeholders engagement where this important matter was discussed. Thanks very much. Over and above, the fencing part in the Kruger National Park, when it rains, these animals get dip and they get out. When they get out, e ba tša Mokone, ga e sa ba tša Kruger National Park. That is what I mentioned that I do not know how to deal with it. The surrounding community steal the fence. You can fix it, but they go back and steal that fence. So, that is just a vicious circle that we are in. All of us need to put our hands in a battle to correct the situation and give it the necessary attention that we will stop the current [inaudible] Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, my colleagues in the Executive Council and Members of the august House. I think there were times whereby the Portfolio Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development and government departments met. There was indeed a problem that the Outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which made a lot of countries not to take our red meat. Together with national Department of Agriculture, Treasury, and the team of our province, we came together and put a ban to make sure that we do not see the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

As we speak now, for almost a year now, we have not seen the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease because we have been able to halt the outbreak by vaccinating our animals. We will continue to do so because the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has implicating result, and [inaudible].that most of the countries do not buy our meat which has an effect in our country. As we speak, during the BRICKS summit, China has agreed to take the meat from the province There are areas which have been agreed upon and some that are [inaudible]. I have informed the MEC that they have uplifted the ban from taking the red meat from Limpopo.

I have agreed with Hon Monama that next week, we are going together, so that our departments should be able to deal with this issue because it affects all of us, not only the province, it affects the whole of Africa. What I want to say is that, I agree with honourable Members that there are certain steps that we need to take. Education is a very critical aspect that need to be enforced.

We need to educate our communities because some communities refuse that their animals be vaccinated and some are refusing with their animals to be marked. The purpose being that they want to smuggle cattle in this country to some big firms which will create problems. We will not be able to know where these cattle come from. We have

agreed that we are continuing with the discussion with our communities, with our chiefs, to make sure that we deal with this issue. The fact of the matter is that we work with the private sectors, the various sectors, the community and everybody to make sure that we curb the spread of mouth-and-foot disease. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

Committee chair, it your turn.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I, Kedibone Lebea, rise for consideration and adoption that the Report on Oversight Visit to Skierlik informal settlement in Thabazimbi, Bela-Bela Municipality on 1 June be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the honourable chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

7.4.2 Oversight visit to Tsakane informal settlement and Vingerkraal informal settlement in Bela-Bela Municipality

Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I, Kedibone Lebea, rise for consideration and adoption that the Report on Oversight visits to Altoostyd informal settlement and Marapong community informal settlement in Lephalale Municipality on 2 June 2023 be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as tabled by the honourable committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPREAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise for consideration and adoption that the Oversight visits to Tsakane and Vingerkraal informal settlement in Bela-Bela Municipality on 31 May 2023 be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPREAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the report as tabled by the honourable chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Speaker. I, kedibone Lebea, rise for consideration and adoption that the report on Ghana International Study Tour on 1 July 2023 be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank very much. Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGAYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, stand to support the motion as presented by honourable chairperson. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Did you move all the visits?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, you missed one, Oversight visits to Skierlik informal settlement in Thabazimbi Municipality.

BACKGROUND

The MIG projects

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is it the MIG projects? Oversight Visit to MIG projects around Sekhukhune District Municipality on 1 and 2 June 2023.

Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Speaker. I rise for consideration and adoption that the MIG projects in Sekhukhune District Municipality be adopted as a report by this august House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other seconders? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by honourable chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the Speaker's List is Hon Caroline Manthata-Mahasela.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to debate. Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; Members of the Executive Council and chairpersons of the portfolio committees, honourable Members in the House and officials who are in the House, guests in the gallery, I greet you all.

The portfolio committee embarked on oversight visit which is the MIG in Sekhukhune District, Mohlakaneng, Leboeng, [inaudible] access road and bridges and Mogashoa Mohkakaneng traditional council offices in June 2022, and a year later, to Human Settlement project in Waterberg District, Tsakane, Vingekraal, Skierlik and Altoostyd which is Joe Slovo informal settlement and Marapong community residential unit in June 2023.

It is the concern of the committee that the report that was concluded in 2022 is tabled in this House a year after the oversight was undertaken. As the committee, we say this is considered as a very serious or malicious [inaudible], and we urge those who are responsible to ensure that this does not happen again. Government sought to roll back municipal infrastructure [inaudible] the previous state and historically disadvantaged, marginalised and poor individuals and communities by introducing the MIG-GoGHSTA as the transferring and supporting department. The portfolio committee also through these oversight visits to MIG projects aiming to encourage economic growth, poverty eradication, job creation and to achieve its constitutional mandate of monitoring whether the departmental and municipalities' programmes were unfolding as planned.

The committee visited Mohlakaneng access road that was commissioned by the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality. It is a 2km long road with a bridge that was budgeted for R19, 4 million. The project commenced in June 2021, and was completed in May 2022. It was hurting and disturbing to observe that most of the MIG projects, especially the Mohlakaneng access road and a bridge was of poor quality. The road and the bridge can be easily washed away due to poor workmanship. This is as a result of the potential loss of over R19 million that was invested in this project.

The committee also found that the contractor did the job in terms of an approved design which gave them the impression that the municipality appointed an experienced consultant. The committee was concerned that the consultant was paid R3,5 million for the poor designs. The municipality must strengthen its monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that services rendered are of high quality and will be used for a very long time.

The committee also noticed that the municipality appointed the consultant late in August 2021 when the design was completely approved, and the construction had already started in June. The ratification at the time of appointing the consultant was going to be more expensive or could have doubled the amount if the construction was to be rectified or to start afresh. The committee encouraged the consultant to never compromise quality work and never settle for poor work because poor work will damage the reputation of his or her business. The municipality must have its own in-house engineers who will play a role of creating the specification and monitoring the implementations of projects.

Hon Deputy Speaker and the House, the committee also visited Leboeng access road and bridge that took a stretch of 9km long. The first phase of 3km started in 2019 and was completed in 2021. The second phase of 6km was still under construction. The project was allocated R19,3 million and the amount of R12 million has already been spent at the time of the oversight visit. The committee noted and appreciated the contractor for maintaining good working relationship with the adjusted communities. It was pleasing that the contractor was able to speedily resolve concerns by the communities, and that the

subcontractor workers were appointed from the local community. The fact that the contractor was paying the communities on time, and thus the communities would raise their concerns professionally without interrupting the construction work was applauded. The committee commended the contractors and the engineers who were involved in the project for ensuring good work. The committee encouraged those young contractors and engineers to always be committed in doing their work. The committee encouraged them to be focused on their work since they also play a role in poverty alleviation and job creation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, given the experience where locals are in labour matters and processes, the same cannot be said about workers where part of the workforce is comprised of foreign nationals. We urge the tenants to monitor this phenomenon to ensure that the locals be mostly employed, and are prioritised during construction of the government-led and funded and development programmes.

We were concerned by the delay to complete Mohlakaneng traditional council. CoGHSTA through Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure was building offices of the traditional council offices of Mogashoa-Mohlakaneng. The project's inception date was 17 August 2018 and was scheduled to be completed in August 2019. The project was faced with the contractor challenges. During the initial oversight visit, the committee found that the contractor, Mogashoa and Partners Enterprises abandoned the project. The contractor was subsequently terminated by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on 5 February 2020.

We were also concerned with the delays and decided to make a follow-up oversight visit to check and monitor progress in the construction of Mohlakaneng traditional council office. The committee was pleased to hear the traditional leaders being happy about the contractor in the construction of a traditional council office since the new contractor took over. They also thanked the portfolio committee for its concern about the project and follow-up oversight visit.

During the [inaudible] inspection to the project, the site manager reported that the project was due for completion on 21 June 2022. However, due to some delays such as rain, they applied for one month extension to the municipalities. It was also reported that only locals got subcontracts and jobs in the project. The committee commended the contractor for creating jobs for the local people. The project was completed by the new contractor with a budget of R7,7 million. The committee applauded CoGHSTA, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Makhuduthamaga Municipality for ensuring that the project does not stall, and wasteful and fruitless expenditure not being incurred.

The committee also visited [inaudible] access road which is slightly a kilometre long. The project had delays which were due to late appointment of the contractor and the delay of the review of the design. The review resulted in variation of the orders. The committee was concerned that the contractor was reluctant to take advice from the consultant. The committee noted that the storm water control and the bridge were not done. The committee recommended to the municipality that the contractor must carry the cost of the risk of the storm water control. In this regard, for speedy completion of the project, the

municipality will pay for the storm water control and the bridge. Those expenses will be claimed from the contractor for the omissions.

The committee was also concerned that in Altoostyd, the RDP houses that were promised to the people have not been built despite an expenditure totalling over R669 million in land acquisition, town planning and infrastructure being incurred. The people of Altoostyd remained in two roomed-temporary shacks which they have occupied for the past eight years instead of 18 months as promised by the department. That is pathetic. Something needs to be done. There is an inadequate sanitation, health, educational and recreational facilities in the area.

In Skierlik, the department initially allocated RDP houses to the settlement, but later relocated them without valid explanation. People are still waiting for the houses and no one is saying anything to them. The programme is compounded by lack of adequate land for settlement expansion. The piece of farm that belonged to the community has since been sophisticated by the local farm. The settlement cannot grow even when people were willing to build their own houses. There is no land to build.

We call on all government entities as the portfolio committee, including the municipalities to ensure that they appoint contractors with skills or which are skilled and experienced in order to ensure that projects are expeditiously and speedily implemented. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathata-Mahasela. The next speaker is committee chairperson, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, honourable Members of the Executive Council, Members of the distinguished House, guests in the gallery, members of the media in the House and on various social platforms, a very pleasant day to you. It is Tata Nelson Mandela that has taught us, "A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special." At this year's Women's Month, I dedicate this debate in honour of the struggle icon, Josephine Sekgana Moshobane, born 18 December 1962. Moshobane was a student activist who dedicated her life to the fight against the injustices imposed on Black students at the then University of the North, now University of Limpopo. She ultimately took a fight with the apartheid regime, killed her at the age of 24 in 1986 after being wrongfully detained upon her return from Botswana. She was charged under section 29 of the Internal Security Act of 1982 and subjected through most inhumane conditions in prison. [inaudible] Is unacceptable where masculine oppression still find it relevant. Moshobane was described as humorous, fun-loving and a highly politicised individual who spoke the truth fearlessly whereby on the plaque that was erected in her honour had the following message, "My death shall be the victory of the future generation.". May her ever fighting and resilient spirit continue resting in peace of our most High God.

As women of this province, we are led through the leadership of a visionary man, Tonakgolo Chupu Mathabatha for having afforded women space and opportunity of leadership in the province. Re a leboga Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa. As we embark on these significant days, let us bear in mind the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices are ultimately our responsibility". Since the advent of democracy, the ANC-led government will later enforce principles to ensure that the municipalities and government departments are transparent and are accountable to the communities they serve. Good governance is crucial to the development of poverty alleviation. It is the foundation upon which government and its citizens [inaudible] significant for economic society of global overall stability.

Following all legislative principles, Hon Speaker, we embark on a number of oversight visits. Hon Manthata-Mahasela has alluded to almost all oversight visits. But one of our primary objectives as the portfolio committee is the success and challenges facing the informal settlements in the province in Waterberg District and Bela-Bela in particular with the aim of ensuring that the department and the municipalities meet the needs and demands of its citizens and the policy practices on Human Settlement are implemented. The purpose of this oversight visit was also to monitor the extend in which the Department of CoGHSTA and the municipalities are delivering services and shelter over their heads. In this province, we have identified problems that are administrative as the portfolio committee and the department and the municipality.

On 31 May, we went to Tsakane informal settlement. All we could say as a portfolio committee, is to borrow words [inaudible] The community of Tsakane informal settlement should be taught and assisted on how to maintain the area that they are living in, cleanliness is definitely next to godliness. We have witnessed a lot of effort made by both the department and Bela-Bela Local Municipality in ensuring that the people of Tsakane informal settlement, they too, have a chance to determine firstly, as advanced by the Freedom Charter, secondly, as protected by the Bill of Rights in this country as stated by the Constitution. Equally, the department will ensure that land is transferred to Bela-Bela Municipality.

On 1 June as Hon Mathye and Hon Mahasela have indicated, we went to Skierlik informal settlement. It is located at portion eight of the farm at Grootvlei No 87 which was released in 2016 by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Bela-Bela Local Municipality to formalise the existing settlement of the property. It was surprising to find out that the farm had two portions, whereby one belongs to a community and another one belongs to a white farmer who later sold it to another farmer. We need clarity in this regard from the Department of Public Works on whom does the farm belong to. And that will assist our people at Skierlik to clearly clear the confusion that they find themselves in.

We regrettably realised that only 30% was achieved in terms of roads and storm water construction, and 17 houses instead of 215 houses had roof tops and 16 toilets were under construction which clearly indicates that the project will not be implemented on time.

Let me embrace the fact that the envisaged completion time was to be July, but now we are in end of August. What we are saying as a portfolio committee, Bela-Bela Local Municipality, the housing development agency and the Department of GoGHSTA must ensure that the completion date is extended or still the infrastructure will not be done on time, but this is very important and critical, and we are taking [Inaudible] without expenditure for variation orders.

We went to Altoostyd which is Joe Slovo informal settlement. There it is a clear case, I quote, “ If an elephant has its food on the tale of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality”. That was Desmond Tutu. The situation at Altoostyd is embarrassing. The situation at Altoostyd must be attended to as a matter of yesterday. The situation at Altoostyd, if not attended to will bring about shame to the government of the province of Limpopo.

Lastly, the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, went on International Study Tour to Ghana on 1 July 2023 to 9 July 2023. The purpose of this International Study Tour to Ghana was to learn and check the seriousness of the Ghana policies and procedures, as well as to the degree which success has led to Ghana’s current situation. Let me tell you something, that study tour was an eye opener. We went to Ghana, and as a country, we were firstly embarrassed as honourable Members upon entering Ghana of the restriction measures on how they are curbing or even monitoring people who are coming in and out of the country. This they do in order to be able to account for citizens of the country and even people who are coming in to stay. They must be able to account and this also assist know where to find each of and every person. We are not making any assumptions, we are saying the way Ghana has protected its country, we must learn a lot from them.

Another unfortunate part that surprised us in Ghana and we find ourselves as a country is that, we pride ourselves as a country and even our province through the Department of CoGHSTA is that our people have RDP houses. In Ghana, there is nothing like RDP houses. It is matter of fend themselves and work for us all. We appreciate the ANC led-government that everybody is taken care of, everybody is given a dignity for them to live as a people, whether rich or poor.

What we have also noted in Ghana is that, not 90% or 98%, but 100% of senior positions in Ghana are not held by any other persons except Ghanaians. That is a thing that we should learn as a country, senior positions, CEO, senior positions in banks, parastals, all belong to the Ghanaians. If they have a rare skill in the country, they come up and work together, so the people that are bringing skill will be able to leave the skill in the country. What was worth taking was the fact that Ghana is open for business for young people, women in the province to go and take their produce, food, tomatoes, chickens, wines. They have a market available to let young people and women to strengthen their market in Ghana.

The portfolio committee wishes to base on Ghana experience to commence the Limpopo Department of GoGHSTA that it should in its endeavours support the poor of the poorest in terms of providing them free houses and development of the informal settlements . We noted that the impact of our province and the government in assisting the poor of the poorest in terms of housing provisions in social grants is [inaudible] compared to other

African countries. The portfolio committee also noted that in rural areas and the respectful authorities in Ghana, there is something that we can draw lesson from. We noted that the citizens respect the law and authority of the country and even attract investors for the betterment of the society.

I deliberately invoked the thoughts of great minds on whose shoulders we stand to remind us that we are not in this distinguished House for smartness and club satisfaction. We are here to change the lives of the citizens of this country through governance, accountability, humility and utmost compassion. It is on this principle that as a portfolio committee, we continuously explore ways to ensure the implementation of good governance for the betterment of our society and the future generation. As Mahta Ghandi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others".

As the chairperson responsible for Corporative Governance, Human Settlement, and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee, we would like to leave this message to the ones responsible for changing the lives of the people that are looking up to them for a better life. This includes all stakeholders, administrators, executives, service providers and all. "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. Do away with fearful jealousy, kill that spirit and love one another as brothers and sisters. Stand by the rule, do unto others as you would like them to do unto you". Charlotte Manny Maxeke

On behalf of the Portfolio committee on Human Settlement, Cooperative Governance, and Traditional Affairs, I move that the report be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable committee chair. We shall now call upon the MEC for GoGHSTA to give remarks.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to make observations based on the oversight visits that were done to our municipalities in the province. I may be challenged to make observations on the Ghana trip. The portfolio committee did not invite me. [Inaudible] However, I will take the lessons they learned from there.

Let me start to make comments on the issue of MIG municipalities in Sekhukhune and inform this House that all four local municipalities in Sekhukhune, Tubatse, Makhuduthamaga, Elias Motsoaledi and Epharaim Mogale, in the previous financial year, in terms of MIG performance, all of them got bonus for spending 100% on a MIG grant. MIG grant is meant for municipalities to make sure that they provide basic services to their own communities. I must commend the work that has been done by local communities. I have noted the concerns that in some of the projects the quality that is there is of poor standard. I must also indicate our observation and our support that the district municipalities in this case are distressed, in other words, our local municipalities

perform better than the district municipalities in the sense that they even return certain amount of money to Minister fiscus.

We have already started using the BDM model (Building Development Management), MEC Radzilani, I and Deputy Minister, Parks Tau as the national champion for BDM, but we are sitting and looking at the capacity challenges of the municipalities, mainly on the planning because that is the challenge that they have. That process, we have already started to engage in order to strengthen the MIG in that district.

On the issue of the traditional council offices in Phagameng, I can confirm that we met as a portfolio committee, and I would like to thank you for the guidance because on the initial visit, they came back to the committee. We met, I and my colleague in the Public Works. We were able to appoint a new contractor who has just completed the project, and it is ready to be handed over to you. I want collate the Tsakane matter and Skierlik matter and indicate that these are parts of the informal settlement that we have in the province. We are busy working on it, and we were guided by the portfolio committee in making sure that the people get houses.

Let me start with Skierlik, we wanted to provide them with housing, but because of the site which was not properly demarcated, and we met a challenge, chairperson of the portfolio committee, with ownership of the land, we have already started to engage our local municipalities in making sure that we get ownership of the land so that we can provide houses.

On the Vingerkraal project, Hon Speaker, I can confirm that we will complete the project even if we do not deplete the work, even though the portfolio committee reserves, but it will not cost us additional funding to make sure that we complete the scope of work. Maybe we should share that, Vingerkraal is a project where informal settlement started from afresh. It started with the informal settlement upgrading, a township establishment. We are building 215 units to help the community. We are also providing water [Inaudible] and also providing streets. Part of the work like streets, I think 90% of the work has been completed as we speak. But the work on Vingerkraal project will be confirmed in [inaudible]

On the Altoostyd project, we agreed with the chairperson of the portfolio committee that it is a project that was started somewhere around 2013/14 where we wanted to have what we call integrated human settlement. There are about 6000 sites which were supposed to be serviced. Up to so far, the report says, 2000 sites have been serviced. People have been relocated to those that have been serviced. When the portfolio committee brought the report, we have checked it, and realised that there are almost 150 000 people who require houses. Though it was not a plan to build RDP houses, because we wanted all sectors to be included, even those that will build for themselves. It is a good area. The plan of a smart city was supposed to start with this democracy. We are busy now to make sure that those who deserve to get RDP houses before the end of the financial year, we shall have allocated them houses in the stands which were not necessarily meant for that.

We are saying, as a portfolio committee, we would take them and put them into our plans, all of those that can be done with immediate effect and those that be done by the department. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Kindly note the following announcements:

- The Rules Committee at its meeting on Tuesday, 29 August 2023, considered the request from the Democratic Alliance for the review of their representation to the committees. The request was ratified by the Rules Committee, and it is incorporated into the ATC. The revised list of Committees is distributed to all honourable Members;
- Information Technology Section of the Legislature is busy with installation of fibre at the homes of honourable Members at the Parliamentary village. The section together with the appointed service provider request access to the homes of honourable Members for such installations. If you are not there, Hon Matlou, kindly leave the keys next door so that when they come, they are able to access your house; and
- The last announcement is that lunch will be served in the board room outside the Council Chamber. Members are however reminded that no eating is allowed inside the House.

Thank you very much. I did the announcements because you cannot delegate upwards. You must delegate downwards, Chair of Chairs. The deputies are not here. I cannot delegate upwards, otherwise I will be in trouble.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 05 September 2023 at 10:00 Polokwane, Municipal Council Chamber. Thank you very much. The House is adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
POLOKWANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 05 SEPTEMBER 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

THE SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity for silent prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Hon Premier; Honourable Members of the Executive Council; Honourable Members of this august House; leaders of opposition parties; members of staff present here today; people in the gallery good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

We shall now move to Item 2. Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**ANC APPLAUDS A WELL-EXECUTED JOB BY THE HAWKS IN MAKHADO WHEN
CRACKING DOWN CASH-IN-TRANSIT ROBBERS**

(Motion without Notice)

I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seno, rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that, the ANC applauds the well-executed job by the Hawks when they raided a luxury home in Makhado to crack down on a cash-in-transit gang on Friday 01 September 2023.

Hon Speaker, when the police raided a luxury home in Makhado on Friday, they were met with a string of bullets by a gang of cash in transit robbers. A shootout ensued and 18 of the suspects were fatally shot. Another body was discovered once the Hawks combed the scene, bringing the total number to 19; of which 17 are male and two females. This operation was a culmination of a major investigation by the Hawks that began as far back as January 2023. This group is being linked to cash-in-transit heists in three provinces of Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

Hon Speaker we further wish senior police officer, Lt-Colonel Joe Coetzer a speedy recovery as he was shot on the leg during the shootout with the gang. He was airlifted to hospital for medical care. Despite interventions from doctors, his leg could not be saved and was unfortunately amputated. He is still receiving medical attention and we hope he will recover under the good hands of those medical practitioners. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj second the motion by, Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any motion without notice? Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE DELAY OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE IN SAPS AND THE TRAFFIC
DEPARTMENT RENDERS OFFICERS IDLE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance on behalf of Hon Phala that this House:

- Notes the delay on vehicle maintenance has now spilled over from SAPS into the Traffic department.
- Also notes that the provincial traffic officers at the Louis Trichardt centre have been unable to perform their duties for the last three weeks and are sitting bone idle at the offices as their vehicles are at the government garage for repairs.
- Further notes that officers already do not have enough vehicles to perform their duties and sit in their offices as many of the vehicles are unroadworthy.
- Further note that the DA requested the Portfolio Committee to initiate an urgent Oversight visit to the station inviting the Department as well to ensure that accountability is taken.
- Move that this House finds it concerning that the duties of traffic officials have come to a halt in an area with a high vehicle accident rate, specifically on the N1 where law enforcement is a necessity and all possible measure be taken to ensure that officials resume their duties of law enforcement as a matter of urgency.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj hereby rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Wilson.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**ANC CONCERNED AND SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF A CAPRICORN TVET
COLLEGE STUDENT AFTER BEING IMPROPERLY ADMINISTERED WITH A
CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that, the ANC is concerned and saddened by the death of a 20 year old Khomotso Ramango who was a hospitality student at the Capricorn TVET College, Polokwane campus. It is alleged that the student from Taaibosch, GaMamadi outside Senwabarwana, died after being improperly administered with a contraceptive injection at the said college campus' clinic. The family indicates that preliminary report shows that the injection which was apparently injected in a wrong vein caused an infection which ultimately spread to vital organs in her body. It is alleged that the college said it would wait for post-mortem results to confirm the cause of death before taking a decision.

We call upon relevant authorities to see to it that the family receives necessary support to bring this matter to finality so that they can find closure. Hon Speaker, the death of Khomotso is a tragedy and we urge all students to be aware of the risks associated with birth control shots and to do proper consultations with medical practitioners before taking one. We send our heartfelt condolences to the Ramango family and wish them strength and fortitude during this difficult time. May her soul rest in peace. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Is there any seconder? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

DR MOCHADI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi rise to second the motion presented by Hon Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Mapoulo, you are recognise.

MR MAPOULO

E re ke go leboge, Mospikara wa Ngwako wo o hlomphegago, and also greet the House.

FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE ACCRUED THROUGH OVERSIGHT VISITS

(Motion without Notice)

On behalf of the EFF, I rise here to say to this House that; the [Inaudible] for money in terms of the touring [Inaudible] oversight. The EFF is concerned about this fruitless and wasteful expenditure accrued through oversight visits that do not yield any fruits for the people of Limpopo. These visits by Legislature committees are like touring programmes by Members who would not necessary have the capacity to tour or travel on their own money. They don't have money. They use the money that was supposed to [Inaudible] and tour with it. Despite all these visits taking place on annual basis by various committees, the status quo remains the same. [Inaudible] the roads to clinics, the roads to police stations and other places that are important. People are touring because they don't have money to arrange the touring by themselves.

The question is when these visits are undertaken, and challenges noted, what action is taken to address these challenges? Dololo! Go swana le ga [Inaudible] sepetelele ba re ke Knobel, ke re boile fela. Le felegeditše basadi madibeng. Half the time you will find that nothing happens afterwards. There is no consequence management with your own [Inaudible]. These oversight visits by Portfolio Committees in the Legislature does not give the taxpayers value for money. There is honestly nothing you can show for it. You can howl. You can [Inaudible] the fact is, it is just a total waste of the taxpayer's money. You are touring with the taxpayer's money. Therefore, we are requesting that this House must give evidence of what transpired in the previous administration. How much did you spend in touring the province in disguise of oversight. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My name is Hon Seshoka; I stand here to support the motion as presented by Hon Mapoulo. And I solely believe that [Inaudible]. [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

Objection.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

OBJECTION OF A MOTION ABOUT OVERSIGHT VISITS BEING FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE

(Motion without Notice)

I, Simon Mathe rise to object the motion presented by Hon Mapoulo in the House because Madam Speaker, part of the role and responsibilities of the Legislature [Inaudible] have to be visited. Members of this Provincial Legislature ..., it is unfortunate that Hon Mapoulo has failed, deliberately so, to even attend a single oversight visit. Members of this provincial Legislature do attend the oversight visits. It is not a holiday of some sort. You know the majority of them you deserve a [Inaudible] Dubai, Los Angeles and [Inaudible] They are just doing oversight visits as part of their roles and responsibilities.

Therefore, this motion as presented seems to speak to this to speak in this particular House. That is the basis on which I am raising the objection [Inaudible]. That being informed [Inaudible] Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable Members, the motion is objected. I would like to check with honourable Members, those who agree with the objection of the motion will say "Yes" and those who disagree will say "No". Those who agree with the objection?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Those who disagree to the objection of the motion say, "No."

BACKGROUND

No.

THE SPEAKER

It is obvious, honourable Members. The "Yes", have it. Let us proceed, honourable Members. Is there any other motion without notice? We are done with motions without notices. Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 200? Hon Maraga, you are recognised.

MS MARAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Dzina langa ndi pfi Maraga Tshilidzi.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PAYING TWO PRINCIPALS IN ONE SCHOOL
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF is shocked by the revelation that the Department of Education pays salaries of two school principals at Seshego High School, Koloti Circuit under Capricorn District. This is a clear wastage of taxpayer's money which could be used to finance scholar transport, buy stationary or provide any education related service delivery needs.

We find the conduct of the department highly unacceptable and cannot be left unchallenged. The Principal, Mr Maphuti was charged, suspended and dismissed for insubordination in 2019; and later won the case at Education Labour Relations Council on 01 March 2021. When he went back to the school he found that his position had already been filled by a new principal despite the fact that the matter was still unresolved.

It is quite intriguing that a position can be filled while an incumbent was still legally challenging the dismissal. The department has now created a double parking situation where it is now forced to pay two principals in one post. A position can only be filled once the incumbent has left it for whatever reason not when they are still legally contracted to the department. The department knew that the dismissed principal took the matter to ELRC and yet they continued with the process of hiring a new principal. Mr Maphuti ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maraga, just a moment please. When a Member raises a Members' Statement, they are supposed to deliver it in two minutes.

MS MARAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Ndi vhona u nga ri nga maduvha vhathu vha khou di amba miminetse i no fhira mivhili. Uri ndo vha ndo no fhedza miminetse mivhili? Kha vha ri ndi fhedzise.

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, Hon Maraga.

MS MARAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Vha khona. Essentially it means that the Department is paying over R1.2 million for the two principals on annual basis. The department has not taken any effort to allocate him a school while it is clear that they are comfortable paying him for doing nothing. This case is more or less similar to the culture of ghost workers ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Vha ite vha tshi mu vhudza vho.[NOISE]

MR SESHOKA

Batho ba ba a rasa.

MS MARAGA

Ndo Livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Nne ndi khou amba na Mulangadzulo, athi khou amba na Muthusa Mulangadzulo. Musi ndi tshi khou amba vhathu vho vha vha tshi khou ita phosho. Fhedzi zwa zwino hu tshi amba nne vhathu vha khou ntsala murahu.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, Hon Maraga, Hon Seshoka, I am going to read what I said from the rule book.

MR SESHOKA

Why do you call my name. Bjale nna ke tsena kae mo?

THE SPEAKER

No, you were talking that [Inaudible]

MR SESHOKA

Nna ke itše mo go wena ka re, batho ba ba a rasa. Why do you call my name?

THE SPEAKER

I was saying listen to Hon Maraga

MS MANAGA

[Inaudible] Madam Speaker. We were prepared.

THE SPEAKER

No, I want to read for you, Hon Maraga. In terms of Rule 99 section 2, the Presiding Officer may recognise a Member to make a statement on any matter for not more than two minutes.

MS MARAGA

How did you know that I spent more than two minutes because you are not even having a watch?

BACKGROUND

NOISE

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Members. Let us proceed. Is there any other Members' Statement. Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE STATE OF EPHRAIM MOGALE' S RENTAL HOUSING UNITS IN DISREPAIR (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the state of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure 's rental housing units in Ephraim Mogale has been raising numerous complaints from residence within the municipality. The unit seems to be [Inaudible], neglected, lacking maintenance and in a general state of disrepair. The units which have been taken over by occupants who don't pay any rates and taxes and municipal bills. They all seem to be overcrowding in the units, whilst some of them erect illegal structures in their yards to accommodate more people. Many of these houses have renovations, alterations and modifications done to them without building approval or the permission or knowledge from the department. These units are meant to be a source of revenue but seemingly have been hijacked by occupants who are not prepared to pay any revenues for the use of the properties. Maybe the MEC indicated the way of the situation in the department's open unit [Inaudible] struggle [Inaudible] all the [Inaudible] of this House knows the department [Inaudible] and have the permission to stay in the units. And what measures are the department doing to address this challenge. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker.

MUNICIPALITIES SPENT MILLIONS OF RANDS IN WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE IN SAIMSA GAMES IN BOTSWANA (Members' Statement)

Honourable Members, we are both horrified and concerned about the proposed costs and withdrawal of many senior staff of municipalities participating in the SAIMSA Games in

Botswana. The Municipalities in Limpopo are almost all dysfunctional, unable to deliver services, hanging over the cliff of bankruptcy and letting down their citizens on an hourly basis. Despite this, municipalities are spending up to R3 million rand and taking all the senior staff, amongst others to participate in in this appalling Wasteful Expenditure, leaving municipalities unable to function, without staff to attend to breakdowns, crises or any other day to day responsibilities. Of greater concern is a visit to the SAIMCA website, where half the photo's posted are pictures of beers, indicating that this event is more of a tavern party than a sports event, the tax payer's expense. Surely the millions being spent on this event could have delivered services, upgraded school sports grounds or stadiums for the betterment of the people of Limpopo. Cry the beloved Country.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Speaker.

CORRUPTION IN MUNICIPALITIES WHEN AWARDING TENDERS

(Members' Statement)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The EFF in Limpopo is appalled by [Inaudible] corruption [Inaudible] municipalities and [Inaudible] It is sad the parts of corruption [Inaudible] made public and protected in this country by the ANC [Inaudible] the municipal manager, Mr [Inaudible] is involved in awarding illegal tender to the tune of R61 million and yet he is protected by the council. Instead of investigating the corruption, the council took a decision to [Inaudible] this simply implies that many more illegal tenders were awarded before [Inaudible] corruption must not [Inaudible] any other local government or any other sphere of government. It must be exposed and uprooted wherever it raise its ugly head and those who are involved in corruption must be brought to book. They must take the full might of the law [Inaudible] How do you award a tender [Inaudible] a chief financial officer if you do not have [Inaudible] The corruption by the municipal manager was intentional and [Inaudible] The EFF is concerned that whistle blowers are not being protected in these municipalities instead they are being hunted and chased after [Inaudible]

This is absurd and the EFF can fold its arms and watch this happen. The previous report of association [Inaudible] because [Inaudible] are also at risk of being assassinated if not [Inaudible] Furthermore, we call upon the ANC [Inaudible] of law enforcement agencies to urgently investigate this matter and those who are found to have been involved in this criminality must face the music. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Members' Statement? We are done. Let me check if there are Members of the Executive who want to comment on the Members' Statements.

MS MARAGA

They must. Not as to whether they want to. They must.

THE SPEAKER

The MEC for Economic Development, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The Honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party; the Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; my colleagues; the Deputy Speaker; Honourable Chair of Chairs; the chairperson of the portfolio committee, greeting to you. I rise to respond on behalf of the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs; Hon Makamu. [Inaudible] However, we also wanted all the [Inaudible] are represented in municipalities where they [Inaudible] or extra mural activities are also [Inaudible]. We will demand a report from the municipalities on the classification of the costs that have been incurred. Secondly, we also take note Hon Seshoka [Inaudible] To investigate all those allegations, of course they are allegations and they just have to be [Inaudible] municipality [Inaudible] as the African National Congress we take the seriousness of those allegations that you are raising. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon MEC. Let me indicate this to you, honourable Members. Raising a Members' Statement does not mean Executive Members are now forced to respond. In terms of the rules they may note and then in the coming Sitting respond to the statements. I just wanted to clarify that. We should not think they are forced to respond. I am responding to Hon Maraga. I was trying to clarify that, not to say that the honourable MEC must not respond. Are there any Members' Statements? [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order.

THE SPEAKER

May you allow me to speak? [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker I think that is what we must discuss, because there is a tendency of avoiding accountability here [INTERJECTIUON]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Order.

MR SESHOKA

You can't raise a point of order whilst I am still on the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Why did you raise it?

MR SESHOKA

Which point of order was that?

[CROSS TALK]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Order on you!

THE SPEAKER

May you continue, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

What is your point of order, Hon Seshoka?

MR SESHOKA

My point is, there is a tendency of running away from accountability by just [Inaudible] there are many Members' Statements that were presented in this House and they were never responded to. We should, going forward, you should have an opportunity to train[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka

MR SESHOKA

No, I am not finished. [CROSS TALK] Executive Members are running away from accountability. We need to find a way to train all the Members [Inaudible] so that they know and not run away. [CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

I was responding, Hon Seshoka. The time I responded you were speaking with Hon Mathe. I responded to say, you misinterpreted me. What I said was that MEC, Hon Monama responded to the Members' Statement. I was responding to Maraga to say, it is not like when you raise a Members' Statement the Members from the Executive are forced to respond now. They may note it down and come back with a response in the next Sitting. That is what I said. Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On the basis of the allegation that is made and is accordance with the rules, I think Hon ... Who is this honourable thing? Seshoka ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

MR MAPOULO

Ge o ka bitša motho wa re; that thing. You refer to Hon Seshoka as a thing. This is an honourable Member.

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

I haven't heard Hon Mathe saying that.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

MR SESHOKA AND MR MAPOULO

But we are telling you!

MR SESHOKA

If that is the tendency, we are going to [Inaudible]

THE BACKGROUND

MR MAPOULO

You are worse than him.

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, did you say so? If you said so can you withdraw please? [CROSS TALK] Hon Members, can you allow Hon Mathe to clarify the House.

MR MATHE

I have said, 'this one,' Hon Speaker.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, Hon Mapoulo please ...[INTERJECTION]

MR MAPOULO

No, you stop! We are not going to tolerate this! [CROSS TALK] [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, you have [Inaudible]

MR SESHOKA

[Inaudible]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Ket la go bolaya.

THE SPEAKER

You have raised your concern, Hon Mapoulo.

MR SESHOKA

O ka re o sena [Inaudible] wa re o tla bolaya motho. O tla mmolaya ka eng? [CROSS TALK]

MR MAPOULO

He said he will kill us. [CROSS TALK]

MR MAHARAJ

Hon Speaker may I rise on a point of direction. The Members' Statement that was raised by the honourable Member, he did not get a response, I assume he will get it in the next Sitting?

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any Executive Statements? What were you saying Hon Maharaj?

MR MAHARAJ

I say it is on record that the next time when he responds [Inaudible] [BACKGROUND NOISE] [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

I said, to Hon Mapoulo, what I will do in the next Sitting I will respond to that. [Inaudible] Are there any Member Executive Statements?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

There was a hand that side. She raised her hand. She wanted to respond. Why are you protecting her?

BACKGROUND

NOISE

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Keep quiet wena! [NOISE] Mospikara o ka se e kgone ye. Ke a bona e thoma go go palela.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members...[INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITIPON

Don't be biased. She wanted to respond. Why are you protecting her?

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, as the Presiding Officer, I want to tell you the truth. I am not really interested in hearing who is capable on throwing insults to other Members. I am not interested to hear that. That is why some of the things you can say, I will keep quiet and not respond. May we proceed, honourable Members?

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Older Persons, Youth and People with Disability

Committee chair, the stage is yours.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I need your guidance. Do I have to go through all the quarters at the same time or do I read them one by one?

THE SPEAKER

Yes. Read them one by one.

MS BOSHIELO.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby table the First Quarter Performance Report on Social Programmes of Quality of Life, Status of Women, Older Persons and People with Disability. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo. Is there any seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to support the report as tabled by the chairperson of the committee, Hon Boshielo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Hon Boshielo, the stage is yours.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As the chairperson of the committee of Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, Older Persons and People Living with Disability; I hereby table the second quarter performance report on Social Programme. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Donald Selamolela from the ruling African National Congress support the move by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As the chairperson of the committee I hereby table the third quarter performance report on Social Programme on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the motion as tabled by the Honourable chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate. Hon Maseko, you may take the podium.

MR MASEKO

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Executive led by the Leader of Government Business; chair of chairs; the deputy chair of chairs; the Chief Whip; the Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Maraga; fellow Members and colleagues, I greet you.

The Special Programme on the Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability, Youth, Children and Older Persons is [Inaudible] support which is Programme 2 in the Office of the Premier. It takes to promote, facilitate the rights, inclusion and [Inaudible] for five target groups; which include women, children and youth, older persons and people with disability in all government departments. All the sectoral departments in turn has the responsibility to implement training programmes in line with the objectives and those as stated in the relevant regulations facilitate [Inaudible] transformation and achieve equality and [Inaudible] of these designated groups as well as the protection and promotion of [Inaudible] The quarterly performance report marks six months into the financial year and it is anticipated that the necessary ground work has been done to set up a momentum for education, appropriate implementation and monitoring the [inaudible] to advance the security of the five vulnerable groups in the communities of the province.

This reports were compiled when the country was in lock down restrictions which allowed [Inaudible] communities. The reports analysed the overall performance for quarter 1 and 2 on mainstreaming programmes on various areas by the department. It highlights activities achieved at, interrogates as well as unresolved issues from the previous quarter. The Thušanang Nguni and livestock are a work in progress and are [Inaudible] by [Inaudible]. The sight visit to Thušanang school infrastructure challenges wherein the school kitchen has collapsed; also although mobile hostels were provided accommodation space is a challenge which leads to the working and learners [Inaudible] in the hostels. Update reports will be provided to the committee on the matter in question.

The contractor who was on sight during the sight visit to Rebone, the disadvantage was the noise and dust from the construction side which may disrupt classroom learning and upon a health of learners and staff. [Inaudible] water was reported as a challenge as the school borehole which was drilled last year had dried up. It is the government policy Hon Speaker, that 50% of women employment will be achieved by all departments. It is not

negotiable chairperson, it is a must in terms of our regulation. In other departments [Inaudible] is still a serious challenge. However, only one department, Agriculture and Rural Development managed to achieve 50% of the policy directive. Thanks to the leadership of the department. About five departments achieved 40% they are; the Office of the Premier, Social Development, CoGHSTA, Provincial Treasury and we call upon these departments to up the game so that we achieve the 50% baseline.

About four departments achieved 30% which is fall short of 20% and Education, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Transport and Community and Community Safety and Ledet and we also request to the Executive authority to ensure that we comply with the regulations as [Inaudible] The reported performance shows that only [INAUDIBLE] regress from 50% in the previous quarter whereas the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is 50%. The employment equity plan of the departments amongst others indicate the lack of [Inaudible] as well as [Inaudible] to achieve 50%.

The department must implement 50% employment equity plan the policy directive like we said it is not negotiable. The committee also recommends the department to ensure that there is retention of staff to avoid losing institutional memory and capacity. [Inaudible] employment equity target for women and people with disability by the sector department is a cause for concern, Departments may develop equity plans that have been adopted and progress on the implementation should be reported quarterly by various departments to the committee to ensure that they assist the committee to monitor [Inaudible] with the regulation. Achievement for employment of people with disability for both target is 50% as compared to 2% overall remain the same in the first and second quarter. In [Inaudible] has been impacted on by budget constrains as only five departments achieved this target.

The departmental employment equity plan indicates among others the lack of suitable accommodation for people with disability as one of the berries in implementing the disability mainstreaming programme. The committee commended the department on the implementation of the sanitary dignity programme during the quarter under review. A total of 7, 28 000 sanitary towels were distributed reaching more than 97 000 girl learners in 2022 schools. However, the committee also indicated that the disposal of sanitary towels in schools is still a challenge and the department must ensure that the distribution is smooth.

During the period under review achievements were reported in a number of programmes which includes the following: Education and training for people with disability, 31 were placed on the foundation of professional development [Inaudible] learnership. Education and development of youth, there were several training programmes dedicated for youth who participated in 120 [Inaudible] and 78 in-service training. About 22 723 [Inaudible] already started of which 20 792, which is 89% were within the required time frames of [Inaudible] replacing a slide decline as compared to those who registered in 2021/22.

The committee recommended that 2022/23 first quarter performance report from the Office of the Premier provide [Inaudible] for both financial and that non-financial and access to [Inaudible] was reported also on [Inaudible] was not reported. The none-

achievement of employment equity targets for Women, Youth and People with Disability and a certain devices backlog are by the challenges of budget constraints.

One of the [Inaudible] to address the at Rebone and Thušanang Special schools [Inaudible] dry boreholes and collapsed [Inaudible] remain [Inaudible] the committee has considered the 2022/23 first, second and third quarter performance report on special programmes, therefore I recommend to the House to adopt the report and that the Office of the Premier should comply with the [Inaudible] as indicated.

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The next speaker is Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. MECs present here; the Leader of the Official Opposition Party, Hon Maraga and Members of the august House, good morning. Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that a number of critical programmes and projects remain incomplete and hanging in this administration. This culture of not completing projects and programmes on time has direct negative impact on service delivery and it boggles one's mind why this anomaly is allowed to happen. For example, the non-compliance to equity employment is one burning issue that continues to pull this province back in terms of respect for the rights of all citizens.

It is tragic that the majority of departments do not even see the need to submit their employment equity reports and they just get away with murder. There is absolutely no political will on the part of government to ensure that women and people living with disabilities are given opportunities for promotion and growth with government sector. There is no clear and cogent support system for these groups within government departments to ensure that they too move to the ladder of employment growth especially senior management positions. The backlog of assistive devices is also one disturbing issues because clearly there is sense of urgency by the government to address this issue for the benefit of our people.

We must say here and now that people living with disabilities are humans like all of us and therefore they must be treated as such and not be written off as is currently the case. This deliberate exclusion for the marginalised people in our society is deeply worrying and something drastic must be done to restore the dignity of our people. Hon Speaker, the EFF is equally worried that the women economic empowerment strategy is not yet finalised to date. This is absurd and extremely unacceptable that strategies to improve the lives of women are not taken seriously in this province especially by the Office of the Premier which is supposed to coordinate other departments. Furthermore, overcrowding at pay point is scary because it may lead to stampede resulting in catastrophic deaths of elderly people.

Hon Speaker, it is difficult to understand why the government is struggling with such a small issues as disposal of sanitary towels to girl learners in schools. If you can't deal with less complicated programmes, how are you going to cope with more complicated programmes? It does not come as a surprise to us when you fail to deliver on major projects like infrastructure development because you all still struggling to deal with less challenging programmes. The victim empowerment centres are not properly resourced. How do you explain the fact that these centers do not have clothes for victims of domestic violence.

The question is does the buying of clothes for victims of domestic violence a mammoth task and expensive programme? Hon Speaker, new challenges of dried boreholes and collapsed kitchen remained serious challenges faced by Rivoni and Thušanang special schools. Clearly special schools in this province are neglected and not taken seriously thus deepening perceptions that the government hates people living with disabilities. The government is always giving excuse of budgetary constraints but surprisingly there is always a budget set aside to fund corruption. Hon Speaker, nothing seems to be working in this government.

[Inaudible] in Lebowakgomo Unit B where there is absolutely nothing for the disabled people. The government is [Inaudible] excuse of financial constrains but surprisingly they have a budget set aside for Youth Day, Women' s Day and others. Hon Speaker nothing seems to be working in this government. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. During the first quarter, the portfolio committee felt that the performance measures used were not specific and measurable, and therefore it was difficult for us to establish the extent to which mainstreaming programmes were implemented by sector departments and monitored by the Office of the Premier and the corresponding progress made. There was non-achievement of the key targets on equity employment by most of the departments, and economic empowerment through government preferential procurement for targeted groups; further a lack of reporting on skills development for young graduates in terms of internship programmes as well as job placement for unemployed youth.

It is critical that the beneficiation of unemployed graduates on skills development programmes such as internships be implemented and monitored accordingly. The sanitary dignity programme was not implemented due to the service provider being interdicted. The special schools' infrastructure projects are ongoing. During the first quarter there was a trend of inconsistent or rather lack of reporting of performance on certain programmes quarterly which was continuing from the previous financial years.

This did not assist the committee to ascertain whether the mainstreaming programmes where implemented and monitored as required. Mostly the report of the Office of the

Premier lacked challenges and planned interventions. As a Committee we noted these as important in improving the target achievement. Quarter one's lack of performance continued in quarter two of 2022/23; again no supply of sanitary towels to learners as the service provider has been interdicted and the Department of Education was still awaiting the court outcome.

The committee requested an update on the matter as to what was happening to the learners who used to benefit from this programme? Was there an interim measure regarding the sanitary towels? By the third quarter the committee noted that non-compliance to employment equity by most of the departments still remains a challenge. Non-achievement of the key targets on economic empowerment through government preferential procurement for targeted groups continues challenges and reasons for deviation should be highlighted.

Monitoring victim empowerment centres was done however it was not clear as to what was the focus and the outcome of the activity since the indicated challenges and planned intervention were not relevant to the core business of these centres. The committee recommended that in future where monitoring and evaluation is done, the complete findings report should be attached as an annexure to the quarterly report when submitted to the committee as this would assist the committee to see whether the mainstreaming programmes are implemented and monitored as required.

A total of 6 010 youth benefitted from various empowerment and skills development programmes. We recommended the importance of such programmes to be reported consistently and accordingly by key departments to be able to establish progress as well as provincial status and coverage. We also recommended that with regards to GBVF, progress should be reported on implementation of provincial strategic plan on GBVF with clear targets and achievements, challenges, reason for deviation, and corrective measures, budget and expenditure. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Boshielo the stage is yours.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [Inaudible] and also the opposition. Hon Speaker, there is a saying that goes; 'Tell no lies [Inaudible]' I am saying this because it is not true that this government does not care for the disabled people. The Premier's Office came to report to this committee. Actually the report is from the step by step tool disabled people Mr Thema and Mr Selalelo so [Inaudible] and when they came they came with the report.

Because we raised the issue earlier to say that we think this equity is not being encouraged. [Inaudible] the effort that he is seeking today in order to be able to release the [Inaudible] agree that maybe we agree and maybe table this in this House today in our report that maybe we should go all out and find people with qualifications and are disabled and make sure that we are able to employ them in government. We all as the committee agreed that maybe that is the way to go in order to do that. Recently, last week when we

had a Women's Parliament the very same issue was raised that those who are women that attended Women's Parliament will tell you that the women that we call disabled, they call themselves 'differently abled' because they were able to take part in the discussions about technology in the Women's Parliament. We all agree that we have people that are have qualifications. Let's try and help the Premier in making sure that we bring them onboard.

Secondly is the issue of providing sanitary towels in schools. This government is providing sanitary towels to learners at school from quintile 1 to quintile 3. There was a court interdict to say they must stop providing them because the tender did not go well. The matter was still in court and it was stopped. We then instructed the Premier's Office of the Premier when they are plagued with so many cases that they must challenge the court interdict to say whilst the court is going on, the sanitary towels should be provided to the girls because going to periods as a woman does not depend on a court order. It is a bodily function which happens every month. We warned the court to say that whilst the court case is going on let's continue to provide sanitary towels to quintile 1 to quintile 3. For us that is an achievement because we recommended that as a committee and it was provided for. I think at times we have to be opposition but let's tell the truth to our people.

Hon Speaker, first quarterly performance provide a place which mainstreaming programmes from two [Inaudible] having implemented two programmes provide by [Inaudible] department and in turn be monitored by the Office of the Premier. The report for the overall performance for three quarters on 2022/23 on mainstreaming various programmes in [Inaudible] areas [Inaudible]. We highlighted the programmes implemented, achievement and non-achievements and challenges in facilitating and achieving the mandate of quality of life for women, children, youth, older persons and people with disability. Gender-based violence is regarded as a human rights violation and are [Inaudible] as well as obstacles to the country's development.

During times of crisis pandemics like the Covid-19 and war you didn't even praise Dr Ramathuba as you have seen during the Covid-19 pandemic. Violence specifically directed at someone because of their biological sex or gender identified as GBV. It can occur publicly or privately, it also means verbal, physical, sexual and psychological abuses as well as [Inaudible]. As reported by the Hon Premier in the first quarter, the GBV technical committee established and to find ways of increasing incidents of crime against the vulnerable groups, including women and children. Focus of implementing the provincial GBV should be reported regularly to the committee and the committee will report to this House regularly through the standing committee.

The standing committee also noted that limited number of shelters is rive for victims of crime and violence including GBVs was one of the challenges we face in the province. Previous reports highlighted that the Department of Social Development was able to establish at least one shelter per district in partnership with the Department of Public Works and since only there were only two shelters in the province in Mopani and local districts. The office of the Premier reported during the review of the 2022/23 first quarter that that three building; [Inaudible] IN Vhembe, Marble Hall in Sekhukhune and Mookgopong in Waterberg were identified and were awaiting the [Inaudible] However,

progress was not reported in the second and third quarter [Inaudible] about the implementation process and we are following up as the committee.

The department also reported that six victim empowerment centres were coordinated, facilitated, monitored and evaluated; considering the recorded challenges and planned interventions, the committee raised a concern whether the challenges and planned interventions indicated correspond to the core business of victim empowerment centres. The department must be clear and focus on the outcome of the activity since the indicated challenges and interventions were not brought into the core business of these centres.

Madam Speaker, at the core of youth empowerment is the believe that young people are capable [Inaudible] when young people are exposed to inspiring opportunities and the tools to build their confidence they can take on anything and everything. Empowered young [Inaudible]s self-determination and [Inaudible] They have confidence to take risks and are aware that failure is a step towards progress not a sign to give up. They value the opinions of others as their guide posts in life. They stand up for their values and know that they have built a foundation of [Inaudible] in times of struggle or when you are feeling lost [Inaudible]

The Office of the Premier report indicates that various interventions are being implemented for youth development. Whilst efforts are made for our youth and some remain ongoing on the ground to ensure access to opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The committee observed that there were gaps in the information provided. The department must upgrade information accordingly per gender, disability, age [Inaudible] so that as the committee we are able to assess the progress work. There should be consistency and corrective measures taken. There should be consistency [Inaudible] was implemented [Inaudible] from quarter to quarter to this august House [Inaudible]

The committee indicated that in most cases the report of the Office of Premier has challenges that need intervention. These are reported in the target achieved and this should be highlighted. Lack of clear made plan on action of mainstreaming programmes by Office of the Premier, as well as budget makes it difficult to analyse the performance report and determine progress and impacts on interventions. There is a need to have a plan of action to be developed by the Office of the Premier and be presented to the committee in the beginning of each financial year. In addition a consolidated annual achievement report should be completed at the end of each financial year and be presented to the House. Hon Speaker as the committee we support the adoption of the report as presented in this august House. I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. We shall now call upon the Leader of Government Business, MEC, Hon Sekoati to come and respond on behalf of the Premier.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Members of this august House; my colleagues in the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition, I greet you. Madam Speaker let me take this opportunity to welcome the commends and also issues that have been raised by the chairperson of the committee and Members of the committee on Status of Women, Youth, Older Persons and People with Disability. I would also like to express words of gratitude to the chairperson, Hon Boshielo for clarifying the matter. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Point of order.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, what is your point of order?

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Speaker. I might have missed something, Hon Speaker. I did not get the apology from the Hon Premier. I don't know if it might have been read in here or what, but the apology by the Hon Premier is not there.

BACKGROUND

Noise

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, may I respond to Hon Seshoka? We had a Sitting last week and I got a letter of apology from the EFF, all of them. But I did not raise it in this House. I did not raise it. But I did receive a letter from the EFF that [Inaudible]. So, let's leave it there, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

O a bona! O a e thoma bjale. O a e senya. It is a simple thing that we are asking is; did the Premier give an apology to this House?

THE SPEAKER

You said he did not get an apology, so I am responding to that. That one is the apology between the Premier and the Speaker, like I did with your apology last week. Let's leave it there. [INTERJECTION].

MR SESHOKA

So, our apology is not registered here. It is your problem that you don't allow it here, because it was registered here. It was your problem that you did not register it in this House. So, I am asking if the Premier gave you the same apology that the EFF gave you.

If he did give you the apology, why did you not read it to us. We can't have an 'Permanent Acting Premier' [Inaudible] every now then [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Like when do we announce the apologies in this House, Hon Seshoka?

BACKGROUND

CROSS TALK

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

O palelwa ke go rula (tšea sephetho) motho yo.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

I think we should take what Hon Mapoulo [Inaudible]. I think [Inaudible] [LAUGHTER]

MR SESHOKA

Le a mo kwa gore o reng? [CROSS TALK] [NOISE] Tonakgolo ga se a tla mošomong [NOISE].

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

I was saying that I need to [Inaudible] for what the chairperson of the committee has already done in terms of clarifying the issues that were really not given proper perspective in the sense of the problem that has been named in relation to special groupings that were supposed to be given more resources but also to make sure that they are given more resources that would work for them in order for them to be given an opportunity so that [Inaudible] I would like to as well say that indeed as much as the committee has associated some of the challenges that we continue to face as we strive to implement programmes that deal with special needs. That doesn't necessarily mean that nothing will be done, whether it is in terms of sanitary dignity programme, in terms of infrastructure that needs to be upgraded, there are so many things. I think we are also aware that in terms of the agreement that the Premier has with the [Inaudible] part of that agreement is all about in terms of those MECs should strive to make sure that all targets are met.

In all honesty, in some circumstances you might find that our progress is fluctuating due to various challenges that we face. However, we should say it here that we are continuously striving to ensure that all those targets are met. We should all take into account that with the issue that we raised in terms of progress that we are making. On that note, I think collective leadership [Inaudible] but also to guide us and provide council to this office. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

MR MTSWENI:01:19:46–02:42:10

THE SPEAKER

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health.

Committee chair, you may come to the podium.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am rising, Chair, as the portfolio committee chairperson to present the report of the portfolio committee for consideration and adoption by this House. We are presenting the report on an oversight visit to primary healthcare facilities in the Sekhukhune District which took place on 07 September 2022 for consideration and adoption. Should I present them all at once or one by one, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, one by one.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

You may now sit down, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

I request that I remain standing due to the challenges that I have, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by the honourable chairperson. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Proceed, honourable chair.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the portfolio committee as the chairperson to present the oversight visit report for consideration and adoption by this

House. The oversight visit to primary healthcare facilities in the Waterberg District took place on 29 June 2022...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

It looks like you have skipped the second one.

MR MATHE

Did I skip the second one?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, you did.

MR MATHE

I am sorry. I skipped it unintentionally. Hon Speaker, things like this happen when somebody from that side does this. When somebody does this...[LAUGHTER]...Hon Speaker, I rise to present the oversight report for the visit to primary healthcare in the Sekhukhune District. The visit took place on 24 August 2022.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as tabled by the honourable chair of the committee. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Boshielo. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the portfolio committee to present an oversight visit report to primary healthcare facilities in the Waterberg District. The visit took place on 29 June 2022. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. 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 report as tabled by the chairperson, Hon Mathe. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the portfolio committee to present the oversight visit report to Steenbokpan Clinic in the Waterberg District. The visit took place on 28 June 2022. I present this oversight visit report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Donald Selamolela of the African National Congress, stand here in seconding the Hon Mathe on the presentation of the report that this House is considering. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the oversight visit report to primary healthcare facilities in the Waterberg District for consideration and adoption by this House. The visit was undertaken on 22 June 2022. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER.

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

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, rise to second the report as presented by Hon Mathe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Manthata-Mahasela. Let us move to the debate. We shall now refer to the Speaker's List. The first speaker on the list is Hon Boshielo.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. There is a burner there on our left side which emphasises on what is the mandate of this Legislature, which is: Oversight, Law-making; and Public participation.

In terms of the procedure, when the department gives us the report as the portfolio committee, we sometimes take the oversight visit to see whether what is on the report is also what is on the ground.

After that, we come back and compile the report. As the portfolio committee, we discuss that report and we invite the department to come and give us responses. When we heard our responses, we came back to this House and tabled the report as the report of the committee in the House. After we have tabled it, then the report becomes the report of the House. That is what we are tabling here on the oversight visit. Hon Speaker, we have not gone for such a visit.

Thank you ... [NOISE]

BACKGROUND

We hope that Hon Mapoulo is listening.

BACKGROUND

Hlala phansi.

THE SPEAKER

Proceed, Hon Boshielo ... [NOISE]

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Go tlele go ba bothata ka gore bagale ge ba bolela re swanetše re homole. Re tla no ikokobetša, but it is very painful, Hon Speaker. Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Health took the oversight visit to Steenbokpan Clinic at Waterberg District, in the province, and it reports as follows:

Limpopo Legislature derives its powers from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. In terms of section 114 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic, the Portfolio Committee on Health conducted an oversight visit to the Steenbokpan Clinic in Waterberg District in the province.

One of the functions, as I said earlier, is oversight. As we know an oversight is an accountability model to ensure that policies that are announced by the government and authorised by the Legislature are actually implemented. This function included monitoring the achievement of roles as set by the Legislation for the government to operate.

In the meeting held on 16 March 2022, the Portfolio Committee on Health resolved that there was a desire for the lifetime measure ensuring that the community receives the report on whether the clinic provides 24 hours of on-point services or not, evaluating the state of infrastructure in clinics, assisting in the availability of the resources such as the human resource, chronic medications, technically equipment, accommodation for nurses and consulting rooms, speedy access to the emergency medical services, monitoring the state of hygiene and sanitation rooms.

We need to add that in the things I said in the oversight visit report it shows that there is no holiday in the oversight visit. In terms of our observation, Steenbokpan currently functions as the serving point which operates at the municipality in Goededacht Centre. The clinic does not offer 24-hour service and operates from 07h30 in the morning to 06h30 in the afternoon; two days a week, Mondays, Thursdays and weekends - they operate ± 40 hours per week ± 300 hours per week.

Several roles were alleviated to the provision of clinic and services. The Altricial Sound team is at the centre of the clinic on Mondays and Thursdays. There was fencing around the facility with lock gates at night by the security guard at the guard house. There were two security officers. One for the municipality and the other for the Department of Health.

There was no searching, but the registration was done. There were no patients on the day during the visit by the committee as it was envisaged. Although the facility was open and it was big enough to take care of all the patients, only a few rooms were allocated for the provisions of the nurses to operate. The facilities and ground were kept clean. The general infrastructure was renovated and kept clean.

There were two consulting rooms for the patients. There was a dedicated vital sign room inside the facility, but it was small. The vital room was also used as the feeding room and accommodated other patients. All rooms were fully equipped. The clinic provided more services including preventative minor ailments, chronic and mother and child which included training for antenatal child health and postmortem birth.

The termination of the pregnancy services was only provided at the Ellisras Hospital which was 50km away. The child-in-providing services were requested to come to the facility when they were required. There was also a shortage of mineral oil for burning. The doctor is scheduled on Thursdays. The same doctor complains about the same venue. Seeing the doctor services in two facilities, result in long waiting time that reduce the service to the patients.

There was no laundry machine. The laundry was done at the Ellisras Clinic. The clinic had a pharmacy and storage in one office. No medication shortages were reported and the aircon was in good condition. The clinic offers the rated satisfied services. However, it was reported that there was no speedy access to EMS. Generally, the clinic uses government vital allocated servicing points to transfer the patients during the case of emergency.

The clinic had an emergency trolley which was fully stocked. There was also a functional autophagy. It was also reported that there was a higher rate of HIV and Aids in the

communities surrounding the clinic. In line with the above observation, the committee recommend as follows:

- The department should address the shortage of staff at the clinic to relieve the pressure from the staff who have to travel from Ellisras Clinic to the Steenbokpan Clinic;
- There was a need for the outreach programme for HIV and Aids to the communities and the department should address this as urgently;
- The clinic should have its own file room instead of using the vital sign room; and
- The department should ensure that there is a laundry machine at the clinic.

Given the above, you can see that we are not the tourists. We are able to come up with a report and table to the House on what should be done. In conclusion, the portfolio committee moves that this report be adopted as the report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE].

THE SPEAKER.

Thank you, Hon Boshielo. Hon Ramalobela, you are the next speaker.

MR RAMOLOBELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Hon Commissar Maraga, the Acting Premier, all MECs, honourable Members, our staff and members of the gallery.

Hon Speaker, the oversight visits undertaken by the committee revealed the shocking state of healthcare facilities in the province. The typical example in the Sekhukhune, at Goedgedacht Clinic the laundry was not functional and the dryer and washing machine were also broken.

The clinic has a very small space and did not have a pharmacist at the time of the visit. Furthermore, there is a constant battery shortage for glucometers at the clinic which is a major setback to service delivery to the people of Sekhukhune.

The groundsman has never been replaced since he passed on, and there is no one to do the upkeep at the clinic surroundings. Equally, Hlogotlou Healthcare has its challenges. The patients' lavatories are not working, posing serious health risks to patients. A health centre should be a place where patients receive medical attention to get well and not a place where they collect diseases to worsen their situation.

The shortage of staff at this health centre is shocking and unacceptable. Patients come to the centre seeking medical assistance only to experience difficulty in accessing healthcare. The lack of a backup generator is one issue which is quite worrying because it means people will not access medical services when there is load shedding.

In the Klipspruit Clinic, from 07h00 in the morning to 18h00 in the evening, from Monday to Friday ... The clinic did not meet the ideal clinic status due to poor infrastructure. There

was a lack of ablution facilities. The clinic had two toilets inside. I mean, it is only having two toilets inside. One for patients and the other one for staff.

Shockingly, both females and males were sharing the toilets. There was no toilet for the people living with disabilities. There was a shortage of medicine which included deworming, TB drugs, and rotavirus. The situation at this clinic is too bad and it is not in a position to deliver services to the people as expected. Urgent intervention by the MEC is required.

The nurses' accommodation at Northam Clinic does not have security for instance there's no fence; there is no gate. Due to inadequate security, there are frequent break-ins where items such as TVs for the government, groceries and clothes were stolen during the night. The clinic did not offer 24-hour service due to a shortage of staff. This implies that people get sick only during certain times which is a fallacy.

Marapong Clinic did not offer 24-hour services as the Marapong Community Health Centre. Due to the many challenges the clinic is experiencing, it does not cover all the streams and does not meet the requirements for ideal status.

At Lephalale Clinic, there was no backup power system like a generator meaning that patients can only access medical assistance during certain times while they cannot access services at certain times. The Ellisras clinic was congested with a long queue of patients outside, waiting for services in an open area without shelter. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Ramalobela. Hon Wilson, you may take the podium.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the honourable House and members of the gallery.

How can it possibly be that managers have been acting since 2012 and without remuneration? That is ten years. Is our missing Premier, or our Acting Premier getting remunerated, I wonder? Apart from the insult to the staff, it is unsatisfactory. You cannot get the best of your people and your staff when they are being ill-treated and abused, noised to and working in disgusting conditions. Shem on you.

Clinics are unable to operate at proper hours or deliver critical services for 24 hours. The understaffing, exhausted staff and the frustration of dealing with justifiably angry residents takes its toll on the delivery of quality health services.

We have all had to deal with the saga of people delivering babies at the gates of clinics, putting both mother and baby at huge risk and why? because the staff are not available or are adamant that the clinic will not open until due time.

The clinics do not have proper computers, no telephones and no internet connections. Most do not have generators, so services are curtailed, particularly in emergency situations. We have had babies born by the light of cell phones.

Many of the facilities that we have visited do not even have water. Not a drop. No water for cleaning, or hygiene and no toilets that are functional. So, patients are forced to go outside and use their surroundings to relieve themselves. How in Heaven's name can this be conducive to a safe healthy environment? The most important of basic services have not been catered for, and no plans have been put in place.

I could go on indefinitely but simply put ... these reports are not worth the paper they are written on, if recommendations are totally ignored and this department continues to turn its backs on the plight of our residents.

Furthermore, let me assure you that the National Health Insurance Bill if passed, will fail for the very same reasons. Until the abysmal state of our clinics and their understaffing are appropriately dealt with, the Bill will be worth nothing. They must meet certain criteria and none of them will. Bring on 2024, and change. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Chair, Hon Mathe, you may take the podium.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity in this debate. I can see that there are political parties in this debate – there are people today who have the audacity to question things that were done by them. People today have the audacity to question things and systems that were created by them.

For us, it is what we call opportunism that too many years ago you never cared about the wellbeing of the black person, but today you want to be the Madonna of a black person when you have never cared. That is an opportunism.

MS WILSON

On a point of order, Chair!

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, may I advise Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Chair.

THE SPEAKER

It is the procedure of the debate. I want to advise you, Hon Wilson. The procedure of the debate is that you allow the Member to debate and finish. You do not interject him.

MS WILSON

Hon Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. I have fought with the black people. I am not going to take this ... [NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

No. Honourable Members I gave Hon Wilson a chance to debate. No one interjected her. She raised whatever she wanted to raise. No one interjected you, honourable Member, but you are ... [NOISE] No.

[NOISE]

MS WILSON

I am sorry. It is a point of order and ... [NOISE] Thank you.

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order, Hon Speaker! Ke tseba kudu! What do you mean by that?

THE SPEAKER

I have made a ruling. Hon Seshoka, you always, when Members raise their issues, want to reiterate it.

MR SESHOKA

Speaker, ntumelele ke bolele ka Sepedi. O ka re re tlile go ba le mathata mo ka gore ga o kwešiše melao ye ka mokgwa wo e lego ka gona. The point of order is not an interjection. It is just a point of order to give a ruling. It is not an interjection. Yours is to listen to the point of order and give a ruling. That is not an interjection.

THE SPEAKER

May I respond?

MR SESHOKA

You can respond.

THE SPEAKER

Debate ga e na le "point of order". I have responded... [NOISE]

MR SESHOKA

The point of order e tile go no ba gona ... when a person feels to raise it, she will raise it. You are not the boss of this House.

MS WILSON

Precisely.

THE SPEAKER

Can we allow the honourable Member to continue with the debate.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I am rising on a point of order. Members are always angry out of the point of order. There is no rule that they quote. We are not going to allow anyone to proceed on a point of order...[NOISE]

BACKGROUND

On a point of order!

BACKGROUND

Shut up.

BACKGROUND

Do not tell me to shut up.

BACKGROUND

Shut up.

BACKGROUND

Shup up you too.

BACKGROUND

Voetsek.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Boshielo, you are recognised.

MS BOSHIELO

Hon Speaker, there is one Speaker in this House. We need to respect the Speaker. In terms of Rules and in terms of what happened earlier, when somebody debates, you are correct there is no point of order. That person if he feels he wants to say something, he must ask you for permission to ask a question. As the Speaker, you will then ask the person who is on the podium whether is able to take a question or not. It will depend on that person. If he says no, you will allow the person to continue with the debate. We must not be abused. Thank you. [NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, may you allow Hon Mathe to debate.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mahasela, may you allow...

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Hon Speaker, this is serious. We cannot allow an honourable Member to utter some other words in the House. Is disrespecting you and is also disrespecting us...[NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, may you withdraw.

BACKGROUND

Start there!

MR MAHARAJ

When I was told to shut up there, you never rule. You never rule there.

BACKGROUND

You are biased.

THE SPEAKER

Proceed, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Let me repeat what I have said. People are presenting themselves as Madonnas to black people ... [NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Member, if you do not want to be here, you may go out ... [NOISE]

MS WILSON

We will go. Thank you.

BACKGROUND

You are biased.

BACKGROUND

[Singing]

THE SPEAKER

Continue, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

This debate is about whether we have an effective and punctual health system. That is how we are going to participate in this debate. We will attempt to answer this difficult question at the conclusion of the debate.

Hon Speaker, with this report of various oversight visits as presented, particularly in areas where we referred to them as vital areas, it becomes an important part and quite necessary that we should engage in what we call public-private partnership so that some of the challenges that are confronting us with the little fiscus resources...we will need to enter into partnership with the private sector. So that we are able to respond to those particular challenges confronting us thoroughly.

There are a lot of opportunities. We need necessary interventions in terms of capacity and all those things fiscally for our services. Our visits have made us at least to divert those resources to other particular services to make sure that they operate 24 hours because it will not help to operate 24 hours while you are not able to not assist patients within that particular 24 hours because of a lack of resources.

Therefore, when we are dealing with resources we need to prioritise and ensure that we channel our resources where we need them most. However, we are notwithstanding the fact that all clinics require all the resources so that all of them may function properly and effectively.

What is the point of letting all people work night shifts, but when the patients come, they are not able to assist them because they lack certain resources? Of course, we cannot have a 24-hour operating clinic that would lack basic services or basic equipment like your breathtaking people's machine and all those things. You cannot have such things.

We are appealing, but we need to ensure that such clinics should be capacitated. Some of the observations that we have made are in relation to the infrastructure. The maintenance of the infrastructure particularly clinics in rural areas - those clinics could not show that they are clinics that are meant to provide healthcare services to our people.

Therefore, we are making a very important request that the refurbishment of such clinics must be prioritised. Maintenance for those clinics must be prioritised. When we speak about rural health matters that must also be complimented by the infrastructure and resources that we have in those rural areas so that we are able to realise our vision; we are able to realise our values that say rural health matters.

Rural health matters. Rural health will always matter. We also need to ensure that those clinics that are allocated in rural areas at least they might short certain medications and other medicines, but there is no way that they should have a shortage of chronic medications.

Our approach should say that in all these clinics rather have at least a shortage of medication for the condition that will not require the patients to be hospitalised. However, not basic medications that bring chronic to a good level, considering that many of our people in rural areas find it very difficult to access health facilities.

Many of our people in rural areas are challenged with these chronic conditions, particularly our elders. There is no way that any clinic in any rural area should not have basic chronic medication. If we continue in that way or that fashion, effectively it means that we are not sticking to our vision or our commitment that says rural health matters.

During those oversight visits, we observed the shortage of staff in some areas, but the shortage of staff and most importantly lack of security. We will deal with it in some time. There are two things that I want to emphasise, before the conclusion, from our Constitution.

In terms of section 114(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, someone must listen very carefully, these oversight visits are undertaken as per the provision of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

It is the same Constitution that says when you go for oversight that oversight should not be interpreted as the holiday. That should not be done. It can only be the holiday if there are no reports presented in this august House.

When those oversight visits are undertaken, and accountability and report is presented in this House then it becomes what the Constitution require us to do. Because I am concluding by certain things, let me conclude by answering the first question that we started with in this debate.

Given much support, commitment, investment in resources and engagement in public-private partnerships, the department will make this function well. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to make comments on the observations made by the Members.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Colleagues in the Executive Council and honourable Members, I greet you all. Let me welcome the visit questioning by members of the Portfolio Committee on Health because, indeed, honourable Members you have assisted us a lot as the department.

You did not only wait for this particular forum but for some of the issues that you have picked up on the site you were able to communicate with us. A lot of interventions have already been done. Some of the clinics that you are raising here saying they are not operating 24 hours, as we speak you might know that we already have activated that.

The little resources that we have we already prioritised them to make sure that they operate 24 hours. For that, we want to appreciate to say these were not just visits. You are not tourists, but you are promoting. However, you are also doing the critical work that those who have given you the responsibility to sit in this House through vote, expect you to do so.

We do appreciate it as the department. We are saying continue to do so because on our own we may think that we are on the right path but without your oversight, we are not going to the right path. I am not going to wait so much of the time and deal with item-by-item. Unfortunately, there are a lot of generalisations, but where there is a need for a specific area, we can be able to account for and say what was the status and where are we today.

For instance, at the Steenbokpan Clinic, we should understand that this is an innovation that we created as the department because the area is far from the clinic. Working with the municipality and were able to be offered that particular building.

It is sort of our fixed mobile clinic and the staff that is allocated there, is not necessarily the staff designated there. It is the staff from other clinics, but they are going there so that they can assist the community. Indeed, we have a midwife who goes with the staff on a daily basis to assist the patients.

Unfortunately, we did an assessment of the clinic, and we realised that in terms of the assessment report, the utilisation rate is very low. In terms of the national norms of making it a fixed clinic, we realised that we would... find a shortage of staff.

It is true during our Budget, we have indicated that for the first time this year starting from the month of September, we will be procuring a total of 500 ambulances. This has never happened since 1994.

We will make sure that these ambulances are distributed in all areas, which majority of areas are rural areas. May indicate to you that the first batch of 70 ambulances has arrived now. We will be distributing 35 to Mopani, in the rural areas around that area. Another 35 will go to Vhembe.

We no longer want to give one, one, one. However, we have indicated that each and every pool which is ours will be allocated the ambulances which will be their responsibility. The delays should be understood that, especially when looking at such magnitude of that order which has never happened before, will take time.

Even the logistics of delivering those ambulances cannot happen overnight. The second batch will be coming toward the end of the month and is around 193 if I am not mistaken. We will have another batch that will come during October and the last batch will come around November or December.

So, 500 ambulances will be there to try and address this challenge. Of course, we have another challenge, and we are working with the National Treasury – the contract for fixing our ambulances and maintaining them, it is unfortunate, has been awarded. It is now sitting with the National Treasury.

The problem that we are currently having is that when an ambulance is broken, actually we have got more ambulances in the merchandise than on the road. In order to appreciate the type of roads that we have in the province, our ambulances in a day are doing more than 600km.

You cannot compare them with other provinces. For example, our neighbouring province is Gauteng. Their ambulances the longest distance that they can travel a day will not be more than 50km. Whereas, when you look in Limpopo travelling from Maphutha Malatji to Polokwane, or from Thabazimbi to Musina, will take you to exhaust all those kilometres.

There is a staff that we need to confess that we do not express such clinics because one would have to take them to the task. The reality is that there is stationery and is available. We need to differentiate when managers are given the responsibility to manage. Whether you are acting or not, you are given responsibility to manage.

If you do not want to act, we allow you not to act. People accepted the responsibility to be acting manager and it comes with those responsibilities. They need to order stationery and not use cornflake boxes and wait for the Members of the portfolio committee to complain.

We do have those stationery. In terms of our digitalisation and scanning, we have started with the clinic. If honourable Members can visit the Northam Clinic they will see...if they can destroy them, unfortunately, the laws of this country and the Department of Art and Culture will not allow us. The medical record cannot be destroyed.

We look at the basic equipment in our primary healthcare. I want to be honest with all of you here to say yes there was a time when the clinic would not have the glucometer, HB or blood pressure equipment.

We went of a survey. We did an audit of all our clinics. All our clinics have that basic equipment. There is no clinic that can claim that it cannot take the blood pressure or the blood sugar. The challenge that you will find is that when you order all the equipment for them...we even install the uninterrupted power supply.

Unfortunately, when the battery, for instance, for the glucometer is finished, the clinics expect the MEC to order for them. That is where people say we are over-harassing our staff and that is not. When you ask the question that when a battery of your phone shows you that the colour is red, you go and charge it. You do not wait for somebody else to tell you.

At the clinic level, we expect those who are managing the clinics even the one who is utilising the machine to be able to check if the battery is finished and do an order. If they are not doing their work, they are not doing their work.

Regarding the issue of pharmaceuticals, that is running short - somebody just sent me a message here. I was just sharing with MEC Sekoati to say there is no medication in this clinic and I said give me the specific. If you give me the specifics to say I do not have Amoxicillin, I will go to my system and check if you have updated on SVS.

They do not want to say that because they do not update the system. The system is there ... all the operational managers last year December we took them to training to understand how to utilise the system. We say we need young people who are still ... I thought I would have a minute with due respect to educate her about the National Health Insurance.

There is no way for the National African Congress can back down on the National Health Insurance. The current situation that is here, that is happening here, is that you find me as an MEC, and my healthcare is subsidised by the rural poor woman when it is supposed to be the other way around.

Therefore, National Health Insurance is a fine model that must turn these things around, and it will definitely work. I believe that we have taken them to many education programmes, but they are still struggling to understand. Even if we try to show them that yes, the cuts that we are having of infrastructure maintenance are because the funding within the public healthcare is not there. The funding is in the private sector.

You can ask why we punish private healthcare. Currently, honourable Members, in the medical aid, if you are paying R10 000 a month, you must know that the remaining R30 000, which you were supposed to pay R40 000, is funded by the poor woman because of the tax from her backs in this country that is struggling.

We want to reverse that particular situation and say we, who can afford it, can be able to subsidise those who are poor and who cannot afford it. That has to happen. Thank you.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand here as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to represent the report on the oversight visit to Capricorn District: Molemole Local Municipality and Polokwane Local Municipality in Limpopo province on Wednesday, 23 November 2023, for consideration by this august House and adoption. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. Is there any seconder? Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane, you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the Hon Makhurupetje, the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, Ke le Mmakoma wa ga Makhurupetja, ke eme mo go bea pego gore e lebelelwe ke Lekgotlatheramelao le, le e bolediše le be le e dumelele bjalo ka pego ya Ntlo ye legatong la Komiti ya Kgoro ya Dikgerekgere le Ditsela malebana le ketelo yeo e bilego gona Seleteng sa Mopani, Masepaleng wa Letaba, Marulaneng, Tzaneen ka la 28 Nofemere 2022. Ke bea pego ye gore Lekgotlatheramelao le e sekaseke le e amogele bjalo ka pego ya Lekgotlatheramelao. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Manana Xipikara, I nhlekanhi. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka ndzi lava ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi mutshama xitulu Hon Makhurupetje nkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. I stand here as, Makoma Makhurupetje, the chairperson of the portfolio committee, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to table the report on the oversight visit to Vhembe District: Mutale Local Municipality and Makhado Local Municipality in Limpopo Province on 30 November 2022 for consideration and adoption by this honourable august House.

THE SPEAKER

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

DR MOCHADI

A ke go leboge Mosepikara wa rena. Ke emela go hlakela le go amogela pego ya seo Modulasetulo wa rena wa Komiti ya Kgoro ya Mešomo ya Setšhaba, Ditsela le Mafarahlahla yeo a e beilego.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mochadi. We will now go to the debate, and we shall refer to the Speakers' List ... [INTERJECTION]

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker, I need to correct the report where they have written the wrong local municipality, it was supposed to say Thulamela instead of Mutale. I apologise and wish that the House can correct that. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. It is Thulamela instead of Mutale. Let us proceed. Let us look at the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the list is ... I am looking at the honourable Members because I cannot see the honourable ... No, I was checking if there is anyone who is representing Hon Aphiri. If there is no one, let us move to the second speaker. Hon Mapoulo, you can come to the podium.

MR MAPOULO

E re ke go leboge Hon Speaker and all protocol observed. Hon Speaker, I rise here to debate on this matter; we know about this department which is malfunctioning and

corrupted. We say so because nothing seems to be working in this department to such an extent that we are reminded of Chinua Achebe's novel titled, "Things Fall Apart" because clearly things are falling apart.

The department e swerwe ke lephera. For example, In the Vhembe Region, there is generally a shortage of chief artisans in Road Works Superintendents which makes it difficult for management and supervision on sites. It is for this reason that teams are not properly monitored on-site, hence the lack of progress on the provincial infrastructure.

Posts of Cleaners are vacant, posing a serious challenge of health hazards to our people. If you do not care about the health of workers, it means you do not care about the economy. There is a clear scientific relationship between workers and the economy.

At Manenu Traffic College buildings are dilapidating and inhabitable. Furthermore, there is an encroachment in terms of land by neighbours extending their yards on the college's land. The reason for the encroachment is that the ANC government does not believe in the appropriation of land without compensation. Ke magwala. The ANC government does not believe that the land should be returned to its rightful owners. Ba swana le bommago bona.

Hon Speaker, the challenges with respect to RT46 contracts need attention for the facilitation of service delivery in the province and in the districts because they seem to be persistent and unabated. We must accept that it is difficult for the ANC government to provide lasting solutions to challenges confronting our people on a daily basis. They themselves, if they are realistic and honest, would accept that they have run out of ideas to change the lives of our people. Indeed, at least one of you agreed out here that things are not going well.

Equally, there are challenges with regard to upgrading gravel to the surface standard of road P277/1 from Makuya to Masisi in the Vhembe district of Limpopo. The people in Makuya, that area, are crying. Ba reka koloi ka February, during the Easter holidays the car is finished.

Road signs and road line markings on the so-called completed road have not been installed. The reason is why we have a lot of accidents. There are no barrier lines; there are no road signs and the signs that are given are those road signs where they have written the wrong things.

The 5km of road D3695 from Siloam to Tshixwadza to Tshandama in the Vhembe is infested with deadly potholes. The people of Vhembe are trying to fix those potholes because in their areas are potholes everywhere. There are a lot of potholes there.

There is a need to appoint community liaison officers when projects are initiated to avoid community strikes. Certain things need common sense; you do not need a rocket scientist to understand them. Avoid serving these tourists who are touring our province with our money without seeing the results.

In the Mopani Region, Worcester Cost Centre it was found at the time of the visit that there was a lack of road workers. How do you maintain roads without road workers? It just does not make sense and you all know about it.

Generally, cost centres do not have road works superintendents which makes it difficult for management and supervision on sites. It is for this reason that road projects are characterised by all sorts of problems including facing total collapse.

We do not have roads in Limpopo, just like the Worcester Cost Centre, Metz Cost Centre experiences a lack of road workers. Regrettably, the centre can only function when there are EPWPS.

At Tzaneen Cost Centre there was no superintendent, so all the workload was on the supervisor who happened to be the only supervisor. You cannot offload all the work to one man because this is a recipe for failure.

The unabated breakdown of graders at this centre is disturbing. The situation is so bad that a grader was borrowed so that work could be done. Mmušo wa go kgopela batho. We do not even have a grader as the government, which shows that you are corrupt. Le kgopela le babereki.

The upgrading gravel d3770/d3771 and d2009/d3878 to tar road off from Rita/Tikieline road to Burgersdorp to Julesburg/ Rhulani to Hoveni to Callaise in the Mopani District of Limpopo province leaves much to be desired. Ke lengope, ga e sa le tsela.

The quality of this road and the maintenance plan were not in place to keep the road at the desired state. This is the result of awarding contracts to shoddy contractors who are mostly boyfriends, girlfriends and relatives.

In Capricorn District, Matoks, Mankweng and Polokwane Cost Centres it was found that there is a serious shortage of personnel at the cost centres for effective and efficient administration and implementation of projects.

Furthermore, the life span for graders used in cost centres has expired as they exceeded 15 years ago. Our people their roads to the graveyard, and to the clinic are not maintained because of graders that exceeded their lifespan. There are graders tša go feta 15 years. What did you do about it?

The department seems to have no maintenance plan for the agricultural office, and we are told about the budgetary constraints. COVID-19 kgale e fetile batho ba Modimo. Do not lie. One of the 10 commandments says, always speaks the truth. You are not speaking the truth. You are liars.

The EFF recommends that ... because here the seat of the Premier is always empty. The houses that he was supposed to occupy are empty. Now, what is happening? You do not have a Premier here. You have nothing.

Now we are saying that house in Dalmada, you must make sure that the orphans that are running around the street go and occupy that house. If you are not going to do it, we will force it to happen to avoid this man who is always absent and living well.

One of the things that we are going to do, as I conclude, is that we are going to give you, all these tourists, to fall in that department because you need more tourists. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mapoulo. Chairperson, Hon Makhurupetje, it is your turn.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; MECs present here led by The Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati; The Deputy Speaker; Hon Chair of Chairs and honourable Members of this august House, Thobela.

Hon Speaker, we are debating a report on the oversight visit of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. I must indicate that the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, as amended provides, in section 114, that:

A provincial legislature must provide for mechanisms –

- To ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province are accountable to it.

The Legislature, therefore, should maintain the oversight over the Executive Authority of the province including the implementation of the legislation. That mentioned portion is amplified by section 26.

That is the provision on why this portfolio committee has the responsibility like all other committees. To say when we meet with the department to present the report to us. We have the responsibility to do what they call, “need for rectification”, on whether the report specifications are in order. We were, therefore, in order to organise that oversight visit.

The committee visited:

- Capricorn District: Molemole and Polokwane Local Municipality on 23 November 2023;
- Mopani District: Greater Letaba, Maruleng and Greater Tzaneen Local Municipalities on 28 November 2022; and
- Vhembe District: Thulamela and Makhado Local Municipalities on 30 November 2022.

The purpose of the oversight was to assess the departmental and Road Agency Limpopo’s performance and stage of cost centres and road maintenance infrastructure in the province. In the Capricorn District, we managed to visit the Matoks building facility

cost centre, Masiti Cost Centre, Mankweng Road and Infrastructure Cost Centre. Regarding Mankweng Cost Centre, the understanding here is that it assists and supports GaMolepo, GaDikgale, GaMothiba, GaMamabolo, Makotopong, GaChuene, GaMothapo and Polokwane.

The Matoks as well looked at Mokomeni, Ramokgopa, GaPhasha, Bolobedu, Machaka and surrounding areas. Polokwane supports the SSA, Mashashane, Polokwane, Matlala, Seshego, Ster Park, Parliamentary Village and surrounding villages.

When we were visiting all these places, there were areas for excellent. For example, we must congratulate the Department of Public Works for reconstructing the infrastructure of the very high quality for the Department of Agriculture and its offices. The agricultural offices are of a very good quality that shows that the department can excel. We, really, appreciate the good work that is being done by the department.

Yes, indeed, we are concerned as the committee that the new Department of Agriculture that has just taken over, as it was handed over to them, did not have the road works superintendents so that the cleaning and other materials are attended at the rate which the maintenance is required. We edged them to do that.

We edged them, the department, because we visited the Dikgale Traditional Office, and it is complete. Work is done. In the department, you can see the delivery is happening. Yes, there were a few areas where the traditional council, as we met them, showed us some kind of swollen areas which needed attention.

I can assure you that after the meeting, the MEC has promised us that they will attend to that matter. Indeed, Kgosi and the traditional council were very happy about it. They were also happy about the new road that goes to the area of Dikgale which shows that indeed our people are getting and are able to see the feedback on the work that the department does.

I must indicate that, yes, we acknowledge that in the Matoks and Polokwane Cost Centres, the issue of filling the vacancies was the problem. As and when the department meets with us, they continue to campaign that, indeed, they are making huge progress in filling those vacancies which we really appreciate.

We are not happy in the two areas. One, the state building in the Dalmada which remains vacant for a very long time and is not properly maintained, and the building is dilapidated. The Department must consider using the property or maybe as the lease source as the Premier using it maybe once or two a year so for us is not mandatory.

The same goes for the White House. We visited the White House. There is the house in the Parliamentary Village, which they are now using it as the storeroom. Everybody is putting everything including the couch because the house remained unattended.

We are appealing to the department that, as they have already done the quotation to refurbish the house. They think the Legislature must decide whether they want to use it as an office because they do not think that we have enough space in terms of the halls.

They have already done a quote for us which they are projecting at the cost of R7,5 million. It is for the Legislature to make a decision whether it wants to use it as an office so that they do not make use of it for leasing.

In terms of the Mopani District visit in Mutale Camp as well as the Worcester Cost Centre and Metz Cost Centre, we are still worried in terms of the vacancies because the department ended up using the EPWP for maintenance. We think it is risky and they must appoint the right people to that, especially the drivers of the graders which they do not have.

They do not have enough machinery to deal with the maintenance which is supposed to be done. We were happy when we visited that area. There was a road of 3km. The road is from Sekororo towards Balloon.

That road was finalised in phase 1. They are dealing with the issue of phase 2, which we think that road will go a long way in assisting the people of Maruleng. We think that road should be completed.

The Magoebaskloof Old Ford Road as well, we are happy that is receiving the attention. Although, simultaneous and costs a lot of money. We hope it will be finalised in that area as well.

We went to the area of Burgersdorp. In that area, the municipality is working with the department to ensure that all the maintenance issues that have been raised are attended to which is a due restriction of Mopani/Capricorn. We think that road as well needs attention to finalised. Also, there is a loophole in Platinum Burgerdorp which I saw it as well.

The last visit was to Vhembe in Thulamela. I think we must say this when things like this happen, for the first time we are going to see the best road, the Masisi Road. That is a very expensive road which is going to connect Allemand.

That shows you that the ANC-led government is doing right because that was among the roads that were most difficult for the people of that area in Thulamela. Now, our people will be receiving the services.

We are saying that RAL must make sure that they continue to do an excellent job even if they are simultaneously. The contractor was not properly monitored. We want the contractor to be put on loose ends so that the road can assist our people.

We have also visited the cost centre in Thohoyandou, where the issue of infrastructure was raised, Makhado as well as the popular road which has been spoken to which is the road in Makhado going to Tshikota.

The run around was done more than once, and we are happy that on our visit we realised that the correct things had been done in that road. For that reason, we really appreciate

it. We, therefore, continue to say this report on the Limpopo Traffic College, there is very good progress.

The MEC for Transport is not here. Phase 1 is completed. The Job is done. They are now in phase 2, in terms of the accommodation of the learners that are going to be there.

Yes, there are old buildings that are not going to be used. We want to say to the MEC that they must make sure that those buildings are dealt with because they are no longer going to be used and they can be risky for the people.

Secondly, they must make sure that the yard is totally safe so that the neighbours do not give themselves land unnecessarily in the back of the college. That needs to be done.

The last one before the recommendation starts. We are happy that they continue to fill the vacancies for maintenance, road workers, drivers of the cost centres. They try to deal with the ageing staff of the cost centres and conduct continuous assessments because they must deliver the service. We think there are areas where the grading is not done regularly. Therefore, we must make sure that the regular maintenance of those potholes is done.

On that note, we say the committee having conducted the oversight for the Capricorn, Mopani, and Vhembe roads and infrastructure project recommends that the honourable House adopt the oversight report upon the oversight that has been conducted. On behalf of the portfolio committee, I move that this report be adopted. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. On behalf of the MEC for Public Works, I would like to call upon the MEC, Hon Monama, to come and respond to the observations from honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Ndza khensa, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker of our Legislature; the Chief Whip of a Majority Party; The Chair of Chairs; The Deputy Chair of Chairs; The Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi; the chairperson of the portfolio committees; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje; my colleagues; MECs present and the Leader of Government Business, I greet you all.

We want to take this opportunity on behalf of the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to appreciate the council and the guidance of the portfolio committee on the work that they have done and the report on the oversight.

We appreciate the report because our understanding is that Legislative oversight, Hon Makhurupetje, is a constitutionally mandated function that at all material times they must hold us, as the Executive, accountable for our inactions and actions.

We want also to commend Hon Ramalobela. If all the honourable Members can behave like him, this House will be in order. He is always disciplined. He is a good worker.

The department is continuing to roll out infrastructure investment in the province. All of us know the history of this province. The investment of infrastructure in this province is catered by this government to ensure that they transform the socio-economic landscape of the province so that all the economic activities that are going to happen in the province find a conducive environment in terms of the operability of the road in the province.

I must indicate that we have what we call classification of the roads. The roads that are going to the cemetery, are dense roads which are the responsibility of the municipalities. However, in terms of the IGR (Intergovernmental Regulation Framework), we are working in collaboration with the municipality to ensure that they also take care of that function.

In terms of the shortage of staff, that is one issue which we are taking cognisance of, because our observation is that human capital is very important for the capable and developmental state. That is the promise of the African National Congress.

The Expropriation Provision Bill has been tabled by the National African Congress-led government in Parliament, but we also have what we call the Housing Development Agency Bill which specifically deals with the provision of land. It would not be true to say that this ANC-led government does not have a policy in terms of expropriation.

In English, they are saying, Hon Mapoulo, what you said is folio and paradoxical. What we are saying is that, as Hon Makhurupetje has said, the road infrastructure for Masiya/Makuya, that road is under construction. On the Masiya/Makuya road, perhaps, we have to make individual inspections to see how it is rolling out.

We wanted to recalculate. There is one road by the name Malema Road. You must ask yourself why that road was named after Malema. Those are some of the Bermuda Roads that we got. We are busy trying to construct them.

The department has set aside R100 million for that yellow crane and for the next financial year we are budgeting something like R75 million to buy more graders or that yellow crane that you are requiring.

We are busy advertising the drivers and technicians as the department. In that context, we want to take this opportunity and thank the portfolio committee for the good work that they are doing to ensure that the prestige house that is in Dalmada will be taken care of, and we take your council together with the White House in the Parliamentary Village.

What we are saying is that we are developing what we call owner-type contract management to ensure that all unscrupulous service providers are being terminated when they are not performing. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable MEC for the responses. We would then move to item 8. Hon Deputy Speaker, you can make the announcements.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Kindly note that from the 11 to 15 September 2023 is NCOP Week. We have appointed 11 Members to do oversight in Vhembe and Mopani. Not tourism, but oversight in Vhembe and Mopani during the NCOP Week from 11 – 15 September 2023.

Lunch is served in the boardroom. Thank you very much.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. The House is adjourned until further notice. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
POLOKWANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2023
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. Hon Premier, Members of the Legislature, honourable Members of this august House, Chief Whip of the majority party, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chief Whip, , members of the SAPS, members of the oppositions, 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 Selane, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LAUNCH OF THE BORDER MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

(Motion without Notice)

Madam Speaker, I rise here on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that the ANC welcomes the establishment and launching of the Border Management Authority.

The establishment and launch of Border Management Authority by President Cyril Ramaphosa, seems like an addition of world class integrated border law enforcement authority towards our safety and a prosperous South Africa.

Hon Speaker, the establishment of Border Management Authority will ensure integrated border management system with the same coordinated command and control for safe travel, safer borders and travel.

If mandated Hon Speaker, we will include the composition of frontline of border law enforcement function, which include food health, food security, biosecurity, land border infrastructure and this management among others.

Hon Speaker, this authority will address forums and address illegal immigrants, (inaudible 05:40) and category supplier which has an adverse base in the economy (inaudible) economically affect physical jobs, service delivery, population growth, education, health and other critical sectors of the economy.

Hon Speaker, the ANC welcomes the development as one of the step forward (inaudible) South Africa deep concerned about illegal immigration and its impact on the economy and government's ability to create jobs in a manner that will be beneficial to all South African citizens.

Hon Speaker, if this result in a spirit border control and elimination of act of corruptions (inaudible) including drugs, alcohol and other (inaudible). The effort and commitment of the ANC-led government toward efficient and effective border management system are very important safety results(inaudible) Where beyond the establishment of border management authority, and creating jobs across all the provinces because of the ANC.

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

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Selane. Is there any seconder? The Deputy Chief Whip Dr Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, on behalf of the ANC, hereby second the motion as presented by the Deputy Chair of Chairs.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise, Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR SPRINGBOKS RUGBY TEAM ON REACHING THE RUGBY WORLD CUP QUARTER FINALS (Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes and congratulates the South African men's rugby team, the Springboks, on reaching the quarter finals of the ongoing Rugby World Cup and the wonderful start by the Proteas in the Cricket World Cup.

This is a great achievement by the Boks, and should be celebrated and the fact that some of the Springboks hail from Limpopo shows the great ability we possess in this province and should continue to develop future athletes.

Further noting that sport is a great unifier and plays a great role in celebrating and embracing our diversity as a nation and increasing respect for each other.

The progress of both the Springboks and the Proteas in their respective tournaments should encourage us as a province, to increase support to all sports in order to harness the talent and great potential this province possesses.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Maritz, is hereby second Hon Maharaj's motion.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other motion without notice? I notice Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that [Inaudible 9:00]

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise, Hon Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The honourable House, all protocol is observed.

**FURNITURE DONATED TO THE MODJADJI ROYAL KINGDOM BY THE
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- On Monday, 09 October 2023, the EFF donated quality furniture to the Modjadji Royal Kingdom. Upon making a courtesy visit last year to greet the king, the EFF identified a great need to provide the Royal kingdom with office furniture and tables given the bad state of the office furniture. The office furniture includes 16 chairs, 8 tables and 10 steel reception chairs for the reception.
[NOISE]
- Furthermore, the EFF also donated a fat bull to the royal kingdom as a sign of respect for the kingdom and in fulfilment of African culture and customs.
- The king agreed that the EFF is one of their subjects.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, can you please allow Hon Mapoulo to proceed?

MR MAPOULO

During our meeting with the regent king and his advisors last year, we picked that the maintenance of building and provision of the furniture was last provided by the apartheid government. It is this kind of attitude towards our democratic government that people end up missing even that horrible apartheid government.

During our visit yesterday, the entire roof of the royal office was badly leaking, because it rained before we arrived.

You are busy making noise but just yesterday, few hours ago it was raining right in the Modjadji Kingdom, where the king and his subjects were gathering. Ga le na dipelo!

They used the buckets to catch water from the roof to prevent havoc and pandemonium which was evident when we arrived. The structural buildings are also dilapidated, posing serious risk to community members and visitors.

The roof looks very rusty which is evident even when you pass on the street. [NOISE]

Should I keep quiet because you're making noise?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, I intervened earlier and what did you say?

MR MAPOULO

It is clear that the Modjadji Kingdom is being punished for reasons known only by the ANC. They have been completely neglected and rejected by the current government. They are literally on their own.

The government made a commitment to erect new office buildings at the office premises. We are yet to see that happening. The ANC-led government has a reputation of delivering nothing, but only making empty promises.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise, Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

Hi nkomu. Ni hi mela ku seketla hi nkwawo uka vulavula hi Tatana Mapoulo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makhurupetje, stand to object to the motion on the basis that I thought when subjects are going to give courtesy visit di buya moshate [inaudible 17:27] we can't come and debate to the Legislature on culture. On that point, this motion is objected. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The motion is objected to in the House. Those who agree with the motion will say "YES" and those who disagree with the motion will say "NO"

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Those who say no?

BACKGROUND

No!

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, those who agree with the objection can you say “Yes”, and those who disagree can you please say “No”. [Noise]

Hon Mapoulo, the reason why I clarify, they said “Yes” and also said “No”. That’s why I clarified. Can we start honourable Members? Those who agree with the objection will say “Yes” and those who disagree they will say “No”. Those who agree with objection.

BACKGROUND

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

Those who disagree? [noise] So, honourable Members the “YES” prevails. [inaudible] Let’s proceed. 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? I recognise, Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Chairperson.

THE EXCESSIVE COSTS OF TRANSPORT AND ACCOMODATION WHEN HOSTING MEETINGS OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE (Notice of Motion)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to request that this House, at its next sitting, debates the use of municipalities in Limpopo to host municipal meetings outside of the towns that they represent, and in many instances, outside of the province.

The excessive costs of transport and accommodation must be investigated along with the association of the service providers.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The motion will be referred to the Programming Committee. Let’s proceed to the next item.

4. MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS

Are there any Members’ Statements in terms of House Rule 200? Hon Manganye, you are recognised.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONCERN BY THE EFF OF NOT ABSORBING YOUTH TRAINED BY THE
MUNICIPALITIES AS POINT DUTY OFFICERS FOR TWO YEARS**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF in Limpopo is dismayed by the revelations that all youth who were trained by the municipalities as point duty officers for two years were not absorbed, instead new people with proximity to politicians were absorbed.

For example, in Ephraim Mogale Municipality, the Mayor Cllr Given Moimana was involved in corruption and nepotism regarding traffic officer positions. There are five youth who have been working since 21 February 2021 until 28 February 2023 as point duty officers under the Department of Transport and Community Safety in Ephraim Mogale Municipality as part of EPWP learnerships.

In the said municipality, the Mayor's younger brother Rolphy Moimana and Lesley Tlaka, the younger brother of the Mayor's friend all from the same municipality, the same village and the same branch of the ANC and the son of the traffic officer Mr Maila employed within the same municipality were shortlisted, interviewed and are now in line to be absorbed into the system.

The trained youth who served as point duty officers for two years, are being punished for not been members of the ANC and for not been relatives of politicians. These are youth from poor families who were looking forward to being permanently absorbed into the system to earn a living and to serve the community.

Little did they know that rogue and heartless politicians have other ideas and plans about the posts. How do they sleep at night after doing such a gruesome act?

Madam Speaker, it is heart-breaking that these youth were trained and have certificates and testimonials as proof that they were part of the programme, surprisingly they were not absorbed into the system when posts were advertised.

Only those untrained with close proximity to the Mayor and his friends were absorbed, but the problem goes beyond this municipality.

Many who were trained were not considered in various districts of the province during the recent interviews that were conducted in Lebowakgomo on Friday, 29 September 2023. This simply means that corruption is widespread in Limpopo. It is not just a problem of one municipality, but rather all municipalities.

Why did the department train all these youth, present them with certificates and testimonials only to dump all of them when the posts are advertised? The poor youth were just used as conduit by corrupt officials and politicians in pursuit of nepotism. It is quite

bizarre that those who were not trained were absorbed into the system at the expense of those who were trained.

What is the department going to do with the trained youth? The EFF can tell that there is no plan whatsoever by the department for these youth. Its mission accomplished by the corrupt politicians and officials, because it is clear that the plan from the onset was to absorb their own family members into these positions.

The corruption and the nepotism of the ANC-led government have now reached another level. It has been done arrogantly on a daylight without any shame or regret. It is a structural, deliberate kind of corruption which continues to marginalize the poor pushing them further on the periphery of poverty.

If you are youth and you have no relationship with the Mayor whatsoever and your brother is not a friend to the Mayor and your father is not a traffic officer, you will never be employed in government.

The EFF will continue to expose the rot and corruption wherever it raises its ugly head. We call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, if she herself is not corrupt to reverse the nonsensical corruption and nepotism failure which the EFF will have no options but to reverse the nepotism and corruption promoted by corrupt ANC politicians.

The process of recruiting the youth into the said positions must start afresh. Corruption is a cancer that steals from the poor, eats away at governance and moral fibre and destroys trust.

We must nip it in the bud. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any other Members' Statements? I recognise Hon, Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

Once again, Hon Speaker, let me greet the honourable House and all protocol is observed.

CONCERN BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE MAJORITY OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE THAT ARE DYSFUNCTIONAL (Members' Statement)

The majority of strategic public institutions in the province are dysfunctional and therefore, finding it very difficult to provide services to the people. For example, Groblersdal Police Station is understaffed by 25 personnel which is a serious compromise to service delivery.

When police retire, they are not been replaced causing serious staff shortage at this police station and many other police stations in the province.

Motetema SAPS lack office space at the station, and this has resulted in about 14 detective officials cramping in one small office. Surely these working conditions are not conducive for the police and administrative staff to do their work and yet they are still expected to perform to maximum.

The police and staff members are generally set up for failure by this government pitting them against the community members who has high expectations on matters of public safety.

Furthermore, Marble Hall SAPS building infrastructure at the police station has become dilapidated symbolic of a dilapidated, vandalized and corrupt and failed state. There is a need for six additional staff members in both the police and administrative units at the Marble SAPS.

Staff members are responsible in the main for the facilitation of service delivery to the people. No staff members, no service delivery. It is as simple as that.

It is also shocking that Police work in office shacks that are very hot during summer and very cold during winter. Essentially what this means is that the police do not work in a dignified space.

It is clear that the government has no respect for the police and the work they do. Their dignity is of less importance to the government, hence they continue to violate them.

The shortage of water does not only affect the police station, but surrounding communities also feel the brunt and this results in an avalanche of service delivery protests which further stretches police work and resources.

Hon Speaker, Motetema SAPS station does not have fingerprinting services and as a result, they are forced to use the ones that are available at Groblersdal Police Station. This actually means two police stations share the same resources to deliver services to the people which is a serious setback to service delivery.

The barracks are in poor state that the police no longer want to use them. This is not surprising because the government itself is in poor state vandalized by corruption, maladministration and poor governance.

The Elias Motsoaledi driver's license and testing station has no space in the learners' rooms posing serious challenges with turnaround time and service delivery.

Furthermore, there are challenges with electricity and network connection at this station as a result of intermittent power outages and load shedding. This situation affects the smooth running of the station to an extent that the people were writing learner license and then the electricity goes off before they can finish the computerized test and the results given.

Hon Speaker, there was a backlog regarding the processing of license applications and the renewal of motor car licensing disks in the licensing unit at Ephraim Mogale Testing

centre. Clearly, the people of this municipality do not have access to service delivery in this regard.

The poor state in which the traffic station is as opposed to the state of the licensing department of the municipality, where traffic officials work. Why is the station not on the same standard with the licensing department of the municipality? How do you expect to provide services to the people with such disparities?

Furthermore, there is also a shortage of equipment to enable the smooth running of their activities. Notably, there are two offices and a small boardroom. You can never associate shortage with effective and efficient delivery of services to the people. Whenever there is shortage of something essential at government facility, service delivery is compromised.

While the Moutse station is housed in the state-of-the art building, it has failed to live up to its expectations in terms of providing basic services such as driver and learner testing to the community.

We expect state of the art facilities to provide state of the art services to the people, but such is not the case at Moutse station. It clear that nothing seems to work in our police stations and testing stations. This is a painful reality of a dysfunctional state we have come to witness in this day and age.

Hon Speaker, these facilities are characterized by shortage of everything. The people will never have access to service delivery in a shortage environment.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

Mr Makhubele: 00:30:34–01:02:27

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

LIMPOPO EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ABANDONED SICK CHILD OUTSIDE TZANEEN (Members' Statement)

In terms of the Health Act Regulations and Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) guidelines, there should no longer be Basic Life Support ambulances. Regulations state that Basic Life Support personnel must work under supervision and are not independent practice practitioners.

In EMS Crew called to a possible P2 patient must therefore, be appropriately qualified. Furthermore, a P2 patient is one that requires intermediate life support, as a minimum standard.

In terms of the HPCSA guidelines, it is unethical to leave a patient without handing a patient over to a higher qualified person, if it is not done, it is a gross violation of the current HPCSA Rules on Ethics.

With these regulations in mind, it beggars belief that the crew of the EMS that was dispatched from Mugodeni Grace Health Care, who were sent to assist a patient outside Tzaneen, abandoned the patient without giving any care and did not wait for a more qualified EMS team to hand the patient over. When the second EMS crew arrived, over two hours after being called, the patient has already died, without any medical care or access to life support.

What an absolute disgrace and inditement on the Provincial Health Department. The MEC Ramathuba has a lot to answer for on the abandonment of a critically ill patient and the level of care she received at the Letaba Hospital, less than two days before her passing.

The DA offers its condolences to the family of Vhutshilo Mashele, and if there was any negligence leading to her passing, we shall do whatever we can to ensure that they get justice.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other Members' Statements? In the absence of another Members' Statements, let me allow the honourable Members of the Executive Council to respond. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Radzilani to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members of this House, my colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief whip and the Deputy Chief whip.

Hon Speaker, I want to start by responding to the allegations made in this august House by Hon Manganye. I want to put it on record that African National Congress is not a corrupt organisation.

I want to encourage members of the opposition to make sure that before you can avail yourself to want to try and assist people out there, make sure you empower yourself by the rules and also the laws of this country.

What makes resolutions, have got number of programmes to build capacity, to skill young people of this country.

We also have the majority of young people and adults who volunteer to do the work without being paid. That does not qualify one, to be guaranteed that when positions are advertised, you will then automatically be appointed. t

This is because there are regulations and legal principles that governs the human resource development or recruitment.

So, let us not just enjoy to pointing fingers to the African National Congress. Let us make sure that before we raise or label, or to say corruption to the members of African National Congress, we must know that government can never be run through common sense.

Government is run in terms of the laws that are passed by national Parliament. It is run in terms of the regulations that are passed so that all of us who are part of this government, we must then be governed by those legislations.

I want to say it Hon Speaker, that because all those allegations were raised in this august House, I was very much touched when Hon Manganye was referring to Hon Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Municipality as a corrupt person.

We must sometimes desist from doing those things, just to say horrible things when you are referring to another leader where you don't even have evidence that can be sent before the court of law in case a person decides to take you there. So, I am just advising and giving you that warning.

I want to proceed to Hon Mapoulo. I thought honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, you will also raise offense when Hon Mapoulo was on the platform, because all the issues that Hon Mapoulo was raising claiming that it is the work done by EFF.

Hon Speaker, that's the oversight reports. All the issues that he was raising claiming that it is the work done by the EFF, all the issues he was raising was done by the members of the portfolio committee.

They are going to debate about those issues. So, standing here Hon Speaker, I will not respond, but I will wait for the proper channel then we will be able to account properly. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Radzilani. We shall now call upon the MEC for Health Dr Ramathuba to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip of the majority party, Members of the Executive Council, Member of the Legislature, Members of this august House and also members of the opposition parties.

Hon Wilson, I want to advise you that, before you take conclusions and even go to public space, it is always wise to check the other side of the story, because sometimes to (inaudible 38:25) the health care workers who are spending sleepless nights trying to save the lives of the people of this province.

Yes, there was a child who was discharged at Letaba Hospital and the discharged was not clear even when he was picked up the child was fine. That child went home. Whatever could've happened between home which could've changed the condition, we don't know up to so far.

We are still investigating. It is unfortunate that when the child change condition and when the child demise, they called an ambulance.

Our EMS as usual, the nearest EMS which was also carrying a pregnant woman to go to deliver, because it was spotted, we asked it to rush there. It was of course a mandate by the Basic Ambulance Assistance (BAA). They arrived and there was no private...(inaudible 39:30)..activity, meaning that there was no pulse, there was no respiratory pulse. The child has demised.

Unfortunately, as the BAA in terms of the law, they are not allowed to certify. They might be there, but can't certify. had to call the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) to come and certify, but they couldn't have to wait, because they had another patient whom they had to take to the hospital.

I explained to the family, unfortunately people who came to complain Hon Speaker, are not the immediate family members. You find that they are cousins and whatever who likes to jump to a sensitive matter, that is very sensitive. The team had to console the family on this particular death, but at the same time they cannot leave the other pregnant woman.

They had to request the INS to come and escorted the pregnant woman to the hospital. A woman gave birth to twins, I didn't check the gender, but what I can indicate to you is that IASA can certify, but the BAA are not allowed to certify.

Coming to the issue that we are discussing today which is really (Inaudible 40:50) ... the laws because when the Health Professional Council go and read the regulations and how it faced out the BAA. You will appreciate that, we are still on a period where Basic Ambulance Assistance that we do have in the system do check laws, even though private is starting to follow strange laws.

Hon Speaker, we are still using the BAA. We have got an Emergency Care Practitioners which is a 12-month course. Until such time that course is replaced so we can take our BAA to go and train. There is nothing that we can do.

There in the system, are you saying we must just...(inaudible 41:40)... It's not going to happen. They are still responding on an annual base, they are still registering the very same registrations. Therefore, they are not picked up to the system as long as they are replacing registration which are the same registrations.

Yes, we are transforming as the Emergency Medical Support Services and as a profession itself, but we've not yet reached that stage. As for now, we are still utilising them.

They were in their correctness to care and support the pregnant woman to the hospital and to also respond if that child was emergency. They would've able to do the basics needed in terms of emergency for health, but unfortunately the child has already demised which we call it P4. Once you reach the P4, we wait for the undertakers. The EMS must shift the BAA that were there. That is how this system works.

Hon Speaker, there is nothing wrong which our EMS did. I will defend them even in the court of law which you are going to take us there. They did nothing wrong actually, they saved a life of the mother and the unborn children.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, we may now proceed to the next item.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? I call upon the MEC, Dr Ramathuba.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once more greetings to this august House.

A term of October which is today, has been declared Hon Speaker, to be the World Mental Health Day. This years' commemorations are organised under the progressive theme "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right."

We invite the House to join the international community in commemorating this important day on the world calendar. It is an opportunity for us, to raise awareness and to drive the action that promote and protect everyone as a universal human rights.

Hon Speaker, mental health refers to an essence psychological and emotional wellbeing. Hon Speaker, it encompasses various aspects such as ones' ability to cope in stress, ones' ability to manage emotions, ones' ability to maintain health relationships and of course to make some decisions.

A persons' mental health can be influenced by various factors which includes genetical, environment, including this House we are in, and life experiences. Good mental health

allows a person to live the fulfilling life while poor mental health can lead to various mental illnesses and disorder.

It is important to maintain good mental health through self-care, through seeking professional health, especially, when you are in this House whenever it is needed and reducing the stigma around mental health issues.

This day is meant for commemorating a World Mental Health Day. Some of the reasons includes raising awareness where it gives us an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of mental health issues and to educate people of the important good mental health. It help us to breakdown the stigma associated with mental health.

It also assist us to encourage taking actions. we are saying to those individuals or organisation, that they must be able to take an action to improve mental health services that talks to the policies and programmes talking to mental health research prevention and treatment, and also to promote advocacy for those people who can't speak for themselves.

We are also saying lets foster support amongst those patients who have got mental illness and feel isolated. Overall, World Mental Health promotes the importance of good mental health and encourage individuals and organisations to take those actions.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, let me just share with you some of the common mental health characteristics:

- Persistent sickness or feeling provokelessness.
- Excessive wise and anxious
- Extreme mood swings, one second you are very quiet and the following second you are laughing
- Difficulty in concentrating, when you can't concentrate honourable Members, it is the sign of mental illness.
- Failure to remember things.
- Extremely changes, when you can't sleep or eat properly, meaning sometimes you sleep less or you sleep more, sometimes you eat less or eat more.
- We don't want special activities at home, some of the patients will start to use drugs especially, alcohol to try to cope with the feelings.
- Some may get a suicidal thoughts of tendency when you go to the extreme, and also difficulty in coping with daily tasks and stressors.
- Some when they tend to develop full blow psychological problems like when they might have delusions and hallucinations.

Hon Speaker, our province has not been saved, however a lot have been done. If you go back to the history in 1998 when the province employed two psychiatrists who started the long journey of psychiatrist services in our province. Since 2003, the province has been able to train and produce 80 specialists.

Unfortunately, we are unable to keep them because the private sector always has got lucrative oversight to provide for them. So, that's why the department is currently able to offer general adult psychiatric, child and adolescent, emergency psychiatric after hours and consultation in psychiatric.

Working with the Department of Justice as province at least we provide our own forensic psychiatrics, mental observations, safe specialist and also evaluations of activities of crime.

We are also conducting outlook services to all our hospitals including our sister department, the Seshego Treatment Centre, where the drug dealers patience are based to assist our children who are confide there as a result of drugs.

Amongst our treatment, we have been able to appoint the Mental Health Boards in all our districts and the induction which we did together as the partnership with South African Human Rights Commission have already been completed.

Last year, our psychiatrist passed the exam trained by this province and this exam they wrote is not only for Limpopo. They complete in all the other universities in the country. So, that is where they wrote those exams.

We also have Mental Health Training Programme for our medical officers where we assist them to write the diploma so that our rural hospitals can have access to mental health care specialists.

We also note our(Inaudible 49:55) project which empower studying in our own province in the police. This mainly means we will be celebrating the power of political legacyWe want to call upon this august House to also adopt this project to be kind to your mind, because if you don't, one day is one day, honourable Members.

Hon Speaker, accordingly, our districts tried very well to the battle against mental health. With Capricorn, we have done the best by virtue of being in the urban area. Of course Vhembe and Mopani have also tried. We still have challenges in Sekhukhune and Waterberg where we don't even have psychiatric hospitals.

Hon Speaker, we have a duty as Members of this august House to support each other and help to preserve the positive state of mind. This day should unite us all in the fight against mental health illness. Let us go out and educate and also create awareness in our constituency offices on the mental health issues and help to fight any form of stigma.

Mental Health problem is still our challenge. Lastly, all of us have got mental health problem. We differ in terms of its degrees. We can see even in this House Hon Speaker, where the difficulties are. This is because, we differ in terms of the degrees. Some are able to manage their emotions, while others can't. It is a mental health issue. Let's be patient to each other and not discriminate each other.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Are there any comments from the political parties? Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. (inaudible 52:13)...NOISE

A recent report on psychiatric hospitals, adopted in the Limpopo Legislature confirms that the Thabamopo psychiatric hospital has a staff vacancy rate of 63%, has inadequate medical equipment, shortage of beds and patient clothing and currently has 400 admitted patients. When fully operational, this facility can admit 786 patients...(inaudible 54:17).

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Are there any other comments from the political parties? Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

Indeed, you see when you roll me the truth you will always put a wrong...(inaudible 55:20) in a government. Once I've realised is that indeed our...when you quote you'll say deeper.

Go outside until...(inaudible) which led our people to be more... as we move forward the truth have been told not lies, if all of you can continue...(inaudible).. am saying all in all the situation out there doesn't put it close, say the truth the way it is, God will bless you but continue to do what you are doing, you will meet the mighty Lord with his...(inaudible 56:31) Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Maritz, you are recognised.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. (inaudible 57:00)...Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress that as an ANC, we support the Members' Statement that was presented by Dr Phophi Ramathuba with her fraternity.

We understand that mental health is a serious issue. As a result of that, we want to appreciate the necessary interventions that the department under the leadership of the ANC-led government...(inaudible). She made a specific reference in terms of the interventions have been made. In terms of that interventions... (Inaudible 59:50)and that need to be appreciated because we don't want to do that.

Of course, certain honourable Members will want to politicise that and when you disagree with each and every thing is said whether good and bad, there is a crisis in terms of your mental health.

When you made specific references without even mentioning your name and you choose to walk out of the Chamber, that is the reflection of the state of your mental health.

Therefore, you should not take it lightly, because certain statements that are being made here as an ANC freedom fighters, we differ in terms of degrees. Certain statements that are being made here Hon Speaker, shows us which level or certain degree in terms of your mental health problem

This is a very serious issue which leads to suicides, which leads to number of problems. The question is how we optimally utilise resources?

When she refers to Seshego Treatment Centre, we believe that she missed to blame other departments we believe that it is not optimally used, and if it is used to (Inaudible 1:01:25)... extend....we believe that the interventions that have been made speaks to us and they make sense and we achieve, we don't mess up.

We want to politicise issues. It would not necessarily be today. Today you behave as if we care about the mental state of the African child and pretend to care.

That is a serious mental health issues because if you care, you would be able to pronounce my name correctly. You can't mind about mental health and not be able to pronounce my name, that is sickness. We therefore, honour what is represented here.

Hon Speaker, I thank you.

Ms Tsubuka: 00:02:31–01:31:49

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We may now move to the next item.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

- 6.1. Tabling of the Annual Report of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) by the MEC for Transport and Community Safety

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once more greetings to all Members of the august House. Hon Speaker, section 65(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, entails that the executive authority responsible for the department or public entity must table in the National Assembly or the provincial Legislature as may be appropriate.

The Annual Report and financial statement refer to its section 40(1)(d) or section 55(1)(d) on both statements within one month .

Assumptions audit outcome as well as to consolidate the audited outcome into the MECs Annual Report. The Annual Report was submitted to the provincial Legislature on 31 August 2023, 16 days after the audit report was presented by the Auditor-General.

Hon Speaker and Members of this august House, we want to apologise for these administrative delay which was a fundamental consultative process between the executive authority and the board.

We commit that in future, we shall be there by expedite our processes and to seek designated guidelines. We hope that you find this in order, Hon Speaker.

I so move. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, and to Scopa for Consideration and Adoption. Thank you very much. Let's proceed.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 7.1. Motion for the Appointment of the NCOP Permanent Delegates by the Hon Chief Whip

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, (Inaudible 1:05:29) Mathye Constitution of Act of 1997. After a person the committee of Freedom Fighters which I pick up was seven...

I, therefore, move hlabangwane we shall rise on this. Provide that after a person has been...Of the above the Economic Freedom Fighters abide for Lucia Hlabangwane with ID Number 740605 7748 82.

I, therefore, move that this august House appoint the NCOP permanent delegate Ms Them bani Lucia Hlabangwani of the EFF to replace Ms Brenda Mathevula after resigning

as permanent delegate of the NCOP with effect from 30 August 2023. We shall rise as promised. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Chief Whip. We shall now move to the next item.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Committee chair, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the oversight visit reports on SAPS Groblersdal, in Sekhukhune District, on 22 March 2023 before this august House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder so that we can move on? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, you may proceed committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the oversight visit report on Ephraim Mogale Driver Testing and Licensing Centre in Sekhukhune District on 20 October 2022, before this august House for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. Is there any seconder? I recognise, Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the honourable chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the oversight visit report on Motetema SAPS in Sekhukhune District on 22 March 2023 in this august House for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I table the oversight visit report on Dennilton Police Station in Sekhukhune District on 20 October 2022 before this august House for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson of the committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You may proceed, chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the oversight visit report on SAPS Marble Hall in Sekhukhune District on 20 October 2022 before this august House for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the oversight visit report on Rathoke Traffic Control Centre, in Sekhukhune District on 20 October 2022 before this august House for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Thank very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable chairperson, you may proceed.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the oversight visit report on Moutse Traffic Station, in Sekhukhune District on 20 October 2022 before this august House for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Hon Speaker, Rosemarry Molapo; the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party; Leader of Opposition; Leader of Government Business; Members of the provincial Legislature; staff of the Legislature and political parties; I greet you.

The South African Police Service is governed by Chapter 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) that stipulates the South African Police Service has a responsibility to:

- Prevent, combat and investigate crime;
- Maintain public order;
- Protect and secure the inhabitants of the republic and their property;
- Uphold and enforce the law;
- Create a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa;
- Prevent anything that may threaten the safety or security of any community;
- Investigate any crimes that threaten the safety or security of any community;
- Ensure criminals are brought to justice; and
- Participation in efforts to address the causes of crime.

The community has conducted oversight visits to interact with departmental officials at the police stations to understand their current state, how they are managed and how stations ensure maximum police visibility and availability of vehicles.

Hon Speaker, upon arrival at Groblersdal Police Station, the committee observed that the station is well resourced in terms of office space, but the committee has noticed that vehicle maintenance and service is a problem, since the station is using the Lebowakgomo SAPS garage which is just over 100km away.

Worse part is the turnaround time for the vehicles which is reported to be taking longer than the normal three months' time. The station has 25 vacant posts which must be filled as a matter of urgency so that crime can be minimised.

Another concern is that in the station, there is no back-up generator and boreholes. The department must attend to these challenges as a matter of urgency.

The committee noted the deplorable state in which the police accommodation at the barracks is. The committee noted that the barracks are in a poor state and most police officers are no longer using the facility, instead they are renting in town and neighbouring villages. The department must ensure that those barracks are maintained and do not become white elephant.

The committee has noted that despite the decline in crime statistics, there are challenges of undocumented foreign nationals operating spaza shops, even when the police has made an arrest, they get bail from the magistrate, which makes difficult for the police to complete the cases.

Even though the station has a victim empowerment room, the committee has observed that the location of the room is not conducive to assuring the safety and confidentiality of the victims, especially, since it is a one room with just a single bed and a shower.

It was also reported to the committee that the centre was not funded and as a result, theirs is an acute lack of basic household resources and supplies to ensure the victims are comfortably accommodated.

The **Department of Transport and Community Safety** together with the Department of Justice must develop tighter legislations to regulate illegal immigrants owning spaza shops. The victim empowerment centres must be funded and be resourced with sufficient space to ensure privacy of victims.

Motetema Police Station is located in the rural area of the Sekhukhune District. The committee learned a disturbing issue of some areas or villages in sector 2 that are not reflected in the geographic information system, and as such, this makes police work and communication difficult.

Despite the building been fairly in good condition and providing all normal police duties, the station also renders client services, administrative duties as well as response to 10111 complaints.

The station has a glaring lack of space and the office accommodation is in poor condition. This affects the work of the police which may lead to hopelessness and poor commitment. There is an acute shortage of water and no boreholes.

The department must liaise with those in jurisdiction of geographic information system to ensure that those areas are included in the GPS. The department must avail water to that police station to enable personnel to work efficiently.

The generator at that station has exceeded its lifespan. During loadshedding, the station is experiencing poor network and connectivity and it affects service delivery, in particular, the 10111 services.

The committee has observed the unavailability of the finger printing services at the station. The station request assistance from Groblersdal Police Station. Motetema Police Station is under supplied by 20 vehicles.

The committee has observed the poor state of the holding cells. Even though renovations have started, it is going to be difficult for police officials to handle the movement of awaiting trial criminals from one area to another in order to safely keep the suspects.

The station has a victim empowerment centre for gender and children's abuse, however, there are administrative challenges which scuppers its work in some instances. Three volunteers have been taking care of administration of the centre with no stipend or salary paid to them since 2018/19.

According to the quarter crime statistics of 2022/23 financial year, there has been an increase of 3% within station's jurisdiction, crimes ranging from stock thefts, undocumented foreign nationals whom are reported to be working in local farms around Marble Hall and Groblersdal, but residing in Motetema and business robberies especially, spaza shops owned by foreigners in the area since they do not take money to the bank.

The department must fill vacancies, refurbish the generator to assist during loadshedding for energy and network purpose so that the crime rate is reduced.

Dennilton Police Station, that is located in Moutse, has a shortage of 30 personnel for both police force and administrative staff that need to be appointed. The station has 6 holding cells and is also able to accommodate mentally ill patients, but has deplorable conditions in which awaiting trial prisoners are accommodated.

The committee observed the challenges in human resource supply both in terms of the police force and administrative staff due to retired, promoted and deceased SAPS members. This has resulted to the structure changes posts, whereby the job which was done by three people are now done by one person, resulting in an immense workload due to the 30 vacant posts.

The committee has noted that the station has inadequate supply of physical resources and assistive devices such as vehicles, cell phones and computer allocations. However, the station has been allocated 28 vehicles, but only 23 are in good condition, while the other 05 are not in good condition. The department must ensure that the station is well resourced to enable personnel to work efficiently.

Despite the crime statistics gone down, it was indicated that most dominant crimes relates to stock theft, assault, bullying and gender-based violence, which emanates from liquor outlets in the area.

There are sporadic incidences of housebreaking and robbery at the residential and business places, especially, in spaza shops that are owned by foreign nationals who use such enterprises for accommodation and sleeping.

Despite police visibility programme like blue light vehicle patrols and stop and searches, the station is concerned about the withdrawals of cases by courts at the request of the complainants, which leads to repeat offenders in most cases.

The problem is further compounded by the release of undocumented foreign nationals which makes their appearance in court, including their tracking more difficult.

The committee has observed and examined the Victim Friendly Facility (VFF), which is run in conjunction with the Department of Social Development. It is used by the

community, non-governmental organisation by accommodating street kids and lost children.

Both, the Department of Transport and Community Safety and Social Development must ensure that the facility is assisted with donations and other aid as well as ensuring that protection of those children is tightened.

At Marble Hall Police Station, the committee observed that the building infrastructure was in a bad condition. The building is small, and it was demonstrated by the ostensible lack of storage capacity of case dockets and other administrative documents.

For more than 10 years, the station has been using mobile offices with no concrete plans for adequate and efficient office accommodation. The station has 63 officials, however, it is understaffed by 06 vacant posts for warrant officers, inclusive of administrative staff. The department must deploy sufficient resources and build a new police station at Marble Hall.

The committee noted that there are 14 vehicles allocated for the station, but only 10 vehicles are in good working condition, while 03 of them are at the SAPS garage for repairs and 01 vehicle has been boarded.

This had a negative impact to the station, as the police are constrained to respond to crime scenes and complaints timeously. The station uses the Lebowakgomo SAPS garage for repairing and maintaining its fleet of vehicles which takes more than two months to be fixed. This hampers service delivery.

The department must decentralise the maintenance of its fleet for purposes of service delivery. Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of these oversight reports from various police stations with recommendations.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. The next speaker is Hon Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

(1:21:30 Inaudible)

Hon Speaker, my mind is straight forward. I might be confused, because when you look at the programme of the oversight committee, it is quite clear that the committee...

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Our next speaker is Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Madam Speaker, oversights by the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety revealed that rural police stations are in dire state due to poor government support. It is little wonder that our crime statistics are beyond unreasonable and our people are so neglected.

The Motetema and Masemola Police Stations face serious challenges to protect and serve our communities. The Motetema Police Station has 130 officers in the Sekhukhune District, serving 52 villages in both the Elias Motsoaledi and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities.

Condition of the stations are appalling and embarrassing. Five detectives were cramped into one office in a building that looks like it is collapsing. No saferooms for dockets and no access to water.

The barracks for the officers are disgusting and overtired and overworked officers have no decent place to go home to. The Masemola Police Station which is located 90km from Polokwane has been without electricity since December 2022.

This station currently provides no services other than certification of documentation. It cannot protect the community, cannot prevent crime or even offer protection to our people.

Why does it exist at all, if not for the purpose it is intended for? We can put clerks in an office to do certification and not trained policeman who should be protecting our people.

The barracks at Masemola has no water or electricity. Regrettably, these issues are widespread in police stations across the province.

In response, the DA wrote to the MEC to request an urgent infrastructure audit of all police stations and police barracks across the province, to which we still await a response.

At the Dennilton Police Station, there were six mentally ill detainees all cramped into one cell. The conditions were appalling and gross. They are detained at the police station on J7 detention warrants issued by a magistrate due to the shortage of beds at the Thabamopo psychiatric hospital in Lebowakgomo.

After a detainee is certified as mentally ill, the police officers are given the patient's medication and are expected to dispense it correctly. The Dennilton Police Station has six holding cells which are in appalling condition and one is vacant because it was vandalised by a mentally ill detainee.

The police station is understaffed, under resourced and services a large geographical area.

A recent report on psychiatric hospitals, adopted in the Limpopo Legislature confirms that the Thabamopo psychiatric hospital has a staff vacancy rate of 63%, has inadequate medical equipment, shortage of beds and patient clothing and currently has 400 admitted patients.

When fully operational, this facility can admit 786 patients. It is unacceptable that police officers, who already work under severe constraints have to deal with mentally ill detainees which they are not trained for, because of our ailing provincial health systems.

In response, the DA wrote to the provincial police commissioner to enquire what measures are in place when police stations have mentally ill detainees in custody who ought to be in psychiatric care? To date, we have not received any response.

Moutse Traffic Station is a state-of-the-art traffic station opened in 2009. It was meant to provide all the driving, traffic and licensing services. However, learners licenses and driver's license services have never been provided and people from Moutse has to travel to Ephraim Mogale and Elias Motsoaledi for licensing services.

The station provides only law enforcement and is a registering authority. During a recent oversight with the transport committee, no clients were seen.

The traffic station has 36 traffic officers, 03 cashiers, and 04 administrative staff. Amongst the traffic officers, there are examiners who initially were earmarked to conduct driving tests.

In response, the DA called on the department to initiate engagements with RTMC to provide a learner's license and driver's licenses system to keep the station operational, cost effective and to relieve pressure on other traffic stations.

During the oversight to Rathoke Weighbridge, lack of management and the poor state of the facility were highlighted. Challenges included:

- Inhumane working conditions for 30 officials including an infestation of bees, shortage of office space, only two toilets and no running water due to the lack of infrastructure maintenance.
- There is no back-up generator during loadshedding which results in many trucks passing through without being weighed.
- No speed humps and lack of signage to prepare truckers to slow down which results in unnecessary accidents.
- Rathoke Weighbridge weighs more than 10 000 trucks per year.
- Overloaded trucks cause 60% of all damage to road surface and further threaten road safety, which can be prevented.

Loadshedding is here to stay, and with the festive season upon us, the carnage on our roads will increase with more overloaded trucks on our roads. In response, the DA requested urgent intervention from the MEC and still await a response.

Thank you.

Ms Malatji: 01:31:52–02:03:50

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Our next speaker is Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the opposition parties, Members of this House and guests, good morning.

Hon Speaker, oversight visits are sometimes heart-breaking like the Motetema SAPS, with no air conditioning, administration officers and police officers must work in crowded offices without the necessary stationery and no provision for power failures.

Groblerdsdal SAPS has the same challenges and lack of manpower, insufficient vehicles, and no provisions for power failure.

We urge the MEC to consider decentralising responsibilities for vehicle maintenance for better service delivery.

Hon Speaker, Moutse Traffic Station was meant to provide all the driving, traffic and licensing services, but learners licenses and drivers' licenses are not done there. The traffic station has 36 traffic officers. Amongst the traffic officers, there are examiners who initially were earmarked to conduct driving tests, and yet there is no driving test ground.

It is shocking that a state-of-the-art testing station built in 2008 to give service delivery has turned into state of disaster traffic station which puts more burden on Elias Motsoaledi driving, testing and licensing centre.

Hon Speaker, it seems that the Limpopo government doesn't care about the safety of communities as Dennilton Police Station also struggles with manpower where retired, promoted and deceased members are not replaced. Duties that were performed by three people are now compressed into one person.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, in a province with such high crime rate and gender-based violence rate, one wonders what is a person's life worth when SAPS can't even provide the necessary safety because government doesn't give them the ability to do so.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. I now call upon committee chairperson, Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to debate as the committee chairperson of the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

Hon Speaker, Ms Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; Leader of the Opposition; Leader of Government Business; chairpersons of various portfolio committees and Members of the provincial Legislature.

Hon Speaker, allow me to [INAUDIBLE 1:35:20] Matlou o dula a le confused, motions without notice regarding the debate, ka gore debate [INAUDIBLE] no! no! Not Hon Matlou, I am referring to Hon Mapoulo.

Hon Mapoulo o be a le confused, so [INAUDIBLE] on Wilson. Hon Wilson, o tla ka tendencies tšeo o be o di dira last year, tša gore motho a ye go dire tša gagwe a le tee, ke moka a tle a report ka mo. We don't do that, Hon Wilson. We only debate on the work of the committee.

Hon Speaker, the committee interacted with the department officials at the traffic stations to understand the state of affairs, the functionality of the management and whether the stations provide service delivery to our people.

The committee believe and understand that traffic stations and weighbridges are reliable sources for the provincial government to maintain and sustain revenue collection, while also ensuring law enforcement and road safety.

The committee believes that their functionality is of crucial importance to safeguard revenue collection and enforce road safety through traffic laws and visibility.

All managers in the facilities were given an opportunity to make presentations before the committee, so that the committee can have an understanding of the challenges faced by the facilities, and other issues of strategic importance that officials deemed to be necessary.

The committee visited Elias Motsoaledi Driver Licencing and Testing Centre on 22 March 2023. On arrival, the portfolio committee acknowledged that the building structure was still fairly in a good condition. The facility is not everything as per the mandate of a Grade-A Driving License and Testing Centre.

The following were dysfunctional:

- the licencing, learners license and Driver's licenses;
- the learners testing and cashiers rooms were not adequate and pose security risks to members of the community;
- no adequate space in the learners license room;

- two learners license computers were defunct ;
- back-up generator was not fully functional which affected the network during loadshedding;
- The equipment supplied by the Road Traffic Management Centre (RTMC) took time to be repaired because everything is done by the RTMC.

The department must ensure that the traffic station is] budgeted for, and all the equipment are repaired or replaced.

The committee also visited Ephraim Mogale Driver Testing and Licensing Centre and acknowledged that the centre was still in a good condition and adequate security checks at the entrance were done. However, the committee was able to observe the following:

- The building was small.
- There were shortage of equipment for the smooth running of daily activities.
- There was no control room
- The eNatis instruments were not functioning well.
- Deficiency with eye test machines due to lifespan of the machines.
- Backlog of issuing applied licenses and the renewal of motor car licencing discs.
- Revenue collection room was too small.

Hon Speaker, at Rathoke Traffic Control weighbridge, the committee observed and discovered the following:

There was no station manager by that time.

The acting supervisors are working in shifts.

There were two vacancies for administrative officers.

The trucks avoid using the N1 road dodging the toll-fees, which results in an immense maintenance cost for the department and it is a high accident zone without speed humps and without many cars which poses potential accidents to traffic officers.

No directional signage to the centre to enable trucks to be weighed. Lack of office space. Poorly maintained toilets for 30 staff members.

There is no generator, during loadshedding vehicles just pass by without paying and also there is no detection of overloading violations.

Lack of consistent water supply and staff bring their own water to work. Even though there is a fence, but it is not sufficient for the safety of the traffic officers, the trucks and their cargo's after they are detained.

There is no central impoundment area, which there is a possibility of theft and the department can be taken to court.

The department must ensure that these deficiencies are corrected and receive attention.

Moutse Traffic Station was opened in 2008 as a state-of the art registering authority to provide all the driving, traffic and licensing service.

However, the committee learned with dismay the following:

The station is currently not providing all the driving, traffic and licensing services as initially intended.

Learners and driver's license equipment are not available in the station.

No testing ground.

No supervisor.

The station was once burgled at some point and computers were stolen at the presence of a private security company and those computers were connected to the eNatis system of which there is a risk of drivers licenses and license disc been printed all over the country.

Hon Speaker, the committee through its oversight role will work with the department to ensure that learner driver and eye testing machines are timeously fixed and attended to avoiding inconveniencing members of the public.

The Committee will also work with the department to consider developing a legislative instrument at all traffic control stations barring freight vehicles and trucks from outside the country from using the internal routes and further directing such vehicles to use the N1 while in South Africa.

Wena Hon Mapoulo, we do our work starting at 8:00 and we tšhaiša ka 13:00. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chairperson. We shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Radzilani to respond to the observations that honourable Members have made.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council and Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, allow me to open my reply by indicating to this august House that our engagements with the national Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure regarding the construction of poorly police stations are yielding the desired results.

Through our engagements with the office of Minister, Sihle Zikalala, we have unblocked the construction of the Boeng Mankweng, [INAUDIBLE 1:44:00] police station, whose constructions are incomplete and also require backup generators.

Hon Speaker, I just felt that I should hint on this breakthroughs as they fall under the same scope and topic, as what we are debating on in this House today. I want to indicate, Hon Speaker, that there is a very serious commitment by the Minister of Public Works.

We have already called two meetings. The first meeting we were making submissions of all the police stations in the province. Those that were constructed way back in 2014, for the Minister to try and assist us to complete these projects.

We also have got other new projects which falls to covers some of the projects that honourable Members were debating on. All in all, Hon Speaker, the record that we have from the meeting of Public Works; there are 29 projects which are under planning and procurement, and some have already started advertisement in August this year and will continue until March 2024.

Amongst 29 projects, they are 7 police stations which are having challenges with water supply and however, the Minister committed that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will advertise for the appointment of the Geotechnical Engineers.

The service of the Geotechnical Engineers will assist in irradiating the water shortage backlog. I fully confirm with honourable Members that some of our garages are in poor condition, but I want to indicate that work has already started as Hon Matlou has indicated that since they have conducted this oversight, we might have responded to some of the issues.

As I am addressing in this august House, there was a team which was dispatched from National by the honourable Minister for Public Works to go and do the work at Villanova because that's one of the areas where the police officers are renting.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe had privilege to my office with its road maps on the prioritisation of immovable assets needs which include the construction and refurbishment of police stations in the province.

The report detailed the South African Police Service comprehensive approach on how it intends to roll out infrastructure projects in successive financial year. In Sekhukhune, the report reflects Burgersfort, Motetema, Groblersdal high on the apex of the police stations that will undergo major over rolling in the next few financial years.

The majority of the police stations which have been visited during the said oversight visits require a maintenance and renovation of police cells, office space, human resource capacity, alternative planning mechanisms and many other more.

Hon Speaker, we must also appreciate that the challenges identified by the portfolio committee during this oversight exhibition cannot be treated in isolation from the rest of the challenges that South African Police Service encounter throughout the province. The issues that were raised by members of the portfolio committee were immediately escalated with the Office of the Provincial Commissioner.

The majority of this challenges which are mainly raised, from office space to police officers' residential accommodation facilities, availability of resources and working tools are aware in progress that should be addressed in due course.

In some instances, we have already started to address some if not most, I think I have already indicated that. The SAPS in the province had adopted a centralised approach that is tailor made to deal with backlog on infrastructure and asset in a uniform manner.

Of course, there were reported incidents Hon Speaker, where we discover that people that are not mentally well were detained in our holding cells during the oversight visit and this matter has been escalated with relevant authorities and has since received the requisite attention.

Hon Speaker, our police stations in their majority have fully flashed in operational with the gender-based violence desk which are consistent through government commitment to wedge the fears against the scourge of gender-based violence in our communities. Of course, we appreciate that there are areas where we still have to improve in terms of making sure that we deliver quality services to our people.

On the visit to Marble Hall Testing Station and the Rathoke weighbridge, I'm delighted to announce that we have made serious in roads in our attempt to address some of the challenges that were highlighted by members of the portfolio committee.

We have appointed a new police station right at the Rathoke weighbridge with effect from 01 June 2023. The committee also advise us to install additional directional sign to the weighbridge and we are in constant engagement with our sister Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to erect proper signage as they are the custodians of our provincial hope.

With additional mobile offices, within the weighbridge, there is adequate office space, and the only requirement will be additional land that should serve as an impoundment compound. We have also erected a new concrete [INAUDIBLE 1:51:05] fence at the Rathoke weighbridge and this will ensure controlled access within the facility at all material times.

At the Marble Hall Driving Testing Licencing centre, we are experiencing network connectivity challenges which are affecting the operation of our eNaTIS systems. We are engaging with the department's IT component to address this problem, in order to provide our people with the flawless and efficient services.

All the registered concerned Hon Speaker, that have been raised in this august House by the honourable Members will be addressed in due course. We do not take any of them for granted. We appreciate the work of the portfolio committee and guidance given to the department aimed at improving service delivery to the people. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Let us proceed to the next item.

7.3. Consideration an Adoption of Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions

I call upon the committee chair.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the reports of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on the oversight visit report on Education outreach workshop held in Capricorn District on 23 September 2022. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I stand to support the committee chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on the oversight visit report on petition projects held in Vhembe District on 29 September 2022.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS WILSON

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion of adoption of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, once more rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the report of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on the oversight visit report on petition projects held in Capricorn and Waterberg Districts on 27 September 2022. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I'm supporting the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise here Hon Speaker, for the consideration and adoption of the reports of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions by this honourable House the oversight visit to petition projects held in Mopani District on 15 February 2022. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, may you please proceed with the debate?

MR MDAKA

Okay. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise once more to move for this House to consider and adopt the report from the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions for the oversight visit to petition projects held in Vhembe District on 29 September 2022.]

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to move for the adoption and consideration by this honourable House for the reports of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions on the oversight visit report on Education outreach workshop held in the Capricorn District on 23 September 2022. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debates. The first speaker on the list is the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana..

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs and honourable Members.

Hon Speaker, the construction of roads [INAUDIBLE]. The committee visited both Capricorn and Waterberg [INAUDIBLE] Mabitsele, Lokana, Lokaneng and [INAUDIBLE] roads 3428 and 3431....[INAUDIBLE]

Mr Baloyi: 02:03:51–02:28:49

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Chief Whip. Hon Manganye, it is your turn.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am presenting this debate on behalf of Hon Managa.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Education should prioritise the provision of water and sanitation and eradicate all mud structures in schools. Given the current state of affairs in this department, it is clear that they admire and draw inspiration from the Eastern Cape Department of Education on the issue of mud schools.

We are convinced that the Department of Education does not pay regular visits to schools to pick up challenges and address them. They hear about all these challenges from the media.

We cannot afford to have mud schools in our communities on this day and age. It is so shameful, degrading and dehumanising to the children, their parents and communities.

Furthermore, when it comes to roads, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure should work with the municipalities and ensure that roads and streets within the communities are properly maintained.

Road infrastructure is a serious problem in Limpopo and therefore, there is a need for cooperation between municipalities and the Department of Public Work, Roads and Infrastructure otherwise, road infrastructure will continue to be a challenge.

Hon Speaker, Netshiendeulu Royal Council submitted a petition regarding the bad condition of road D5000 and streets in and around their area. The petition was adjudicated on 20 February 2018.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure never bothered to hold a meeting with the community and the roads were getting worse and some of the streets were no longer accessible. This is the ANC-led government for you, they just do not care about service delivery needs of the people at all.

Furthermore, the condition of road D3687, which is the only main access road in Tshiheni village that serves as an interlink between the Tshiheni community and other surrounding areas is bad and not yet attended to since the petition was submitted to the parliamentary committee.

The road has over the years degraded to a bad condition which makes it difficult to access schools, affect public transport as bus and taxi owners refuse to drive over the degraded roads since it is not safe and damages their vehicles. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure was just not available to attend to this petition, but instead they responded with a subtle arrogance.

It is the attitude of the current government that when communities raise genuine service delivery issues with them, they respond with arrogance.

Just like the apartheid government, when community members protested for lack of service delivery in their areas, they respond with violence including killing of citizens.

Hon Speaker, a petition from Tshiendeulu primary school which was submitted in January 2019 regarding their mud and dilapidated school structure has never been attended to date. The school has a block of five dilapidated classrooms and two offices that were built in 1958.

To make matters worse, Hon Speaker, in 2018, the school roof was blown away by the wind and yet the department just turned a blind eye on the situation even though it was brought to their attention.

In December 2019, Boke secondary school governing body submitted a petition regarding the state of their school structure. They made a request to the Department of Education to build a new school for the community since the existing structure is dilapidated.

The school was damaged in 1989 and the damage was not fixed to date. It is clear that the government has officially adopted the, “who cares attitude” towards its citizens. They just do not care at all.

Hon Speaker, in 2015, Moletjie Taxi Association submitted a petition requesting for the tarring of the road between Farlie, Mabitsela, Leoka, and Pinkie villages, which is road 3428 and D3431. Regrettably, the status quo on this road remains the same.

Furthermore, the Seleka and others submitted a petition regarding the bad condition of the road infrastructure D3573 which is located within the Mogalakwena Local Municipality located in the Waterberg District.

Sadly, we are now being told that there is no budget for the upgrading. What is the role of Public Participation and Petitions committee in holding these rogue departments accountable in particular the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure?

The level of arrogance and disrespect is so bad that departments don't even bother to appear before the parliamentary committee, and no one holds them accountable. They are a law upon themselves, doing as they wish with impunity.

Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Our next speaker is Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings and all protocol observed to the Premier in his absentia, Deputy Speaker, all Members of the Executive Council, and all Members present here today, the HODs and all staff of the Legislature.

The oversight undertaken by the Standing Committee on Public Participations and Petitions revealed that petitioners had petitioned the Legislature after failures by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and RAL to engage on the poor road condition for D3428, located within Molemole and Blouberg Local Municipalities, with Capricorn District starting from Ngwanallela Village and ending at Rapitsi Village at the D3401 road intersection.

The Malokong Rooiwal and Limburg communities also submitted a petition to the committee in 2018, regarding the poor conditions of the roads in the area as well. Despite promises of the road being completed in the 2013/14 financial year and after a series of meetings with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and RAL, the committee undertook an oversight from the N11 and ended on the D4380 and D3534, which consisted of 15km of gravel road.

Similarly, in Selaka due to the poor condition of Road D3573, located in Mogalakwena Municipality, the committee recommended that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure must update the committee on the progress on a regular basis.

Hon Speaker, RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure must develop a plan on how the roads that are in poor condition will be fixed and maintained.

The committee further recommends that both Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and RAL should engage the petitioners on the construction process of the roads regularly and share their progress.

With regards to the petition lodged by Mr MA Phala to Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, where a neighbour had infringed by extending her stand alongside his yard, resulting in his gate being blocked, and after listening to the responses by Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, the committee deliberated and recommended that the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality did not in fact address the concerns of the petitioner and therefore, requested that they re-visit Mr Phala's property for an oversight.

The committee further encouraged that the municipality work with both parties in finding a resolution and in restoring peace between Mr Phala and Ms Kganedi. It was also concluded that a new date would be finalised to adjudicate on this matter.

The committee further resolved to undertake an oversight inspection on conclusion of the matter and the municipality was given 21 days to finalise the matter.

Hon Speaker, the committee further recommended that they were very pleased with the progress on the D4280 and D4283 road projects as per petition submitted by Ward 07 stakeholders. It further recommends that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure maintains the new road on a regular basis.

During oversights and petitions at schools, the portfolio committee recommended that the Department of Education must prioritise the provisioning of basic services such as water and sanitation. It further requires that there should be regular visits to schools to identify the challenges faced and to address them promptly.

It was also found that there appears at times to be a breakdown in communication between the various stakeholders like the community, school governing bodies, contractors, implementing agencies and the department.

A much more cordial and conducive environment must be forged and implementing agencies must be monitored so that they deliver to expectations.

In conclusion, the Department of Education must eradicate all mud structures in schools and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure should work jointly with municipalities to ensure that roads and streets within the communities are properly maintained.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The next speaker is the committee chair, Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, all honourable Members present, honourable MECs, members of staff in the gallery and the guests. Good afternoon.

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to debate the report as presented by the oversight reports....(inaudible 2:16:20)...

Hon Speaker, after having listened to the previous speakers, I'm tempted to start by reminding those not knowing where we come from, and why are we here and why are we debating the way we are debating, particularly those sitting on my right hand side, especially, when they speak about an ANC-led government that doesn't care. That is not correct. .

It is not correct and it will never be correct for as long we are still governing, as long as President Ramaphosa is still the president of this country, we will always be a caring government.

Maybe, particularly those that claim to copy our voices and paste them somewhere but behave differently like some kind of other members of the communities, particularly, those that we have expelled the way they behave particularly in Parliament and so on and in situations like this, they always say things that are not necessarily be true.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, let me remind them of the Freedom Charter that it was adopted in 1955 led by the Congress...(inaudible 2:18:00)... with the ANC in charge in 1912 which read as follows:

"We, the people of South Africa declare all for all our country and world to know that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people."

We are debating here on issues that come from our communities that we visited, to listening to what they said and brings it here for adoption by this honourable House. That is what comes out of the manifesto of the African National Congress.

You are all saying whatever you are saying, not because you are bringing anything new. You are actually running behind us where we are going.

We are not doing it just now as we are in government. We have been doing this since 1912 when the ANC was formed. We always consulting the people. We always listening to the people, just as the Freedom Charter is saying that the people shall govern. We can't be an organisation that does not care for the people.

We can't also be informed on what to do, because we know what to do, because it is there in our manifesto. We can't be informed.

If you don't know, just google the ANC manifesto. That's why we are even going to our communities to review it so that we can go forward at next year election so that we can renew our mandate...(inaudible 2:20:05) but those who are serious about the future of this country will go to the African National Congress, because the African National Congress is a listening government.

Hon Speaker, we are saying, we have been to our communities. We are saying that there are issues that we still need to do. We are saying we are not yet done, that is what we are saying.

We are not yet done and that is why the ANC will always be in government, until all opportunities can be accessed by our communities everywhere, including inaudible... If you are not aware, you were here some years back to when the ANC came into power. Look at your communities today, how they look like. Is because of this ANC-led government.

If there was no ANC and what our former party leaders did and the struggle that we went through, until we had a breakthrough in 1994, you were not supposed to be here yourselves. It is because the ANC can support, and of course you can oppose, because you've got nothing to do, but to oppose.

That is your job, because even in heaven there is opposition. You are an opposition here to report to those who work with the powerful in government. Your days are numbered.

Madam Speaker, I want to appreciate the MEC for Education for having gone with us wherever we were going. There were certain areas where she was not there but at least there was someone who was there.

I also want to appreciate the work of Public Works as we are visiting communities with them, the MEC will be there sometimes she will not be there. We don't expect her to be there every day wherever we go, because she works with us, she listens to us, we know where to find her.

We will tell her what the people have said and that is why we are here today, to say please look at these areas where there are challenges. Look at areas of Tshiendeulu, it is a

mountainous area in Vhembe District. It is not even accessible, but you could not understand (Inaudible 2:22:45 to 2:23:08)

Yes, we must then have a bypass from the main road going to Tshiendeulu community, where they are also having a serious problem, honourable MEC.

There is a serious problem indeed the community cannot come out of the village we want them to see what we are doing. We are not going to say no, because we are doing what we do not because of the elections. We are doing it because that community has the challenge. ... [INTERJECTION]

MR MAPOULO

I think the Member is taking too much time. Time is not on our side.

ADV PHALA

In lunch there will be no opposition, they will be all eating together.

As I conclude, I said we know what we are doing. I'm saying we know where to find the MECs. We are happy with what Hon Manganye was debating. We are happy with the closing of the potholes...(inaudible 1:24:30)...

I've been driving from Phalaborwa to Giyani, you will remember what was in the media that the road is a zigzag and multiple potholes, but now as I speak today, go there and drive, you will reach your destination in no time. That is the Department of Public Works and RAL, under the leadership of the African National Congress.

Look at our schools today, it is not like during apartheid where we had to build our own schools as communities, where we used to have mud schools. Hon Mapoulo knows it. He is a prodigal son. He need to come home which is led by the ANC, we continue doing that, we continue consulting.

What we want, is for the people to enjoy what the African National Congress is doing, what it has promised to the people. The promise that it will represent them. That it will listen to them, at any time. You can call anyone in the ANC, he will be able to pick up the phone.....(inaudible 2:26:00)... As long as the apartheid is gone, the ANC will make sure that everyone is getting service.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]...

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, committee chair. We shall now allow the two MECs to come and respond to the observations made by the honourable Members. I will start with the MEC for Education, Hon Ramakhanya.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ndi masiari, to the Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs, Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, honourable MECs, honourable chairperson of the Petitions Committee and all the members of the Petitions Committee, honourable Members of this august House.

Madam Speaker, let me start by appreciating the work that has been done by the Petition Committee. I also confirm that the visits that they did to all the districts, we have as the department submitted a comprehensive report on all the petitions that they have submitted.

They have actually received the reports. Let me also indicate that in order to appreciate the work of the petitions because our understanding and especially myself as the deployee of the African National Congress, is to understand that a petition it's also a voice of those voices that may be swallowed in a crowd and it needs to be attended to.

Some of the petitions have been dated way back before we could have done so much progress on the issues that some other individual schools and individual people have been raising. We have received different categories, Madam Speaker, and we have since attended to it.

As the Department of Education in Limpopo, we have declared the year 2023 as a year of infrastructure and we can confirm seated here that more than 150 schools have benefitted from the Water and Sanitation programmes.

Ms Mdau: 02:28:50–02:53:38

Through the Mvula trust that will reduce the sanitation and water crisis in the schools, through the DPSA programme as part of our school donating agent, we can confirm to members of the Petition Committee have seen them through that most of the schools that has brought the issues, we have attended to them.

I can indicate on that one, and can confirm as an example of Nyatshiri Primary School, that requested immediate discontinuation of pit latrine and building of a new ablution block facilities. Hon Speaker, I can confirm that we have started with our programme.

In this primary school, we have done the demolishing of pit latrines. As the department have constructed 43 seats in terms of the tap enviroloo toilet blocks and also the water bowl toilets.

We have refurbished the existing enviroloo, construction of the septic tanks and a bore hole, water tanks storage and drilling equipment and borehole. These have been done and completed just before August 2023.

I'm using one of these examples to confirm that when we say 2023 is a year of infrastructure, we are attending to our schools. If you see our report you will then see.

I want to apologise on behalf of Dr Managa. I'm sure when she was busy with her dissertation schedule and research, she was using Eastern Cape. You can pass the message to the Honourable Dr Managa that Eastern Cape is not Limpopo, we are not competing.

She should not use her research in the PhD degree to come, she should go back to the document that Constitutional has submitted. We respect and congratulated her last week. She cannot use Eastern Cape as part of Limpopo.

This is a year of infrastructure and upgrading. As African National Congress, Hon Speaker, some of the schools that we are attending to are part of those that Hon Mdaka has said.

Some of the schools were built by the communities themselves. This is because you will remember since they delivered the immigrants that came by ship in 1652 had put our people under pressure.

Honourable chairperson of the Petition Committee, said it very well that they had to build schools by themselves, and we are addressing that because each money you will know Hon Speaker that the Department of Education is opening two schools per months.

Since they started in January, and we are addressing this now, where we have got serious crisis, we have then since given our schools mobile classrooms and that is part of the report. I want to also say, we are on course of eradicating pit latrines like in Kediketse Primary School.

They actually have requested the rebuilding of the dilapidated school classrooms. We can confirm Hon Speaker, that our plans for proper sanitation facilities they were given to people during the 2020/21 financial year.

That is why I'm saying some of the petitions are coming in when we had already passed. We want to also confirm on behalf of the department that our water and sanitation project this year, we have seen like in Hosia Aphane Primary School, we have passed the petition we made in 2018/19 financial year. We have given the school water and sanitation implemented under Mvula trust and as part of our partners.

There are some of the schools that have been handed over to our partners who is Old Mutual and Cashbuild that will be addressing some of the issues. I want to summarise Hon Speaker and say the report has been given to the honourable Members for them to be able to know as they will be visiting, we will read them.

We conclude to say, we are humbled by serving the people of Limpopo as part of the Department of Education. The 2023 is a year of infrastructure. Pit latrines and mud schools are the issues of the past.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for Education. We shall now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon C N Rakgoale.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. The Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, colleagues and the MECs, chairperson of the Petitions committee and Members of the Legislature. . Good afternoon. Ndi masiari avhudi.

Hon Chair, firstly, let me appreciate the report from the committee and to certain extend acknowledge some of the issues that were raised and by the committee. Hon Chair, it is also important that as Hon Mapoulo and Hon Manganye raised issues on roads,

It's important that there are sometimes [inaudible 2:35:20] when in terms of the issues that were raised, we talk about [inaudible] that we might not in terms of [inaudible]

Now it is really difficult to raise some of those issues, it's going to take us time especially, when we are going to use that time [inaudible] but we are trying our level best to make sure that those conditions of the roads are improving in the province.

So, Hon Maharaj knows very well that i worked very close to him on the number of roads that keeps on sending to me and I kept on upgrading the conditions of those roads.

If you look at most of the roads that I've indicated here, given the date of the petitions, you are able to see that most of them are under design as well. We have done the sample.

Most of us will agree that we might not say all the roads very soon will be finished, department money will be able to build them, but we are saying as and when, we are trying our level best.

It becomes a problem when people who want to use the lack of funds by the departments of government wanted to influence communities to continue to march when they know very well that those of number of [inaudable 2:36:35] and the memorandum we are receiving they are quite aware that those roads are currently under designs.

We are trying our level best as to who is encouraging this road to undergo this type of activity while you know very well. I must also acknowledged this Hon Speaker, that in terms of our same order engagement programmes we are getting a little bit there, butwe are trying to work ourselves together with the department with rush to make sure that we improve on stakeholder engagements because others ordinarily without having the information are able to understand.

Now the issue of the delay and delaying of roads yes, we are not doing that we must anticipate, yes we have received [inaudable 2:37:20] purchased and we are finalising registration.

Madam Speaker, we have received thus far, and we'll be distributing to various call centres and that shows that there will be different between yesterday and tomorrow in terms of life building. We are including the conditions of the road.

Equally, we must be able to acknowledge, that there's a difference [inaudible]. There's a different between then and now as you are driving. We no longer cross tired road and can we try to acknowledge that. Where we are trying our level best of course [inaudible] we acknowledge that.

I think, we must apologise where we are unable to address issue of making sure we [inaudible 2:38:30] are part of the position itself and we are not apologising on that one we will improve.

We must make sure that roads are opening. We are able to[inaudible] so by the time we say we are building road We have adopted the strategy of revaluating roads, and some of the roads that we have professionally done are also including the engineers.

We arrange, we are just simply saying the temporal, the one when we get money, Hon Manganye, I'm sure will agree with me together working with RAL we are going to make sure that we keep on [inaudible] so that they are aware of the road that are [inaudible]

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. We shall now move to the next item.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

Motion for the Ratification of the Appointment of Special Delegates to attend the NCOP Plenaries on 10, 11 and 12 October 2023 by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker .

THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARIES

(Motion for Ratification)

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 following honourable Members were appointed to attend the Joint Sitzings of the National Assembly and the NCOP plenaries when the House was not Sitting:

- On Tuesday, 10 October 2023: Questions to cluster 2C: Social Services, Sports, Arts and Culture, Human Settlement. Members appointed to attend: Hon R B Makamu, Hon N Kekana, Hon K M Lebea, and Hon M J Aphiri.
- On Wednesday, 11 October 2023: Questions to cluster 2D: Social Services, Water and Sanitation. Members appointed to attend: MEC Makamu and Hon K M Lebea.
- On Thursday, 12 October 2023: Questions to the President. Members appointed to attend: Speaker, Hon R R Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon T B Matibe; and the Chief Whip, Hon E Mokgonyana.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointments of the above-mentioned Special Delegates in line with the above-mentioned provisions. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are now proceeding to the next item.

9. Motion for the Ratification of the Appointment of Special Delegates who attended the NCOP plenaries

Over to you, Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARIES

(Motion for Ratification)

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 following honourable Members were appointed to attend the Joint Sitzings of the National Assembly and the NCOP plenaries when the House was not Sitting:

- 01 June 2023: Policy Debate on Budget Vote 22: Correctional Services, Vote 25 Justice and Constitutional Development. Members appointed to attend: Hon N M Lekganyane, Hon M A Mokaba and Hon F J Maseko.
- 06 June 2023: Policy Debate on Budget Vote 19: Social Development, Vote 20: Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Vote 09: Planning and Evaluation, Vote 14: Statistics SA. Members appointed to attend: Hon J Matlou, Hon M C Mochadi and Hon M C Manthata-Mahasela.
- 07 June 2023: Policy Debate on Budget Vote 16: Basic Education, Vote 03: Cooperative Governance, Vote 15: Traditional Affairs. Members appointed to attend: Hon S V Mathye, Hon M R Seono and Hon M C Manthata-Mahasela.
- 08 June 2023: Policy Debate on Budget Vote 17: Higher Education and Training, Vote 32: Environment Forestry and Fisheries. Members appointed to attend: Hon S V Mathye, Hon M R Seono and Hon M C Mahasela-Manthata.
- 13 June 2023: Questions to Cluster 3A: Governance and Traditional Affairs, Public Service and Administration. Members appointed to attend: Hon K M Lebea, Hon F J Maseko and Hon M C Manthata-Mahasela.
- 14 June 2023: Questions to the Deputy President. Members appointed to attend: Hon R R Molapo, Hon T B Matibe and Hon S M Mochadi.
- 15 June 2023: Questions to Cluster 3B: Governance (Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation). Members appointed to attend: Hon P Boshielo, Hon C B D Selane and Hon S M Mochadi.
- 20 June 2023: Policy Debate on Budget Vote 5: Home Affairs, Vote 29: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Members appointed to attend: Hon F J Maseko, Hon S M Mochadi and Hon M I Masekoameng.
- 21 June 2023: Consideration of Eskom Debt Relief Bill [B5-2023] and Consideration of Appropriation Bill [B3-2023]. Members appointed to attend: Hon. N.M Lekganyane, Hon. A.D.J Ndou and Hon K M Lebea.

-
- 22 June 2023: Consideration of Cluster 4D: Economics (SmallBusiness Development). Members appointed to attend: Hon S M Mochadi, Hon C B D Selane and Hon N D Masemola.
- 05 Sept 2023: Questions to Cluster 2A: Social Services (Basic Education and Higher Education, Science and Innovation). Members appointed to attend: Hon S V Mathye, Hon M R Seono and Hon F P Mdaka.
- 06 Sept 2023: Questions to Cluster 2B: Social Services (Health andSocial Development). Members appointed to attend: Hon. L.J Matlou, Hon. S.V Mathye and Hon S M Mochadi.
- 07 Sept 2023: Questions to the Deputy President. Members appointed to attend: Hon. R.R Molapo, Hon. T.B Matibe and Hon E M Mokgonyana.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointments of the above-mentioned Special Delegates in line with the above-mentioned provisions. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as present by the Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We can proceed to the next item.

10. Motion on the Ratification of the Conferral of the Final Mandates to NCOP Permanent Delegates

Over to you, Chief Whip

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. When the House was not seated, the final NCOP Permanent Delegates on Performers Protection Amendment Bill [B24D-2016]; Copyright Amendment Bill [B13D-2017]; and Fund-Raising Amendment Bill [B29B-2020], attended respectively to vote in favour of the Bills and to pass it into law.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I, Mdaka Falaza Philemon, rise to second the motion as raised by Hon Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Before we move to the adjournment, honourable Members of this House, you may recall that during the last Sitting of this House held on Tuesday, 05 September 2023, Hon Mapoulo alleged that Hon Mathe S referred to Hon Seshoka as “This honourable thing, Seshoka” which Hon Mathe disputed to have said. Hon Manthata-Mahasela said “Shut up” to Hon Maharaj and Hon Maharaj responded by saying “Shut up too and Voetsek.”

When checking against the Hansard report to verify whether those utterances were indeed made by honourable Members, it was confirmed that the above-mentioned honourable Members indeed made utterances on the said date.

I, therefore, request the above-mentioned honourable Members to withdraw what they have said. I’ll start with Hon Mathe. Hon Mathe, do you withdraw? Hon Mathe, I’m saying may you withdraw from the utterances that you have made on that day?

MR MATHE

Okay, I did not do it. So, I therefore, even though message is received, I therefore, unconditionally and Inequity withdraw.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela, may you please also withdraw?

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Before I withdraw, I just want to say that myself and Hon Maharaj have already spoken about the issue, and what I want to say is that he must stop uttering his words out. In this way, I would say I withdraw. I withdraw, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, may you please also withdraw your words?

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I'd like you to remember that as indicated, we have a date. I unconditionally withdraw and it was said in the tense situation we were into but I withdraw.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I further encourage all honourable Members to refrain from using unparliamentary utterance language in terms of House Rule 95 .

I would like to urged Whips of all parties represented in this House to discuss the issue at their Whippery meetings on acceptable behaviour in the House and ensure that the decorum of the House is maintained at all times and that the debates in this House flow with great respect for one another.

Thank you very much. Let's go to the next item of announcements by the Deputy Speaker.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

- The A-G has scheduled a virtual meeting with all Members of the Legislature on Tuesday, 31 October 2023.
- The Legislature is still awaiting the report of the IEC on the determination of seats of the Limpopo Legislature that will be increased.
- All MPLs and guests are invited to lunch to be served at the Municipal Council boardroom.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker for the announcements.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned until further notice.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
POLOKWANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYER/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity for silent prayers and /or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much, you may all be seated. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive, honourable Members of this august House, Hon Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, the Leader of the Opposition, support staff of the Legislature and of other departments, guest in the gallery. Good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

Honourable Members, I am informed that the Programming Committee has resolved to suspend item 2 to 5 on the Order Paper, except for the motion of condolences for the former Member of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Lydia Komape-Ngwenya, the stalwart and the veteran of the ANC.

I will now call upon the Hon Deputy Chief Whip to present the motion on behalf of the House.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings in the name of Jesus.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF HON LYDIA KOMAPE NGWENYA
(Motion without Notice)

Madam Speaker, I'm rising on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that the ANC deep its revolutionary manner as we mourn the passing on of Makwena Lydia Komape-Ngwenya affectionately known as Mam Lydia, who sadly passed away on 11 October 2023. Mam Lydia was born on 6 August 1935 at Mamphulo, Ga-Matlala A Thaba, about 40 kilometres west of Polokwane. Hon Speaker, Mam Lydia was born in an area that is fondly remembered for its contribution to the building of the African National Congress in its formative years.

The Pietersburg West branch of the ANC, which was famously known as Ma-Congress, was the first rural branch established in the then Northern Transvaal in 1919. Ma-Congress played a pivotal role in enlightening and leading the Matlala people in

resistance to the implementation of the recommendations of the Carnegie (1932) and Tomlinson (1954) Commissions recommendations that were given then. These successive commissions are notorious blueprints of apartheid and Bantustan policies respectively which dispossessed and denigrated indigenous people and communities of South Africa.

The harsh realities that were brought to bear by white authorities, combined with her Christian Lutheranism, shaped the outlook of Makwena Lydia Komape-Ngwenya. In her youth, Mam Lydia saw a dramatic change in the livelihood and fortunes of her family and fellow congregants. The mission farm which they had relied on for subsistence production was taken away from them because of the apartheid state agricultural policy.

The older children had to drop out of school and look for work prematurely to supplement the efforts of parents and support younger siblings. This act of deprivation sharpened her insides on a state of privation and the plight of rural women and the peasant communities in general.

Hon Speaker, Mam Lydia left school after completing Standard 7 which is equivalent to Grade 9 today. In 1966 she moved to Johannesburg to look for work. At the time apartheid regime aggressively enforced the pass laws. These control regulations denied African women freedom of movement in the cities. Troubled by intermittent for breaking pass laws, she was forced to keep lowly paid jobs with the hope of avoiding arrests. Mam Lydia Komape-Ngwenya worked at the multinational-owned Heinemann Electric factory near Alexandra. The Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU), now amalgamated into the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA), started organising the factory in 1974, when Komape-Ngwenya became a key recruiter.

African workers were denied the right to belong to trade unions. She resiliently recruited and signed up 606 workers. The workers signed up and elected Komape-Ngwenya as one of their shop stewards. During the student uprising of 1976, Komape-Ngwenya and her comrades and unionists organised a strike in solidarity with the students. After the strike in 1976, the employer reacted by dismissing the entire workforce, in the rehiring that followed, Komape-Ngwenya and other shop stewards were excluded.

She was deeply involved in the establishment of the Federation of South African Trade Unions in 1979 and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in 1985. She was instrumental in establishing a women's committee in the federation and saw to it that TGWU extended its membership base to include cleaners and security guards, whom she regarded as being the most exploited workers. She was especially concerned about the plight of women night-cleaners who were being subjected to abuse by exploitative supervisors. Her views on the importance of women standing up for themselves were always strong.

Hon Speaker, Mam Lydia was actively involved in the underground activities of uMkhonto weSizwe, the armed wing of the ANC. Her duties included the recruitment and smuggling of military trainees into the neighbouring countries en route to Lusaka, Zambia, the then headquarters of the ANC during the dark days of the apartheid regime.

In 1990 she founded the Rural Women's Movement (RWN) together with the women from the rural communities who had worked together to fight forced removals and farm evictions. Mam Lydia has been particularly active in supporting the Rural Women Movement in her home area of Rakgoadi, near Marble Hall. Rural Women's Movement played a significant role in empowering women to confront some of the restrictions they faced within traditional rural society. When South Africa's first democratic constitution was drafted, the Rural Women Movement contributed to ensuring that the rights of traditional leaders were subject to the gender equality clause.

Between 1994 and 2009 she was elected and served in the National Assembly as an ANC candidate. She became a Member of Parliament and has played an active role in her local constituency. People with land problems from far wide came for her guidance. In parliament, she was a member of the Land and Agriculture Committee until 1999. Between 2009 and 2019 Mam Lydia served two terms in the Limpopo Provincial Legislature and as a Deputy Chief Whip.

She served in several portfolio committees — the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities; and the Standing Committee on Petitions. She was very incisive in the oversight responsibilities of the Legislature. She contributed immensely to the Social Cluster Portfolio Committees which include Social Development, Sports, Arts and Culture, Public Works, Cooperative Government, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs, Health, and Agriculture. Madam Speaker, Lydia Komape-Ngwenya could have opted for a life of servitude under the oppressive rule against women. Instead, she confronted injustices with dignity.

Mam Lydia will be remembered for her resilience, incredible courage; fortitude; moral uprightness, and unimpeachable integrity. She distinguished herself as an accomplished social and gender activist, a beacon of hope for rural women and the working class. May the spirit of the stalwart and her undying revolutionary soul rest in peace.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? Hon Marule you are recognised. Hon Marule you have raised your hand. I now recognise Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Hon Speaker, I rise to second the motion as tabled by the Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

May we all rise to observe a moment of silence in honour of Mam Lydia Komape-Ngwenya. May her soul rest in peace. Thank you very much, you may be seated. Honourable Members, on behalf of this House, we wish to take this opportunity and wish the 2023 matric learners well in their final examination. The House also likes to

congratulate the national rugby team “Amabhokobhoko” for winning the Rugby World Cup for the fourth time. Thank you very much.

[ITEMS 3 – 6 DISPENSED WITH]

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS
4. MEMBERS’S STATEMENTS
5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPER

6.1 Tabling of the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Road Traffic Management Corporation

I call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Radzilani.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker of this House, Hon Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the Chief Whip, and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs, Members of this august House, a very blessed morning to all of you.

Hon Speaker, we are tabling the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Road Traffic Management Corporation as directed by section 22(4) of the Road Traffic Management Corporation, 1999 (Act 20 of 1999). According to the Act Hon Speaker, as the Member of the Executive Council responsible for Transport and Community Safety in the province I’m therefore obligated to present this annual report which has been approved by the entity’s shareholders before this august House.

Hon Speaker, it is therefore our considered view on behalf of the RTMC that the House should accept this report.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Annual Report of Road Traffic Management Corporation is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and to report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE SPEAKER

The draft resolution by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and good morning to the Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, the Deputy Speaker, and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs, the Deputy Chair of Chairs and honourable Members, and the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon Speaker, I hereby present that this House notes the IEC's call to call interested persons and political parties to make representations and submissions on the determination of the number of seats of the provincial Legislature.

Also, to note that the determination of seats must be made by considering available scientifically based data and representation from interested parties in terms of item 1 to schedule 3 of the Electoral Act that, one seat must be awarded for every 100 000 of the population whose ordinary place of residence is within the province.

Provides that not more than 80 or no fewer than 30 seats may be determined for a Legislature. This is in terms of section 105(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Therefore, this House resolved to:

- Accept the Census 2022 data released by Stats Sada in respect of population.
- To allow the IEC to determine the number of seats in the Limpopo Provincial Legislature to 64.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Moraka.

MS MORAKA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, I Thandi Moraka, rise to second the motion as tabled by the Hon Chief Whip. I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much we shall now refer to the Speaker's List for debate and our first speaker is Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier and MECs present in this august House, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip and honourable Members of this august House, good morning.

Madam Speaker, a hundred and six years ago, on 27 October, a baby was born in the village of Mbizana in the Pondoland of the Eastern Cape. Unknown to his parents, the man would play a pivotal role in the struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa. The African National Congress takes this opportunity to remember, honour, and dedicate this debate and to celebrate the life and times of Oliver Reginald Tambo whose 106 anniversaries of his birthday, we celebrated on Friday.

OR Tambo as he was affectionately known was among the founding members of the ANC Youth League in 1944 and became its first Secretary General. The ANC Youth League brought a bold, new spirit of militancy into the ANC. Tambo was elected to the first National Executive Committee of the ANC in 1948 and he remained a member of the National Executive Committee for 45 years until his passing in 1993.

When the apartheid government banned the liberation movements following the Sharpeville massacre, the African National Congress directed OR Tambo to go out of the country to mobilise support for the South African struggle. It was through his stewardship that the African National Congress established its presence in many countries throughout the world. He was instrumental in garnering international support and solidarity with the South African struggle, including the isolation of apartheid South Africa.

At the 1954 ANC Congress, Tambo was elected Secretary General. That same year Tambo received a banning order from the state. However, he remained actively involved in the background working as a member of the National Action Committee which drafted the Freedom Charter, following extensive nationwide input and consultation.

This was in the run-up to the Congress of the People, convened in June 1955, where the charter was adopted. The first clause of the Freedom Charter says, “The people shall govern. Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws; All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country.”

We will always remember what OR Tambo through these words, “We seek to create a *united democratic and non-racial society*” and further said, “The assurances are that the people inside South Africa have recognised that victory will come as a result of *their struggle*, *their efforts* as a result of their reliance on themselves.”

Madam Speaker, the Chief Whip has just presented a motion to the House on the call by the IEC for interested persons and political parties to make representations and submissions on the determinations of the number of seats of the provincial Legislature through the notice 2088 of 2023. The notice further outlines the following:

- (a) Schedule 3 of the Electoral Act, 73 of 1998, which requires the Electoral Commission to determine the number of seats in each provincial Legislature.
- (b) The determination of seats must be made by considering available scientifically based data and representation from interested parties in terms of item 1 to schedule 3 of the Electoral Act, the formula is that 1 seat must be awarded for every 100 000 of the population whose ordinary place of residence is within the province.

Provides that not more than 80 or no fewer than 30 seats may be determined for a Legislature. This is in terms of section 105(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.

- (c) The Electoral Commission accept the Census 2022 data released by Statistics South Africa as scientifically based data in respect of population. The total number of seats in the Limpopo Legislature is currently at 49, which was last determined in 1999.

The Census 2022 data population figures at 62 million which informs the basis for the IEC's proposal to increase the number of seats from 49 to 64. Madam Speaker, as the African National Congress we therefore support the motion to increase the number of members from 49 to 64 as it is our considered view that it will increase the number of constituency offices that will exist in all municipalities and will enable us to interface with communities every Monday. Furthermore, that will provide regular feedback to the Members of the Executive Council, municipalities, and national departments to improve service delivery to the community.

Madam Speaker, the African National Congress supports the motion accordingly. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. The second speaker will be Hon Managa.

DR MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, greetings to all of you who are sitting in this chamber, those sitting in the gallery, as well as those who are following us on the online platforms.

Hon Speaker, the decision to increase the seats in the Legislature from 49 to 64 is not done in good faith. It has a sinister political motive which must be exposed. Am I protected, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, please let us allow Dr Managa to proceed.

DR MANAGA

It is funny that people chose to manipulate Stats SA's Census data and other data for their political expedience. The IEC is not an independent commission because they remain critical enablers of the ANC to win elections. Because this year the IEC and the ANC smell the rat, they want to come up with monkey tricks to manipulate the system to give the ANC an advantage over others towards the 2024 General Elections. This year because Hon Makhurupetje you debated, and we were quiet, so please just respect me as I'm debating.

Some may not see this political manipulation at face value, but indeed there is a hidden agenda by the IEC to ensure that the ANC gets more than 50% during elections. The ANC controls the IEC and all other Chapter 9 institutions to hold on to power. These are desperate times, and the ANC will do anything to hold on to power, even if it means using and manipulating Chapter 9 institutions. The fact of the matter is that ...

[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, please take your seat. What are you rising on Hon Mathe?

MR MATHE

Hon Speaker, I want to check if Dr Managa is prepared to take a question.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, are you willing to take a question?

DR MANAGA

No, I would like to finish with my debate.

THE SPEAKER

Proceed Dr Managa.

DR MANAGA

Hon Speaker, it is not the Municipal Demarcation Board, demarcating wards to favour the ANC fortunes, it is the IEC manipulating numbers for seats in the Legislature. It is some kind of chess game they are playing. They may fool other political parties, but not the Economic Freedom Fighters. We are fully aware of what is happening, and we will not stop at anything but continue to expose corruption.

South Africa is a democratic state and therefore the people of our country want to participate in free and fair elections. The ones that are free of any political manipulation and fraud because the IEC and ANC want to conduct fraudulent elections. We are saying to IEC, that we are not comfortable with the deployment of SADTU teachers in various voting districts or stations because they are conflicted. The IEC is vehemently refusing to withdraw their SADTU political partners from getting involved in the administration of elections.

The reason is that over the years, the IEC and the ANC have enormously benefitted from SADTU by using them to rig elections. The fact of the matter is that the ANC government is living in borrowed times, and therefore they are trying all tricks in this world to remain in power.

They are so desperate to an extent that they cry like small babies when the EFF provides services for our people in Elias Motsoaledi and everywhere the EFF is governing through MMCs and ward councillors. Hon Speaker, since when providing services to the people has become a sin. This is mere political jealousy because the EFF delivers services to the people practically every day from the ground. Le a tšwafiša.

THE SPEAKER

Let us proceed, honourable Members. Hon Wilson, it is now your time.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. The Democratic Alliance will always support the Constitution and the constitutional rights of the people of South Africa. Section 105 (2) of the Constitution provides that not more than 80 and no fewer than 30 seats may be determined for a Legislature.

The Statistics South Africa census had indeed highlighted the fact that there has been phenomenal growth in South Africa as a whole, Limpopo included when it comes to population. But apart from the growth statistics, other sections of the report must be taken into consideration, along with the current economy of the country. It is no secret that financially South Africa is on a fiscal cliff and according to many, we are virtually bankrupt, with a large portion of the income of the country paying off interest, and not even the basic debt of the country.

With a current population of 6,5 million, 1,8 million of these are school-going children – a third of the population that does not work, have an income, or contribute to the revenue of the country. Limpopo has 2,7 million grant beneficiaries, vulnerable to poverty and/or in need of state support; this excludes the Social Relief of Distress Grants

In contrast in 2022, while we have 1,4 million economically active citizens in Limpopo, there were only 235 000 individual taxpayers registered. One-third of the population needs to have access to education, health, and support at no charge. A large proportion of these are supported by child support grants in Limpopo.

A third of Limpopo's population does not have access to piped water and therefore does not have access to proper sanitation. Where a lot of people may have access to electricity, many can no longer afford it. Why is this relevant? Because these services must be provided; they are the most basic of needs. This requires money and lots of it.

Extra seats in this Legislature will be funded by the National Revenue Fund, but at what cost? Extra seats in the House require extra housing in terms of accommodation for members, extra salaries, extra travel expenses etc. The South African tax base, on which the revenue fund is reliant is dwindling fast. Almost a third of the South African population is unemployed and thanks to load shedding, along with other factors, formal employment is being lost, along with the income generated for the revenue fund.

The Minister of Finance will tomorrow be presenting the Medium-Term Budget. He has long talked about the need for urgent austerity measures, and over the last couple of years, we have seen budgets cut in vital sectors like education and health. The President in his address last night, made it clear, that the debt repayments of the country have severely hampered progress, and this is unlikely to change in the near future.

We believe there is little doubt that the Medium-Term Budget presented tomorrow, will further highlight the strain under which the revenue fund is operating and that indeed, further cuts and austerity measures will be put in place. Undoubtedly the population has grown substantially, however, according to the departments in this Legislature, there is insufficient budget already to deliver current basic requirements and needs, which are also constitutional rights.

So, when the IEC makes a ruling on the number of new seats in this Legislature, the severe financial constraints we face as a province, these things must be taken into account. Will we rob Peter to pay Paul, the system and budgets are likely to fall very short and when you cannot deliver, the people of Limpopo, who are already frustrated, will come knocking at your door, very loudly.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Hon Maritz, you are our next speaker.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, Leader of the Opposition, Members of the House, and guests. Hon Speaker, the implementation of new seats for the Limpopo Legislature will be a great financial burden on an already struggling province.

We accept the outcomes of the 2022 Census as this will give more seats to ensure that the people of our province will have a more democratic voice. The ANC must not think that more seats will go to them. Time is over for the ANC; it is time for a new era in government.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maritz. I now call upon the Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive, the Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs, the Leader of the Opposition and Dr Managa. The IEC is the Chapter 9 institution and what we can say to you as Dr, there is a saying that says, numbers can't lie. So, numbers can't be manipulated ...

[CROSS TALK]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, please be orderly. Hon Deputy Speaker, please address the Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The 64 seats that the IEC is talking about, are also up for grabs for everybody. I think you are handing them to the ANC and if you are handing the extra 15 seats to the ANC, we accept them. [APPLAUSE]

We must also indicate Hon Speaker, that the IEC as an independent body, has its policy on recruitment and we must allow them to do recruitment in their way. We also want to indicate that from the DA site, we did not object, as much as we put a question concerning balancing services together with whatever increasing numbers.

Hon Speaker, I will not debate, but I just want to talk about the implications of the 15 Members that we will be getting; to the Leader of Government Business that will mean that we will need extra houses for the new Members that will come on board and it will also mean that as and when the Leader of Government Business and the MEC for Treasury will be working on the Adjustment Budget, that budget must also speak to the responsibility that this House is going to take.

Hon Speaker, it also means that as the Legislature, we will have to adjust our organogram, and that organogram must cater for the new 15 Members because they will also need support staff to support them. It also speaks to the tools of trade and the refurbishments that we are doing in the Legislature. So, as we adopt this resolution as it is presented, we must also bear in mind all those changes that will need to be made. The 15 new seats will be up for grabs for anybody and as you have handed them to the ANC, we welcome all the 15 new Members. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We have now come to the end of our debate. I'm now going to check with Members as we will be adopting the draft resolution. Those who agree with the draft resolution will say "Yes" and those who disagree will say "No".

Can I have those who agree with the draft resolution?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

Can I have those who disagree?

BACKGROUND

No.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The “Yes” have it, meaning the House agreed to the draft resolution.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill [B03-2023]

I now call upon the chairperson of the committee.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, I table for consideration and adoption the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill [B03-2023] as tabled in this House by the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury. I move accordingly Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Masekoameng you are recognised.

MR MASAKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the tabling of the report by the committee chair.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now refer to the Speakers’ List for the debate of the Unauthorised Expenditure Bill and our first speaker is Hon Maria Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much Hon Speaker for the opportunity, the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable MECs present here, honourable chairpersons of different portfolio committees, honourable Members of the House, and guests in the public gallery. Good morning. Kgotsong.

Hon Speaker, I rise to debate the Report of the Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill [B03-2023]. Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill [B03-2023] was referred to the Legislature in terms of House Rule No.163. The Bill was referred to the Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House, and the committee considered the Bill and would like to report as follows:

The purpose of the Bill is to approve certain unauthorised expenditures in the Limpopo Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure and to provide matters connected therewith. Hon Speaker the unauthorised expenditure of R24 million was incurred by the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure from the 2013/14 financial year to the 2020/21 financial year without legal authorisation by the Limpopo Legislature.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has already considered evidence on the reports of the Auditor-General on Financial Statements and Performance Information of the Limpopo Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure for the financial year ending 2013/14 to 2020/21. After consideration of such reports, Scopa recommended that an amount of R24 113,000,00 be approved without funding. The Limpopo provincial Legislature had already adopted the reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The committee considered the objects and provisions of the Bill in a meeting held on 17 October 2023.

The Committee found that during 2013/14, the Department of Education incurred overspending on the Administration Programme by R9000,00 and on ABET by R4 087 000,00. In the 2014/15 financial year, overspending to the amount of R209 000,00 was incurred on Public Special Schools Education Programme.

An overspending to the amount of R294 000,00 was incurred on Early Childhood Development in the 2015/16 financial year. The Committee also found that in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, over-expenditure of R1000,00 and R12 000,00 were incurred on Research and Technology Development and Rural Development Coordination respectively in the 2018/19 financial year.

Furthermore, the Committee found that in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, an overspending of R1,7 million was incurred on EPWP in the 2019/20 financial year. In the 2020/21 financial year, an overspending of R16,8 million was incurred on Infrastructure Operations. Unauthorised expenditure is a serious matter, and it is important to understand the root causes of this problem in the Limpopo government.

Hon Speaker, the report identifies several factors including overspending on various programmes whereby the committee found that unauthorised expenditure was incurred due to overspending on several programmes including ABET and so on. Hon Speaker, the committee also found that unauthorised expenditure was incurred due to poor financial management practices in the Limpopo government, which includes weak internal controls inadequate oversight and lack of accountability.

Hon Speaker, the committee found that there was a lack of accountability for the unauthorised expenditure by the government this was due to several factors including weak procurement procedures, lack of transparency, and lack of consequence management for those who were responsible for the unauthorised expenditure. It is important to note that the unauthorised expenditure in question was incurred over several

years and it is not a problem that can be solved overnight. The Limpopo government has taken the following steps to address this issue:

- Strengthening internal controls. The Limpopo government has strengthened its internal controls to prevent unauthorised expenditure from happening again.
- Implementation of new procurement procedures, including financial reporting and strengthening oversight mechanisms.
- Improving financial management system. The Limpopo government has improved its financial management system to ensure that it has better internal controls over its financials, and these include the implementation of new budgeting procedures.

Hon Speaker, we would like to talk about unauthorised expenditure whereby we include the following: implementing the new whistle-blowing mechanism; and holding officials accountable for their actions.

The approval of this Unauthorised Expenditure Bill is necessary to ensure that the Limpopo government can continue to function effectively and provide essential services to our citizens. It is more important to learn from our previous mistakes and to ensure that unauthorised expenditures are condemned at all costs.

Hon Speaker, we therefore recommend that this portfolio committee report be considered and adopted by this honourable House. Therefore, the committee agreed to support the Provincial Treasury to continue with the legislation processes and hereby recommends that the Bill be passed without amendments.

In conclusion, as the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, we move that the report be adopted as the report of this honourable House and that the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill [B03-2023] should proceed to the next stage of legislation.

I so move, Hon Speaker. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. Hon Mphahlele it is now your time. [APPLAUSE]

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, honourable MECs present today, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga in absentia, honourable Members of this august House and guests in the gallery. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to encourage wrongdoing because it seeks to approve certain unauthorised expenditures in the Limpopo Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure and to provide matters connected therewith. Unauthorised

expenditure is wrong, and it must not be encouraged and promoted by approving it because it amounts to bad governance.

If anything, there must be a serious consequence management for officials who are involved in unauthorised expenditure. Furthermore, corruption gets hidden under conduct like unauthorised expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and others. Why do you want to approve the unauthorised expenditure, if the reason is not to cover up corruption by officials and politicians? The EFF will not be part of unauthorised corruption, and if you want to do it, do it alone, don't involve us.

It is said that the unauthorised expenditure of R24,113 000,00 was incurred by the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure from the 2013/14 financial year to 2020/21 financial year without legal authorisation by the Limpopo Legislature. Why would we come here and authorise something that was done without the legal authorisation of the Legislature?

The disregard of the law can only happen if the people want to steal from departments and later, they come and suggest that we approve the deliberate unauthorised expenditure by corrupt departments of the government. The unauthorised expenditure in this case is about over-expenditure. Over-expenditure is another form of stealing state resources.

Hon Speaker, now we are being told to come here and approve wrong things, powered by corruption and greed. The ANC can through its majority go ahead and approve the unauthorised expenditure the EFF will not be part of approving wrong things by the wrong government. When the Auditor-General indicates some red flags on some of these things the corrupt and arrogant ANC government continues to behave otherwise. They are allergic to good governance practices, because of their undying love for corruption. Corruption is unashamedly promoted and encouraged in broad daylight...INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mphahlele, may you please take your seat. Hon Mathe what are you rising on?

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I wanted to check if Hon Mphahlele is prepared to take a question.

THE SPEAKER

She is not prepared to take a question. You may continue Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

...it is there for everyone to see. The once glorious liberation movement has become the epitome of corruption in the entire continent. We argue that this Bill was not drafted in good faith, it has ulterior motives and that is what we want to lay bare. The EFF will continue to expose corruption every time it raised its ugly head because it infringes on and violates the rights of the poor access to basic services. Until such time that corruption is nipped in the bud, this province will forever be the poorest in South Africa.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. Hon Wilson, you are the next speaker.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. The saddest part of having this debate...[1:00:29 inaudible]. In my previous speech, I talked about robbing Peter to pay Paul. This is exactly what this Bill proposes to do. Unauthorised expenditure to the tune of R24 million must come from somewhere and regardless of how you look at it, the Provincial Treasury must pay for it; but at who's cost? It will cost the people of this province.

It is little wonder that culprits like the Department of Education and Department of Public Works, Road, and Infrastructure, are the departments with the worst audit outcomes. The Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure had a regression in their audit outcome, going from unqualified outcomes to qualified audit outcomes. We cannot talk about the Department of Health because we have yet to see their annual report, which is also not acceptable.

The question is what is being done about the unauthorised expenditure? Who is being held to account? Is there consequence management? Where is the monitoring and evaluation? We are constantly being told that action plans are put in place to attend to these matters, yet there are no visible signs of improvement. The Provincial Treasury has a Financial Governance Programme that is meant to assist the departments in promoting accountability and compliance with financial norms and standards across the department and entities as contained in the PFMA but has so far left much to be desired.

The approval of the unauthorised expenditure without effective consequence management will give rise to further unauthorised expenditure moving forward. We must act as a deterrent from further unauthorised expenditure which the province cannot afford.

The Provincial Treasury is the custodian of compliance, and we must hold the Treasury to account. What we have before us is the condonation of malfeasance. It is an unacceptable situation, and it must be addressed. The Bill highlights and reinforces the need to ensure sustainable resource management processes in all provincial departments and public entities. This will ensure the efficient use of resources, stamp out unauthorised expenditure, and probable corruption and ensure a financial fiscal policy for the province that results in favour of the audit outcome in future, but right now we cannot support malfeasance.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. I now call upon the committee chair.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for allowing me to take part in this debate on the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditures Bill [B03-2023], as tabled by the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury in this honourable House, in April 2023. As the provincial Legislature and various portfolio and standing committees that are represented in this House, we frown upon various categories of unwanted expenditures, which are irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and unauthorised expenditure.

In the interactions, dealing with annual reports based on the audit outcomes of the Auditor-General. The standing and portfolio committees of this House, hold to account accounting officers and executing authorities on what has happened that there are departments that have unauthorised expenditures. The law is clear... [01:05:15 terrible audio] ... of the PFMA, the accounting authority which a board must first take steps to ensure that they prevent the irregular, fruitless wasteful and unauthorised expenditures.

Where it has happened, they must take effective and appropriate disciplinary steps against an official and/or officials responsible for that irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, or unauthorised expenditure. The same section is in section 38 of the PFMA concerning departments which skip instructions to accounting officers to do the same. Of the three unwanted expenditures in this province, the one that is still a bit high is the irregular expenditure. Unauthorised expenditure has been brought significantly down and we have been dealing with it for several years from 2013/14 to 2020/21 and for the entire provincial province is R24 million.

If you can check the Budgets of all those years, it would be hundreds of billions that the provincial government would have spent. Hon Sekoati would tell you that we are spending R60 billion in a year as a provincial government, so in those we spent hundreds of billions and only R24 million is called unauthorised expenditure.

When it is called an expenditure that has not been unauthorised and when you look in the legislation it doesn't mean that it is money that is stolen or any kind of corruption. If you understand, it is money that was properly spent but was not authorised and that is against the law, I agree with you Hon Wilson.

The PFMA defines unauthorised expenditure as follows:

- (a) Overspending on your vote or main division within a vote.
- (b) Expenditure not following the purpose of your vote or in case of your main division not following the purpose of the main division.

It is like having money in the Department of Health to buy medicines, but there is a cholera outbreak in Sekhukhune in Driekop and you take the money meant for medicines and you spend it on cholera break. No money was stolen, it is an unauthorised expenditure because you have moved money from one division to another division and that is why is called money that was spent without being authorised, otherwise referred to as unauthorised expenditure. Section 34 of the PFMA deals with how a provincial Legislature or Parliament should deal with unauthorised expenditure when it has happened.

In this case and relating to this Bill that the honourable MEC has tabled to this House, it has been dealt with in terms of section 34 of the PFMA. These departments which are the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure and the three of them, went to the public hearing of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts as it is outlined in the Public Finance Management Act.

Scopa was able to interrogate them and give them instructions on what they must do and even beyond that. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts came to this House and tabled the recommendations on what must happen concerning those areas and categories of those unauthorised expenditures. Once the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts are adopted by the House, they become resolutions of the provincial Legislature, and it is because of those resolutions of this House that the Provincial Treasury prepared this Bill that the honourable MEC tabled in this House at the beginning of the year which we are discussing today.

The recommendations were made in terms of section 38, saying that this specific amount of unauthorised expenditure of R24 million is without funding and the Executive Committee said there must be a direct charge against the Budgets of those three departments in the coming period once this Bill has been adopted by this House and that unauthorised expenditure is without funding.

That is the recommendation that the standing committee brought to this House. So, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury have gone through the Bill and agreed that the R24 million go through and be processed as the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill. That was done so that in the next financial year, it is out of the books of the provincial administration, and we can report the levels of unauthorised expenditures of the current financial year and not old unauthorised expenditures of 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and up to now 2021/22.

So, we want to clean the books of the provincial administration by clearing the unauthorised expenditures that we have already gone through in this House through the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts which are now resolutions of this provincial Legislature. Anyone speaking against this Bill is speaking against the resolutions that have already been taken by this honourable House.

Hon Speaker, I therefore move that this House adopt this report as the report of this House.

I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE] Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker, Hon Premier, our Deputy Speaker who is here, the Chief Whip of the majority party, colleagues in the Executive Council, and Members of this august House. Madam Speaker let me take this opportunity and accept the explanation and definition of this unauthorised expenditure from the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, Hon Phala. It is important to understand the definitions of these unwanted expenditures because if we don't understand them, then we will not know what we are expected to do as the Members of this House.

I would want to align myself with the chairperson of the committee who is saying we have over the years been able to bring down the unauthorised expenditure that has been haunting this government for some time. We are making sure that we continue to abide by the law in dealing with the unwanted expenditure. We are aware of some of these unauthorised expenditures and because we have followed what needs to be done, we would like to express our gratitude to the portfolio committee for continuing to guide us and to comply with the laws and PFMA.

As we continue to deal with these unwanted expenditures, we will make sure that we improve the systems within the government and make sure that each department can comply with the legislation. We are also reporting that steps have been taken against officials who continue to do things that are not according to the law. We will take to heart the counsel that we are given here by this portfolio committee and this House.

I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

7.3 Motion for the suspension of the House Rule 173 by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and good morning to honourable Members. House Rule 173 provides that unless otherwise provided in these rules, not more than one stage of a Bill may be taken on the same sitting day if an objection to a further stage is made by four or more Members.

It is therefore necessary to provoke the provisions of House Rule 5 to suspend the provisions of House Rule 173 to allow the House to finalise the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill, [B03-2023]

I move accordingly Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

I Falaza Mdaka, rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka.

7.4 Motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill [B03-2023]

I now call upon the honourable MEC for the Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Now that the Limpopo Unauthorised Expenditure Bill [B03-2023] has gone through all the law-making stages and processes of this House, I now move that the Bill be read for a third time in terms of the provisions of the House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now adopt schedule by schedule of the Bill. Those who agree with the Bill will say "Yes" and those who disagree will say "No". We start with Schedule 1 which are definitions?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 2, approval of unauthorised expenditure for 2013/14 financial year to 2020/21 financial year?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 3, action to recover unauthorised expenditure?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 4, short title?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

We shall now adopt vote by vote of the Bill. Vote 3: Department of Education?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure?

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title.

MS MAKGATHO [ON BEHALF OF THE ACTING SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Unauthorised Act, of 2023. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

7.6 Consideration and adoption of the Reports of the Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People Living with Disabilities

I now call upon the chairperson of the committee.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I Polly Boshielo, as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities, table the 2023/24 First Quarter Performance Report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka. Ndzi yimela ku seketela leswi vuriweke hi Hubyankulu Polly Boshielo. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much we shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate and the first speaker is Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Happy belated birthday Hon Boshielo. The Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disability plays a legislative oversight role over the Office of the Premier's transformation branch to ensure the implementation of these special programmes.

Quarterly performance reporting provides the extent to which mainstreaming programmes in various areas had been implemented through key programmes by sector departments, and in turn being monitored by the Office of the Premier. The report presents the performance for the 2022/23 fourth quarter on mainstreaming programmes in various

areas by sector departments. It highlights the programmes implemented, achievements, non-achievements, and challenges in facilitating and achieving the mandate on quality of life for women, children, youth, older persons, and people with disabilities.

The standing committee held a meeting on the 29 of August 2023 to receive an update from the Office of the Premier regarding progress on special schools, compliance to disability and women empowerment equity, sanitary dignity programme, filling of vacancies in the Department of Health, progress report on assertive devices and programmes for youth and older persons.

An update on infrastructure upgrading at special schools was made. It was reported that a plethora of complaints regarding the state of special schools in the province were received. The Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure is planning to conduct a condition assessment on all the special schools.

The assessment will be completed at the end of the second quarter of the current financial year. Contractors will be appointed through the panel to maintain the schools depending on the budget availability.

The construction of new special schools has been intensified. Rivoni is well on course and will be completed as scheduled, in June 2024. The construction of the Asiphumelele Special School project commenced in August 2023. However, the first phase implementation of these projects with scope for minimum functionality requires over R200 million

As part of the Department of Health's commitment to improving the quality of life of people with disability, it has set aside R6,5 million for the procurement of wheelchairs, crutches, spectacles, hearing aids orthotics and prosthetics consumables. The department has embarked on a dedicated programme to address the surgical backlog in the province, about 225 of such procedures were performed out of the National Health Insurance grant and 208 of such were performed during the current financial year.

The department has also partnered with the Special Olympics Organisation, which focuses on clients with intellectual disability. This partnership also includes the healthcare providers on attending to clients with such needs. The committee will work with the Office of the Premier to play an oversight role on the Department of Health on this matter.

Hon Speaker, the ultimate objective of employment equity is full participation in the employment of all historically under-represented groups according to their availability in the workforce. People should not be excluded from employment at the senior level based on their colour or disability. The committee received a report that there are departments which aren't complying with the appointment and empowerment of people with disability at senior management level, only five departments managed to comply with the employment equity target of the province. The Office of the Premier must play its role and ensure that departments comply in the implementation of this law and employ people with disability who qualify to perform at senior level.

The committee commended the departments that implemented government preferential procurement through economic empowerment of the people with disabilities, youth, and women during the fourth quarter of 2022/23. There was a total spending of about R1,8 billion for the three targeted groups. Despite the targets not met, however, there was a significant increase in target achievement for both women and youth as compared to the three previous quarters of the year under review.

Hon Speaker, the department coordinated the disability rights awareness activities at special schools with the aim of encouraging learners with special educational needs to perform better. For the 2022/23 academic year the special schools performed well with the following notable matric pass rates: Helene Franz produced 80%, Setotolwane produced 72% and Rivoni School produced 100%. The Office of the Premier should throughout the years encourage the Department of Education that not only special schools should perform better, but all the schools in the province must produce better results.

A nation that does not invest in youth programmes is a doomed nation. The committee received a report that youth development through various programmes continued in the quarter under review aligned to employability, active labour market and entrepreneurship as part of the focus areas of Limpopo Youth Development Strategy. It was also reported that the Limpopo Youth Fund in partnership with the National Development Agency was launched with the start-up fund of R10 million.

The Office of the Premier should enforce youth development programmes in all departments to reduce the scourge of unemployment.

The committee noted that the Office of the Premier successfully coordinated the International Grannies Football Tournament in Nkowankowa in Greater Tzaneen municipality in Mopani in partnership with 8 Departments of Sport Arts and Culture. The Office of the Premier further conducted five human rights awareness workshops for older persons in all the five districts which were well attended. The Office of the Premier also monitors residential facilities for older persons with the results that there are six privately owned facilities and one government owned that benefit 770 older persons.

The committee will continue to play its oversight role over the Office of the Premier to ensure that the life and health of older persons are taken care of. The committee having considered the 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Performance Report on Special Programmes by the Office of the Premier, recommends to the House to accept the report and that the Office of the Premier should comply with the recommendations of committee enshrined in the report. Hon Speaker, I therefore move on behalf of the committee that this report be adopted as the report of this august House.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Hon Mphahlele you are the next speaker.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable MECs present today, Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga in absentia, honourable Members of this august House and guests in the gallery. Good morning. Hon Speaker, the support of designated groups by the current government is disappointing and worrisome. Departments continue to fail to reach their targets on women and people living with disabilities, especially on SMS level promotions. The reality is that 2% target is not too much to ask and yet government departments still fail to meet this target.

The cited reasons for noncompliance are that departments are not implementing specific plans to meet the EE targets. The reality is that as it stands, there is some level of stagnation in the achievement of equity targets. There is no political will to change the fortunes of designated groups in society to change their lives for the better. The Office of the Premier is failing in its mandate to advocate and monitor the provincial activities on the mainstreaming and support of designated groups. Furthermore, they are failing to enforce compliance.

The Directorate for Special Programmes, Youth Development and Office on the Status of Women are within the Transformation Chief Directorate is part of the Institutional Development Support Branch within the Office of the Premier has drastically failed to champion the interests of designated groups. The provincial departments and municipalities are expected to establish structures to monitor and support these designated groups, but nothing is happening as we speak. It is important to restore the dignity of the girl learner who mostly comes from poor households by providing them with sanitary pads.

The girl child has the right to dignity and government has the responsibility to protect such rights. The R6,5 million set aside by the Department of Health for the procurement of wheelchairs, crutches, spectacles, hearing aids and orthotics and prosthetics consumables is just a drop in the ocean. This is a clear testimony that the government does not take the physical needs and challenges of designated groups seriously.

All other programmes are allocated big budgets while designated groups are allocated meagre budgets. Of the 1,280 clients identified to be provided with wheelchairs, 836 with spectacles and related items for poor eyesight, 815 with hearing aids, 876 with walking aids and 473 clients requiring MOP services, has the department achieved all targets in this regard? If not, why not?

Hon Speaker, there was a total spending of about R1,8 billion for the three targeted groups on economic empowerment programmes with all the targets not achieved. This is appalling, to say the least, because it clearly shows how the government continues to undermine this important sector of our people. Shame on you. Le ka se tsene legodimong lena. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mphahlele. I now call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. During the quarter under review, we met with the Office of the Premier and discussed various issues including outstanding matters from previous quarters such as infrastructure. The committee was updated that infrastructure upgrading at special schools was made. It was reported that too many complaints regarding the state of special schools in the province were received. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure reportedly have been planning to conduct a condition assessment on all the special schools.

The assessment was reported to be completed at the end of the second quarter of the current financial year. Contractors were said to be appointed through the panel to maintain the schools depending on the budget availability. The construction of new special schools was to be intensified. Rivoni Special Needs Education School was said to be well on course and to be completed as scheduled, in June 2024. In 2017 the committee visited Asiphumelele Special School when it was still housed in zinc containers; it was later completely housed ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, may you please take your seat honourable Members, you are requested to use the lefthand side door, the one on the right-hand side is broken. Thank you. You may continue Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

In 2017 the committee visited Asiphumelele Special School when it was still housed in zinc containers; it was later completely housed in mobile classrooms at its new school premises. The mobile classes were just placed on an unfenced patch of land, which was at the time the subject of a community dispute.

The Limpopo Department of Education's decision to place mobile classrooms without consultation with the community has also led to legal challenges. It is for these reasons that as the committee we recommended the long-needed construction of Asiphumelele SNE which was reported that it will commence in August 2023. However, the House must note that the first phase implementation of this project with scope for minimum functionality requires over R200 million.

On the progress report on assistive devices, there was an ongoing demand for the provisioning of various assistive devices. As part of the Department of Health's commitment to improving the quality of life of people with disability, it has set aside over R6 million for the procurement of wheelchairs, crutches, spectacles, hearing aids orthotics and prosthetics consumables.

As commendable as it is Hon Speaker, however, this will not benefit schools in need of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and others, these special schools include Helen Franz and Letaba special schools. Hon Speaker, after engagements, the committee

recommended that: the Department of Education should regularly, give progress reports on the provision of sanitary towels to schools; the department should address the backlog challenges regarding the provision of assistive devices; progress reports about addressing the infrastructure problems at Thusanang and Sedibeng Special Schools should be provided; the Office of The Premier should provide a comprehensive report regarding the kind of support given to victim empowerment centres given the many crime statistics reports that paint a bleak picture for victim support from our VECs that is needed.

The Office of The Premier should ensure that the Limpopo Youth Fund contributes towards the reduction of youth unemployment in the province, and the Office of the Premier should have a well-structured reporting framework which outlines actual progress made based on the actual work done.

Thank you.

Ms Mukundamago: 01:38:55–03:22:35

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, I just want to bring this to your attention that in terms of item 7.6.1 it should be coupled with 7.6.3 and then 7.6.4 is follow into quarterly reports as well there, because as you can see after the first quarter there is no Speakers' List, so it goes with ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Boshielo, we will follow the programme as it is now. Let's proceed.

MS BOSHIELO

Okay, thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

The Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Baldwin Tshitereke; the Premier, Hon Stanley Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council present here; Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party; Leader of the Opposition in absentia; Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of this august House; ladies and gentlemen, comrades and compatriots; good morning.

The history of apartheid and other discriminatory practices in South Africa triggered discrepancies in employment occupation and in government in the national labour market.

It had created such a pronounced disadvantages for certain categories of people to such an extent that they could not simply be redressed by repealing discriminatory laws.

It involves implementation of various measures such as supporting the Constitutional right to equality, eliminating unfair discrimination in employment, ensuring the implementation of the Employment Equity Act in order to redress the effects of discrimination that are rising to enforce group to the people of South Africa and promoting economic development and efficacy in the workplace.

Hon Speaker, the report as presented by the Office of the premier on the filling of vacant posts does not adequately address the employment equity at the province.

The Office of the Premier is exploited to ensure compliance to employment equity by making sure that at least as a minimum, 50% of women are employed and 2% of people with disability are represented at senior management levels in various provincial departments.

The committee noted that none of the 11 departments within the Limpopo provincial government complied with the employment equity requirements, but there is progress in terms of trying to achieve these targets.

The committee further noted that the status of women employed at senior management level depicted that the Provincial Treasury is the best performing department at 49%, followed by the Social Development at 48%, Health at 46% and Office of the Premier at 45%.

The following departments need to improve their equity targets because they do not performing as well as they should. These are the Department of Transport at 33,3%, Public Works at 35,1% and LEDET at 37,1%.

Hon Speaker, nonachievement of target is recurring from previous financial years and the Office of the Premier indicated to the committee that they are taking this matter seriously and they will ensure that they follow departments to comply with employment equity laws.

Hon Speaker, the committee also noted that the employment of people with disability was also not complied with by the provincial government at employing of at least 2% within a department.

The Office of the Premier is drafting measures to ensure that this matter is addressed. The Premier even suggested that maybe we should go all out and look for the people with disability.

He actually said, le ka tla le ba swere ka matsogo, to make sure that we comply because I don't think they are not there. It is just that may be they are not able to get the opportunities.

As the committee we support the Premier in terms of delivered and we will assisted doing our part. This will ensure that as government we are able to reach our targets even exceed it in terms of employing people with disability. Remember, they are not disabled in everything that they could not do their jobs.

Hon Speaker, the committee further noted that the provincial departments are not spending according to their targets in terms of preferential procurement for women, youth and people with disability. The targets as set out by the provincial government is 25% towards women and youth entrepreneurs.

This must be done not for compliance sake, but to empower qualifying business women and youth. It must not be done as a window dressing to be able to enrich faithless people.

Hon Speaker, this must be done to re-empower our women and our youth so that they can be able to help us to grow the economy in a province and also doing great in employments.

In the report, it was highlighted that only 18,2% and 8,18% procurement opportunities were awarded to also women and youth respectively. The committee will pay its oversight role to ensure that these targets are achieved at the provincial government under the guidance of the Office of the Premier.

The Office of the Premier is also expected to ensure that at least 7% and 3% of the procurement Budget is awarded to people with disability and military veterans.

The Office of the Premier indicated that they are trying its part as possible to do that, but the challenge is that none of the military veterans are coming forth to be able to claim this 7% and 3%.

The Office of the Premier indicated that they will make sure that they also go out and look for them while they are able to do their responsibilities on the need to empowerment. They will be able to do that.

They will increase the number of qualifying members of the designated group to lead through LEDET Enterprise Development programme. The committee will lobby the Office of the Premier to make sure that the Enterprise Development programme is implemented.

Hon Speaker, also in our province we have Lasis Spa. The Office of the Premier indicated that 55 000 jobs were created for the youth and women in our province. Out of the 55 000 jobs created, 42 274 jobs were created in different government clusters.

It is not true that the Limpopo province is not creating jobs. Jobs are being created and people are being employed. We urge the Premier as we said in our committee that we need to be the face of this job creation and let people know what we are doing as government to be able to address the unemployment in our country.

Hon Speaker, the committee has reconsidered the Fourth Quarter Performance Report on special programmes of the Office of the Premier. We recommend to the House to accept the report and that the Office of the Premier should comply with the recommendations of the committee as aforementioned.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the committee, i therefore move that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo, for the debate. We may now move to the next item.

7.6.3. The 2023/24 First Quarter Performance Report

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As the chairperson, I hereby table the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Performance Report on special programme. I therefore, move Hon Speaker.

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 report as tabled by the honourable chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable committee chair, you may proceed with the next item.

7.6.4 The 2023 Women's Parliament

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and people with Disability, hereby table the 2023 Women's Parliament report held on 30 August 2023 in this august House. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on our list is Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs, Hon Monyamane; Hon Premier in his absentia ... [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

He is here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I'm sorry, Hon Premier. I withdraw. I arrived here late. Hon Premier should please pardon me.

Hon Speaker, I'm sent here by the committee to reflect on the diagnostic report of the challenges faced by women in our province and the possible strategies to address them thereof.

Hon Speaker, women in our province are faced with multifaceted challenges that need to be addressed. Firstly, we must reflect on the role of women in governance and leadership.

Hon Speaker, the role of women in governance and leadership as I have already acknowledged, is the multifaceted and involving topic with far reaching implication for both individual empowerment and broader societal development.

Hon Seaker, as society increasingly recognise the importance of gender equality, women have made significance thrive in occupying positions of authority and influence.

Hon Speaker, the struggle for gender equality and representation in various leadership domain has been an ongoing global endeavour fuelled by the believe that diversity in leadership enriches decision making processes and lead to more comprehensive and equitable outcomes.

Hon Speaker, despite historical barriers, and these persisting challenges, women have progressively ascended to influential roles in politics with few men head of states parliamentarians and which of course, are becoming increasingly common.

Hon Speaker, women in business world have broken through corporate glass ceiling occupying positions as CEOs, serving as boards and made a significance contribution to various industries.

At the local and community levels, women have taken their roles as mayors activists, community leaders, advocating for policies and initiatives that addressed specific needs of their constituency.

Hon Speaker, the role of women in governance and leadership is not merely about achieving numerical merit, but it is about harnessing a world of diverse experience, perspective and talent that women bring to the table.

The presence of women in position of authority foster inclusive governance as the champion policy that address gender equality, social justice and welfare of the marginalised.

Hon Speaker, women serve as role models, inspiring future generations to aspire leadership roles and dismantling stereotype about gender-based limitation.

However, there are still numerous challenges as I have already indicated, that in actual fact are remaining challenges that includes gender-based discrimination and a burden of stereotypes.

Women often confronted deeply with engraved gender based and stereotypes which can include assumptions that they are less competent, less assertive and less suited for leadership. This stereotyped mentality can limit women opportunities and legal credibility as leaders.

However, women continue to be underrepresented in many leadership positions. This lack of representation can make it difficult for women to gain access to networks mentorship and opportunity for advancement.

Hon Speaker, women in leadership faced with higher expectation and be held to different standards to their male counterparts. They are criticised for being too assertive or too soft to make it challenging to strike a right balance. Balance in leadership role with female responsibility is a challenge to many women.

Hon Speaker, the scarcity of female role models and mentoring leadership position, can make it more challenging for more women to navigate their career and gain necessary guidance and support.

Hon Speaker, women in leadership positions faced challenges such as harassment, discriminations and even violence particularly by men dominated group. This experienced has detrimental impact on their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Women have less access to resources including fundings, networks and opportunities for professional development which of course can hinder their progress in their leadership roles.

Male dominated political organisational cultures created a hostile environment that make it difficult for women to thrive and advance in leadership roles. This has heightened the media scrutiny and public criticisms which can betray women from entering politics and accepting the leadership positions.

However, Hon Speaker, women in rural communities also faced a unique sets of challenges that are often distinct from those encountered in urban areas. These

challenges as I have already indicated, are multifaceted and impacting on various aspects of life.

Hon Speaker, however, we must promote and facilitate access to quality education for girls and women in rural areas, establish and maintain schools with well trained teachers, implement scholarship and incentives for girls education to overcome these economic barriers.

Hon Speaker, however, we must improve health care infrastructure in our rural communities and establish mobile health clinics, travelling self-services and community health workers to provide essential health care, prenatal care and family planning services.

Hon Speaker, we must again try to make sure that we support women economic empowerment through vocational trainings, microfinance programmes and access to credits. In this manner we should also encourage them through entrepreneurship and provide resources for them to overcome these challenges that I have already indicated.

Hon Speaker, we must invest in rural water supply and sanitation projects to ensure scheme water resources and proper sanitation facilities that are accessible to rural communities in order to provide hygiene and sanitation.

We must implement awareness campaigns and programmes to prevent and address gender-based violence in rural areas, established safe spaces and support system for survivors, strengthened the legal framework that will at the ultimate end protect these particular women.

We should advocate also for land reform policies that promote women in land ownership and inheritance rights and provide legal assistance and education to help these women to access their property rights.

Hon Speaker, we must expand access to technology at the same time and interacting rural areas so that we provide change in digital literacy and promote the use of mobile phones and community radios for disseminating information.

We must at the same time encourage women to participate in local governance, community decision making and leadership positions. In doing so, we should promote gender responsive policies and ensure that women voices are heard.

We must develop infrastructure and transport networks to connect rural areas to market, support women in accessing and participating agricultural value chain including processing the marketing of agricultural products.

Hon Speaker, without wasting time, we must strengthen the legal framework of these women's rights including their rights to property, access to education, gender-based violence. We must promote to legal aid services for our women.

Hon Speaker, in peroration, we must address environmental challenges in rural communities such as climate changes and natural disasters which disproportionately affect women include women in planning and decision making in related to climate resilience and disaster preparedness. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mphahlele, it is your turn.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council present here; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Maraga in absentia; honourable Members of this august House; guests and members in the gallery; good afternoon.

Hon Speaker, Women's Parliament must be used to advance women's issues as well as challenges they are confronted with on daily basis and not to be used as a vehicle to advance political interest of the ANC and its Women's League.

The Legislature does not belong to the ANC, but it is an institution that belongs to the people of Limpopo, and therefore, it must be free from any form of political manipulation. Year after year women come together, debate issues and make resolutions, but still there is no political will to address their issues.

They come to the Women's Parliament to raise the same issues all the time, because there is no political will to address their concerns. The only political will visible, is the political will to advance the political interest of the ANC through various Parliaments including Women's Parliament.

It is time for the women to wake up and see the ANC for what they are, because they have been used to achieve a particular political agenda favouring the ruling party. Women's Parliament is not a political rally of the ANC Women's League, but it should be a gathering to champion women's interest from all spheres of life regardless of party political affiliation.

It is the state resources that have been used to organise such Parliaments. Therefore, all women of our province must benefit from them. Serious issues such as gender-based violence and LGBTQIA+ are raised in the Women's Parliament and yet nothing has been done to address them.

The Women's Parliament like all other parliaments have become a fiscal dumping exercise meant to favour the political narrative of the ANC. Women often face a skills gap, receiving less training and fewer opportunities to acquire in-demand technological skills.

There is a limited access to technology for women in rural areas and those with low income. This hinders their ability to participate in the digital economy and to access new job opportunities.

There should be harsher minimum sentences for corrective rape and hate crimes. This should not just be an empty rhetoric, but real action must be taken to address this brutality in society. The EFF is concerned about the poor social support systems which currently exist.

Madam Speaker, women are still being marginalised and segregated when it comes to promotions in the SMS level positions. The majority of CEOs in the cooperate world and government entities are males creating an impression that women are not capable enough to be appointed in such positions.

Women are the poorest and the most marginalised groups in the society and yet there is no political will to pull them out of poverty. Of all the resolutions taken in the 2022 Women's Parliament, how many were implemented and how many are still outstanding and why?

How much was used to host Women's Parliament last year? Can we be taken into confidence as to whether the Parliament achieved what it was set out to achieve? Women are tired of attending Parliaments that does not translate into tangible results.

Let us come up with ideas that will encourage these women to attend this parliament and even on their office, ask when are we going to have our Women's Parliament.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, it is your turn.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, on the First Quarter, the Office of the Premier is expected to ensure that at least 2% of people with disabilities must be represented in each department in Senior Management level. It was reported that none of the 11 departments within the Limpopo province comply with the requirement.

The Office of the Premier indicated that the filing of post doesn't adequately address the employment equity. It was reported that there was no distribution of sanitary dignity towels that took place in the quarter under review.

The programme was interrupted through the court interdict that prohibited Lion Match Product sanitary pads for girls in quintile 1 to 3 public schools in January 2021. The tender was for a period of three years. The award of the tender had since been reviewed and set aside.

To address this the Office of the Premier reported that the Department of Education is in the process of transferring funds to schools in order to purchase the sanitary towels for

the rightful beneficiaries. A circular of the guidance on how to procure and distribute to the identified girl learners was said to have been in its development stages.

Hon Speaker, it was reported that the Department of Education had established a programme to upgrade the infrastructure in the public special schools. The renovations at Tshilwavhusiku special school were completed, the Speaker can actually back me up on this one.

We were there under the Mandela Day programme and assistance to the school this year as the Legislature on Mandela day. Hon Premier further reported that a bid had been awarded to construct all facilities required to enable the minimum functionality of the Asiphumelele special school. The contractor was expected to assume site in August 2023.

Rehlahleng Special School which during one of the DA's oversight visit only had two blocks of classrooms which were built by a nearby mine. They were also still insufficient by then with Grade R learners having being accommodated in a zinc container structure with no air conditioning and inappropriate sanitation.

It was reported that the construction of new sanitation facilities at Rehlahleng Special School was underway and as a committee we hope that classroom blocks will follow.

Hon Speaker, some of our recommendations after the first quarter engagement was that:

- The filling of the vacant posts should be address the employment equity gap.
- The committee should be continually furnished with progress report on the infrastructure projects of special schools.
- The committee should be provided with a progress report on the provision of sanitary towels to schools.

Hon Speaker, as I moved to the Women's Parliament debate, as the committee we implemented one of our strategic plans for this current year committee work, being the Women's Sectoral Parliament where women from various backgrounds where afforded the platform to debate on motions adopted by the committee being Motion on:

- Challenges of rapid technological developments and threats to women's sustainable livelihoods.
- Creating resilient and responsive government systems in digital times for improved women access to services.
- Advancing women inclusion in the digital world of technology as a way to promote gender equality.

- Encouraging safety and protection of the LGBTQIA+ community for equal human rights and informed society.

Hon Speaker, the women's debate adjourned with these recommendations which were part of the debate and speeches. I will read them as follows. They have recommended that:

- Gender sensitive policies and regulations should be formulated to address issues such as privacy, data protection, and equitable access to technology.
- Efforts should be made to bridge the gender divide by providing affordable and reliable internet access, digital literacy training, and access to digital tools and resources.
- Women's entrepreneurship and digital skills should be supported.
- Labour rights and social protection should be safeguarded.
- Social support systems should be strengthened.
- Gender equality should be promoted in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.
- There is a need for comprehensive research and data collection to understand the specific challenges faced by women in the digital age and monitor progress towards gender equality.
- Agencies such as LEDA and SEDA should be engaged to direct their resources in empowering rural women in the field of information communication technology.
- Community leaders and elders should be encouraged to support digital inclusive initiatives and promote their benefits.
- More deaf women should be involved in the technology, social and political decision-making processes.
- Mobile health apps and telemedicine platforms should have SASL interpreters to enable deaf women to access healthcare services remotely. This technology helps to reduce maternal mortality rates and improve the overall health outcomes of deaf women.
- Limpopo Legislature should cooperate with DeafSA Limpopo for equal services to deaf women.
- All state institutions must have SASL interpreters.

- The government should strengthen putting in place training programmes for all government employees and traditional authorities to better serve the LGBTQIA+ community; and provide antibullying programmes at school.

I thank you

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon Hon Boshielo, to the podium.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you. The Office of the Premier on the First Quarter of the 2023/24 financial year Performance Report, made the following recommendations:

- The Office of the Premier should enforce compliance requirements in employment equity targets made by the department.
- A turnaround plan should be put in place, actioned and effectively monitored to ensure the achievement of targets on the economic empowerment through government preferential procurement for women, youth and people with disability.
- Should on a regular basis give progress report on the provision of sanitary towels to schools.
- Progress report with regard to addressing the infrastructure problems at Thusanani and Tshilidzini special schools should be provided to the committee.
- The Office of the Premier should provide a comprehensive report regarding the kind of support given to the victim empowerment centres.
- The Office of the Premier should also ensure that the Limpopo youth fund contribute towards the reduction of youth unemployment in the province.
- The Office of the Premier should ensure that the back to school campaigns contribute towards youth capacity building for those who are working in youth development areas within centred department, non-government organisations and community based organisations.
- The Office of the Premier should also have a well-structured reporting framework which outlines and tell no lies and claim no easy victory.

Hon Mphahlele was not part of the Woman's Parliament. I'm not sure who that report were come from, because the representatives of her party were debating in that Woman's Parliament.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Premier gave a report on the previous Woman's Parliament and various departments also, were given opportunities to give reports on previous Women's Parliament.

I'm not sure where Hon Mphahlele, got a report that we don't know where other resolutions of the previous Women's Parliament are. Tell no lies and claim no easy victory.

Hon Speaker, the 2023 Women's Parliament was attended by 400 delegates. The 34 presenters from across the province representing their respective formations and organs of women empowerments.

This year's event was celebrated under the theme, "Digital Innovation and Technology for gender equality."

The digital aid represented unprecedented opportunities to eliminate all forms of disparities and inequality as an article that was quoted also from the United Nations. We must bring to the attention of the House that acquisition of skills in digital technologies by women is very critical for their empowerment.

A clarion call must be made that government and private sector should club together and increase their powers and efforts to make digital world safer for women more inclusive and more equitable.

As government, we must commit ourselves to using technology and innovation to rise gender equality forward. Hon Speaker, as we were in that parliament, there were many people with different disabilities who took part in the debates. It was very enriching. We even taught some Sign Language.

As we hear them talking about the technologies, some of us who are fully abled, didn't even not know about them. The issue that we don't have qualified disabled people was disapproved in that Woman's parliament.

Hon Speaker, women in rural areas were lack the necessary infrastructure to access internet, but we know that government is trying as much as possible to make it accessible. This is so, because, in every area in South Africa, almost everybody has got a cell phone.

If we have access to a cell phone, having access to internet should not be very far. They might also lack the resources to purchase digital technologies like computers and various phones, but I know that this government is trying to introduce the issue of learning and also other technologies into our schools.

Bridging the digital divide is crucial for promoting gender equality by providing women access to digital technologies, then they can access information, education and economic opportunities that may otherwise not be available to them.

If is done properly, women can also access financial service and market to start their businesses and connect with potential employers and customers. This was alluded by

women pressing on the motion, “Advancing women inclusion in the digital world of technology as a way to promote gender equality.”

The other motion presented made the abuse on challenges of rapid technological development and threats to women sustainable livelihood. Where to from here? In that debates, women were able to say where we are now and crossing this digital divide? What do we need to do from here?

There is a need to start to encouraging them to pursue science and technology, engineering and mathematics at high schools level.

Education and careers is an important and first step in bringing down barriers and increasing the representation of women in positions. This can also involve providing mentorship and networking opportunities for women which is essential for advancing their careers.

Mentors can offer guidance support and advice on navigating the often male dominated field and can help to overcome barriers such as biasness and discriminations. Networking can also help women to build relationship with others in the area and access opportunities of career advancement.

The government must take responsibility in ensuring that barriers in technology which creates the digital divide are removed through policy making. The government must deliberately create work entrepreneurship ready to advance this digital technologies.

These are the recommendations coming from women at the Women’s Parliament. As government and this Legislature, we must play an important role on ensuring that women are empowered through technologies and digital device.

Hon Speaker, the committee therefore, support the adoption on the recommendations to be the resolutions of the House and also to refer them to various departments for implementation. I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Boshielo. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier, to respond to the debates made by the honourable Members.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip of the majority party, Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the opposition parties and honourable Members.

Hon Speaker, all honourable Members will agree with me that the DA committed a very grievous mistake by kicking out Hon Smalle and presenting us to something else.

Hon Speaker, though I understand that this honourable Member is still new in the Legislature, but I thought perhaps she was not knowing the province. This is because

whilst she start talking, I start realising that she is also new. I may say the DA has committed a very serious mistake. That is suicidal.

Hon Speaker, ntumelele ke kgone go kgala, tše dingwe tše di swanetšego gore di kgalwe. Rena ka segagabo rena, ka Sepedi, ga gona motho yo a welago ka gare ga legoro lela ba rego ke legoro la *Se-Di*. Ke be ke naganne gore, ke tla kwa le kgala Mohlomphegi Mphahlele ge a bitša bagolofadi ba rena digole.

Ke kwele ke šia namana tša mmele gore ge e le gore ka mokgatlong wa gabo, ba ba bitša ka mokgwa wo, ga ke kgolwe ka Ntlong ye Bohlakwa ka tsela ye, re ka dumelela taba ya mohuta wo. Go ka nyenyefatša bagolofadi ba rena ka mokgwa wo? That was very wrong.

Mohlomongwe ke mekgwa le maitshwaro. Mohlomongwe ke no e bea ka mokgwa wo go lego ka gona, ka gore ke bona o ka re mokgatlo wola wa tše khubedu le wona o dirile phošo. Ba dirile phošo ka go raka Mohlomphegi Buthane, ba tšea bana ba Modimo, ba ba šia le Seshoka.

Seshoka sa di tšea sa di lahlela šokeng. Bjale šidio di jewa ke dibatana tša naga. Le ge di eja mabele ga ba kgone go dikgala. Ba no re, bagolofadi ba rena ke digole.

Hon Speaker, I think most of the things that honourable Members have raised are counsel to us. It is not wise to debate for the sake of debating. I must say Hon Boshielo ... [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. May i please make a clarity that Hon Buthane was not chased away to be part of this honourable House? It is not true for the Hon Premier, to come here and tell people that Hon Buthane has been chased away or expelled by the EFF. He resigned on his own. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Premier, you may proceed.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I must say i accept counsel from honourable Members led by Hon Boshielo in the committee. I also take counsel from Hon Phala. I think the manner in which you are setting and putting out the points on that debate were really empowering.

Hence I'm saying, you don't ordinarily have to debate for the sake of differing. You don't necessarily have to be arrogant to be heard. You need to programme and prove your facts in a particular sequence that will pursuing the other party to understand your point of view.

You don't have to make noise to heard, Hon Seshoka. You don't have to make noise to be heard and present them in a manner that we can pursue it, hence, I'm saying I really take counsel from them as well.

Hon Boshielo, I think have said everything to such an extent that most of the points that I thought I was going to respond to, you responded to them.

But one last issue, Hon Speaker that I want to raise is that this ruling party, the ANC of Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela and many others, this glorious movement have proved historically that it takes the rise of the women seriously.

It can't be correct that when we as the ruling party and government perse, decide to allow the women to go and sit down, plan, discuss, common issues that affects them. They are referred to have been sent to a dumping ground. Bjalo ka ge eka ke ditlakala.

That is disrespect for our women, hence, I'm saying, perhaps, o tlogetše mošomo, goba ba mokgoromeditše gore a tlogele mošomo. Ga re tsebe. Ga a rebotše, a re makgowa, ka noko yela ba dirile phošo.

Ka gore o ka kwa mosadi a emelela ka gare ga banna le basadi ba bangwe a re; basadi ge ba kopane ba bolela tša sesadi a re bai le dumping ground. A se lehlapa lona leo?

O ra gore basadi ba le ke ditlakala. E ka se be nnete gore o tle mo, ka gare ga Ngwako wa go Hlomphega ka tsela ye gomme o šomiše polelelo ya tlaišo ka tsela ye.

We respect our women, hence, we are the only party that took a clear resolutions, that is helping all our structures, as the ruling party to at least 50% shall be constituted thereof. It can't be less than 50%.

If that is not progressive enough, if that does not proclaim the fact that this ruling party respect women, I don't know what else. It was this ruling party which as early as 1954, went out and produce what they called the Women's Charter.

In 1954 already, the ruling party which is the African National Congress of Mme Sisulu, Helen Joseph, and many others, decided that there should be what they called, "The Women's Charter", that outlined how the women should be treated. That outlined how the women should be empowered. That outlined the role that women should play.

It can't be right that this ruling party does not take women seriously. We take them seriously, hence we have deployers of this very glorious and important women who are in government. We are very proud about their importance that they have been deployed by the organisation of Mme Sisulu.

Hon Speaker, yes, we will make sure that we grow to this far, and making the necessary role that is supposed to be played.

Let me thank honourable Members and say, we have taken counsel and we are definitely going to implement all what have been debated or instructed to us. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier for the response. Let's now move to the next item.

7.7 Consideration and Adoption of the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Committee chair, the floor is yours.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Good morning, Hon Speaker and the House at large. I, Isaiah Mmabogahla Masekoameng, on behalf of Hon Jerry Maseko as the chairperson, hereby table the First Quarter Report of the 2023/24 financial year for the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Masekoameng, the acting chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Mochadi, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Ngiyathokoza Somlomo. Ngisikimela ukusekela ukwethulwa kombiko, okwenziwe ngumHlonitjhwa uMasekoameng. Ngiyathokoza.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker is Hon Masekoameng.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Before I debate, I just want to make some words to the members of the ANC, this time don't waste our time with the oppositions because the duties of the opposition parties is to oppose. Without us, they won't be here.

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party, Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Leader of the Official Opposition and honourable Members of this august House, good afternoon.

Thank you very much, for this opportunity to debate on the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Performance Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The portfolio committee was briefed by the department on the report.

Agriculture is remains one of the key sectors identified for the growth of our provincial economy. While the sector is still dominated by primary production, the provincial government is putting effort for agro-processing through various policy interventions, including the Revitalization of Agricultural and Agro-Processing Value Chain (RAAVC), under the umbrella of Limpopo Development Plan.

However, there needs to be intensified implementation of key catalytic projects in order to transform the economy from its colonial status through processing and beneficiation of raw material this will help the implementation needs to be ensuring that the goals of this plan are achieved.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee continues to play its role in ensuring that in the department, there is implementation of the resolutions that were made as well as on the commitments. We commend the department on the progress made so far, and the fact that the department achieved most of its targets during the quarter under review.

However, the committee is concerned about the outstanding reports on Norjax current status with regard to forensic investigation, the current plan of the department as well as the acquisition of the land and the amount that the company is owing the landowner.

This an important matter since the provincial government has already invested a lot of funds, while there are farmers who are waiting to benefit from the operation of this project.

Hon Speaker, we also urge the department to further submit the report on consequence management on officials involved in fraud, corruption, under expenditure and wasteful and fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The infrastructure project reports should provide more details on the number of projects as well stages of implementation and financial information.

The department should further implement the recommendations in pertaining to all these reports. Hon Speaker, during the quarter under review, the department has spent about 21% of its total budget. The department needs to improve expenditure particularly in infrastructure projects.

Once completed and operational these projects can benefit farmers and improve livelihoods while contributing to the economic growth. The allocated resources needs to be utilized efficiently and effectively.

Hon Speaker, through the Sustainable Resource Management, the department continues to provide agricultural support services to farmers to ensure sustainable development and management of natural agricultural resources. We note the progress made in supporting the farmers with infield irrigation system.

However, the Committee has noted that there was a delay in commissioning of Mogalatsane Irrigation Scheme due to delays on electricity connection by Eskom. We have realised that this is not the first time the projects are due electricity related challenges.

The committee has therefore mandated the department to ensure adequate planning of all projects and engage relevant stakeholders such as Eskom, well in advance so that projects are not delayed. This approach should also be implemented in ensuring that projects get water rights in advance.

Hon Speaker, the department continued to support smallholder producers, subsistence producers, particularly in cotton commodity, citrus commodity, red meat commodity and grain commodity.

The department's success in these projects as a result of additional capacity from Assistant Agricultural practitioners emphasizes the need for further skills development and involvement of youth in Agriculture.

Portfolio committee has continuously emphasized that the department needs to ring fence resources for the provision of support to youths in farming projects in order to make sure they develop and sustain the agricultural industry in the province.

Hon Speaker, while we appreciate, progress made in supporting farmers, we are concerned at the slowness of key infrastructure projects to support farmers. Some of the key projects include Makgoba Tea Estate, Tshivhase Tea Estate, Zebediela citrus, Lebowa kgomo abattoir, Mashashane Hatchery, and different irrigation schemes.

These should be implemented, if we are to turn the economy around. The projects are regarded as high-level catalytic projects, with high prospects of the much-needed job opportunities.

The department should move with speed to address the social challenges in these projects. Where there are challenges as a result of contractors, appropriate actions should be taken.

Hon Speaker, on Veterinary Services programme, as the portfolio committee, we welcome the work that the department continues to do in ensuring healthy animals, sustainable and profitable animal production enterprises.

The portfolio committee commended the department through increased number of inspections, dipping session, visits, and disease surveillance. However, since some parts of the province have experienced outbreaks of Foot and Mouth disease, even in the previous year, we urge the department to provide updates and also continue with prevention of further outbreaks.

The recent outbreak of Bird Flue which affects the poultry industry, and subsequently the egg prices shows that there is a need to have adequate capacity and resources to deal with these outbreaks.

In conclusion, the committee is urging the department to ensure that their activities contribute to the growth of the provincial economy, as well as addressing the triple challenges of inequality, poverty, and unemployment while creating a better life for the people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I move that this committee report of the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Performance of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Masekoameng. Hon Seshoka, it is your turn.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier, who has been lost for a longer time, greetings to the Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, I think, we have to start by raising this issue, because I think listening is a skill which I think, the Premier is missed. Hon Mphahlele never said ...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, don't respond to what the Premier said.

[NOISE]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, Agriculture as a sector is presenting an opportunity to improve the lives of millions of food-insecure people and help the province develop the economies that create jobs and raise incomes.

For these opportunities to be turned into benefits, the ANC-led government must abandon its neo-liberal policy, where state play laissez-faire role in the economy, which is a proponent of favouring a state limited to the provision of public goods and services and safeguarding the private property rights, like the land question in South Africa.

Hon Speaker, I challenge the MEC and other members of the ANC in this august House, if they understand the sell-out policy position, to dispute with facts that the ANC-led government through its policies it has outsourced the power to govern to private sector, hence, there is high level of corruption, unemployment and inequality.

Hon Speaker, only the EFF government can dismantle the current situation to people orientated state, through socialist agenda. The EFF state will take the lion share control of the economy to deliver what we call the working-class dictatorship economy.

The EFF is not elated by the state of agriculture sector in the province which provides two types of agriculture, commercial farming and small scale farming. The department spent millions of rands on key projects without return on investment, worse most of the projects are either delayed or produced poor quality workmanship.

One such example is the Norjax Potato processing plant, Zebediela citrus farm, Tshivhase and Makgoba Tea Estate, and the list is endless. All these happened because governance and leadership application leaves much to be desired in this department and it does not inspire confidence. It continues to depress the people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, in the period under review programme 3 which is Agriculture Producer Support, poor performance continued from the previous years and the EFF is concerned because this programme is the core business of the department and was allocated more than 60% of the goods and services Budget.

This programme is entrusted with the responsibility to directly support farmers with the skills training and infrastructure development, which are the key function of the department.

Hon Speaker, in the previous Annual Report, the department recorded underexpenditure of R158 million and 82% of which is R130 accounted under programme 3.

This underexpenditure robbed poor farmers on their production and success in farming and the ANC-led government celebrate this robbery by paying the officials responsible performance bonus.

Hon Speaker, just like the Premier of this province, the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development is allergic to proper consequence management. For that reason, the moral of hard-working officials in the department is very low, while those with political protection enjoys the benefits of non-accountability.

Officials in this department do as they wish because they know consequence management is a mere warning letters.

Hon Speaker, when Hon Mapoulo said that majority of the oversight visits are just merely a tourism activities, some of you made unnecessary noise, here is the typical examples. The portfolio committee did an oversight visit to Waterberg and Vhembe Districts and also prepared a report with recommendation.

The department through the MEC did nothing on Colchester farm, Morudu farm, Matsika Banana farm, Lambani Foot and Mouth redline gate, and other projects and the list is endless. The MEC could not give feedback on the recommendation unless he has report now when he responds to this House.

Hon Speaker, the MEC presented and bragged in this House that the ANC-led government appointed 820 graduates as AAP, while he was not honest that they were only there for the PR purpose, because they were given three months contract term.

Honourable MEC, now we ask this question, where are the graduates because it is reported that their contracts elapsed without renewal? The question we are now asking the MEC is what was the intension of this programme if not a PR exercise?

What was the cause of the delay in electrifying connection at Mogalatsane irrigation system? Can the MEC take us into confidence on this matter?

Hon Speaker, the Lebowakgomo abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery remain one of the scandal that even the Premier has even mentioned that they are going to attend to, but it remained a mystery as to why so much money was spent on these projects and yet there is no progress.

Can the MEC update this House on the migration of Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka Agricultural colleges to the national Department of Higher Education and Training?

We need proper answers. We do not need a vague answers from thumb sucking thinking, unless if he was asleep. Unfortunately, the MEC, because he is already sleeping. He is not here to give us the response. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Wilson, it is your turn.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon speaker. A report is a report, and when in is transparent and fair, a report is easy to pass.

However, the contents of the report must be considered, and there are areas of major concern, and one must consider all the information, and if in fact information is missing. Vague information is unsettling. Allows that perhaps something has been eliminated.

For instance, the Mogalatsane irrigation scheme and like the Vleischboom FPSU. While projects were completed, the are not able to function because of Eskom delay in the electricity connections.

Sadly, we believe the possible delay in connections by Eskom is related to non-payment of Eskom and electricity, and not the incompetence of Eskom themselves. We must not try to lay blame where it does not belong. Huge amounts owing to Eskom are going to impact development in the future and we cannot allow this to happen.

The department also highlighted challenges regarding water rights. While the department committed to assist farmers to attain water rights before projects are implemented.

That would be great. It will be just great, but pray tell, where precisely where with this water come from. Boreholes are not maintained, equipped and not properly secured and

therefore there is huge theft of pumps and cables. Without water, you cannot farm. Full stop.

We face a good chance of a severe drought in the year 2023. And should this happen, there will be a devastating effect on farming in Limpopo, with the smaller farmers bearing the brunt, especially with no infrastructure to fall back on.

We must know what preparations are in place to deal with this. Since we got this report, we were witness to an outbreak of Avian Flu. It was a disaster, that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was unprepared for.

I must thank my DA colleagues in the National Assembly for driving the issue intensely forcing assistance from the national department and the Minister.

In a response to a question to the Minister in the National Assembly, which was received just a few minutes ago, Limpopo has a vacancy rate of 26% for veterinarians. This has been the same case since 2019. It has not changed at all.

Why, veterinarians play a critical role in Agriculture, and had we had sufficient vets in Limpopo, we could possibly avoid and pick up outbreaks of disease early and avoid devastation in any sector. It is just unacceptable.

The report was concerning because there was insufficient information being given about the progress and current situation on the Makgoba Tea Estate and the Lebowakgomo Abattoir which has been contentious and cause for concern for years.

A discussion with regards to Zebediela citrus farm was important. Once the farm was handed over to the CPA, the estate became a private entity. However, monies have continued to be budgeted for this enterprise.

Last weekend, the liquidators arrived on the farm, loaded up and moved anything of any value from the farm, including breaking down some of the infrastructure. There is literally nothing left, bar dying trees to attract any potential investors.

The 500 permanent and seasonal workers have been laid off, and those still living on the farm, are pleading for water to be delivered to them, as none is available and there is no electricity to pump water.

It has been an absolute disaster. Where was the return on the investment by the department? Exceeding targets is never a problem, provided targets are relevant to the sector, expenditure is low however, and must be addressed. We are pleased with the audit outcomes and ask that the department stay on track.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call Hon Maritz, to debate.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the opposition parties, Members of this House and guests, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is failing our province. The department targeted to assist 150 farmers through the disaster relief schemes, but none of the farmers was assisted because the department only has one baler machine which broke down.

The department reported that the feed will be distributed during second quarter, what happened to that livestock? Where they have fed by other means? Livestock cannot wait to eat for whenever the department is ready to deliver.

Farmers should be independent and self-sufficient as to rely on the department will cause the death of the livestock. The farmers will then again need funds to acquire livestock.

Hon Speaker, no farmer will be successful if they keep on relying on the department. Zebediela citrus estate was one of the biggest producers in the country, including exports to many countries.

Since the land claim of 1998 that was finalised in 2003, everything spiralled down by mismanagement, malfeasance, in-fighting, fat-cat interference, court cases, High court liquidation orders and now eviction orders against labourers living on the farm.

Hon Speaker, the FF Plus urge the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to stop giving productive farms to unskilled people, transfer of skills and especially operational skills is needed before the handover, otherwise we will see more job losses and our food security will be at high risk.

Hon Speaker, to conclude, the only successful farmer is a 100% self-sufficient and sustainable farmer. I thank you

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mochadi, it is your turn.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Chief Whip of the majority party, Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council present here, Leader of the Official Opposition in absentia, honourable Members of this august House, support staff and guests in the gallery, I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Madam Speaker, allow me to join the rest and the influencers the silent point that any form of growth is upfront to our basic decency and humanity. It is a growth violation of all fundamental human rights and there is no excuse for it.

That is why the African National Congress found it paramount importance to include this debate on the agenda in the previous meetings few days back. It is because together we have the power to do something in our individual countries as a collective and as a nation.

Hence the word of God in Psalm 104:14-15 says, "God makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate, bringing forth food from the earth, wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts."

Food security is a global issue that affects everyone including you and me. It refers to the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food for the people at all times.

We foresee the impact of Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Palestine war more threatened on food security than the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen and experience a deadly pandemic, devastating our economy and destroying our people's livelihood.

Indeed, we have lived through various stages of the pandemic that has stolen and destabilise growth. A pandemic that has reversed the gains which have accumulated for the years.

Hon Speaker, as the conflict intensifies, civilians including vulnerable children and families face mountain challenges in accessing essential food supplies with food distribution mindless disrupted and food production severely hampered by hostilities now.

All these has to be a lesson to Africa that we must develop a vision to promote agriculture production produce and store food for the next decade to feed the people during trying times.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that agriculture production remains a key contributor to the economy and a means for the livelihood for the majority of our population. Sustained agricultural growth is critical for ambiguity, the living standard of all South Africans.

As the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development having scrutinise the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Report on activities that were targeted to be reported in the next quarterly reports.

The committee noted that terms of achieving the target in all programmes, the department has achieved 107% , 46 out of 43 targets on Education are for the first quarter.

The committee was concerned about the maintenance of the 144 targets of unemployment graduates in agricultural enterprise for practical skills development. The department engage with Eskom regarding the connection of electricity to the Mogalatsane Irrigation Scheme.

This was a great concern to the committee, but the department has moved further to engage with Eskom.

Agricultural produce and support and development, on them, the committee noted that 551 small holder producers were supported by the department exceeding the set out targets of 180. Also the 4573 subsistence producers were supported, exceeding the target of 346.

The overachievement was possible because of the additional capacity provided by appointed assistant agricultural practitioners. These have made the department to move forward and to improve.

It was further reported that five producers were supported in commodities through it was not in first quarter targets. These were because more producers planted cotton and thereby needed agricultural advisory services.

Madam Speaker, the committee recommended that:

Given that the department had additional capacity provided through appointment of assistant agriculture practitioners, the department should aim to assist more farmers and provide an implementation plan on their disaster relief schemes to assist the Matsika banana farm.

It is unfortunate when some of us as honourable Members and members of this committee, were coming with an issue that emerging farmers should not be given the equipment. It is unfortunate.

We need to sustain them, because the more subsistence farmers are getting all the equipment which are relevant to assist them, the more the production will go high and it will relieve poverty.

Honourable Members, indeed, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of South Africa has given us much on this and we are obliged to tow the line.

Guided by the National Development Plan, as in that in the State of the Province Address, the African National Congress-led government is hands on in building South Africa, that must be free from poverty, inequality and unemployment while the global economic environment remained uncertain.

Indications are that we have entered a period of recovering as the province. The National Development Plan enjoined us to build an active citizens that participate in the democratic government and takes responsibilities for their own development.

Through the ANC-led government, we are looking at recruiting the young boys back to do the work and to be safe and to be trained and to be equipped so that they can stand on their own rather than running companies which does not help them.

To make sure that the African National Congress continues to take the lead in building communities, training and even equipping young people to can stand and create their own jobs in agriculture and training.

In these agriculture it will make sure that many people who are not employed will get the opportunities. African National Congress remained the party of choice for the citizens of South Africa.

Madam Speaker, irrespective of the Land Care sub-programme, it was reported that the department achieved 48 hectors of cultivated land under conservation agricultural practise through none was planned to be achieved in the first quarter.

The reason the department achieved this unplanned targets of hectors is that there was increased adoption of conservation agricultural practises through awareness, race and hence more hectors were cultivated other conservation agriculture.

It was further indicated that the department achieved 7 targets in the First Quarter which were not meant for. The committee was however concerned about financial implications of this overachievements and achievements of unplanned targets.

Madam Speaker, in agricultural education and trainings the committee is eager to support the department as they strive to provide and implement entry level 4 through structured education and training programmes.

The farmers training must also aimed to impart the skill demonstration and training to the conveners and farmers on the new crop varieties. As the committee we must once again applause the department for ensuring that at all times the planned targets are realistic and achievable.

Hon Speaker, for noting purpose, the set target of 1% for Agricultural Education and Training is 100% achieved under the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter, but at the same time we cannot sit there and wait for tops to come on stream after this whole term structural changes in our economy. Which means it will be implemented.

The youth in particular, want jobs now. Approximately 73% of people who are unemployed in South Africa are below the age of 35 and it is critical that we find a way to give the young South Africans the opportunity to work to earn the living and have a secured future. If we fail, the outcome will be disastrous.

It is not just for the young people themselves, but for all South Africans who will lose the massive contribution that those young workers have the potential to make if given the opportunity to work and have value.

Madam Speaker, during the quarter under review it was reported that 132 participants were trained in Skills Development programmes and which was higher than the target of 100 participants.

As I conclude, on the issue of national, let our ambition being to become models of sustainable peace rather than fuelling the fights and a maker for conflict resolution. Much of our South African efforts have to be focussed on respond to peace negotiations.

Madam Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development having considered the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Report of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, hereby move that this committee report be adopted as the report of this august House.

I so move accordingly. Ngithokoze Somlomo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. On behalf of the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, we shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Monama to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; my colleagues in the Executive; honourable Members of this august House; ladies and gentlemen.

I am responding here on behalf of the MEC, Hon Thabo Mokone. Food security including the rise of food prices and fertiliser prices as well as the disruption of the international supply chain which is operationally impact our country as the Hon Mochadi, has already alluded to.

Against all odds, we are confirming our willingness to reconcile the multi prone approaches to food security with a focus for finding pragmatic efficient concern censual and sustainable solutions for a long term food security in the province.

Promoting the development of value change and boasting market capacity to produce and also to export value addition, manufactured products is one of the things that as the agricultural sector we are trying to build to ensure that we have a sustainable solution for economic growth.

All of us, we reckon that during the BRICKS-led by the honourable Premier in an endeavour to create more job opportunities in the province, we have signed an agreement with China that all the agricultures produce as ZZ2 and small farmers will be exported to China. It means that there is a sustainable market that more people will be employed.

On the issue of the forensic audit, we take note of that we are going to commercialise and also to infect the consequence management where people have been found to transgressed the prescript and the supply chain processes that are there.

We also reckon the fact that we do not perform well on the 21% in the First Quarter, but we make a commitment that in other outer quarters, we will compensate on the short fall.

All of us we know that we are moving from the positions to gain from the resource based involvement of the industrialisation which would create more job opportunities in terms of the Agro-processing, but also to unpack on the issues that we have raised, the issue of the Tshivhase tea estate.

We have commissioned a scientific research. All the tea estates in South Africa are not performing because of the competition from other African states which are doing better in terms of the tea.

We are diversifying that the tea estate to Mukumbani in Vhembe to utilise that and we have already established a task team. We have a number of clusters in terms of the catalytic projects or initiatives.

There are citrus cluster, cotton cluster, there are potatoes belt and cotton clusters that we have in Sekhukhune. Those are some of the initiatives, but also it is a misnomer to say that we are not investing in terms of the infrastructure reports.

There are number of irrigation schemes that we have embarked upon as the province to ensure that we refurbish the irrigation schemes that we have in the province.

While the migration of Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka to the Department of Higher Education, it is in the form all the TEVET colleges fall under the Department of Higher Education, not under the Basic Education.

It is in that context, but I think, all members of the portfolio committee agree with me. About what should happen or transpire while we are moving Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka is that they need support and also capital injection to those colleges so that they are able to respond for the agricultural needs of this country.

We have a programme called Revitalisation of Agricultural and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) and also the Revitalisation of Smallholder Irrigation Schemes (RESIS) that gains all the support of the farmers that we have in the province and the development of collaborations with the industry in an endeavour to grow the industry itself.

We have a structured educational impact projects. The impact of agriculture also both directly and indirectly and induced will assist us to turn the situation around and to ensure that through agriculture as one of the competitive edge in line with the Limpopo development thread.

The Limpopo socio economic recovery plan is through agriculture that we have been able to accelerate our goals on food safety to transform the socio economic landscape of our province and to take this province to the highest economic trajectory.

Thanks very much for the inputs, for guidance and for the counselling. We will improve this as a department. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Hon Monama. Let's move to the next item.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. We wish to remind the honourable Members of the Legislature that today at 14:00, we have been trying to communicate with the Auditor-General so that we can shift with at least by 20 to 30 minutes because we were delayed here.

The Auditor-General, Ms Tsakani Maluleke, will be addressing honourable Members of the Legislature on the PFMA for the 2022/23 financial year Audit Outcomes and navigate on the PFMA Materials Irregularities. The link and the agenda will be shared with the honourable Members.

Time is still 14:00 until we get a confirmation of the shifting of time. Take note that the time is confirmed to be shifted to 14:30.

The second announcement is that the Legislature is convening a Men's Parliament on Thursday, 09 November 2023 at Bolivia Lodge at 10:00.

This is the programme of the Legislature, as led by the Portfolio Committee on Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and people with Disability and also the Office of the Premier.

We are hosting the Men's Parliament. We invite all men to attend and all Members are also invited to come and give us support as you invited us also on the Woman's Parliament.

The last one is that all MPLs and guests are invited to lunch which will be served at the Municipal Council boardroom. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The House is adjourned until further notice.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
POLOKWANE MUNICIPAL CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2023
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. Thank you, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House, those who are seated in the gallery, good morning and welcome to our Sitting. Let's proceed with our items.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT AND MENTOR COOPERATIVES IS
ONE OF THE COMMENDABLE INITIATIVES
(Motion without Notice)**

... communities in the development of their standing constituency's assets and commitments from the department to support and mentor cooperatives for the next three years is commendable. The national government's initiative to employ fishing rights in the Western Cape gave that communities positive effects to much realised communities; particularly among the breadth and strides of fishing. Not only does this correct the total imbalances by formalising the participation of False Bay fishing, it is close to catalyse this economy basically to the previously disadvantaged communities.

By denying licenses to be processed and market it, the initiative empowers communities to generate income, to promote employment and economic growth and overall economic development of the country where all of us are beneficiaries.

Through capacity reforms and capacity-building in the form of training, workshops and learnership programme, members of the community will obviously acquire necessary skills for sustainable fishing practices.

Hon Speaker, this will not only boost the livelihood, but it will also establish a foundation for long-term solution.

Furthermore, the support from various government and non-governmental partners additionally strengthens initiative impacts by creating conducive collaborative environment for community development.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Boshielo.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I, Hon Boshielo, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Maseko. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to debate.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR REFERRAL TO THE ICC
(Motion without Notice)

- I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that ANC welcomes the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa that our government has gone through referral to the International Criminal Court as we cannot sit back and watch the atrocities actions from the Israeli regime.
- President Cyril Ramaphosa has stated it clearly that ANC-led government as well as the ANC itself does not condone any form of violence directed to its citizens. As the ANC-led government, we reiterate our call for the ceasefire for humanitarian convoy to be fully operational.
- Given the atrocities state in both countries which is Israel and Palestine, African National Congress will admit the preliminary motion which was upon the government to close the Israeli embassy in South Africa and suspend all United Nations resolutions which Israel seeks to find out and ceasefire and commit building elections by United Nations who encompass for a lasting peace solution.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? I recognise Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I greet you all in the name of Jesus our Lord.

ANC REMARKS AFTER SUCCESSFUL VOTERS REGISTRATION WEEKEND
(Motion without Notice)

- Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to present the motion without notice for this House to note that African National Congress would like to thank all South Africans who came out in enormous numbers over the last weekend to register to vote.
- Voting is a fundamental right and responsibility of every citizen in a democratic society. It allows everybody to participate in the governance of their choice and express their views on important issues.
- Voting is the cornerstone of a democratic society. In this august House, leaders are chosen through the process that reflects the will of the people.
- By participating in elections, citizens contribute to the preservation and strengthening of democratic values.
- Hon Speaker, in his first interview in 1961, former President Mandela spoke about cornerstone of democratic and free society. He said; "One person", and also in April 1964 from the document At the Rivonia Trial, President Mandela ended his statement in this now famous quote and said, "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I voted to live safely for our first democratically elected president. "But, if it need be, it is an act of which I am prepared to die for".
- Through voting, citizens have got power to shape, diversify public policy, elect officials, make decisions on a wide range of issues from the economy, poverty, social and governmental matters.

- Voting helps to ensure that government is the representatives of the guidance, interests and perspectives and democracy within society.
- It provides an opportunities for different voices and communities to be heard and procedure in the decision-making forces.

In summary, voting is not only a right, but also a civil duty that there is a vital role in shaping the course of a nation. It empowers individuals, ensures representation and boost the participation of the whole process. Aiding participation in the electoral process is a decision for the wellbeing and proneness of a society as a whole.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by the Deputy Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statement in terms of Rule 200? I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. To the EFF Caucus led by **Hon Mokwape Ramalobela**, please receive our greetings. Greetings to our Premier of the province, Hon Stanley Mathabatha, our MECs and Members of this august House, receive our greetings.

SHORTAGE OF WATER AND ROADS AT GA-MATLALA, MADIETANE VILLAGE IN WARD 41 IS A SERIOUS CONCERN (Members' Statement)

The EFF is appalled by the heartlessness of the ANC-led government which continues to deny people their basic human rights of access to water. The people of GaMatlala, Madietane village in Ward 41, under Polokwane Municipality, have been without water for ages with their cries falling on deaf ears. The former President of South Africa, Mr

Jacob Zuma, visited the area in 2014 and promised them water which he completely failed to deliver.

Some few years after Zuma's empty promises, Thoko Didiza visited the community making the same promises but only managed to deliver a small pump machine which is not helpful at all. The former MEC for LEDET, Mr Thabo Mokone, who has now been demoted to be MEC for Agriculture, also visited the area. He was told about the leopards which roams around in the area at night posing danger to community members. He committed to deal with the matter and yet nothing happened.

Furthermore, the area does not even have proper roads, which is a matter that was brought to the attention of government and yet nothing happened to date. The community of Madietane, like many communities in this province, continue to suffer due to empty promises and failures by the ANC-led government.

Hon Speaker, our communities in this province continue to cry for service delivery because the ANC of Premier Stanley Mathabatha loves them poor without basic service delivery and being unemployed. It is completely wrong to subject people to this kind of ordeal in the democratic dispensation.

We call upon the MECs for CoGHSTA, Public Works and LEDET to intervene in their respective areas as already mentioned so that we restore the dignity of the people of GaMatlala in Madietane.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you. I, Rebecca Seono, unfortunately rise reject the Members' Statement as read by Hon Seshoka.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Members' Statement? I recognise Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of opposition parties, Members of this House and Guests.

**THE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS WHEN LIMPOPO DEPARTMENTS FAIL TO GIVE
WRITTEN REPLY ANSWER
(Members' Statement)**

The FF Plus stands here today with a great concern not about one of the under-mentioned departments that didn't answer any written questions to us:

- Agriculture and Rural Development – 22 questions not answered.
- Transport and Community Safety – 24 questions not answered.
- Health – 20 questions not answered.
- Education – 14 questions not answered. The FF Plus never received a single written reply.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, if there is a concern you need to raise a hand.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, other Members have already raised the same concern. Please take your seat.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I think we have to be serious about this House. You can't say honourable Members; it is Hon Donald Selamolela who is making noise, and you can see him. Please address him. You don't have to address us. Address him so that people can listen.

THE SPEAKER

Proceed, Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you. Is there any reason behind not to answer the FF Plus? Is there a motive behind this, Hon Speaker? I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Is there any other Members' Statement? I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**UNJUSTIFIABLE FAILURE BY THE ANC-LED GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE
SECURITY TO PROTECT FEMALE OFFICIALS DURING IEC REGISTRATION**
(Members' Statement)

I'm rising on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters, the official opposition here in Limpopo. As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we are very dismayed, horrified and disappointed by the conduct of the Independent Electoral Commission during the past

registration weekend. The IEC does not care much about the security of officials especially women as observed during the past registration weekend.

In ward 15 at Lapologa Tent VD on R33 Lephalale Waterberg, the IEC deployed three women in the bush to conduct voter's registration without security. The three women were vulnerable and exposed to maximum danger without consideration their safety and wellbeing. While the IEC deployed full time security in voting stations which is 5 KM away from Lapologa VD. This one was not provided with any security personnel. The IEC's deployment of women officials in the VDs to assist with registration processes should have taken into account the prevalence of GBV here in South Africa.

By deploying these three women in the bushy VD without security, the IEC was exposing them to all types of gender-based violence. That is how insensitive the IEC is towards the scourge of GBV women face on a daily basis in this country. The EFF even called the IEC Provincial Manager, Ms Nkaro Mateta, alerting her on this matter, regrettably she was quite dismissive about matter.

We call upon the IEC to be security conscious towards women or any other person for that matter especially going towards 2024 general elections.

I thank you and I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members.

Let's take it from the Executive's side to respond to the matters raised by honourable Members. Maybe on the issue of (Inaudible). Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I will try to respond to the Members' Statement as presented by Hon Seshoka. The first motion he talked about the supply of water in ward 41 at GaMatlala. That is why Hon Mokone is still expected to go and approach Members even today when (Inaudible) That is the capacity the ANC government has. We are aware of the shortage of water here in the province. We are aware about water challenges. In Polokwane we have got plan that we are presenting. We just want to come from

The Councillor there personally spoke to me about this matter and we discussed about it to resolve the matter. It's only us who have problems in resolving the issue with Public Works with the assistance of others. (Inaudible) The second issue is about the deployment of security into the VDs. This province has got 3 223 VDs which were open over the weekend. Before the voters' registration weekend, the ANC were responsible for corporative governance and human settlement. We had a meeting with the IEC in order to look at the state of readiness.

And, as part of that, about the boxes that we think we received to check whether the station will be ready with the head of security or the head of the South African Police services; I received the information during our meeting with the IEC over that matter. We

took the matter with the IEC and said exactly what the Members have raised that there were no police officials in all VDs.

It's unfortunate because that was in Polokwane and Lephalale only. I must indicate that it was five DVs that have problems in that regard. We deployed all SAPS to secure the voting stations.

We have received that statement. At least it's the preparation for the 2024 general elections. We will be able to work things orderly. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC, for trying to respond in order to cover all concerns raised by honourable Members. Thank you, honourable MEC. I recognise honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon Premier, colleagues from the Executive Council and all honourable Members, I think Hon Maritz had complained about the rumours that the Executive Council is not responding to questions that have been presented to them. I think we have been trying as the Executive Council to make some follow ups. We have been sitting as the Executive Council to follow up on questions presented before us and I'm sure that Hon Maritz refers to some of the corresponded questions. You might have (Inaudible).

However, we still urge Hon Maritz to submit questions that she complained about to the Executive Council so that we make follow ups in order to attended to them.

I thought that if there are any issues that need to be responded to, Hon Maritz, just write them down and approach Madam Speaker to showcase those challenges that you have. But, above that, we want you to give us facts so that we will then be able to attend to them. As for now they are very general and they don't have any substantial. Once you do that we plan and give you a response. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC and also being as a Leader of the Government Business for giving some clarity.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

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

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 The First Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B02-2023] by the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Madam Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Rosemarry Reneiloe Molapo; Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Hon Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha “Mahlatji’a Hlabirwa”; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Provincial Legislature; our Director-General, Mr Nape Nchabeleng; HOD of the Provincial Treasury, Mr Gavin Pratt; all Heads of Department; members of the board; Chief Executive Officers; leaders of our various entities present here; media; distinguished guests people of Limpopo in their entirety; good morning.

Hon Speaker, I am honoured to present the 2023/24 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement for the Limpopo Province in this august House. The phrase, “Be not afraid to grow slowly, be afraid of only standing still”. Too soon the Chinese will use our officials, advocacy for mindset and progress and continuous improvements that seems to be difficult. As a province, we can borrow from this quotation.

Amidst ongoing wars, political tensions and assumptions in labour community markets that has lagged economic growth, Limpopo remains satisfied with its commitment to address the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. As the province we have placed austerity measures, but this Medium-Term Policy Statement is designed to strengthen economic growth while adopting a balanced approach to face out consolidation with a focus on prioritising infrastructure delivery and improving the living conditions for the people of the province.

Hon Speaker, the provincial medium-term expenditure for financial year 2023/24 is R39,4 billion or 49,8% of the total budget of R79,2 billion whereas R35,9 billion or 48,3% was spent during the same financial year. Nonetheless, the province is projecting to overturn by R1,795 billion or 2,3% primarily in the Department of Education and the Department of Health because of the compensation of employees and non-negotiable items respectively. This adjustments budget address its pressures amongst others.

In terms of our 2023/24 budget adjustment estimates, our provincial available funding resources are just there to support by R2 billion or 2,6% from R78,38 billion to R80,416 billion which comprises of equitable shares in phases of R2 billion allocated for funding of 2023/24 national wage increase specifically for the Department of Health and Department of Education that is projecting those priorities that we have as a progressive government. The provincial revenue basically increased from R1,7 billion by R214,4 million or 12,5% to R1,9 billion while the provincial Department of Health and the Department of Education received a rollovers of R254,4 million and budget cut of R471,1 million.

We need to improve our total action of expenditure reduction of R196,7 million. The provincial expenditure is expected to increase from the main appropriation of R1,7 billion

to R1,9 billion for the year under review which represent an increase of R2,14 million or 12,5%. The increase is mainly influenced by the improved formations of auditors generated from February to date and balances that the Provincial Treasury's austerity measures and once-off recovery of previous years belated debt, high economic debt, environment and tourism through Limpopo Gambling Board and social development respectively.

Another contributing factor towards some of the upward adjustments was influenced by once-off surrender of additional funds from Limpopo Gambling Board and the Limpopo Tourism Agency. Through these adjustments, Limpopo province will appropriate additional R2,4 billion funds to increase an appropriated budget of R79,162 billion to R81,648 billion. I therefore present the 2023/24 budget adjustments to the departments as follows:

- Vote 1: Office of the Premier is allocated R1,6 billion to fund disaster recovery plan. An additional R7,5 million to cap the shortfall of ECD infrastructure. About R21,2 million to fund goods and services pressures which includes practical obligations. About R6,4 million (Inaudible) and R4,2 million is for the replacement of provincial auditors and other valuable assets and R1 million is for resolving disaster management matters. The Office will surrender R15,2 million which comprises of R11 million for the compensation of employees and R4,4 million for Trauma and EMS funds. The budget for the Office of the Premier increases from R438,4 million to R465,6 million.
- Vote 2: Provincial Legislature is allocated an additional R43,7 million as allocations of the previous year allocation funds in line with section 12 of the Financial Management of Parliament Members' Act. The budget for the Legislature increases from R492,4 million to R536,2 million. The Department of Education is allocated R949,3 million for funding of the compensation of employees pressures. About R88,4 million is for equitable share rollovers and R24,7 million is for conditional grants rollovers. The department however surrendered R10 million from EMS earmarked funds of R204,2 million from conditional grants for budget cut implemented by the national. The budget of the department increases from R38,1 billion to R39 billion.

Vote 3: Department of Agriculture is allocated an additional R26 million to fund foot and mouth interventions. About R3 million was for other machinery equipment. About R33 million was for funding goods and services and contractual obligations. An amount of R8 million was for recreational activity. About R11 million was for equitable shares rollovers and R30 million was for conditional grant rollovers. The department will however surrendered R54,6 million from the compensation of employees. About R5 million was from MR fund and R46,1 million was from conditional grants for budget cut implemented by the national. The budget for the department increases from R1,771 million to R1,806 million.

- Vote 4: Provincial Treasury is allocated R6,5 million additional funding for capital payments. About R2,4 million is for contractual obligations. About R5000 00 is for liberal services and R2,4 million is for equitable share rollovers. The department however surrendered R54,6 million from the compensation of employees. The budget for the department reduces from R457,7 million to R414,8 million.

- Vote 5: Limpopo Economic Development and Tourism is allocated R59 million additional funds to fund computer services. About R16,1 million is allocated for goods and services and budget pressures. About R5 million is for liberal services, R800 000 is for public assets and R13,2 million is for the commercialisation of Nelspruit Nature Resort and the completion of low cost accommodation and for the management fee of infrastructure grant projects. The department set aside R4,5 million for equitable share rollovers. Hon Premier, these are some of the projects that we fund so that we are able to continue maximizing our own revenue of the province. Actually, it assist us a lot to register these projects. Furthermore, additional funds are allocated to support LEDET entities. The Limpopo Economic Agency is allocated R62 million for the compensation of employees pressures and legal matters. About R15 million is for new (Inaudible) to fund assets finance. About R33 million is for the Limpopo Commission to maintain broadband network and other operational costs to secure external investments. This is a platform for maintenance so that we are able to attract those investors so that they don't find infrastructures in disarray. About R104 million will be funding regular transport and statutory commitments and supplies. About R8,4 million is for Limpopo Tourism Agency to fund Limpopo DStv Soccer Teams and for profiling women in tourism projects in Limpopo. About R15 million is for Limpopo Gambling Board to fund operational pressures and this is for revenue collection in line with the provincial revenue intervention strategy meaning that because Limpopo Gambling Board is giving us more revenue.
-
- We are therefore taking that with them and we are encouraging them to continue making sure that they are able to give us more revenue to the province. The department will however surrender R17,6 million which comprises of R5 million for the compensation of employees and R12,6 million for the compensation of MIR funds. EPWP Conditional Grants was cut by R187 000 by national. The department's budget increased from R1,450 billion to R1,710 billion.
- Vote 6: Department of Health is allocated R8,5 million additional funds to purchase EMS substitutes. About R200 million was for the purchase of EMS vehicles and vehicle equipment. I am sure that you have seen that we are able to do that to some ambulances that have even too many various substitutions in the province. An amount of R50 million is for the revenue enhancement of capital assets and infrastructure projects. About R41 million is for medico-legal clinics. About R639 million is for funding clinical medical supplies and contractual obligations.

About R25,6 million went to equitable shareholder rollovers and R25,9 million was for conditional grants. The department will however surrender R3,5 million from given scholarship on animal funding and R107 million from conditional grants for practicals implemented by the national. The budget from the department increases from R23,772 billion to R24,602 billion.

- Vote 7: Department of Transport and Community Safety is allocated R1 million for additional funds from the national funds for emergency support services and R3,2 million for tax repayments consumable and R65 million for bus subsidy and taxis. About R2 billion is for LEDA utility, R65 million is for Traffic Corridor B and C construction. The department is also allocated additional R3 million for Gateway Airport Authority Limited to fund its IT

services; that is for disaster and government services. The department will however surrender R40 million from compensation of employees and R36,6 million from the (Inaudible) and R191 000 from the conditional grants for budget cuts implemented by the national. The budget from the department increases from R2,4 million to R2,5 million.

- Vote 8: Department of Public Works is allocated R10 million to conduct a forensic investigations into its (Inaudible) public portfolio so that people don't stay for free. About R36 million is for municipal rates and taxes and R17 million is for rates and utilities. About R6 million is for part of funding to complete the Maphutha Malatjie Hospital project which has long been running and I hope that with that funding, it will lead to its completion. About R35,4 million is for equitable share rollovers. About R8 million is for conditional grant rollovers. The department is also allocated an additional grants of R10 million for Roads Agency Limpopo in order to cover provincial and municipal road interventions. The department will however surrender R69,8 million for the compensation of employees. About R135 million is for MIR fund of VCT purchase and R15 million is earmarked for (Inaudible) Musina-Makhado SEZ road infrastructure which are both implemented especially at ZCC interchange modal which we are together running it with Sanral. I am hoping that in the next financial year it should be starting. About R31 million is for the refurbishment of government buildings. About R65 million is for service fee on redeployment of government departments budget. The department also surrendered conditional grants of R66,7 million to budget cut implemented by the national which includes R64,9 million for provincial growth conditional grants and R9,8 million for integrated conditional grants. The budget for the department increases from R4,950 billion to R5 billion.
- Vote 9: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is allocated R9,9 billion. The additional funds is for pressures on security services from libraries and R20 million is for provincial theatres and R25,88 million is for conditional grant rollovers. The department however surrendered R14,9 million from the compensation of employees and conditional grants funding of R18,6 million budget cut implemented by the national as follows: About R4,9 million is from allocation of funds for the development of conditional grants. About R8,5 million is for community and library services grants and R1,911 9000 million is for EPWP integrated grants. The budget for the department increases from R621,8 million to R644,7 million.
- Vote 10: Department of CoGHSTA is allocated R37,8 million as additional funds to pressures from the compensation of employees. About R38,5 million is for the procurement of traditional leaders vehicles. About R1,9 million is for products of traditional leader (Inaudible) R24,7 million is for equitable share rollovers. About R14 million is for conditional grant rollovers. The department however surrendered R31,9 million for conditional grants for budget cut implemented by the national which includes R31,7 million informal settlements partnership conditional grants and R191 000 for integrated conditional grant. The budget from the department increases from R2,592 million to R2, 797 million.
- Vote 12: Department of Social Development is allocated R60 million as additional funds for the compensation of employees pressures and R31 million to fund for additional compensation of employees pressures. The department will however surrendered R801

000 from conditional grants budget cut as implemented by the national which includes R543 000 for EPWP social conditional grant and R258 000 for EPWP integrated conditional grant. It is important, Hon Premier, to know that additional funds amended for community to address once-off pressure for 2023/24 financial year as these funds may not be available in the medium-term financial framework. As a result, (Inaudible) it will remain the responsibility of each department to ascertain the recurring that all posts are funded for within the allocated deadline to improve measures to enhance revenue collection. Hon Speaker, (Inaudible) and revenue collection challenges. As a province we still have a number of inequalities that are classified as being under financial struggle. It is therefore now more important to exercise the key role each municipality council must play to ensure that they approve the funded budget that will stimulate economic growth in their specific municipalities of the province.

In the 2024/25 MTEF period, the province is allocated the following changes in equitable share allocations. The province will receive additional R145,716 million in 2024/25 financial year and R159 million in the 2026/27 financial year. However, the province will use R109,02 million for 2025/26 for new data updates as the latest 2023 allocations. The province's budget will be cut by R2,27 billion by 2024/25; R2,3 billion by 2025/26 and 2,489 billion by 2026/27 respectively due to the national fiscal classifications. The province should receive R2,506 billion in 2024/25; R2,614 billion in 2025/26 and R2,781 billion in 2026/27 for health compensation of employees pressures. The total allocation of equitable shares for Limpopo budget in 2024/25 financial year amount to R68,354 billion. That is a growth to R71,637 billion in 2025/26 is at R75,19 billion received in 2025/26 financial year respectively.

The total provincial fund comprises equitable shares conditional grants and provincial grants is increasing in 2024/25 financial year from R78,38 billion to R81,3 billion which is a growth by 4,8% to 2025/26 to R85,221 billion and are at 43% to R80,365 billion in 2026/27 financial year. The total provincial allocation for 2024/25 financial year amounts to R89,295 billion which reflect positive growth of 3,5% when compared to R79,162 billion in appropriations of the 2023/24 financial year. Within 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years, the total provincial allocation amounts to R84,980 billion and it goes to 4,5% and R88,875 billion and 4% growth year on year respectively. The above allocations are inclusive of preliminarily of provincial grants allocations since the national department must still finalize their status from conditional grant allocations per province after consultations with relevant stakeholders as prescribed in section 26(2)(e) of the 2023 Division of Revenue Act which requires for the transferred funds to be submitted through the National Treasury by 1 December 2023. The final conditional grant allocations and framework is based on the provisional allocations.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, it is important for me to emphasize that this persisted growth of the provincial economy under that mentioned provisions will require the commitments to exercise this proven and (Inaudible) allocations (Inaudible) The implementations that serve the use and adoption of exorbitant are key strategies to pinpoint settings that will be reallocated to address inefficiencies in key service delivery.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, in this Medium-term Financial Policy Statement, I accept that the provincial government must take action to continue supporting economic growth and ensuring the stability of the provincial debts.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Premier of the province on his guidance and the treasury portfolio committee for their commitment and counsel in this work. I also want to thank the Provincial Treasury budget team in their guidance and prayers for their dedication and commitment in this endeavor. Hon Speaker, ladies and gentlemen it is my honour to present this 2023/24 Adjustment Appropriation Bill to this august House for consideration and approval together herewith the provincial Medium-term Budget Policy Statement and the adjustment estimates for provincial revenue and expenditure. Ke a leboga. Ndo livhuwa. Ndza khensa. Baie dankie. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech together with other documents are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House.

7.2 Consideration and adoption of the following oversight reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the oversight visit report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety visit to Groblersbrug Border Post in Waterberg District in Lephalale District Municipality on 19 July 2023. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Donald Sello Selamolela, from the ruling party, the African National Congress, rise to second the report as tabled by the honourable chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, honourable committee chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to table the oversight visit report to Lephalale Airfield in Lephalale Local Municipality on 19 July 2023 for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

I rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Seono, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, Hon committee chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to table for consideration and adoption the oversight visit to Groblersbrug Weighbridge in Lephalale Local Municipality on 20 July 2023 before this august House, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise the chairperson.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I take this opportunity to second the report as tabled by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, the committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, I table before this august House for consideration and adoption the oversight visit to Lephalale SAPS Community Service Centre in Lephalale Town on 20 July 2023. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mahasela.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MS SEONO

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, I table before this august House for consideration and adoption the oversight visit to Lephalale Driver Testing and Licensing Centre [DTLC] on 20 July 2023.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MOKABA

I rise to second the report by Hon Mmaishibe Seono. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, I present before this august House for consideration and adoption of the oversight visit to Stockpoort Border Post in Lephalale Local Municipality on 20 July 2023. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, committee chair.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, I present the Public Enquiry Report at Thabo Mbeki Community Hall in Lephalale Local Municipality on 20 July 2023 to this august House for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

[0:54:39 SEPEDI Inaudible] I rise to second the report as tabled by the honourable committee chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Yes, it was the last item. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for debate. The first speaker on the list is Hon Matlou. Hon Matlou, I think today your mic is working.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council present here; Chief Whip of the majority party, Mr Mokgonyane; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; leaders of the opposition; our DG present here; our HOD present here; honourable Members of our Chapter 9 institutions. Hon Speaker, it's our duty to test what we (Inaudible) over the years concerning service delivery that must be implemented by the department. We hope that oversight takes the responsibilities of operations in changing the lives of Africans on sectoral programmes that the department request in the lives of others.

Just (Inaudible) and follow rules and regulations properly those that are doing their work and said they will do it voluntarily to ensure that their work is effective. Oversight is a matter of Legislature's standing issues. It is meant to catch essential problems in their lives to make sure that nothing is done (Inaudible). In fact, good oversight detect on illegal or unethical practices on our government practice, development and it changes back to financial practices and make sure that government's purse is (Inaudible).

By having the obligation of the law, the committee has conducted departmental enquiry for Powers, Privileges and Immunities of the Republic of South Africa for Members of Parliament formations (Inaudible) read together with section 5 of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act of 2004 read together with Rule 145(1c) of the Standing Rules of the House of Limpopo Legislature as amended. Practically, this is a wish of the committee of the Legislature to summon and subpoena persons, organisations and entities to give emphasis on their role before the committee in relation to numbers of issues amongst others.

Against this backdrop, officials from various departments and certain entities are required to present the public hearing and programmes and interventions that will be carried out to address concerns by the communities in Lephalale and surrounding municipality.

The purpose of the public inquiry is to measure progress and also impact services rendered by relevant and other various national and provincial departments including some of the entities and further (Inaudible) information of services. The committee raised a concern around community safety and security, administration and (inaudible) and also public policing and safety, driving school operations, aviation industry, rail transport, metered taxi, traffic management and also road, train and public controls. The public hearing also further put more emphasis on issues of moral regeneration and economic development within the local municipality.

Hon Speaker, the committee also appreciated the presence of community members across municipalities. Members of the Provincial Legislature and Members of the portfolio committee in question, officials, the mayoral committee, traditional leaders, (Inaudible), and also taxi association, bus operators, community safety forums, farmers and people living with disabilities were included. The committee was very precisely listening to the responses and it also respond to issues that were raised by the Lephalale communities.

The presence of Commissioners and provincial officials also played a critical role by clarifying some of issues on the spot in order to presents concerns raised. It must be noted that there are notable cross-cutting (Inaudible) and that it also pushes the economy further for consideration by both provincial and the departments of the Legislature and the national department due to their respective competency included. In particular, on issues that relates to airport and airfield management, the ownership (Inaudible) the challenges of equitable shares of revenues collected in municipalities also requires intervention by parties involved.

Hon Speaker, the committee also heard concerns that were raised by the affected communities which (Inaudible) the powers of the local police officers. During the hearing, the public complained about numerous police stations that were not treating them well as there were no good communication between them and the police stations especially when serial offenders are released on bail without verifying their previous convictions that they committed in other police stations. There were other concerns raised regarding drug dealers who alleged to connive with some police officers in that police stations especially (Inaudible) and they don't undergo psycho processes to finalise their court cases as alleged by communities to them.

The committee heard allegations that police are also promoting GBV and as such, they are seen working with criminals. In other concerns, community further alleged that some members of the community police forums are engaged in cases that involve promoting GBV, aiding people to drop cases and being paid for that. The Department of Transport and Community Safety must work with communities in terms of the laws and they must also secure police stations without fear or favour. The department must also investigate the conduct of police officers in dealing with communities and also with offenders. The committee also heard that unfair allocation of supervisors was raise as a complaint by the community.

The committee also raise a concern that buildings of liquor outlets owners are again not in good conditions and that make supervisors and police officers unable to enforce law. In most areas, this resulted in providing such conditions to crime such as rape, (Inaudible) until the wee hours of the morning. As you would remember, Hon Speaker, the department in question (LEDET) must (Inaudible) police members' behaviour and those who are associated with the cases. The department must enforce discipline amongst police officers because if this conduct remains unattended, the community may take the law into their own hands.

The (Inaudible) of the municipalities (Inaudible). The committee further heard complains on the management of investigation of cases at the (Inaudible). Despite that, the community have complained about (Inaudible) their stock theft unit. It was reported that the unit is underresourced and understaffed and there was only two police officers who gives only one vehicle to respond to over 200 villages. Similarly, police were related of being incompetent as they were unable to (Inaudible). The department must also make sure that stock theft unit is capacitated.

Hon Speaker, the bus operators raised a concern that they have not been considered in the covering bus subsidy programme since they were instituted. The committee heard that one white-owned bus company has been benefiting over the last 20 years from the current bus subsidy arrangements. It was indicated that there were 10 buses operating in Lephalale and they have not been accommodated in bus subsidy programme. The department must restore back (Inaudible), clarify bus owners, bus subsidy with reasons and if any, clarify also about the experience as well as how you benefit from the 2024 financial year programme as submitted by the MEC. The committee heard a concern raised by the road users on N11 that is small and narrow especially towards (Inaudible) township and it contributed to congestions and accidents in area even in Groblersbrug Border Post. Similar blame is based along the host of portholes which are not being attended to at R33 along the Lephalale route to Vaalwater (Inaudible).

It was also reported that similar road conditions are also persistent in various roads in Lephalale. A concern was also raised about (Inaudible) which is an important one-way that lack clear indications of road safety signings to identify roads whether it is a local, provincial or a national road in a constituency that make them difficult to direct complains on the level of sphere of government on this particular road. In particular, we must indicate that roads, in particular, relates to Road D3310 or Road D3322. There was also (inaudible) of poor workmanship on the (inaudible). Labourers were alleged to have been illegal Zimbabwean nationals.

It is of importance, Madam Speaker, that the honourable MEC must look into this matter as clarified to both Lephalale communities and bus operators. Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the oversight visit report with recommendations by this august House. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Hon Ramalobela.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker, the EFF Caucus under the leadership of Hon Managa in absentia, all MECs present, honourable Members, our staff, members in the gallery, good morning. On behalf of the EFF, Hon Speaker, the Avanza vehicles offering cross border transport services in Lephalale continue to operate illegally and the traffic officers can't deal with the situation. The drivers of these cars recruit commuters from taxi ranks and along public routes offering them lifts mainly to neighbouring countries. This human trafficking must be stopped because it puts the lives of our people in danger and even undermining cross border laws.

Furthermore, it has resulted in taxi scuffles and tensions previously and if not curbed now, the situation may be catastrophic. Furthermore, there is allegations of corrupt activities across government departments and municipalities which were supported by a broader part of the audience. These allegations were never followed up and investigated. The government just dismissed them as mere allegations without going deep into the matter.

The ANC government has eroded the culture of accountability and good governance hence people just get away with murder in anything at ease. 1.09.10 sepedi

The Groblersbrug Port of Entry is characterised by such challenges as aged computer and connections infrastructure which is unable to cope with advanced internet connectivity, resulting in system failures during some days because there is no connection at all. Hon Speaker, poor internet connections along the border post results in delays which creates unnecessary backlogs in processing both in-bound and out-bound migration traffic.

Strict measures must be taken to strengthen internet connections at the port of entry to avoid unnecessary backlogs. If you cannot deal with small things like internet, you will not be able to deal with big capital projects. That is a fact. Hon Speaker, lack of sufficient personnel at the port of entry makes it difficult to reinforce the work conducted by our SAPS members.

It is for this reason that most of the cargo trucks are now disserting Beitbridge Border Post in preference of Groblersbridge Border Post under Lephalale municipality.

Due to understaffing, the municipal traffic officers are currently working from morning until 16:00 PM. The municipality must recruit more traffic officers to be able to deal with workload and to ensure that there is traffic officers visibility 24/7 and that the motorists abide by the law. After 16:00 PM there are no traffic officers found on the municipal roads until the following morning. At this time, no one is responsible for traffic laws enforcement. Hon Speaker, the national department has acceded to the fact that the existing model in terms of ownership and control of airports outside the ACSA airport network creates a serious concern for aviation safety and security. Something must be done about this situation before it gets out of hand. The safety and security of our people comes first. These challenges are prevalent in airports and airfields which are managed by both provincial Department of Transport and municipalities. It is also important to note that

Lephalale Police Station is a small facility and therefore there is lack of storage space for dockets and other administrative documents hence you will hear stories of missing dockets.

The South African Police Service has established a station at the border post managed by two members including the station head. Initially, the officers were three in number; however, the other has since retired. The tendency of this government of the day is that if people retire, they do not replace them and this affect service delivery. That is a fact. How do you expect two officers to manage the whole border post alone because definitely, they will be overwhelmed and not perform their duties as expected.

If one of the two officers fell sick or is on leave, the border post would only be managed by one officer indefinitely. This is shocking to say the least. The ANC government continues to embarrass itself more and more every day. Madam Speaker, the oversight visit without arresting the situation is equals to nil or zero. It is just a total fruitless and wasteful expenditure and its only for compliance without results; it's just touring only.

On the safe of people's coffers, its unacceptable. Year in and year out things are getting out of control from bad to worse under the ANC-led government for the past 30 years. What a shame! Madam Speaker, the road to victory towards economic emancipation in our lifetime and total emancipation of our people is in the reliable, capable and committed hands of the caring government in waiting; none other than the Economic Freedom Fighters. Woza 2024 woza! (Inaudible) I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Our next speaker is Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As the committee we round-off an oversight visit to various places as mentioned by the chairperson when she tabled the report. As the committee we noticed during the oversight visit that power verification at Groblerbrug Border Post inspection and compliance is done manually. There is an urgent need for electronic scanning system for a cargo transportation to replace sent goods crossing the border and for efficiency on the border operations companies that actually forthcoming and do their research and left the power damaged. The committee recommended that officials from border post will have to exercise strict measures in controlling the movement of trucks while also ensuring that speed humps attached in various roads are used at the entrance from Botswana to South Africa.

We recommended that the Department of Public Works in conjunction with Sanral should hasten the process towards the construction of two lane access bridge between Botswana and South Africa border and the Groblerbrug Weighbridge Port of entry.

In the Lephalale airfield, we recommend that both the national and provincial departments of transport should conduct a comprehensive study on the viability of certain strategic efforts from small airports that are potential to contribute to economic development in our

province. The study should also consider exploring public/private partnership to boost the management of the existing efforts in airports. We recommend that such study should also consider the involvement of local municipalities which may have necessary capacity and resources to run and manage such airports.

Under Groblersbrug Weighbridge, as the committee we recommended that the department should assist municipality to ensure that traffic lights are constructed within the vicinity of border post to ensure safety of truck drivers while maximizing socio-economic benefits that may derive from these. We recommended that the department should enforce security at the facility and ensure that both entrance and exit points in the facility are properly managed. Under Lephalale SAPS Community Service Centre, we recommended that with the exponential population growth under municipality as a result of mining and industrial development of the area are more become unaware of that.

We recommended that the department's agencies and affected communities should consider a rehabilitation and expansion of the station, in particular, towns and personalities which carry future challenges. Under the Lephalale Driver Testing and Licensing Centre (DTLC), as the committee we strongly recommended that the department in conjunction with municipality should develop policy guidelines on how municipality should regulate freight transport in their area of jurisdiction.

On the Stockpoort Border Post, the committee recommended that water purification system should be purified as a matter of urgency for human consumption. We have also recommended that additional employees should be appointed at the border. As a committee, we recommended that the department should ensure that transport forums are informed and capacitated to be able to discharge the responsibilities by the end of 2023/24 financial year. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Over to you, Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; Premier, Hon Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; leaders of the opposition, heads of Chapter 9 institutions, good morning.

Hon Speaker, considering that our term of office is lapsing in 2024, our success and achievements in realising our country's institutional objectives are significant and we need to publicise and communicate how far democracy has come under the leadership of the ANC. This democracy under the leadership of the ANC has permitted and capacitated Members from all political parties upon the significant of conducting oversights. Currently, all political parties claim to be the master of oversights forgetting that they learnt it under the leadership of the African National Congress.

The master chief of these are the forebearers, visionaries and oversight visionaries brought by the leadership of this glorious movement; the ANC. The committee has visited these borders and weighbridges as part of its responsibilities empowered by section 115 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 and section 5 of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures of 2004 read together with Rule 45 of section 1(c) of the Standing Rules of the House of Limpopo Legislature as amended.

The committee has observed the Lephalale Driver Testing and Licensing Centre to comply with K53 standards and regulations and it's well-maintained with seven service points that have eNaTis and IT's sitting rooms with a functional LEU machines. We commended the departments' commitment in ensuring that the repairs of LEU machines takes three to five working days. The station has a satellite registering authority in Makgolonyane. The station provides services to 600 vehicles per week and 90 applications for learners license.

It test 70 applicants for drivers' license on a weekly basis but the license card machine is old. The department must ensure that the replacement of old license card machine is done and not wait for the machine to breakdown before the end of 2024 financial year. There are 11 vacancies at the Lephalale Driver Testing and License Centre and traffic officer work until 16:00. The committee was ensured that all vacancies will be filled soon. The committee has noted challenges relating to revenue collection. The challenges, in particular, emanate from the memorandum entered into with the municipality and the provincial Departments of Transport and Community Safety. The municipality is required to retain 20% of the revenue collected while the rest will be split between the department and other agencies. The government must assist the department in drafting revenue collection strategy. The committee is of the view that if the vacancy could be reviewed on hours and shifts and could that be amended, revenue collection will increase and boost the budget of the municipality.

With regard to Lephalale Driver Testing Station, the committee further recommended that together with the department, the municipality should consider rolling out satellite testing license station in villages that are located far from Lephalale town. The committee should consider to review 16 memorandum of understanding entered into with various municipalities to ensure equitable distribution of revenues generated from registering authorities in municipalities. The department in conjunction with municipalities should develop policy guidelines on how municipalities should regulated freight transport in their areas of jurisdiction.

The committee also visited Lephalale SAPS Station and observed that the station is in good condition except that it require more maintenance and landscaping on the external environment. The facility is small and there were concerns that they might lack storage case for dockets and other administrative documents. Despite reasonable good conditions of the station, during the inspection of the endeavour, the committee was able to observe horrible condition of the police barracks which requires maintenance. These include ablution facilities and kitchen area within the barracks.

The station has 127 personnel and it will benefit 13 unitary police trainees in September 2023. It was reported to the committee that in three year circle, there has been a rise in crime statistics especially in relation to contact crime, murder, property theft and drugs. The increase is mainly an apportion or it emanates from informal settlements of (inaudible). In addition, the influx of illegal immigrants was also reported to contribute in the increase to these crimes. A concern was also raised about the unlicensed liquor outlets operating at the informal settlements.

The station is perturbed by increased level of drugs circulation and it is alleged that it is concentrated in Mokopane area. The committee is of the view that police intelligence should assist to nip drug circulation in their butt since the route of drug circulation is being traceable and bring the culprit to books. The committee will work with the department during oversight visit that this challenges is mitigated. The station also has three vehicles of which some of them have aged and need to be replaced. The station take its fleet for maintenance for service at Modimolle garage which is very far and takes two months waiting period for the cars to come back. This is hampering service delivery.

The station has one GBV Centre which may create problems if two families that are being affected by GBV can come at a go. Hon Speaker, the committee observed that Eskom townhouses are also contributing to the high crime rate ever since they were abandoned. The buildings have dilapidated and some are vandalized while some are occupied by illegal foreigners conniving with police. The department must work with IPID to ensure that corrupt police officers are brought to books and being removed from police services.

With regard to SAPS station, the committee recommended that given the exponential population of the municipality as a result of mining and industrial development in Lephalale, crime will become unavoidable. The department's agencies and affected ministries should consider the rehabilitation and expansion of the station infrastructure and personnel to mitigate future challenges. The committee work with the department during oversight visit to ensure that the recommendations are implemented and consequence management is instituted against corrupt elements in the police force.

On our arrival at the Lephalale Airfields, the committee received a briefing that the overall competence from the airport infrastructure and management lies with the national Department of Transport through civil aviation rights. The Lephalale Airfields is calling to be managed by the Department of Defense without the involvement of the Department of Public Works. However, during the interaction, the audit indicated that licenses of the airdrones have been withdrawn by the South African Civil Aviation Authority which includes Lephalale.

The airfields is currently used by SANDF for training its airforce personnel but this is no longer the case. Instead, the facility is only occupied by the Defence force only as a base. Hon Speaker, it was indicated to the committee that during the visit the facility is being managed from Tshwane and also, the station is currently managed by private business for recreational purposes and officials from Eskom Power Station or various reasons.

The committee recommended that given the state of the aviation in the province, there is a need for dedicated management of various airfields and other small airports to develop

strategic plans aimed at mortalising this important transport sector. This become important especially within (Inaudible).

The department must work hard to ensure that the committee recommendations are implemented successfully as this will help the Lephalale economy to grow. The national and provincial Department of Transport should work together and conduct a comprehensive study on the viability of certain strategic airfields and small airports that have the potential to contribute to the economic development in the province.

The study should also involve local municipalities which may have necessary capacity and resources to manage such airports. With this, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I thank you. Hon Speaker, this is what the committee, especially the African National Congress has analysed on the issues and see how we can assist instead of not always criticizing. This is for the people of this province for us to work together and it doesn't matter which organization you belongs to. When coming to service delivery it is our responsibilities. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

BACKGROUND

[CROSSTALK]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Over to you, Hon Maritz. Honourable Members, order, please. May we allow Hon Maritz to proceed. Proceed, Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Good morning, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the opposition parties, Members of this House and Guests.

Hon Speaker, Groblersbrug Boarder Post and weighbridge control needs serious extra interventions as the trucks stands for kilometres along the roads with no toilets, water, sanitation. There is pollution on the area as they throw papers and used items and there are game farms and also cattle farms that can cause harm to them. The Boarder Post itself needs urgent renovations to accommodate truck drivers and employees because the employees cannot work in that environment.

Concerning the growth of Lephalale economy, the department needs to expand police stations, stations, they need more vehicles and more police officers. The local municipality with the Provincial Housing Forums and relevant housing departments should urgently address the abandoned Eskom houses, they attract squatters and illegal foreigners with illegal activities and the safety of the community is our priority.

According to the South African Police Act, 1995 (Act 68 of 1995) Section 46 on Political Activities of Members Police officials cannot publicly display or express support for or associate himself or herself with a political party, organisations, movement or body and in any other manner further or prejudice party political interests, therefore the Freedom

Front Plus, strongly condemns the alleged involvement of police officials who are playing in local politics and siding with political groupings in Lephalale, the allegations should be investigated as soon as possible.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. Our next speaker is Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Hon Speaker, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe: Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha “Mahlatji’a Hlabirwa”, in absentia; honorable Members of the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party; Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs; the Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; heads of chapter 9 institutions, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, the main goal of state transformation is to bring in developmental state that provide effective basic services with capabilities to take forward and (inaudible) agenda of national community development goal while at the same time place people at their involvement at the centre of this process.

In dealing with their integrated and developmental agenda, the state must be achieved through building effective integrated planning and service delivery system and riding a caring society. The border post, weighbridges and human capital found at police stations are part and parcel of driving the economy as well as drafting strategic economic plans to be developmental. From 19 to 20 July 2023, the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety conducted an oversight visits with a number of border posts, weighbridges, police stations and entrance which are institution that we are to drive our developmental agenda through them. **SEPEDI 1:38:27**

Upon arrival at the Groblersbrug Weighbridge, the committee learnt that the weighbridge is 90Km away from the Lephalale Police Station which is Lephalale Driver Testing and Licensing Centre. The weighbridge has 19 traffic officers and three support staff members. The station’s mandate is to control and manage cargo loads reported by night and day vehicles. The weighbridge operates on two shifts bases of 8 hours each. The committee received a briefing that on critical (Inaudible) hours the site operates on 24 Hours shift.

The committee observed that the weighbridge station is not in a good condition. The building and mobile offices are delapidated while mobile offices has one vehicles that possess danger to emergency cases. The office is infested with snakes and other dangerous reptiles as there has not been a serious fumigation. The yard of the offices is too small and not adequate for trucks that goes through for weighing and the yard is also unpaved. The small space does not enable for the detection of cargo trucks and are in violation of traffic laws.

There is no gate at the entrance and this will expose the department to mitigate in case something might happens to any of the officers if violation of or if the freight cargo or truck could be committed with crime. Hon Speaker and honourable Members, the committee observed that water in the storage tank is dirty and is not safe for human consumption. There is one telephone and one photocopier machine. As a result, the staff members are forced to use their own private cellphones when performing their official task. There is no network connectivity around which is difficult for group communication (Inaudible) and the landline telephones are not functioning properly.

The computer and network infrastructure used by the centre is old and the system is outdated. It can't use modern technology and it uses network more often. The department must ensure that network system is brought to life for smooth functioning of station as safety for the personnel and the staff officials of the weighbridge. Hon Speaker, freight staff are now avoiding the usage of Beitbridge Border Post due to slightly high fees charged by the border post. As a result, the Groblersbrug Border Post is now overworked. The malfunctioning of Groblersbrug is unable to keep up the pace of cargo processing.

It was reported that about 150 vehicles were being weighed per day and 4 500 per months at the weighbridge and all vehicles are using 'Win your way' machines which was developed by the Council for Scientific Industrial Research. The department must consider including explanation of the strategic performance plan. The committee is of the opinion that the expansion given by any cars across to Zimbabwe within Groblerbrug will increase the development of revenue collection through the weighbridges. The committee has noted that the station is not operating optimally as expected due to inadequate traffic personnel which include implementing the 24/7 shifts.

There is shortage of IT state vehicles. There is non-adherence to officials. Health and safety requirements in terms of exposure of officials to (inaudible) or in the centre. There are health caretakers, of course, and there are no screen device takers for any overload vehicles. Instead, vehicles are manually directed to the weigh scale. The scale consist of a single bed and as a results, the weigh is conducted using up-side-ways based on manual operations. The department must ensure that improvements are made and that they are included in the annual performance plan.

The committee is recommending that the Department of Transport and Community Safety should ensure that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure escalates process towards the construction of a new facility at the weighbridge by the end of 2024/25 financial year. The department should ensure that there is conducive working environment and that both administrative and traffic officers who are working at the facility are supplied with all critical tools of trade before the end of 2023/24 financial year. The department should ensure that modern technical equipment at the same bridge is in the facility to ensure effectiveness and liability of the weighs process as seen as being involved as the designers of that machine.

The department should consider constructing a truck bay that would be moved to keep same offenders from violating trucks rules which has been denied bail (inaudible). The department must assist local municipality to ensure that trucks parking is constructed within the vicinity of border post to ensure the safety of truck drivers while it's rising socio-

economy that may be derived from that. The departments should re-enforce security facility and safety to ensure that both entrance and exit points in the facility are properly meant. Hon Speaker, the committee also visited Groblersbrug border post and observed that the border is used for commercial and social broadband purposes and it has a lack of sufficient personnel which consists of 15 officials and five vacancies.

It was reported that the vacancies were as a result of debts or resignation. There is no sufficient and safe technology (inaudible) and also it has weak internet connectivity. The place is occupied by SAPS members only. There are no working immigration officials. The station is situated at a flooded area. When it rains the station is closed until the water is reduced. It was reported to the committee that the station was once stay for three months into floods. It's the only developed area to reach into South Africa and Botswana and there are no traffic officials to control traffic and the lights are defunct.

The committee also observed that there was no electronic devices to search vehicles. Therefore goods goes undetected and there is no sufficient space for contraband vehicles. The search lowered down and there are no street lights on the way to the border. There are no records of daily incurred and commercial cargo due to insufficient personnel and no record of revenue generated. The committee also received a report that there were three boreholes and it's only one borehole which is working. There are no sufficient ablution facility. There generators cannot pick up in case when used during woodshedding. The station is closed to informal settlements.

The department must ensure that improvements are made at the Groblersburg Border Post. The department must also closely work with Border Management Authority on how best could the border port could be managed. The committee further recommended that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure work in conjunction with Sanral actually to process any act on construction of two lane that access bridge at Groblersbrug border to ease traffic flows within the border lane to the border post. This should include the construction of parking lot for freight and passenger freight transportation that are entering Groblersbrug Border Post. The Department of Public Works and infrastructure should ensure that there is a regular maintenance of working robots and park lights at the border port and the installation of mass lights within the border management.

It should also ensure that bigger generators are procured to cater for this during attempted loadshedding schedule. These generators must also utilised to supply power to the entire port including residential area where current is only for the current expenditure and external lights are used as generators. Hon Speaker, in conclusion, when we arrive at Stockpoort Border Post we observe that the border is non-commercially managed by the Border Management Authority and other departments are stationed there.

These are the Department of Public Works, Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture which their services are offered there as well. Groblersburg border post is not congested with traffic and there is no sufficient staff. There are not even (inaudible) the committee also discovered that the water is not consumable. The department must ensure that the border post is capacitated with security staff. The committee recommends to the House to adopt the oversight visit reports with recommendations as the report of the House. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Speaker of this august House, Hon Rosemarry Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Hon Premier; MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati; all honourable MECs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of this august House; government officials and all invited guests, a very blessed morning to all of you. Hon Speaker, let me open my response to the debate by expressing my dismay at the EFF's horrific remarks that they missed the nationalist government for good which had not only displaced our people and selling their land but it had also killed thousands of them.

Hon Speaker, it is shameful that today we could be sitting in this august House in a democratic dispensation and one of us could be brave enough to can express maleficent sentiments towards the cruel inhumane apartheid system. Of course, Hon Speaker, it reminds us that during the apartheid regime, it's not all black people who were suffering. These were those who were beneficiaries of the apartheid system. I want to put it on record that the ANC-led government is doing quite very well in fighting crime both nationally and provincially. We invited honourable Members to join us at 14:00 when we will be releasing the second quarter provincial crime statistics.

The picture is easing. Hon Speaker, let me welcome all valuable inputs that were made by the honourable Members of this august House. The portfolio committee chair and collective, those who are committed to their work, those who are able to differentiate that when you allocated opportunity to be in this honourable House the public there must be able to differentiate between a concerned member and a public representative who is here on the part of the people.

Hon Speaker, let me indicate that department remain committed to address many of the challenges that were identified during the oversight visit and a comprehensive report will be compiled and submitted to the portfolio committee in due course. Hon Speaker, I had a pleasure of joining honourable Members of the portfolio committee as they embark on this colossal programme of overseeing the functionality of numerous government facilities with Waterberg District Municipality. Starting from this first speaker, Hon Matlou, he was able to indicate that the department was able to provide answers on the spot particularly because we were part of the portfolio committee as they were busy with their oversight work.

I must indicate that the scope of oversight was diverse as it also included other sector departments like Home Affairs; Public Works; Agriculture; and the South African Revenue Services. In areas which falls outside our ambit and area of jurisdiction, we have escalated that identified embodiments with relevant authorities. This expedition has also provided us with an opportunity to interface with some community structures and we were

able to provide them with solution and guidance regarding some of the challenges that they are faced with.

On one occasion we interacted with a group of public transport operators who registered concern about the inability to participate in the government bus subsidy scheme and alleged that government is biased towards a big chunk of companies as the detrimental to small operators. We then use this opportunity to address the matter and also inform them that the bus subsidy programme is highly needed a reform to address challenges highlighted by our people and we will ensure that in the process of reforming these bus subsidised programme, as the department we also address a (inaudible) that will be of benefit to our people.

We also learnt of the impact that the Border Management Authority has on the management and co-ordination of the country immigration services. There were notable challenges, of course, at both the Stockpoort and Groblersbrug Weighbridge Border Post of inadequate infrastructure that were escalated with relevant sector like the Department of Public Works; South Africa Revenue Services; Health; and national Department of Transport.

We have commenced with the process of action and some of the recommendations and directives that were suggested by the committee during oversight visit. However, it should be noted that these borders are providing meticulous and efficient services to the thousands of commuters whom they give services throughout the year. Through our ongoing engagements we shall provide the portfolio committee with an update on the programme that we have registered and attempt to address on the identified challenges.

We were joined in this programme of the portfolio committee by the officials of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited who will make submission statements on how to optimize the use of Lephalale Airfield and grow value out of it. In terms of the taxi permits and operations licenses, Lephalale accounts amounts the few municipalities in the province which have finalized its integrated transport plans and presented them into the department. It is for this reason that we are confident that the majority of taxi operators in Lephalale are properly documented and are conducting their businesses within the confines of the law. I have already instructed the Head of Department to work very hard to address issues that required the department's immediate attention.

This will be done on an ongoing process and the portfolio committee will be apprised of these developments. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC.

9. NCOP BUSINESS

Motion for the ratification of the appointment of special delegates who attended the NCOP plenaries

Over to you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Matibe; Hon Premier of the province; Members of the Executive Council; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Members of the august House; heads of Chapter 9 and 10 institutions of the Constitution present, our ...

THE SPEAKER

Hon Deputy Chief Whip, try to speak closer to the mic for recording purpose.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I thought I'm closer to the mic. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Maybe you can just come to the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the august House; leaders of opposition parties in the House; guests in the gallery; DG of our province; HODs; Legislature staff; and esteemed members of the Chapter 9 and 10 institutions of the Constitution present. Hon Speaker, I stand to present the motion for the ratification of the appointment of special delegate to attend the national council of provinces plenaries.

The 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 provides 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 sittings of the National Council of Provinces when the House is not sitting.

- On 17 October 2023: The following honourable Members were designated to attend the sitting as Special Delegates: Hon T N Mokone, Hon S N Mochadi, Hon N J Aphiri and Hon M J Masekoameng.
- On 24 October 2023: The following honourable Members were designated to attend the special meeting: Hon C B D Selane, Hon M R Seono and Hon N M Lekganyane.

- On 26 October 2023: The following Members attended the sitting as special delegates: Hon S C Sekoati; Hon R R Molapo, the Speaker; Hon T B Matibe, Deputy Speaker; Hon E M Mokgonyana, Chief Whip.
- On 31 October 2023: The following attended the plenary as special delegates: Hon F F Radzilani, Hon M R Seono, Hon M A Mokaba and Hon C B D Selane.
- On 02 November 2023: The following honourable Members attended the sitting as Special Delegates: Hon M R Seono, Hon M J Matlou and Hon N M Lekganyane.
- On 07 November 2023: The following Members attended a plenary as special delegates of the NCOP: Hon F F Radzilani, Hon M R Seono, Hon M A Mokaba and Hon N M Lekganyane.
- On 09 November 2023: The following Members attended a meeting as special delegates: Hon C B D Selane, Hon M A Mokaba, Hon M R Seono and Hon N M Lekganyane.
- On 15 November 2023: The following Members attended the plenary session as special delegates: Hon B R Makamu, Hon M A Mokaba, Hon M R Seono and Hon S M Mochadi.
- On 16 November 2023: The following Members attended the plenary as special delegates: Hon R Monama, M A Mokaba, Hon S N Mochadi and Hon N M Lekganyane.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned Special Delegates in line with the abovementioned provisions.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Madam Speaker, I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand here to second the motion as presented by the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

Over to you, Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury will (Inaudible). All the staff members in the Office of the Speaker are distributing bags for all of us in line with the Women's Parliament protocol.

Lunch is served at the committee boardroom. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Our last item, honourable Members, is adjournment. The House is adjourned until Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at 10:00. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 24 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. We may all be seated. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive, Members of this august House, staff members, our guests in the gallery; good morning and welcome to our Sitting. We may now proceed with our programme. Let's move to Item 3: Motions without Notice.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Maharaj. Hon Maharaj, I'm told that all mics are not working except that one on the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

**MIXED REACTIONS FROM MEMBERS AFTER THE RELEASE OF CRIME
STATISTICS IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE
(Motion without Notice)**

- [Inaudible] Robbery and residential robberies increased by 51,2%. Stock theft has increased by 30,7%.
- Notes that Lieutenant-General Hadebe is not up to the task to ensure the safety or property of citizens.
- Further notes that the people of Limpopo have lost confidence in SAPS' ability to effectively serve and protect its citizens.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maharaj. Is there any seconder? I recognize Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

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

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, I think you were not audible enough for recording purposes. Can you speak closer to the mic?

MR SMALLE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Is there any other motion without notice in terms of House Rule 145? I recognise Hon Managa. I did not receive any indication from your party. I will allow you to proceed but, procedurally, you have to submit an indication to that.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Chair and our apologies. I, Managa Lillian, rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice about the arrest of former Municipal Manager of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and the current Sekhukhune District Municipal Executive Mayor in connection with the Venda Building Society Mutual Bank great heist.

VBS MUTUAL BANK GREAT HEIST ARRESTS

(Motion without Notice)

- The Economic Freedom Fighters in Limpopo welcomes the arrest of 59-year-old former Municipal Manager of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and the current Sekhukhune District Municipality Executive Mayor. The duo appeared in the Pretoria Specialised Commercial Crimes Court on Wednesday, 23 November 2022, subsequent to their arrest on Wednesday in the Groblersdal area. The arrest was as a result of the ongoing investigations into the VBS Mutual Bank investments that were conducted by municipalities in contravention of Municipal Finance Management Act.
- The Municipal Manager (MM) is said to have been instrumental in investing R190 million of municipal funds into the VBS Mutual Bank wherein the Mayor received over R300 000 of gratification which includes cash, accommodation and flight tickets.
- These funds were channeled through a company that belongs to her children.

- The two suspects appeared in the Pretoria Specialised Commercial Crimes Court on Wednesday. Her charges range from corruption, money laundering and contravention of Municipal Finance Management Act as well as Banks Act, 1990.
- We call upon the relevant law-enforcement agencies to explore all legal means to recoup all monies from the mayor. The Hawks must leave no stone unturned in investigating the VBS saga and they must ensure that every hand found in the cookie jar is brought to book. No one must escape the long arm of the law if we are serious about restoring public confidence in the justice system.
- The arrested Mayor must be replaced with immediate effect to avoid the collapse of services.
- The Economic Freedom Fighters commend the Hawks for proving that no one is above the law regardless of their prominent political affiliation or social standing.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MOHLALA

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Are there any further motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MR MOHLALA

EXPOSURE OF MAKHADO WARD 24 COUNCILLOR ON HIS CORRUPT ACTIVITIES (Members' Statement)

Greetings, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and honourable Members of this august House. The EFF salutes Makhado Local Municipality community members from Ward 24 for exposing Ward Councillor, Mr Muhali Makwala, for selling jobs and hiring his own people

without involving local community members. The community of Madabani, Madodonga and Muduluni lamented that Makwala hired members of ward committee who are already being paid by the municipality to work on the renovation of Vhuilafuri Stadium which is situated between Madabani and Madodonga.

The project started in October and is expected to be finished by September 2023. As it stands, people had passed a vote of no confidence for he showed no respect to them – forgetting that they put him in power. He must be removed with immediate effect if these allegations are found to be true. The EFF is further concerned that the Councillor is arrogant and does not want to engage the committee on anything, which includes this matter.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and make sure that he is removed if the allegations are found to be true. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Is there any other Members' Statement? There is none. Is there any response from Members of the Executive to the Members' Statement? Okay, let's move to the Executive Statements. Is there any Executive Statement? There is none. Is there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is none. Thanks. Let's move to Orders of the Day.

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY

In terms of the Orders of the Day, we have made a little bit of a change in terms of numbering of items. Item 7.1 will be Item 7.2. and Item 7.2 will be Item 7.3. Let's start with item 7.1: Consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury and Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2022]. Over to you, committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. In the name of and on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury in this Provincial Legislature of Limpopo, I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee for Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2022] be adopted as a report of this honourable House as it appears on the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports (ATC).

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Lekganyane. Hon Lekganyane, you are advised to move forward to the podium.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the move for adoption of the motion as presented by honourable chair. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lekganyane.

6. DEBATES ON THE SECOND READING OF THE LIMPOPO ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION BILL, 2022

We now move to Item 7.2: The Second Reading debate of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2022]. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Maria Lekganyane.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, 'Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa'; Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, MECs present here, chairperson of different portfolio committees, honourable Members of the House, members in the public gallery, good morning. Kgotso ya Modimo a e be le rena kamoka. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to debate on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2022] report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

The Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2022] was introduced in the House on 17 November 2022 by our MEC, Hon Sekoati. The Bill was appropriately referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration, scrutiny and report back to the House. The committee met on 22 November 2022 for consideration and adoption of the report of the Bill. The total adjustments allocation increased the provincial Budget from R72,2 billion to R78,1 billion and it is comprised of additional equitable share allocations for an amount of R1,1 billion which is the funding for 2022 national wage increase.

From the underspending of R1,1 billion on conditional grants, the province applied for the rollovers of R8,7 million and only R8,071 million was approved by the National Treasury. The province surrendered R3,3 million on conditional grant, R93,8 million on Education, R80,27 million on Agriculture and Rural Development, R62,6 million on Public Works, R52 million on CoGHSTA and R32 million on Sport, Arts and Culture. There must be accountability and consequence management in the event of repeated underspending at the expense of needed services to our communities.

We all know that the government must better the lives of our people. The committee found that allocations to the departments were adjusted upwards from R74,2 billion to R78,1 billion which is an increase of R3,9 billion. Although most departments received equitable share and conditional grant rollovers from the 2021/22 to 2022/23 financial year, they surrendered millions of the compensation of employees' budget. The committee found that the departments underspent on their Budgets and as such, their surrenders were made on both equitable share and conditional grant allocations.

There was a likelihood that underspending might be incurred again on additional allocations. The committee was concerned about the capacity to spend on additional allocations given the timeframes within which such allocations were being utilised. There were only few challenges on the expenditure of conditional grants in the departments and in municipalities. Underexpenditure on MIG had always been reported as a challenge within municipalities. Irregular expenditure had always been a provincial occurrence as compared to other unwanted expenditures despite recommendations made by Auditor-General and other law-enforcement agencies on irregularities in the province.

There seems to be a slow redress to that challenge. Provincial Treasury indicated to the committee that it was not getting co-operation from affected departments, particularly on the implementation of the recommendations of the forensic reports and other investigation reports.

There was a need for revenue enhancement strategies in the province to augment the Provincial Revenue Fund. The committee made the following recommendations and amongst them there are those that are reflected on the schedule of the Bill and they should be appropriated to departments accordingly and the principal Bill should be accepted by this House. Departments should revisit their plans to ensure that achievable targets are set to avoid unnecessary surrender of equitable share and conditional grant allocations. Therefore, we call for a crucial need for prudence spending on departmental allocations, Hon Speaker.

Progress about the functions of special technical committee in dealing with challenges of conditional grant and other spending challenges in the province should be reported. The Provincial Treasury should submit a report on irregular expenditure incurred over the previous four years. The report should be comprehensive enough to include the following: Departments involved in irregular expenditure, which amounts to each line of department, measures must be taken against officials involved in such actions and measures must also be taken to regularise such irregular expenditure in various departments.

The report should be submitted on 30 November 2022. Innovative ways should be explored to enhance revenue collection and economic recovery in the province. In conclusion, the committee considered and acknowledged the principles of the Bill. I hereby move that this report be adopted as a report of this honourable House. Furthermore, the Bill should be processed to the next stage of the Legislature process. I so move, accordingly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lekganyane. The next speaker is Hon Raphela.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE MINORITY PARTY

Thanks, Hon Speaker and greetings to Members of this august House, Hon Premier in your presence; (he is not permanently absent), the EFF in Limpopo notes the underlying and disappointing mid-term policy statement as presented here. The Limpopo government also fails to spend an amount of R74 billion in the 2022/23 financial year. It

is a cause for concern that this government has forsaken the needs of the people who voted for them. The party continues to disregard providing basic service delivery to the impoverished people, jobs and the marginalised residents of this province, irrational and unjustified return of unspent budget to Treasury by provincial Departments of Health, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Limpopo Gambling Board and Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and even ineffective poor controls, lack of political leadership and poor government. Another area for serious concern is that section which is mostly affected by this return of unspent funds is the compensation of employees.

You can see yourself that those are the people who are failing workers here. The people of Limpopo should know that their leadership is the one that is failing them. They don't want to give them services and pay what is due to them but, they would rather give that to the elite businesspeople due to corruption and those are the people that matter the most to them.

On 17 November 2022, the Provincial Treasury delivered a baseless Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement and Adjustments Appropriation Bill which had practical commitment to things around government departments and entities that continuously failed to spend allocated budgets. Each and every year this is the Medium-Term Budget Statement that we continue to talk about. There was no consequence management, corrective measures or valid reasons for the unspent funds of the Budget. The Budget has not promised any creation of any sustainable jobs or economic development that will see basic infrastructure restored and extended in many communities.

It is said that the Limpopo government is an autopilot project and as a result, accountability takes a back seat necessarily because the leadership is no longer serving the people of Limpopo with keen interest and dedication. We don't know what deters them, maybe after this coming elective conference has passed, things might go back to normal. The Premier is forever absent here in the House, that's why ga re kgone le go ba rekiša, ka gobane ge re re a ba rekiša the Premier is not here. He is avoiding accountability and scrutiny. By far, Limpopo Socio-economic Recovery Plan should have been long successfully implemented and it's the only one for the ANC-led government which is capable and has the interests of the people at heart.

Furthermore, the EFF is hopeful that additional funds will be allocated to all provincial departments which include the increase in infrastructure budget from R6,8 billion to R8,3 billion. In essence, the Budget will not translate into meaningful, quality, sustainable and usable infrastructure. Instead, the Budget will be squandered and only crumbs will be returned back to Treasury. Further, the allocation of Budget to failing departments is a waste of taxpayers' money and another chance for the looting spree by the ruling party. Limpopo residents need water, electricity and proper roads.

The EFF urges Limpopo Provincial Government to ensure that all allocated Budgets in the financial year under review are spent accordingly within the said timeframes. We urge the department to strictly ensure proper management and avoid unnecessary surrender of equitable share and conditional grant allocations. In areas where money was lost, the department must enhance revenue collection and safeguard the public purse. There must

be a clear plan to avoid irregular expenditure. We are calling for that and ask the department to seriously consider that aspect.

We cannot afford to lose millions year in and year out. The EFF is committed to ensure that the oppressed, landless and jobless masses of our people receive better services through what we are doing. We will closely monitor the failing departments and if they fail to improve, we will not hesitate to intervene decisively as we always do. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The total adjustment allocations have increased the provincial Budget to R78,153 billion which is a 5,23% increase from R74,23 billion. This increase is comprised of an additional equitable share allocations to amounts of R1,186 billion which is the funding for the 2022 national wage increase. It further comprises the conditional grant rollovers of R827,07 million from 2021/22 to 2022/23 financial year. Last year, an additional allocation of R81,023 million, which is the Public Transport Maintenance Grant was added in the adjusted amounts.

It is encouraging and we welcome the own revenue increment of 47% to R2,176 billion from R1,480 billion. However, we cannot accept and condone departments that do not spend their conditional grant. This is due to the given fact that Budget allocations have been reduced, unemployment has increased, whilst infrastructure development in the province is already at a huge backlog. The non-spending of conditional grant is, in essence, robbing the people of Limpopo of a better and improved life. In going forward, there must be consequence management for those responsible of returning unspent grants.

An amount of R982,4 million was underspent in the 2021/22 financial year on the equitable share allocations. The accumulative amount of R767,5 million was applied for by various departments as rollovers. However, Provincial Treasury recommended an amount of R802,567 million. What cannot be acceptable and where consequence management must be urgently followed is in the surrender of R855,245 million on equitable share by the province.

Once again, if one can look at what are the benefits these funds could have added to the lives of our people in Limpopo, it should anger us all for this dereliction of duty. From the total underspending of R1,162 billion on conditional grant, only R827,071 million was approved by the National Treasury instead of R876,787 million which was applied as rollovers. In essence, the province surrendered R335, 339 million on conditional grants which was broken down as follows:

- Education – R93,88 million
- Agriculture and Rural Development – R80,27 million
- Public Works – R62,6 million

- CoGHSTA – R52 million
- Sport, Arts and Culture – R32 million.

That's why we have huge backlogs in terms of housing, addressing roads and infrastructure in the province and in addressing schooling and hospital situations in this province. The total amount of inclusive equitable share and conditional grant surrendered to the National Treasury for the province is R1,119,584 billion. Once again, as mentioned before, this is a substantial amount, and we call upon all those responsible to account for the dereliction of functions. We are also very concerned that given the timeframe left for the end of the financial year, the likelihood is that underspending might be incurred again on additional allocations.

The committee is concerned that the capacity within departments on spending must be monitored to ensure that we do not encounter a situation of fiscal dumping. Over the last quarter, all departments were pressurised and some spent their conditional grants incorrectly and that raised audit and financial queries and the contravention of the PFMA. The committee was further concerned about municipalities given the historical challenges on their underspending on big grants which raises audit queries on the MFMA findings.

The continuous concerns regarding irregular expenditure on a yearly basis is also worrying as they lack consequence management on the leadership and management of these municipalities. These issues were compounded by the lack of co-operation towards Provincial Treasury and their regress to address issues and concerns raised by the Provincial Treasury, specifically on the implementation and recommendations of forensic and other investigative reports. Despite recommendations from the Auditor-General and other law enforcement agencies on irregularities within the province, there appears to be a lack of political and administrative will to amend and improve these issues.

We, therefore, recommend that should there be no consequence management at municipal level, this must be enforced at provincial level. The province needs new and innovative means of revenue enhancement strategies to augment the provincial revenue funds. It is only through innovation and new ideas that this can be improved and enhanced. It is highly advisable that as a matter of urgency and given the time constraints, departments must revisit plans to ensure that achievable targets are set and to avoid any further surrender of both equitable and conditional grant allocations and to avoid physically irresponsible spending.

The progress report must be tabled on the functions of the special technical committee in dealing with conditional grant challenges as well as other spending challenges in the province. In conclusion, a detailed report for the past four years on irregular expenditure must be tabled. This comprehensive report should outline details such as departmental officials involved, irregular expenditure amount incurred in each line department, action taken against them, and measures implemented to address these issues or to regularise such irregular expenditure across the department. This report must be submitted by the end of this month. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. I recognise Hon Phala, the committee chair.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker of the Provincial Legislature. Ba bangwe ba leka go hlola ditaba. Mo se re se bolelago ga se na ditaba ka gare ga sona. this adjustment Budget, otherwise, is also called mini budget. The main Budget was done by honourable MEC in April/May. Now we are debating from where the MEC has left at departmental standing and look at areas where there is no spending and where money must be shifted to where it will be spent accordingly. That's the duty of an adjustment. Ditaba di kae go na mo? So, let's go through it slowly. When we met as a committee, we said a few things. Hon Maria Lekganyane, we have already said that in the report and we were referring to: Firstly, we expect that all monies that are being shifted, MEC Hon Sekoati, must be spent by the year end on 31 March 2023. Anyone who receives additional money after a request due to overspending must make sure that that money is spent.

We want that money to be spent. We don't want underspending by the year-end. This is because, occasionally, some departments request money and in the past, they would get it and spend it by the year-end. For example, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) once did that in the financial year 2020/21. They got R473 million and more and they couldn't spend it by the year end. This year, if you remember very well, there was a second adjustment that happened towards the end of the financial year in which RAL got R250 million but when the AG went to RAL, they found that they couldn't spend R517 million. That's why we emphasise that point in the report.

The first item that Hon Maharaj and Hon Lekganyane who had listened, the committee reports emphasised that the point that we want all monies that are being given to the departments to be spent. We want all officials whose departments received conditional grant from National Treasury to spend them precisely because if you don't spend them, as Hon Maharaj said, they go to other provinces and we will lose as Limpopo and it's not nice.

A few years ago, we gave an example of one grant called Maths and Science Grant where we spent 12% of it here in Limpopo. How do you do that in Limpopo; spending 12% on Maths and Science Grant and the money goes to National Treasury. So, that's why we say all departments that receive a conditional grant must spend it all. Thirdly, we don't want any underspending to happen by the year end. Fourthly, the provincial government must bring in more aggressive revenue enhancement strategies to raise more money from within the province. Fifthly, there must not be much spike where people don't spend. Now, MEC, Hon Sekoati, they must rush to spend it when the year ends in March.

So, those are the few things we said because ga gona ditaba mo. Ke adjustment Budget otherwise which is referred to as mini-Budget. Let's go through it slowly. This is part of history of this province ...

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela ... No, you can't say uh ...uh! Can you allow Hon Phala to finish? Hon Mathe and Hon Raphela,

ADV PHALA

This is part of history of this province that we are rewriting honourable Members and you will read it in the coming period and it is just that this Legislature and all other Legislatures in the Republic of South Africa, which include the national Parliament, has never amended the Money Bill over the past 28 years. Once the Minister for Finance or MEC for Provincial Treasury tables the Money Bill, they have two options; to accept it as it is or to reject it. You cannot amend it for now if you don't have legislation that empowers you to amend it. They failed to give Sport, Arts and Culture R200 million and instead they gave it R37 million. You can't do that. Parliament has passed a law called Money Bill Amendments and Related Procedures Act, Act No. 09 of 2009. Even that Act, they didn't amend it. This is part of history. In this province in 2011 we were able to reject Money Bill in toto. By that time, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury was our fellow comrade, Hon Seaparo Charles Sekoati. In 2011 we rejected that Money Bill. The law says that you accept it as is because you don't know that Parliament has already passed Money Bill Amendment Procedures and Related Matters Act.

In 2011, I was part of that team which MEC Hon Sekoati was the chairperson of that Provincial Treasury. We rejected that Money Bill in toto which at that time was brought to the Provincial Legislature by the year end without it being adopted and it went through because you can't cross one river twice. It went through! Ya ba e le gore e fetile, e fetile. E padile go phasa. Re ganne go e phasiša. It is part of history. Hon Sekoati was very brave at that time! At that time! At that time! [APPLAUSE]. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon MEC for Provincial Treasury to comment on the debate presented by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our Premier in the House, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House, HODs present this morning, let me start off by thanking the portfolio committee for guiding us through this mine field. I'm saying mine field precisely because it was not easy because of the economic situation in the country in terms of the resources that we have as a province to be able to reallocate resources in the province due to pressing pressures that we are experiencing.

There are issues that have been raised by the portfolio committee and we do take them into account. Firstly, the issue of spending or underspending of conditional grant which we believe that that is meant to augment the provincial Budget or the equitable share and own revenue that is allocated to this province. By all means, we need to make sure that we become innovative and ensure that we do spend those allocations. We are aware that, in terms of conditional grant, we have got very limited capacity of getting money back

into the coffers of the province so that we are able to inject it for the development of the province.

However, with equitable share, I think that as much as we don't accept illegal underspending, we also need to thank departments for ultimately showing us that unspent money can go back to the provincial coffers so that we are able to reallocate it to other important areas or priority areas in the province which will be able to assist us at the moment. We agreed that we need to make sure that there is no fiscal dumping because it means that we are not getting value for money and in the process, money is getting out because we are spending it on areas that do not necessarily impact on the lives of the people of this province.

We do not want to accept any fiscal dumping, hence, as the Provincial Treasury, we are working together with all other departments, particularly, in all those areas that we are aware that risk is very high in terms of underspending in order to make sure that all allocated resources are going to be spent as per expectations. This is because they have been shown as pressures and priorities in these departments. We don't foresee any department that is going to underspend on the basis for whatever challenges that are there because we believe that where we have allocated it, it's in areas where departments are sure that projects have already been assured to us.

Secondly, it's on the issue of capacity of various departments to make sure that they spend their allocations. I think we have said that during these adjustments appropriation that we are looking at improving our planning regime and we have already done so. If you look at the spending patterns in various departments, it has actually improved in more than two previous financial years which gives us confidence that we should be able to spend accordingly but, as well, without any excuse that we will bring to this House like saying we didn't spend because it was raining; we didn't spend because it was too hot so on and so forth.

We assured you that we should be able to create value for money but also make sure that those resources are going to assist us in terms of developing this province. I want to agree with you that, with all the resources that we have and with the Executive Council as led by 'Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa', our Premier, we will ensure that every rand and cent spent is accounted for. We believe with confidence in the powers that were bestowed on us as the Executive Council. We should not let you down and we should not disappoint the people of this province. These allocated funds will therefore be spent as allocated by this august House. With those few remarks I would like to thank you, honourable chairperson and thanks to the committee too.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Let's move to Item 7.3: Motion for the suspension of House Rule 173 by the Hon Chief Whip of the majority party.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and good morning to honourable Members, Members of the Executive Council and our guests in the gallery. House Rule 173 provides that unless otherwise provided in these rules, not more than one stage of the Bill may be taken on the same Sitting day if objection to a further stage is made by four or more Members.

It has therefore become necessary to invoke the provision of House Rule 5 to suspend the provision of House Rule 173 in order to allow the House to finalise the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2022] today. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder to the move? I recognise Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the presentation of the motion by the Chief Whip and move for the adoption of the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chief Whip. We are on the Motion for the Fourth Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B02-2022]. Over to you, MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now that the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B02-2022] has gone through all relevant stages of the legislative process for this House, I now move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provision of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thanks very much. I move to second Hon Sekoati.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. We will now move to Item 7.5: The Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2022 [B03-2023]. We are now going to adopt the Bill schedule by schedule. Those who agree will say 'Yeah' and those who disagree with the Bill will say 'Nah'.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 1: Definition.

BACKGROUND

Yes

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 2: Appropriation of adjusted amounts of money for the requirements of the province?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 3: Appropriations listed as specifically and exclusively appropriated?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 4: The Short Title?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

We are now going to adopt the Bill vote by vote. Vote 1?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 2?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 3?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 4?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 5?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 6.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 7?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 8?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 9?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 10?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 11?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 12?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the Short Title.

THE SECRETARY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Act, 2022. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members. We are now moving to Item 7.6: Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa). Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, colleagues, friends and compatriots, Members of the opposition, members of the majority party, the African National Congress; the people's movement, the glorious movement, greetings to you. I take this moment to table a motion for consideration and adoption, by this august House, reports of the Auditor-General on financial statements and performance audit for Vote 1: Office of the Premier for the financial year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Bonnie David Selane, stand here to support Hon Selamolela. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Bonnie Selane. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I table for consideration and adoption by this august House a report on the Auditor-General's financial statements and performance audit report for Vote 3: Department of Education for the financial year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by the honourable committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Phala. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, I table for consideration and adoption by this august House, the Auditor-General's report on performance and financial statements for Vote 3: Department of Agriculture. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the move as read by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Grace Makhurupetje. Hon Speaker, for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, I table for consideration and adoption by this august House, a report by the Auditor-General on financial statements and performance audit report for Vote 5: Provincial Treasury. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Over to you, Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to support the move as read by the chairperson of Scopa. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks very much, Hon Sekutu Mochadi. Hon Speaker, for consideration and adoption by this august House, I table before it the report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance audit report for Vote 6: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for the year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as read by the chairperson of Scopa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Once again, baie dankie, Meneer Smalle. For consideration and adoption by this august House, Hon Speaker, I table the Auditor-General's report on financial statements and performance audit report for the Department of Health: Vote 7 for the financial year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move as read by the chairperson of Scopa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Maseko. Over to you, the committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much my friend. Hon Speaker, before this House I table the financial statements and performance audit report for Vote 7: Department of Health for the financial year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chairperson. I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move as read by the chairperson of Scopa. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

As-salamu alaykum. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, before this august House, I table the performance audit report and financial statements for Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community Safety for the financial year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, stand here to second the move as read by the committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. I know you to have a shop steward voice. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Simone wa Mosiria, Hon Mathe. Hon Speaker of this august House, I table for consideration and adoption the Auditor-General's financial statements and performance audit report for Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move as read by Hon Selamolela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Ro livhuwa, Vho Mahasela. Hon Speaker, I table before this House for consideration and adoption for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, the report on the Auditor-General's financial statements and performance audit report for Vote10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Chair. I rise to second Hon Selamolela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks very much, Hon Mokaba. Hon Speaker, I table before this august House for consideration and adoption the financial statements and audit performance report of the Auditor-General for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 on Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thanks again, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move as read by Hon Selamolela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahasela. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Ro livhuwa, once again, Hon Mahasela. I table for consideration and adoption financial statements and audit report by the Auditor-General to this august House for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 on Vote 12: Department of Social Development. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as tabled by the honourable committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Over to you committee chairperson.

MR SELAMOLELA

Re a leboga, Ntate Kgolane Rudolph Phala. Hon Speaker, I table for consideration and adoption by this august House the Auditor-General's report and performance audit report for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 of the Limpopo Gambling Board. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much Hon Mathye. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA.

Ha khensa manana. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. For consideration and adoption by this august House, I table the performance report and audit financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021 for the Limpopo Economic Development Agency. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Selamolela. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

A ke go leboge, Letsogo la Sebleledi sa Palamente. Ke ema go thekga polelo ye e bewago ke modula Setlo wa Komiti ya Scopa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Over to you, Committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks very much. Again, for the year ending 31 March 2021, I table for consideration and adoption by this august House the financial statements and the performance report by the Auditor-General for the Limpopo Tourism Agency. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity, I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, ke ema go thekga polelo ye e boletšwego ke Modula Setulo wa Scopa. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Ke a leboga, Hon Speaker. For consideration and adoption by this august House for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, I table the report of the Roads Agency Limpopo by the Auditor-General. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, second Hon Selamolela on the move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Lastly, I table for consideration and adoption by this august House the performance report and audited financial statements report for the Gateway Airport Authority Limited for the financial year ending 31 March 2021. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Selamolela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Aphiri. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker is Hon Makoma Makhurupetje. [APPLAUSE] It is not compulsory to use the whole 15 minutes, even if you can.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Besides that, you can't add extra minutes. Not so? Speaker, Hon Rosemary Molapo; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe; Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, 'Mahlatji a' Hlabirwa'; all MECs present here today, Deputy Chief Whip,

Ntate Mokgonyana; acting chairperson of Scopa, Hon Selamolela; and your committees, thobela.

I stand here before you on behalf of the African National Congress as we present the Scopa report for the 2021 financial year to this august House for consideration and adoption. This debate comes just two days after the debate of 2019/20 financial year report which on two financial years, public hearings were held simultaneously during the same period of January 2022 and June 2022. The debate will be focusing more on the comparison of whether auditees are improving, stagnant or regressing. On the other hand, this debate takes place just a day before the start of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children. It's a campaign which takes place annually from 25 November to 10 December as declared by the United Nations.

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children focused on raising awareness to the impact that gender-based violence and femicide has on women and children and social platform in our society. For that reason, I dedicate this debate by calling upon all of us as leaders sitting in this august House to go all out and work with other community leaders to communicate positive messages throughout the social media and other messages that not only include this one like; 'Not in my name', amongst others so that the voices will be too loud to many with the same message. It can indeed go a long way in contributing to the rebuilding of our social fabric and a better future for our children. After all public hearings that took place in the financial year 2021, the committee has made the following observations and recommendations. I will start to look at the auditees which have achieved a clean audit which is an unqualified opinion with no matter of emphasis. Hon Premier, we congratulate you – the committee wishes to express its appreciation for Vote 1: Office of the Premier as executing authority and the accounting officers and all your officials for continuing to obtain clean audit for more than one financial year. Sustaining at this level is not easy. Congratulations and well done.

Vote 8: The Department of Transport and Community Safety. Honourable MEC, we take this opportunity to congratulate you for continuing to get clean audit for the second financial year. Please, keep up the good work so that you maintain the standard even if we have concerns. I will detail it a bit later relating to GAAL because we have got challenges that we are faced with. We hope that this department can't continue to get clean audit alone without taking GAAL on board. Vote 5: Department of Provincial Treasury. Honourable MEC, this department has been getting clean audit for more than three years now. Congratulations and well done but we are just concerned that on your support to other departments, we still think that you are lagging behind. You need to make sure that you assist them so that they arrive where you are.

Limpopo Gambling Board: Congratulations to the Board and the CEO and all the team that continue to be a shining example in the province. Keep up the good work. The following auditees remain stagnant on their audit outcomes: Vote 4: Department of Agriculture. The committee has heard and considered evidence that the Department of Agriculture audit outcomes have been stagnant with unqualified audit opinion with matters of emphasis from 2017/18 financial year. The committee recommends that the accounting officer and the executing authority must be able to address some internal weakness which

made them to achieve. Some of those challenges that made them remain stagnant are underspending on the Budget.

The committee has heard that considered evidence that the department materially underspent R81 million on farmer support and development and sustainable resources. Another matter that made them remain stagnant is the report investigations. The committee has heard and considered evidence that Special Investigating Unit has been instituted in terms of proclamation and it overspent R36 million for 2019 GG425 of 12 July 2019 regarding the mismanagement of comprehensive agricultural support grant in supply chain management procedures. These are some of the key issues that the department must look into so that they get out of the stagnant outcomes.

Under the Department of Education, the committee has heard as well that this department has been stagnant with unqualified audit opinion with matters of emphasis since the financial year 2016/17 to date. The committee recommended that the accounting officer must develop an audit action plan that must deal with those challenges that have been there. This department is still entangled by continuous fruitless and wasteful expenditure and the committee has heard that the Auditor-General report was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence that disciplinary steps were taken against officials who had incurred fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and this will remain recurring if no action has been done. There was an unauthorised expenditure which is the same challenge as underspending of the grant.

The committee has heard and considered evidence that conditional grants have been underspent by an amount of R303 million. The significant underspending was noted under the infrastructure grant and we think this will continuously make them lag behind if the situation is left unattended. On Vote 11: Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, the committee has heard and considered evidence that the Department remains stagnant from the 2017/18 financial year. What causes them to lag behind, one of the matters that need urgent attention, is how they prepare their annual financial statements. The AG was not happy because as and when they prepare their annual financial statements, they continue to not comply with the prescripts reporting framework that is required in terms of Public Finance Management Act as well as the significant uncertainties that need urgent attention on achievement of planned targets.

The committee has heard that the Department of CoGHSTA in terms of evidence achieved reported the annual performance report materially which differs from supporting evidence provided to some of the indicators. If this matter is not attended to, it will continue to make the department remain behind. Vote 9: Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, it has a stagnant audit outcome from 2019/20 and their challenges relate to material underspending and overspending. The committee has heard that and considered evidence that the department, materially underspent the Budget by R603 million on Roads Infrastructure Programme and overspent the budget by R16 million on Infrastructure Operations Programme.

Therefore, if this matter is left unattended, it would continue to have difficulties on impairment of accrued departmental revenue expenditure management and irregular expenditure. The committee has heard and considered evidence that effective and

appropriate steps were never taken to prevent irregular expenditure of R1,5 billion. The committee has heard that if this matter was left unattended, the Department of Public Works will continue not to go to the clean audit as well as a matter of unauthorized expenditure. On Vote 12: Department of Social Development, the committee has heard that this department has been stagnant on unqualified audit opinion from 2019/20 to 2020/21 financial year.

It is also affected by irregular expenditure and the committee has heard that and considered evidence that the department has incurred irregular expenditure to the tune of R46 million in previous financial year which is under investigation. The committee has noted with concern that some of the bid documents from procurement and commodities were designed for local concept in the production which did not stipulate the minimum threshold of local production and content as required by 2017 procurement regulations. This noncompliance was identified in the procurement of COVID-19 personal protective equipment clothing and this matter needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency.

This department has got a challenge of retaining fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The transfer of funds: The committee has heard and considered evidence that appropriate measures were not maintained to ensure that the transfer of subsidiary to entities was applied to the intended purposes as required by Treasury regulations. The committee recommends that the accounting officer must take appropriate steps or actions against officials who fail to take appropriate measures to ensure transfers and subsidies to entities are applied to their intended purposes.

On Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture the stagnation of audit outcome of unqualified 2019/20 financial year is caused by one of the things which is in the other reports. On investigation, the committee has heard and considered evidence that independent consultant's firm is investigating allegations of possible irregularities in the procurement processes and procedures of Mapungubwe Arts Festival by the department which cover financial year 2013 until 2016/17. The investigation was commissioned by the Provincial Legislature through Provincial Treasury. We recommend that this must be concluded so that it does not affect the department in the next audit. Roads Agency Limpopo remains stagnant on unqualified audit opinion from the 2016/17 financial year to date because of significant uncertainties, irregular expenditures, overspending or underspending on the Budget.

Under Limpopo Tourism Agency, the committee has noted that Limpopo Tourism Agency has been stagnant with an unqualified audit opinion from 2016/17 financial year to date due to non-achievement of planned targets, procurement and contract management, other report investigations that as well involve the Mapungubwe Arts Festival where they were working together with the Department of Health.

On Vote 7: Health, now I'm dealing with a department that has regressed. The committee has heard and considered evidence that the Department of Health's audit has regressed from an unqualified audit opinion with matter of emphasis in 2019 to a qualified audit opinion in 2021. Due to failure to table the annual report on time, expenditure management and irregular expenditure are increasing to an extent that they need to be

curbed at some point. Achievement of planned targets, movable, tangible capital assets is one of the matters that need urgent attention.

LEDA has a regressed audit outcome from unqualified audit opinion to a qualified audit opinion in 2021 due to failure to table the annual report on time, property plant equipment, exceptional litigation and material impairments, irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the previous financial year. We only had one department that had material irregularity. This time we are receiving a second department other than the Department of Health. It has regressed and it is now having a material irregularity due to rental payments for radiology equipment that was in use and other reports of investigation where the Public Protector made some findings on other matters and unfortunately the recommendations were never implemented.

We are disappointed with the performance of GAAL on its regression because the committee has heard and considered evidence that GAAL's outcome has regressed from a qualified audit opinion with matters emphasis from 2019/20 to an adverse audit opinion in the 2021 financial year. The committee recommends that the accounting officer must develop the audit action plan to address the internal weaknesses with a view to obtain a clean audit. What caused them to have a regression to even an adverse opinion is the issue relating to property plant equipment, receivables from exchange transactions, VAT, receivables, payables from transactions, revenue from exchange transactions, employee costs, material, uncertainties relating to growing concern, significant transactions, nonachievement of the target and other reports where there were investigations done by either Treasury or other institutions that were never implemented.

The committee had tabled all comprehensive reports with clear resolutions that will be distributed to the departments and therefore the committee further recommends that all Members of executing authority must table a progress report on the implementation on resolutions to be adopted today and submit a report to both Scopa and the affected portfolio committees on or before 31 March 2023. We must take this opportunity to thank Hon Premier for a number of clean audits achieved and sustained in a manner that it has been done. But unfortunately, Hon Premier, we have congratulated you in a manner in which work has been done in the previous financial year. We are just disappointed that moving forward, in 2021 we have seen your emergence where GAAL received an adverse opinion and we were recommending that in the previous debate on Tuesday where we were concerned about the quality of work done by the accounting officers, which we recommended, that we request that that work needs to be monitored so that we don't submit reports from the sake of compliance because in all the reports, what makes the AG to be very unhappy is when they made the findings and realised that their findings are not taken serious because there is no consequence management.

We therefore rely on you, Hon Premier and MEC for Provincial Treasury that we will be able to support departments and, indeed, this anomaly will be done. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the acting chair. Again, we must thank the MEC, Hon Monama, who steered the ship by making sure that Scopa dealt with all the reports on time as he was the chairperson of Scopa and now the acting chair, Hon Selamolela, for the excellent work with your committee. We also thank all executing committee members and Premier

for availing themselves and the commitment they have shown. We indeed see that our province is now regarded by A-G as one of the best performing provinces.

We hope that even in the next audit period we will be able to improve, Mr Mkhari and your staff, your legal team and everybody. The committee recommended that the report be considered by this august House accordingly. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Makhurupetje. I recognise Hon George Raphela.

THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE MINORITY PARTY

Thanks, Hon Speaker. The EFF calls on the Office of the Premier to assist all provincial government departments, entities and all municipalities to improve their audit opinions, irregular, unauthorized, fruitless and wasteful expenditure; in particular, as this has a negative impact on service delivery. I think this is a point that, for example, the Department of Education has been stagnant with a qualified audit opinion since 2016 to date where the audit action plan to address internal weaknesses with the view of obtaining a clean audit opinion was not achieved. The audit outcome for the Department of Education has the potential to affect teaching and learning and therefore correct weakness and measures must be put in place timeously.

The EFF is of the view that the department must make payments in contravention of supply chain management requirements which resulted in irregular expenditure stated at R5,1 billion in 2020 and R4,1 billion in 2021 to a financial statement. The department did not have an adequate system in place to identify reports on all irregular expenditure incurred. These audit findings are a recurring matter from the 2019/20 financial year. It is worrisome that bid documents for procurement of commodities designed for local content production did not meet the minimum threshold for local production and content as required by the 2017 procurement regulation.

The EFF demands the prioritisation of local supply in the procurement of commodities but ultimately, the state must abolish tenders and build state capacity to be able to render services internally, honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury. Furthermore, we condemn the Department of Agriculture for underspending R81 million, Hon Mathe, on farmer support development and sustainable resource management. We commend the Special Investigating Unit for instituting investigations in terms of proclamation No. R36 of 2019 regarding the mismanagement of comprehensive agricultural support programme grant and supply chain management process, Hon Simon Mathe. The investigation was still in progress at the date of this audit report. The Department for Health must be ashamed for its audit outcomes that have regressed for unqualified audit opinion from 2019/20 and 2020/2021, Hon Premier.

The trend setup for wrong reasons MEC for Health must take the blame for lackluster performance which has plunged the department into bad books. I'm not sure if it's good books, Hon Makhurupetje. Under their watch, the department incurred irregular expenditure of R19,4 million and we call for the recovery of any loss due to negligence

by officials. The EFF is not surprised that financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared according to the prescribed financial reporting framework as required by section 40(b) of the PFMA. There is a vacuum for political leadership and content management in the Department of Health as we raised that Hon Premier in your presence. As a result, medical lawsuit claims are piling up due to medical negligence done in Limpopo public health facilities.

In addition, we have noted with disgust that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure underspent its Budget by R603 million on Roads Infrastructure Programme and overspent its budget by R16 million on infrastructure operations programme. We strongly call for consequence management against officials responsible for those underspending. These wrong doings compromised service delivery. I wonder if there will be action in this department. We have been calling for that and there has never been any action. It is unbecoming for the department to give tenders to undeserving and unqualified bidders.

This is because there has never been any consequence management, hence, they do as they wish. This is after the department awarded a three-year contract of R40 million in September for the supply of households and roads maintenance to a bidder that did not secure the highest bid in contravention of section 2.1(f) of the Preferential Procurement Policy Act. The non-compliance is likely to result in a material financial loss as the contract value willing bidder is higher than the bid amount of the supplier that secured that has got the highest points. The total amount of R25 million has been faked as at year end. We demand for transparency and accountability in the procurement process. In future, the contractors that unduly received tenders must be blacklisted.

The investigation report into the irregularities in the procurement process of the Mapungubwe Arts Festival hosted by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in 2012/13 and 2016/17 financial years was long overdue and therefore it must be tabled and have its recommendations. I hope that it's going to be like that. As the EFF, we are concerned about the Department for Cooperative Governance's failure to avert irregular expenditure as well. The department led by MEC, Hon Makamu, did not take effective steps to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R404 million as disclosed in the notes.

To the annual financial statements as required by section 38.1(c) of the PFMA Treasury Regulations 9.1.1.23, majority of irregular expenditures were caused by the awarding of contracts in the 2016/17 financial year without applying the preferential network system. The EFF demands a supply investigation into the Department of Social Development after its irregular expenditure to the value of R46 million relating to the noncompliance that was identified in the procurement process of COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Raphela. The next speaker is Adv. Hon Rudolph Phala. [APPLAUSE] You are not struck off the roll; that's why I can't call you Advocate if you are struck off the roll.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. You know very well, Hon Speaker, that to be a Member of Legislature you don't need to have matric. I'm sure you know that. So, we don't compete with qualifications here with people who don't have matric, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity to debate the 2020/21 report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Those who have been following these debates of this committee in recent years will remember that every time I started the debate, the Hon Premier wish if he could defeat me with fists if it was not here in the Legislature because I will open by saying what he remembers: "This provincial government is amongst the worst performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa."

You will remember, I will say that after North West, which is at the bottom even today, and Free State which follows it even today and after that there was Limpopo province. Like I said on Tuesday without any contradiction, now you know that after the Western Cape which is Gauteng 1, KwaZulu-Natal 2, Eastern Cape 3 and we get in-between there. Like I said on Tuesday, we are amongst the best performing provincial governments in the Republic of South Africa. That's what I said on Tuesday, if you remember, it is because of the difficult work that is being done by the people as mentioned by Hon Makhurupetje and, particularly, the sterling work being done by the Provincial Treasury, the Office of the Premier and other teams that worked day and night to ensure that we get clean audit, after clean audit and unqualified audit opinions.

Today we are no longer closer to those two fellows. They are still at the bottom if you go and look at the results. They have meetings with the Auditor-General on Monday. Even the results showed that North West is still the worst performing provincial government in the Republic of South Africa followed by Free State. We have left them and that's why we are at the top of the log in the Republic of South Africa as one of the best performing provincial governments in relation to audits. Hon Makhurupetje has done very well by doing the comparison between the two financial years. We are dealing with 2019/20 financial year; that is what we dealt with on Tuesday. For the 2020/21 financial year, we are dealing with that today on what has been the movement and the regressions and the improvements that have opened in that period.

On Tuesday, I spoke at length about the performance of the departments as we did. Today I'm focusing on public entities because on many occasions, when we debate about the entities, they fall through the tracks. We never focused on essentially talking about that. I will talk about them because the provincial entities' performance, if you look at them in the year we are dealing with, is also uneven as Hon Makhurupetje has said. There is Limpopo Gambling Board on the extreme which has a clean audit. I think it is for the third year now. In 2021/22 they got bad performance status of all entities in terms of audit. But, on the other extreme, you will find something called GAAL. Gala, ka Sepedi. E galaka bjalo ka gala a ke re wa e bona? Gateway Airports Authority Limited which at the other extreme is not alone; it is with another entity called Great North Transport. They are at the extreme as the worst performing entities of the provincial government.

The third performing entity on the other extreme is the Limpopo Gambling Board and we were talking with the LEDET department that this small one called Limpopo Tourism Agency, Modimo wa Isiraele! E palelwa ke eng to perform at that level of LGB, Hon Smalle? What makes it fail? The Limpopo Tourism Agency is as small as Limpopo Gambling Board but it is unable to just reach a clean audit it deserves and be among the best performing entities in the province. Also, in relation to entities, we are concerned about the accumulated irregular expenditure. If you look at RAL, for instance, in the years we are dealing with, they were sitting with accumulated R4 billion because on the other year, they came with R3,1 billion and in the subsequent year, they came with R900 million and that make it to R4 billion of irregular expenditure – just in one entity called Road Agency Limpopo which accumulated over the years and it's a problem that must be attended to and turned around because irregular expenditures is one of the challenges that we are faced with and that we must defeat as we said on Tuesday.

You will remember that, over the past year, their problems with fruitless, wasteful and unauthorised expenditure and generally those that have gone significantly down to utter minimality in relation to unauthorised expenditure. Fruitless expenditure of smaller amounts appears here but the one that is still huge is the irregular expenditure and that's why I'm mentioning it here. In this year, we are dealing with RAL which was sitting with R4 billion of accumulated irregular expenditure and that must be dealt with.

Under Great North Transport, I don't see MEC Hon Thabo Mokone here. He was on TV with some of the people who were supposed to be the beneficiaries. There is an issue of an amount of R300 million of pension or provident fund there that looks like we can't make head or tail of. We don't know what the problem is because when he was on TV, there were people who were set to be beneficiaries of that fund who could not get it when they retire because that is a pension or provident fund. You get it when you retire at the end of your term. If you go home after working for 40 years and there is nothing to show it's very sad on you.

If you will remember, I don't know who comes from Vhembe here, Hon Speaker? If you are at an advanced age like that and arrived home and you don't have any cent to show, usually you ultimately die of stress and depression and things like that ka gore mosadi o go botšiša ka mehla, gore ka gore o be o šoma kganthe tšhalete e kae kua o tšwago o be o šoma gona. Ga go ne tšhalete ye e tšwago o ka ba laetša yona. It's a problem that we must get the head and tail of it because I can't speak about it when they don't talk about it. One of the issues in this term that we are dealing with is the functionality and collapse of GAAL. You will remember, it happened in this period when GAAL could not get planes landing at Polokwane International Airport because certain things were not done right for a long time; so, it was a challenge.

We are interested in that progress on that matter, honourable MEC, particularly on consequence management for the people who were responsible for running that entity including the CEO, the CFO, the Board and whoever was running the place who allowed it to collapse in that manner. We want consequence management on that. There is an issue, MEC Hon Sekoati of LEDA and GAAL which, in terms of Public Finance Management Act, was registered as 3D business enterprises.

Theoretically, in terms of the law, it means they are not supposed to get any cent from the provincial government, but we continue to give them money. Can you get the point. I t's something that we must attend to and deal with it because if they are registered as 3D, public business enterprises and we continue to give you money at one time, the Auditor-General is going to give that money a name if you get the point. Gore tšhaletse ye le e fago batho ba, eupša molao o re ba se ke ba fiwa tšhaletse le e bitša eng na?.

So, we must deal with that. I talked earlier when we were doing the adjustments appropriation about the problem of underspending gore le yona it's a problem and I'm giving example here that they are talking about entities with Roads Agency Limpopo again that in the financial year, 2020/21. They underspent the Budget by R473 million. In the financial year that just ended lately, again they underspent R517 million. You will remember that in this province it's a province where batho ba lla ka ditsela. Ba lla ka mekoti mo ditseleng. Ba lla ka ditsela tša go se fele. Ba lla ka ditsela tša go tšea ke pula ge pula e ena. Bjalo ka ge le di bone kua Ephraim Mogale, pula ge e ena sekontitir se sepela se tšea ke pula se eya ka leopeng le sona. Batho ba lla ka dilo tšeo tša ditsela mo profenseng ye. Therefore, ge RAAL e kewšiša go ra gore batho ba mo ditirelo tše ba swanetšego ba di hwetše ke taba it must be paid attention to so that we are able to spend all moneys that are supposed to be spent.

Gape, bjalo ka ge re boletše peleng, go na le bothata bja sepedi in relation to spending conditional grant eupša bjo ke bja moswananoši. A conditional grant comes even if its name tells you what it is. E bitšwa Provincial Road Maintenance Grant. So, its name tells you gore it's for maintaining roads; patching potholes and bridges and things like that. But, Roads Agency Limpopo take that money and spent it to build new roads and the national government e a makala e re bjalo le reng bakgalaje, conditional grant in English means a grant that comes with conditions attached to it if you get it. Those conditions amongst them ke gore the money will be spent for the purpose for which it is intended for. You won't take that money and do something else with it. In this case, money comes for a long time and that money is called Provincial Road Maintenance Grant. Even the name tells you what it is.

RAL takes the money and spends it on something else. Le yona ye ya misspending conditional grant is another problem that we must deal with it and defeat it so that we don't have problems going forward with other people. The other key point ke ya gore in that occasion, you find that the irregularity that happens at the entity has been done by the Board and we have never seen action e tšewa against the Board. That's what we want. We have written that in the resolution gore that Boto ge e dirile molato, a ke re Boto ye ka semolao ke motho, it is a legal person, e swanetše e tšeelwe magato le yona. Eupša Tonakgolo go sek e gwa direga tšela Mohlomphegi Sekoati a kilego a di dira tša gore go ba taelo ya gore action must be taken against the Board. Consequence management Hon Sekoati o a tla o re I will tongue lash the Board, Hon Premier, aowa Modimo wa Isiraele, to tongue lash the Board. Gomme ka nnete a ba bitša. Ga se metlae.

Hon Sekoati will tell you. Ka nnete a bitša kua ba re go ke the Park Hotel bat la tswi! Sekoati tells them; Lena ga e šomiše tšhaelet gabotse I'm here to togue-lash you. [APPLAUSE] Ba tlatša ditleime ba ya gae. Modimo wa Isiraele! Rena re re Sekoati tšea magato kgahlanong le Boto gome Sekoati yena o re I will tongue-lash the Board. That's

why ke re Hon Sekoati was brave at that time but, despite the point – the point is that we want consequence management even on the Board, if they don't do things right. Action must be taken on them so that they are able to act correctly and properly. Those are the key issues that we noted in relation to the Board. I said earlier on that today I will focus on the entities in the province because on Tuesday I spoke a mouthful about the provincial departments. I thank you for the opportunity, Hon Speaker. Thanks. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. The next speaker is Hon Jacobus Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Sometimes when you took brave decisions in 2011 you forget how to become brave. Hon Sekoati, you need to get that boldness back. Sometimes we lose things and get them back. I'm sure you can get your braveness back. We will welcome that. Hon Premier, MECs and various HODs and members of the public in the gallery and honourable Members. The responsibilities and duties of the accounting officers and authorities are well-defined in the Public Finance Management Act and other enabling legislations which are all underpinned by the basic values and principles of governing public administration as set out in our Constitution.

When we evaluate the 2020/21 financial audit, it is one that we are concerned about. Our province did improve under the leadership of MEC Mokone when he moved LEDET into the space of a clean audit. It's clear that political administration and the administrative arm of that department worked extremely well to make sure that we do get the audit and deal with the AG's qualifications. However, the overall problems that comes up are regression from the previous financial year with four departments; namely: Our very own; the Provincial Legislature, Hon Speaker, the Department of Health, LEDA and GAAL that regressed after showing significant improvements in the previous year.

It is clear that when things go well to maintain that clean audit, people forget what they do to keep us there and that is one thing that we should learn. In the previous general report, the AG reported on the importance of having a strong, controlled environment and implementing recommendations to sustain the improvement of those outcomes. Those auditees that regressed were slow to respond to the AG's recommendations from the previous year. We noted that action plans developed to address internal control weaknesses were not properly monitored by accounting officers and internal audit and audit committees to prevent these repeat findings.

Gateway Airport Authority Limited regressed from a qualified audit opinion to an adverse opinion. In the 2019/20 financial statements we identified material misstatements in a number of areas. None of which were addressed in 2021 financial year. We also identified further material misstatements in other financial statements items. The regression was caused by a breakdown in the public entities in the financial reporting checks and balances and a total collapse in governance structures and instability in its leadership. The position of the CFO was vacant for the entire financial year and when an official was appointed by Treasury to act in those positions later on, those people were later

suspended and lastly dismissed. The Chief Executive Officer was suspended, and an official was seconded to act in his position and passed away during the initial stages of that audit. The public entity also did not have internal audit units, audit committee and audit accounting authority.

All of which were important assurance to the responsibilities of a financial reporting chain. During the 2019/20 financial year, 13 departments raked up R3,374 billion of irregular expenditure. The three main culprits were Public Works with R1,59 billion, RAAL with R734 million and Education with R468 million. The committee had expectations on that processor of accountability and condonement onto these irregularities which has commenced.

Regrettably, it was Scopa who needed to remind the Executive of the requirements of the PFMA. The R1,73 billion of irregular expenditure in the province mainly resulted from conditional grant not being used for the intended purposes and R1,6 billion in noncompliance with supply chain management to take licenses. In the case of the former irregular expenditure, the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure where the funds were transferred to the Department of Public Works. Roads and Infrastructure, RAAL did not adhere to the spending requirements in that division of conditional grant. It is unacceptable that the entity deliberately continues to defy its regulations and it did not just start here, Hon Phala. For the last five years, this entity continued to be reckless when it came to the expenditure of conditional grant.

Only six auditees submitted their financial statements that did not require material adjustments. This indicates that 13 auditees place the provincial leadership at risk of making incorrect decisions based on misleading and inaccurate financial information based on the information at hand. Good internal control is essential to ensure that accomplishments of goals and objectives provide reliable financial reporting for the management decisions. Hon Premier and MECs, it is therefore unacceptable that 68% of our departments and entities do not conform to good financial principles. The portfolio committee recommended to the executing authority to take appropriate action against these accounting authorities for their failure to submit financial statements in accordance with the prescribed reporting frameworks as required by section 55(1)(b) of the PFMA.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure increased to R662 million and included a loss of R5 million for goods not delivered and incorrect wording of the content. No efforts have been made to recoup these lost funds. In the 2021/22 financial year, National Treasury allocated R68,8 billion to provincial government departments but the departments only spent R97,2% of that Budget. Just over R1,2 billion had to be returned to Treasury. This is a gross disservice to the people of Limpopo with billions having been underspent. Citizens are receiving the short end of this. The failing Department of LEDET underspent on their various grants, the Department of Education with R523 million, Health R570 million, Social Development R72 million, Office of the Premier R16 million, Legislature R45 million, Agriculture R98 million, Treasury R14 million, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure R226 million, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism R8,4 million, Transport and Community Safety R40 million, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs R400 million and Sport, Arts and Culture R53,9 million. Underspending has a negative impact on our economic growth, employment creation,

fighting poverty and inequality and has harsh consequence management on people's lives, especially those who really rely on public services. The Executive needs to start giving services to the people by trimming the fat and capacitating departments to ensure that they meet their budgetary targets and that the needs of the people are met. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. The next speaker is Hon Simon Mathe. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker and Hon Speaker, Premier, Members of the Executive Council, HODs and CFOs and Members of the majority party; the African National Congress and, of course, Members of the minority parties, receive our revolutionary greetings. Let me join others and thank the speakership for providing me with this platform to reflect on the path traversed during the past financial year in our attempts to improve service delivery in an accountable, transparent and honest manner. And of course, utilising micro resources that have been so drastically reduced as a result of the ailing economy, COVID-19 pandemic, fraud and corruption amongst others.

Our responsibility in this regard has been clearly spelt out in the Public Finance Management Act and other enabling and relevant legislations. These legal prescripts and accompanying values and ethics that govern the entire public service are anchored on the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which, in this regard, becomes the supreme law of the land. We presumably have the ability to identify the root causes of service delivery failures and accordingly, workout the most effective ways to turn the tide around. We all agree that the public is now more vigorous and vigilant when it comes to service delivery.

This is caused by the harsh realities of unemployment, inequality and poverty that confront our people. We have seen that in instances where there is improved service delivery, it is accompanied by effective controls and systems in place to plan, measure, monitor and account for finances, performances and to comply with the regulations. Financial accountability, achievement of planned targets, compliance with legislation, sound assets and movable asset management, decreases in unauthorised, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditures amongst others, will put our departments and entities on a sound trajectory towards the attainment of clean audit outcomes and improved service delivery.

Normally, we understand that the employment contract of Executive management is informed by the prescripts of Labour Relations Management Act and to a certain extent, that particular employment contract's duration is prescribed for five years. For those five years, the employment contract is also informed by the performance contracts. So, for those five years to be absolute, it means that you have to achieve provisions and agreements in relation to the performance contracts. Failure to achieve therefore, means that that particular employment contract is not absolute and there is what we call termination out of necessity which effectively means that in our employment contracts,

part of the conditions in the performance contracts should be attainment of clean or at least unqualified audit opinion.

Failure to do that must result in what we normally call termination of the contract out of necessity. Cases of that nature are recorded and reportable where termination of employment contract was done out of necessity. Failure to achieve all of the above undermines our democracy and failure to achieve clean audit undermines our democracy. The Auditor-General, when presenting her report last year indicated that Limpopo province is one of the provinces that have improved in terms of audit opinion. This morning on Radio 2000, the Auditor-General, depending on the radio station we listened to, also praised the performance of Limpopo province in terms of how we are able to zoom into certain areas in terms of combating corruption so on and so forth.

The obtainment of a clean audit is non-negotiable. Departments like Education, Health, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Agriculture and Rural Development, CoGHSTA, Social Development, Sport, Arts and Culture and state-owned entities like RAAL, LEDA, GAAL are plunged by this failure in one way or the other. All the departments and entities, for example, have remained in a stagnant audit outcome for more than three to four successive financial years. Others have even regressed. All of them have adverse findings when it comes to the preparation and submission of financial statements. Part of the key and core responsibilities of a Chief Financial Officer is to prepare for the financial statements. Once you have an adverse finding in relation to presentation to financial statements, Hon Sekoati, it means we have the capacity or people with financial skills and knowledge. That is where the question of training comes into place. This is because you cannot outsource your key responsibility like what we saw in local government wherein the development of financial statements becomes an outsourced function.

Credible financial statements are the enabler for accountability and transparency and failure to submit such statements makes it difficult for anyone to formulate an opinion on the financial health of any institution. They all fail to submit financial statements in line with relevant and prescribed financial reporting framework. Such statements were full of serious financial misstatements. Most of these bodies are repeat offenders in this area, meaning that they are not rehabilitated. A performance plan is a simple depiction of what departments and entities are intending to deliver during the upcoming period. Government institutions account to the public and other stakeholders through their annual and quarterly reports which indicate whether the set targets have been achieved or not. Oversight bodies make use of these reports to hold institutions accountable but also to support them,

They also help in early detection of service delivery gaps, needs for budget reprioritization and potential for failure to perform. The Department of CoGHSTA and Education, for example, failed to provide evidence of achievements reported in their Annual Performance Plan report. These departments together with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Agriculture and Rural Development are a key element towards economic recovery after the devastation caused by COVID-19. Sadly, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development underspent its Budget on Farmer Support and Development Programme. The same applies to the Department of Education which also underspent on infrastructure grant and the National School Nutrition

Programme while Limpopo is still part of the provinces where we still have majority of our kids attending classes under trees, but yet we still underspend on infrastructure.

Underspending was also discovered at the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Roads Agency Limpopo underspent its road and infrastructure and maintenance budget during the period under review. The trend of underspending is recurring in many of our departments and entities. Taking all of the above into consideration, it is apparent that the road ahead is long. Advantageously, we have partners and role models that can help us to navigate the journey. The Provincial Treasury, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the Office of the Premier, the Department of Transport and Community Safety and Limpopo Gambling Board are shining examples of what can be achieved if the leadership displays commitment to the task at hand.

Sadly, the Board and consistent good audit outcomes have not filtered through other departments and entities which most of them have the biggest impact on service delivery and economic recovery. This may mean that there is a reluctance to show best practices and skills transfer, which is not true. We urge all the institutions that are still lagging behind to emulate these good examples and do everything that they can in order to arrive the clean audit outcomes. Arriving at clean audit outcomes shall remain non-negotiable. We call upon all departments and agencies to implement some of the remedial actions that may have been suggested by various oversight bodies, which include the Auditor-General, Scopa and portfolio committees.

Action plans together with internal controls must be monitored and continuously reviewed to identify and fill gaps. I thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathe. The next speaker is Hon Rebecca Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Speaker, Hon Reneilwe Rosemary Molapo; Hon Baldwin Matibe, Deputy Speaker of the Legislature; Hon Premier, Mathlatji 'a Hlabirwa; the Chief Whip of the ruling party, Hon Mokgonyana and the Deputy Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council, honourable chairpersons of the various portfolio committees, honourable Members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen in the gallery, I greet you. I take this opportunity to thank you more sincerely for providing me with the opportunity to address this august House and to deal with one of the most critical challenges facing all government spheres in our country and the province.

This is the challenge of accounting to the general public about what we have done to achieve the shared and common goal of freeing our people from the triple challenges of inequality, unemployment and poverty, utilising hard-earned taxes and other resources that they have confidently placed in our hands.

This task of accounting takes place when service delivery is in the spotlight like never before. We must know that people are watching with much vigour and vigilance. The

2020/21 audit outcomes build on the work that was done over the previous 2019/20 financial year. We have confidently declared that the past financial year was marked by improvements in audit outcomes of many government departments and many entities. This year we concur with the AG that we must accelerate improvements and accountability while at the same time sustain and retain the clean audit status that some of our institutions achieved previously.

Sustaining clean audit status is not easy. It requires that the financial and performance management systems are transparent, honest and credibly accounting for what transpired during the period under review. This is also not an easy task considering that the period under review was characterised by the struggling economy, huge budget cuts, reprioritisation, emergency and unplanned spending, occasioned by the imperative and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic which was in full swing. We applaud the Office of the Premier, the Provincial Treasury, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the Limpopo Gambling Board for being resilient during this trying time. These institutions remained focused and refused to be distracted and ultimately retained their hard-earned clean audit status. They were able to ensure that good financial management and accounting do not suffer.

They were able to spend limited available funds wisely. These institutions retained and improved their audit outcomes by working hard on their governance and compliance obligations. A notable concern is that there are repeat failures by most of our institutions as they can't extricate themselves from the stagnant audit outcomes. Like the previous years, we are still seeing government bodies and entities' failure to implement previous Standing Committee on Public Accounts and other House resolutions, failure to comply with legislation, especially in procurement and contract management, inadequate consequence management, poor asset and movable or tangible asset management, failure to prepare and submit annual financial statements in the prescribed period and complying with the prescribed framework.

The Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs are stagnant in their audit outcomes. The Department of Health and entities like Gateway Authority Limited and Limpopo Economic Development Agency have regressed by having obtained an adverse and qualified audit opinion respectively. This is a worrying situation, and something must be done. In layman's language a qualified audit outcome means that the recipient of the outcome failed dismally to manage and account for their finances. Its financial statements cannot be relied upon due to material misstatements.

Again, we continue to observe skyrocketing increases in unauthorised, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure and failure by government departments and entities to implement their performance plans and achieve their stated targets. All these maladies and others contributed in different ways to the failure by many of our departments and entities to attain better audit outcomes. State-owned entities and key service delivery departments like Health, Education, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are continuously experiencing serious difficulties when it comes to noncompliance with legislation.

Regarding procurement, inadequate contract management and awarding of contracts to government employees or their family members without proper disclosures. amongst others, compounded this. It is the company' lack of consequence management by both the oversight bodies and executive authorities. These departments account to a sizeable share of the Budget and are the centre of service delivery, yet they have the poorest financial health accounting for a large percentage for unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. All these expenditures were made without reason and an increase in these expenditures is a clear sign of the poor financial health of the departments and entities.

As I conclude, coming from the COVID-19 era, we know that in order for the province and the country in general to recover from the mayhem, there must be improved service delivery by these departments, especially the Department of Public Works. Infrastructure is key to our economic recovery, yet these departments and public entities are still hamstrung by inability to perform. All these and other misdemeanours can be still afforded more so at a time when limited resources are available and the demand for service delivery is high.

We expect to see these things and hear success stories of losses being recovered, internal control being improved, and consequence management being affected. The institution and entities that succeeded did so because there was direct involvement and commitment by the relevant authorities across the board in the implementation of resolutions and proposed internal control measures. In certain instances, this was also a result of leadership stability in these bodies. We urge other entities and departments to emulate and learn from them. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Seono. The last speaker will be the chair of the committee to come and close the debate. Over to you, Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa moraswi 'a Molea. Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, the Presiding Officer today, vhamusanda Vho Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe; the Chief Whip of the majority party and the Chief Whip of this august House, Hon Mokgonyana; Leader of Government Business, Hlabirwa Hlabirwa, Members of the Executive Council of our beautiful province, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs and other chairpersons of committees, Members of Standing Committee on Public Accounts, accounting officer, chief financial officers, friends, compatriots, I once again take this opportunity to appreciate this singular honour of closing a marathon of public hearings of the 2020/21 financial year in this august House as we debate them today.

It is indeed an honour and privilege, Hon Premier, to close these debates. In the eastern cemetery of the Highgate Cemetery in North London, lies a tomb there and on that particular tomb, I think the 90% chances that yourself, maybe Hon Phala, Hon Monama and Hon Boshielo might have visited that tomb. It's because that is the tomb where a great mind that influenced the revolution of the 21 century, Hon Phala, lies. That man is called Karl Max. I know for sure that there is no possibility that myself and Hlabirwa and

at least would have visited there, but I know for sure that Hon Boshielo, Hon Monama, Hon Phala and at least Hon Selane and yourself Hon Premier, there is a 90% possibility that you would have visited there.

But for myself, Hlabirwa Hlabirwa, even Hon Masemola and Hon Makamu, including Hon Moraka would not have visited that tomb. That's the tomb of Karl Max. On top of that tomb, it is written that; 'Workers of the world must unite' but, most importantly for this debate it is not what is written on top but what is written beneath. Beneath it, it is written that; "Philosophers have either to interpret the world in so many ways. What is left is to change it." I'm not saying to colleagues, sound too historic or too revolutionary, because I may not be.

I'm saying this honourable Members, friends, compatriots to send a message that all that which has to be done has long being said in as far as these hearings are concerned. Hon Phala, Hon Makhurupetje, Hon Raphela here, Hon Smalle, Hon Seono, Hon Simone wa Mosiria and all other Members have come here and articulated and told you what is to be done but is not only them, Hon Premier. The Auditor-General has said that already. The Provincial Treasury has said that to our accounting officers and to the Members of the Executive. We have all said that and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts has said that. You conducted various workshops and so forth and all these things.

Now the work that is remaining, Hon Phala, is to do what is supposed to be done. The world has been interpreted before us. The audit opinions have come before us. We know them. All we have to do is to go and implement those resolutions so that we can have better audit opinions. That's the reason why Hon Premier, I'm not a Marxist, I just thought that it will be important to cite what is written there because what is written there becomes very relevant because we have interpreted the world. We have said all these things and when Max wrote that in his thesis, Jubagte, Hon Phala, we were referring to a situation where we must not continue to give rhetoric but we must now start action. Hence, that statement and many other statements that Marx made have come to influence the many revolutions that we have seen, including our own national democratic revolution.

Hon Phala, one of the books that I have read says, and it's one of the theses, it was a speech delivered by former National Executive Committee member of the African National Congress in 1978. He was delivering a lecturer in Ottawa, Canada, and that was former President, Mr Thabo Mbeki and that speech was further transcribed by Dr Pallo Jordan and procrastinated in Sechaba Volume Issue of March 1979. In that speech, as the then NEC member of the African National Congress he says; "If the injection of nothing comes or follows, it then follows. If out of nothing comes it, then follows that the future derives its impulse and it's born out of the womb of persons."

I'm making this quote to say to you it is not by mistake that today we celebrate the fact that we are doing well with the audit opinion. It is the commitment that you came here and made four years ago in this august House on 24 February when you committed this provincial government that you will run a government that is accountable, you will run a government that I commit as provincial government to accountability, prudent and effective use of provincial resources. Now, indeed out of nothing comes, it doesn't come, Hon Managa, as an act of an accident that we are who we are and we are where we are,

it comes out of those particular commitments and efforts but, of course, not limited to that but inclusive of all these other efforts that Hon Phala spoke of when he came here.

It is important but a key issue, Hon Premier, is that as much as we commend you and really give you a round of applause and salutations that you deserve with your government, we remain worried about certain aspects that honourable Members spoke about. One of the things that Hon Smalle came here and spoke about is the regression that we have noted in this financial year. We came here on Tuesday and spoke about the importance of leading by example and walking our talk. It can't be that as a Standing Committee on Public Accounts we have the House regressing.

But equally so, Hon Premier, we must do everything in our power to arrest the regress because if it is not attended, it a sharp propensity of taking us to where we do not want to go. We know the past where we come from. We know that we are from the past where we have disclaimers. Our past is not necessarily written in good words. Here we are writing the present out of which the future must be born with gold capital letters. We must jealously guard against any other thing that may seek to reverse these good efforts that we have put over the past 10 years or so.

One of the areas that concerned us is the issue relating to irregular expenditure. We can never tolerate irregular expenditure, honourable Members. Hon Ramakhanya, the irregular expenditure we have spoken about is in your department. Hon Rakgoale is not here. They are both in the Departments of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and also in the Roads Agency Limpopo, I think Hon Phala has spoken about it. Something needs to be done about it.

Non-compliance with supply chain processes is one of the critical concerns that the Auditor-General continues to flag before us as the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Hon Premier, we have said here on Tuesday, and we have said that to you, Hlabirwa. He was here acting on your behalf that the investigation, especially, most of them lie in his office and they need to be finalised because if you check, some of these departments which are not getting proper audit outcomes is because of these pending investigations. Let's close these investigations so that we define a new path. Let's define a new road of how the future must be about and how the future must look like.

I have said here on Tuesday, Hon Monama, that I will also speak about departments that do not implement the House resolutions. Hon Ramakhanya, your department is one of those departments that is not necessarily implementing House resolutions. I think you need to look into that. If you look at the year under review or the financial year ending 31 March 2021, we had 458% of implementation of resolutions and we must look into the interrelationship between the audit outcome versus the implementation of House resolutions in the same year. Over the years, the Limpopo Gambling Board, has implemented 100% of its resolutions and has been getting clean audits and if one would not implement House resolutions and you see what then happens.

We do not want to re-emphasise that. Litigation is one of the things that we need to speak about. The litigation as it stands by the end of this financial year, will be standing at R13,748 billion. The implications are that you find what becomes our annual Budget and

total provincial Budget and you want to relate it with our litigation or these amounts of litigation. We are going to deal with our liquidity and it's something that we need to look at and put it into place as a mechanism that will ensure that we arrest that. We need to do that, especially at the Department of Health which remains on top.

One of the areas that is of concern is the area relating to the collection of revenue by entities and the departments and the culprits here remain the Department of Health and Department of Public Roads and Infrastructure which continue to make us loose revenue by not collecting as projected, Hlabirwa.

We need to look into that. Honourable Members have spoken about the performance of entities and singled out the Great North Transport and GAAL and they remain very important for us. Hon Premier, one of the greatest Socialist scholars of a romantic era English, William Blake, writes in his poem, "The Tiger". He asked the question to the tiger if it is the same God that created it, if it is the same God that created the lamb. The lamb is so smart, the lamb is so quiet. The tiger is so rude but is it the same God that created the tiger. The same God that created the lamb. Is it the same legislation that creates GAAL? The very legislation that creates Limpopo Gambling Board? If we are to paraphrase that poem.

Hon Radzilani, if indeed it is the same God that created Limpopo Gambling Board, it will then follow where Limpopo Gambling Board and GAAL must be and that's non-negotiable. Maybe I must repeat. If it is the same legislation, the same government that created Gateway Airport Authority Limited is the same government that created Limpopo Gambling Board, so there is no excuse, Hon Premier, of why Limpopo Gateway Airport Authority Limited cannot have the same audit opinion as Limpopo Gambling Board, Hlabirwa. Maybe in paraphrasing that, we must also ask as to whether is the same God that created Sekoati or the same Sekoati that rejected the Budget is the same Sekoati that tongue-lashed the Board. [LAUGHTER]

Hon Premier, as I move towards the conclusion when you got involved in the struggle which is called the National Democratic Revolution of which you taught us, Hon Phala, that it is about creating a national democratic society, that you practicalised in government and summarised into Limpopo Development Plan and National Development Plan as that of creating a capable and developmental state.

I think chapter 13 of the National Development Plan speaks about the creation of a capable and developmental state. Now, we can never create a capable and developmental state as long as we have an audit outcome as we have in Gateway Airport Authority Limited because the fulcrum, as I said on Tuesday, upon which a developmental state can be bred and created, Hon Premier, is that of accountability, efficient, effective and prudent use of financial resources as you have summed it up Hon Premier in your speech of the State of Province Address on 24 February 2021 in this august House where Hon Phala was wearing his hat.

We have to create that because our forebears will never forgive us if we are to abandon the course of the National Democratic Revolution of creating that society that knows no race; a society that knows no gender segregation; a society that is based on the principle

of prosperity. If that society is democratic and united, then it must give birth to that national democratic society where the state is capable and developmental in its approach using a transformative path to empower the people. The fulcrum for that is and can only be accountability, accountability and accountability.

In conclusion, as we close this round of debate, we want to appreciate the Auditor-General of South Africa for the continuous work that they continue to do restlessly and tirelessly without fear or favour that when we were down, they told us that we were down. When we are doing good, they continue to tell us that we are good.

I must say, Hon Premier, we have noted some cobbling tendency, but at least we were able to mitigate its bud when we started. Hon Monama will tell you that some departments wanted to play some hide-and-seek type of the game, where they want to come to the committee and blame Auditor-General and dispute the outcome in our committee meeting. At least we have to nip that on the bud, and we want to say to all those who've ever tried that, to never do it again.

In the same vein, we want to commend the tireless team of Limpopo Legislature; researchers, Members and admin of all committees, not limited to Scopa but all committees because it is all the coordinators of the committees that make sure that departments provide necessary information that we need as and when we need that information.

We thank you, Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa 'a Morwasi 'a Moleya, for making sure that your Members of the Executive, your CFOs and accounting officers continuously avail themselves to this committee when we want them. We chased away others at 4 o'clock in the morning and requested them to be there at 10 o'clock in the morning, and they were there.

We never had a problem where we needed to use a yoke to bring about Members to the committee. Thank you, Provincial Treasury, for the continuous work that you continue to do and prompt to you, Mr Gavin Pratt and DG, Mr Nchabeleng, that the best practices that are happening in your department must translate into other departments and other entities. We have said that and want to repeat it here, and we continue to thank you. We believe in this work, Hon Radzilani. This work of the people of accountability is the people of the Lord, "they shall run, and not be weary", as Isaiah said, ...and not be wary. We shall work, and our legs will never faint. We know we are doing the work of the Lord, and that is the work of the people. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, chairperson of the committee. I did not know that you are a pastor. I just found out today. Thank you very much, Hon Selamolela, for closing the debate. We shall now call upon the Members of the Executive to come and respond. We are giving them two minutes each. The only order is that the Hon Premier will be the last one to comment. We must start there with Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya and move in that order. Hon Premier will be the last one. You have two minutes each.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Ndi masiari. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to greet our Hon Premier, Leader of Government Business, my colleagues; MECs, Members of this august House, HODs and all members in attendance in the gallery.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I should start by saying, as the chairperson of the Scopa did indicate that, the same God that has made the Department of Treasury, Office of the Premier and Transport has indeed created Education, and in that same vein, “you will prevail”, as Isaiah has said.

We want to indicate that we note the importance of implementation of the House Rules as the Department of Education. The resolutions indicated by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts are appreciated and taken seriously, and they will be implemented. The main contributing factor is inadequate monitoring on the implementation of remedial action. The department has reviewed the route course, and this would ensure that monitoring is adequate. Management who has transgressed the PFMA prescripts are held liable based on investigation reports. The appointment of additional officials in the internal control unit will improve our compliance, and we are in that process. The accounting officer, as we speak, is ensuring that all outstanding Scopa resolutions are being implemented and that there is a plan thereof.

The AG action plan has been reviewed and is monitored monthly through the Executive meetings. The department has developed plans to ensure that the conditional grants are fully spent as well. We have met with the implementation agents and discussed progress. We are meeting them monthly to make sure that we are spot on in terms of spending the grants on infrastructure. However, I should indicate that as the Department of Education in Limpopo, we are not aware of any students who are writing exams under trees. That was an article in a newspaper, and they have withdrawn it thereof.

The material regularities have been resolved as there is no law regarding the noncompliance caused by Section 100, and with that, Hon Deputy Speaker, we note all the debates by the committee have been debated this morning.

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Department of Education and thank the chairperson, the committee and the outgoing chairperson for their support. You know they were very patient with us as the Department of Education when we appeared in front of Scopa. We want to thank you for providing leadership to us to be able to understand our responsibilities towards the NDR. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We must follow the same protocol of two minutes. I did not remind her about two minutes. Hon Radzilani, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to our Hon Premier, Members of the Provincial Executive Council and all the Members of this august House. Chairperson, let me indicate that you are not supposed to know that somebody knows God by being ordained to be a pastor. What we need to learn from Hon Selamolela is that there were parents who did their best when raising their children; they raised them properly. Unfortunately, when you reach 21 years old, you have to be on your own. Hence, you see them now; maybe they are no longer going to the house of the Lord. God taught us through his word that if we were to progress in life in all areas of life, we have to live according to the rules. I want to concur with the chairperson of the Scopa committee that where there are rules, we must comply. It happened with the adamant that if they violated the rules, there are consequences.

I think as Members of the Executive Council under the leadership of Hon Premier, we will try our best to make sure that where there are wrongdoings, there are consequences. We welcome the inputs from honourable Members on the audit report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety for the financial year ending in March 2021. It gives us a great sense of joy that for this period the Auditor-General gave us a clean bill of health. Meaning that there were no findings of any fundamental material flows on how we had spent the public funds.

Hon Speaker, on the Gateway Airport Authority Limited, we had our fair share of problems which are emanating from a lack of proper governance because of the inconsistency of the board of directors. Our problems have always been caused by the lack of stability in the entity as a result of the composition of the board, but for this period, a proper board was constituted with the required skills and expertise to run the operations of the entity. We can proudly report to this august House that the board, since its inception, has managed to save the entity from total collapse, and it is working hard to improve the audit outcome. We will keep monitoring the board on how it discharges its fiduciary duties and oversight functions.

The board has managed to develop a turnaround strategy that seeks to fast-track improvement and expedite the corrective measures that we want to employ to improve our operations. The turnaround strategy which is the product of thorough engagements with relevant stakeholders, and the success of that turnaround strategy is to get GAAL to operate as per its mandate. The success of the strategy relays on the support from this august House. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. May I call upon Hon Kekana. You have two minutes. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Chairperson. Hon Premier, Chupu Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa; Leader of Government Business, my colleagues from Executive Council, honourable Members, our HODs and officials converging into this august House, I greet you all.

Let me take my two minutes, Hon Deputy Speaker, to indicate that from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture starting with the issue of the statement of an audit opinion we have taken various steps, and systems have been put in place to make sure that we implement all the issues that have been raised by the Auditor-General. The audit action plan has been developed, and we were also able to implement all the resolutions brought forth by the House, internal audit, audit committee and, of course, Scopa. We were also able to make sure that we strengthen the finance unit to make sure that they assist the accounting officer in our endeavour to attain a clean audit. We indicate that on the issue of material misstatements at the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we were able to deal with all the material misstatements as alluded to by the Auditor-General; one of them being the contingency liability. We were able to increase the amount that we put on the report to be submitted to the Auditor-General and increase it with interest, as alluded to by the Auditor-General that we must include both the capital amount together with interest; we were able to correct that. That is the reason why we were able to move from a qualified audit outcome to an unqualified audit outcome.

On the other issue of the concerns raised by Hon Makhurupetje, of course, the issue of the implementation of the forensic audit on the Mapungubwe Festival conducted between the financial years, 2013/14 and 2017/18. Let me indicate that we implemented all the resolutions as highlighted by the forensic auditors and we made sure that consequence management is applied to those who are found to be on the wrong side of the law. The expulsions and suspensions were effected. On the issue of the service provider who happened to have flouted the supply chain management regulations, we have sourced assistance from the attorneys to make sure that they assist with the issue of recovery of the money lost. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Kekana. May I call upon Hon Monama. The two minutes rule is still applying.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker; Hon Baldwin Matibe Tshitereke. Honourable Members of this House, Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; my fellow Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of the committees and Leader of the Government Business I greet you all. I wonder why they are giving a person a wrong standing ovation, whereas that was my speech as the chairperson [LAUGHTER] because he is still acting. That means there is a chairperson, and that chairperson is still me. Accounting officers who are present here and accounting authorities, thanks very much for the opportunity.

Colleagues, it is in the spirit, decorum and presidium of this House that the issue of accountability cannot be reduced to something else. It is in that spirit of accountability ecosystem that at all material times, as Members of the Executive Council, we have that constitutional mandatary responsibility to account to the Legislative body. It is in that context that we are taking note of those things. You will recall Hon Phala that you barked more on the issue of public entities. Thus, also you have isolated the good story through

Limpopo Gambling Board. I do not want to come and appear before you as you are the Executive Authority responsible for some of these public entities because you will make a feast out of me. I am making that commitment that we will do everything possible to ensure that we implement all the remedial audit actions isolated by AG, not by yourself because those are the issues that have been raised by the AG, not by the Standing Committee of Public Accounts. We really appreciate the good work that you are doing to ensure that the public funds are prudently being utilised for the benefit of the public that we, all of us, serve.

We want to take this opportunity to say that the issues that you have sharply raised around Limpopo Tourism Agency, the stagnation, regression of LEDA, all these shenanigans, issues related to GNT and nonadherence to the statutory obligations we will definitely address those matters and on the continuous basis we will be reporting to the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Selamolela. We will also come back to your committee to account. Thanks very much for the opportunity. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Gannye Monama. Hon Sekoati today is your day for being brave to a tongue-lashing. You may come and make your comments.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House, our HODs and DGs of the province, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, let me say that firstly, I might have to get a few minutes, an hour or so because I have to represent my colleagues who are not here today due to other equally important engagements as Members of the Executive Council.

Firstly, to start with CoGHSTA, where Hon Makamu who was here, I believe that we have all registered his presence. He is running late to one of the provinces to Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. He has requested that I should respond on his behalf in terms of the observations made in terms of CoGHSTA relating to the preparations of the financial statements, performance of the infrastructure and underspending in the department. The honourable MEC has said that they are going to make sure that in terms of correcting such they would have a plan of action which would then be reported frequently to make sure that there is a proper oversight from the committee and this House to make sure that we are able to, firstly, ensure that there is proper planning in terms of infrastructure; ensure that there is spending to make sure that we do not continuously have a recurrency of the underspending. That is from the Department of CoGHSTA.

On the Department of Health, we have raised issues related to not only spending, but also in terms of internal control which we believe we should be able to deal with, particularly because the Departments of Health and Education are the biggest departments that are consuming most of the Budget allocated to this province. In terms of the risk that is there, we should be able to continuously minimise it. Regarding the digitisation of some of the files and information within the department, we believe that we

should be able to lower the risk that is there in terms of legal consequences that we are looking at.

In terms of the report as the Provincial Treasury, we are aware that we got the responsibility in terms of the transversal mandate. We believe that together with the Office of the Premier and this House we should be able to work together to make sure that the resolutions that are taken by Scopa we are able to follow them up and make sure that ultimately, we are able to resolve most those issues.

We have seen that the A-G points a finger at us, those that are coordinating the institutions that we should be able to hold accountable the chairperson of Scopa. The chairpersons of those committees in the House should also be held accountable in terms of those resolutions so that it is not only the Executive that is looking at them, but the House itself must take that responsibility to make sure that those resolutions are implemented.

We do take that into account, yes, we are made by the same God, but indeed we have to take into account that all of us have the responsibility both from the Executive and this House so that we do take into account that we are all coordinating departments.

From the Department of Agriculture, we were also taken to account on the underspending, particularly those relates to poor farmers out there, so that is able to make sure that we continue to spend and make sure that we are able to support them. We would take into account all the reports that you have said they have been undertaken so that we are able to make sure that we bring them forth. We believe that with the leadership of Hon Premier, Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa, we have said that we must make sure that we follow up on all those reports and bring them to the Executive Council so that we are able to see and make sure that they are all implemented. That would actually be realised. Once again, thank you for the opportunity, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon Hon Premier. The two minutes rule is suspended.

THE PREMIER

Indeed, George Orwell said it a long time ago [INTERJECTION].

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I am brave. I have suspended the two minutes rule.

THE PREMIER

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am saying one highly accomplished and acknowledged author called George Orwell said before that, "All animals being all equal, some animals will be more equal than others." [LAUGHTER]. It is not me; it is George Orwell.

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip of the Majority Party and Legislature, honourable Members and Members of the Executive Council, I greet you all. I must appreciate and thank all the Members of the Executive first, and Members of this Legislature for having taken us to where we are today. It cannot be only said to the Executive or only to the Legislature or only the Hon Premier or whoever took us to where we are. It is all of us Members of the Legislature, both the ruling party and the opposition.

All the time when everybody does what she or he is supposed to do effectively. The resultant factor is the fact that we will end up with a qualitative product as long as all of us are putting in the right efforts, investing the right efforts in the space that we are allocated. You will ultimately turn out to produce a qualitative product. We want to thank the committees of the Legislature for having an impact. It cannot be negotiable to account effectively and efficiently. I cannot be, as long as the populists have given you this resounding mandate; they have given you this responsibility of turning around their lives. It, therefore, applies that you must account for every cent that they give you to spend.

It is against that background that I agree with you, Hon Managa, when you say we must support the law enforcement authorities when they do their work; encourage and support them. Equally, whilst and when we do that, we must guard against not reporting accurately because it is not correct to say that Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality lost R190 million to VBS. That is not correct. That is being very economical with the truth. Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, under the leadership of the then Mayor, Julia Mathebe, invested R190 million in VBS, and they recovered all the R190 million. They lost nothing from the capital amount. They recovered everything. As the cherry on top, they even got interested to that. So, it cannot be correct to say that they have lost R190 million. It is inaccurate. Let us report accurately, more especially, when we present in the august House of this Legislature.

Honourable Members, I need to highlight very few things on the issue of good governance. One is to start on the issue of unauthorised and irregular expenditure. We need to deal with that. As a result, the Executive Council took a resolution. A special resolution that, now that we have dealt with what is referred to as what, what audit. Why am I forgetting this? Not adverse but the other one, a disclaimer. How do I forget this? However, it is good that I forget. [LAUGHTER]. We have not heard of it for a very long time now. That is why I tend to forget it. Now that we have dealt with that, it is history to us. It is in the dustbin of history, unlike what you see in other provinces. Here, we no longer have a disclaimer audit opinion.

We got one other enemy that we need to deal with, and that is irregular and unauthorised expenditure. We do not have fruitless expenditure anymore in this province. If there is, it is very marginal. We have dealt with that one also. So, for us to be seen to be running an entity that is running good governance, we need to also deal with this unauthorised and irregular expenditure. We have started doing that in the Department of Education; Health; and other entities, but to be effective; to be quick in doing this, all of us must do what we are supposed to do in our own spaces effectively. If certain things have to be condoned, let them be condoned because you have asked the current MEC and former MEC, Hon Boshielo, about irregular expenditure in the Department of Education. What makes the

Department of Education to be so stagnant in qualified audit opinion? It is because of the legacy. Some of them started that time when you were still breve, Hon Sekoati. Yes, they date back to the 2010/11 financial year these irregular expenditure issues.

For us to help that department to get out of that lock jam of qualified audit opinion, we need to condone those things that happened many years ago. There are no documents now. Ba dirile tše ba di dirilego. Ba tšhable le dingwalwa goba ba tšhomile dingwalwa. There is nothing that the current HOD or the current MEC, who is there, can do to the recover the information that was lost in the 2011/12 financial year or even before that. We need to deal with that and soberly go into it. As the Executive Council, we have taken that decision. We are going to sort of categorise all of them. This irregular expenditure happened in particular financial years. This is the recent one. What were the reasons? If there are consequences that need to be mutated out to people, we will do that, but at the end of the day, we must clear it in no more than 24 months.

Regarding the issue of GAAL, I think MEC, Hon Radzilani, has sufficiently clarified it. You know GAAL is one problem child that is still going to be with us, Hon Phala, for a very long time. When I was still sitting on those benches there as an administrator, we made a recommendation to the then politicians that please do not continue with this project because it will never be a successful project. Financially in the first instance, it does not make sense. If you run the figures of GAAL for it to be self-sustainable, there is something called when you appraise projects using the NPV method. The NPV method is the Net Present Value method. When you have appraised a project, there is something called Monte Carlo Simulation. You are a running figure, a lot of figures. You are trying to assess when will this project start running even; when will it start to be profitable. Normally, you start with three years, five years, 10 years and so on and forth with Gateway Airport Authority of Limpopo in 2003 when we were running those figures, it was saying that airport would only be breaking even in the year 157. Where will you be, many of you? Hence, I am saying is the problem child. We need to sit down as the leadership of this province and decide as to whether we want to continue with this thing or not because you got what we call Financial Net Present Value and Economic Net Present Value when you balance the two, and you do not get the kind of equilibrium that you can say it is effective and efficient. Hence, I am motivating that perhaps, we need to revisit the initial idea of having it as an international airport here or else twin it with one airport which is very successful in the province, the Hoedspruit Airport. It is very successful and is a small airport. Perhaps we can twin its license, Hon Radzilani, with that of Hoedspruit Airport or even transfer it to Hoedspruit so that people can fly directly from Hoedspruit Airport and then you have small flights and aircraft flying to Gateway Airport; then you shall have reduced your expenditure for the Gateway International Airport. Perhaps as a small entity, it can run profitably. That is precisely what we have done, Hon Sekoati, with Great North Transport in the 2002/03 financial year. When Great North Transport was turned around and made profitable; when Great North Transport was producing unqualified audit reports; when Great North Transport was declaring dividends to the mother company, LimDev, that is what we did. I packaged the product and identified the routes that were not profitable, and said, how can we make these routes profitable? We can only make it profitable if we give to small companies which do not have big overheads, you see. Hence, we came up with what today are Kopano Bus Company and Madodi Bus Company. We brought together small operators to run those routes, and they run them

effectively. Today those bus companies are stronger than Great North Transport, and I am sure we can do the same with GAAL.

Now, coming to Road Agency Limpopo, Hon Phala, ke selo se o ka se bitšago ntshwanyana ya madimabe ya go bekwa ke dilabi, ka re realo. RAL used to be a problem child at some stage when it was seriously sinking into debt; when it was producing very horrible audit results, but you appointed this new board, and RAL started recovering and producing unqualified audit reports. Why did they underspend? This is something that I had to probe also. Why did you underspend? The explanation that I got was that they got overheated in the previous year when they overspent, and for them to recover, they had to agree with Treasury that they should not spend a particular portion of money so that at the end of the day, they must break even and start spending again. When you are overheating, it means you have spent more than what you were supposed to spend, and that money must be repaid. I am told that was the arrangement, Hon Phala. Remember, RAL is not doing what you call ordinary maintenance of roads that is being done by the Department of Public Works. When you see the potholes here, it is not RAL is Public Works. It is still in the department. RAL is doing what you call preventative maintenance, which comes before the potholes are created. Once the potholes are created, it is Department of Public Works who must deal with them, not RAL. Ke ka fao ke re go ke ntshwanyana ya madimabe ya go bekwa ke dilabi.

The last item that I want to address, Hon Speaker, is the issue of under expenditure which I must accept. It is one other thing that needs to deal with ruthlessly, if possible. We need to deal with it ruthlessly. It cannot be possible that you do not build houses when our people are still staying in mud houses. It cannot be possible that you do not spend money on roads. The road that you are talking about it does not belong to RAL. It belongs to the Municipality of Ephraim Mogale. It was built by the municipality. It cannot be correct that you are still building those low-quality roads, and at the end of the day the Municipal Infrastructure Grant is sent back to National Treasury. That cannot be acceptable.

Hence, our consequence management has to be intensified and firm, but we should not confuse under expenditure with savings. If you look at the R16 million, for example, I am just giving an example that was not spent in the Premier's Office. I do not see that as under expenditure because that is the money that Hon Premier was supposed to use it for overseas trips, which he did not do. That is the money that was supposed to be used for the appointment of senior management. Now, why did we not do that? The organisational structure of the Office of the Premier in Limpopo is three times the size of the organisational structure of the Office of the Premier in the Western Cape. Western Cape is 1/3 of what you had in this province. Our size is three times bigger than the one of the Western Cape, and that in itself is not sustainable. What we did, we said no, let us go and revisit this organisational structure and look at ways and means of trying to trim it down. I had to stop all appointments for it as long as we are still doing that audit; As to what is it we can do to reduce this so that we can make money available for Hon Phophi Ramathuba and the Department of Education, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, there. The money can be used effectively, but again you cannot just say that because I am the Premier, I must always be in the aircraft running globe plotting. Even if there is no targeted invested that you need to be travelling to; I cannot just go to China to meet with people and come back. I must go to China with a programme and meet with people based on a

particular kind of investment that I want it to come to my province. Again, you cannot travel overseas when there is COVID-19. You must wait for COVID-19 to subside or rather take money and go buy PPEs than travelling all over the world. Hence, I consider that as savings. I do not consider that as underspending.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, once more I need to thank you. It is unfortunate that my friend, Hon Raphela, is not here. I was going to ask him where the Leader of the Opposition is? Where is the Leader of the Opposition because it is quite some time since I have not seen him, unless if he is ill or something like that [LAUGHTER]. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? Deputy Chair of Chairs, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF CHAIRPERSONS

Ke a leboga Mospikara. Tsebišo ye e le go gona ke gore tša go ja di gona ka kua go lefelo le dikomiti di swarwago dikopano ka gona. Ba ba sa kwego, lunch is served in the boardroom. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of Chairpersons.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 29 November 2022, at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
POLOKWANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much, you may be seated.

[TECHNICAL ERROR]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**ANC'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MILESTONE IN TITLE DEED DISTRIBUTION FOR
HUMAN DIGNITY AND HOMEOWNERSHIP**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that:

- The ANC applauds the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs under the stewardship of MEC Basikopo Makamu, who successfully awarded more than 1000 title deeds in the past week to residents in Bela-Bela and Modimolle-Mookgophong.
- MEC Makamu indicated that this was done in order to restore the dignity of our people knowing they would go home as proud owners of property in this country.
- This was a milestone which was never achieved in their entire existence.
- MEC Makamu further indicated that this programme was led and united by the ANC, and other organisations in Kliptown, Soweto, in what was called the Congress of the People, to adopt the Freedom Charter, which indicated that: "There shall be housing, security and comfort."

- In respect of the dawn of democracy in 1994, the ANC should build houses, provide shelter and other amenities such as water and sanitation as part of human dignity, security and comfort.
- This was after the ANC eliminated a system where people were dispossessed, which offended human dignity. It was a brutal system of land dispossession, redress, and the absence of shelter and security.
- In guaranteeing the dignity of our people and ensuring there is housing, security and comfort, the ANC-led government is embarking on a programme called “Title Deed Friday”. This recognises the good work done by the Department of CoGHSTA, under the leadership of MEC Makamu, where title deeds were awarded to the people of Modomolle -Mookgophong.
- Hon Speaker, the ANC-led government itself, is actively advancing the principles of the Freedom Charter, encompassing the right to water, sanitation, land, housing, ownership, and rights enshrined in the Constitution of this country – the Bill of Rights.
- The campaign of title deeds is an aspiration, a guarantee of human dignity.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Modulasetulo. Ke ema go thekga tšhišinyo ye e adilwego.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Managa, you may proceed.

MS MANAGA

Good afternoon, and thank you, Hon Speaker.

**EFF’S ADVOCATION FOR THE INSOURCING OF SECURITY GUARDS IN LIMPOPO
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES FOR JOB SECURITY AND FAIR BENEFITS
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to table this motion, and for this House to note that:

- As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we call for the insourcing of security guards in all government departments and entities in Limpopo for sustainable job security.

- The insourcing of security guards will save them from exploitation by evil and unscrupulous service providers whose only obsession is to make a profit.
- It will further ensure that security guards receive full benefits like any other government employees here in Limpopo.
- With insourcing, workers will get the benefits that come with working under the government, and it will also save taxpayers money because these private service providers collect most of the profits that they get from tenders and pocket it, giving the security guards peanuts.
- Through outsourcing, employees are deprived of labour benefits such as pension funds and medical aid.
- The practice of appointing middlemen to hire workers, was exploitation in nature because it mostly benefited private companies and not employees.
- The EFF, Hon Speaker, therefore, advocates for the insourcing of security guards as opposed to outsourcing due to the reasons mentioned above.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Selaelo Mphahlele, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Managa.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**ANC'S ADVOCATING AND REFLECTION ON THE PASSING OF THE GENDER
BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE BILL: STRENGTHENING THE FIGHT AGAINST
SOCIAL CRIME**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress for this House to note that:

- The ANC welcomes the passing of the Gender Based Violence and Femicide Bill by the ANC-led government and Parliament as an additional strategy to strengthen the fight against social crime which is an ugly picture of our society.
- Working together with progressive civil society, women and children organisations, human rights activists and the LGBTQIA+... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Boshielo, there is a hand. Can you pause for a moment please?

{CROSS TALK}

Hon Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am raising my hand to object to the motion tabled by Hon Managa.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, there is an objection to the motion raised by Hon Managa. I am therefore going to check with the House. Those who agree with the motion will say “yes”, and those who disagree with the motion, will say “no”.

Those who agree?

THE HOUSE

[SILENCE]

THE SPEAKER

Those who disagree?

THE HOUSE

Yes!

THE SPEAKER

The “no” vote has prevailed. Therefore, the motion has been rejected. You may proceed Hon Boshielo.

MS BOSHIELO

- Working together with progressive civil society, women and children organisations, human rights activists and the LGBTQIA+ community, South Africa recorded many strides.
- These are documented in legislative interventions, and measures to explore solutions towards resolution.
- The 2023, 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, represents the 25th anniversary of this annual event and also illustrates the impact felt on the social fabric of our society.
- Hon Speaker, the 16 Days of Activism against Violence and Abuse of Women and Children is a time to intensify our effort to mobilise all angles of society to eliminate this abuse and create a conducive environment where each person can realise their full potential and human dignity.
- As a caring organisation, the African National Congress embraces these aspirations of the people.
- Hon Speaker, we call upon society to take action to create a country free of violence and abuse especially against women, children and girls.
- This year several activities are planned to highlight the need for awareness and address social ills. This requires state-based, youth and civil organisations to join hands in the struggle to eliminate violence and abuse.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Ke a leboga, Modulasetulo. Nna, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela ke ema mo, ke emetše go dumelelana le se se boletšwego ke Mohlomphegi Boshielo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any additional 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 statements by members in terms of Rule 200? Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, honourable House, and my party.

**EFF CONDEMNS ALLEGED ABUSE OF STATE RESOURCES BY ANC FOR
POLITICAL GAIN**

(Members' Statement)

I rise here, Hon Speaker, to indicate that the EFF in this province is very much appalled by the abuse of state resources by the ANC for engineering purposes disguised as delivering services to the people.

The EFF is the champion of service delivery and fully agrees that services must be delivered to the people. We have practically demonstrated this ourselves over the years by providing services like water, and building houses, proper houses — not these houses that requires an umbrella when it is raining.

For the poorest of the poor, with little resources... [BACKGROUND NOISE]

Of the 102 vehicles that were supposed to be distributed, only 57 were handed over to traditional leaders yesterday at the Ngoako Ramahlodi Sports Complex. The manner in which it was done clearly shows a lack of respect for makgoši. The best way to deliver those cars to our royal houses is directly, without any interference.

You must not compromise principles. You are using state resources.

[BACKGROUND NOISE]. Hon Speaker, I am not protected.

THE SPEAKER

You are protected, honourable Member.

MR MAPOULO

I know you are working with them. The vehicles that were distributed, the main aim is to divide loyalties.

Let me tell you what is quite intriguing; when all the chiefs were requesting vehicles from the government to make their work easier, you said there is no money. Just a few months before elections, there is money.

The tendency of the ANC-led government to withhold money is evident. When these vehicles are available, you only distribute those vehicles to those that are bound to you

as chiefs, especially the aligned Contralesa. and you deny the majority of those that are starting to be independent belonging to Rolesa... [BACKGROUND NOISE]

You can't even buy tires when they are worn out. You can't service them. You leave them with those cars in disrepair. You must refrain from such practices. If you lead and oversee the distribution of these cars, ensure that when your term ends and you depart, the vehicles are fairly distributed to everyone...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

MR MAPOULO

It must come to an end.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Do we have any additional members' statements? Hon Mphahlele, you may proceed.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, all honourable Members of this august House, and also good afternoon to members in the gallery.

**ANC GOVERNMENT FACES CRITICISM FOR DELAYED AND INCOMPLETE
POLOKWANE "DIAMOND" PROJECT
(Members' Statement)**

Hon Speaker, the ANC government is known for drastically failing to complete projects on time, as is the case with the so-called "diamond" project in the city of Polokwane, implemented by the Polokwane Municipality.

Like many other projects around the province, this R45 million project has fallen victim to the ANC trend of leaving projects abandoned and incomplete. The softball diamond pitch has come to a complete halt, and no explanation was given to the community. There is no transparency, as everything is done in secret.

The community deserves to know what happened with the project. Why is there no progress and why has everything stopped? Such explanations were never given to the community, just to take them into confidence about the project.

The project has obviously surpassed its timeline, and additional budget will be needed to complete it. The deliberate tendency of not completing projects on time is a challenge to taxpayers' money. It is a creative way to steal from the poor.

We call upon the MEC of CoGHSTA to zoom into this project and provide a lasting solution to the delays.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER.

Are there any additional members' statements at this time? This agenda item has been concluded. We now welcome any comments from the Members of the Executive. MEC Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Let me welcome to the two members' statements by the honourable Members on the other side. I will begin with the so-called. "diamond pitch" project in Polokwane that costed R45 million according to the information, but the project is not yet completed.

I took responsibility to ensure that we could respond, and we addressed the challenges of tools of trade for traditional leaders, including the softball pitch project.

Let me also respond to the issue of the distribution of vehicles. I could feel the pain from the other side as I sat here, and the statement was raised about the ANC's delivery of vehicles.

During our attendance at the SOPA here at the Jack Botes Hall, the Premier of the province announced the Department of CoGHSTA looking into details regarding how we are going to purchase vehicles.

The MEC for CoGHSTA, during his Budget Vote, presented the details, and copies are available at the legislature for Members who might not recall, to review and determine exactly how many we were able to deliver.

The honourable member was very attentive, and he quoted what was said during the Budget Speech. We said that we were going to budget R65 million and purchase one or two vehicles, and we are still on course. That is the first batch of delivery, and we did it for everybody.

We did it during daylight, for everybody to witness, as opposed to those who attempt to buy votes by giving bakkies to people at night. Every senior traditional leader received their allocated vehicles.

In our statement, we even used a very apt term: "deserving traditional leadership." It is an English phrase. You should also go and read that part. We were referring to those who are properly recognised, not necessarily those promoted due to promises made by individuals claiming they would appoint others as traditional leaders.

What we are going to do, Hon Speaker, is fulfil the commitment that we made during the Budget Vote. If we can align it with the election date, we will still make it because that is what we promised our people, and we are going to deliver. Those who are feeling the pain because the elections are approaching, should be ready to meet us face to face because we are prepared for them.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

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

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

Committee chair, you may proceed.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby rise to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B04-2023].

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke ema go thekga modulasetolo wa komiti ya Matlotlo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's proceed to the Second Reading Debate of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill and refer to the Speakers' List. The first speaker is Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Hon Speaker, there is a saying that goes as follows: “Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures, and claim no easy victories.”

Hon Speaker, members of the media and distinguished guests, a blessed afternoon to you.

Hon Speaker, on 21 November 2023, the MEC for Provincial Treasury, in terms of House Rule 164 tabled the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill before this august House. The Bill was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Treasury for consideration.

This Bill entails the adjusted allocation of funds from the Provincial Revenue Fund to the various sectors of the province in respect of the financial year ending on 31 March 2024, and address matters that requires immediate attention.

Hon Speaker, the total adjusted allocation increased the provincial Budget from R79,163 billion to R81,643 billion.

It comprises additional Equitable Share amounting to R2,009 billion, which is designated for funding the 2023 national wage increase for the Departments of Health and Education.

There is an Equitable Share rollover of R236,124 million, and the Conditional Grant has a rollover of R254,4 million. Both rollovers are from the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Hon Speaker, the reductions in Conditional Grants totalling R451,178 million, resulted in a decrease from R11,318 million to R11,131 million.

Provincial Own Revenue was increased by R214,492 million, from R1,71 billion to R1,925 billion. It was found that an underspending of R1,07 million was incurred in the 2022/23 financial year on Equitable Share allocations.

As a result, the department has a rollover amounting to R263,147 million, and R263, 14 million, documented by the Provincial Treasury. The province surrendered R838,578 million, during the 2022 adjustments on Equitable Share, a practice that the ANC strongly condemns.

Hon Speaker, during the 2021 Adjustment Bill debate, we emphasised the importance of holding people accountable. We referred to the unfortunate scenes in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years when the province allocated R150 million to other provinces. We do not want to witness a recurrence of such incidents, as emphasised by the Portfolio Committee of Provincial Treasury.

Among other issues, we expressed concerns about the Human Settlements Grant, a grant with conditions. Its objective is to create sustainable and integrated human settlements, improving the quality of households and providing access to basic services.

Hon Speaker, it gives us great joy to report to this House that over the past years, the department has struggled with poor performance resulting in the loss of funds back to the national fiscus. That is now a thing of the past. The loss of money meant that the people of Limpopo were denied the services due to them.

The department has, however, turned the tide. There is a great improvement as of the end of September 2023.

The expenditure on the ISHS Grant was 57%, surpassing the allocated 50%. The department is on track to spend the entire allocation. This is further motivation to the national Department of Human Settlements to consider additional funding, which is currently under consideration by the government of this province.

The additional funding would be attributed to improvements in poor planning, project management and strengthened contract management — which is a Portfolio Committee of Provincial Treasury, we shouldn't find ourselves in.

Hon Speaker, during our interface with the Department of Treasury, we made some of the following findings, amongst others:

That the department should have sought Equitable Share and Conditional Grant rollovers from the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. However, they also surrendered over a billion, inclusively, Hon Speaker, of Conditional Grants.

Conditional Grants, Hon Speaker, its spending is still a challenge in the provincial government. In the Department of Agriculture, for example, or in the Department of Health and the Department of Education alike, these Conditional Grants are meant to alleviate or improve the quality of life of our people. In Agriculture, it already affects food security.

Hon Speaker, in Education, it adversely affects the poorest schools. As a portfolio committee, we assert that there is a need for additional revenue and other strategies in the province to augment the provincial revenue funds, given the envisaged budget cuts in the 2024 financial year.

South Africa is in a state of financial distress, Hon Speaker, and this has presented possible fiscal threats to the local economy. The budget cuts indicated that the country is deeply indebted, and the poor will not see quality services from this government if deployers in government do not adhere to some of the regulations that have been put in place.

Financial entities and public entities require adequate support, and we acknowledge the role that Provincial Treasury plays in supporting municipalities and entities.

Officials in the provincial government, Hon Speaker, continue to engage lavishly in activities of financial mismanagement resulting in unwanted expenditures. It is now time, Hon Speaker, that consequence management to be implemented, and those held responsible should be taken to task.

Hon Speaker, infrastructure development in the province depends largely on adequate infrastructure spending. During the launch of the local government election manifesto by the ANC, we committed that in the next five years, the ANC-led municipalities would prioritise the integration of informal settlements to further improve the quality of life.

Furthermore, we are committed to overseeing the rehabilitation, refurbishment and replacement of aging infrastructure. These sentiments, Hon Speaker, was uttered by the Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha when he said: “We continue to honour the commitment to restore the dignity of our people by providing them with safer, well-located and decent housing.” This will go a long way in improving the quality of life of our people, particularly the poor, as part of the programme to guarantee the security of housing ownership in the coming financial years. We will provide 3000 beneficiaries with title deeds, a gesture that the Department of CoGHSTA has, in fact, lived up to during these past two days, meeting the expectations of the ANC-led government.

The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury in the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Speaker, is tasked with the robust, radicle and comprehensive oversight on behalf of the interest of this province. This adjustment budget will not only exist on paper but will definitely make a tangible impact. What I'm saying, Hon Speaker, is that this adjustment budget must and will speak to the people of this province, as we commit to scrutinise every rand, every cent without fear, favour, or prejudice.

Hon Speaker, as we adjourn from this august House today, let me conclude by sharing a quote from Amilcar Cabral: “Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in one’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives to go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.”

On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, I move that this report be accepted as a report of this House.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lebea. Hon Mphahlele, you are next speaker on the list.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, Members of this august House, good afternoon once more.

Hon Speaker, the total adjustment allocation increases in the provincial budget from R79,163 billion to R81,643 billion, as presented by the MEC in this House. We must state up front that the Adjustment Bill is nothing but an insult to the people of Limpopo, particularly concerning service delivery, especially for the poorest of the poor.

Budget adjustments should essentially be people-oriented and development-oriented. Development is about people. The provincial underspending of R1,07 billion incurred in the 2022/23 financial year on Equitable Share allocation is unacceptable. It is scandalous and shameful and a serious drawback on service delivery.

The increased budget from R494,2 million to R536,212 million for the Limpopo Legislature, means an increase in nepotism and corruption, where relatives and friends in the institution are the most prepared and hired. Those who do not have close proximity with the political leadership and senior management of the Legislature are excluded from being promoted and condemned to uncertainty. Service delivery in this situation is stalled because everyone wants to become the Secretary to the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, despite the increased adjustment budget of R848,229 million for Education, the majority of our children must still travel more than 20 km to school without scholar transport. In most cases, you can hardly find curriculum advisors for all subjects in our circuits. Teachers continue to teach without the guidance from curriculum advisors, hence, the department fails to meet the target as set out in the Limpopo Development Plan of 2020 to 2025.

Hon Speaker, the budget for the Department of Health increased from R23,772,224 billion to R24,602,082 billion. However, this increase proved ineffective, as the majority of clinics still lack doctors, nurses and medication. These clinics are equipped only with Panado and bandages. Surprisingly, despite aspiring to become the Premier of Limpopo, the reality persists that many clinics won't operate 24 hours around the clock, even with the budget increase.

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

Hon Speaker, despite the adjustment, many of our people remain poor. They lack decent housing, proper roads, water and electricity. The people of Giyani are still without water today due to corruption in the water projects meant to provide water to them. To date, no one has been arrested for involvement in the Giyani water project corruption, and it has been more than five years since it happened.

The people of Sekhukhune generally lack water, despite the multi-billion De Hoop Dam just being on their doorstep. The majority of the RDP houses in Sekhukhune are abandoned at the slab level, due to inadequate service.

[BACKGROUND NOISE] [Inaudible] ... a lack of consequence management. Our people are still subjected to harsh living conditions as they continue to call dilapidated shacks their homes. If the adjustment cannot address these basic service priorities, then what is it addressing?

The budget adjustment did not take into consideration our input and proposals on how we can improve the lives of our people. The MEC has not considered or implemented a single bit of advice we gave him during our previous encounters in this House. Such is the arrogance and the ego of the ANC-led government, they cannot even hide it. This is

what the former liberation movement has become lately. It is no longer about the people, but all about themselves and their families.

We know that the ANC despises anything that comes from the EFF, not on merit but for political reasons. A wise person takes any advice, even from a perceived enemy. The ANC continues to behave like an arrogant spoilt brat when dealing with political opponents.

It is for this reason that we judge the Budget adjustment, precisely because it is not developmental, and people centred.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Rudolph Phala, you are the next speaker on the list.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for allowing me to take part in the debate on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill as tabled in this honourable House by the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

Just for clarity, Hon Speaker, the actual Budget was tabled in May this year, providing the entire Budget of the province. What we are doing now is an adjustment where the MEC tables certain movements of money to areas that require additional money for spending.

There are examples where the Department of Health came and said they want to finish the Limpopo Central Academic Hospital; they don't have enough funds and they need more now to finish the hospital. This will direct the money in that direction. The Department of CoGHSTA came and said that, as indicated in the State of the Province Address and the Budget Speech of the MEC, they are trying to buy vehicles for traditional leaders', but our budget is not enough; give us certain millions to finish off the purchase of the vehicles. That's what an adjustment Budget is for. It is not for other things.

It is to move money around to areas that require additional funding, so that we can redirect money from areas that are not spending well. It seems that at the end of the financial year, the budget of that particular department or area would not be fully utilised. We will then allocate it to an area where it will be spent. That is what an adjustment budget is about. That is what we are debating today, not something else.

In relation to water, as the provincial government, together with the Premier's Office and CoGHSTA, we can interact with municipalities to deliver water to our people and help them where we can. The delivery of water is the competency of both the national government and the local sphere of government. In this suggested budget there is no single cent allocated to water because the Constitution itself states that water is provided by municipalities directly to people, and bulk water is managed by the national government, which is the national sphere. We are nowhere there.

In relation to allegations of corruption, allegations are allegations are allegations are allegations and allegations will remain allegations. We won't entertain them as we cannot predict how the money will be spent. The provincial government identified areas where it seemed that, by the end of the financial year, money would not have been fully utilised. Simultaneously, there are other areas that urgently need additional funds. Therefore, we are reallocating funds to address immediate needs. There now so that those things that need to be paid are paid now. This is the core of an adjustment budget, a supplementary measure, not the main appropriation.

Regarding the points raised in the ATC report, Hon Speaker, Hon Lebea spoke on that topic very well. I would like to highlight a few key issues.

One concern is avoiding the "March spike", a situation where CFOs and HODs rush to spend remaining funds before the end of the financial year. We want to avoid this by allocating funds based on the departments' real-time needs, rather than waiting for March. Departments have indicated urgent requirements, such as paying contractors and service providers and we want those funds to be utilised promptly. Our goal is to ensure responsible and timely spending throughout the financial year, avoiding last-minute rushes and ensuring effective allocation.

Secondly, as Hon Lebea is indicated, we don't want the money to contribute to underexpenditure. When departments request additional funds stating they need it for specific purposes, it becomes problematic if, by the end of the financial year, that money hasn't been spent, leading to underexpenditure. Which is what we frown upon.

Underexpenditure implies that certain services intended for our people were not delivered as planned, due to unspent funds, impacting service delivery negatively.

We have also emphasised the need for the provincial government to develop a plan in the coming year to deal with corruption in the Budget. This plan will be tabled in this Legislature by the honourable MEC for the upcoming 2024/25 financial year. Additionally, we have highlighted the reduction in the money we receive from the national government, as mentioned by the honourable MEC in this House and the Minister of Finance during the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill. In response, we urge the province to focus on more expansive and robust revenue enhancement strategies to generate as much revenue as possible independently.

We want the provincial government, as Hon Lebea indicated, to enhance its support to public entities and municipalities, because those are some of the areas that do not spend funds very well at the end of the financial year. We emphasise the need for increased focus on improving spending practices in these specific areas. Regarding Conditional Grants, Hon Speaker, you will recall there were reports here that a number of categories of Conditional Grants are not being spent well by these entities. Part of the resolutions that have been taken by this House already is that we want the provincial government to continue enhancing the expenditure of the Conditional Grants. Conditional Grants are those grants and funds that come from the national government with conditions. Whether you spend them with those conditions or not, that money goes to other provinces, as we have seen and as Hon Lebea has indicated.

We also emphasised our desire for increased spending, and we are reiterating it. During the main Budget discussions, we advocated for the allocation to be spent on infrastructure for the people of the province, including roads, human settlements, schools, libraries, clinics, hospitals, and other vital categories of infrastructure that will serve our people.

We stressed our preference for the bulk of this adjustment budget which we are passing, not to be allocated to the Compensation of Employees' budget. This is because that money goes directly into the pockets of individuals, whereas we want the funds to be allocated to infrastructure that can serve the entire population of the province.

Finally, we insisted that the funds spent at the end of the period, when collectively examined across various departments and entities, we should adhere to specific adjustments. These adjustments aim to allocate additional funds to specific areas, ensuring that, when the financial year concludes, the money does not contribute to other expenditure, over expenditure, irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, or unauthorised expenditure. We intend to scrutinise these aspects at the end to verify whether the additional funds requested by departments were used appropriately for their intended purpose and not in a fruitless or irregular manner.

In summary, this outlines our position regarding the Second Reading Debate of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B04-2023] as tabled by the honourable MEC in this House a week ago.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC Sekoati to come and respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

Let me start by thanking the members of the committee for raising pertinent issues related to budget matters, as some are directly tied to financial allocations. However, there are certain aspects, including issues of the "March spike" which do not necessarily impact the Budget adjustment.

We have all agreed that the "March spike" poses a challenge, especially when departments perceive a surplus of funds, leading to improper spending practices. Waiting until March and the last day to exhaust the budget is a practice that needs to be avoided. I agree that we must consistently monitor departments to prevent them from falling into this category.

The matter of underexpenditure is indeed a concern, particularly when it comes to addressing budget pressures. As the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee rightly stated, the budget adjustment is intended to augment allocated budgets, specifically those facing pressure due to various constraints. We are working to alleviate the strain caused by underexpenditure on these budgets. Notably, there is no provision for water in the budget. This budget aims to relieve the pressures experienced by specific departments. Further details on other budgets will be discussed when the need arises.

The issue of revenue, Hon Speaker, has made us realise the need to continually seek new ways to enhance our own revenue. Without the revenue generated within our province, we would face serious challenges, particularly in addressing budget pressures. It is evident that the Budget from the national government was not designed to solely augment but also to safeguard Education and the Department of Health from challenges in those areas. Therefore, the remainder of the allocation was derived from the revenue we generated.

We are constantly working to encourage various departments and entities to generate their own revenue, thereby ensuring that we are able to enhance financial sustainability.

The improvement in Conditional Grant spending is noted and we will ensure that we expedite the expected time frame as well as protect it to be used for its allocated purpose. With Conditional Grants, if they are not spent, it will pile up and be taken back to the national government's revenue fund or allocated to other provinces.

Therefore, we need to continuously safeguard the allocations and also ensure the seamless progression of service delivery.

Madam Speaker, I cannot conclude without addressing the issue of the African National Congress, which is, in my view, a fallacy. However, we do acknowledge what the honourable Members are saying, that we may not consider the wisdom of their party. Madam Speaker, I am confident, without a doubt, that my colleagues may not fully grasp the concept of wisdom, as wisdom is inherently linked to experience. That is the essence of wisdom, and just to define it, Madam Speaker, it is the capacity for judging rightly in matters relating to life.

I am not sure if we collectively possess the right mindset when it comes to life's challenges. To acquire that, I don't think our understanding is adequate. Therefore, let us not pretend to mislead our communities that we possess wisdom. I haven't seen any profound insight or intellect displayed, Hon Mapoulo. I have not witnessed anything that they have articulated or personally benefited from. If you had any, we would definitely be able to benefit from that.

The only thing that we have seen is indiscretion, incaution; you are so inexperienced, ignorant and heedless, to say the least. There is no type of wisdom that we can at least take from you and bring about improvement. In future, if you want people to benefit from your heedlessness, do it somewhere else, not from the African National Congress. Wisdom resides within the African National Congress. This is where wisdom

lies. Never mind the weaknesses that there might be, this is where wisdom prevails. Do not compare it with ignorance, they are incomparable.

I just want to say, Madam Speaker, that we are not really arrogant. We are just aware that there are a lot of inexperienced attitudes that we see. Also, from the utterances, we do realise that there is nothing substantial. If there is nothing to say, it's better to say less than to parade your ignorance in public.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

[APPLAUSE]

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members let's proceed.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

Over to you, committee chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism along with its entities on the 2022/23 Annual Report for LEDA, be adopted as a report of this honourable House.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand to support the report as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mokaba.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you again, committee chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism along with its entities, on the 2022/23 Annual Report for LTA, be adopted as a report of this honourable House.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Polly Boshielo, stand to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Chairperson, over to you once more.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism along with its entities, on the 2022/23 Annual Report for LGB, to be adopted as a report of this august House,

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Dr Masemola you are recognised.

DR MASEMOLA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Namane Dickson Masemola, stand to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mokaba.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, committee chair. I think you are the first one to speak on behalf of LEDET.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, I rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities on the 2022/23 annual report for LEDET be adopted as the report of this honourable House.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Moraka.

MS MORAKA

Thank you very much Hon Speaker. I, Thandi Moraka, rise to support the adoption of the report as tabled by Hon Mapula Mokaba; the chairperson of the portfolio committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refers to the Speakers' List for debate. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mochadi.

MS MOCHADI

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members of this House together with Members of the Executive, I greet you all in the name of Jesus. Madam Speaker, I rise to debate the annual report for the Department of LEDET. Madam Speaker, let's forget this discourse by ushering the old man's words; our first Black President, President Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela who once declared; "We will never be free until the people of Palestine a free." Today as we stand united in our commitment to justice and human rights, we express our unwavering support for the ceasefire between the descendants of Abraham which is Israel and Palestine from both humans; the African humans from Egypt and Israelites the Middle-east.

This is a fight though temporary and it must be ceased as a crucial step towards acknowledging and serving the rights of Palestinian people to self-determination identified in this life today spiritually. We can't move like we are in God's favour or the makers or maintainers of peace for them to express this character before the children of God. We must encourage this region to ceasefire so that we bring peace between the children of the same man.

The important role played by Limpopo Gambling Board in prospering economic development in our province cannot be overestimated.

This responsibility and relationship between any industry and economic growth is undeniable and it is crucial to deal with aspects of government and law enforcement to ensure the responsibility and sustainable development of this sector; the Limpopo Gambling Board, as a ready-made authority to oversee the Amphitheatre placed to come up with a role and maintain us serious of thousands. It's is true and effective that we can see that interests of the most fair business practices and uphold the integrity of the industry.

One of the key economic growth where government is crucial is in licensing and compliance to a degree of being splitted and strategically assisting the process to ensure that only equitable and responsible operators are granted licenses.

This is not only to protect consumers but also to contribute to the overall stability of the investment. Transparency and affordability are the cornerstones of good governance and brought initiatives to ensure that operations adheres to strict financial reporting and at anytime it must be honoured to build the trust in the centre. Hon Speaker, by fostering and developing integrity, the board becomes a catalyst for attracting investments and fostering economic growth. (inaudible) requires a robust sterling work of laws and regulations and equally so (inaudible), is their effective means of enforcement.

Law-enforcement is not merely punitive, it is a proactive measure to create an environment where the industry operates personally and responsibly. Honourable Members, the Limpopo Gambling Board in collaboration with law-enforcement agency has insisted and ensuring that decisions are not just on papers but are actively enforced. These include monitoring, investigating and attending activities that could undermine the integrity of the entity. By creating unlicensed operators and (inaudible) the establishments and the board do not only protect consumers from potential harm but also ensure that economic benefits derived from industries are channeled through legal and regulation channels.

Hon Speaker, this is in turn (inaudible) classic and it act out of the revenue so that there is economic development initiatives.

In striking the balance, Hon Speaker, the economic growth especially the responsibility (inaudible) while the economic development's primary focus is important to the struggle and to grow the social availability. The Limpopo Gambling Board has instituted measures to promote responsible gambling practices which includes awareness campaigns and support programmes in gambling and initiatives. The Limpopo Gambling Board send (inaudible) for a responsible economic development through effective governance and law-enforcement by upholding the highest members of integrity and ensuring that industry operates within the confines of the law. We aim to support the economic growth that there is hope in the stakeholders and brought it up to the agency. I thank you, Madam Speaker [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair. I am not sure about Hon Seshoka. I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to debate on behalf of LEDET and the entities of Limpopo. Hon Speaker, there were no indicators set or achieved during the quarter under review on biodiversity as well as natural resources management. As to why it didn't happen, it's only the ANC government that can tell. The EFF is not surprised by these developments as we are accustomed to the fact that this can only happen under

the ANC-led government. During the fourth quarter review of 2022/23 financial year, the department was supposed to develop a legislative tool which was provincially Air Quality Management Plan but it was not done due to delays in supply chain management.

It is clear from this consistent failures that the government is not the strong point of the ruling party. We wonder if they do have wisdom. What do we mean, Hon Speaker, by wisdom? Wisdom is the fact of being based on sensible thinking. Wisdom is the fact of being based on clear thinking. Just leave alone experience. You may have experience but knowledgeable. Where there is knowledge we see improvements.

Hon Speaker, it is very disappointing that instead of admitting their failures and self-correcting, all the Limpopo citizens get excuses after excuses. Furthermore, Hon Speaker, there was non-compliance to ill-disclosure of financial interests by 93% or 97% and out of 104 employees declared within set timelines. This kind of anomaly only happens when there is no consequence management for such actions. Non-compliance by some employees in terms of signing performance contracts within set timelines is unacceptable. We have noted that about 98% of employees from 1 037 out of 1 058 signed performance contracts within set timelines. This implies that 21 employees didn't sign that contracts within timelines.

How did these discrepancies which boggles our minds allowed to happen? It is only the ANC which can explain administrative anomaly. It is not enough for the department to just accumulate that. Compliance with policy directives was on a red flag area which needs strategic interventions at the executive level to enforce ill-management and also to ensure accountability. We need to see the department taking tough actions to ensure that such things never happen and never return again. In terms of employing persons with disabilities, the department was at 0% for salary band level 13 to 16 while for salary band level 1 to 12 was still at 2%. The department achieved 2% falling short of the set target.

We are not surprised because we know that persons with disability are most marginalized and most hated by the ruling party. The fall short of target, Hon Speaker, is because of the lack of creativity, lack of innovation as well as lack of workable ideas and lack of wisdom. Furthermore, Hon Speaker, targets were also not met on consumer complains to be finalise within 90 days of received as it was the case in previous year of its under achievement every year. The entire provincial government is littered with under achievement in all aspects of its existence. There should be no excuse for not meeting the targets.

The government must instead find permanent solution in terms of meeting targets rather than always giving excuses. The department should provide a report on why R31 million was not spent on the compensation of employees. Why does the government deny our people an opportunity for a better life? It's only our heartless government that can do what the ANC is doing to our people. LEDET should also provide a report on the process of partnership with Musina-Makhado SEZ and TVET colleges to improve youth skills development in the province.

Furthermore, the department should provide a report on what kind of infrastructure Musina-Makhado SEZ is going to build and when? This report should be provided in the next sitting of the Legislature on 30 November 2023; that is the coming Thursday.

LEDET should provide a report as to why they identified 20 enterprises but assisted only six of them. Who set these targets? If it is the government, why are they not spreading? Why are they not achieving them? The EFF is concerned about the underexpenditure of funds by Limpopo Gambling Board especially under Information Technology Sub-programme. What happened to the money underspent on this sub-programme? Do we still have it or it has gone into the pockets of thieves? Underexpenditure is the ANC's daily bread.

They are best known for not spending money on service delivery but funding corruption and its activities. The LGB conducted 48 crime awareness campaigns exceeding the targets of 32 participation of ill-responsible gambling campaigns and the Limpopo Marula Festival Crime Awareness Campaign. But, what is the use of these campaigns if they did not achieve the intended results? Despite exceeding its targets, illegal gambling in all its contestations continues to soar on daily basis. The government, Hon Speaker, is clearly losing war against illegal gambling hence people are claiming to have wisdom.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, MEC present here, Members of this august House, distinguished guests and members of the public, I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Thank you very much for this opportunity to debate on the 2022/23 annual report for the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, namely; LEDET, Leda, LTA and LGB. The portfolio committee has been briefed by the entities on this report. Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is faced with task to meet and enable the environment for the economy of the province to flourish, meeting and ultimately to contribute to the formation of the much needed jobs in the province.

Through the state-owned entities such as Limpopo Economic Development Agency and its subsidiaries, the Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency and various programmes are implemented and these programmes should also contribute to the economic growth. We welcome and appreciate the operational achievements by the departments and its entities during the year under review. However, we are concerned about the impact of these activities on the lives of the people of Limpopo. The current report suggested that the economic growth is lower than expected.

Many people still experience poverty while the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. This should concern all of us and therefore, our actions should be adhered

towards addressing these challenges. Hon Members, we have been tasked with key mandate of representing the aspirations of multitudes of the Limpopo citizens and South Africa at large. We should therefore at all times improve our respective goals in manner that shows that we are committed to improve the lives of the people of Limpopo. Accordingly, we expect this provincial government, especially LEDET and its stakeholders, to realise that it's evident upon to ensure that the economy of the province is growing and that there is progress in addressing the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment.

The recent report have shown that the majority of people who are in worst situation of the living conditions and poverty are strictly Black Africans. Appropriated programmes still need to be implemented to address their plight. It will be important to ensure that provincial government realises that service delivery commitments and pronouncements in the beginning of the current term and before that. The department should therefore ensure that there is implementation and reporting on this clear high level commitment. We need to be in a position to determine if we are ready and confident to reduce unemployment and eradicate poverty and other socio-economic challenges.

We are not able to deliver and ensure that impact of the work we do. There is a potential of losing the trust of the people we represented and most importantly, their living conditions will get worse as we go closer to the end of the term. We need to ensure that government commitments to the people are honoured and where there are challenges there should be a will to resolve them urgently. Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee has from the onset emphasized that government and the departmental programmes should ensure that the economy of the province is transformed from its colonial nature where the focus is only in the production of raw material and mining is being a beneficiation or a process in the province.

We still see trucks carrying minerals and agricultural products that are exported to their province or countries for further processing.

The current status quo where there are minimized upwards or downwards leakages in the value chain define our province from creating jobs. Instead, there are many manufacturing related jobs that are created outside our province using raw materials produced in this provide. As a result, many of our citizens remain jobless while living in a province which is highly engulfed with natural resources including minerals.

We therefore recommend that our provincial government must speed up implementations process in order to use mining beneficiation and agro-processing as a base for growing our economy. In the same breadth, the efforts in other industries such as tourism industry, gambling industry, ICT, breeding, economy, et cetera, should be a road to further improve the economic growth.

Hon Speaker, we are aware that the department has developed the Economic Recovery Plan and also explain major projects that will improve the situation and turnaround the economy of the province. However, most of these projects and its entities have been behind schedule and these denies us the opportunities to create jobs in the province.

Consequently, the situation resulted in brain-drain in the province where young and capable people are forced to leave the province to seek employment.

The provincial government need to speedily implement these projects and virtualize the expertise that we have in the province and also supplement it with those outside the province where necessary to address these challenges. As a committee, we recommend that this catalyst processes and plans pertaining around the economy be implemented speedily. The projects such as Special Economic Zone, industrial parks, Lebowa kgomo Abattoir, car processing initiatives to mention a few should be fully operational if we are intentional about creating jobs.

Honourable Members, we appreciate and welcome the setout targets of the province and the department is being intentionally investing in foreign direct investments into the province as it can be attested through the investment campaign before. The key issue will be to ensure that there is fall off on the commitment of investments to ensure that companies operates in the province.

Furthermore, there should be a mechanism to ensure that these companies are able to develop capabilities within the province and utilizes service of the people as well as SMMEs and corporatives in the province. We should also be intentional about empowering our local business and people especially those who were previously disadvantaged before in order to have inclusive economy. Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee commend the work done by the department and some of its entities to ensure that there is proper governance when conducting its business.

We congratulate LEDET, LGB, Letsima and Limpopo Agribusiness for obtaining clean audit. We also hope that other entities will also improve and get clean audit especially the Limpopo Tourism Agency which has clean auditing for a number of years. Our concern is however on the Leda group which some entities have challenges. According to the Auditor-General, the Leda group received a qualified audit opinion due to the challenges experienced in new era like insurance companies which had been accredited by the provincial statement. It will be important for Leda to implement and monitor the appropriate audit action plan and most importantly, it provides unpaid information for determining its profitability.

This is important considering that Leda is a Schedule 3D company which is supposed to generate profit for sustainability while implementing its developmental mandate activities. LEDET should also improve on the expenditure of allocated funds. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the portfolio committee and having considered and scrutinized the 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan for LEDET, Limpopo Development Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency. I move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokaba. We will then proceed to the adoption and consideration of the report of the Portfolio Committee of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

Over to you, committee chair. You proceed with the consideration and adoption, Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Thank you Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities on the 2022/23 first quarter report of LEDET be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the report? I recognise Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as raised by the honourable chairperson of the committee, Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Proceed, committee chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you. I rise to move on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities on the 2023/24 first quarter report for Leda be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Masekoameng.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you. I, Hon Masekoameng, stand here to second honourable chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, honourable chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, I rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic [Technical error]

THE SPEAKER

Thanks chair. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Moraka.

MS MORAKA

Thanks once more, Hon Speaker. I, Thandi Moraka, stand here to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, I rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities on the 2023/24 first quarter report of LGB be adopted as the report of this august House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Ndza khensa, Xipikara. Mina Joshua Matlou, ndzi yima ku seketela leswi vuriweke hi Muchaviseki Mokaba. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now refers to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker on the list is Hon Mochadi.

MS MOCHADI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, honourable Members, all protocol observed. Hon Speaker, today I address you in line with the first quarter report from the entities of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism of the province. Under Leda's commitments to the economic growth, the first quarter report from the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism refers our province and its commitments to improve economic growth of the province.

It is tasked with promoting economic development upon various sectors as shown recommendable strides to welcome the AG's initiatives which were organized crucially that Leda has shown to ensure that this projects are aligned with crucial long-term economic growth, promoting sustainable development and job creation. Agro-processing is a critical component of our economy and fundamental to our agricultural sector which was issued by projects such as Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane (inaudible) in order to enable their full potential that innovative and digital solutions are temporary to our future.

While there were debate in order to find partners for the Limpopo Connection, the agency must ensure that these delays don't repeal progress. The Limpopo Science and Technology part also promised progress and technological advancement focusing on increased domestic and foreign investments and disparities that INGA's role in facilitating trade and investments is scrutinized. The progress encourages faithfulness like the projects you see in Musina-Makhado SEZ and Tubatse-Fetakgomo SEZ. It further attention that there hasn't been much movement on the ground and the entity need to treat their accounts with confidence as to what is happening and why there has been a slow progress on the ground, SMMEs and entrepreneurship.

It doesn't develop fully so because of the slowness on the ground. The entities advert in supporting how SMMEs and entrepreneurship where SMMEs in particular, the group of entrepreneurship for SMMEs development are essential for the economic wellbeing of our citizens. Shared light on the integrity of investments, the performance of Leda on Scientific phase which include corridor mining resources earmarked (inaudible) and its results were analyzed. Our focus should be on ensuring the viability and sustainability in these entities and underscore the importance of work capacitated and performing organisations such as Leda. Government aspects include financial standing which demands our attention. They are identified as a success in itself and assess so forth in board meetings, should there be no way and wishes and encouraging to continue.

The portfolio committee has been briefed by the department in the first quarter review that Leda should continue to provide quarterly and performance of its division to subsidiaries, (inaudible) matters and associates. Detailed quarterly report should be provided on Leda agency and put financial cover including (inaudible) and correction of debts. Updated progress of the report of Musina-Makhado SEZ should be provided including online application of land by the Department of Agriculture.

The process should be provided on the development of our infrastructure, water and electricity, roads etc. Those are the reports that should be provided on Leda in dealing with land degradation on our Tubatse-Fetakgomo SEZ. Leda should provide quarterly progress report on the implementation entity turnaround strategy to stabilize GNT. Reports should be given after payments of pensions hope to rekindle employees. Progress should be provided on inclusive management and corrective action (inaudible)

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, Leda should provide progress report on the operationalization such as Lebowaqomo Abattoir as it was committed that it would be operationalized in September 2023. Leda should provide updates on the (inaudible), electricity, water schedule in Marishane as well as updates reports should be provided on the (inaudible) and (inaudible). I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, Hon Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much Hon Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the House, thank you very much (1:38:3sepedi) Hon Speaker, it is unacceptable that 75% of 747 of 993 performances were submitted between the set time right. The underachievement on the set time target is anti-revolutionary and highly regrettable. Unfortunately underachievement can become a norm in this government which resulted in becoming a failed state. The department arrogantly commenced with the implementation of the amendments into the Liquor Act with emphasis of ensuring that all liquor business operates and close at 00:00 midnight effective from 1 August 2023. The EFF rejects this Dragonian law which will kill the much needed jobs and business for those who are in the sector.

The Act aims to destroy the livelihoods of the poor. It is wrong in the law, wrong in the (inaudible) and wrong in its implementation. There is no target achieved on the percentage of complete atmospheric (inaudible) licenses and ways that apply to these applications.

As to why there were no targets, its only ANC who can tell – sometimes they are waiting for *tjotjo*. The EFF is disappointed that LEDET has failed to provide quarterly updates on the implementation of new infrastructure plan for projects in the state-owned nature reserves. The new infrastructure will go a long way in providing jobs for our people. Leda has failed to provide drinking water for its own employees as much as Mashashane and they are told that all sorts of funds received funny stories and providing permanent solution to the problem.

When you failed to give your own employees water what about other people? Hon Speaker, it is disappointing that the Limpopo (inaudible) the investment partner the quarter under review but there was no achievements. 1:40:45 Furthermore, there were updates given on the establishment of Limpopo Science and Technology but with this one of provincial priorities projects, I don't understand when you speak of (inaudible) you even undermine your own priorities. It doesn't make sense even in your priorities. During 2023/24 financial year, it was planned that R200 million will be invested under Musina Makhado-SEZ. It was such a project for the quarter under review. About R50 million was targeted but the NTT only invested R18,3 million in Musina-Makhado SEZ infrastructure. The EFF is not surprised that there is no progress in Musina-Makhado-SEZ.

The only progress we have is on papers but practically, there is nothing on the ground and nothing is happening meanwhile their own Hon Sekoati says that there is wisdom. What kind of wisdom are you talking about? This tells us that the ANC government is not serious in the development of our economy and there is no wisdom in doing that. Hon Speaker, the drowning industry is going with all 3 148 employees which is a decrease by 700 employees. Where is freedom there because it employs 18% of people from 3 858 (inaudible) the privilege of 2023 financial year.

Where on earth do you decrease jobs instead of creating more jobs for sustainable livelihoods? The government will sustain to a higher targets each year prioritizing the youth (baswa). The youth of today we have to be aware that they are killed by nyaope, liquor and many other substances. Hon Speaker, the EFF I concerned (inaudible) with gambling machines that they raised on online to make gambling in the province ease.

These is nothing workable and connections is being done about illegal gambling activity hence they continue to happen.

Sometime I don't know, some of you might be (inaudible) in debt. Hon Speaker, the LTA didn't achieve the target on budget expenditure on youth-owned enterprise, instead of 5% target the entity spent only 2% which is R124 000 out of R6,802 million. This is absolutely disgusting and completely unacceptable like (1:43:43) all these failures are a typical example of a failed state. So, we didn't expect more from the ANC government. Hon Speaker, I find (inaudible) that there is no wisdom when I look at my predecessors. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Over to you, Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon MECs present are here, honourable Members, greeting to all of you. Thanks you very much for this opportunity to debate on 2022/23 first quarter performance of the report for the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities; Leda, LTA and LGB. The portfolio committee has been engrieved by the department and its entities in this report. The committee has noted and welcome that during the quarter under review. LGB met all its own set targets for a quarter under review while LTA and the department performed well with just one and two targets not being achieved specifically.

These achievements need to show impacts for the lives of the people in Limpopo. However, the biggest concern is with Leda's performance which is lower than the plan targets and this has been the cause over the past five years. The underachievement of Leda is a reflection on the implementation of key project initiatives by Leda and its subsidiaries which is low. The impacts of debates on the operationalization of key projects like Musina-Makhado SEZ, Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane (inaudible) implies that job creation will be delayed and therefore the economic growth will be affected negatively as it is currently ended as per report.

Honourable Members, Leda is expected to play a critical role in supporting these businesses especially the SMMEs. The report shows that the entity only set 115 000 targets instead of the targeted R1 million SMMEs and corporatives. This challenge is persisting even from the previous years. As the committee, we are concerned that there are many small businesses that need financial support in this province but Leda did not disperse the little budget available to the people. We therefore recommend that Leda should develop, incubate and assist businesses in preparation for business plans so that they can qualify.

Assistance should be provided by Leda in linking these small business with other funder as well as investors so that they participate in the economy in key projects like SEZ and industrial parks. Hon Speaker, Great North Transport is among the entities as it plays enabling role through transporting workers to and from different work places while also

generating income. However, the report shows that (inaudible) passengers are being transported to their own destination due to unavailability of buses since others have broken down. The entity should provide plan on how it will increase the number of buses on the road particularly in terms of purchase of new buses as well as the business.

When more buses are on the road they will positively contributing to the economy while also helping in generating the revenues. This is important since the report also shows that entity could not pay statutory payments such as SARS and pensions due to cash flow challenges. The portfolio committee has continuously emphasized the GNT to ensure that those who afford pension money should be paid what is due to them. Furthermore, appropriate actions should be taken against those who were found responsible for mismanagement of funds in the GNT.

The committee has further requested GNT to provide a quarterly updates on the GNT turnaround strategy of buses operation and procurement, buses depos and passengers transported. The report of the first quarter under review demonstrated by the Limpopo Connections should not identify partner due to debate in the shortlisting process. The entity indicates that they are still going (inaudible. It should be noted that broadband workout was pronounced and initiated some years back but there is still more investment partner.

The same challenge is also affecting the implementation of Limpopo Science and Technology partner. We urge the department to bid and mob the situation to address these challenges. We would like to reach a point where there is a broadband reaching all government institutions as well as rural areas. We welcome and appreciate the Limpopo Gambling Board as consistently showing its performance in achieving its targets, achieving its clean audit and generate revenue for the provincial government. However the issue of online illegal gambling is still a problem in the province.

We urge the entity to continue to partner with other law-enforcement agencies to deal with this challenge. Of importance is the matter of showing ownership shareholding and executives of which was certified previously to disadvantaged individuals especially black Africans. The entity should continue to work with the establishments to ensure compliance in this regard. Hon Speaker, prospective companies both contribute to a specific productive oversight over the entity hence ensuring good governance. The committee therefore recommends LEDET board and its entities and subsidiaries to be constituted by suitable and capable people and the department should be intentionally ensure gender equity in this report.

Accordingly, the same principles should be applied when filling vacant posts especially those at senior management and executive levels. In terms of assuring accountability, the entities and its subsidiaries have realised that they are all ...

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, honourable chair.

MS MOKABA

This resulted in some issues of entities or subsidiaries not being properly addressed. They need to be addressed when committee meetings are programmed. On behalf of the portfolio committee having considered and scrutinized the 2023/24 first quarter report of LEDET, Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Tourism Agency, I move that the report be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to come and respond to the debate. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Speaker, of the House, Hon Molapo; the Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable chairpersons of portfolio committees; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and members of the portfolio committee and honourable Members of this august House; the Chief Whip of the majority party and the Deputy Chief Whip; the Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs.

Madam Speaker, I think cognisance should be taken that at this political conjecture, our country and even globally are confided with serious financial constraints which is called the fiscal cliff. Our country is not immune from those conditionalities that are confronting us as the world. So, with these financial constraints, the equitable shares of fiscals among the three spheres of government to sustainably address the socio-economic needs of our citizenry.

These chronic fiscal constraints emanate from the weak economic growth exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine war and our province as I said is not immune from the deep-seated structure reforms and downs of economic growth. So the reason why we need to have APPs and Budget presented in this honourable House depicts a brighter picture that this ANC-led government is poised for a trajectory that reflects...[inaudible 2:00:47.1] with the investment of the infrastructure and building cohesive and sustainable and caring communities with improved access to social amenities, which a precursor for sustainable development.

Undoubtedly the ANC-led government has made some substantial progress since 1994. We acknowledge that there are some constraints; there are some limitations, and we are saying we need to put more emphasis that the APPs are an expression of desired deliverables, hence today we are here to account or to give an account of what has happened. Thank you very much for the robust debate it is unfortunate Hon Speaker that most of the people who are talking here today are not members of the portfolio committee – because that is where we account, and we were able to explicitly explain the progress that we have registered over the period that is under review.

Just to give a synopsis of what is happening, as the department, for the period under review we have invested more in preventative controls and measures to deal with the effects of accountability failures. For the period under review, we were able to obtain a clean audit as the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism after being audited by the Auditor-General.

We were also able to obtain many other clean audits in other entities, your Risima, LGB and Agri-business and in all we have four clean audits. In all these entities we can account for unqualified audit opinions with no matters of emphasis and that is the spirit of clean governance and corporate governance, and this is a lot of improvement. We are saying that we wanted to do more so that all the entities and the organs of state and the department maintain a clean audit so that we can account for the utilisation of the public resources that we have.

We also acknowledge that there are challenges in terms of illegal gambling in the townships and not the online ones which we don't have control of. We are working collaboratively with the South African Police Services and NPA to come and assist us in tackling that anomaly that is there. The industry that is doing well is the casinos, bookmakers, bingos, and others. In the province, we have the only gambling board that is generating more revenue. A revenue that will assist us in addressing the social amenities that we still experiencing, and we will continuously report to this honourable House.

Hon Manaka, you said there are no indicators, and I don't know because our indicators are clearly stated there so just go and check them, they are there. They are sector-based, we don't just put or thumbsuck the indicators – those are indicators that are also regulated by the DPSA, so we don't just wake up and do some deliverables which are not measurable. The other issue that we are talking about is the air quality, the bid was indeed non-responsive, hence we could not contract. This is the one area which is not yet transformed, whereby when you want to make some ... more especially the previously marginalised, they are unable to participate that is why we don't have people who are interested in it because of a specialised area.

The performance will not just be left unabated, we have some contingency majors to compensate for the loss, more especially where we did not achieve some targets in terms of the achievability exercise. We have indeed partnered with Tvet because we wanted the students who are studying there to come and contribute to our projects so we can move from a resource-based economy to industrialisation. We are investing more in the infrastructure, and they must go there and assist with skills deposits that we don't have in the province, hence there is that deliberate move to ensure that we deal with those matters.

The introduction of the hybrid catalytic project is an endeavour to program this province to the highest economic trajectory through the SEZ that we have; the Musina-Makhado which has an investment pipeline of R150 billion, and people should have an understanding that the Musina-Makhado SEZ and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park. Fetakgomo-Tubatse is a green project, and the other one is a brown project. It has its challenges of *Environmental Impact Assessment* (EIA). If all these projects are

incorporated into the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Industrial Master Plan, then we can see how best we can invest more so that we can create more job opportunities and grow the economy that will change and transform the socio-economic landscape of our province.

The issue of beneficiation in Fetakgomo-Tubatse has already started through the initiated downstream, mainstream, and upstream. We have already signed a contract with *Mining Equipment Manufacturers of South Africa (MEMSA)* together with NUTECH because they have authority limited to the beneficinations. We are working with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development through what we call Revitalising Agriculture and the Agro-processing Value chain (RAAV). About 70% of all fruits in the Johannesburg fresh produce market are from Limpopo as raw material but when they come back, they become expensive, so we are working together with the agricultural sector to ensure that they are processed within the province.

Regarding the issue of investment in the province, it is true that through the efforts and valuing of the investment efforts, we have created a dashboard to monitor what is obtainable and how we translate those pledges into practical projects. We have already started with the implementation of some of these projects.

The other issue is around the formation of the board of directors as accounting officers and non-executives are advertised. Some specific requirements are there to exercise fiduciary duties. For instance, if it's mining you need to have, but also if honourable Members need the CVs of those board of directors, the non-executives in particular, we are ready to provide them for Members to see if they qualify or they don't qualify. But the issue of gender is one thing that we are trying to address with the agencies that are affected.

We are trying our best to culminate the commitments to ensure that we take the oath of office. According to the labour survey, we are one province that is creating more job opportunities and in that other quarter, we were number one in the country. Those are signs, it is not us. Those are tangible deliverables that the economy of the province through all the efforts that are being created can unlock all the benefits that are there for the people to accept and some job opportunities.

On the issue of the mining company called CMR, which is one of the subsidiaries under LEDA, we are busy with what we call the diluting of shareholding so that as the majority shareholder we must be able to deposit or post dividends on an annual basis. But we can only do that if we revise and review the memorandum of incorporation. We have also appointed a transitional adviser to advise us on how best we can get more equities. It can't be us who are owners of more mines in the province, but we are experiencing what we call a liquidity crisis in these entities.

The reports are being given quarterly and it is the requirement of this House, that organs of state must account quarterly, and it is a must to do that. The issue of statutory obligations especially in Great North Transport (GNT) is one matter that we are addressing, and we are busy honouring some of the statutory obligations like SARS,

pension, provident fund and so on. We will give details on the progress report to indicate how far we have gone in addressing these issues.

Regarding the issue of the Labour Act, I don't think it's fair Hon Mapoulo because you went to court as a friend of the court, and you don't report that you lost that case in court. You can't talk about it in this honourable House, you must go back there. We were the only province that did not have the Liquor Act, but now have the Liquor Act that we are operationalising as a province. I also acknowledge on record the recommendations by honourable Members, more especially on the operationalisation of the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir and Mashashani Hechery those are some of the projects that we are finalising in contracting established partners to assist us in rolling out those projects and there were some challenges regarding contacts. We have also invested a lot of infrastructure in those two properties. That is why we had to accelerate operationalisation as a matter of urgency. Regarding the issue of disclosure, that is one matter that is mandatory that every employee in the organ of state and public entities must declare their interest every year. They also must enter a performance contract which is a performance instrument and those who do not comply we have already given them a punishment commensurate with the offence and if there is a recurrence of the offence, we are going to be more stringent if they are not adhering to the stipulated regulations.

I also agree with honourable Members on the issue of the delays in the implementation of the rollout of the infrastructure...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the delay in implementation has a direct impact on the socio-economic life of our community. Thanks for the robust oversight by the portfolio committee under the leadership of Hon Mapula Mokaba and other Members who are always robust and not personal, but they take to task in the terms of the implementation of the projects. These projects have a propensity to transform the socio- economic landscape of our province and take this province to highest economic trajectory. That is the response we have as the African National Congress.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much honourable MEC for the response.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hon Deputy Speaker, can you please make the announcements.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On Thursday 30 November 2023, the Legislature will be having the last Sitting for this year, and we have arranged for a bush braai at Polokwane Game Reserve, so honourable Members that will need transport can arrange with the Protocol Section of the Legislature. When we came in, we were served with lunch, so dinner will be served at home. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The House is adjourned until Thursday, 30 November 2023 at 10:00 in this Polokwane Municipal Chamber. Thanks very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2023
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity for silent prayers/meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, the Deputy Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Members of this august House, the Leader of the Opposition, members in the gallery, good morning and welcome to our Sitting.

Honourable Members, we are going to suspend Item 2 up to Item 6 due to the long programme that we are having today. We will then start with Item 7, Orders of the day.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTION

4. STATEMENTS MADE BY MEMBERS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B04-2023]

The MEC for Provincial Treasury, MEC Sekoati. Our apology, honourable MEC because we have suspended all the programmes for the day.

THE MEC FOR TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker, now that we have Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B04-2023]...the Bill of the legislative process of this House, I now move that the Bill be

read with the provision of House Rule. I now move that the Bill be adopted. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. We shall now adopt schedule by schedule of the Bill. Those who agree will say, 'yes' and those who disagree will say 'no'.

Schedule 1 which is the Affirmation.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 2.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 3: Appropriation **[Inaudible]** specifically appropriated..

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 4: Short Title.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now adopt Vote by Vote of the Bill. Those who agree will say 'yes', and those who disagree will say 'no'. Vote 1: Office of the Premier.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 2: Limpopo Legislature.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 3: Department of Education.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 5: Department of Provincial Treasury.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 7: Department of Health

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 8: Department of Transport, Community and Safety.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 10: Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 12: Department of Social Development.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I will then call honourable Members to second the Appropriation Bill made by the MEC. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the Appropriation Bill as presented by the MEC for Treasury. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title.

THE SECRETARY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This ACT is called the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Act, 2023. Thank you.

7.3 Consideration and adoption of the reports of Portfolio Committee on Public Administration

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, hereby present the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move. Can I move to the other report?

THE SPEAKER

No. I will just do it step by step. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mospikara. Ke thekga tšhišinyo ye e beilwego ke mohlomphegi modulasetulo.

THE SPEAKER

Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, hereby present the 2023/24 First Quarter Report of the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you, Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, second the motion as presented by Hon Manthata-Mahasela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speaker's List for the debate. The first speaker on the list is Hon Mokaba. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, good morning.

The acceptable standard for spending by any state organ against its annual allocation stands at 98% of the allocated Budget. Notably, the Office of the Premier exceeded expectations by utilising over 99% of its annual Budget during the reviewed financial year. This spending, aligned with policy imperatives from the Sustainable Development Goals, the National Development Plan, vision 2030, and the Limpopo Development Plan 2020-25, effectively fulfilled the office's mandate.

Throughout this period, the Office of the Premier achieved significant milestones, notably contributing to the Gross Domestic Product increase, job creation, and reducing the unofficial unemployment rate. Redirecting the focus of key economic contributions, mining and agriculture, from primary goods production to processing raw materials could significantly improve unemployment rates.

Encouraging industrialisation in identified growth sectors, including manufacturing beneficiation, agro-processing, and tourism, is crucial for inclusive economic growth, especially considering the increased population and majority in youth demographic. While empowering youth through initiatives like the Integrated Youth Development Strategy remains a priority, we must also focus on other vulnerable groups such as women and individuals with disabilities. Mainstreaming gender equality and enhancing livelihoods for these groups through catalytic projects aligned with the Limpopo Development Plan will create more opportunities and transform the socio-economic landscape.

Acknowledging the Office of the Premier's achievement in promptly paying legitimate invoices within 30 days during the first quarter of the current financial year, we believe this practice will sustain Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and foster entrepreneurship. However, addressing the high vacancy rate, sitting at 11,6% above the acceptable norm within the Premier's Office and the broader Provincial Administration is imperative. Reducing this rate and filling funded vacant positions will contribute to curbing unemployment.

Celebrating milestones like achieving over 100% own revenue collection through auctions in the first quarter of 2023, we encourage the entire Provincial Administration to dispose of valuable yet unused assets. Initiatives like auctioning the obsolete items and leveraging dormant resources such as stored inactive files, could generate additional revenue for the government.

Despite government's strides, regression in audit opinion, notably within the Office of the Premier and Treasury is concerning. This regression from the clean audit outcome to the current state is unacceptable. Addressing issues like poor contract management and procurement is crucial to rectify this situation. We urge provincial government leadership to address this concern and spare the Office of the Premier back to exemplary standards.

Simultaneously, we appreciate efforts by the Office of the Premier and the Auditor-General to resolve matters affecting audit finalisation of the Department of Health. Moreover, while acknowledging ongoing efforts to implement internal audit recommendations, we emphasise the importance of cascading this practice to all government institutions. Embracing these measures will contribute to clean audit outcome in the near future.

We commend the implementation of the eight Batho Pele Principles remains fundamental in ensuring delivering high quality service delivery within the public service. We commend the speedy resolution of the Office of the Premier to continue coordinating monitoring and supporting government institutions in implementing developmental realities while national government, accountability and corruption, building and social coherence will mobilise sectors and people as active agents for development and government.

Finally, during the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children, it is essential to address the outgoing challenges of gender based violence and femicide. Strengthening government in NGOs, increasing shelter and building social cohesion with societal bodies will effectively respond to incidents of GBVF (gender based violence and femicide). I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The next speaker is Hon Phala. We will then go to the third speaker, Hon Mahasela.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe; Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Mochadi; MECS, honourable chairpersons of the portfolio committees, honourable Members, the DG in the Office of the Premier, Mr Nape Nchabeleng, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you.

It is just five days since the Deputy President of the Republic, Paul Mashatile, launched the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children campaign for 2023. The campaign is commemorated under the theme, 'Accelerating actions to end gender based violence and femicide, leaving no one behind'. This is a campaign that requires joint action against one of the world's most persistent violation of human rights violence against women. In our country, the President or the presidential summits on gender based violence and femicide convened twice now, are a clear indication of our governance unrelenting resorts to fight the scourge. We must strengthen the various special compacts that exist to fight the scourge and increase the number of sectors that provide shelter for the victims of GBVF.

In our own province, this is more [Inaudible] instances of GBVF seems to be on the increase in the number of hotspots. We welcome the various measures that the Office of the Premier has put in place working with all our social partners to fight the scourge. The year under review has records measure progress in our fight against fraud, corruption

and maladministration. The Office of the Premier succeeded in implementing all the strategic objectives of the national anti-corruption strategy. This included the establishment of the anti-corruption policy and implementation plan, and approval of the whistle blowing policy which is protected disclosure policy. These mechanisms allow employees, members of the public and service providers to report suspected cases of fraud and corruption, and confidentiality.

The Organisational Risk Integrity and Security Management Directorate has also been established to complement other endeavors to fight fraud and corruption. We are happy that this trend will **[Inaudible]** previous quarter of the current financial year during which all the eleven provincial departments complied with the five strategic pillars of the national anti-corruption strategy. The pillars are as follows:

- Promotion of whistle blowing;
- Professionalisation of the public service;
- Enhance governance oversight and accountability;
- Improve the integrity, transparency and credibility of the procurement systems; and
- Strengthen and resourcing of the anti-corruption needs.

This is the clearest indication of the commitment by the Office of the Premier to maintain the highest standards of good governance and management of the resources of government. We are concerned though that the Office of the Premier has regressed in terms of the acceptable 10% markets. It has been joined in this position by five other departments, and those departments with Provincial Treasury and Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure completing the pack. While we accept that the vacancy rate was partly occasioned by circumstances beyond our control, the rates are unacceptable. This is especially so because parts of the contributing factors is that the departments are neglected in terms of persal. This is in terms of Persal Information Management and implementation of approved improvement plans. We urge the Office of the Premier to prioritise the finalisation of the implementation plan of Limpopo Development Investment Strategy which is LHCIS. We hope that the implementation of the strategy will contribute towards reduction in in the public sector bargaining chamber, and also help in the resolution of labour disputes that are currently taking long to complete. The establishment of the labour relation will probably be handing in this regard.

Given the high rate of unemployment in the province, we are convinced that Office of the Premier and the provincial government can contribute meaningfully towards the intervention of this phenomenon especially amongst the youth. We urge the Office of the Premier to also prioritise research and development. It is unacceptable that of the four planned research projects, only one was implemented during the **[Inadequate]**. Sadly, this regression across various provinces is also visible in audit outcomes which Hon Mokaba has already alluded to, which has put us where we were between 2016 and 2019.

While the Office of the Premier managed to implement most of the external audit recommendations and even resolved most of the audit findings, it still regressed in terms of the audit outcomes. We welcome the establishment of various offices and quality assurance, bodies such as departments, steering committees and the shared audit services all of whom have a duty to ensure that they provide quality assurance, improve organizational governance, risk management, internal controls and compliant processes. All of these measures, we believe will lead to the attainment of clean audit outcomes in the entire public funds.

With regards to service delivery, we welcome progress made with regard to compliance to all departments to develop and implement service delivery improvement plan. During the first quarter of the current financial year, the majority of the provincial departments met the standards set the by Department of Public Service and Administration. We congratulate those department for their sterling work and urge those s that are still limping behind to catch up.

On the matter of the implementation of the ICT corporate governance policy, we welcome the assessment of the ICT infrastructure approach in all the departments. We recognise that the ICT infrastructure is ageing, and therefore, there is a need to develop matters to mitigate the risk of the collapse of the infrastructure.

We further welcome the filling of GIT posts in four of our departments. We hope this will assist the affected departments to fully comply with the policy imperatives. The Office of the Premier took a decisive step to do away with the practice of outsourcing legal services legal opinions except on two matters that require legal expertise on company law which the office did not have. We welcome this more. We believe it is a step in the right direction. It shows that even other parties like the use of consultants to prepare financial statements can be done away with. The practice is rife in municipalities. We urge the Office of the Premier to broaden the scope and identify other services that can be handled internally. Similar practices should be adopted by the other government departments. Municipalities should also be encouraged to emulate these best practices and extend to other services where internal capacity exist to **[Inaudible]**

We support all these and other efforts by the Office of the Premier to continue in its mandate to provide oversight, monitoring and evaluation over the provincial administration to ensure delivery of services to the people of Limpopo. I thank you. **[APPLAUSE]**

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manthata-Mahasela. We shall now call Hon Premier to come and respond to the debates made by honourable Members. Hon Premier, it is your turn.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker, honorable Members and the leadership in the opposition, the leadership of the ruling party, the Chief Whip and all other responsible presiding officers in this House.

I wish to accept, acknowledge and thank all the counsel that we have been receiving from honourable Members. At the same time, we would also like to dedicate everything, all the accolades that honourable Members were showering us with as Office of the Premier. We want to dedicate that to the personnel and the staff that is working day in and day out to ensure that service delivery is **[Inadequate]** to our ordinary masses out there. I, therefore, want to assure this honourable House that at the end of the day, we will make corrections to improve on everything that honourable members debated on. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier. We will now move to Item 7:4.

7.4 Consideration and adoption of the reports of Oversight Mechanism

THE SPEAKER

Committee chair, it is your turn.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby table the motion on 2022/23 financial year Annual Report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Polly Boshielo, stand to second the motion as tabled by the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair, it is your turn.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby table the motion on 2023/24 financial year on Annual Report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as forwarded by honourable chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debate. The first Speaker is Hon Matlou. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, honourable chair, Hon Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Premier, **[Inaudible]** that are here, all Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, honourable Members, and distinguished guests

[Inaudible]

The analysis of the performance against targets reveals a 72% achievement rate. This prompts us to assess the factors influencing the non-achievement of certain targets, fostering an environment for continuous improvement.

On insights from the first quarter, as we deal with both reports on 2023/24, I further deliberate on the insightful report presented by the committee on Oversight Mechanism regarding the First Quarter Report for the 2023/24 financial year of the Limpopo Legislature. The report encapsulates crucial observations and recommendations aimed at enhancing the efficiency and the effectiveness of our legislative functions. The report highlights that 27% of the budget has been expended in the first quarter. While the figure is below the anticipated 25%, it is vital that we understand the reasons behind the variance and develop strategies to address them.

The concerns raised regarding the driving behavior of some Legislature drivers is noteworthy. I propose that we not only resolve these challenges but also explore innovative ways to enhance our transport services for the convenience and safety of all members. Our drivers should be taken to intensive driving skills on regular six months basis.

In addressing operational challenges, I propose that we convene special sessions to address the operational challenges identified, ensuring the safety and efficiency of our Legislature. Additionally, we must expedite the resolution of disciplinary cases and promptly implement any required policies.

The report draws attention to the operational challenges, including concerns about the driving behavior of some of the Legislature drivers, delays in concluding disciplinary cases, and the absence of certain institutional policies. These matters require our collective attention for swift resolution.

On fiscal responsibility, to enhance fiscal responsibilities, I propose that we establish a dedicated committee to scrutinise budgetary allocations, track expenditures, and ensure that public funds are utilised optimally.

The committee's continual improvement is fundamental. I suggest that we establish mechanisms for regular reviews of performance against targets, promoting a culture of adaptability and responsiveness.

On the National Key Point, status is commendable. I suggest that we expedite this process to ensure the full implementation of security enhancements and for ratifications for our esteemed Legislature.

Addressing delays in concluding disciplinary cases and allegations of nepotism is imperative for upholding the integrity of our institutions. I propose that we priorities these matters and ensure swift and fair resolutions.

The absence of a condolence policy for Members and former Members is an oversight that we can promptly rectify. Let us work together to draft and implement a comprehensive policy that reflects our commitment to caring for our legislative family.

The safety concerns raised at the Parliamentary village require attention. I suggest that we engage in a collaborative and comprehensive meeting with the Department of Public Works and South African police Service to address and mitigate potential risks.

On issues of Bills, we should ensure that Bills are presented in local languages is essential for fostering inclusivity and understanding amongst our diverse constituents. Let us take proactive steps to address this linguistic gap.

In the spirit of collective responsibility, I propose that we commit ourselves to swift and effective action in implementing the recommendations laid out by the committee. Our commitment to good governance demands nothing less.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, as we deliberate on this report, let us remember that our duty as representatives of the people extends beyond these chambers. It is a commitment to the well-being and also progress of our constituents. I stand ready to collaborate with each member to ensure that the Limpopo Legislature remains a beacon of transparency, accountability, and also excellence. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Seshoka, it is your turn. [APPLAUSE]

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the caucus of the EFF led by Hon Maraga in absentia, greetings to the Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, MECs present here and Members of this august House.

Today, we are gathered to discuss the Annual Performance Report of the Limpopo Legislature for 2023/24 financial year, a document that paints a picture of both progress and glaring shortcomings. As representatives of the people, it is our duty to scrutinise the report, not merely as a set of numbers and percentage, but as a reflection of the lived experiences of our people. Commendably, the Limpopo Legislature has achieved a clean audit outcome for the mentioned financial year, showcasing a marked improvement from the previous years. However, a clean audit is just the beginning; it must translate into tangible benefits to the poor masses of our people.

This audit achievement is accompanied by generally poor performance of 72% on targets and under expenditure of 8%. This translates to 16 targets out of a total of 58 not achieved. In addition, R40 million that was returned to Treasury as result of under expenditure by Limpopo Legislature. Public funds should be managed with utmost integrity, and when deviations occur, there must be swift and decisive consequence management. The people of Limpopo deserves a government that is not only transparent, but also efficient in its financial stewardship. The findings of this report highlights you to reinstate the Communication Manager because it has poor management to finalise this case.

The EFF proposes a robust system management, where those found guilty of financial irregularities face appropriate penalties. This includes filling vacant positions promptly and streamlining disciplinary processes. In doing so, we will ensure that public servants are held to the highest standard of integrity and accountability.

The report also brings to the attention of public participation in the Legislature processes. It rightly emphasises the importance of public participation, yet the shortcomings in outreach programmes, translation of Bills, and accessibility of committee meetings are evident. The effects of this inadequacy reverberate through communities, particularly in rural area, where essential voices are left unheard.

The EFF envisions a more inclusive and participatory governance model. Our commitment is to bridge the gap between the government and citizens by conducting public hearing in rural areas, translating Bills into local languages and make committee meetings more accessible through various platforms.

As we critically assess the report, the EFF recognises the need for smart indicators which are specific and have measurable targets that truly reflect the impact on citizens' lives. While the report outlines the achievement of targets, it is crucial to ensure that these targets are not just numbers but smart indicators with the real impacts on citizens' lives. The EFF proposes a thorough review of performance indicators to guarantee that they align with the genuine needs and aspirations of our people.

In conclusion, the shortcomings outlined in the report are just not statistics; they represent the struggle of our people. The EFF stands ready to lead with a clear vision – a vision of accountable governance, effective service delivery, and inclusive public participation. Together, let us build a Limpopo where every citizen's voice is heard, needs are met and prosperity is shared by all. The EFF stands committed to transforming this reflection into positive action. We envision a Limpopo where clean audits translate into improved

livelihoods, accountability is the norm, and citizens actively participate in shaping their own future. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Hon Phala, you are recognised. Hon Seshoka, may you please turn off the mic.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As the committee, we would like to engage both accountability and administration leadership of the Legislature. We are very proud of the 24 October 2023 overall Budget and Performance Plan for the 2023/24 financial year. The briefing was central to... financial year. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, may you please try to speak closer to the mic.

MS PHALA

As a committee, we met and engaged both the political and administrative leadership of the Legislature, we were briefed on the 2022/23 financial year Annual Report on 24 October 2023. The briefing was centered on the overall budget and performance plans for 2022/23 financial year.

As a committee, we applauded the Legislature as it received a clean audit outcome for the year 2022/23 financial year, which was an improvement from the previous financial year. The Legislature was allocated a Budget of over R490 000 which was utilised by end of the financial year. The Budget expenditure was 92% spent by the end of the financial year which meant that 8% was not spent, which amounted to over R40 million. The biggest portion of the Budget was allocated to Programme one, Administration, which underspent its budget by 19%, an amount of over R34 million.

As a committee, we advised the Legislature to implement measures that will avoid underspending in this programme in the next coming financial year.

The committee recommended that the Legislature must do the following:

- Continue to maintain clean audit outcome;
- Fill all vacant positions in the institution;
- Finalise all disciplinary processes;
- Allocate more funds and resources for Public Participation on Bills, and Sectoral Parliaments;

- Utilise more local languages in all meetings, Sittings and activities of the Legislature.

On the first quarter, we engaged the Legislature, and we noted with concern that the Legislature had only utilised 22% of the budget expenditure in the first quarter instead of 25%. We were reassured that this would be addressed. The committee recommended that an In-House fitness training for drivers be established as concerns that of some of the Legislature drivers was unpleasant, some of them even sleep while driving.

The refurbishment of the Legislature building was reported to be complete. The security fence, fence as well as the opening of the route gate plans were complete.

On matters of disciplinary cases, the committee noted with concern on the delay to conclude the two disciplinary cases of the Communication Senior Manager and the IT personnel that has been on suspension for over a year.

On matters relating to nepotism, the committee noted with concern that some Senior

Members have been recruited in the way that it is not in accordance with the prescripts to the positions of employment.

We further recommended that a condolence policy be established as it is concerning that the Limpopo Legislature does not have policy for condolences to cater for when a current Member or former Member has died, which had many times put the Speakership to personally contribute during visits to families.

As a committee, we recommend that the Legislature must do the following:

- Fast-track the meeting between the committee, Legislature , Department of Public Works and South African Police Services;
- That they draft policies on condolences to remember the former Members of the Legislature that passed on; and
- That the provide the committee with a report on the allegation of nepotism and recruitment of Senior Managers.

Thank you.

MS MUKUNDAMAGO: 01:02:15 – 01:44:25

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. We shall now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Lekganyane to the podium.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; honourable Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; all our honourable Members of the Executive Council; all honourable Members of this august House; chairpersons of different portfolio committees; all Legislature support staff led by acting Accounting Officer, Mr I Nkuna; honourable members in the public gallery. Good morning. Kgotsa ya Modimo a e be le lena.

Hon Speaker, I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to present the 2022/23 financial year Annual Report and the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature as scrutinised by the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism.

Hon Speaker, these reports, are thereby state our commitment for transparency, accountability and the fairness of utilisation of public resources of the Limpopo Province.

The essence of our work as mandated by Section 114 of the Constitutional Acts, Rule 31 of the Standing Rules and Orders, is to ensure that the Limpopo Legislature operates in the best interests of the people.

Our duty is to monitor, enquire and recommend legislations that upholds the principles of good governance and the fiscal responsibilities. The committee on Oversight Mechanism was briefed by the Legislature on the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Report on 24 October 2023.

This briefly encompasses the typical examinations of the overall Budgets and the performance plans for the 2022/23 financial year Annual Report and the 2023/24 financial year First Quarter Report.

Hon Speaker, under Audit Outcome as the portfolio committee, we are pleased to announce that the Limpopo Legislature has achieved a commendable clean audit for the 2022/23 financial year. This must be an improvement from the previous year. This attains to our commitment to financial preference and accountability.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

- We thank our honourable members of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism.
- We also thank the Speakership Hon RR Molapo. Re a le leboga, Hunadi.
- We also thank the Deputy Speaker.
- Team Legislature led by our Accounting Officer Mr I Nkuna, and all our committed support staff, we also thank you so much. We thank you so much, for your commitments and dedications to the committee hearings.

Hard work pays. Ga go boleta go humana a clean audit, Maloko a a Hlomphegago. Working together we have achieved more.

Hon Speaker, on overview of programme Budget Expenditure of the 2022/23 financial year Annual Report, the Legislature utilised 92% by the end of the financial year, which means that only 8% was not spent.

Hon Speaker, the committee noted the following concerns under Budget Expenditure during the 2023/24 First Quarter Report:

Hon Speaker, the committee noted with a concern that the Legislature utilised only its 22% of the Budget expenditure instead of 25% Budget expenditure.

On the issue of Inhouse Fitness Training for the drivers, the committee noted with a concern that the driving of some Legislature drivers is unpleasant.

Noted further that the Speakership met with the management on the matter related to the Legislature transports to ensure that these challenges are resolved with immediate effect.

On the issue of National Key Point, the committee heard and considered that the Legislature has established a joint committee to ensure that they finalised on the issue of National Key Point.

Under the disciplinary cases, the committee noted with a concern that the delays to conclude the two disciplinary cases of the communication senior manager and the IT personnel that has been on suspension for a long time need to be resolved.

The other concern is on the overpayment of the former Secretary. The committee heard and considered that the former Secretary was overpaid after his contract has lapsed. The overpayment was recovered from the former Secretary.

Hon Speaker, on the issue of condolence policy, the committee noted with a concern that the Limpopo Legislature does not have a condolence policy to cater for its Members. For example, when the Member or the former Member has passed on.

Hon Speaker, on the issue of Joint meeting with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the South African Police Services, the committee noted with a concern on the safety of Members in the Parliamentary village.

On the issue of the Bills, the committee also noted with a concern that the Bills that are brought to the province are in English only, instead of being in Sepedi, Xitsonga, Tshivenda and also IsiNdebele.

Hon Speaker, on issue of recommendations, as the committee we recommended that the Legislature must continue to maintain a clean audit outcomes.

We have also recommended that the Legislature must expedite the filling of all vacant positions within the institution.

The other recommendation is that the Legislature must finalised all ongoing disciplinary processes pending.

On the issue of allocating additional funds and resources for public participations on Bills and Sectoral Parliaments, we recommended that the Legislature must emphasise the use of Official Languages in all the Sittings and the activities of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, the committee recommended that the Legislature must expedite the meetings with the Oversight Mechanism committee, the Legislature, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and South African Police Services, in relation to the safety at Parliamentary village to ensure that they finalise the issue of National Key Points.

Hon Speaker, we are very, very grateful to inform this honourable House that the Legislature building is completed. The security sites as well as the opening of the boom gates are finalised.

The committee recommended that the Legislature must draft a condolence policy to Members and former Members of the Legislature who passed on.

Hon Speaker, I, hereby table this report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, I therefore, move that the two reports be adopted as the reports of this honourable House. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair, Hon Lekganyane. We shall now call upon the Hon Deputy Speaker, to come and respond to the debates made by the honourable Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, to our honourable Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the provincial Legislature, Chief Whip and also leadership of the oppositions.

Hon Speaker, we appreciate the people and the advice that we are given, and counsel by the members of the committee in relation to the 2022/23 Annual Report and the 2023/24 First Quarter Report.

We appreciate that all honourable Members acknowledged that we received the clean audit. I think, we deserve a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, I'm saying to Hon Monama of Economic Development who always say he is the only one who received the clean audit, now it is not only him. The Legislature also received the clean audit. It is not only him.

We also want to take note of the issues raised by the honourable Members. The issues around the disciplinary cases, we indicated to the committee that we have instructed the Secretary that he must expedite the finalisation issues of all those disciplinary cases.

Hon Speaker, we want to say to this honourable House that the Secretary will carry the instruction as presented by the executive authority.

The issues around the condolences through general arrangements to deal with the issues around condolences policy is a matter that all honourable Members who spoke here have raised it.

The issue around inhouse training while we are on recess, I think, it is a matter that the Acting Secretary together with our HR, will look into it when honourable Members come back from recess so that we must not experience the same challenges.

It was raised sharply in the committee that some of the drivers while they are driving have problems which poses a serious risk to the honourable Members. We have taken note of that.

On the issue around the Bills, we have noted it whilst we might have a serious issues or concerns with the Bills from the NCOP, but the Bills in the Legislature, we have noted it that they would have to be translated.

The issue around radio supports, we have noted it. It is quite important that the Limpopo Legislature remained supportive and the SABC combo in the province together with our community radio stations was then be utilised to deal with all these issues.

There is an issue which keeps on coming back, which is the issue around the overpayment of the former Secretary of the Legislature. We have agreed with the committee that in terms of dealing with that, we are going to use in committee so that we are able to finalise it.

This is because from where we are standing, it is a matter which is part of the audit that we have achieved. It has been audited, but honourable Members want to be satisfied with it that the recovering has been done. It is a matter that we will deal with that in the in committee of the committee.

Other matters that have been indicated in terms of the targets, we have taken note of that as well as the issues around the joint committee.

Hon Speaker, we want to appreciate your counsel as the head of the Legislature, the accounting officer, members of the staff who are working very hard that we achieve the clean audit. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker for the response. We will then move to the next item.

7.5. Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) for the financial year ending 2021/2022.

Over to you, committee chair.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and greetings to all.

Hon Speaker, I stand here before you and before this august House to present for consideration and adoption by this august House the following reports for the financial year ending 2021/22. Vote 01: Office of the Premier in this financial year.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Hon Makhurupetje, stand to second motion of adoption of the report as presented by the committee chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. For consideration and adoption by this august House I present Vote 03 of the Department of Education for the same 2021/22 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, stand here to second the report as presented by the chairperson for the 2021/22 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, for consideration and adoption by this august House I present Vote 04 for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the 2021/22 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara ku va mi ndzi nyike xinkadyana lexi, ku yima ndzi seketela mutshamaxitulu eka xiviko lexi a nga xi andlala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, for consideration and adoption by this august House I table Vote 05 of the Department of Provincial Treasury for the 2021/22 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, for consideration and adoption by this august House I table Vote 06: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for the 2021/22 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable committee chair. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, for the same note I table the following agency report that appear under Vote 06 of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) for the 2021/22 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as tabled by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, for the same 2021/22 financial year under the very same note of Vote 06, I tabled the Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable chairperson of Scopa. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, once again under the very same Vote 06, i table before this esteemed House the Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB).

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathe Simon, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, hereby stand to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Before you and before this august House, I table Vote 07: Department of Health for the same 2021/22 financial year report.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara ku va mi ndzi nyike xinkadyana lexi, ku yima ndzi seketela leswi boxiweke hi mutshamaxitulu, Tatana Selamolela. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Before you and before this august House i table Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety for the 2021/22 financial year report.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MASEKO

Thanks very much. I rise to second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, before you and before this august House allow me to present the same Vote 08: Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL) for the 2021/22 financial year for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Ke nna, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, ke ema go thekga Pego ya Scopa. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, before you and before this august House i table Vote 09 of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the 2021/22 financial year for consideration and adoption by this honourable House.

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. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Before you and before this august House allow me to table under the same Vote 09: Department of Transport and Community Safety for the 2021/22 financial year and the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL).

THE SPEAKER

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

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. Allow me to table before this august House and before you Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption by this august House for the 2021/22 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the committee chair. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Before you and before this august House I table for consideration and adoption by this honourable House for the 2021/22 financial year Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Honourable Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson, Hon Selamolela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

On the same note Hon Speaker, allow me to table before you and before this august House for the 2021/22 financial year Vote 12: Department of Social Development.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of Scopa. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, once again allow me to present before this august House and table on Transversal Issues Joint Votes for the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Ndzi yimela ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi mutshamaxitulu, Tatana Selamolela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List for the debates of all the votes. Our first speaker from the list is Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; honourable MECs; Chief Whip of the majority party; chairperson of Scopa, Hon Selamolela; all members of the committee and honourable Members of this august House; Good morning. Thobela. Dumelang.

Hon Speaker, I stand here today on behalf of the African National Congress to table and present the Scopa report for the 2021/22 financial year in this august House for consideration and adoption.

Hon Speaker, the public hearings was made in order to ensure that good governance of the provincial government is applied in order to address the challenges of poverty,

inequality and unemployment. The state needs to play a transformative role and must embrace the culture of performance, accountability, transparency and integrity.

Shifting the public sector requires culture for the Executive to pronounce effectiveness and strengthen partnership with other stakeholder members to complement their efforts.

Hon Speaker, after all the public hearings for the financial year 2021/22 the committee has made the following observations and recommendations:

Hon Speaker, we must congratulate the following departments as they have achieved the clean audits during the year under review:

Vote 01: Office of the Premier, The committee wishes to express its appreciation to the executive authority and accounting officers and all the officials of Office of the Premier for obtaining clean audits during the 2021/22 financial year.

Vote 8: Department of...(1:30:20 inaudible)

Vote 05: Provincial Treasury for the clean audits opinion, the committee wishes to express its appreciation to the executive authority and accounting officers and all officials of the Provincial Treasury for obtaining clean audits for a number of years now. We really congratulate you for the good job well-done.

Vote 06: LEDET, the audit opinion are qualified audit opinion, which is a clean audits. The committee wishes to express its appreciation to the executive authority and accounting officers and all officials of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for obtaining clean audits for the 2021/22 financial year.

The Limpopo Gambling Board as well has received an unqualified audit opinion with no matters of emphasis.

The committee wishes to commend the executive authority and the accounting authority as well as the chief executive officer and all officials of the Limpopo Gambling Board for being the ones that will always show the way that in all the years they have been receiving the clean audits.

We say continue with the good work and make sure that you are the top bearer of everyone before you. Well done.

Hon Speaker, the following departments still have matters of emphasis that need to be attended to and some need some urgent attention to ensure that they both got an unqualified audit opinions, not to redress to qualified audit opinions.

The Department of Education achievement of planned targets. The committee has heard and considered evidence that the AG reported an achievement of 50,6 % which was reported against the target of 80% in the Annual Performance Report for the Public Ordinary Schools Education programme.

However, the supporting evidence provided differed which was led to unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. These was due to lack off unpaid and incomplete records. This is a recuring matter coming from the 2021/22 financial year.

The committee recommends that the executive authority must take appropriate action against accounting officer for failing to achieve on the planned targets.

The committee recommends that the accounting officer must take appropriate actions against the relevant senior managers for failing to achieve planned targets and for failing to provide accurate complete records to the Auditor-General.

The committee further recommends that the accounting officer must develop a total monitoring mechanism and to report to the Portfolio Committee of Education on a quarterly basis.

Furthermore, the committee recommends that the accounting officer must develop a plan and put in place a plans to prevent these anomalies.

The committee recommends that the executive authority must table the progress report in this august House every six month on the implementation of these resolutions on 01 April 2024.

In Vote 09: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure failure for providing the supporting evidence for some of the indicators, the committee has further noted with concern that specific information systems were not complemented to enable the monitoring of progress made towards achieving target objectives, service delivery as required by the Public Service Regulations.

The committee recommends that accounting officer must take appropriate actions against officials who failed to implement this specific systems to enable the monitoring of progress made while achieving all the targets objectives of service delivery as required by the Public Service Regulations.

The committee further recommends that the accounting officer must develop a quarterly monitoring mechanism and report to the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs on a quarterly basis.

Furthermore, the committee recommends that the accounting officer must develop a plan to prevent these anomalies.

The committee recommends that the executive authority must report before first week in this august House every six month on the implementation on 01 April 2024.

Vote 12: Social Development, on the achievement of targets, the committee has heard and considered evidence that the annual performance of programme 03, which is Children and Families materially differs from the reporting evidence provided for some indicators. This is as well, a recuring matter.

The committee recommends that the accounting officer must take appropriate actions against responsible officials for failing to ensure that the department achieved its planned targets since this matter is recurring from the 2020/21 financial year.

The committee further recommends that the accounting officer must put in place measures to prevent the current anomalies of not achieving set targets.

The committee further recommends that the executive authority must table the reports to this august House on the implementation until this resolution is implemented with effect from 01 April 2024.

The Gate Way Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) on the achievement of planned targets, the committee has heard and considered evidence that performance indicators for Vote 03: Operations and Maintenance Planned Development were not well defined and the targets were not specific measurable and time bound.

The planned targets of one of the indicators was not specific into identifying the nature and required level of performance.

Further, the committee has noted that prices based and processes do not established remained consistent to name a specific measurement and reliable for reporting in the performance against indicators definition.

The committee has further noted a concern that the reported performance indicators as per the annual report did not agree with the planned target indicators as per the approved strategic plan.

The committee has noted with a concern that AG was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence for the reported achievement of the target. These was due to the limitation of the scope of the audits and the AG was arranged to confirm the reported achievement by the executive authority.

The committee recommended that the executive authority must take appropriate actions against the Accounting Authority and the other senior managers for failing to complete performance indicators of programme 03: Operation for the Specific Measurable and Time Bound.

The committee further recommended that the executive authority must take appropriate actions against the Accounting Authority for failing to submit sufficient appropriate audit evidence to the AG for the reported achievement of the target.

Furthermore, the committee recommended that the Accounting Authority must review measures to put in place to prevent the recurring of these anomalies.

The committee recommends that Accounting Authority must table progress reports in this august House for every six month on the implementations of these resolutions.

The Limpopo Development Agency (LEDA) Property Planned Equipment, however, the committee has heard and considered evidence that the financial statements for Limpopo collections has foreseen limited, which is a subsidiary of Limpopo Development Agency, was materially mistaken as completed assets that were ready for use in terms of INSC property and equipment were incorrect classified as working progress.

The LEDA consolidated financial statement was over stated of the working progress underestimated completed assets of R37 436 million in 2020 was R22 727.

The committee further noted with concern that the Limpopo collection which is a subsidiary agency did not assign the need to identify quote for completed assets, as such, the AG was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate copied evidence related to the existence of completeness of these assets.

The committee recommended that the executive authority must take appropriate actions against the Accounting Authority and all the officials who failed to indicate target equipment in the financial statements as working progress.

The committee recommended that the Accounting Authority must take appropriate actions against the chief financial officer of the Limpopo provincial Limited for failing to assign unit identified codes for completed assets.

The committee further recommends that Accounting Authority must put in place measures to address these anomalies.

The committee further recommends that Accounting Authority must table progress report to this august House every six month on the implementation of these resolutions from 01 April 2024.

Madam Speaker, there are special resolutions that, I will only outline (1:39:00 inaudible) ...other Members.

The committee is very concerned about how certain departments are not able to implement and comply to their Annual Performance Plan in achieving the targets and most of the reasons that are given were that, we could not procure on time.

We are worried about the behaviour of the Supply Chain Management officials and also identified those Supply Chain Management officials that they live the lifestyle that even the MECs can't afford.

Therefore, as a Scopa, we are making a special resolution that there is a need for lifestyle audit for all officials that work under Supply Chain Management.

There should be regular changing of those officials. You can have found a senior official in Supply Chain Management that is been there for many, many years because they have a way of promoting pollution in terms of procurement of services.

On that note, it is a special resolution that affect all the departments and entities that the committee has made observations that some officials in Supply Chain Management live the life that are beyond their means.

The committee recommends that Accounting Authority must appoint the independent firms to conduct the lifestyle audit on those management officials of the Supply Chain Management.

The committee recommends that the executive authority must table progress report in this august House on the implementation of these resolutions with effect from 01 April 2024.

Madam Speaker, It is our honour and privilege to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Council in particular the Hon Premier and all the MECs, and the executive authorities which are the board. We thank them for putting time to come and present themselves to Scopa.

If I'm not mistaken this year, for this season, the Premier was able to appear almost three times and all the times he was able to bring all the capable team to come and deal with matters which some of them are of Transversal Issues Joint Votes that are more underspending.

This is because as and when meeting with departments, we really need more information and for that, Hon Premier and the teams and also the MECs, we really thank you so much, for really assisting this committee to finalise the report as we are able to present to you in this august House today. Thank you so much, keep up the good work. We really appreciate you. [APPLAUSE]

We thank our staff led by Mr Mokhari, and party for the researchers, the legal team and the communication office bearers. Hon Premier, if there is any popular person now in this province is Hon Selamolela.

He is receiving a lot of calls because our Scopa hearings are live on social media. For some, even maintain the information from the social media to live TV. That communications have really done that initiatives and we really appreciate that.

Indeed, our work become public. All the public are able to view the work that we do as Scopa. We really thank you so much, and we thank the Auditor-General for the cell phones.

We that the officials of the Provincial Treasury Hon Sekoati, that at some point they are giving us more information than we know, and for that we really appreciate their support all the time.

We thank the chairpersons of the different committees who always join Scopa for your inputs as and when you come to assist us, as the chairperson of the portfolio committee.

On that note, chair, I really want to say as this committee, we recommend that all these reports of Scopa for the 2021/22 financial year be considered and adopted by this august House.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Makhurupetje. Hon Maraga, you may take the podium.

BACKGROUND

NOISE

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank you, especially for allowing us to present on behalf of on behalf of Hon Maraga. Like I said before, greetings to the caucus of the EFF; our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; MECs present here and Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Education has irregularly appointed a service provider who do not meet the minimum requirements [Inaudible] This is the reason why the department spent more time to deliver services because rather than providing quality education for our children the South African Police Service's Commercial Crimes Unit is investigating the alleged fraud and corruption in the scholar transport system of the department. At the centre of this corruption is the interference of the department in terms of who should get the tender according to their preference. In most cases these are friends and comrades in the ANC.

Furthermore, the department incurred irregular expenditure amounting to R1 billion. This is too much money which could have been directed to important programmes in the department. The conditional grants to the amount of R269 million were unspent with a significant underspending of R222 million on infrastructure grants. The EFF is deeply concerned about the state of affairs in this department because the underspending on infrastructure grants disadvantages the people of Limpopo. This is completely unacceptable.

Hon Speaker, some of the officials within supply chain management in the department live lives that are beyond their means, like Hon Makhurupetje has already just indicated. They own multimillion rand houses in their leafy suburbs of Polokwane and also drive around in fleshy cars that they can't account for. Hon Speaker, the Department of Health reported investigations and claims made by means of letters of demand and did not perform an assessment to determine the best estimate at the end of the year. This is the kind of bad governance we have come to witness under the ANC government. Furthermore, the department [Inaudible] underspent its budget of R120 million on programme c, that signed on training.

Training is key in the development of staff members and in enhancing productivity in the workplace which translates into effective delivery of services to the people. Again, Hon Speaker, the department failed to ensure that appropriate processes were implemented to provide for collection and [Inaudible] of revenue as required by Treasury Collections, 7.21. What happened to the referral of PPE tender corruption for further investigation by the direction for priority crime investigation and [Inaudible] that is the answer that the MEC must maybe assist this committee and this House with. We know that the SIU was investigating corruption and maladministration of the procurement and contraction of for Waste Management Services. The probe will specifically look at contracts for the removal, treatment, transportation, collation and disposal of healthcare waste .. and we should get progress reports on this matter.

Hon Speaker, there was an investigation of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on the mismanagement of cars run by SOU in terms of proclamation of number; R36 of 2019 GG 42577, dated 12 July 2019. We get progress report on [Inaudible] The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have appointed security personnel without following the proper supply chain management processes. The violation of the processes is deliberately to steal taxpayers money. Furthermore, there are officials in the department who conduct business with the state. This is in contradiction with Section 30 of Public Service Management Act of 1994 which promotes ethical behaviour amongst public service [Inaudible] almost all the departments in the province have officials doing business with the state. They are known and yet government is not doing anything about it because they are ANC comrades.

CoGHSTA did not take steps to prevent fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounting to R6,5 million as disclosed in note 25 of the annual financial statement as required by Section 38(1c) (78) (1) of the PMFA. The majority of these fruitless and wasteful expenditure was caused by payment of penalties [Inaudible] a portion of funds received from the Human Settlement Grant was transferred to Human Housing Development Agency, RISIMA Housing Finance and the municipality based on agreements [Inaudible] without notifying the necessary [Inaudible] as required by the section 16(3 of the) [Inaudible] Anything that is done without following due processes is deliberate, Hon Speaker and has malicious intentions to loot state funds.

Hon Speaker, almost all the state entities in the provincial government have collapsed. They suck money from government on annual basis instead of generating their own revenue for economic growth and job creation. There is literally no political leadership and governance which is why all the entities are in crisis. Hon Speaker, the painful and brutal truth is that, there is no government in Limpopo. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mdaka, you are next.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; Hon Chief Whip; the Deputy Chief Whip; Honourable Members of the Executive Council;

the Leader of the Official Opposition in absentia; Honourable Members and our guests at the gallery - allow me to greet you all this morning. I rise to debate on the issues on behalf of the African National Congress, but most specifically [Inaudible] we are from the [Inaudible] of public accounts in Limpopo which I [Inaudible]

Hon Speaker and honourable Members as we all know Section 114(2)(b) read together with Section 115 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, his powers in his Legislature [Inaudible] to exercise authority in the province especially the implementation of legislation and to plan oversight over any state organ of our province. These powers can never be [Inaudible] in any other structure, including political parties.

Hon Speaker, we are here to present before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, affectionately known as Scopa reports of 2021/22 financial year. Yes, we are from different political parties but the [Inaudible] to look after the purse of the political state [Inaudible] and not to engage on a plan B session as others always do [Inaudible] our people to ensure that there accountability and [Inaudible].

Hon Speaker, without going into details as other Members have already done so specifically Hon Makhurupetje who went into details in terms of the reports and the resolution of Scopa. There are transversal issues that affect the majority of departments and [Inaudible]. The previous item of unauthorised, irregular and fruitless expenditure, not spending conditional grants, not being able to achieving targets set at the beginning of the financial year but at the end there is no consequences. One is looking forward to a day when there will be no unauthorised, irregular and fruitless expenditure in all our [Inaudible]. I believe that is possible if we can all focus on what is expected of us. The [Inaudible]. authority and all involved we should eradicate this anomaly state resources without following proper supply chain legislation. Someone must be held accountable. Those who fail us must be removed from the system. The executive is expected to implement legislation in its entirety without fail and not selectively so. Our believe is that the provincial government has been around for years now. We can't say there is no capacity or we are [Inaudible] with capacity problem [Inaudible]. To this stage since we came into power in 1994. Therefore, we want to see men and women who are leading the departments and any state owned entity to boast about the nonavailability of irregular expenditures in their audited financial statements by the Auditor-General in Limpopo.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to commend those that are trying. It is not all doom and gloom. The Premier's Office is received a clean audit. Required to receive a clean audit as well as [Inaudible]. but we must do more in ensuring that to those responsible, those responsible to this unauthorised, irregular and fruitless expenditure are brought to book. Bad leadership and bad [Inaudible] that cannot be tolerated this [Inaudible] other investigation should be conducted to put an end to this, including removing those who are [Inaudible] those who from the system [Inaudible]. Hon Premier, you must not be apologetic to fire someone who is not performing, as the ANC government. We can't allow people to sleep over their jobs. The MECs must explain themselves why they are not taking action, until irregular [Inaudible] millions of rands without anyone be accountable [Inaudible].

Programmes and projects are announced as Hon Makhurupetje said by the Hon Premier in the State of the Province Address year in and year out but not even [Inaudible] what is the problem? Let us identify the problem and deal with it. The resolutions of Scopa are very clear, please implement them. That is our plea.

The African National Congress government the organisation of the our struggle icons like; Nelson Mandela; Walter Sisulu; Govan Mbeki; Oliver Tambo; Lillian Ngoyi and Chris Hani, all of them hated corruption. This [Inaudible] from our 2019 election manifesto amongst other things which calls for us to fight corruption and promote integrity. People with proper ethics and good morals should not be given a chance to lead or to be in management positions. People should be properly guided before they are given positions of responsibility. Whilst the society is rotten and full of corrupt people it might be difficult for us as the ANC to do, but we are not a country dominated by mafias, drug-dealer criminals that undermine the state and the rule of law. There are good people out there let us [Inaudible] and put them in front lead.

Hon Speaker, we must be careful of those who masquerading as good people but inside they are [Inaudible] People in the past who bankrupted our province to an extend that [Inaudible] for not getting paid their salaries which led to the implementation of section 100 intervention by the national government of the African National Congress. Those who want to nationalise the mines and banks so that they can loot the resources of our country [Inaudible] instead we are talking about those who aspire for the realisation of the historic mission of the African National Congress, that is to build none rational, none sexist and democratise based on the will of the people. We are talking about those who aspire for the dignified [Inaudible] amongst our people. Those are the people that we must follow who want to see an economy that creates jobs and more jobs for our youth. We are talking about those who believe in equality and justice for all. We all want to see a crime free society in South Africa where women will be free from any sort of abuse. We are talking about the people who are following on the footsteps of our heroes and heroines who [Inaudible] Nelson Mandela; Walter Sisulu; Albertina Sisulu; Winnie Madikizela-Mandela; Lillian Ngoyi and Oliver Tambo. [Inaudible] the ANC President, that Matamela Ramaphosa, Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha. Show me your leaders! I support all the reports of Scopa with recommendations and resolutions as tabled [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, can the former mayor of Vhembe take a question? We wanted to assist because he asked a question.

THE SPEAKER

Who is the former mayor of Vhembe?

MR SESHOKA

The one who was speaking now. The one who was on the podium. He is a former mayor. He was a mayor at some point. You are not sure? I can assure you, Hon Speaker. He is

a former mayor. I wanted to know if he could take a question because he has touched on a serious issue of [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mdaka is now done, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

It was just a question.

BACKGROUND

NOISE

MR SESHOKA

You are the last person to talk about corruption in government. You are the last person.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, you may take the podium.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker greetings to the Premier, the MECs and all protocol observed. Hon Speaker, the common trend in all the departments and public entities is the lack of oversight and monitoring by the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury. These two departments have a coordination mandate and responsibility to support the provincial departments, state owned enterprises and municipalities in obtaining clean audits. It was therefore resolved that both the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury must conduct financial training courses with all the chief financial officers and personnel within the financial sections of the Limpopo provincial administration. In addition to the above resolution it was further recommended that both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must ensure that financial statements must be submitted for audits by all the departments, state owned enterprises and municipalities; and must be prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting frameworks.

The committee further concluded that the both the Office of the Premier and Treasury must put in place measures that eradicate this anomaly of not submitting statements in accordance with to the quarterly framework. The most common finding within the Scopa committee and all the departments and state owned enterprises is the issue of incurred unwanted expenditures. These are primarily unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditures. This continuous unwanted expenditures in various forms without any accountability and repercussions will not be condoned by Scopa.

The committee therefore resolved that the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury will assist all the provincial departments and state owned enterprises in

regularising and clearing the irregular expenditure and most importantly and in recovering all fruitless and wasteful expenditure. In addition a quarterly report in authorising or any unauthorised expenditure must be tabled to the portfolio committee on Treasury every six months with effect from 01 April 2023.

Hon Speaker, lack of consequence management and malicious compliance where a written warning is issued irrespective of the transgression or amount involved must come to an end. There is a pattern, and there is a trend that we are seeing in Scopa. Exemption from any consequences is why the behaviour does not change. Officials are not held accountable for their actions or losses incurred as the result of their actions or inactions. It is imperative that implemented consequence management meted out are commensurate with the offences committed. Investigative reports such as the Department of Health of the people PEE scandal must be tabled and the portfolio committee on Health must be briefed on the progress made on quarterly basis with effect from 01 April 2023.

Hon Speaker, the executive authority for CoGHSTA must implement the recommendations of investigations conducted on the Talana project scandal. The acquisition of land in Tubatse and the Marapong projects and must brief the portfolio committee on CoGHSTA on the progress made on quarterly basis with effect from 01 April 2023. The committee further recommends that the office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Mapungubwe Arts Festival within the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Similarly a decision must be made on the performance of the accounting officer by the Department of Public Works. The embarrassing and highly publicised Great North Transport pension fund scandal must be addressed and all pensions must be paid in full to employees and or, their dependents. The portfolio committee on transport and community safety must be briefed on their status on quarterly basis with effect from 01 April 2023.

In conclusion, it is quite evident that, unless consequence management is imposed which is suitable for the relevant transgressions; acting with impunity will keep rotting away at our departments and entities. The province will continue to bleed funds and scant resources desperately needed for the most the most poor and vulnerable of our society. What is also evident is that where investigations have taken place, reports are not tabled and the recommendations of proposals are not implemented. Unless we as this House, assist in these changes, malfeasant behaviour will not change and the people of Limpopo will continue to bear the brunt.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Hon Mathe Simon, you are next.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and with your permission [Inaudible] participate in this debate [Inaudible] inconvenienced. Nonetheless, Hon Speaker; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the Majority Party; the Deputy Chief Whip; the Deputy Speaker; Members of this august House, receive my greetings. Hon Speaker, it becomes

easier today for some of us to participate in this particular debates precisely because we need to give credit where its due. The fact of the matter is that, the standing committee on Public Accounts in Limpopo seems to be the best standing committee on Public Accounts in the country. That is what we encourage of us. To actively participate in this debate.

Hon Speaker, our observation is that all the departments have presented themselves before the standing committee on Public Accounts. Of course we must also acknowledge the fact that it would be qualifying the reason we are saying that that the Limpopo standing committee on Public Accounts is the best in the country. Since 1994 democratic breakthrough; it is this committee under the leadership of Hon Donald Selamolela who succeeded Hon Rodgers Monama it is this leadership that has ensured that it is [Inaudible] and it was the first time that the Premier of the province of Limpopo would come and present himself before the standing committee on Public Accounts. That is the reason there is participation. We need to celebrate and acknowledge this particular historic milestone.

Hon Speaker, our observation is that we have witnesses in relation to compliance with supply goods Public Finance Management Act, specifically in relation to supply chain management. That is one area that we need to ensure that it is tightened. Of course we agree with what Hon Molapo, Hon Makhurupetje and what Hon Selamolela spoke for to say that [Inaudible], Dr Managa you understand what we call political wisdom for understanding and committing approach on issues. So, I foresee all these [Inaudible] but because of that understanding of political wisdom I would understand what Hon Selamolela [Inaudible]

The issue of lifestyle audits, particularly on officials that are in supply chain needs to be taken seriously and be implemented as a matter of urgency and priority. Many of our observations and many departments are struggling to move or improve their audit opinions on the basis of the shenanigans or transgressions that are happening within the supply chain management [Inaudible]. Therefore, as part of the resolution of this House is that we need to take that programme. Of course one other of the observation that we have made is in relation to the capacity of Heads of Department. That is because in certain instances you would not believe that the person speaking is a head of department. Therefore we need to have a critical and a very intensified approach in terms of selection of Heads of Department with regards to morality and ethics. An official with morals and ethics should be placed. We also further need qualification audits where they we further make sure that people that are placed there are competent enough in terms of their skills and knowledge to be doing what they are expected to be doing. Then we are going to need moving away from all these particular problems.

The issue of capacity [Inaudible] we cannot be apologetic about it. Our observation is that almost 60% of HODs and entry HODs that presented themselves before the Scopa did not seem to be confident enough. They did not seem to be having the capacity to head departments. In that regard, the powers that have been need to make a serious intervention. We want to acknowledge that the Office of the Premier together with the Provincial Treasury, their coming before Scopa, that in itself, Hon Seshoka, that in itself is a demonstration of commitment towards public accountability. That is because

generally the standing committee on Public Accounts this is where people are accounting. It would be fallacy for everybody to try to and draw the impression that there is no accountability. Thank you for the words uttered previously uttered by Hon Seono, that some would love to always offramp when we debate issues. We guess that as we approach the festive season with the campaign of 'Arrive Alive' we will minimise the unnecessary [Inaudible] We hope so.

Hon Speaker the other observation that have made is that we seem not to care about improving audit out comes. All the audit reports that we have received and studied except the one that the department is objecting to, which I think it is LEDET, the only [Inaudible] that we have [Inaudible] Issues identified by the AG in those particular departments that have failed to improve the audit opinion towards clean or at least unqualified are issues that do not necessarily require a lot of things but those are basic issues that require competent [Inaudible] and if we [Inaudible] have a [Inaudible] the we have [Inaudible] a problem and the audit opinion will never improve. We want to put it on record that we are not happy when people celebrate. You know people fight [Inaudible] that our audit opinion was qualified [Inaudible] people can be seen over [Inaudible] office celebrating just to celebrate qualified if they don't understand the difference between qualified and unqualified audit opinion.

The [Inaudible] cuts consistently [Inaudible] with regard to the audit opinion. It cannot be. There are some departments that for the past 27 financial years, the audit opinion has been qualified and there is no effort to improve. It can't be something that we can tolerate. And we are not going to tolerate it. And we don't have the intentions of tolerating such.

Hon Speaker, one of the other observation is in relation to consequence management. My principle in this particular take and approach is that we must give credit where its due. We are Members of the standing committee on accounts from different political parties. Others come into those hearings without understanding. I want to comment the objectivity of Hon Maharaj. You can't add blue. I hope you understand. You can't add blue when you are wearing red. You can't wish for a subjective approach instead of coming with an objective approach. They must learn from Hon Maharaj. They know themselves. They don't [Inaudible] theirs is just to argue, even when we don't have a clean audit. How did you obtain a clean audit. You come and have a problem that this department obtained a clean audit, many people don't understand what is clean audit.

You come and say at least this time you are better you have received a qualified audit opinion. You are not going doing well, you are very bad. How did you receive unqualified audit opinion? Many people don't understand the difference between qualified and unqualified audit opinion. They don't understand what is unqualified audit opinion and what is qualified audit opinion. How could you stand up in a meeting and speak with pride and say, Honourable Members, you have received an unqualified audit opinion and how come others s received qualified on the same date? At least it is better you are now qualified. [LAUGHTER] It is a serious [Inaudible] And Hon I hope we are not going to receive those if you were. But unfortunately you are not and you are seeing those things.

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Ba bolelang ka eng?

MR MATHE

So your people in Scopa do not understand the difference between qualified audit opinion and unqualified audit opinion[Inaudible] for you. Are you there. So I am going to make an objective contribution. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, botša motho yo a bolelago he must keep focusing on the debate [Inaudible] O tšea nako ye telele. Gape ga se le mofe metsotso ye lesome motho yoo. Ga a swanela go tšea nako ye telele motho yoo. Ge o ka mo theetqš gabotse o a kwa gore o tšwa tseleneg.

MR MATHE

More people need to understand the difference between qualified and unqualified audit opinions. In conclusion, we want to indicate that we have made an observation in relation to the audit performance of a number of the present state owned entities. We hope that we have watched the department is doing in relation to the audit opinion they will have to follow suit. And we have further interacted with[Inaudible] because of [Inaudible] that some of these monies that are been given to this entities we need to look back and say what has been the resolution of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, I want to take this opportunity in closing and I want to emphasise that the standing committee on Public Accounts requires an objective approach. It does not necessarily require subjective approach. Because all people that are [Inaudible] are all acting in the interest of the people of Limpopo and therefore the subjectivity would not assist. This Sitting must note that the Scopa in Limpopo is the best performing Scopa in the country. If there is any other Scopa in the country that has ever summoned a Premier of MEC a province or MEC of Treasury in particular province let us [Inaudible] But it has never happened. Those are that are objective please[Inaudible] and those that are subjective[Inaudible] [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Repeating now and then.

BACKGROUND

NOISE

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, order. Hon Seshoka [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Managa o a bolea. Wola wa diphilisi le yena o a bolela. O no re Seshoka?

THE SPEAKER

Wa diphilisi ke mang Seshoka?

BACKGROUND

NOISE

THE SPEAKER

Order honourable Members. Let's allow Hon Selamolela to give his speech.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, order! Hon Seshoka!

THE SPEAKER

Let us allow Hon Selamolela to render his speech. Hon Selamolela you may take the floor

MR SELAMOLELA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, committee chair. I will then check with Members of the Executive. Those who want to comment on the observations made by the honourable Members. I will not mind if all of you want to comment but consider time I am going to allocate you only three minutes each. The Premier will start.

THE PREMIER

I thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker of the Legislature; Members of the Legislature; Members of the Executive. I must say we are very thankful for the processes as it has transpired up to where we are today. Our relationship with the committees of this Legislature has been a very ordinary profitable relationship in such a manner that we see the dividends of the relationship.

If you traverse the entire space, length and width of this province, you will see the results of this relationship in the sense that where there is proper accountability, when there is a

situation where the resources of government are actually being utilised optimally. Where resources are utilised in a manner that will benefit the people on the ground. The development that you see throughout that area, that space will bear evidence to this. If you travel the entire breadth and length of Limpopo, you look at the type of houses that you are seeing in this province that in itself tells you that there is a government in this province. There is a government that ensures [inaudible] do receive the silos of this economy. When you see honourable chairperson of Scopa as he correctly put it, when you see a government that accounts to the last cent. When you do not find any entity of government that does not account for the monies that they are utilising that says that the government is on the right path. The government is doing what it is supposed to do.

They are multiplying the resources of this economy. The resources of this economy, the resources of this province will be in the province will induce economic activities in the country, economic activities in the province and to be able to attract investment into the province. It makes you starts to see [inaudible] throughout the province. It is not a miracle that you no longer find mud houses, it is not a miracle that you no longer find shacks in Limpopo. It is not a miracle that you find people in Limpopo buying beautiful cars. It is because of this ANC government[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mphahlele, you may take the floor.

MS MPHAHLELE

I am just concerned about the Premier's position as if he is not addressing us

THE PREMIER

... the problem is ,Hon Speaker, if I now stand in this position, It no longer show as to whether I am addressing the House or the Speaker, because I am no longer facing the Speaker there. It is fine I understand that it is because of the position.

Hon Speaker, the roads of Limpopo today are flooded by decent cars as compared to 10, 15 years ago. That is not by accident, that is not by faith. That is because the programmes of this provincial government ensures that it attracts investment to the province. It ensures that it activates economic activity in the province. That ensures that in itself it has its own multiplying. The multiplying factor of that is that the local rand that is generated in the province sees itself cascading to the ordinary people on the ground. Hence, as you see these buildings, these houses, it is not by accident. It is because we plan for that.

We have a Limpopo Employment Plan. That plan for the economy to change in manner that it is changing. The reason for the recent results of Stats SA contained that Limpopo is one of the provinces that has the highest growth in terms of the definition of creating jobs. That has a very huge dent in terms of the reduction of unemployment. It is not an accident of nature. It is not by a particular magic one, it is because there was proper planning, it is because there is a vast sense accountability for everything that we are doing. We no longer talk of disclaimer audit opinion in this province. We no longer talk of

adverse audit opinions in this province. Why? Because there is a government that is working in this province. That is why you see these kind of results that you are seeing. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier. The Leader of Government Business do you want to say something?

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

The Premier has actually [inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

8. 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
(Snap Debate)

The first speaker is Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; honourable Members; the MECs that are present here; leader of the Opposition Party in absentia; Members of this august House; members in the gallery, good afternoon.

I am debating about the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women and Children. South Africa has seen an increasing rate of both physical and sexual abuse against women and children in recent times. Although rights-based pieces of legislation exist to protect women and children, they are not adequately supported and resourced by services to fulfil their provisions. During his first speech at the opening at the first democratically elected Parliament, President Nelson Mandela said: It is vitally important that all structures of Government, including the President himself, should understand this fully that freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. All of us must take this on board that the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme will not have been realised unless we see in visible and practical terms that the condition of the women of our country has radically changed for the better and that they have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society’.

The rape and killing of women and children in our view is cruel, inhumane, backward, barbaric and degrading. On Saturday 29 April 2023, a 58-year-old woman was found killed and her body burned beyond recognition at her home in Moletlane outside Zebediela. The remains of Betty Nurse Hlabela were discovered inside a bathtub at about 1pm. Earlier this year, a man was arrested in Mangodi Ha Sidou, Venda after the lifeless body of his wife was found in a pit toilet, a day after she withdrew a domestic violence

case against him. These are some of the gruesome cases that women have to go through on daily basis. Unfortunately, these acts are perpetuated by those who are supposed to protect them.

Hon Speaker, these are just few examples of the prevalence of GBV in Limpopo. The unfortunate reality is that there are many more similar incidents happening around the province. The EFF urges victims of gender-based violence to stop withdrawing cases as we commemorate 16 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women and Children. The withdrawal of GBV cases at any point will further escalate incidents of GBV in our communities. We seriously question how the rights of the perpetrator of these crimes can trump the rights of the ordinary law-abiding citizens of our country, the right to safety, to dignity, to freedom and equality. The EFF advocates for a South Africa where all people can live free of this scourge of violence; a South Africa where our children can play carefree in the streets without a risk of being molested and killed; a South Africa where an 82-year-old grandmother can sleep sound at night knowing that the law is on the side protecting her from physical and sexual abuse.

It is however, a sad reflection on our society that 30 years after we have attained our democracy and 30 years after we have, as a nation, embraced our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, we find that a child can still not play carefree in the streets, a woman can still not sleep easy at night secure in the knowledge that they are safe from violence of abuse and death. The scourge of violence against women and children persists implies that there are shortcomings within the system which must be fixed as a matter of urgency.

Hon Speaker, every police station must be equipped with all the necessary professionals to help the victims of sexual violence. It's insane that victims of sexual violence have to queue at the police station to make their statements, then queue again at the hospital for each specimen to be taken, and again for psychoanalysis. Each police station must have all these facilities.

Most women who are domestic workers and cleaners today face the harshest form of abuse. They get raped by their employers and are afraid to speak out because of fear of losing their jobs. The ANC-led government is not doing enough to protect women and children against barbaric and uncivilised men who continue to violate the rights of women and children on a daily basis.

Furthermore, the government must enforce, through law, for all economic benefits, a minimum of 50% representation of women in political participation, managerial positions and leadership responsibility roles. Until this is done, democracy for women will remain a farfetched dream. I thank you.

BACKGROUND

I agree on this one.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The next speaker is Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We participate in the 16 Days of Activism of Violence against Women and Children debate in the 2023/24 [inaudible].

Hon Speaker, every 251 victims are reported murdered amongst other incidences. This is 310 attempted murders is an increase by 19,3% of 1,7% by 30,2%. Hon Speaker, we partake in this Snap Debate: 16 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women and Children after the Limpopo crime statistics for the second quarter of 2023/24 indicated yet another predicted increase in the 17 communities reported serious crimes.

During the period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, there were 25 305,17 community reported serious crimes dockets opened in Limpopo. Every day 281 victims report murder, assault, sexual offences, theft and robbery incidents. Concerning year-on-year increases, the following were reported:

- 310 attempted murders-increase by 19,2%;
- 1 153 sexual offences
- increase by 1,7%.

Thohoyandou remains the rape capital of the province and is number 2 on the top 30 stations; Seshego and Mankweng, 7 and 13 on the national top 30 stations respectively. Common assault increased to 2627 cases

As crimes detected as a result of police action increased by 30,2%, it is clear that police visibility alone is not going to curb the scourge of serious crime more those relating to GBV. Of the 395 existing reservists in Limpopo, not one is a Category D (urban and rural safety); re-establishment of the core group of crime fighters will step in the right direction to make our under-siege communities feel safe again. Limpopo has been experiencing an annual increase in crime for years now

In 2022 the Commission for Gender Equality on it biannual Saps report in the province only visited the Mankweng, Seshego and Westernburg police stations during June 2021 to assess the conditions that victims of GBV are subjected to. Despite the site visits, no information on the number of trained staff, availability of rape kits, or the condition of victim facilities at these stations were published contrary to the stations visited in other provinces. It should be concerning that the shortage of investigating officers and lack of resources like vehicles did not form part of the sampling of information by then

The Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences units in Limpopo continues to be overloaded as it only has 88 vehicles to investigate cases. 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 many victims withdraw cases as a result.

This high withdrawal rate of rape cases at stations should be 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 GBV for years. One thorough and detailed report, following a nationwide investigation by the commission, can go a long way to inform the fight against GBV, rather than random, poorly sampled information that will amend the recommendations in consecutive reports. Such a report will not only provide a comprehensive perspective of the conditions and treatment of victims of GBV, but will assist to treat the most vulnerable, mainly women and children, with dignity and compassion in the judicial system.

As more resources are called upon, it is also the responsibility of communities, churches and other stakeholders to play their role to ensure that we address this issue. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. The next speaker is Hon Boshielo.

MS BOSHIELO

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip, and the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party, the permanent absent Leader of the Opposition who is even absent today, the Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable chairpersons of portfolio committees, honourable Members of the provincial Legislature, the Acting Secretary of the Legislature and his colleagues, the DG of our province and his colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and compatriots present here today.

Hon Speaker, the 25 November to 10 December is dedicated to the annual international campaign of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children. This campaign should gradually be increased to 365 days because GBV is becoming a very serious issue in our country. During this campaign people around the world unite to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenges, and discriminatory attitudes.

By the way, even psychological violence, stalking, physical, forced marriages, sexual violence including rape, forced abortions, forced penetration, sexual harassment, and others. The Limpopo province had a Gender-based Violence and Femicide Summit in October 2022 to collectively come up with strategies to run this campaign. The main aim is to ...and understand the GBV in the province with a specific focus on the impact and damage caused by gender-based violence on women, elderly persons, children, including boy children, women with disability pregnant women, LGBTIQ+ community.

The summit also aimed at accelerating actions and accountability by key government departments and stakeholders and opening opportunities for broader collaborative engagements among them. As I'm talking to you, today SAPS is having a gender-based

violence summit and they need to be commended as torchbearers as they are coming on board to deal with this issue.

Hon Speaker, more than two-thirds of women in the province have experienced some form of gender-based violence including partner and non-partner violence. We are tired of reading statistics and picketing, we are tired of crying, we are tired of burying our own and we need justice to be served very quickly and the cases to be prioritised.

This year's campaign theme is *"Invest to prevent violence against women and girls"* where it is expected that we must put more effort into ensuring that women are... we need to put an end to the negative impact of violence and abuse on women and free our society from abuse permanently. We continue to witness the killing of women at a rate at which this matter is attended by our courts is not satisfactory.

Cases of this nature must be speedily attended to so that perpetrators won't go around committing such a horrific act and they must be put where they belong. Hon Speaker, there are crucial sectoral problems both from the government and the Legislature that confirm that in Limpopo issues of gender-based violence are taken seriously. So, the ANC-led government in Limpopo is tackling the issue of gender-based violence.

The Limpopo Legislature recently held a Women's Parliament and where more than 400 women participated, and these issues were discussed and what can be the solutions. Yes, indeed these GBV issues are heart breaking and very serious resolutions were taken and subsequently tabled in this august House for oversight and monitoring of their implementation.

The Premier's Office gave a report to the women about a resolution taken in the past and the progress report. In November the Legislature held the Men's Parliament and the resolutions that men took indicated clearly that they were also concerned, and they want to be part of the solution. We are very grateful that the Premier, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip and Hon Ndou were part of the Men's Parliament, and it was disappointing that the men in this Legislature did not attend the Men's Parliament.

We need more problems in districts and departments so that the message can be spread to everyone, and we need men in this Legislature to stand up and say not in our name; we need tangible and realistic problems that will be aligned with our fight against GBV. We must also thank our President his Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa and Deputy President Paul Mashatile for leading from the front in terms of taking the boy child along in the formal launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign.

The province together with the international communities will be commemorating the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children and as the representatives of the public in this Legislature, let us lead from the front and ensure that this scourge is defeated. If we work together, I'm sure that we could do much better in fighting GBV.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members.

9. CLOSING REMARKS BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS

The first speaker will be Hon Manaka.

DR MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I will be standing in for our caucus leader, Hon Maraga as she is not present. Hon Speaker, allow me to greet the Premier of the province, all MECs who are present here, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip of this House, the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, all the chairpersons of committees who are present in this chamber, colleagues, and officials, and those sitting in the gallery, and those who are following us in the social media platforms.

Hon Speaker, it is such an honour to us as the Economic Freedom Fighters to be allowed to make closing remarks. Hon Speaker, allow me to say this, we had a lot of tasks ahead of us, and they included public hearings and oversights as part of our mandate as the honourable Members. Hon Speaker, we must be honest with ourselves, there is a lot that we achieved together, however, there were tasks that we could not achieve, and we hope that we will be able to deal with them before the end of the financial year and before the end of our term.

Hon Speaker, as the province, we are faced with a lot of challenges and the first one is the lack of water supply, load-shedding, unemployment, high rate of crime, and high rate of gender-based violence. I don't want to dwell much on the gender-based violence issue because the previous speaker spoke at length about GBV issues. As a province, we are also facing challenges of HIV/Aids especially in teenagers, and we are also facing the high rate of TB and those who are defaulting in taking their treatment.

To those who are in authority, as the Economic Freedom Fighters we are saying to you as a province, we cannot watch, you cannot fold your arms and watch the province go down the drain. It is high time that you act and make sure that you minimise or mitigate all the challenges that we are facing as a province.

Hon Speaker, as we are going to the festive season, we are saying to the people of Limpopo, peace be unto them, let there be joy and laughter and happiness in our communities; let's show love to one another and let's take care of each other. My bible tells me that love thy friend, love thy neighbour as you love thyself. We have a lot of families that are in need, and we have a lot of needy people in our communities let's make sure that we share with those who are in need.

Lastly, as the Economic Freedom Fighters in Limpopo, we are saying, next we are going to the national and provincial elections and let's go out there and vote for the government of our choice. Our votes are our voices.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Manaka. I will now call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Hon Speaker greetings to yourself, the Executive, and honourable Members of this august House. It has been a long year, one that had its challenges and success. Budgets have been tabled, and committees playing their roles of holding departments accountable and conducting oversight visits across the province.

A year that afforded Limpopo citizens platforms to participate during public hearings relating to amendment bills such as the National Land Transport Amendment Bill, National Road Traffic Amendment Bill, and the National Road Traffic Amendment Bill amongst others.

The increase of submitted petitions to the Legislature highlighted the cry of challenges that many Limpopo citizens still face from lack of roads, dilapidating sanitation, and school infrastructure.

As the House rises many of the Democratic Alliance's letters, and written questions remain unanswered. Perhaps this House should implement oral questions just like many provincial Legislatures across the country, also implementing such as per the rules of this House to ensure no one invades accountability and that transparency is there.

As the DA we've contributed to the effectiveness of the House positively, through committee meetings, and site visits. We've seen changes to our own DA caucus that continue to be positive to this House.

As we rise in this 5th Session of the 6th Legislature, we must be appreciative that all Members remain under the shadow of the sun. We've sadly lost some of our staff members along the way. We've seen the retirement of Ntate Ngoben, one of the Legislature's best drivers who drove members to their site visits.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker many issues relating to the Legislature were raised with your good selves and they were addressed. When we meet at malls let us greet each other, there are no motions there. Everything raised here is never personal but professional. Let us go and rest and spend time with our families. To all 49 honourable Members of this House & entire Legislature staff, Modimo le Badimo ba be le lena maikhutsong a lena. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. The next speaker is Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable MECs, leaders of opposition parties, honourable Members of this House, and guests. Hon Speaker, before I conclude my debate, I want to request the House and everyone who has a duty to the citizens of the province who will sit in the comfort of their homes without any power and water problems to spare some time to reflect and think about the people who will go into the festive season without power and water due to misappropriation of funds, people who have been appointed to positions that do not have the necessary qualifications and cadre deployment, and with that in mind I wish you all a blessed festive season.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. The next speaker will be the Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mokgonyana. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Premier, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council and honourable Members. Hon Speaker, as we draw the curtains on another remarkable legislative season, I stand before you with a heart brimming with gratitude and joy because this sixth administration continues to serve our people with diligence and dedication.

Hon Speaker, I want to acknowledge the good work done by our respective committees throughout the year, on exercising their oversight duties. The true test of democracy is the extent to which we as the Legislature can ensure that government remains answerable to the people. And this is done by maintaining constant oversight or monitoring of the government's activities as a collective through the respective committees that exist within our Legislature.

Equally Hon Speaker, the 55th National Conference of the ANC has strongly and decisively affirmed the need for immediate and resolute measures to steer our nation toward a positive trajectory of development that prioritises the well-being of the people.

We note and acknowledge the relentless efforts by our provincial EXCO from their respective portfolios to ensure that our people receive proper services. Through their efforts, we will positively contribute to building a developmental state that provides effective basic services and with capabilities to take forward a far-reaching agenda of national economic development, whilst at the same time placing people and their involvement at the centre of this process.

So, to our EXCO, we encourage you to continue with the good work that you are doing, be transparent in your activities and respond positively when the Legislature summon you through the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Hon Speaker, as we reflect on the moments shared in our quest to ensure a better life for all our people, the laughter echoed, and the warmth felt, let us carry the essence of this festive season with us into the upcoming year.

May the bonds strengthened during these festivities endure, and may the memories created serve as a source of inspiration and joy in the days to come so that we continue to serve our people. In a world that often moves at a relentless pace, the festive season offers a sanctuary — a pause button that allows us to cherish the beauty in simplicity, the joy in giving, and the love that binds us all. Let us not forget the importance of kindness, compassion, and understanding that define the true spirit of the season and share the little that we have with our people. Maya Angelou said, “When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed”.

Hon Speaker, in a world where exceptional service is increasingly rare, allow me to express gratitude to the dedicated support staff of the Legislature for their hard work in ensuring the smooth functioning of legislative affairs. I wish them a restful festive break; may they return rejuvenated in the new year to continue providing their unwavering support which does not go unnoticed.

Honourable Speaker, let me reiterate a clarion call made by the ANC which calls upon the society to rise in action and create a country free of violence and abuse, more against women and children. There is an urgent need for us to empower boys and men to be champions of gender equality. By following this approach, we will create a comprehensive environment where individuals, irrespective of their gender, can prosper and achieve success.

As we step into the New Year, let optimism guide our way, and may the lessons learned during this festive season inspire us to be better, kinder, and more compassionate individuals. May the coming months be filled with prosperity, good health, and opportunities for personal and collective growth.

As I close Hon Speaker, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to every individual who has contributed immensely towards yet another fulfilling legislative year. Here's to the memories we've created the lessons we've learned, and the promise of a bright and fulfilling future.

On behalf of the African National Congress, I wish you all a joyous festive season and a New Year filled with hope, love, and endless possibilities. Until we meet again, take care and may the spirit of the season continue to light up your lives. Happy holidays and a wonderful New Year ahead!

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very Honourable Members and we appreciate all the closing remarks that have been made by all different parties. So, on behalf of the Presiding Officers of the Legislature, we want to thank all honourable Members for your cooperation throughout the year. You have made it possible to manage the work of the Legislature and therefore the Legislature remains grateful for this commitment to serve the people of Limpopo. We

wish all the honourable Members and the people of Limpopo a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you all.

Thank you very much to all of you. [APPLAUSE]

10. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that when the House rises today, it shall sit again on the time, date and venue determined by the Hon Speaker in consultation with the Hon Premier, as the House will be going on recess. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SELAMOLELA

I, Selaelo Donald Selamolela, from the ruling African National Congress, hereby second the draft resolution as presented by the Chief Whip. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We will now have announcements by the Hon Deputy Speaker.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

As we adjourn, we have got parcels out there for honourable Members. The last announcement is that we are going to have our lunch and refreshments at Polokwane Game Reserve. Officials will assist honourable Members with directions to the venue.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you, honourable Members, the House is adjourned until next year.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]