



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

It's your voice, use it!

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

ANNUAL HANSARD REPORT, 2025

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

OF THE

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

It's your voice, use it!

Vision

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

Mission and Strategic Goals

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

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

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MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL [CABINET]

Office of the Premier	Dr P C Ramathuba [Premier]
Education	Ms M M Lerule-Ramakhanya
Health	Ms D M Mashego
Social Development	Ms F F Radzilani
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Mr T B Matibe
Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure	Mr E S Rachoene
Transport and Community Safety	Ms S V Mathye
Agriculture and Rural Development	Ms N G Kekana
CoGHSTA	Mr R B Makamu
Sport, Arts and Culture	Mr F J Maseko
Provincial Treasury	Mr K E Mahoai

OFFICE-BEARERS OF LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

The Speaker	Ms M G Makhurupetje
The Deputy Speaker	Ms T P Mamorobela
The Chief Whip	Mr E M Mokgonyana
The Deputy Chief Whip	Mr G R Monama
The Chairperson of Committees	Mr T A Mokone
The Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Mr H P Ngobeni
The Leader of Government Business	Mr R B Makamu
The Leader of the Opposition	Mr M L Mapoulo
The Secretary of Limpopo Legislature	Dr M T Maake

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

African National Congress (ANC)
 Democratic Alliance (DA)
 Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)
 uMkhonto weSizwe (MK)
 United Africans Transformation (UAT)
 Vryheidsfront Plus (FF+)

1. Baloyi Dunisani Lyborn	EFF
2. Helm Maria Alleta	DA
3. Jack Velile Cyril	MK
4. Kekana Nakedi Grace	ANC
5. Kupa Constance Ramadimetja	ANC
6. Lebea Kedibone Margret	ANC
7. Lebogo Matome Jacob	EFF
8. Lerule-Ramakhanya Mavhungu Maureen	ANC
9. Letsoalo Mapula Gratitude	EFF
10. Mabotja Thabo	ANC
11. Machete Phetole Percy	ANC
12. Magolo Matlebjane Abraham	EFF
13. Mahasela Mahlodi Caroline	ANC
14. Mahoai Kgabo Elias	ANC
15. Maila Kobodi Diens	UAT
16. Makamu Rodgers Basikopo	ANC
17. Makhurupetje Makoma Grace	ANC
18. Malebana Chuene William Dissagree	ANC
19. Malemela Dumisani	EFF
20. Mamorobela Tebogo Portia	ANC
21. Mapoulo Makgabo Lawrence	EFF
22. Maringa Vongani Wesly	ANC
23. Marx Hermanus Franco	DA
24. Maseko Funani Jerry	ANC
25. Mashego Dieketseng Masesi	ANC
26. Mataboge Shimane Morris	ANC
27. Mathe Simon Matsobane	ANC
28. Mathye Susan Violet	ANC
29. Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
30. Matjomane Germinor Delly	ANC
31. Matjomane Makua Asnad	ANC
32. Matlou Leswafo Josua	ANC
33. Mdaka Falaza Philemon	ANC
34. Mmetle-Ramohlola Dikeledi Josephine	ANC
35. Mnisi Gloria Dzunisani	ANC
36. Mogoane Mogaleadi Kgothatso	EFF
37. Mohale Mankwana Christinah	ANC
38. Mokaba Mapula Anna	ANC
39. Mokgonyana Essob Mmanoko	ANC

40. Mokoele Mosibudi Esther	ANC
41. Mokone Thabo Andrew	ANC
42. Molapo Walter Samuel	EFF
43. Monama Gannye Rodgers	ANC
44. Moss André	FF+
45. Mphahlele Selaelo Regina	EFF
46. Muhlope Mihloti Ethel	ANC
47. Nempumbuluni Thembeleni Colbert	ANC
48. Nenguda Dowalani Alton	ANC
49. Netshifhefhe Khathutshelo John	ANC
50. Ngobeni Hasani Peter	ANC
51. Nkonyana Bongani Abednigo	ANC
52. Pheedi Maseko Solomon	ANC
53. Phokane Maudu Johannes	ANC
54. Radzilani Fulufhelo Florence	ANC
55. Rachoene Ernest Sebataolo	ANC
56. Rakgoale Christian Nkakareng	ANC
57. Ramathuba Phophi Constance	ANC
58. Sebopela Seanego Tumelo	ANC
59. Selane Che Bonnie David	ANC
60. Sepuru David Mmakgabo Champ	ANC
61. Shai Mpho Sonnyboy	ANC
62. Smalle Jacobus Frederik	DA
63. Tshivhase Midiavhathu Prince Kennedy	ANC
64. Wilson Evelyn Rayne	DA

PERMANENT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

1. Kennedy Meisie	EFF
2. Mokwele Frans	ANC
3. Molokomme Regina	ANC
4. Ndlovu Sanny	ANC
5. Phala Phiroane	ANC
6. Pienaar Nicolaas Hendrik	DA

COMMITTEES OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

CATEGORY ONE – INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE 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) Oversight Mechanism Committee
- i) Committee of Chairpersons
- j) Multiparty Women's Caucus
- k) Pandemic and Disaster Committee

CATEGORY TWO – PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

- a) Provincial Treasury
- b) Cooperative 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

CATEGORY THREE – STANDING COMMITTEES

- a) Public Accounts Committee
- b) Public Participation and Petitions
- c) Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and Disability

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**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025
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. Good morning, honourable Members and very important guests. Yes, today is a very big day. Good morning, everyone. Let me take this opportunity to welcome honourable Members and our guests to the 2025 State of the Province Address. I also welcome our guests who have connected via social media platforms. Our listeners and viewers on various communication platforms are most welcome.

Honourable Members and guests, this Sitting is convened in terms of Rule(13)(1) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, only to afford the Hon Premier of the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, an opportunity to deliver the State of the Province Address to the people of the province. I am now going to acknowledge the guests. I must state it upfront that if you are not acknowledged, don't feel like you are not welcome. It might have happened that by the time the guest list was concluded, the confirmation had not arrived. All of you are warmly welcome, but let me acknowledge the following guests at today's event.

It is my honour to welcome you, Hon Premier of the province of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba and Ms Ramathuba, who is your guest today. Our mother is warmly welcome as well. Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela and her family. Let me also welcome my families, the Manamela and the Makhurupetje families, you are warmly welcome. I welcome here, the Minister in the Presidency, Hon Maropeng Ramokgopa, the Hon Deputy Minister for COGTA, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola and all the Members of Parliament who are with us here today, you are most welcome. Members of the Executive Council of the province present here today, you are welcome; Chief Whip of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana, you are welcome; leaders of the opposition parties in Limpopo, as well as the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo, you are warmly welcome; Members of the National Council of Provinces and your partners; honourable Judge President of the Limpopo Division of the High Court, Justice Moletje George Phatudi and your partner, you are warmly welcome; we also welcome all the members of Justice present today; Her Majesty Queen Modjadji VII of the Modjadji Queenship accompanied by Prof Mathole Motshekga and your delegation, you are welcome; Modjadji royal family members present here, you are warmly welcome; Her Majesty Acting Queen of the Bapedi Kingdom, Mme Nyaku Thulare, and your delegation, we welcome you. Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders,

Ndavezitha Hosi Ngove and the Deputy Chair, Kgoši Rammupudu, le komiti ya lena e feleletše le dilete tša yona, re a le amogela; Congress of Traditional Leaders in Limpopo, your entire delegation is welcome.

This occasion is graced by a number of our senior traditional leaders; I will only mention the ones that were able to acknowledge as and when they took the accreditation, i.e., Kgoši Moloto; Kgoši Ledwaba; Kgoši Dikgale; Kgoši Maila; Kosi Mahlangu; Kgoši Thobejane; Kgoši R D Lekalakala; mhani wa hina Ndabezitha, Hosi N'wamitwa, ha mi amukela; Thovhele Ramovha; Thovhele Mphaphuli; Thovhele Masia and Thobele Nthankalala, na vhone vho tšanganedziwa.

Limpopo Provincial Commissioner of Police, Lt Gen Hadebe, as well as Major-General Scheepers, whom we spent the whole week working with, we welcome you and your entire team. We welcome heads of Chapter 9 and 10 institutions in Limpopo; in our midst, we acknowledge the former public service commissioner and our veteran, Ntate George Mashamba, you are warmly welcome. He was as well a Member of this House. Director-General of the province, Ntate Nape Nchabeleng and your heads of department; Secretary of the Limpopo Legislature, Dr Timothy Maake and the team Limpopo Legislature, you are welcome.

Representatives of the national departments and public entities in the Limpopo province; former Premiers, MECs, Speakers and Deputy Speakers, you are welcome. Today we welcome the former Premier and the first Premier of this province in 1994, Adv Ngoako Ramahlodi. Former Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature Mme Mirriam Ramadwa, re a le amogela; former Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature "Ambassador" Azwindini Dingaana Ndou, re a le amogela. [LAUGHTER] Former first lady Ms Mokgadi Mathale, the wife of former Premier, Hon Cassel Mathale, who is currently the Deputy Minister for Police, re a le amogela mama, ke ka gae ka mo.

Former Chairperson of Committees and former Members of the Limpopo Legislature, you are welcome; chairpersons and chief executives of public entities in Limpopo; Executive Mayors and Mayors of the 22 local municipalities in the province, you are warmly welcome. Our host Mayor of Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, Cllr Dr Meriam Molala and your entire PMT and the Executive, re a le amogela. District and local Speakers in the whole province, you are welcome. We as well welcome the Speaker of Lepelle-Nkumpi, Cllr Joyce Nkoabela; re leboga gore le re amogetše.

Secretary of the African National Congress in Limpopo, Vhamusanda Vho Reuben Madadzhe, you are welcome. We as well welcome all the leaders of political parties that are here, especially those that are represented in the Legislature. Veterans Mr Rapholo, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, our former Minister, who is a member of the Veterans League in the province, you are warmly welcome. Leaders of Cosatu and all labour unions; leaders of Sanco; organisations of people living with disability and other civil societies; we have got bishops that are here, I might not be able to read all of them, but we as well have representatives from our biggest churches, i.e., the ZCC and St Engenas; the South African Council of Churches led by Bishop Sikhwari of ELCSA le baruti ka moka ba le sepelago le bona. We welcome Archbishop Molepo, Archbishop Sekgala, Dean Machaka, Rev Nemaukhwe le baruti ka moka ba ba lego gona. We welcome the heads of higher education institutions and their delegation, but specifically, we welcome the delegation of the vice-chancellor of the University of Limpopo led by

Prof Mothiba and Dr Abbey Ngoepe, who are as well accompanied by Prof Khoela as well as Prof Koma, who are with us here in the Sitting. We also welcome Miss Teenager South Africa, Ms Pearl Mathebula; you are welcome to be with us today.

We welcome the business community; the media fraternity, distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen; comrades and all people of Limpopo province who are listening to us via various radio stations, watching us via various tv channels and via social media platforms; you are all welcome.

Today is a very big day for the people of the province and for the people of Limpopo, and everyone in this province and beyond is eagerly waiting to hear from the Premier's Address. Any of those that I did not mention their names, feel welcome. This is your home today, the Limpopo Legislature. Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to invite the Hon Premier of Limpopo province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to deliver the State of the Province Address. Hon Premier, the podium is yours.

[PRAISE POEM]

THE PREMIER

Thank you.

THE 2025 STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS (Address by Dr P C Ramathuba, Premier)

Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje; our Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Legislature; permanent delegates to the NCOP; Chief Whip of the Legislature; Members of the National Assembly present here – I have noted the Deputy Minister Dickson Masemola; Judge President of the Limpopo Division of the High Court and other members of the judiciary; Her Royal Highness, our one and only Queen Modjadji VII of the Balobedu Queenship; Her Royal Highness Queen Manyaku Thulare, the Acting King of the Bapedi Kingship; representatives of the Mphephu Royal House of the Vhavenda Kingship; Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoisan Leadership, Hosi Pheni Ngove, and the deputy chairperson and the entire executive; esteemed traditional leaders of note, our mother, the first female senior traditional leader to be recognised, Hosi N'wamitwa II; Your Worships Executive Mayors and Mayors, and all Councillors who are present here; representatives of the Zion Christian Church; representatives of the St Engenas Zion Christian Church; leadership of the governing party, my organisation, the African National Congress in Limpopo present here today, as led by Vhamusanda Vho-Reuben Madadzhe; leaders of the opposition political parties; former MPs and MPLs; founding Premier of this Legislature, Adv Ngoako Ramahlodi, you are also recognised; our Director-General and all head of departments; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service; heads of Chapter 9 and 10 institutions; leadership of faith-based communities – I have also noted a number of bishops and archbishops that I will not mention by name but the leadership of the South African Council of Churches; leadership of organised business and labour; youth, women and community leaders; distinguished guests; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen and all the people

of our vibrant, beautiful people's garden of Eden, Limpopo province, ndi Matsheloni. Thobela. Avuxeni. Lotjhani. Goeie môre. Good morning.

Today, I stand before you not merely as the Premier of this vibrant province but also as a custodian of our shared dreams, our shared aspirations and also of our collective future. As we gather in this esteemed Chamber, let me first acknowledge the rich tapestry of our heritage that weaves through the very fabric of Limpopo – where the tributaries of Palala, of Mogalakwena, of Sand, of Mutale, of Shingwedzi and of Lepelle Rivers accompany the majestic Limpopo River into the Indian Ocean, nurturing the land and the spirit of our people.

We took our time last week to pay our last respects to the members of the South African National Defence Force, following their tragic loss in the Democratic Republic of Congo almost a month ago. Eight of those are from our Limpopo. Allow me to begin with a rather profound sense of sorrow and of solidarity, honouring their families for the sacrifice their sons have made. We would like to thank the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President and Head of State, His Excellency Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, for having given these sons the highest honour befitting their bravery, a full military funeral with honours.

Equally so, we thank you, Mr President, for ensuring that all those who sustained injuries are evacuated safely back home to receive reliable and high-level quality medical care. We once more wish them a speedy and full recovery. As we honour the memory of the departed, let us reaffirm our commitment to the ideals they fought for – a peaceful, united Africa where every nation can flourish. Their bravery will forever be etched in our hearts, serving as a reminder of the vital role we all play in promoting peace and stability in pursuit of our goal of building a better Africa and a just world.

Honourable Members, we are standing here to deliver our first State of the Province Address as the Seventh Administration. We have spent the past six months crafting a delivery framework for the next five years. In line with the Cabinet's decision to approve the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP 2024–2029), we also reviewed our Limpopo Development Plan (LDP 2025–2030). The process was a participatory one and inclusive, consulting key stakeholders, including municipalities and the private sector. This will inform our work as the Seventh Administration.

The LDP 2025–2030 is a strategic blueprint designed to propel our province towards sustainable growth, economic resilience and social upliftment. It serves as an implementation instrument of the National Development Plan, a guiding framework for provincial departments and municipalities, including the private sector, fostering collaboration across sectors to tackle the critical challenges such as unemployment, poverty and inequality. Our focus remains that of inclusive development that uplifts all our people. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of inclusive growth, job creation, reduction of poverty while tackling the high cost of living, as we build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

In his State of the Nation Address, President Matamela Ramaphosa buttressed this when he said: "Our most urgent task is to grow our economy so that we can create jobs, reduce poverty and improve the lives of all South Africans." Honourable Members,

during my inaugural address on 02 August 2024, I spoke of hope, a beacon to guide us on our journey as we navigate the turbulent waters of our socioeconomic challenges. The people of Limpopo have once again spoken when they overwhelmingly mandated the African National Congress to continue with the work we started 30 years ago. In thanking them, as the Seventh Administration, we commit to work tirelessly in making sure that the fruits of our liberation accrue to them.

As we commemorate the 70 years of the Freedom Charter, we will reflect on this journey, while considering the landscape of our province, a tapestry woven with both challenges and triumphs. Honourable Members, according to Census 2022, Limpopo's population has grown to 6,5 million people, an increase of 1,2 million since 2011. This growth brings with it added responsibility to ensure that every citizen can thrive and enjoy the benefits of a caring government. While Limpopo's contribution to the national GDP has risen from 7,2% to 7,7%, the stark and painful reality is that at the end of 2024, our unemployment rate stood at 31,9%. This, we cannot allow to continue under our watch. The traditional way of doing things has not yielded our desired results; our people, especially the youth, the young people out there, are getting impatient with us, hence it is time for us to kick that box and start thinking afresh.

We have seen our province's economy showing resilience in sectors like mining, government services, finance, trade, personal services and transport. Yet, we must consciously industrialise, especially in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and construction, to advance inclusive growth and job creation. These sectors have the potential to elevate our growth trajectory and create employment opportunities even for our low-skilled labour force.

Our resolve is driven by the need to see Limpopo's economy grow and create jobs. It is for this reason that we are still steadfast on developing special economic zones, akin to planting seeds in fertile soil, knowing that it will germinate, it will grow, and it will bear fruit. Six months ago, having spent enough time understanding the challenges towards the operationalisation of the long-awaited Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, we have developed a six-point plan and directed the MEC for LEDET to attend to all the outstanding issues that affected this bedrock of our industrialisation agenda.

We are proud to report back to the House that various matters that contributed to delays are being resolved. For example, the land on the north site has finally been released by all the national departments, and the Musina Municipality Council would sit. They promised me on 28 February 2025 to finalise the rezoning of the land for use by the Musina-Makhado SEZ. His Worship Vho Meyara Vho-Mawela, na n'wina Manana Xipikara Shirilele, na Tshimebi Tshihulwane Vho-Mafela, this is a task you dare not fail. We want to start working in Musina. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, there was a thorny issue on the south site of the Musina-Makhado SEZ requiring approval of township establishment. We are also happy to report that the Makhado Municipality Tribunal will sit tomorrow, on 28 February 2025. I am sure they were worried that she might say bad things about us, let's give her the date to finalise this matter. This approval will lead to the rezoning of the land and then handing over the site to the operator.

Having had these matters attended to, we shall now direct the MEC for Provincial Treasury to release those funds that we withheld earlier for reprioritisation. This will then allow the Musina-Makhado SEZ to resume its operations. Our next task then will be to monitor and put our south site operator on terms to see the project taking shape in the 2025/26 financial year. Honourable Members, unlike the Musina-Makhado SEZ, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone is a low-hanging fruit, abuzz with potential, just waiting for us to plug in. Our recent meeting with the Minister for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition resolved to finalise the process of designation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone by doing, amongst others, stakeholder engagement.

We are pleased that by the end of March 2025, the DTIC shall have concluded the designation process, opening the way for the implementation of the SEZ. To date, we already have over R10 billion investment commitments, of which, if fully implemented, will translate into thousands of jobs. The groundwork is being laid through our industrial park, with the infrastructure development already underway. In partnership with Glencore Mine, through the MOU, which we recently signed, a skills development centre has been established. Whilst this is in place, we want to once again direct the MEC for LEDET to facilitate the integrated skills development plan to be responsive to the SEZ programme.

This is not limited to economic zones; it is about cultivating a landscape where opportunities blossom for all. Honourable Members, Limpopo's Investment Growth and Industrialisation Agenda is the first thread to our fabric of progress. Last year, we made a commitment that our investment conference would have to be done completely differently, where the focus would not just be on pledges but also on follow-ups on the pledges that are made. We are proud to report to this House that our fourth investment conference was a resounding success, raising up to R120 billion in pledges, far surpassing the R50 billion initial target. I would like to commend the collective efforts towards the realisation of this achievement.

Even more pleasing is that 60% of the recent pledges are earmarked towards renewable energy, which is a panacea to the current energy crisis. We recently signed agreements with various companies that made pledges on the margins of the 2025 Mining Indaba, which was held in Cape Town. For example, the Neuromorphogenics Africa (Pty) Ltd, in partnership with Mukhufhi Agroprocessing and Essential Oils, a local entrepreneur, during our conference made a R9,8 billion investment pledge for Mopani Solar Project. [APPLAUSE] Significant progress has been made so far in planning the project that will use both wind and sun to generate power in Mopani ga bo Mospikara.

Solar and wind projects in Mopani are breaking ground, and mines in Fetakgomo-Tubatse are pioneering solar ventures, ensuring sustainable energy for our growing industries. The Limpopo Premier and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to South Africa were joined by the leadership of Sinosteel Samancor TFC PV for a ground-breaking ceremony in Steelpoort, Tubatse, for a solar plant in November 2024. That was just after the visit to China. As a reminder, this investment will have the capacity to produce 1 000 MW of solar photovoltaic power. However, in compliance with the applicable legislative framework, the plant is producing, as a start, 100 MW. This project is anticipated to create between 1 000 to 1 500 jobs.

Hon Speaker, while we acknowledge the current challenges we are facing regarding load reduction in some areas, we want to reassure our people of Limpopo that we are working with the Minister for Electricity and Eskom to resolve this. We will resolve these challenges, believe us. As a reminder, in 1996, only 36% of our people had access to electricity. As we speak, according to the General Household Survey of 2023, about 97,1% of our people have access to electricity, putting Limpopo as number one in the country. [APPLAUSE]

This simply means that an ordinary household in a village can now charge their cell phones. They can switch on their lights and also watch their favourite soapies, such as Muvhango, Giyani Land of Blood or Skeem Saam, unlike in the past where to watch my favourite soapie, Bophelo ke Semphekgo of Mme Lydia Mamokgokoloshi ke ra mmago Nkwesheng, I had to go to the local store and had to part ways with my last 2 bob (20 cents) in order to watch Mmago Nkwesheng. Today, a child growing up in Mashamba village watches from their own RDP house. [APPLAUSE] Honourable Members, work has already begun to ensure that the remaining 2,9% may have access to electricity in the next two years, during your time, Tatana Basikopo Makamu, especially with the alternative energy mix that we are bringing to the fore. One of the projects launched by the Minister Dr Ramokgopa, after the famous, first of its kind, November 2024 President and His Cabinet's visit to Limpopo, is a solar-powered energy project in the Musina Municipality. Five villages with 1,002 households in Madimbo, Mabvete, Tshiungani, Masea and Matshena will, by the end of April 2025, have access to solar electricity.

This will be a game-changing experience as these communities will not only have access to electricity for the first time in their lives, equally, 5G network connectivity. [APPLAUSE] The availability of these alternative energy sources will not stop the continuation of the expansion of the grid. Hon Speaker, esteemed colleagues, and the resilient people of Limpopo, the Ministry of Electricity, in close collaboration with the Limpopo Provincial Government, will address the growing municipal debt and illegal electricity use through an integrated strategy focused on stabilising municipal electricity businesses.

Central to this partnership is the active partnering initiative, which includes comprehensive auditing and upgrading of metres, direct billing systems linked to Eskom, aggressive debt recovery measures and robust infrastructure refurbishment. Additionally, a targeted programme to eliminate load reduction will be piloted in Nkowankowa within the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. It has nothing to do with the Speaker. This programme will entail public awareness campaigns, expanding free basic electricity coverage and a quantum to reduce the burden on indigent households, implementing smart meters and advanced metering infrastructure. Together, these interventions aim to restore business confidence, enhance revenue management, reduce illegal connections, and significantly improve municipal service delivery, ultimately supporting local government's broader developmental mandate.

Today, I stand before you with a vision that propels our province into a new era of energy empowerment and economic revitalisation. In partnership with the Ministry for Electricity, Limpopo is poised to become the first province in our nation to achieve universal access to energy. This ambitious goal will be realised through a strategic blend of grid-connected and innovative microgrid solutions, ensuring that every household,

from our bustling towns to the most remote villages, is illuminated with reliable and sustainable power.

Our commitment does not end there. In a ground-breaking initiative, we have identified three municipalities: the first one is Maruleng, the second one is Elias Motsoaledi, and of course, my very own baby, Thabazimbi, as pioneers in municipal energy security. These municipalities, in collaboration with the provincial government and the Ministry of Electricity, will spearhead the development of their own generation schemes utilising cutting-edge renewable energy technologies. This endeavour will ensure that municipalities reduce their reliance on bulk service providers, which will lower the cost burden of bulk electricity costs. This initiative is not merely about powering homes; it is about igniting local economies, enhancing the quality of supply, and also making energy more affordable for all of us.

By embracing these transformative projects, we are not only addressing the immediate energy needs of our communities but also laying the foundation for sustainable development and economic growth. Together, we are lighting up Limpopo's path to a brighter, more prosperous future for every citizen. A commitment noted from this House last year was that Eskom was going to build new transmission lines that would also help accommodate renewable energy across the province. Honourable Members, I am proud to report that our City of Stars, Polokwane, has recently been graded to level six. This means that our ideal of getting a metro is within reach. [APPLAUSE] The Deputy Minister is here, taking notes. The reality is that our city is growing, and thus requires bulk infrastructure support like electricity.

It is against this background that we welcome progress made thus far – of the construction of a 400 kV line connecting the Medupi Power Station to Polokwane. To date, since we pronounced, 150 km of the total 220 km line has already been constructed. We are not talking stories; you can go and see them. There are other 400 kV lines that are still in development. One is in Nzhelele, the other one at Borutho-Silimela, not forgetting Foskop-Spencer, and again Foskop-Merensky, including Leseding. They are anticipated to complete all of them by 2029. Hon Speaker, we have also spoken about agriculture and said it is the backbone of our existence as Limpopo. We also acknowledged that whilst most of our communities can sustain themselves off the land, it is ideal that we put the land to good use by adding the commercial element in our operations.

In our Opening Address in 2024, we committed to implementing the integrated emerging farmers support programme. To that effect, we invited Ms Wendy Moshakga, a mother who raised her children by selling vegetables from her backyard garden. We used her as an example at that time – that Limpopo remains the leading province in terms of people who can work the land, without the land. Today, we have again invited Ms Wendy Moshakga as a special guest to the Premier. This time around, we want her to be a testimony of our last years' commitment towards supporting emerging farmers. Through the departmental support, Ms Wendy Moshakga, who was operating from her backyard garden, is now operating on a 20 ha land. [APPLAUSE] Within the six months' time, she has been able to expand and diversify her farming; she is no longer selling vegetables only; she now includes poultry and livestock farming. She managed to create, as a start, four jobs. We are saying this to showcase that we are not men and women of empty words but of tangible commitments. Mme Wendy, they might think I am lying. Where

are you? There she is! [APPLAUSE] Mme Wendy is one of those who have proven to us that Limpopo people can work the land, without the land. Now that we have given her the land, look what she has done with that land. So, give people land and they will work the land. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, today we take a moment to also reflect on another success story; whilst it is different from Mme Wendy's, but it is the story of achievement in our nation, particularly in Limpopo, where we have this remarkable story to share. We also invited the founder of Sampada Private Equity, who is a young black entrepreneur, to inspire fellow black entrepreneurs; highlighting that with determination, anything is possible. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a pivotal moment, emphasising the need for food security and resilient systems.

Sampada, on the other hand used the challenge as an opportunity to transition from building malls to sustainable farming, producing strawberries for export to Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, all run by a dedicated team of young black women. It is during this period that the founder, Mr Bafedile Mafologele and his business partner embarked on a cattle farming venture, starting with just 27 cattle. Today, they manage over 3 000 cattle and have expanded their irrigation from 15 to 300 ha. [APPLAUSE] Sampada is on track to become the largest 100% black-owned red meat producer in Limpopo, creating over 300 jobs.

This success story exemplifies what can be achieved through commitment, hard work and resilience without any sense of entitlement. Our Integrated Emerging Farmers Support programme has supported 14 939 farmers across various commodities. Ten smallholder farmers have been identified for the commercialisation programme during the Seventh Administration. In our final year, we will bring them, and you will see them. We are committed to assisting smallholder farmers in accessing markets and enhancing their productivity; hence, to date, 139 agribusinesses have been assisted with marketing services. The last time we were here, we made a clarion call for the establishment of agroprocessing plants within the province. It is in this connection that we are pleased to report that a yoghurt processing plant shall be established here in Polokwane, and a beef abattoir shall be constructed in Mookgophong in the foreseeable future.

The two relevant MECs will give details on these two projects during their Budget Votes. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has advanced the implementation of the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-Processing Value Chain plan, focusing on various agricultural sectors to boost production and support the Limpopo Development Plan. Hon Speaker, it pains me every time I drive past the once-renowned Zebediela Citrus Farm, seeing it in its hollow state, failing to rise from the ashes. This is despite our recent interventions where seven boreholes were drilled and a master plan was completed, with expectations of fruit production, as committed previously in this august House, yet not much has materialised to date.

Honourable Members, our diagnosis is clear – it is that there are challenges within the communal property associations. We have to work together to deal with this because it is taking us backward. Hence, we have decided to elevate the matter to our relevant national ministries because, in terms of the law, they have a full mandate on community property associations. We seek their intervention because we want to restore Zebediela “dinamuneng”. Six months ago, we also made an undertaking that we would work on

resolving the challenges facing the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery. We can now report back that all the outstanding infrastructure challenges have been resolved by both LEDA and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. They have worked together, and they have committed to me that we are now at an advanced stage for their operationalisation.

There have been setbacks because of vandalism in the broiler houses that were anticipated to supply. These setbacks mean that the people of Lepelle-Nkumpi, who were meant to be employed there, are still unemployed. They are the ones who vandalise this infrastructure. We would like to implore the community to take the responsibility of protecting these facilities, which are aimed at making sure we create jobs for our people, especially the young, who are getting impatient with us. Our two MECs have intervened and are monitoring the situation closely, and we are hoping their intervention will result in operationalisation of the project sooner, than later. However, without your support as the community, this project will never be realised. Hon Speaker, we are also planning to expand macadamia and avocado farming both in Vhembe and in Mopani Districts. In Vhembe, Thulamela Municipality is Senzi Avomacs Farming, and in Mopani, Greater Tzaneen Municipality is the Makgoba Afrika.

Regarding vegetable production, the department will support 37 projects across the province, amongst them are Tanani Matiko Disabled and Multipurpose, Modikwa Farming, Mohlakamosome Cooperative, Nwanedi Ablution and Mazeli. The support will come through the development of irrigation systems of water reservoirs and pack sheds across various farms by March 2026. Initiatives to support red meat production include improving water storage, fencing and animal handling facilities across these various projects to enhance livestock management. Honourable Members, we are planning to host our very own provincial agricultural expo to promote investment in high-value crops and acquire mechanisation equipment to assist farmers with infrastructure development during this coming financial year. We can't be a province that is strong in agriculture but doesn't have an agricultural expo.

Part of our work as the provincial government is to support our SMMEs as they play a critical role in job creation. To this effect, we have put in place the Integrated SMME and Cooperatives Development Plan, as we made an undertaking in this House previously. We must be honest; we have also established the SMME Support Fund with a ringfenced budget. Sadly, we must be honest. We have encountered a serious underperformance over the last three years in the disbursement of loans to SMMEs. Amongst others, the reasons that were provided are that prospective clients are not meeting set qualification criteria, which is unacceptable. We are directing the MEC for LEDET to work with the agency, LEDA, to review all the criteria. You create the criteria, and you use the criteria to say why you are not delivering on your target. It doesn't make sense. LEDA, you must fulfil one of your key mandates, which is supporting SMMEs. On a brighter note, and as per our commitment, 30% of our procurement spend has been ringfenced for SMMEs and cooperatives. The target set for SMME spend is 70% as per the LDP. We must also proudly indicate that by the end of the third quarter of the current financial year, we had achieved 60% spend. That is for our provincial government. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, an inclusive economy means that we must increase our support to small enterprises, to our entrepreneurs and cooperatives with a focus mainly on

women, especially in our case, Limpopo rural women, the youth and people with disability. We are, therefore, directing the economic cluster to devise and implement mechanisms that will improve the participation of all the designated groups in the economic activities of our province. In any case, this is in line with our manifesto as the governing party, the African National Congress. We dare not fail. Honourable Members, you will be pleased to know that for the period April 2024 to January 2025, as a province, we have achieved a 30-day invoice payment compliance rate of 99,78%, placing us among the top two provinces in the country. [APPLAUSE] This, we believe, has a greater impact on how we continue to support business and grow the economy of this province. This is when, at some stage, we had 67%. I know I was still in the Department of Health then. We are now at 99,78%. [APPLAUSE]

Six months ago, we committed to continuing with the work of revitalisation of our industrial parks through the maximum utilisation of our entities. We are well on course to make sure that this is also achieved. Honourable Members, as we finalise our LDP 2025–2030, we acknowledge that infrastructure planning and programme management, with a specific focus on water, roads, energy and sanitation, are vital for supporting economic development and job creation. We acknowledge that water access in Limpopo has regressed to 64,2%, leaving 35,8% of our people without this necessity. The growing population is adding to the burden of ailing water infrastructure across municipalities.

In our 2024 address, we committed to ensuring that a functional provincial water task team to coordinate the implementation of the provincial water intervention strategy would be established. The provincial water task team, with its technical working committee, under the leadership of the Office of the Premier, has since been established. To date, a draft working document has been presented to the Mayors for their input. Follow-up district road shows will be held with Mayors and the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. Hon Makamu will be doing those road shows. In addition, having declared war on inadequate access to water for our people, we have started with targeted intervention where a war room to support water services authorities has been created, and it is currently fully functional.

We have started with the Polokwane Municipality and shall continue to apply the same strategy across all water services authorities. We acknowledge that the increase of 1,2 million in population has not been met with the same in terms of infrastructure development. Unfortunately, our #HiNwaMatiFridays campaign, which was meant to accelerate water provision to our people, has not yet materialised as expected. It is for that reason that we will work tirelessly with water boards, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), and water services authorities, in particular municipalities, to find solutions to water needs.

DWS is currently implementing a number of projects, including the raising of the Tzaneen Dam wall, which is currently at 40%, while the pipeline from Nandoni Dam to Nsami Dam has been completed, supplying water to Giyani as needed. The remainder of the work to make the people of Giyani to have access to water is at the reticulation phase by the Mopani District Municipality. Hon Speaker, since our last visit in September 2024, when we launched the #HiNwaMatiFridays at Homu village in Giyani, significant progress has been registered. The first phase, covering 24 villages, has taken shape, with twelve villages receiving water – seven of them reached practical completion of

reticulation, and five are still under construction until June 2025. Your Worship, Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shai, one village at a time, and I know, together we will get water to all our people.

Hon Speaker, it is a fact that road infrastructure is a key enabler for economic development and job creation. The recent floods that have devastated our province have caused a major setback in the progress that we were making towards road infrastructure development, be it #DikgerekgereWednesdays, wherein we were prioritising internal capacity for maintenance of our 13 500 km of unpaved roads, or our #ThibaMekoti campaign that focused on patching potholes on the 6 500 km of tarred roads. We are, however, a resilient people who would not be deterred by such circumstances. Instead, challenges make us stronger and make us navigate better. We shall overcome. We shall repair these roads. We are going to fix these bridges. In partnership with different stakeholders, including the SANDF, mining houses operating in our province and Sanral, we shall bridge over these troubled waters.

I made a call to the community members to give input on my first State of the Province Address. Allow me, therefore, to first welcome some of the responses and comments on our social media platforms. The majority of them were emphasising the attention required on various roads across the province. We may not be able to respond to all the individual comments today. We have, therefore, directed the MEC for Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to work with members of the infrastructure cluster and start prioritising and classifying various roads in our province, whether it's a local, provincial or national road. Let's start prioritising them. This work will assist in prioritisation of roads requiring urgent attention, including the type of rehabilitation needed. The MEC for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will elaborate further during his Budget Vote speech.

Hon Speaker, six months ago, we made a bold commitment to focus on building internal capacity with our Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. To that effect, you saw us not only celebrating the procurement and subsequent delivery of more than 300 units of the yellow fleet but also welcoming new recruits of plant operators and general workers who will be key towards the continuous maintenance of our roads. Let me take this opportunity to commend the sterling work by the MEC Rachoene, Phakana' Hlabirwa and your team of men and women who are working very hard to try to respond to the infrastructure challenges. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, our learners are not only denied access to education because there are no bridges to cross the river, equally, there are no classrooms as a result of this disaster to attend those lessons because these floods have wreaked havoc in our province. It is for that reason that we have taken a decision to establish a disaster reserve fund, which will cater for such unforeseen occurrences exacerbated by the effects of climate change. The decision to establish the fund was taken by EXCO, informed by the turnaround time in the classification and declaration of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002, not forgetting that climate change effects will be with us for a very long time. The MEC for Provincial Treasury will give details on this matter during the provincial Budget Speech because it is not only roads and schools that require this urgent funding, but also health infrastructure, human settlements, libraries and all other public amenities. Honourable Members, after this, we must earnestly plan around strengthening our provincial disaster management centre, its

capacity to respond, its locations, as well as resources to enable it to respond promptly to any disaster that strikes us.

In the spirit of renewal, we undertook a comprehensive audit of our incomplete infrastructure projects, similar to a gardener tending to a neglected garden. We have reactivated many of these dormant initiatives, breathing life into the famous Maphutha Malatji Outpatient Department and clinical support building, which now stands as a beacon of hope in healthcare accessibility for the people of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality. Many of our projects are now in full bloom, actively being implemented. However, we acknowledge that some flowers have not yet blossomed, specifically, the Lebowakgomo Emergency Medical Services, the PMU schools, Lemana and Thusanang Schools. We call upon our dedicated team at the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, alongside our implementing agencies, to diligently finalise an action plan to ensure that these projects equally flourish.

Honourable Members, the Limpopo Department of Education stands as a steadfast lighthouse, illuminating the path towards quality basic education, as enshrined in section 29(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. This section is not merely a legal obligation; it is a promise to every citizen that education is a right, not a privilege. It is on that note that we are improving school readiness by successfully implementing the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy, which is an ECD policy. This has allowed 138 226 children aged 0–4 years to access registered ECD programmes.

We have funded, through our Department of Education, 2 100 registered ECD centres, and we have trained 720 practitioners on the National Curriculum Framework. Hon Speaker, we are doing this to lay a solid foundation for emergent Literacy and Mathematics. We have furthermore invested in the future by enrolling 40 ECD practitioners at the University of Venda to pursue a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Development. This investment is like planting seeds that will grow into a forest of educated minds, ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow and contribute towards exceeding the 2% economic growth target that we are aspiring to achieve by 2029.

Our province has witnessed a remarkable rise in Grade 12 learner performance, with the overall pass rate soaring from 79,5% in 2023 to 85,1% in 2024. [APPLAUSE] Of course, we want to take this opportunity to once more congratulate the matric class of 2024, which has made us proud as a province and helped us to be counted amongst the top six in the country. From having been at some stage the permanent resident of number nine to where we are today is no mean feat. Our special words of appreciation for the sterling political leadership also go to our MEC, Vho-Nyamuofhe Muofhandala Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, mukololo wa Songozwi thavha ya Vhadzanani. Mulafuri muila gwanda la nari and all her generals, from our acting HOD to the educator in the classroom.

This praise is not for free. Our new goal is to elevate this pass rate to surpass the current one, with aspirations to finally reach a 90% goal in the long term. [APPLAUSE] In this digital age, we are embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution by equipping schools with technology that enhances teaching and learning. This commitment to innovation is not just about keeping pace; it is about leading the charge into a future where our learners

are prepared to thrive. The Limpopo Department of Education is also placing focused attention on planning, resourcing and delivery. They are further designating focus schools that will offer curricula aligned to the economic sectors in the province.

Prioritised curriculum offerings and alignment will include subject fields such as Agriculture, Mining, Tourism, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The implementation starts now in 2025/26 with a baseline of 27 focus schools already designated, including eight schools of agriculture that have been established with a target of 55 focus schools in the outer year of the MTEF. School infrastructure development is the final piece of our educational puzzle. We are dedicated to creating conducive learning environments by providing adequate classrooms, sanitation and water infrastructure to our public schools.

Honourable Members, we are proud to report back that we have started with our programme of handing over new schools and new blocks of classrooms. Just the day before yesterday, we were together with the MEC in Sekhukhune District Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi and Makhuduthamaga Municipalities, handing over state-of-the-art Dikgalaopeng and Mpelegeng Primary Schools, respectively. I am told children in the ECD are refusing not to go to school. They are demanding to go to school even on Saturdays and Sundays because of the beauty and the sanitation of those toilets that we have built – proudly brought to you by the loving and caring ANC-led government. [APPLAUSE]

We will be opening one school at a time until all our schools are conducive for learning and teaching. Ke a kwa, dipelo tša lena di bohlo. Ke a kwešiša. We are, however, concerned and worried that the majority of our infrastructure projects are not completed in the stipulated period, leading to project budget escalation and at some stage under expenditure, especially on conditional grant where money is returned to the fiscus. This is mainly as a result of the so-called construction mafias, who stop projects, delay projects, whilst making unjustifiable demands.

We are calling upon communities to work with their traditional leadership, to work with their relevant departments and municipalities to make sure that communities benefit within the framework of the law when a project is being implemented. Our experience with the MEC at Mpelegeng School in Sekhukhune, is that the principal sang praises to the Executive Mayor and Her Worship Cllr Maena Bahula, mmago Noga Mogaleadi, for having intervened. According to the principal, the Executive Mayor had to come in like a woman, ge ba re maswara thipa ka bogaleng, call all the construction mafias and tell them this school will be built and will be finished. The school was built, and the school was finished. Let's do the same. Let's follow suit. [APPLAUSE] This is about the future of our children. The eradication of pit latrines is our priority, and we are on track to address the remaining backlog of 19 schools in the upcoming 2025/26 financial year.

Manana Xipikara na n'wina Vachaviseki hinkwenu, lembe leri nga hundza hi tivisile leswaku hi ta tirhisana na Nkulukumba Holobye wa Dyondzo ya le Henhla, Dokodela Nobuhle Phamela Nkabane, ku katsa na vurhangeri bya Yunivhesithi ya Thekinoloji ya le Tshwane, vona Muchaviseki Xandla xa Chanselara, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke, ku sungula rhavi ra Yunivhesithi eGiyani. Manana Xipikira, ha tinyungubyisa hi ri xifundzankulu xa Limpopo hikuva migingiriko yi ya emahlweni ku tumbuluxa rhavi leri. Murhangeri wa rhavi leri u thoriwile naswona u ta sungula ntirho nh'weti leyi taka ya

Nyenyankulu. Hambisi ri tano, hi twa ku vava hikokwalaho ka leswi yin'wana ya miako ya khale ka Kholeji ya Giyani, yi onhiwile. Leswi vulaka ku ri yi fanele ku lunghisiwa. Swi nga leswi, tidyonndzo ti ta sungula lembe leri taku ra 2026, endzhaku ka loko hi ta va hi lunghisile miako. Yunivhesithi leyi lembe leri ri taka, yi ta dyondzisa ti-dyondzo to fana na thekinoloji na swa vurimi.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, Mopresitente wa naga Morena Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, nakong ya ge a etetše lefase la Sekhukhune o file taelo go mohlomphegi Tona ya Thuto ya Godimo gore a šomišane le boetapele bja profense ya rena ya Limpopo go kgonthišiša gore kholetšhe ya tša meepo le mešomo ya botejeniki ya matsogo e a hlongwa mo lefaseng la ga borena la Sekhukhune. [MAGOFISI] Ke ka fao re tšerego matsapa a go boledišana le Tona ya Thuto go phethagatša taelo ya Mopresitente.

Tona ya Thuto ya Godimo o tshepišitše gore o tlo thoma ngwaga o tlogo wa ditšhelete o tla thoma lenaneo la go aga Community Skills Centre, gona kua Sekhukhune. Re leboga Kgošikgolo, Mmagorena Hlapogadi ka gore le a re thekga kudu mo morerong wo o mogolo wa go aga Kholetšhe ya tša meepo ka kua lefaseng la meepeo la borena la Sekhukhune. Bahlomphegi, morero o mongwe o mogolo ke go kgonthišiša gore dikantoro tša selete tša mmušo tša Sekhukhune di tloge mo Lebowakgomo di boele gabo tšona, ka gore taba ya gore mošomedi wa tša maphelo a tloge kliniking ya Praktiseer a tliša diforomo gore di tlo saeniwa mo seleteng sa Capricorn mo Lebowakgomo ga se yona. [MAGOFISI]

We have, therefore, resolved to revive the interministerial committee to expedite the relocation process. Hon Speaker, we need a healthy community to grow the economy. In recent years, we have seen an improvement in life expectancy. This is a result of our health interventions that are primarily aimed at enhancing the longevity of our people. We have been able to increase the life expectancy of women from the age of 56,6 years in 2001 to the current 68,3 years. We have similarly been able to increase life expectancy for men from age 52,9 years in 2001 to the current 63,2 years. This is attributed to our progressive response to management and treatment of infectious diseases, mainly HIV/Aids, TB, STIs and malaria. We are, however, concerned about the increase in the burden of diseases as a result of noncommunicable diseases, the so-called lifestyle diseases. We direct the MEC for Health to focus on an awareness campaign targeting all these preventable diseases. We want to remind her that she is not the "MEC for Disease" but the MEC for Health. Visit her when you are healthy so that she can advise you on how to keep healthy.

Hon Speaker, in our quest to continue utilising advanced technology to accelerate healthcare delivery, we are, for the first time as a province, in the process of acquiring a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) CT Scan unit worth R42 million, for the nuclear medicine department at Pietersburg Hospital. We are on track for NIH. Honourable Members, we are now beginning to experience the positive impact of procuring and commissioning ambulances annually. The Sixth Administration at that time took a resolution that on an annual basis, they would procure ambulances. That was pronounced by the former Premier.

We must report, as a Seventh Administration, that we are beneficiaries of the work that was done. This is evidenced by the ambulance response time, where the urban and rural response times were realised at 98,2% and 98,7% respectively. This percentage

had never achieved since the dawn of democracy. Our commitment towards a 24-hour clinic service can only be achieved by adequate nursing personnel, hence we have started with the recruitment processes of 313 permanent professional nurses to run the clinics 24 hours and also 40 permanent staff nurses. The major concern will remain the safety of our staff, hence we have directed our MEC to review the norms and standards regarding security at our health facilities because when a clinic doesn't operate 24 hours, unfortunately people who suffer the most are the mothers and their unborn children – but people who rape nurses are males. We need to work with our male counterparts – Not In My Name, you have to assist us.

Health is a labour-intensive department, and a successful NHI implementation will require not only medical officers but also medical specialists. It is on that note that we are directing the MEC for Health to work with the MEC for Provincial Treasury to prioritise the appointment of medical officers. On a positive note, we have now seen an improvement in the increase in number of medical specialists recruited to work in our province. We have now exceeded 160, as compared to when we started in 2017, when we were at 20. The construction of the provincial Central Academic Hospital is progressing satisfactorily, with progress on site above 23%. This hospital will render high-quality medical treatment for complex cases while developing clinical skills for our medical students. In addition, the hospital is expected to focus on medical research as we strive to advance treatments and develop new medical therapies.

Hon Speaker, six months ago, we directed the MEC for Social Development, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety and also the MEC for Health to lead us in the battle against gender-based violence and femicide. By so doing, we directed them to convene a provincial social crime summit, working in partnership with the South African Police Service. Honourable Members, the summit was held successfully. It was attended by more than 200 delegates, representing a relevant and wide range of stakeholders. It was held in the first week of December 2024. Resolutions of the summit are now being implemented.

The recent brutal attack on our nurses whilst on duty and another devastating incident that happened this week of four of our students attacked in their residential areas within the Mopani District simply confirms the notion that we have become the capital city of gender-based violence and femicide. It is on that note that we want to direct our MEC, led by the MEC for Social Development, to continue monitoring and implementing these resolutions, which are also focusing on preventing these crimes. We are calling on our people to desist from the abuse of substances and alcohol as these are also the contributory factors to the high number of domestic and gender-based violence and femicide, as well as other serious crimes. We are continuing with efforts to ensure that our province is a safe haven free from crime.

It is for that reason that our law enforcement agencies are on the ground daily, fighting crime. We are setting up roadblocks, conducting awareness campaigns and fighting illegal mining, but we will never win unless the society is behind us. Madam Speaker, I must also indicate that you have done well with the coordination of campaigns on road safety and social ills. On that note, I would like to extend our words of appreciation as the Executive Council to the Members of this Legislature, including the Members of the National Assembly and the NCOP, not forgetting our Executive Mayors and Mayors who

heeded our call as the Executive Council to support our “Arrive Alive” campaigns during the festive season.

Road safety is everybody's business. Road safety is not just a festive season campaign but an all-year-round activity. As part of fighting poverty, our Department of Social Development is currently implementing social relief programmes wherein nearly 8 000 individuals facing hardship due to disasters and other social conditions are currently being assisted. Thank you, MEC Radzilani. On the other hand, CoGHSTA's mandate is clear: to provide housing, access to basic services and economic opportunities. Out of the 4 555 units targeted, 4 469 housing units were completed, including 54 for military veterans.

This outstanding improvement in performance has resulted in an additional R500 million allocation for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. I am told it was taken from the Western Cape. Let's take this opportunity to congratulate MEC, Hon Basikopo Makamu. Ga ke tsebe sereto sa gagwe, eupša o ka re ke Mohlabi. Mohlabi! [APPLAUSE] Let me take this opportunity to congratulate your team as well on turning things around. Well done, MEC, and keep it up. When they don't spend, they will give the money to us. This is indeed an affirmation of the Stats SA report that Limpopo performs better than all provinces in providing formal dwellings.

Honourable Members, the creative industry has become part of our sunrise economy. Our recent successful bid to host Bafana Bafana after a very long time will go a long way not only in encouraging social cohesion but also in positive economic spin-off for the entire province. We are, therefore, calling upon all Members to be the first ones to buy tickets. Executive Mayor Makoro and MEC Maseko don't have complimentary tickets. We are all buying the tickets. We will continue to work with the municipality to make sure different sporting codes are hosted within our city.

Hon Speaker, in our endeavour to protect and preserve our culture and heritage, our province continues to host the Marula and Mapungubwe Festivals. We shall continue to support, profile, while uplifting the standard of these festivals so that they have a national and marketable footprint. In two days' time, we will be hosting the annual Marula Festival in Phalaborwa. As a build-up to this festival, we have held a successful marathon and the “Ku Luma Vukanyi”, which is the taste of the first fruit of marula across all our districts. Social cohesion has been further bolstered by the celebration of our national days: the Freedom Day, the Africa Day and the Heritage Day, which have united our communities in festivities and dialogue.

The series of community conversations and multilingual campaigns has not only promoted cultural diversity and indigenous languages but has also forged stronger bonds among our citizens, transcending tribal, gender and racial differences. Our support for arts and culture extends to empowering our creative industries. Over 2 800 artists have been uplifted through a diverse range of events and creative projects. Furthermore, nearly 1 300 practitioners have benefited from capacity-building programmes designed to enhance their skills in writing, business planning and authorship. This investment in our creative talent is a testimony to our belief that arts and culture are powerful catalysts for economic growth and social regeneration.

The participation in social cohesion activities has remarkably demonstrated how much we are one people as a province. It is for this reason that we should steadfastly guard against elements that seek to draw us back to the apartheid and colonial times, where people were separated along tribal lines. We do not have room for tribalism in our province. We have dismantled its roots, coming out of inferiority and lack of trust in our ability to build a united and strong Limpopo. We must be proud of the Limpopo we are currently building. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, our commitment to building a capable, ethical, and developmental state is unwavering. We have coordinated the human resource development programmes as well as partnered with SETAs to develop skills across the province. There is a functional Limpopo Skills Development Forum where all SETAs participate. Hon Speaker, when we asked for contributions to our speech on our social media platforms, @ChangingthingsSA on X, formerly known as Twitter, we received an input that says: “The people of the province would like to hear the Premier announce that she will prioritise the engineering profession and engineers...”

B E Seema, on Facebook, also follows on the same trend saying: “... I would recommend that the number of Chartered Accountants Academy posts be increased from 04 to at least 10 so that the contribution towards the efficient control environment on the provincial entities, including the municipalities can be enhanced and for the contribution on the strategy regarding the sustainable and growing business operations of the province.” It is for this reason, honourable Members, that we shall engage in a campaign to increase rare professions within the province, bring skills back into the province, which will help build our economic output and governance.

With increased offerings in higher education and vocational training, we are likely to keep most of our young people who are migrating to other provinces. Honourable Members, our work is also to make our municipalities perform their duties through support. The District Development Model (DDM) has been largely implemented across the province, wherein we have already appointed all our MECs as the district development champions. Similarly, we have begun supporting municipalities by allowing the Executive Council to hold meetings in targeted municipalities in line with the DDM approach. We recently held our extended Executive Council in line with the DDM approach in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.

During our opening of the Legislature on 02 August 2024, following a number of complaints regarding the dysfunctional Thabazimbi Local Municipality, we made a commitment that we will intervene, and in our intervention, we will be decisive. We would like to report that after a successful by-election, a new council has been established, and the stabilisation process is progressing very well. As a provincial government, we are supporting that municipality. The MEC has been there more than two times since the establishment of the new council.

Service delivery goes hand in hand with clean governance, investor confidence is dependent on clean governance. There are pockets of excellence within our municipalities. Hon Speaker, join us in extending our congratulations to Capricorn District Municipality, led by Her Worship, Mbokodo, Executive Mayor Cllr Mamedupi Tefo and Waterberg District Municipality, led by His Worship, Executive Mayor Cllr Jack

Maeko, for attaining clean audits. Le palelwa ke go bethela clean audit matsogo? Mona mara. These are clean audits.

Their dedication to sound governance and financial accountability sets a commendable example, and we encourage all municipalities to follow their lead in achieving clean audits and strengthening financial management. Additionally, several provincial departments have also achieved clean audits, reflecting good governance and prudent financial oversight. These include the Office of the Premier; Provincial Treasury; Department of Sport, Arts and Culture; Limpopo Legislature; and our entities, i.e., Limpopo Gambling Board, Limpopo Tourism Authority and Limpopo Connexion.

We urge all departments to work diligently to maintain and improve their audit outcomes. Those who have consistently received unqualified audits must remain vigilant, as complacency can lead to regression. We similarly call on all departments and entities to intensify their efforts towards excellence in financial accountability. Let us continue to work together towards a harmonious, progressive, and well-governed province.

Honourable Members, the VBS debacle remains an albatross around our necks as the provincial government of Limpopo. However, we are elated that the bank's liquidators have so far recovered R617 million, which accounts for 25,6% of the lost money. This is a very good case for a liquidation case because, normally, such cases file for less than 5% of the recoveries.

Having said that, it is our considered opinion that all the former clients of the bank must receive equitable treatment from the bank's liquidators. The category of clients we are more concerned about includes stokvels, burial societies, and not forgetting individual depositors, especially our grannies, some of whom are no longer with us. Hardly a few days after President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa had recognised the queenship of Her Majesty Queen Masalanabo VII of the Balobedu Queenship, it rained for days on end. I am told that after receiving her invitation to this House, she knew that I had to look nice and that the rain would disturb; a pepula seeta pula ya ema. She is in the House. [APPLAUSE] This rain from the east covered the whole of Limpopo and went on for the entire January and February 2025. Those of us who understand the legend of the Rain Queen were not surprised as we saw the connection between the heavens and the kingdom that had been restored to its rightful heir. Congratulations to you.

We would also like to celebrate the remarkable achievement of our Queen Masalanabo and congratulate her on passing her Grade 12, knowing that there is still room for her to continue her studies. Let's all support our queen. Once again, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Queen Manyaku Thulare, Hlapogadi, on her appointment as the Acting King of the Bapedi Kingship. [APPLAUSE] We are calling on all the Bapedi Kingdom subjects to support our queen mother so that we can see progress in Sekhukhuneland.

Kha vhoiwe Vhakololo Vha Masingo a ha Ramabulana, ndi amba vheiwe vhadulu vha Tshilwavhusiku, ni tou litsha nndu i tshi swa no lavhelesa naa? Pfamo i ya tou dzhena daka ro lavhelesa naa? Ari koni ngani u dzula fhasi ra tandulula ili fhungo, shango la kona u lala, ra do kona u vhuedzedza tshirunzi tsha vuhosi ha Vhavenda.

On assumption of office, we were confronted by a myriad of cases and disputes involving traditional leadership. Some cases were in court, and others were referred to the Office of the Premier for finalisation. As the provincial government, we have begun the process of establishing an advisory panel, which will be tasked with addressing disputes among traditional leaders. We urge all stakeholders to support this panel, ensuring that disputes are resolved amicably before escalating to the courts. The judge who is here has asked me to tell you that we should please resolve our issues without having to go to court. It is possible. Honourable Members, as we approach the initiation school season, we have noted irregularities in certain districts where established guidelines are not being adhered to. We call upon all senior traditional leaders, who are custodians of initiation schools, to strictly comply with the laws that govern initiation practices.

The Premier's advisory team will provide a detailed schedule to ensure that initiation schools operate in alignment with the academic calendar. It is imperative that we strike a balance between preserving our cultural traditions, which is very critical and ensuring that learners do not miss out on their formal education. Hon Speaker, Limpopo is poised to play a significant role in the upcoming G20 meetings, hosting a series of important gatherings that will bring together global leaders and experts to discuss critical issues.

Over the course of 2025, Limpopo will welcome distinguished delegations from around the globe, turning our towns, specifically the enchanting Hoedspruit and the bustling Polokwane, into lively intersections of ideas and innovations. From the agricultural chief scientists' meeting to discussions on the digital economy and artificial Intelligence, our province will become a canvas where the brush strokes of collaboration paint a brighter future for all.

Imagine each meeting as a seed planted in our communal land. The agricultural chief scientists will sow ideas that can flourish into sustainable farming practices, enriching not only our local farmers but also ensuring food security for generations to come. The financial architecture working group will cultivate the roots of fiscal know-how, nourishing the economic landscape of Limpopo, enabling it to grow stronger and more resilient. In the realm of tourism, hosting the G20 is akin to opening the gates of our garden to the world. Each delegate, each guest, is a traveller who will uncover the hidden treasures of Limpopo, the majestic landscapes of the Kruger National Park and Mapungubwe heritage site, the rich tapestry of our cultural heritage and the warm hospitality of our people.

As they walk our paths and breathe our air, they will share stories of their experiences, becoming ambassadors of our province. This ripple effect will invite more visitors to explore the beauty that Limpopo has to offer. Let us embrace the G20 meetings as an opportunity to showcase the richness and hospitality of Limpopo – a province that is ready to share its bounty with the world. As we prepare our garden for this grand event, let us remember that the fruits of our labour will not just benefit us today, but will also sow seeds of opportunity for our future generations.

Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the governing party, my political home, my organisation, the African National Congress, for having given me the opportunity to serve the people of this province. On behalf of my Executive Council, I would also like to thank the standing and oversight committees of the Limpopo

Legislature, who have been instrumental in driving and monitoring our work throughout. We still look forward to their guidance in this Seventh Administration. We also want to thank our provincial administration as led by the Director-General and HODs, not forgetting our DDGs and all public servants in the province. We thank you in advance because we know you are going to help us achieve the goals of the implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my family, especially my strong pillar, my mother, in particular for her support. It has not been easy at times, but they have been able to keep up with me.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, Limpopo's transformation is not the task of government alone, it belongs to all of us, the private sector, our communities and the civil society. We must stand together as co-owners of this new chapter. We call on investors to seize the vast opportunities we are unlocking. We urge our people, whether here at home or across the country and the world, to bring their skills. They must bring their networks, and they must bring investments back to build the Limpopo of our dreams. I thank you. Ndo livhuwa. Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier, for addressing the people of the province. Nna ge pula e khutše, ke be ke re o romile nna go bopula poleiti, bjale ke a kwa gore o leboga bengmabu. Thank you so much, Hon Premier. Thank you so much for addressing the people of the province. We shall now call upon the Hon Deputy Speaker, Tebogo Mamorobela, to give a vote of thanks and to make announcements. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker; Premier; Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs, Members in the House; our very own, Her Majesty the Acting King of the Bapedi Queenship na mahosi a vho riṅe, vhothovhele na musanda; ndi khou vha lumelisa nga haano masiari.

Today is indeed a great day for the people of Limpopo. The Hon Premier, Dr Phophi "Singo" Ramathuba, has said a tone for the provincial government service delivery roadmap for the Seventh Administration and outlined the key strategic focus for the 2025/26 financial year. There are key deliverables outlined by the Premier, which will benefit the citizens of Limpopo. We want to thank you for that, Hon Premier. We expect the departments to provide a detailed plan of action during their Budget Speech presentations. Thank you very much, Hon Premier, for your leadership. We are certain that the people of Limpopo will receive quality services they rightfully deserve. As the Limpopo Legislature, we will play our oversight role in ensuring that the people of Limpopo benefit from provincial government programmes.

I also want to thank you, Speaker, Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, Dr Grace Makoma Makhurupetje – she will certainly invite you – for presiding over this important Sitting. The Makhurupetje family, we thank you. The Manamela family, we thank you. I would also like to thank my family, the Mamorobelas and the Maifos. Let me also thank the Members of Parliament from both the NA and the NCOP. We thank you. We see you there. The Members of the Executive Council who have just received further

instructions from the Premier, we thank you and all the Members of the Legislature. We now have three doctors here in the Legislature of Limpopo. We have got Dr Che Selane. [APPLAUSE] We have got Dr Malebana. We have got our Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. We have got our very own medical doctor, Dr Phophi “Singo” Ramathuba. Thank you very much, Members of this august House.

We also want to thank our leaders, especially our traditional leaders and, of course, our beautiful queens. Vhothovhele na misanda ya vho riṇe na vhakololo vhoṭhe, ro pfa na mukololo Vho Nyamuofhe vha tshi khou rendiwa u itela uri ri vhe kha vhuimo ha vhuṭanu. We appreciate your presence. We also want to thank our esteemed guests, our media and all of you who are here today, as you are here today supporting us, the guests of honourable Members and their partners. We also want to express our gratitude to all of you who have graced this occasion, in particular the staff of the Limpopo Legislature being led by our Secretary, Dr Maake.

We also want to thank you MEC for Public Works, Dikgerekgere. As the Legislature, we see an improvement. As we entered the Legislature today, it is very clean. You can see our roads are being painted again. Our lights are being restored here. We thank you for everything that you have done. I heard that today the Premier was sitting in her office for the first time. They office that was last sat by the former Premier, Mr Moloto. We want to thank you for the department's work with your team. We also want to thank the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality for everything that you have assisted us with, including giving us the hall where all of us are going to have lunch. We thank you very much, Meyara wa rena.

We also want to thank all our law enforcement officers, the EMS, our joint operation committees and various operations committees for ensuring that this event is successful. We thank you very much for coming and being part of this calendar of Limpopo – of course, one of the biggest days in Limpopo. Thank you very much to all our guests.

Honourable Members, guests and the VIPs will all go and have lunch at Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipal Civic Hall, the venue that our Mayor has given us for free. [APPLAUSE] We thank you very much for that. We are all going to that hall. All our guests and VIPs, please adhere to the traffic rules as you proceed to the hall. Our protocol officers will be waiting for you in the hall, and they will usher you in. The lunch for all officials, security cluster, cultural groups and other stakeholders will be at the Legislature basement parking. Our protocol officers will also be ushering you to that basement area. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

While you are sitting down, Deputy Speaker, you must know that you will be referred to the Ethics Committee for saying things that are not official in the formal Sitting. I think Dr Che Selane and Hon Mathe will be responsible for that Ethics Committee meeting. Thank you so much. Honourable Members, I think it would not be right for me not to introduce the other senior traditional leaders who are here whom we did not acknowledge, and we apologise for that. Re na le Ndabezitha, Hosi Ntsan'wisi; ba emetše Limpopo in the National House of Traditional Leaders. Ba gona ba na le rena

mo. I also recognise Kgošigadi Mme wa ka Ntwampe; ke le bone ke šetše ke tšwetše pele. Re le amogetše.

Gape, go na le mešate ya mo Lepelle-Nkumpi ye e re amogetšego: Mphahlele Traditional Authority; Kekana Traditional Authority; Mathabatha Traditional Authority; Chuene Traditional Authority; Mafefe Traditional Authority; Ledwaba Traditional Authority and Seloane Traditional Authority. Ba emetšwe lehono mo. Ge re ka se ba tsebiše re ka se humane dijo. They are warmly welcome. Re kgopela tshwarelo ge re sa ba tsebiša ka nako. Again, normally in our Sitting as the Legislature, ge yo mongwe wa rena a gola ka letšatši la gona re a mo opelela. We, therefore, want to apologise to Hon Magolo Matlebjane, we know it's your birthday today. Happy birthday. We will be able to sing for you when the visitors are gone. However, we acknowledge that today is your birthday. Happy birthday.

Thank you so much, honourable Members. We have now come to the end of our Sitting. This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 04 March 2025, at 10:00 in the legislative Chamber here in Lebowakgomo. The House is adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 04 MARCH 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Good afternoon, honourable Members. Items number 2 to 6 on the Order Paper have been deferred to next week's Sitting.

[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

We shall now go to the debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address. I shall call upon Hon Essob Mokgonyana.

7.1 Debate on the State of the Province Address

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Speaker, Makoma Makhurupetje; the Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council; fellow Members of this august House; ladies and gentlemen in the public gallery; receive our revolutionary salutations, as we usher in the month of March, which is synonymous to this country's human rights. This month symbolises the great lengths that our people went to in order for us to attain this freedom and democracy, whose fruits we are all celebrating today.

Hon Speaker, we are not ashamed to say that the ANC has been at the helm of this country's liberation struggle, and we have optimally used the post-democratic epoch to advance the lives of our people. Today, South Africa is held in high regard globally because of the African National Congress as its leader of government. We are a

dominant player in the geopolitical space because of the resilient state capacity that the ANC has built in the Republic.

We are synonymous with human rights, freedom and democracy, and we have proven that by standing with nations that are marginalised and downtrodden. When we advocate for peace and the freedom of the people of Palestine, the Western Sahara and Cuba, we do so because we know what disenfranchisement can do to nationhood. It is for this reason that we remain relentless in our quest towards the attainment of continental peace and stability, even if our most treasured assets are sacrificed in the battle lines.

As the Premier stood on this podium last week Thursday, she was echoing the dreams and aspirations of our forebearers, who believed in building an equal society where all people enjoy the same set of rights. The African National Congress has used the past thirty years to level the playground and push back the frontiers of poverty, and inequality, to create a prosperous society for all. The tangible evidence to Premier Dr Ramathuba Phophi's assertions is evident in the exponential growth of various sectors of the economy during the past 30 years.

We have widened the net in the provision of basic services to our people. Infrastructural projects like building of roads, electricity and water provision have been the bone of this government's existence in the past 30 years. We have built roads where none existed. We have provided health facilities in unthinkable communities. We have provided water in villages where nobody has ever dreamt of water. We have built schools' infrastructure in communities who were told that education is not for them.

Despite the inroads that we have made in the past three decades, we are also alive to the glaring realities of numerous areas where there are still backlogs of water services, health provision and many other basic services. We are honest to ourselves and where we have encountered challenges, we have always been the first to acknowledge and confront them.

Hon Speaker, the honest truth is, it will take more than a single lifetime for any government to undo the indelible damage that the apartheid arrangement has caused to this country's social and economic fibre.

Albert Einstein reminds us that: "Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters". It is for this reason that in every task that we carry out, we have instituted proper monetary mechanisms to be able to gauge our work and be able to account to our people.

Unlike the apartheid regime, accountability and openness have been the mainstay of this democratic government. We have installed proper mechanisms to detect any acts of graft and corruption, something which was far-fetched and uncommon during apartheid. Under this democratic rule, we have exposed high volumes of corruption because we have set ourselves high standards of governance.

We shall therefore use the Seventh Administration of this provisional government to amplify our energies as we forge ahead with our quest to improve the lives of our people. We welcome the countless pronouncements made by the Premier during her State of

the Province Address, including the actualisation of both the Special Economic Zones in Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse. Until our people start to reap the fruits of this much-vaunted economic programme, they will remain a pipe dream and wishful thinking to them.

But we have confidence in this Premier's leadership capabilities because for the few months that she has been at the helm of this provisional government, we have witnessed numerous programmes of monumental proportions. We are steadfast and holding firm on this noble mission of using state resources to advance the lives of our people.

We have not faltered in any of the commitments that we have set ourselves during the ensemble of the Congress of the People in Cape Town in 1955. Today, some 70 years on, as we commemorate the anniversary of what is known as the Freedom Charter, a cornerstone to this country's freedom and democracy, we do so beaming with pride and self-assurance that we have not faltered on any of the promises that we have set for ourselves and those who came before us. The principles of the Freedom Charter are the heartbeat of this democratic government that rules on the will of the people.

When the people of this province marched to the polls during the May 29 elections, they were driven by a common appreciation of the overwhelming achievements that were underscored by the ANC government. As a strategic site of the struggle, we will continue to use this Legislature and its various committees to monitor the work of government departments based on the undertakings made during the Premier's State of the Province Address. We have attained most of the goals that are enshrined in the Freedom Charter, and the recent enactment of the Expropriation Bill is testament to our unwavering commitment towards this objective.

We have stunned the world's superpowers with our radical policy positions, and we remain unshaken in our resolve to build our economy on an equal footing. Honourable Members, we are unflinching on the land question, because it is the only thing in the world worth working for, worth fighting for, worth dying for, since it is the only thing that lasts. Just like many other transitional programmes, this government will not handle the expropriation of land programme in a reckless manner that will compromise the economy.

Hon Speaker, the ANC government has managed this country's transition with aplomb and have done everything possible to safeguard the state's sovereignty. The ANC in Limpopo will do everything possible to repay the people of this province for their persistent trust in its capacity to deliver their dreams and a better life. We owe them a great debt of gratitude, and the only way to repay them is by leading their government honestly and providing them with affordable services diligently.

Hon Speaker, if we are to revolutionise the SMME sector, we will have to dismantle the barricades to economic participation within the sector. We have received with ululation the directive by the Premier to the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Tshitereke Matibe, to ensure that this government continues with its programme to disburse funding to SMMEs. We cannot have a government that continues to use a stringent regulatory framework which blockades the participation of SMMEs into the economy.

The Marxist theory argues that “Laws and regulations are inherently biased towards the capitalist class, as they are designed to maintain the status quo and protect their economic interests, even when seemingly neutral”. While we encourage and welcome this development, we are however not advocating that this should be a free-for-all jamboree, where Muribani’s business ideals will be funded based on relaxed stipulations. We want the small, medium and micro enterprises sector to thrive, but this cannot be done at the detriment of fair and established business practices.

On the same vein, we also want to commend the provincial government’s ability to pay suppliers within the stipulated 30 days period. Hon Speaker, during the various community engagements that we held towards the 2024 general election, our people were vociferous in their waiting for water as a basic service. As we were campaigning for elections, water provision, or its lack thereof, has come out sharply as the main bone of contention throughout the various localities within the province.

You will also agree with me that our regress in the provision of water to our people is a result of the unprecedented development in human settlements, which outpaced the government capability to build infrastructure. The same has happened in the building of roads and networks and other pertinent infrastructure, whose delivery pace was outrun by this province’s exponential human settlement growth. We are still grappling with the underdevelopment of the past 300 years.

Hence, we still have communities whose services are bare minimum. But we draw strength in programmes like the Hin’wa mati Fridays, Dekgerekgere Wednesdays, Rural Health Matters, and a host of others, which resonate with this government’s ambition to expedite services to our people. All these interventions are imminent towards the realisation of a full-throttle service provision to the population.

Our programme of unveiling state-of-the-art schools is in full swing. We continue to witness great returns on the investment of our schools’ infrastructure, as attested by the 2024 matric result. We have greatly outdone ourselves on this front, and we have surpassed our own expectations as we achieved a staggering 85,1%, while we have set ourselves a target of 80%. As Limpopo, we have a good exposure of the sun throughout the year, and we thank the provisional government for using this natural source of energy towards its development.

The participation of some towns in the renewable energy sector is a demonstration that the developmental agenda of Limpopo is in tandem with the other parts of the Republic. How can we not applaud this Premier’s energetic prowess, which has seen her and Members of the Executive Council traversing the length and breadth of this province, engaging with the electorate on one programme or the other? We have seen this Premier walking the talk during road safety campaigns, launching and officially opening schools, visiting hospitals, agricultural projects, and a litany of other government programmes as a true committed leader of her people. She is a true embodiment of the dictum “a government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

Last week Thursday, as guests and members and honourable Members were entering this House, let me go through this Hon Speaker and stop here. I have been requested not to go there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokgonyana. You even gave us four minutes extra. Thank you very much. I will now call upon Hon Mapoulo Lawrence.

THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Premier, the august House, the Economic Freedom Fighters, and the progressive alliance that is here.

Hon Speaker, the Premier has surrounded herself with the members of the executive who do not support her vision. She put a trust on backstabbers who are hell-bent on toppling her from the position she is holding. This Premier must kick all of them out of the executive and appoint new people who will support her vision. CoGHSTA MEC, Hon Basikopo Makamu, is the worst among all members of the executive. All his projects collapsed under his watch.

We were shocked when we cheered and praised him during our State of the Province Address. Hon Speaker, when the State of the Province Address is marred by rhetoric and tainted by deceit, it stifles genuine dialogue and deprives citizens the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about the future of our province. When politicians make false pledges during State of the Province Address or any other public platform for that matter, it undermines the trust on politicians and erodes the very foundation of democracy.

From infrastructure development to fiscal security, the repercussions of broken promises reverberate throughout society, especially with the poorest of the poor who are on the receiving end of broken promises. We should treat as fake news any commitment made to the people but never comes to pass. It is brutal emotional abuse, the raising of false expectations to the people.

The Premier stood here on Thursday, 27 February 2025, and spread fake news instead of reporting on achievements stemming from commitments made during the opening of the Seventh Legislature. Sadly, more commitments were made on top of the ones that were made and not achieved, creating a backlog of unfulfilled promises. And we would like to thank the MEC for Transport whom we phoned to say we've got a road in Marowe and Eldorado. She responded, immediately. But other MECs, when we call them, we make them angry. The Premier missed an opportunity to redeem her office from the zero trust our people have on ANC politicians.

These commitments made are there and recorded. You can't sugarcoat and gloss them over. Hon Speaker, truth be told, this Premier is no different from her predecessors in the sense that she has not proven to be trustworthy and genuine enough in her dealings with the service delivery needs of our people.

She's trying hard to be different and distance herself from her predecessors, but it's all the same. Nothing will change, as long as you have backstabbers behind you. Hon Speaker, Limpopo GDP growth has been slow with 0,2% growth rate in 2023 and 1% growth in 2022, signifying that this province has a challenging economic landscape.

Furthermore, the unemployment rate is now sitting at 31,9%, which compounds poverty levels in the province, and we are glad that you admitted that to this august House. But what are you doing about it? Admitting and doing something about the situation, especially one which impacts the lives of our people, are two different things.

Hon Speaker, 'Hi n'wa mati Friday' initiative, is a scam and fake news. The villages in Sekhukhune, around the 300 million cubic meter De Hoop Dam, are still water-starved today, despite the announcement of the fake programme. The people of Giyani are also water-starved, and we are asking ourselves who benefits from this initiative because most affected areas in the province are not benefiting.

Hon Speaker, the Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZs are dreams deferred. This dream to build a highly industrialised, smart city which is expected to create more than 22 000 jobs for our people may never be realised in our lifetime as long as the ANC-led government is in place. Last year, the Premier alluded that she has mandated the MEC for LEDET to come up with a 6 months turnaround strategy. Where is that strategy as we speak?

We are now being told that they need approval from the south side of the project for the establishment of a township. Do you need 10 years to resolve on such an issue? Worse, Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ was stagnated and yet we are being told about R10 billion investment commitment in the project, but there's nothing to show. Furthermore, we are being told that the infrastructure development at Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ is underway when in fact nothing is happening. There's literally nothing going on as we speak only the fence which will soon be vandalised and stolen if no operation takes place.

Hon Speaker, a very painful issue here that I'm raising. The MEC for Social Development, I called her myself to say there is a family of 13-year-old at Sehlale where Mayor Mpe is staying. As I speak right now the little girl, is gone. And I say, may her soul rest in peace. I don't know how you sleep at night. I requested you to go and give the 13-year-old's family food to eat. Today, as I speak here, they've lost that little girl. I don't know how you pray even when you are in front of the altar and the pulpit.

Hon Speaker, according to Statistics South Africa, during the fourth quarter in 2024, Limpopo saw the most significant decrease in employment among all the provinces with a drop of 16,000 jobs. The unemployment rate in Limpopo is higher than the national average due to the job losses, yet the Premier is going around making all kinds of noises amounting to nothing. Agriculture, construction, and the community and social services sectors in Limpopo experienced job losses. You can't be on top but do nothing.

Hon Speaker, the Zebediela citrus farm which has potential to create more than 200 jobs remains the shadow of it's former glory. Listening to the Premier during SOPA, it was clear that she's throwing her hands in the air giving up on such important legendary project which has been changing the lives of the people to the better. She has simply acknowledged the government interventions on this project did not work and therefore a total waste of taxpayers' money.

It is the ANC-led government that collapsed most of the projects. It is the "EFF government" that will revive such collapsed projects. The story of Zebediela citrus is a

tale of decline. The estate is not only physically run down but burdened with 170 billion. Dilo di šarakane, dilo di hlaforokane.

There's nothing that's changed here. The Premier alluded to the fact that the government wants to establish agro-processing plants but fell short of telling us about the corruption in the 100 million tomato processing plant in Tzaneen. The government is sitting on an explosive forensic report which they don't want to release because it implicates their friends and foes.

Hon Speaker, government's failure arises because politics become the enemy of good public policy because the Premier and her appointees are uninterested. In some instances, unqualified to manage public affairs and because agencies themselves can undermine effective administration because the ANC-led government and political leaders have committed interest in mining. They are failing to hold mining companies accountable. The EFF will embark on a visit to all mines to make sure and force them to put industries in front of those mines.

Hon Speaker, I need to share with you that Thobela FM is the mouthpiece of the ANC. It is no longer the mouthpiece of the government. If needed, I will testify and give you clear evidence about this Thobela FM. Dilo di šarakane, dilo di hlaforokane here in Limpopo. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mapoulo. We shall now call upon, Hon Tshitereke Matibe. [INTERJECTION]

MS MOGOANE

Hon Speaker, on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes.

MS MOGOANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Good morning. I don't want to try and disrupt Hon Tshitereke Matibe, but I just want to raise a concern on what I observed earlier when Hon Mapoulo was speaking. Honourable Members from the other side were howling and I don't think that would be right to howl at each other. We are very organised today, and we are quiet. What they are doing, when we do it, you will not like it. I just saw you keeping quiet. I thought I must raise it. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Member. I hope even next time, yourself will not be saying anything because during SOPA you were not quiet. Today we thank God that you are very quiet. Thank you very much. Hon Matibe, you may continue.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; my fellow MECs; honourable Members; ladies and gentlemen; good day.

A paper recently referred to in the halls of the National Assembly titled from “Crisis to Opportunity, a Path to Sustainable Growth” by the political economic scholar Jay Landman aptly calls the complex story of the journey of our province is traversing. In its pages the paper deliberates through a longitudinal study of a growing South Africa's economic performance over a long lengthy period. Hon Deputy Speaker, in the context of Limpopo province, the time of great crisis happened in 2008, a time of dire economic strains, but the era of opportunity is now.

The Premier's speech not only recognised this, but in its lean, direct, and militate state is a call to action for all interested in the prosperity of this great province we call home. It is only fitting that I express my deep-seated appreciation to the Premier for a dedicated and express pursuit towards the beneficiation drive in our mining industry and the industrialisation of our province. It is with this kind of enterprise by our Premier that we will be able to see the realisation of special economic zones during this term of administration, not in our lifetime, during this term of administration.

With her instruction, we have analysed the issues and identified the factors that have held this critical nose of economic activation back. All the six-point plan, Hon Deputy Speaker, that we put in this House, we have achieved all of them. We have achieved six of them. Now processes are underway to unlock their potential. The township establishment of the north side was previously delayed by land issue, which was resolved by this Seventh Administration.

We must thank the MEC for Public Works, Dikgerekgere, the MEC for Agriculture, and yourself, Hon Premier, for unlocking this land issue, which now is a thing of the past. The service provider was appointed, and Musina Local Municipality have now signed, as we speak. Hon Premier, the ceding of the donation of the land on the 20th of February, as pronounced by yourself, Hon Premier. That has happened. It's not a dream. It's something. It's not fake news. It has happened.

On the south side of the SEZ, we have recognised the progress achieved by continuous consultation between stakeholders on the outstanding matters. The flow area ratio will be completed by the 11th of March. We are putting targets and dates.

The traffic impact assessment on the 25th of March, the legal team will address the outstanding objections by the 11th of March. We anticipate that the submission by Makhado MPT will be ready on the 14 April 2025. It's not fake news.

As a province, our efforts towards a continuous drive for investment has gained momentum with every relevant occasion. During the 2025 Mining Indaba, the province followed up on investor pledges made at the 2024 Investment Conference from companies including Energy Africa, Zero Carbon Charge, Anglo Platinum, Glencore, Mantengu, Super Precious Metals. I want to report, Hon Deputy Speaker, on the progress made on those companies.

Mantengu will spend R200 million in phase one and will create 250 jobs. The full project will cost R3 billion. The company acquired MIB Phalaborwa PMC will recapitalise it with R50 million to rehabilitate PMC assets and other another one in Thabazimbi.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Zero Carbon Charge will be rolling out electric vehicle charging station along the N1 focussing following initial key points namely Musina, Makhado, Bela-Bela, Modimolle-Mokgophong, and Polokwane. And out of this electric vehicle charging station, they said to us they are going to employ women in all these stations. We say, "Igama lamakhosikazi". [APPLAUSE]

The Super Precious Metal will be working on the treatment of trailing dumps at the Fumani gold mine in Mopani District. The project aims to recover material from all these three trailing drums approximately 150,000 tonnes over 15 months. We are going to start beneficiation in our own mine before we call upon private sector to come in.

Glencore beneficiation will happen during this Seventh Administration, not fake news. Glencore and Anglo-American Platinum are well on course in implementing their pledges made in the first and second iteration of the investment conferences and further committed to signing MOAs with Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park to collaborate on key beneficiation projects.

It's not going to be only the fence in Fetakgomo-Tubatse, we are going to put battery storage, fuel cells, hydrogen economy activities, skills and enterprise development programmes. It's not fake news. We are establishing a committee to deal with any other bottlenecks, faced by investors so that actualisation of all these pledges could be fast-tracked.

Hon Premier, as a department, through our Limpopo Economic Development Agency we are taking seriously the work of re-evaluating the criterion of SMME Support Fund, as you directed, to ensure that it recognises the potential of successful business of previously marginalised groups, support and mentor them in an effort to ensure inclusivity and redress.

In addition, we are driving towards great youth participation through what we call Township and Rural Business Programme, designed for youth graduates with technical skills and those that aspire to pursue entrepreneurial ambitions. We are honoured that the Hon Premier has given us the privilege to be the Province Chief Marketing Agency, and we see the coming G20 Summit with up to six workshops headed to us as a great opportunity to cement ourselves once again on the grand global stage.

We are proud to indicate that, as announced by the Premier last week, our province hosted a successful Marula Festival, supporting 14 rural women cooperatives who traditionally brew the beverage for purchasing 12 000 litres of the brew for the festival. The open-air concert sold over 7 500 tickets, with the value of more than a million, a record performance by the team. The value and economic impact of this concert for Phalaborwa as the hosting town is astronomical and will be felt for months to come.

We want to therefore thank the people of Limpopo for entrusting us with this event. They continue to demonstrate, as they did at the polls in 2024, that their confidence in the ANC-led government is not misplaced. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matibe. We shall now call about Hon Wilson Evelyn.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me start by giving the Premier some credit. She was honest enough to admit that her hashtag campaigns had failed, as we predicted in her last SOPA.

Her first address showed that she lacked a clear grasp of the province's challenges, and we hoped she had a better understanding by now. She also rightly noted that given last year's failures, we must do something differently and we agree with you Premier. But Premier, your address then became macaroni without cheese, lacking substance.

Our unemployment rate exceeds 30% by the narrow definition and nearly 50% by the expanded one, with many giving up finding work. This drives poverty, child malnutrition and reliance on inadequate social grants, misaligned with the living costs. You're correct that industrialisation and development are vital for jobs, but talk is cheap.

Investment and development hinge on basics: water, electricity, roads, transport, health care and education. Billions in pledges are meaningless without these things in place. As the DA we support partnering with the private sector for jobs, but this must be transparent. Who is investing, in what and for what returns?

We are entitled to know as the oversight body of this province's administration in ensuring compliance with the laws. We will not tolerate shortcuts or crude circumvention of any laws. Take the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. After 10 years and over R1 billion spent, there is little progress. You admitted this Premier, we don't know where the money went. Site visits show nothing justifying the cost.

Worse, SCOPA admitted that the clearing of the north site was done without permits, clearly breaching the law. Who's accountable? Who has been held accountable? You must set the standard for clean governance. This project divides communities, threatening the environment, water, ecology and other sectors of our economy, including agriculture and tourism.

The Department of Water and Sanitation just a couple of weeks ago warned us that despite current sufficiency, the MMSCZ (Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone) would cause a water deficit in Vhembe within just a few years, without prior intervention. Premier, no water, no development. Cart before the horse, macaroni without the cheese.

On water, I've laid criminal charges against the Vhembe District Municipality for failing Makhado. Some areas like Newtown lack water for years, forcing residents to pay up to R4,000 a month to survive. This is a breach of the Constitution and the Water Act.

Is this incompetence, mismanagement or a water mafia? When was Tshikota Reservoir last serviced? Your water task team comes too late. Over a year ago, the Human Rights

Commission demanded turnaround strategies from Water Service Authority municipalities, the MEC of CoGHSTA and your office, Premier. Where are they? If they exist, share them with us.

If not, why? We await the war room invite. We commend your stance on the construction mafia, but who appoints these disruptive companies? You mentioned VBS theft, haunting the poor. Yet corruption persists. Irregular appointments, sex for jobs scandals, road agency Limpopo mismanagement and legal costs pile up, failing to improve roads vital for growth. Floods do worse than this, but collapsing infrastructure predates them. We are monitoring every municipality and tracking your promises.

The Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube's initiation of building new schools is welcomed, but what about pit toilets, overcrowded classes and failing scholar transport ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Sorry, Hon Wilson, there's an order by Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I would want to establish if Hon Wilson, can be able to take a question? And in furtherance, if she's aware that Hon Selane and Hon Mathe are in the house.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Please continue.

MS WILSON

Thank you, I will not take a question at this point. Honourable members are welcome to question me after the Sitting. We continue to hear of the dreadful treatment at clinics, the lack of security personnel and clinic staff who got abducted and raped. This led to the closure of a clinic. It simply should not have happened. Collapsing infrastructure at our hospitals and clinics, gross under-resourcing, lack of personnel and failing machinery have become a norm at many clinics.

The only people who suffer are the poor and vulnerable. The USA's PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) withdrawal endangers millions of lives with HIV and TB. We must act now as antiretrovirals vanish. Our medical facilities, as they stand, will not cope with the upcoming crisis. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Over to Dr Selane.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Madam Speaker. I want to raise a point of order on Hon Wilson because of her generalisation of issues that she's raising. Hon Wilson is not specific in terms of the issues that she is raising, especially with regard to healthcare, where there is a lack of personnel. These allegations are mischievous in a sense that they lack credibility. They intend to denigrate the state of the governance in this particular province. So, I'm raising order on that particular point; that generalisation will not assist. Let her be specific. If it's Mankweng Hospital, let it be, in actual fact be raised. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Selane noted. You may continue.

MS WILSON

Thank you. Give me 25 minutes to make a speech and I will give you a notification on everyone. Our commercial farming sector has long been the backbone of our economy.
[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, Deputy Speaker, I'm standing here to call to order to members of the ANC, the way they are so disruptive. We are here in the House and I'm getting more perturbed about the state of affairs now. We are in a House. Let them respect this House, not just order, order. And why order, because you are members of GNU together.

MR LEBOGO

Order, Hon Speaker. Point of order. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, I hope you are not going to say the same thing that was said by Hon Mapoulo.

MR LEBOGO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. You will note that for the fact that there's a crisis in the province, one should not assume that there is generalisation. St. Rita's Hospital, Matlala Hospital, Seshego Hospital, Zone 4 Clinic and many any other healthcare facilities have shortages of staff. Thank you.

DR SELANE

Order, Speaker! Hon Speaker, order!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Dr Selane, wait. I think you are repeating what Dr Selane said, can you please continue. Honourable Members let's not repeat what honourable Members have said already.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Our commercial farming sector has long been the backbone of our economy and has evolved into a globally competitive industry. However, collapsing municipal governance, failing service delivery, failing infrastructure and exceptionally porous borders threaten our productivity and competitiveness. This must be addressed.

Be bold, Premier, Limpopo is blessed with vast tracts of arable land owned by the state and traditional communities. If you can unlock the land, we can significantly expand our agriculture sector and establish a cohort of viable emerging farmers working in conjunction with the commercial farmers, as recently demonstrated by the signing of the Vhembe Agricultural Multiplier Memorandum of Understanding.

Don't gloss over the cracks. Fill them. No more macaroni without cheese. Limpopo people deserve the whole dish, not only half of it. Having said that, Hon Speaker, I must admit that we look forward to the Budget Speech, which I'm sure the MEC for Provincial Treasury is not.

As South Africa just fell off the financial precipice, we could be paying a very big price, which is going to seriously affect what we do in the next couple of years. I thank you,

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. Let me now call upon the MEC, Hon Nakedi Kekana. [INTERJECTION]

MS MOGOANE

We have noted the disruption of the ANC, Speaker.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Madam Speaker, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; my fellow MECs present; Chief Whip of the majority party, honourable Members; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, thobela.

Hon Speaker, allow me to borrow my introduction to this debate from the poem titled: "I want to apologise to all the women I have called pretty" by Rupi Kaur.

"i want to apologise to all the women
i have called pretty.
before i've called them intelligent or brave.
i'm sorry I made it sound as though
something as simple as what you're born with
is the most you have to be proud of

when your spirit has crushed mountains
 from now on i will say things like *you are resilient*,
or you are extraordinary,
 not because I don't think you are pretty,
 but because you are so much more than that"

Hon Premier, as we gather here today to compliment your SOPA and commend your leadership, lest we forget that you are the beacon of hope for young girls in the villages and townships of Limpopo province. We will not get tired to remind ourselves and everyone around us that you stand on the foundation laid by Ma Lilian Masidiba Matabana Ngoyi, a hailing from GaMphahlele, Hon Mphahlele. The first women elected to the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress.

Hon Premier, you join the contemporary list of great women in the history of Limpopo, such as Justice Yvonne Mokgoro, the first black female judge in South Africa; Tsakani Maluleke, the first female Auditor-General of South Africa; Mandisa Maya, the first woman Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa; Puleng LenkaBula, the first-ever female Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa. We are also grateful that your ascendance to the premiership of our province has recently inspired the ANC Youth League in Limpopo to elect its first female provincial chairperson. Here you are, Cde Faith Sehopela. [APPLAUSE]

Therefore, let me also refer to this august House to another Rupi Kaur's wisdom in the poem. What is the greatest lesson a woman should learn? When she reminded us that since day one, she is already an everything she needs within herself. It is the word that convinced her she did not.

Hon Premier, indeed, our is a distinct graduate of this lesson as she continues to provide clarity in her leadership and demonstrate capacity in the provincial government's efforts to provide services to the people of Limpopo. The progress that the Seventh Administration has already achieved in a short space of eight months. The vision and mission outlined in this SOPA bear testimony that indeed our Premier already had everything she needs within herself. Let me commend you, Hon Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for delivering an accountable, practical and visionary State of the Province Address.

The 2025 SOPA provides not only an account for the previous work of the ANC-led government but also recount on the progress and challenges observed in the first eight months of the Seventh Administration. This SOPA is a blueprint of the Seventh Administration BNGAP term development plan, charting a clear path towards bettering the lives of the people of Limpopo through, amongst others, economic growth, job creation, food security, agriculture and road development, attested by the massive pledges our province ever received from the investors during the Investment Conference. Ka nnete tša etwa ke ye tshadi pele dinwa maswi a fresh, a go tšwa ka kua di Nguni cattle tša Mara le Towoomba.

The reality of this idiom is literally experienced by the people of Limpopo because they are their own liberators. As confirmed in this SOPA, where the Premier took 10 minutes of her time strengthening the province's economic pillars, in particular agriculture and mining, in pursuit of driving the inclusive economic growth, job creation, reduction of poverty, while tackling the highest cost of living as we build a capable and

developmental stage. And myself and MEC Matibe, we have heard her and we will do everything in our power to hit the ground running and we have started. The Premier's invitation of the young women farmer from Moletjie, who is immensely supported by this province, Hon Wilson, to be upgraded from a backyard farmer to a small-scale farmer and also an aspirant to become a fully commercial farmer, bears testimony to inclusive economy that touches the lives of the people of Limpopo, including the designated groups.

As much as the Premier's sampled Wendy Moshakga, as a testimony we'll have more padas in the pool, which include the likes of KharoseKharose, the young interpreter, a sweet potato yogurt process plant here in Polokwane industrial zone, and the rest will be unfolded during the Budget Speech. Just recently, our Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, together with the Agricultural Research Council, hosted an agro-processing community outreach at Masia village, Vhembe District. We believe that turning agricultural raw materials into durable products will strengthen rural economy and enhance food security in the province.

This agro-processing community outreach was aimed at educating small-scale rural farmers on the importance of agro-processing. The Premier emphasized on agriculture and mining, also prompted the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Steenhuisen, Hon Wilson, to write me a letter to request Limpopo to host the G20 Agricultural Working Group Summit meeting on the 26th to the 28th of May 2025. The preparatory activities leading to G20 Summit, which our President, President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, will be hosting.

In order to promote policies and investment that facilitate inclusive market participation, support low-income and resource poor emerging farmers, our commitment to agro-processing as a province is outlined in the RAVEC, an initiative poised to significantly increase agricultural input, driving job creation, enhancing food security, and improving rural livelihoods. We have heard you on the Premier, myself and MEC for LEDET. We have just recently visited the Lebowakgomo abattoir, which is at an advanced stage, ready to kick-start, with the first batch of chicks readily available.

And despite the setback of vandalism of Sepitse broiler house, we have just appointed the service provider to refurbish other broiler farmers that are within 100 kilometres of the abattoir, that will also meet the South African Good Agricultural Practice in order to meet the international market economy. Hon Speaker, Dr David Ndineni-Mahlobo, in his recent doctoral thesis, "Sustainability of Vegetable Production Systems by Small-Scale Farmers of Limpopo Province in South Africa", found that farmers experience rare events such as droughts, floods, unpredictable rainfall, and extreme temperatures. And our province is not immune from that as we have realised much flooding, the black frost and African army worms, which impacted negatively on the slow implementation and exhaustion of our cash budget.

But we are resilient, we will penetrate, that too shall pass. As our farmers, we are receiving sufficient training to mitigate all the impact of climate change. Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity also to comment our MEC of Transport and Community Safety and the Provincial Police Commissioner for the recent engagement with stock farmers across the province, notable arrests such as the one at an auction in Mokopane.

Hon Premier, let me emphasise this. Indeed, most of our land reform projects like Zebediela Citrus are mainly held back by communal property associations. The 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development indicates that 82% of the registered CPAs are non-compliant and characterised by conflicts and disputes among themselves.

Hon Mapoulo, with kicking the ball out of the box and completely kicking the whole box outside, the province is hard at work to fix the damage in Zebediela Citrus Estate caused by one of the lumpen proletariat, the so-called men of regalia who shot fellow working classes while they were protesting for their workers' rights. Causing the disruption, brought the citrus into its knees and has since suffered a serious financial backlog which led to the plan to exercise liquidation. Hon Speaker, with the intervention of the Hon Premier and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, strides have been realised to reconstitute the long-lapsed Zebediela CPA.

The development of the masterplan in partnership with the catalytic impact will then realise the newly established CPA to constitute the steering committee which will spearhead the implementation of the master plan in phases until its final completion and it will find its expression in this 2025/26 financial year. Hon Speaker, we are pleased to confirm that the provincial agricultural expo as announced by the Premier in the State of the Province Address will be held on the 13th and 15th of March at the Ranch Polokwane. Noting that this year marks 70 years since the launch of the Freedom Charter, we will use this important period of our history to intensify our service delivery strides in our communities. Our plan of action is well-articulated in our 2024 election manifesto and we shall be using every iota of our vein to ensure that its objectives are realised. Having achieved the 97% target of the electricity and the 300 days of no electricity loadshedding, together with the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, we will work aggressively to provide clean and potable water, equally guard vigorously against withdrawal and enforcement agencies against the misnomer of construction mafias in our communities who are hampering progress, including the vandalism of the Sepitse. In conclusion, as we celebrate South African Human Rights Month, the International Women's Month, let me conclude my debate with the lines from the poem by Pakistani poet, Ayesha Islam in her poem:

“Let's flap our wings and fly together,
Break the chains of patriarchy forever.
We stand united, hand in hand,
No longer silent, we take a stand.
We need more women in leadership roles,
Their ideas, their vision and their goal...”

Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nakedi Kekana. We shall now call upon Hon Machete Percy. Hon Machete, can we switch on his mic, please? Honourable Members, can we be orderly, please? Honourable Members. Thank you, Hon Machete. Can we also allow Hon Machete to debate from his seat? Thank you very much.

MR MACHETE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me proceed from the established protocol as already done, but of course to also proceed from the premise that our debate for SOPA takes place at the beginning of the Human Rights Month.

The massacre that took place on the 21st of March 1960 is a central and important event in the struggle against apartheid, where police opened fire on a peaceful protest. The event is highlighting the sacrifice made for democracy and human rights in the country. This month serves as a time to acknowledge the sacrifice made by those who fought against apartheid and to reaffirm the importance of human rights as human rights are worker rights.

Therefore, as Members of the legislature representing the residents of this province, we must make sure that their expectations are met through services and their human rights are respected. We welcome the Premier's vision or plan of revitalising the economy of this province into a new era of energy empowerment. Indeed, we want our province to be the first to achieve universal access to energy.

It will be crucial for achieving sustainable development as it directly impacts poverty, reduction, economic growth, improved health, education and gender equality by providing essential services and enabling people to live better lives and contribute more fully to their communities. This access to energy will act as a catalyst for overall societal progress. We encourage our Premier to ensure that this promise is not let down as it is crucial for sustainable development and economic growth.

We will perform our oversight role diligently to ensure that this Goal 7 of Sustainable Development Goals is achieved. The Premier, in her Speech to the people of Limpopo, had mentioned municipalities of Maruleng, Elias Motsoaledi and Thabazimbi to be pioneers in municipal energy security. Since well, these municipalities will be spearheading the development of their own generation schemes, utilising cutting-edge renewable energy technologies.

Monitoring and evaluation should be done timeously and continuously. Once this is implemented, it should reduce the cost of purchasing electricity to the downtrodden masses. In the same breath of growing our economy in the Limpopo province, we also observed with great concern that projects that are supposed to create jobs are not off the ground.

They took a lot of time to rise and the government has spent a lot of money. It is important that this Seventh Administration helps with Zebediela Citrus Farm. We must not leave it to the communities alone to run it.

It will be important that the relevant department deploy at least two personnel to help run the project once it is funded. There should also be capacity-building programmes for the management of the farm to mitigate the possibility of the farm to collapse. Hon Deputy Speaker, we commend the Office of the Premier for fulfilling its commitment to revitalise the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery.

It is significant that the operation of those projects should kick-start since well the infrastructure challenges have been addressed. The up and running of these projects will boost the morale of the communities of Lebowakgomo and Mashashane, including surrounding areas. Hence, the Premier in her Address mentioned that vandalism took place at broiler houses.

There should be provision of security personnel. The deployment of security personnel should also include the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir and the Mashashane Hatchery. These are the farm projects that we believe will reduce unemployment in their respective areas.

Our economy cannot grow without us supporting the SMEs. LEDA must play its role and fulfill its mandate by ensuring that those SMEs receive the support they deserve. We are talking about creating decent and quality jobs, as well as reducing the rate of unemployment.

If LEDA, the vehicle intended to help us grow the economy, tightens criteria that disqualifies SMEs to receive disbursements of loans, should become a serious concern. We must bear in mind that we created great expectations for the residents of Limpopo that there will be jobs. We are in concurrence with the Premier of Limpopo that the underperformance of LEDA to dispense loans to SMEs in Limpopo, a great province, is unacceptable.

LEDA must improve on this matter and help us make Limpopo a great province to reside. We are of the view that the relevant portfolio committee will provide guidance during oversight to ensure that the deliverables from these SOEs are realised. Deputy Speaker, the government led by the ANC in Limpopo realised that a shortage of water in communities is a crisis.

Rains are pouring down. Therefore, there should be a strategy to averse rainfall that flows without being given direction and ultimately cause floods in the households. A concerted effort should also be done to agree with traditional leaders not to establish settlements without the knowledge or planning from the municipalities.

The continuous allocation of unplanned sites to communities without the involvement of municipalities end up bringing the government and communities at log highs for the slow pace of service delivery. We welcome the established provincial water task team and its technical working group by the Office of the Premier. We believe and encourage the team to consider the views, to incorporate some of the views proposed, to reduce the water crisis, particularly on finding a strategy to averse water that we lose during rainy days.

We are encouraged as this august House that our government is concerned about the water crisis. We further encourage the Premier that the launching of #HiNwaMatiFriday with this significant progress being registered must be monitored to ensure that it bridges its completion and the community drink clean and quality water. We should not allow the project to dive with the nose and frustrate the voters.

As Members of this august House, we will play our oversight role. We must treat crime and abuse of substances and alcohol as our enemy and the enemy of the society. Crime

and substance abuse have the potential to undermine economic development because they damage the minds of the society.

The Premier highlighted that a summit was convened and several stakeholders participated in that summit. There should be no stone left unturned if those resolutions are implemented.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

As you conclude, Hon Machete.

MR MACHETE

Thanks very much. As I gravitate towards closure, I would want to believe that all the six priorities of government, as led by the African National Congress, have been encapsulated as well. Thanks very much, Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Machete. We shall now call upon Hon Moss Andre, to the podium.

MR MOSS

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; all protocol is observed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our Premier has rightly stated that agriculture is vital to Limpopo, a view the Freedom Front Plus fully support. However, our farmers have not received the necessary support.

Over the past years the farmers were faced with severe natural disasters from wildfires, black frost, flooding, drought and recent African armyworm outbreak. These disasters have severely impacted agricultural output, particularly in the Capricorn, Waterberg, and Sekhukhune Districts, where many farmers reported significant crop damage.

Additionally, challenges such as impassable roads hinder market access, leading to further losses. Last year's disasters devastated farmland, destroying crops, livestock, and infrastructure, severely affecting farmers' livelihoods and local economies.

The Freedom Front Plus pleads again for assistance for these farmers, Hon Premier. It is Freedom Front Plus view that agriculture, forestry and fisheries should be cherished as sectors that create jobs, alleviate poverty, contribute to economic growth and protect food security for all communities in the province.

Hon Speaker, many hospital infrastructures are deteriorating, facing issues such as water shortages and a lack of personnel, while the existing staff are overwhelmed with their workloads. The department has increased the ambulance fleet due to 320 clinics not operating 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Patients needing after hours medical assistance can use ambulances to reach the nearest facility, but response times are slow, and transport delays can jeopardise lives due to poor road conditions with potholes and hinder swift and safe patient transport. Additionally, there is a significant backlog in surgical procedures, with some patients waiting up to six months for surgery after being discharged with the broken hips. The Freedom Front Plus urges the Department of Health to address these issues.

Hon Premier, while your inauguration of two new primary schools in Sekhukhune District is commendable, it does not address the urgent educational needs of the community. Many students remain without placements, particularly in high demand areas like Polokwane and Mokopane.

Ketlane Primary School is severely overcrowded, with one classroom exceeding 100 students and others housing 87, 77, and 70 learners. Additionally, concerns about student transportation in Mafefe have risen due to recent school closures and mergers, with parents worried about the unsafe conditions of buses that require ignition cables and stones for braking. The Freedom Front Plus is committed to mother-tongue education up to the highest possible level and the functions of providing education and regulating education should be separated.

Hon Speaker, with the MMSEZ comprises two sites near Musina and Makhado, covering about 11 500 hectares. However, these are serious concerns about the potential destruction of 120 000 hectares of natural vegetation due to coal mines and other developments outside the zone.

The removal of endangered tree species like baobab, leadwood, and shepherd's trees is a significant threat, with tree loss taking centuries to come back to those areas.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Moss. We shall now call upon Hon Rachoene Ernest to the podium.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ke a leboga the Speaker, Hon Grace Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mokgonyana; esteemed colleagues and the people of Limpopo province. Ke re kgotso ya Modimo a e be le lena.

I stand before you today to reflect on the State of the Province Address delivered by our Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. Hei, gape o adile polelo ya go fiša mosadi wa Modimo. Re a go leboga.

Her address highlighted the strides we have made and the challenges that lie ahead. As the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I'm particularly attuned to the infrastructure developments that underpinned our provincial growth and prosperity.

As the ANC-led provincial administration, we are very clear that infrastructure is critical to creating favourable conditions for production and consumption, facilitating economy and to providing much-needed access for our people to services, facilities and opportunities. We are redoubling our efforts. Nkga e ja nkgawana. Le tla bona ka mebala.

From 1994, government has concentrated on infrastructure development in a range of areas that have picked up speed as programme management and other elements have improved and developed. Delivering the State of the Province Address, the Premier noted that the Limpopo contribution to the national GDP has risen from 7,2 to 7,7.

This is a testament to our collective efforts in harnessing the province's potential. However, with an unemployment rate of 31,9%, it is evident that economic growth must translate into job creation. The Seventh Administration is responding very well to this challenge, where it has prioritised job creation and growing the province economy.

Honourable Members, allow me to reiterate the words of the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba who said, "We must consciously industrialise, especially, in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and construction to advance inclusive growth and job creation". These sectors have the potential to elevate our growth trajectory and create employment opportunities.

As the Seventh Administration, we understand well that there must be collaborative efforts between government and the private sector to create jobs. We are seeing government departments and state-owned entities redoubling their efforts to respond to this call.

In the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we are also responding very well to a call to create jobs. We have recently appointed in 174 permanent jobs and majority of those jobs are for young people. By the end of this month, we intend to unveil the second cohort of 150 new employees in the Department of Dikgerekgere in the province.

It is also important to highlight that these are just not numbers, but a workforce which will translate direct to improve service delivery. Infrastructure development places a pivotal role in this translation.

Our road network spanning approximately 21 000 km remains a cornerstone of our infrastructure, yet 68% of these roads are gravel presenting challenges for connectivity and economic activities. To address this, we have embarked on an ambitious plan to tar the remaining 13 196 km of gravel, a project estimated at R300 billion.

As the MEC tasked with the responsibility to lead the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I joined the national trip to the Middle East. Some investors expressed confidence on the South African government as led by our President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa.

Some of them are investing directly in the province and promise to bring more investments. Furthermore, the infrastructure ministry of the four countries have pledged to work with us jointly in infrastructure development.

We once more want to appreciate the opportunity presented by the President and the Premier for allowing me to join this official working visit representing the Limpopo provincial government as led by the African National Congress.

This endeavour is not just about roads, it is about laying down pathway to economic opportunities, especially in our rural areas. Our Hon Premier spoke well about the work of “Dikgerekgere Wednesday” and “Hi Nwa Mati Fridays”. Many other service delivery initiatives that are aimed to ensure that we address water challenges as well as dealing with the bad state of our road infrastructure.

Furthermore, the establishment of the provincial water task team with its technical working group which is being led by the Office of the Premier, is a clear indication that the ANC-led government is determined and working tirelessly to ensure that our people get clean running water.

In alignment with the Premier’s vision for job creation, our department launched the “Dikgerekgere Wednesday” programme service delivery project in July last year. This initiative focuses on grading and graveling and clearing roads across the province. Importantly, by the end of March, we shall have created over 300 permanent jobs for unemployed youth ensuring that our infrastructure projects also serve as a catalyst for employment.

By maintaining our roads, we not only improve transportation but also instil a sense of ownership and pride amongst our youth. These will further strengthen government capacity through our service cost centres.

Safety on our roads remains a pressing concern. The R573 Moloto Road corridor for instance has been notorious for accidents, affecting approximately 50 000 daily commuters. The ongoing upgrade by the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) expected to be completed by 2025 is aimed to transform this road into a safer passage for our people.

Our collaboration with the SANRAL exemplifies our commitment to enhancing road safety across Limpopo province. We would like to also take this opportunity and indicate to this House that the department has made significant progress in stabilising the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). We are putting efforts to make sure that we bring this entity back to its former glory.

Hon Speaker, looking ahead, the Limpopo Road Safety Strategy for 2025 to 2035 has been launched to reduce roads trauma in our province. This strategy emphasises improving multimodal transport, enhancing road infrastructure, increase vehicle safety, encouraging behaviour change, boosting traffic law enforcement, strengthening post-crash response and managing speed. By adopting international best practices such as vision zero and the safe system approach, we aim to improve eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

Hon Speaker, before I conclude, let me educate some of you, especially from the other side, I mean the opposition benches; we are seized here with undoing the apartheid legacy of two economies in our country particularly in Limpopo.

We know that developed economy suffers from a lack of cost competitiveness in relation to the global economy, while the underdeveloped part of the economy which represent the experiences of a high proportion of our people especially, the poor and marginalised in our province is an area where economic potential is not being enabled and harnessed due to the backlog and underinvestment in social and reproductive capital. We are sharpening our focus, and we will not change our trajectory.

In conclusion, while the Premier's address highlighted significant achievements, it also served as a clarion call for intensified efforts in infrastructure development. As the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I reaffirm our department's dedication to transforming Limpopo's infrastructure landscape.

By doing so, we are not only pave the roads but also the way to economic growth, job creation and improved quality of life for all our residents. Let us move forward with unity and determination, ensuring that our infrastructure projects reflect the aspiration of our people and a legacy we wish to leave for the future.

Hleng, ke a leboga. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Rachoene. There by the gallery, you are not allowed to take pictures, please. Thank you very much. We shall now allow Hon Velile Jack to come and debate.

MR JACK

Hon Deputy Speaker and Hon Speaker, Hon Premier of our province, let me take this opportunity to respond on the Premier's State of the Province Address. First of all, the Premier was honest in her speech. She accepted that ...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Velile, may you please take your seat? Hon Chair of Chairs, you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, I just wanted to check if it is parliamentary for a Member to wear a cap in this august House. Where I read, it says that, "unless if it is for religious purposes, a Member is not allowed to wear a cap in the august House".

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chair of Chairs. Hon Velile, I think you have also read the rules. May you please take off your cap? I am sorry that I didn't recognise that. May you please respect the House and take off your cap so that we may proceed?

MR JACK

No, Hon Deputy Speaker. That was not an order; it was a question. I'm ready to answer that question.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, no, no, you can't answer the rules.

MR JACK

No.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Velile, you can't answer the rules. May I please speak, Hon Velile? Please respect this House. Hon Velile, can I talk, so that you may talk later if there is anything? I don't know if when you came to this House you have read the rules, or you were part of that induction workshop for the Members. You can't respond while I am talking. I want to talk on the order and rule over it.

If you are not going to listen to me, you will seat down. If you are going to talk while I'm still talking, you are going to seat down. Hon Velile, you are going to take off your cap and proceed or you put on your cap and go to seat down. Hon Velile, let me read this for you, with respecting you.

MR JACK

No, you are very oppressive.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Velile, thank you very much for taking off your cap. You may now continue with your speech. Your time has been eaten while you are talking to me.

MR JACK

I was saying that the Premier has acknowledged the failures of her party in terms of potholes in the province and also the citrus fruits at Zebediela as one of the failures. The Premier spoke in August 2024 like there was a new sheriff in town. She spoke like a beacon of hope to the poorest child somewhere in the deep rural areas.

We knew they would fail once again. With pride, the Premier in her SOPA 2025, is admitting that they had not done the necessary consultations concerning the Musina-Makhado SEZ that started eight years ago. A fence was put around an area that does not belong to the state. Why?

Was this another way of securing a tender to misuse the taxpayers' money? What if the land claim processes fail? I guess it will be another wasteful expenditure as usual. What is worse is that they promised about 22 000 jobs to the people of Musina-Makhado. Fellow Limpopians, it seems as if even in the next eight years we will still be talking about the Musina-Makhado SEZ as a failed project.

The “Dikgerekgere Wednesday” and “Hi Nwa Mati Fridays” projects were a total failure. Hon Premier, you are failing to provide basic needs to our people. The condition of our people is regressing by the day. Hon Premier, your ideas of taking Limpopo forward will not materialised until you put yourselves in the shoes of people drowning in poverty.

In the SONA 2024, it was stated that GBV and mental health awareness were declared a pandemic, but you did not say anything about them. Limpopo is bleeding, young people are dying. They are failing to endure the pain of being a ‘mahlalela’ with qualifications.

Graduate programmes, internships and EPWP are not jobs. The rise in the number of suicides and depressions mostly amongst the youth is due to unemployment. They are even failing to secure even an internship because they are given to comrades overnight.

We are tired of hearing “we will”, when there are resources to rejuvenate our province but decide to not use them effectively ...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile. Your time is up.

MR JACK

Oh! You are so oppressive, shame.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile. I shall now call upon Hon Sebopela Tumelo, to the podium.

MS SEBOPELA

Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Legislature; Chief Whip and members of the whippers; leaders of the opposition parties; ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Ndi matsheloni.

Hon Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to take from Hon Kekana as she had just reminded our colleagues and the women of Limpopo that on Saturday, 08 March 2025, the world will celebrate International Women’s Day. This day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 1977, with its origins rooted in the labour movement of the early 20 century.

Women must celebrate this day with pride because it is their sweat that ensured that women rights are protected and their participation in the political or economic arena is recognised.

Hon Speaker, we cannot talk about growing the economy without talking about industrialisation in Limpopo. Whether in mining, manufacturing or agro-processing,

these sectors serve as key pillars that drive job creation. Limpopo has immense opportunities for industrialisation through value addition, beneficiation and subregional integration.

We need to tap into the mineral rocks which are beneath the soil to benefit the people of our province. The province has got about 108 mines extracting valuable minerals such as platinum, coal, copper, phosphate, diamonds, chrome and others.

These minerals are exported globally to the markets in Europe, Asia and America creating jobs and wealth abroad while offering little benefit to the people of Limpopo who live alongside these mines.

Madam Speaker, I want to urge honourable Members of this House to go and watch a documentary called “The gold mafia”, which was an investigation that was done by Aljazeera that exposes how gold is being smuggled out of the country of Zimbabwe.

The documentary detailed how smugglers buy gold from small scale miners who produce nearly half of Zimbabwe’s gold and export it to Dubai for refining. That is why you see Dubai so lavish, Hon Speaker.

These smugglers are reported to make around 20 to 30 million per week. Now, you can imagine that how much the immense profits that have been made by the large-scale mining operations that are happening here in Limpopo only at the expense of the people of Limpopo who are sitting without jobs.

We must take decisive action to reindustrialise our province. No more than 50% of raw materials should leave Limpopo unprocessed. Instead, we must ensure that the minerals are refined and converted into finished products locally so that they can create jobs and stimulate economic growth within our province.

Hon Wilson, there is indeed macaroni and cheese in the province. The Premier has given us hope by highlighting the efforts of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) in Limpopo to operationalise the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone through a structured six-point plan.

However, we must caution against directing all the efforts towards Musina-Makhado SEZ. Equal attention and resources must be allocated to Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone to ensure widespread employment opportunities across the province.

We also welcome the partnership between the government and Glencoe Mine in establishing the skills development centre, an initiative that will actually equip our youth with critical skills. Progress in the implementation of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone is encouraging.

We also acknowledging the ongoing inter-governmental co-operation between national departments and Musina-Makhado Municipalities in rezoning land for use on the north side. This marks a significance step towards realising our vision for economic freedom.

The Premier reported in this House that the Makhado Local Municipality tribunal that sat on 28 February 2025, would finalise the issue that was very thorny on the south side

requiring the approval of the establishment of the township. The approval is very important in the sense that the people who would want to settle there would also receive quality services.

These kinds of settlements are required where there is an involvement of relevant stakeholders to enable proper planning. Hon Premier, we believe the House will receive a favourable response regarding the sitting of the Makhado Municipality tribunal.

We commend our provincial government for achieving 99,78% compliance rate in ensuring the payment of invoices within 30 days between April 2024 and January 2025. This is a commendable effort, and we encourage further commitment to achieving a 100% compliance rate.

Payments that are made on time enable the businesses to operate efficiently, thus enhancing the rate of service delivery and stability. We call upon the Premier to also encourage municipalities to comply with the 30 day payment of invoices.

We also welcome the completion of Ga-Malekana-Steelpoort bridge which replaces an outdated hazardous steel bridge. It is a cool initiative by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to have built it before accidents and any tragic incident could have happened.

These kinds of infrastructure are very necessary to ease the lives of motorists and pedestrians and minimise protests that would arise from that area. The Ga-Malekana bridge would enable communities to participate in social and economic activities.

Thank you. Ndza khensa, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sebopela. I shall now call upon Hon Maila Kobodi, to the podium.

MR MAILA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, tla ke go leboge. Ke a bona o moetapele yo a se dulego ka ofising. Moetapele o swanetše a ye ditšhabeng. Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; chairpersons of portfolio committees; and all esteemed Members of the Limpopo Legislature. Thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni. Good morning. Goeie môre.

We demand immediate action on land redistribution in our province. The continued enjoyment of stolen land by a minority is unacceptable. We need a clear, practical plan outlining the process for returning land to its rightful owners.

Our people have the skills and determination to utilise this land for self-sustenance through farming and other ventures. The success of individuals like Wendy Moshakga proves this. We expect to see significant progress in land allocation by the next SOPA, with over million hectares returned to our people.

UAT supports industrialisation that prioritises job creation and empowers local businesses capable of executing large scale projects. We must remove barriers that prevent local participation in government initiatives and the mainstream economy, e.g. why are Chinese companies investing in solar power plants when we have hundreds of local companies with the skills and knowledge to do so? This is a slap in the face to our graduates. Let us give our own people the opportunity to showcase their skills and commit to supporting local businesses with major projects.

We are tired of Asian, American and the European companies benefiting from our country under the disguise of investment. While investment is necessary for economic growth, we must prioritise investment that truly benefit our province.

We don't need foreign investment for projects like solar power plants, we have the resources and expertise right here. Let us focus on attracting investments that address our province's specific needs.

We are deeply concerned about stalled projects that require urgent intervention. These include the rebuilding of bridges in Greater Letaba Municipality, the construction of the shortcut road to Elim from N1 via Mailaskop in Vhembe District, and roads leading to schools like Maphago Primary in Sekhukhune District.

Infrastructure delays across the province cause immense frustration in our communities. These issues must be addressed swiftly to ensure timely delivery of services to our people.

The water crisis in Limpopo is dire. Access to this basic necessity of life is limited, a situation worsened by the lack of investment in water infrastructure and incompetent municipalities. We need a more robust plan to address this crisis, one that includes short-term, medium-term and long-term measures. The current strategies are clearly failing our people.

We really support all the black emerging farmers here in the Limpopo province, but we are saying that no farmer should just own hectares that are not utilised for agricultural activities. The government should provide land for the Limpopo agricultural market.

We must have a Limpopo agricultural market where all the farmers can bring their agricultural products to be sold. The commercial farmers will use it before everything is exported or taken outside Limpopo.

Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Re lebogile, Hon Kobodi. We shall now call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Nyamuofhe Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, to the podium.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Ndi mats Sheloni, Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Speaker, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Leader of Government Business,

Hon Makamu; colleagues, honourable MECs; Chief Whip of the Legislature; leadership of the governing party of the African National Congress in Limpopo; leaders of the opposition political parties; ladies and gentlemen; honourable Members of the House and also chairpersons of all the committees in our House.

Hon Speaker, imagine a Limpopo where the sun rise is not just over baobabs and vast mineral wells but over a generation of innovators, educators and entrepreneurs. The province where every child, every woman, persons with disability no matter what their background holds the tools to shape their destiny.

Today, we gather to start a journey to actualise the plans, and the directives as said in the Premier's speech to forge an economic revolution rooted in equity, education and the untapped potential of those too long left on the margins.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we want to take this time and opportunity to appeal to the Members of the House to stop using TikTok as their reference. Some of the statements that have been uttered here is Members who seat on TikTok, open and see actors mimicking service delivery issues, then they think they are real. They even bring them here. Stop using your cell phone as a reference.

Education has long been recognised as a cornerstone in the development and empowerment of individuals and societies. Prominent figures such as ex-President Nelson Mandela, President O R Tambo and Che Guevara understood the transformation power of education not only in shaping individual lives but also constructing a robust foundation for the nations.

President Mandela proclaimed that, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". As he became the first President of our democratic country, he worked hard to restore the dignity of our learners and educators through partnership with communities involving parents in the education of their children, empowering communities to start to use the language that they could understand.

At the same time, President Tambo also emphasises its critical role in fighting injustice and fostering equality. Honourable Members, education is the bedrock upon which sustainable futures and economies are build, untimely shaping the trajectory of an entire nation.

Honourable Members, as you are also advocates for our children futures, we are gathered here today to engage in a critical important discussion whose foundation was laid by the Hon Premier in a recent State of the Province Address around advancing our provincial economic development through a responsive curriculum to prepare learners for proper careers.

As we stand at the crossroads of educational reform, we are charged with the profound responsibility to ensure that the next generation of leaders, thinkers and innovators emerges from our classrooms, equipped, inspired and ready to forge a brighter future for all.

We thank the President of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Ramaphosa for the BELA Act that strengthens the voice of transformation in education. The BELA Act in the

Seventh Administration is still addressing the aftermath of many years of people denied infrastructure, denied using their own language, sometimes being isolated and not accepted in our schools because of the language. The BELA Act is here to give the voice to those communities.

Recent statistics reveal a remarkable achievement of schools pass rate. Our goal, Hon Speaker, must be merely not to attain 90%, but to redefine what it truly means to excel in education not just in numbers. The 2025 is a year, Hon Premier, of academic excellence and teacher support.

As we strive for excellence, we must keep a keen eye on our critical aspect of ECD. Hon Premier, in your speech you actually referred to the empirical evidence telling us on focussing on formative years, fostering long-term academic success, laying groundwork for the severe pathways for potential of our young learners.

Our programmes of Supplying Stationery and Resources to ECD centres will close this gap for both children and rural ECDs and the children in the cities. In rural communities accessibility has increased since we even have this facility in the section of our primary schools.

We are ready for the revolution of the young minds. As we embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), our goal is to equip our schools with digital tools and harness technological advancement. Still, we are faced with stark realities.

Hon Premier, the introduction of coding and robotics in our schools and the schools that through partnership with the Department of Education, Science and Technology have since received media libraries as a testament to the speech and as a testament to actualise the goals that we have set.

The continuation and increasing of focus schools will actually see us winning the battle of fighting illiteracy in our province. To unlock the agricultural schools, we have signed an MOU with the Department of Agriculture with the honourable MEC to strengthen the support.

The department has another MOU with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture which is focusing on promoting sports in the schools. We believe that through this we will motivate our learners through talent, and we believe that a healthy mind is going to give us a healthy body.

To boost tourism careers in our schools and curriculum, both the Department of Education and LEDET will jointly invest in the discovery centre which will promote both stem subjects, tourism and technology.

Hon Speaker, in February and March, we have launched an infrastructure drive that is seen us responding to the speech by the Premier, where we are opening four schools in a week as a maximum or two schools in a week for the month of February and March, just to showcase that we are ready to give our communities infrastructure.

All these is happening in the Seventh Administration being led by the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, not about a government that is coming but a government that is

existing. We also want to say that we are ready, Hon Deputy Speaker, to have a conversation about equity because we need to continue to address the issues of the marginalised. No one must be left behind. Remember, there is a girl born in a village, a disabled teen that needs access to the special school and all these we can do it together.

Hearing the clarion call by the Hon Premier, we are ready to empower schools with educators. In the Seventh Administration, we have hired educators, HODs, appointed principals, which is a way of strengthening our curriculum. We have got teachers that starts between the age of 23 to 25 and in March, we are embarking on a drive to empower them with workshops, and they will be strengthened to be able to service our systems.

Finally, education must be a thriving ecosystem. A thread that is able to engage and connect communities. Parents, local leaders and stakeholders should be able to be in a dialogue about your speech Hon Premier to address the issues in the Department of Education.

Hon Speaker, we are ready. We want to thank this House for your participation in our schools and we are ready to transverse this terrain towards the future where every child in Limpopo will flourish.

Let us do everything that we can do hand in hand designed for equity, inclusion and access. These are not mere words. These are not just promises. Our aim is to rise and fight illiteracy in Limpopo.

Happy International Women's Month. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nyamuofhe Ramakhanya. I shall now call upon Hon Kgothatso Mogoane, to the podium.

MS MOGOANE

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Revolutionary greetings to the caucus of the EFF under the leadership of commissar Lawrence Mapoulo. Hon Speaker, Vladimir Lenin teaches us that, "A lie told often enough becomes the truth".

The Premier themed her administration "dilo ditšhentšhitše" in an attempt to sell an empty dream to the people of Limpopo. Things have changed to where and when? ...[INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

I want to raise a point of order. Deputy Speaker, I want to check if it is parliamentary for an honourable Member of this House to address this House barefoot, unless if there are some "sangomic tendencies".

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. I'm sure she is having problems with her feet. Is there any medical matter or maybe a calling, Hon Mogoane?

MS MOGOANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I have a calling. As we continue, the EFF debunked the myth that things have changed, because nothing has changed. It is the same government of the ANC that led the province in the past 30 years and implementing the same neoliberal policies that prioritise the interests of white monopoly capital.

Hon Speaker, a moralist view, a politician with integrity is the one who strictly and resolutely upholds moral duties such as honesty, truth-telling, transparency and accountability, observance of the law, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Premier promised to take the people of Limpopo to greater heights, stimulate economic growth, upgrade infrastructure and relaunch collapsed projects such as the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery. As we speak here today, these projects are still the elephants in the room.

This is tragic because these projects have the potential to create hundreds of jobs for our people, but they have been badly run down by the incapable government of the ANC. The Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir shenanigans expose the weakness of the government in sustaining developmental projects. Despite these bold commitments, the status quo of these projects remains the same with very little progress recorded.

The security service providers get paid for not really doing much but for guarding white elephants. In her endeavour to distance herself from the Mathabatha failures, the Premier, Dr Ramathuba, introduced her own new set of failures.

Hon Premier, women to women as a mother, we invite you to collectively visit the project of Mme Wendy Moshakga as you have spoken about her, to check that indeed everything that you have said here today, everything that has been reported to you has indeed materialised.

Hon Speaker, Limpopo has a total road network of about 22 200 km, which is about 5% of South Africa's total road network. The 31% of the road network is tarred, while the rest is gravel and dirt. The province has seen an increase in demand for road infrastructure, which has led to service delivery protests in black communities.

We invite the Premier to come with us to visit the access road of Madeira in Sekororo and D3332 road from Moletjie-Rankuwe to Senwabarwana for an oversight visit. Let us see what she will discover there.

The "Dikgerekgere Wednesday" project must be used to employ more community members because our roads have collapsed all over the province. It must not be used as an opportunity to employ ANC comrades who know nothing about roads.

However, the EFF appreciates the model applied to implement “Dikgerekgere Wednesday”, because it mainly insources, but Hon Premier, our people deserve quality services not re-gravelling of dusty roads because these are not sustainable.

People need permanent solutions, like tar-roads and pavements for better life and boosting their economic activities. The same model which is effective, and cost-effective must be applied when tarring our roads especially in the rural areas.

This is one of the practical examples that the EFF is calling for, building state and government capacity by insourcing, the problem Hon Premier is that you are using it for the wrong reasons which is re-gravelling the roads.

The Limpopo Central Academic Hospital is moving on a snail pace while the Limpopo theatre continued to be hijacked by construction mafias from time to time. The solution of these problems resides in the EFF's cardinal pillar number 03 that states that, “Building state and government capacity, which will lead to the abolishment of tenders”. We can tell you for free, Hon Premier, that the source of the delays in these mega projects is the fight for tenders.

Hon Speaker, out of the 540 clinics in Limpopo, only 222 clinics operate 24 hours a day, meaning that 320 clinics do not operate 24 hours a day. The non-provision of services at night continues to negatively affect communities. Just recently early this month, a 21-year-old woman gave birth outside a closed clinic at night at Roosenekal.

The unemployed of Limpopo are compelled to pay for ambulance and hospital services, even the dependants of the R350 grant are expected to pay. The EFF was called upon to intervene at Letaba Hospital when an unemployed patient was denied leaving the hospital upon failure to pay for hospital services.

During the Premier' speech, she kept on emphasising that things have changed, “dilo ditšhentšhitše”, but in reality, nothing has changed. Hon Premier and the MEC for Education, from woman to woman, I know I had this conversation with you about the Batshabane and Lekgoloane primary schools at Makgatle in Sekhukhune District, where the conditions of those schools put the lives of our children in danger.

There is nothing to be ashamed of because as we are saying with you today here, we are raising it on record Hon Premier such that when anything happened, you do not say that you didn't know. The school is collapsing and one day we will be called when the school has collapsed and taken the lives of our children.

Hon Speaker, as we continue, the Hon Premier is bragging about staggering figures in unsubstantiated housing provision, but she deliberately decided not to take the people of Limpopo into confidence about illegal activities involving advance payments of R33 million to a joint venture contractors Rheinland Investment, CC JV Qinisa Construction Gauteng Ltd which was assigned to build Marapong housing development project in Lephalale. The question to the Premier which she must answer with regard to Marapong housing, is how much government has spent to date in trying to get this project running?

Hon Speaker, the people of Limpopo are feeling the brunt of poor judgement by the ANC when it comes to the appointment of leaders in positions of power and reluctance to implement their own policies.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, the EFF has declared the year of the 2025 as the year of the picket lines and we commit here today that we will take over the streets in protection and in defence for our people.

As I'm about to go and seat down, I want to wish a happy belated birthday to the president and the commander-in-chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters. We are saying, o re golele Mošabi.

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mogoane. I shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development, Hon Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, to the podium.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker for the opportunity afforded to me. Let me greet the Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; our Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of this august House; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, a very blessed afternoon to all of you.

I stand before you today humbled by the remarkable address delivered by our Hon Premier, outlining the tireless efforts, undeniable progress, significant milestone and vital intervention orchestrated by our government to pave the way for a brighter tomorrow for the people of Limpopo.

The words echoing through this chamber resonate with hope, promise and steadfast commitment to uplifting our communities. Through the unwavering policies of the African National Congress, we witness a beacon of light illuminating the path towards the future where prosperity, equality and opportunity flourish.

It is abundantly clear that the ANC continues to embody the aspirations of the people, demonstrating time and again through their leadership, that a better life for all is not only a lofty ideal, but an achievable reality. Thank you very much, Hon Premier for delivering a message that gives hope to the people of this province and under the leadership of the African National Congress. We dare not to fail our people.

Hon Speaker, it is true that despite some underlying and persistent challenges, progress has been made in realising the objective set out in the Freedom Charter, which in this year, we will be making its 70 years anniversary. The document which has been our inspiration and our strategic guide in realising the kind of South Africa we live in today.

It has been the living soul of our country's progressive constitution and the foundation of Vision 2030 of the National Development Plan. Everything we are doing is in pursuant of the vision of the National Development Plan to address the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The responsibility weighs upon all of us as the struggle for radical socioeconomic transformation still continues.

Hon Speaker, as we reflect on our journey since the beginning of the Seventh Administration it is crucial to acknowledge the tremendous confidence that the people of our province have in the governing African National Congress under the leadership of our Hon Premier.

Together we have marked a period of significant progress, where our commitment is to uplift the vulnerable members of our society. It is evident in our action and our policies that the African National Congress has consistently demonstrated its resolve to create an inclusive society where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive.

Hon Speaker, our medium-term development plan is designed with a lesser focus on the core issues which affecting our communities. Through strategic investment in education, skills development and infrastructure, we aim to provide the tools needed for self-sufficiency and economic empowerment.

We recognise that enhancing our educational system is paramount by equipping our youth with the necessary skills we can ensure they are ready to compete in a modern economy. Additionally, Hon Speaker, our plans as outlined by the Hon Premier, to boost infrastructure development will not only create immediate job opportunities but also foster long-term economic growth by attracting investment that catalyse business development in our province.

Hon Speaker, we have declared in this province poverty as enemy number one. This is not just a mere statement; it is our rallying cry and our commitment to each and every citizen of this province. We recognised that poverty is more than just a number. It is an obstacle to our collective progress. It is a barrier that stifles potential and dreams particularly for our most vulnerable, being our children.

Since, Hon Premier instructed us to provide food to 7 200 from just over 4 000 households during the start of the Seventh Administration. In response to that commitment we have provided, Hon Premier, food to over 8 000 households and we are continuing in that programme.

We will spare no effort to ensure that poverty is defeated in the province. To Hon Mapoulo, I want to indicate that when it comes to the matter that you have raised in this august House, the matter that is very important because it affects the lives of our people, I want to indicate to this august House that the Lemalu family was visited by the team from Social Development; provided with food parcels and referred to SASSA for Child Support Grant top-up, which they are to receive any time.

There were many cases you referred to me, as the MEC for Social Development, and many of them received the immediate attention. We can't ignore matters that you referred to us as leaders in this government regardless of the fact that the people of this province voted for the African National Congress.

We respect that you are part of us and when you elevate matters affecting our people, we act with speed. We don't have any reason. I will share with you the detailed report of the family that I have just mentioned.

Hon Speaker, it is the ANC that understands the unique context of Limpopo. Our deep commitment to social development, empowerment and poverty alleviation embodies the spirit of our people, unlike other parties, whose platform may promise change but lack a grounded understanding of our socioeconomic realities. We offer real, actionable plans for progress.

In conclusion, we have declared on all-out war on poverty. We remain resolute, Hon Premier in our vision that no child ever goes to bed hungry in Limpopo. The ANC stands ready to implement such sustainable solutions that uplift, empower and transform lives. Together, let us strive forward fortified by the unwavering support of constituencies to foster a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

As I finish, Hon Speaker, I want to encourage all honourable Members, especially, those who are on opposition benches to take the work of the Legislature very serious. All of you, you are serving in portfolio committees of this Legislature where detailed information is provided in terms of the performance that we are making and majority of you, you choose not to attend ...[INTERJECTION]

MS MOGOANE

You are lying and I won't allow you to lie to the public. We are attending portfolio committee meetings. How do you lie at your age? We attend all portfolio committee meetings. You must bring a report here. You can't lie to the public.

MR MATHE

We have never seen you. I have never seen you, Hon Mapoulo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I shall now ...[INTERJECTION]

MS MOGOANE

On a point of order, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mogoane, you are recognised.

MS MOGOANE

I want it to be recorded. Hon Speaker, we cannot allow an honourable Member to stand here addressing our people telling lies that members of the opposition are not attending portfolio committee meetings. We are attending portfolio committee meetings and there

is evidence to that. So, we are asking her to come and substantiate what she said. She can't lie to our people.

If you go to the page of the Legislature, you will see that in every committee meeting we are there in our overalls. It can't be correct that you allow her to lie like that. She must be clear. She must be specific. Who is not attending committees? She must be clear ...[INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

There is another point of order here.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, there can't be point of order on top of another point of order. I'm quite sure that you want to say the same things.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

She lied here.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, I understand what you are saying. Can I talk, before you raise your hand? Thank you very much. Hon Mapoulo and Hon Mogoane, I have heard what you have said. I am the Speaker. I have got the proof. It is not for all the Members. There are some of the Members who are not attending committee meetings. That we have corrected. We have got the proof of some members who are not attending their committee meetings. It is not all of them. Now that the issue is sorted, can we please proceed with this House?... [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

Especially Hon Mapoulo and Abraham Magolo. They are not attending.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Hon Mapoulo, I have addressed that one. I hope you are not standing on the order of what has already been addressed. Yes, you may continue.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. O se ke wa nnaganela, ka seo ke tlilego go se bolela. We have been communicating with the MEC for Social Development on WhatsApp in this House. She agreed ...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, can you please seat down because you can't debate when you are not given time. You are not recognised to debate now; you have already been given your

time to debate. I'm not going to allow you to open another debate in this House. We will now go to the next item.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

8.1 Motion for the Ratification of Appointment of Special Delegates to NCOP Plenaries

Hon Chief Whip, may you please ascend to the stage? [INTERJECTION]

MR LEBOGO

I wanted to check if the kids of VBS family members are part of the 4 200 people who are getting food parcels. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, be orderly. Hon Chief Whip, you may please proceed. Thank you.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

MOTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARIES IN CAPE TOWN

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 Joint Sitting of Parliament plenary debates when the House was not sitting:

- 26 February 2025: Joint Sitting of Parliament to allow the President to deliver the State of the Nation Address: Premier, Dr P C Ramathuba; Speaker, Hon M G Makhurupetje and the Deputy Speaker, Hon T P Mamorobela; and the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana;
- 11 February 2025: Joint Sitting to debate the State of the Nation Address: Premier, Dr P C Ramathuba; Speaker, Hon M G Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon T P Mamorobela and the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana;
- 12 February 2025: Joint Sitting to debate on the State of the Nation Address: Premier, Dr P C Ramathuba; Speaker, Hon M G Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon T P Mamorobela and the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; and
- 13 February 2025: Joint Sitting to allow the President to respond to the debates on the State of the Nation Address: The same honourable Members have attended.

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. It is nice to be in the ANC. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder for the motion? Hon Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Ke a leboga, Madam Speaker. Ke emelela mo go thekga Mohlomphegi Sefepikgolo ka tšhišinyo ye a e tlišitšego.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ke a leboga, Dr Selane. I will now be calling on announcements by the Chair of Chairs. Can we please be in one House, honourable Members, so that you don't miss an important announcement? Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni; and also, Members of the august House. I greet you.

My job is to make announcements here. There will be a Sitting on Thursday, 06 March 2025 here in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. We are all expected to attend. Lastly, lunch will be served in the Committees Boardroom. You are all invited. Bon appétit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 06 March 2025 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber at 10:00. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 06 MARCH 2025
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 now be seated.

Good morning, honourable Members. We are here again, in our formal Sitting of 06 March 2025, at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

I will have to verify with the Programming Committee. While we have received motions, we were told that the Programming Committee has resolved to defer the motions to the next Sitting. Am I correct?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. It means items 2–6 are deferred.

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

We shall now call upon the Hon Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to respond to the debate made by honourable Members during the State of the Province Address.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip; Members of the Provincial Legislature; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Whippers and chairpersons of all various committees. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, I stand before you today with a deep sense of gratitude for the critical responses and robust debates that followed the State of the Province Address delivered on 27 February 2025. Your engagement is a show of our collective commitment to the development of Limpopo. We appreciate the diverse perspectives shared in this esteemed House. We also acknowledge the diverse debates that have also taken place outside this House, showing the extent of interest this address has elicited. We may not go into individual responses; however, we shall make attempts to cover the general aspects that have been raised.

It is important to acknowledge that despite our differences, there is a consensus among us regarding the path of development that our province requires. We all agree that our primary focus must be on growing the economy to include everyone and fighting the scourge of poverty that has plagued our communities for far too long. This shared vision of building an ethical and developmental state is crucial as we move forward together.

What stands out from the debate is the unanimous desire among Members to see the commitments we have made come to fruition. No one desires progress more than we do. This is a commitment that, as the Seventh Administration, I, along with the entire Executive Council, have made to our people.

We are alive to the reality that our people are getting impatient with our failure to honour our commitments. It is for this reason that, as a start, just yesterday and today, we convened a summit for all senior managers from our ten departments and state-owned entities. These are men and women whose primary responsibility is the implementation of our plans. It is critical for them to understand and appreciate what is at stake should we fail to deliver on our commitments.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the African National Congress for deploying capable men and women in various roles within the Legislature and the Executive. Their contribution during the debate has elevated our collective responsibility to make Limpopo a province we can all be proud of.

It is true that the ANC-led government has transformed the socioeconomic landscape of our province. While we may be considered as a rural province, it is noteworthy that 94,4% of our settlements are formalised dwellings now. We have made significant strides in improving access to electricity, healthcare, education, and sanitation. We have built more clinics, human settlements, and schools in the 30 years than any government has done in 300 years.

True to our form, and as Hon Mokgonyana, our Chief Whip, acknowledged, “We are honest to ourselves, and where we have encountered challenges, we have always been the first to acknowledge and confront them.”

Honourable Members will agree with us that the way we were detailed when presenting our SOPA, even members of the opposition struggled to find fault in our speech and resorted to repeating issues that we have already acknowledged. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Wilson, we are not sleeping on duty, hence the withdrawal of US funding for HIV/Aids programmes has not hindered our work and our initiatives. [APPLAUSE] That is why you saw the Minister for Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, together with his nine MECs, recently launching another programme of finding 1,1 million missing people who are living with HIV but are not on ARVs. We know that once we find them, we will give them ARVs with or without Trump. [APPLAUSE]

Just yesterday, Global Fund Executive Director for HIV, TB and Malaria, Peter Sands, said they are still maintaining their ambition on lenacapavir. This is a pre-exposure prophylaxis medication which is given to HIV-negative individuals to protect them from getting infected. He said with or without PEPFAR funding (PEPFAR is funding from Trump), they will continue as the global fund. Therefore, we are not sleeping on duty, our patients will continue to get treatment as they used to.

While some NGOs may be affected, all public health facilities continue to offer essential support. We shall allocate approximately R23 million to retain staff linked to public health facilities from such NGOs. [APPLAUSE] We are a resilient nation, and as our President said, we shall never allow ourselves to be bullied by anyone.

Hon Jack Velile, the problem with presenting speeches that are written somewhere else is that you forget to look at the relevance of that text. Regurgitating debates that took place in Parliament a month ago with just slight changes of “Premier” for “President”, and “SONA” for “SOPA”, is not good for you. We were very clear on gender-based violence and femicide, starting with the feedback we gave to this august House on the commitment of the summit, which was held immediately after making the commitment last year. We even went further to direct the MEC for Social Development together with the team to make sure they monitor the implementation of the resolutions taken.

Let us also remind you, Hon Jack Velile, we have raised concerns about the two nurses who were raped while on duty, and four students whom we visited two days ago to provide psychosocial support, because the ANC-led government is a caring government. Therefore, I don’t understand when you say we have not said anything about gender-based violence and femicide.

We have been the ones who have made a connection between unemployment and mental health issues. Hence, we repeat: the danger of reading speeches written somewhere else is that you begin to sound like an old, scratched record.

That claim that we have made no progress in combating TB and HIV/Aids can only come from someone who doesn’t stay in this province. Statistics show a marked improvement, with life expectancy rising from 56 years to 67 for women, because of the intervention on TB, HIV/Aids, including Malaria.

Let me respond to what Hon Mogoane said, and she is not here. To have more than 200 clinics operating 24 hours is a remarkable achievement. Growing up, one can't remember any clinic operating 24 hours. This is the first time our province has been able to achieve this number. This is work in progress; hence, we reported that the department is currently recruiting more than 300 professional nurses to activate more clinics to operate 24 hours.

We must not take for granted the progress the ANC-led government has made in terms of building clinics. For example, as we were driving here, I took an exercise to check on the 45 km stretch of Road D4040 between GaChuene and Boyne. I realised that on just 45 km, we've got eight clinics that the government has built. We have GaChuene, GaMaja, Soetfontein, Mmamushi, GaMolepo, Unit 14, Sehlale and Evelyn Lekganyane. Why are you saying we are doing nothing?

Honourable Members, whilst still on the matter of security at health facilities, we are encouraged by the recent crime statistics in the province. Of course, it would be ideal to see a total clampdown on crime. However, we are on record: in the third quarter of 2024, Limpopo has witnessed a significant improvement in crime statistics — boasting a remarkable reduction across some of the 17 major crime categories, rendering Limpopo as the safest province in South Africa. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you, Hon Mathye, and our own Lt Gen Radebe, ba swara thipa ka bogaleng. We appreciate this good progress.

This notable decline reflects concerted efforts by our law enforcement agencies and community initiatives aimed at enhancing public safety. Specifically, crime categories such as sexual offences, attempted murder, robbery, rape and assault have recorded the largest reductions, signalling a positive trend towards safer neighbourhoods. The collaborative approach to crime prevention and community engagement appears to be yielding fruitful results, fostering a sense of security and trust among residents in the province.

Hon Speaker, while some may argue for tarred roads over gravel, we must acknowledge the time it will take to upgrade all our provincial roads, especially since the funds we require are not even available. The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, in his debate, shared with us that they would require more than R300 billion to tar the entire province.

In the meantime, we are committed to improving the lives of our residents, who recognise the good work being done. You will be surprised, honourable Members, at the number of requests we continue to receive, even at the Office of the Premier, for #DikgerekgereWednesday intervention, that so far has made a mark, notwithstanding the rains and floods. The directive that we have given is that the MEC for Provincial Treasury, during his speech, must be able to unpack how we are going to fund these roads that have been damaged.

We have also acknowledged the challenges surrounding water provision in Giyani and are implementing turnaround strategies. Give us time; it was just six months. We have spent six months analysing the problem. Mathematicians have taught us that if you want to solve a mathematical problem, you should spend 80% of your time understanding the equation, then the remaining 20% will be enough to solve it correctly. Give us time; our

turnaround strategy will extend across the province.

We have openly discussed the challenges facing the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, and our interventions required to ensure its success. The Musina Council, which I indicated here was going to meet, has already met and approved the necessary processes for land use.

The Makhado Municipality, on the other hand, is finalising the necessary approvals. We anticipate that the floor area ratio (FAR) will be completed by 11 March 2025, with the traffic impact assessment following by 25 March 2025. The legal team is addressing outstanding objections and expects to submit them to the Makhado Municipal Planning Tribunal by 14 April 2025.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, it is disheartening to witness objections to the Musina-Makhado SEZ development, especially when it promises to uplift historically marginalised communities. We must question the motives of those lobby groups who oppose this project. Are they genuinely committed to the development of black communities, or are they perpetuating an apartheid mentality that seeks to subjugate our people for capital gain?

Honourable Members, are we not dealing with enemies of progress; those who don't want to see our young people employed? Remember, some of them are not even citizens of this province or this country. They are threatened by our development. They want us to remain eternal slaves and beggars, going hand in cap to the likes of Donald Trump, asking for ARV money. We must ask: What tangible contributions are they making to improve the lives of our people in these areas? Who is funding them?

We will continue to provide free education to those who may not fully understand the dynamics of investment pledges. Since the inception of our investment conference, we have seen numerous pledges materialise.

Just two days ago, I witnessed the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Vhembe District Municipality, Collins Chabane Municipality, and the Masingita Group of Companies. This group has committed to building Nkuna City in Nkuzana and has already made significant progress since making their pledges. I am not certain of the exact year, but Hon Mokone will remember when these pledges were made. Progress includes the construction of a mall and a filling station as part of Phases 1 and 2.

This MoU will result in our municipalities providing bulk services for Phase 3, which includes, amongst others, the construction of residential units in Nkuzana, schools, industries, health facilities, and other developments. Furthermore, we have been diligent in following up on the R120 billion pledge from the recent investment conference, as the MEC for LEDET outlined during the debate on Tuesday. He will provide further details during his Budget Speech.

We have noted the opportunistic tendency aimed at using the current challenges of Zebediela Citrus Farm, as justification for rejecting the government's commitment to land reform. We felt it was critical to take a few minutes of your time to address this matter. Like the rest of the country, this province faces the formidable challenge of land reform. By land reform, I refer to the three pillars enshrined in section 25 of our Constitution: land restitution, land redistribution and land tenure reform.

The recently passed Expropriation Act of 2024 stands as a unique and important landmark to usher in a new era of rapid land release, large-scale land acquisition, and the return of land to persons previously dispossessed and then locked out of the land value chain by discriminatory apartheid laws, such as the Group Areas Act, the so-called Community Development Act, all of which are progeny of the notoriously racist Natives Land Act of 1913.

The 1913 Natives Land Act is the original sin. With the stroke of a pen, Africans were deemed noncitizens, squatters, and nonpersons in their country of birth. As argued in the book Land Matters: “The struggle for freedom was the struggle for land”. Since 1994, the democratic government has made strides towards achieving equitable distribution of land and ending property racism. Yet property racism, land dispossession, and land inequality persist.

For instance, it is a shameful fact to state today that 70% of commercial agricultural land remains in the hands of white people, the same situation as in 1994. It is clear that land reform faces stubborn and formidable resistance.

Right-wing organisations, including some within the Democratic Alliance which pretend to be liberal as well as AfriForum and Solidarity, which do not even pretend to hide their contempt for Black people, have launched a new offensive against land reform. For its part, the Democratic Alliance has sought to use our courts to frustrate transformation. Progressive forces must oppose this challenge and expose the DA for the reactionary force that it is.

AfriForum, on the other hand, has turned to foreign governments, using their might to choke South Africa’s march towards freedom and land justice. However, as President Ramaphosa declared, we shall not be deterred, nor shall we be bullied. The path to freedom continues. [APPLAUSE]

True, land reform is bedevilled by the challenge of maintaining productive land use. The argument linking land reform to dismal agricultural productivity is born of mischief; it seeks to draw not only correlation but causation, simplistically blaming land reform for the decline in land productivity. This argument is not only ignorant but at times racist in its underpinnings.

To put it in perspective, land reform is a matter of justice – both economic and historical. The constitutional imperative for land reform is one born of centuries of struggle against imperialism and colonialism. That struggle is incomplete, and it must be fought. However, we should never confuse that struggle with economic jingoism, which blames land reform for economic stagnation. The truth is that we need both land reform and economic development. In fact, land reform is a necessary precondition for economic development. There can be no economic development in a country with such high levels of land concentration in few hands.

If there is anything utterly unproductive, it is the continuous link between restitution and land productivity. The sooner it is understood that the restitution of land is not an imperative of commerce but one of justice, the better. The economic production of land restored to the land claimants is important, but it is to lose the plot to make the economic production of the land a precondition for restitution.

The Communal Property Association (CPA) model, which is what I was referring to during the State of the Province Address, as provided for in the Communal Property Association Act of 1996, has failed, and the model needs to be seriously reviewed. Government needs to come up with a model that will give land ownership back to individual land beneficiaries. [APPLAUSE]

It would, therefore, be a waste of time to try to work through the individual challenges affecting each CPA, because some of the challenges are structural and systemic.

According to the CPA 2022/23 Annual Report by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), it was revealed that 1 141 CPAs in the country were noncompliant with governance rules and regulations. The Zebediela CPA is one of those. One hundred and eighty-eight were partially compliant, while only 81 were compliant. Some of the key challenges necessitating this dysfunction include infighting, inadequate management skills, legal noncompliance, and limited government support.

The result of this CPA chaos is that land lies fallow and is not being put to productive use to benefit the beneficiaries. In essence, CPA members who want to engage in productive farming are now being held to ransom by those who are only concerned about fighting for positions.

The envisaged model will give birth to a new dispensation where individuals are allowed to own and farm their own pieces of land. Individual ownership will address the current system, where CPAs are now being used for rent-seeking purposes with limited to no production taking place. Hence, let's not take this opportunity and be opportunists.

Therefore, honourable Members, we have not given up on the Zebediela citrus project. I heard Hon Mapoulo saying that we have given up. We have not given up; we were just stating facts about our diagnosis of the challenges and what needs to be done. One would also recommend that honourable Members read a book written by one of our own, South African Land Reform Complexities: The Marobala O Itsose Experience, written by one of our veterans, Mr Sechaba Nkoana. [APPLAUSE] You will be educated, as I am, after reading the book.

Allow me to conclude by quoting Hon Machete, who said, "It will be crucial for achieving sustainable development, as it directly impacts poverty reduction, economic growth, improved health, education, and gender equality by providing essential services like lighting and enabling people to live better lives and contribute more fully to their communities." I felt that was very powerful. [APPLAUSE]

One is highlighting these points not because there is disagreement in the House, but because we are singing from the same hymn book, emphasising our commitment to honouring our promises.

We stand here on behalf of the Executive Council to reaffirm that commitment.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier, for the response to the debate We will now proceed to the next item.

7.2 The First Reading of the Limpopo Amendment Adjustment Appropriation Bill, [B02-2025].

Hon Mahoai, the MEC for Provincial Treasury, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the House in your different ranks and levels, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Mine is just a short one. I really need to thank the Hon Speaker for having indulged us by allowing us to come here to request the House to consider the Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025. You will understand that this pertains to the current financial year and could not have waited for the actual presentation of the Budget.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is a lived reality that is reshaping the lives of our communities, public infrastructure, and the economy in general. Its impact is evident in the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, which continue to disrupt livelihoods and strain public resources. As we recall, in December 2024, our province experienced heavy downpours and strong winds that caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure, including schools, government offices, health facilities, libraries, as well as district and provincial roads. The destruction has not only placed an immense financial burden on the province but has also disrupted essential services, negatively affecting the socioeconomic wellbeing of our people.

The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), through the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, has assessed the damage and made a submission for funding of immediate recovery and rehabilitation projects in the province for the short-to-medium-term incidents that could not be left to persist. The total preliminary provincial departments' cost estimates received amounted to almost R2 billion for the restoration of the damaged infrastructure. However, a request for urgent recovery and rehabilitation interventions funding amounting to R723,4 million was received by Provincial Treasury from the Provincial Disaster Management Centre for the current financial year, covering the remaining two months of the same financial year.

Contrary to a view held by many that the PFMA is an impediment to service delivery, if not too much ridden with compliance, whoever wants to submit that this is not the case. This is actually more of an enabler than any other thing. Therefore, it is in this context that one would like to refer to section 25 of the same Act, which makes provisions for the use of funds in emergency situations. In fact, section 25(1) of the same Act provides that "the MEC for finance in a province may authorise the use of funds from the Provincial Revenue Fund to defray expenditure of an exceptional nature which is currently not provided for and which cannot, without serious prejudice to the public

interest in the province, be postponed to a future appropriation by the provincial legislature.” This is a direct quote from the Act.

Section 25(6) further prescribes that “Expenditure in terms of subsection (1) must be included either in the next provincial adjustments budget for the financial year in which the expenditure is authorised, or in other appropriation legislation tabled in the provincial legislature within 120 days of the MEC for finance in the province authorising such expenditure, whichever is the sooner.”

To this effect, and empowered by the same legislation and at the behest of the Premier and the Executive Council – that something had to be done with immediate effect, because there were serious damages in most parts of our province – I therefore authorised, in terms of section 25, the withdrawal of R500 million from the Provincial Revenue Fund to fund the urgent recovery and rehabilitation interventions requested from the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, which was then endorsed by the Provincial Executive Council.

As required per section 25(4) of the same PFMA, I have reported the section 25 approval to the Provincial Legislature and the Auditor-General within the prescribed 14 days. Therefore, we are in compliance with the law in this instance. In order to fund the R500 million, all provincial departments were requested to declare savings to be surrendered into the Provincial Revenue Fund to augment the funding of this intervention. I am happy to report that the provincial departments heeded the call and have made an amount of R271,6 million available to fund emergency recovery and rehabilitation intervention projects, which will be surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund to assist in funding the R500 million as authorised.

Furthermore, the Minister for Finance, in compliance with sections 18 and 19 of the Division of Revenue Act (Act 3 of 2024), published Gazette No. 52207 dated 03 March 2025, which gives effect to the following changes to the allocations to the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) and the Department of Education, respectively. In compliance with section 18 of the DORA, the Division of Revenue Act, the national Department of Human Settlements has stopped the transfer of funds to the Western Cape to the tune of R200 million, to Gauteng of R300 million, and to the Free State of R50 million for the Human Settlements Development Grant, following revised allocations by the national Department of Human Settlements. On the other hand, the national Department of Basic Education stopped the transfer of R175,9 million in funds to the Limpopo Department of Education for the Education Infrastructure Grant, following revised allocations by the national Department of Basic Education.

In compliance with section 19 of the DORA, the National Department of Human Settlements has reallocated R200 million in Human Settlements Development Grant funds to CoGHSTA Limpopo. [APPLAUSE]

In compliance with section 31 of the PFMA, 1999, as amended, I herewith table the 2024/25 Provincial Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill to provide for the appropriation of funds that have become available to the province, which includes:

- Unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure recommended by the Provincial Executive Council, led by the Premier, within the framework prescribed by law;
- Expenditure under section 25, as previously indicated;
- The shifting of funds between and within votes; and
- The utilisation of savings under a main division within a vote to defray excess expenditure under the same main division in terms of section 43 of the PFMA).

To this effect, the budget adjustment allocations per department are proposed to be amended as follows:

Vote 1: The Office of the Premier surrenders savings of R11 million for the provincial disaster recovery and rehabilitation interventions, and the department's Budget is revised downwards from R510,3 million to R499,4 million.

Vote 2: The Provincial Legislature's adjusted allocation was not affected and will remain the same at R648,5 million.

Vote 3: The Department of Education's allocation has been adjusted downwards by R213,5 million, which includes the stoppage of R187,965 million from the Education Infrastructure Grant and the surrender of R112 million in declared savings for provincial disaster recovery and rehabilitation interventions.

The department also receives an amount of R86,4 million for disaster management intervention for infrastructure damaged by floods. There is no contradiction; the floods occurred in October last year. The department's Budget is therefore amended from R40,0 billion to R39,8 billion.

Vote 4: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Budget allocation has been adjusted downwards by R35,3 million, from R1,84 billion to R1,81 billion, as a result of declared savings to augment the provincial disaster funding.

Vote 5: Provincial Treasury surrenders R11,5 million to fund the provincial disaster recovery and rehabilitation interventions, and the department's Budget is adjusted downwards from R453,1 million to R441,6 million.

Vote 6: The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism's allocation has been adjusted downwards by R10,2 million, from R1,81 billion to R1,80 billion, as a result of declared savings to augment provincial disaster funding.

Vote 7: The Department of Health's Budget allocation has been increased by R1,0 million for disaster management interventions, from R24,757 billion to R24,758 billion.

Vote 8: The Department of Transport and Community Safety's 2024/25 adjusted allocation has been amended downwards by R50,635 million, from R2,642 billion to R2,591 billion, to augment the disaster funding.

Vote 9: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure's allocation increased by R412,2 million for urgent infrastructure disaster recovery and rehabilitation interventions. As you can recall, more focus is on roads and buildings.

It is reduced by declared savings of R13,5 million at the same time. There is a matter of offsets here. The department's net increase, therefore, in the allocated Budget is R398,7 million, from R5,675 billion to R6,074 billion.

Vote 10: Sport, Arts and Culture receives an additional R332,000 for infrastructure damaged by floods, and the department will surrender identified savings amounting to R10 million to fund provincial disaster needs. Thus, the Budget of the department is adjusted by a net decrease of R9,668 million, from R754,0 million to R744,3 million.

Vote 11: The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs' allocation has increased by the additional conditional grant allocation from the national Human Settlements Grant of R200 million for Human Settlements, and the department's equitable share is reduced by R5,0 million to fund the provincial disaster recovery and rehabilitation interventions, which gives us a net increase of R195 million, from R2,687 billion to R2,882 billion.

Vote 12: Social Development's budget adjustment allocation is amended from R2,104 billion to R2,091 billion, a decrease of R12,5 million to fund the provincial disaster recovery and rehabilitation interventions.

Madam Speaker, I hereby in terms of section 31 of the Public Finance Management Act, (No 1 of 1999), as amended, herewith table:

- The 2024/25 Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, [B-02-2025] to effect these adjustments and increase the Provincial Budget by R240,5 million, from the original R83,946 billion to R84,187 billion; and
- The Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2024/25.

That concludes what we are submitting. We can respond as urgently as possible for as long as we are thinking in the right direction and acting with the right motives. This I submit. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Bill is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House. Let me take the opportunity to recognise and welcome the presence of veteran Sechaba Nkoana. When the Premier was responding, she did quote him, and we want to appreciate that. He is a scholar, and we will continue to learn from him. Most of us will have to buy the book so that we can learn more. You are welcome, Mr Nkoana. We truly appreciate your presence in our Legislature.

Although we did not see who our guests in the gallery are, please feel welcome in this Legislature. If we did not welcome you, we humbly apologise. You are here to support us; you are here to be part of this. When they say, "The people shall govern", this is how we are governing. Thank you so much.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will now call upon the Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Portia Mamorobela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and honourable Members. The Sitting will adjourn today until Tuesday, 25 March 2025. This will allow Scopa to complete its hearings before the end of the financial year. Lunch will be served in the Committees Boardroom. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. This House is adjourned until Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2025
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 so much. You may all be seated. Hon Premier; Deputy Speaker; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chairs of Chairs; Chief Whip; leaders of opposition parties, specifically the main opposition party, the EFF, and all other political parties, today is a very important day that we are going to receive the Budget of the Limpopo province.

We shall now start with our Sitting as scheduled. Before I proceed, honourable Members, remember, this is your House.

Allow me to first indicate that Hon Mahoai didn't come alone. That's why re le ba ba botse ka tsela ye. Today re ba ba botsana. He has brought some guests, and it is our responsibility to acknowledge those guests that have been invited to join us in this Sitting today.

I might not be able to acknowledge specific categories, but I will acknowledge a few. If I didn't mention your name, please just accept that you are one of our most important guests, and you are all welcomed.

I will acknowledge the Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela, in our midst today; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, she is with us; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Provincial Legislature; leaders of various political parties who are also Members of this august House; Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Ngove le magoši ka moka; na vhothovhele vhothe vho tangedzwa; former Members of the Legislature who are present today; Director-General of the province, Mr Nchabeleng; Secretary to the Legislature and your staff, you are acknowledged; Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Fiscal Commission, Mr Thulani Ntuli — you are warmly welcomed; members of the Boards and chief executive officers of our various entities present here today; Executive Mayors of our municipalities, as well as all Mayors present here today; leader of the governing party, the African National Congress, represented by Vhamusanda, Vho Reuben Madadzhe — na vhone vho tangedzwa; leaders and the representatives of our Chapter Nine and Ten Institutions present; leaders of organised labour organisations; faith-based organisations; civil society organisations; SACP; Cosatu; all leaders of youth, women and people with disability organisations present; captains and leaders of various industries in terms of our business sector; distinguished guests; and the people of our province, Limpopo, you are all welcomed.

I as well acknowledge other important guests. Today we have received a delegation that requested to come and observe our Sitting. It is a visit by the Turfloop School of Leadership, which is part of the University of Limpopo. Graduates, students and lecturers are here with us. We have 12 master's degree students in our midst, who have requested to witness the proceedings of our Sitting.

The students are accompanied by the school director, Mr Njoko; senior lecturer, Dr Ramovha; Ms Lamola; and office manager, Ms Moeketsi. On behalf of all Members, I welcome you all to the Limpopo Legislature. Feel free and enjoy our proceedings.

Can we welcome all our guests with a round of applause? [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, we will now proceed with the Orders of the Day. Before I proceed, Chief Whip, there was a task you were requested to do. Can I proceed with the amended or old Order Paper?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Proceed with the amended Order Paper, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. In terms of the Orders of the Day, the Programming Committee has agreed during its sitting that items 2 to 6 be deferred to the next Sitting. These items are:

[ITEMS 2 – 5 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS & PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 First Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, [B03-2025].

We shall now allow the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoai, to come and address the people of the province on how they are planning to put resources aside and provide services to the people of Limpopo. Hon Mahoai, the platform is yours.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURY

(Address by Mr K.E. Mahoai, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Hon Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Premier of our Province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature in your different ranks and gradings; leaders of various opposition parties present; Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Pheni Ngove le magoši ka moka ba baleng gona; former Members of the Provincial Legislature present here; Director-General of the Province, Mr Nape Nchabeleng, and all heads of department; Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Fiscal Commission, Mr Thulani Ntuli; members of the Boards and chief executive officers of our various entities present; Executive Mayors, Mayors and all Councillors present; leadership of the governing party, the African National Congress, represented by Vhamusanda Vho Reuben Madadzhe; leaders and representatives of our Chapter Nine, Ten and Thirteen Institutions present here. The Financial Fiscal Commission is one of those institutions supporting democracy and is very responsible for the work that we are doing here.

Leaders of organised labour, faith-based and civil society organisations present; all leaders of our youth, women and people with disability present; captains and leaders of various industries, notably from the agriculture sector, mining sector, and all those who come from those areas; distinguished guests; and the people of our province, Limpopo, thobela. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni.

Hon Speaker, we have the honour to table before this august House the Limpopo Appropriation Bill (2025); the Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure (2025); the Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure (2025); the Socioeconomic Review and Outlook (2025); the supporting gazettes; and this Budget Speech.

As we gather here today to present the Limpopo Provincial Government Budget, let us reflect on the age-old wisdom of our forebearers: "When a cow is slaughtered, every part is put to good use, for it is in its entirety where lies the nourishment for the whole community." Just as the skilled butcher knows how to utilise each part of a cow, transforming its meat into sustenance, its hide into shelter, and its bones into tools, (and sometimes to do floor x-ray as well), so too must we approach our Budget.

In the face of challenges, we are called to ensure that every rand is allocated wisely and effectively in addressing our three government priorities, while leaving no resources wasted. Together, we will navigate these difficult circumstances, ensuring that our province thrives and that every resident benefits from our collective wisdom and efforts.

The unprecedented events around the tabling of the national Budget, and the subsequent delays in the tabling of the provincial Budgets, have truly tested the mantle of our democracy as a nation. Even though, as a province, we do not have the complexities of multiparty governance, we too are affected. We hope for the ease of approval of the tabled Budget by our Parliament, sooner rather than later, within the prescribed period.

To just give a context, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa laid the foundation for a unitary but decentralised system of intergovernmental relations by providing three, and I have to quote them: "distinctive, interdependent and interrelated" spheres of

government. It is in this context that our province does not operate outside the framework laid down by the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech recently.

In this regard, the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC) plays a critical role by providing independent, research-based advice to Parliament, provincial legislatures and municipalities on the division of nationally collected revenue. The FFC ensures that the allocation of funds aligns with constitutional principles of equity and efficiency, thereby reinforcing the intergovernmental fiscal framework. It is no wonder that they graced this event with their presence, because behind some curtains, they are doing work which ultimately becomes what we all, in these three spheres, have to deal with.

Furthermore, the annual Division of Revenue Bill gives legal effect to these allocations by specifying how funds are distributed across the three spheres of government. Therefore, our provincial Budget must align with the National Budget Framework while responding to local service delivery needs. There has to be a balance in action here.

As we move on, I would like to point out this fact: we are presenting this Budget at a time of high uncertainties, shaped by both domestic and global economic trends. The political developments following the 2024 U.S. Presidential elections, the posture taken therewith, coupled with the uniqueness of the operation of our Government of National Unity in our country, are some of the phenomena that will shape our approach to challenges brought about by the uncertain socioeconomic climate.

These paradigm shifts, in tandem with ongoing global geo-political tensions, are influencing the global economy, creating challenges for governments, businesses, and households alike. The geo-political dynamics, including trade conflicts, tariff battles, shifting alliances, and international security concerns, are likely to have far-reaching consequences. In addition, other factors, such as inflation rates, energy crises, and economic policies in various nations, also play a role in driving our economic transformation.

The global economy continues to exhibit divergent trends, with emerging markets and developing economies expected to experience stagnant growth between now and 2026. In contrast, advanced economies are projected to witness modest growth, while sub-Saharan African countries, including South Africa, are anticipated to record positive growth during this period.

However, persistent economic structural challenges hinder South Africa's economic growth and prevent our country from achieving the desired growth levels necessary to address pressing socioeconomic challenges. The South African economy, including that of our province, has stagnated for over a decade now. During the same period, GDP growth has averaged less than 2%, far below the level required to meet the expanding list of needs of our people. In 2024, the South African economy grew by only 0,6%. Over the medium term, GDP growth is projected to average 1,8%.

On the other hand, the provincial economy grew by only 0,2%. You can see the context in which we operate; it's a very challenging one. Over the past 10 years, Limpopo's GDP has only grown about 2,0 %. In 2021, it was at 5,5 % following a negative growth of 6,7% in 2020, which was the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2024, the province's GDP only grew by 0,2%, following a 0,6% growth in 2023.

Agriculture, manufacturing, construction, wholesale and transport sectors contributed negatively to the provincial GDP growth in 2024, while mining, electricity, finance and personal services recorded positive growth. Our economic performance is obviously a mirror reflection of our country's GDP growth, which, as indicated earlier, has also contracted. Agriculture remains one of the main sectors, for Limpopo's economic growth and has unfortunately recorded a significantly larger decline.

However, at least on a positive note, the mining sector recorded an increase, as the province's economic growth continues to be more reliant on the sector, given its bigger share. Therefore, there can never be a greater need than now for the province to address the provincial development challenges and to unlock economic opportunities through increased productivity in the agriculture, manufacturing and construction sectors.

To this effect, we must have a transformed economic structure, with greater emphasis on value addition and high investment in infrastructure projects that will help to create employment and stimulate the economy. This is what our Premier emphasised in the State of the Province Address, and the ideal to wish that we have to put everything into achieving that.

Equally important, to meet the country and provincial goals of redistribution, redress and structural transformation, the economy needs to grow much faster and in an inclusive manner. This is the central objective of the current Seventh Administration. It is against this background that this Budget proposes a bold and pragmatic approach to achieve this formidable task, as it calls for macro-economic stability supported by sound fiscal policy, deepening local structural reforms to remove obstacles to sustainable economic growth, and a solid foundation for job creation. This will enhance the province's resilience to external shocks and create a conducive environment for investment in the province.

I will now focus on this much-required approach to development, which rests mostly on infrastructure development as the focal point. Investment in infrastructure remains the backbone of economic recovery, development and improving the living standards of the residents of our province. Hence, the province continues to introduce fundamental reforms to enhance planning and provision of infrastructure.

It is also essential to advance the progress made in enhancing infrastructure planning, delivery and procurement over the years. The province's infrastructure planning framework, which was applied over the past few years, is aligned with best practices, which include the National Treasury's Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) and the Infrastructure Alignment Model.

It is therefore necessary that the province continues to implement this framework over the 2025 MTEF, more so because it has demonstrated maturity and steadfastness — to a point that, together with National Treasury, we developed a case study on the best practice infrastructure reforms implemented by our province. We will share this when we deal with budget votes, to the extent that we can ensure that, as Limpopo province, we are getting somewhere in this area.

Over and above the notable best practices, we continue to observe strategic challenges that require us to enhance our infrastructure planning reforms and delivery strategies on a regular basis.

This means that our approach to infrastructure delivery has to be proactive rather than reactive. Part of it is that we failed because we always react to a circumstance, rather than being initiative-driven and doing things in an innovative manner so that we can overcome whatever hindrances there may be.

We can ensure this by strengthening governance, not only to promote value for money, but also to ensure that infrastructure budget allocations are directed towards the right projects in a coordinated and reliable manner. Furthermore, there is a need to enhance the province's capacity to deliver infrastructure projects on time, within budget, and at the required quality standards.

You can't compromise this equilibrium. The province is developing a framework to oversee the capacity and performance of implementing agencies. "We will not rest, and we dare not fail," as the Premier will always say, and we will elaborate further in this area. This framework is intended to provide a coordinated approach to define the minimum requirements regarding capacity, systems and processes that an entity or sector department must meet to be recognised as an infrastructure implementing agent.

It doesn't have to be just someone who just comes in and do it, there has to be a demonstrable ability to do it, so that they convince us as we put money into that region. In addition, it will clarify the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, expanding the scope of services to ensure effective planning, procurement and delivery of infrastructure programmes.

This process will assist with informed decision-making as we allocate programme and portfolio scopes of work through programme management plans to our implementing agents. It can't just be a one-size-fits-all. It will depend on the nature of infrastructure that we want, at what point, and at what quality standard.

Significant efforts were made in finalising infrastructure plans so that they align with the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP), which is a primary strategic instrument that aims to create a sustainable and viable economy by ensuring that resources are invested towards infrastructure. In order to realise the targets set out in the LDP, the province plans to review and institutionalise the Limpopo Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (LIIMP), to foster integrated planning and promote inter-departmental collaboration.

The Master Plan will provide a cohesive framework for infrastructure development, supporting sustainable growth and efficient resource utilisation across the province. The Minister of Finance, Mr Godongwana, in his Budget Speech, pronounced the reconfiguration of the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) to run multiple bid windows instead of just one annual window, as was the case.

This announcement comes at a time when the province is proactive and has developed a framework for funding the LDP 2025-30 priority programmes. Everything has to be costed and tailored against the resources so that there is no disjuncture between what is intended and the available resources. The province will be, amongst others, maybe

one has to emphasise the point. This framework will assist in the resourcing of catalytic projects, together with sourcing alternative funding mechanisms such as public-private partnerships. It's something that we should explore more, as it brings the public and private sectors into the same space to maximise each other's capabilities and resources through mechanisms such as development finance institutions, and the Budget Facility for Infrastructure.

The province will also engage on more awareness sessions to encourage provincial departments, municipalities, and entities to have the willingness to promote and participate in public-private partnership projects. During January this year, the province conducted a provincial infrastructure readiness workshop to prepare and finalise the 2025/26 MTEF plans.

This means that the matters that I'm going to talk about regarding allocations have undergone rigorous discussion, planning and all the necessary steps required before one says, "I will do this." Do you really have what it takes to do that? We want to move away from the practice whereby we say one thing and do the opposite, we indicate left and then turn right. [APPLAUSE] That is what will not happen.

All departmental infrastructure plans have been firmed up and utilised to inform the final allocation. We must refer to what the Premier said. She emphasised that she doesn't talk about promises. She talks about commitment. Commitment should be tangible, it should be concrete, and there should be resource allocation in tandem with it, so that we can do what we must to have this matter resolved in that manner.

Over the 2025 MTEF period, a total budget of R21,6 billion has been allocated for the provision of infrastructure within the province. This allocation will fund infrastructure projects across various categories, in line with the pillars of the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) and the strategic objectives of the LDP. The project details are captured in the respective project lists of each department. This is not just a theory; it is a living organism.

The provincial infrastructure budget for the 2025/26 financial year stands at R7,5 billion, allocated to various departments. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives R3,2 billion. The Department of Education receives R1,6 billion and the Department of COGHSTA receives R1,1 billion. The Department of Health receives R907,2 million. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is allocated R267 million to continue with the theatre project and ensure that libraries are being maintained. We witnessed a very successful venture by this department over the weekend when they really did wonders by securing a major Bafana Bafana match that everyone wanted to see. [APPLAUSE]

These amounts I'm referring to are only relating to infrastructure; they're not the full budgets. Each department has its own budget, but this one is earmarked for infrastructure, as I stated, to show that we have to do what we undertook to do.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is allocated R210,2 million on the infrastructure side, and the Department of Transport receives R141,6 million. You know, you will see what MEC Hon Mathye wants to do. She wants to track you; she

wants to purchase these devices so that you don't have to wait where the traffic cops are. They will just drive with you and issue you a ticket. [APPLAUSE]

You may worry about varying figures; remember, this is only on infrastructure. The less it becomes, it means we are targeting maintenance, an area we may have ignored throughout. You come up with a very brilliant idea, a project. You do it, but there is no mechanism to maintain it. Therefore, what we mean by this infrastructure funding here; we are talking about specifically dealing with infrastructure-related challenges through the whole value chain.

Social Development will get a piece of R15 million. It's for maintenance. Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism gets R31 million. You know they have to go and ensure that these resorts are being taken care of and are of a standard that people can go to.

It's not like they are going to start new things. They might say, "What is it that R31 million is going to do? It is for maintenance, as I said, because that's an area we have always been lagging behind.

The province aims to ensure that resources are fully expended. There is always a concern that money can be returned. We have to make sure that funds are fully expended and that slow spending is averted through regular monitoring and evaluation, where necessary, through regular free refresher workshops for project managers and improved procurement plans. It's one thing to just give a procurement plan, but when you come to implementation, the two do not speak to each other.

Given the current fiscal constraints facing the country, we acknowledge that the growing demand for infrastructure indeed surpasses the resources at our disposal. You can imagine, R7,5 billion for a backlog such as what we have, but we can always learn to do more with less. We can be so focused that, whatever we have, when we look at it, we will pride ourselves that we did something better. We are therefore compelled to be innovative in our dealings with infrastructure, to ensure that resources allocated to our province are fully expended, as I said earlier.

His Excellency, President Ramaphosa, in the State of the Nation Address, emphasised one important area, the urgent need to establish professionally managed, ring-fenced utilities for water and electricity services. These are functions performed at local levels. He further indicated that this is to ensure adequate investment and maintenance, as many municipalities have failed to reinvest the revenue they generate into the upkeep of critical infrastructure.

You hear people say that if you go into public facility toilet and you don't find the notice "Out of Order", know that you are not in a government facility. I don't know how true that is. That's what people say. If you go to toilets owned by government and you don't find a sign saying "Out of Order", or see water dripping or darkness, then they say you may be lost, because it's only in government facilities. I'm not sure how true that is, but as the Premier has directed, we will need to have more robust engagements.

The Premier was actually coming up with an idea that we rather train young people as artisans and use them to fix all these things, because infrastructure decays bit by bit. It

starts with a globe not working, then it comes to a dripping tap, and then to a completely dysfunctional door. The next moment, it is just something else. We will definitely go to them and zoom in there.

Municipalities cannot achieve financial sustainability without improving revenue. This is the only sphere of government, together with national, that is actually legislated to generate revenue, unlike the province. If you can't maximise revenue that will assist you to reinvest in service delivery, then what is the purpose for your existence? This has to be looked into very thoroughly. Whatever mistakes we have made as government across the board, we should take a relook at this and ensure that we live up to what we undertook to do.

The Provincial Treasury is cognisant of the economic difficulties that ordinary residents of our province are faced with. It is therefore imperative that municipalities implement their policies on free basic services and enforce the necessary credit control policies to protect the current revenue streams. Collaboration with other stakeholders to venture into other economies is critical. The Limpopo Provincial Treasury will continue to provide the necessary guidance on revenue management to ensure revenue protection and reduce leakages and spending on non-priority items.

I will now focus, generally, on revenue management, Hon Speaker. We are proud to present the budget of hope to the people of Limpopo. Our province has seen a significant increase in its provincial equitable share, with a 5,5% average growth over the 2025 Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. We are not going down, but going higher. However, we are aware of the pressing socioeconomic needs and the growing population in our province. To address some of these challenges, we are prioritising own revenue collection under the direction and leadership of the Provincial Treasury.

That's where we rose quickly when we were promised that should we buy all these video recordings while we were speeding up, it could indeed assist in taking upon those who those who are costing life to then pay for it through these fines.

Our Revenue Enhancement Strategy is beginning to bear fruit, as witnessed in the collection of R2,2 billion at the end of February 2025, that is 97,3% of our revised target of R2,3 billion. Our target has increased significantly, from R1,8 billion in 2024/25 to R2,0 billion in 2025/26; R2,1 billion and R2,2 billion in 2026/27 and 2027/28, obviously through the medium term. This represents an average increase of 6,0% over the 2025 MTEF period.

We continue to incentivise provincial departments and public entities that exceed their revenue set targets, ensuring that the revenue target set is realistic and achievable. This strategy involves investing in provincial government holiday resorts, infrastructure, implementing the Provincial Liquor License Act, and extending the K53 learners and driving licence function to Thohoyandou and Seshego. This was said by the Premier, and what we did was to allocate for the purpose of ensuring that these are realised.

Our provincial own revenue collection is primarily allocated to the Department of Health and the Department of Education, recognising the importance of social services as an enabler for socioeconomic development. A healthy, skilled, and educated community

brings good economic returns to the province and the country. So, we dare not fail in that regard.

Minister Enoch Godongwana's 2025 Budget Speech announced spending reviews to fund essential services. National departments, provinces, and the Presidency have been tasked to conduct spending reviews to identify areas for reprioritisation and efficiency. Provinces will thus focus on identifying efficiencies and reducing wastage.

The Limpopo province welcomes the announcement and will join hands in the spending review projects, with robust oversight by our portfolio committees and Scopa. I believe that there will be mechanisms to live up to this undertaking as we deal with this important subject.

The Limpopo Procurement Strategy 2030 was approved by the provincial EXCO in March 2018 to ensure the achievement of strategic objectives; ensuring maximum retention of provincial fiscal spending in the province and creating an environment for local economic development aligned to the Limpopo Development Plan, and empowering designated groups through public procurement.

It was further reviewed and approved by the EXCO in November 2023, in terms of which accounting officers and authorities are required to report on a monthly basis to Treasury on their discretionary budget expenditures aligned to the achievement of this important strategy's targets. It is not an inward-looking kind of thing; it is simply saying: reinvest locally in order to grow muscles to be able to be a player externally. There is no contradiction about that.

However, out of the total expenditure of R10,7 billion, the province has spent R6,4 billion on black-owned businesses, which translates to 60% of the 65% Limpopo Procurement Strategy target. The province has further spent R2,1 billion on women-owned businesses [APPLAUSE], which represents 20,4% of the 25%, as well as R6,4 billion on SMMEs, which indicates that the province has achieved 60% of the 70% LPS target.

This is a concerning matter, though, more so that Statistics South Africa has shown that Limpopo is a youthful province. It is therefore important that the province improves its spending directed at procurement from youth-owned enterprises, to change the economic situation and reduce unemployment. As things stand, we are not doing enough in empowering youth and people with disability. This is not just a phenomenon, but a reality that we need to change — and the best time to do that is now.

It would be a big achievement for businesses in Limpopo to benefit from procurement within province, but statistics from April to December 2024 show that only 34% of the reported expenditure is for Limpopo-owned businesses.

It's a cause for concern, but a hope in the process because we now know where we are, so we should know where we are going, in line with what the Premier has directed in this august House. We, therefore, make this call; let us change our approach and ensure that funds appropriated in this august House are, in as far as possible, spent within our province to stimulate the local economy.

This principle is articulated in the Limpopo Procurement Strategy, and it is our collective responsibility to translate these strategic commitments into tangible actions. Our blueprints must not remain mere documents, but serve as catalysts for economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development in our province.

As alluded to previously during the presentation of the Amended Adjustment Budget Appropriation Bill recently, global warming due to climate change is no longer a distant threat, but our lived reality. Limpopo has also experienced the effects of this climate change, and this calls for stringent interventions from the province so that it can be ready to respond to disasters as they occur.

Following the December 2024 and January 2025 floods that damaged our provincial social and economic infrastructure, the Premier of the Province, in her State of the Province Address, instructed that the Provincial Treasury should consider establishing a Provincial Disaster Management Contingency Reserve Fund.

To this effect, we are happy to report that such a fund will be established within the framework of the National Disaster Management Act, which encourages budgeting for disaster recovery and rehabilitation through threshold funding. Section 56(3) of this Act allows the Minister to prescribe a percentage of the budget of a provincial or municipal state organ as a threshold for accessing national funding for disaster response efforts.

It is actually surprising that sometimes, even now, when we talk about climate change and the effects thereof, we are still not prepared. We don't have contingency, and we get surprised when it happens. We cried all over, when we know it is only in an unforeseen circumstance that you can cry. But if you know that something is likely to happen, it is only fair that you prepare for it, no matter how big or small that can be.

As set by the National Disaster Management Framework, threshold percentages are reviewed every four years, and are currently set at 1,2% of the provincial Budget. You can calculate when I mentioned the figure here.

About 1,2% of that should be earmarked as a contingency reserve fund, so that the municipality must follow suit, because there is no way you can always cry and not act on your cry.

National transfers to the province comprise equitable shares and conditional grant; that's a well-known fact and remains the primary revenue source for provincial payments over the 2025 MTEF period. These two sources contribute 98% of the total receipts. You can add what is remaining, only 2%. Where does the 2% come from? It is from own revenue that we generated. Do you blame us for that? We are not at the revenue-rating sphere of government per se.

However, we have to try to increase that through creative ways. I'm now coming to bore you with figures, which is what I'm here for.

The 2025/26 transfer receipts from national government increased by R4,6 billion from R81,4 billion in the current financial year to R86,3 billion in 2026/27. If we add R2 billion, our budget will be R88 billion from R81 billion. [APPLAUSE]

That's why the importance of the Financial and Fiscal Commission in their research are able to determine certain things that they are able to do. Hence, under the circumstances that we are in, to receive this kind of boost is very rare and has to be commended.

The national transfers in subsequent years, because you mentioned the MTEF in the financial year 2025/26, are projected to be R89,3 billion, and in the outer year, are projected to be R93,8 billion. The overall provincial receipts including own revenue increase by R5,1 billion or 6,1% from R83,5 billion in 2024/25 to R88,3 billion in 2025/26. Under these circumstances, where we are crying, you are lucky, because instead of remaining like this or going down, you are going up.

What will remain is the responsibility for us to make good use of what we are given. The total provincial receipts for next year, which is the second year of the MTEF, will increase by 3,5%. It is lower, and we will revert by 5,1% in the outer year.

Over the 2025 MTEF period, the provincial equitable share increases from R69,6 billion in the current financial year to R74,0 billion in 2025/26, the year that will start on 01 April. Then, R77,7 billion in 2026/27, and R81,8 billion in the 2027/28 financial year. In monetary terms, this translates to a year-on-year increase of R1,1 billion, R1,3 billion, and R1,8 billion over the MTEF period. The total increase amounts to, as I said, R4,3 billion.

The changes in the equitable share allocation are a result of a number of upward and downward adjustments implemented by the national government over the 2025 MTEF. The upward adjustments over the next three years include R3,9 billion for new data updates; R1,7 billion additional funding for wage agreements, as you will recall, there is this wage agreement that needs to be serviced, and therefore, the National Treasury has provided funds for that so that we can honour the wage agreement. I believe workers should be proud that we live to ensure that this happened. In addition, R158 million was allocated for Presidential Youth Employment Initiative funding directed to the Department of Education.

Conversely, the downward adjustments over the next three years include a total amount of R4,8 billion, emanating from the effect of fiscal consolidations, mainly the R2,3 billion in 2025/26 and R2,4 billion in 2026/27. However, the National Treasury's decision to phase out fiscal consolidation from 2027/28 is a positive move that may boost economic growth and enable the facilitation of the creation of jobs.

Overall, the provincial payment estimate amounts to R274,8 billion over the 2025 MTEF period, it's a three-year period, of which R88,9 billion which is the current budget is allocated and this increases to R94,7 billion.

I repeat it for the sake of clarity, for the next year and the final year, as we said, it will be positively affected by the fact that the fiscal consolidation would have ended.

We must indicate the slight decrease in conditional grant. As I should have indicated, it is a total of R35,9 billion, with R12 billion allocated in 2025/26 and R12,0 billion, which goes a little bit down, in 2027/28. So, there is this slight decrease, on the conditional grant, .

We must indicate that this slight decrease is not a cause for concern, as this resulted from conditional grant reviews as announced by Minister Godongwana during his Budget Speech, aimed at reducing duplication and improving the effectiveness of programmes. There were instances where certain Conditional grant were serving different sectors for the same purpose. Therefore, in reviewing that, it had to be streamlined appropriately so that there would be no such incidences.

As I am about to outline the allocations per vote, let me begin by indicating that the budget allocation to the departments followed a robust assessment of the alignment of the prioritised projects within the Medium-Term Development Plan. This was to ensure that the allocation for catalytic projects is used for its intended purpose and that the desired results are achieved. The Provincial Treasury earmarked the allocation of such projects and will monitor implementation on a quarterly basis. We will not wait until it happens, we will deal with it as it comes, and we will then avail technical information to the robust portfolio committees. We will also report to the Premier, so that everyone understands that we cannot allow a situation where we just sleep on duty.

I, therefore, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, present the following appropriations per vote:

- Vote 1: Office of the Premier. The Office of the Premier is allocated R1,7 billion over the MTEF period, of which R554,8 million is made available for the 2025/26 financial year. The 2025/26 allocation includes R109,5 million in earmarked funding for ICT-related projects in the province. We dare not to fail in that one, because we are living in an era where ICT is the master key to every door.
- Vote 2: Limpopo Legislature. The Legislature is allocated a total Budget of R2,1 billion over the next three years, of which R671,6 million is made available for the 2025/26 financial year. This allocation is mainly for the operational expenditure of the Legislature, aimed essentially at expanding the oversight capacity of the institution. These are the people who represent the citizens in every community, they are in, and their work must be made easier. There should be no resource constraints when it comes to oversight. We must bolster our resources to uphold clean governance.
- Vote 3: Education. The highest share of the provincial budget is allocated to the Department of Education, which receives R133,8 billion over the next three years. This is in line with the provincial government's commitment to continue providing quality education in the province and to implement programmes vital for improving learners' performance across all grades, not just Grade 12, but all grades from Grade 1 to Grade 12. Of the total MTEF allocation, R110,5 billion (82%) is directed towards funding Public Ordinary School Education to cater for 1,6 million learners in No-Fee Public Ordinary Schools, in line with the National Norms and Standards for School Funding. [APPLAUSE] This is a very important thing, because this government has undertaken to provide free education; and that is an action, by the way.
- The 2025 MTEF budget also includes R902,1 million in additional funding for the wage agreement. The bulk of compensation of employees is within educators. This

is critical to sustain the salaries of teachers in the province who provide quality education to our learners. We also dare not to fail them. In the next financial year, which is the 2025/26 budget year, a total of R42,5 billion is made available for the Education sector. This includes:

- R158,0 million for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (for the teacher assistants' programme);
 - R100,0 million for E-Education;
 - R100,0 million for the Storm Damaged Schools Project;
 - R70 million for the Improvement of Matric Results Project;
 - R41,8 million for the procurement of school furniture; and
 - R3,8 billion in Conditional grant funding for the school feeding scheme, school infrastructure and Early Childhood Development, amongst others.
- Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development. Agriculture and Rural Development is allocated R5,9 billion over the next three financial years, of which R1,9 billion is made available for 2025/26 financial year. The 2025/26 allocation includes:
- R32,7 million for the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-Processing Value Chain (RAAVC) Projects;
 - R10 million for the Lebowa kgomo broiler houses. This was a directive; and
 - The department is also allocated conditional grant amounting to R346,0 million in 2025/26, which will grow to R370,7 million in 2027/28.
- Vote 5: Provincial Treasury. Over the next three years, Vote 5, the Provincial Treasury, will receive its allocated funding. Honourable Members, and most importantly to our honoured guests: in this Parliament, we refer to departments by their vote numbers, not by name. This is because it is the votes that are authorised by the Legislature when the budget is passed. So, the Provincial Treasury is Vote 05. I started with Vote 01, the Office of the Premier; Vote 02, the Legislature; Vote 03, Education; Vote 04, Agriculture; and now I'm going to Vote 05. The Provincial Treasury is allocated a total Budget of R1,6 billion. This is only for three years, of which R512,8 million is made available for the 2025/26 financial year.
- Included in the 2025/26 financial year is an amount of R5,9 million for Infrastructure Capacity Building Programmes. Remember, we went to oversee the delivery of infrastructure, and with the little we have, we will do it — as the smallest of them all, we will still get it done. That's how we lead by example. We don't have much, but with the little that we do have, we will make miracles. Also included is R12,3 million for Municipal Intervention Capacity Building Programmes. Hon Makamu, we are there with you. We are administering the Municipal Finance Management Act, and we seek nothing but compliance. We will do that robustly, and we will never shy away from doing it.
- Vote 6: Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Hon Speaker and Members, in response to the call made by the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, when she said, "Our resolve is driven by the need to see Limpopo's economy growing and creating jobs", the Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism

is allocated a Budget of R5,1 billion over the next three financial years, of which R2,2 billion is made available for the 2025/26 financial year.

- Included in the 2025/26 allocation is R1,144 billion set aside for transfers to the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), R102 million for the Limpopo Tourism Agency, and R72,1 million to the Limpopo Gambling Board. The transfer to LEDA includes R730 million for the implementation of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and the Fetakgomo-Tubaste Industrial Hub catalytic projects, and other economic development enablers. We carry the mandate. This budget also allocates a total of R206,6 million to Great North Transport in the 2025/26 financial year for the acquisition of buses, to provide much-needed relief to the existing ageing fleet, enhancing operational efficiency and passenger experience. The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism's 2025/26 allocation also includes R68,5 million for waste management and air quality control. The environmental part of the department is tasked with waste management and air quality control, and with the completion, refurbishment, maintenance, operationalisation and equipping of state resorts.
- Furthermore, the department is also allocated R4,5 million, Hon Matibe, from that very market-inducing event, called National Tourism Career Expo, which I had the privilege of attending last year, where we hosted the whole country and showcased Limpopo in its different manifestations when it comes to tourism.
- Vote 7: The Department of Health. The Health Department function is allocated R82,5 billion over the next three financial years to support the equitable provision of public health services, including free primary healthcare. About R54,9 billion, or 70% of the Health Budget, is directed toward funding District Health Services, particularly district hospitals, primary healthcare facilities such as clinics and community health centres, and HIV/AIDS programmes, which also provide outreach services.
- Furthermore, the 2025 MTEF budget includes an additional R512,9 million allocation for the wage agreement. In the 2025/26 financial year, R26,0 billion is made available, and this allocation will ensure that the department continues to sustain the salaries of medical health professionals and the procurement of medicine for distribution to public hospitals and clinics across the province.
- Included in the 2025/26 Budget is R54,6 million for the procurement of additional ambulances to cover areas that are in dire need. Furthermore, R4,2 billion in Conditional grant funding is allocated for District Health Care, HIV/AIDS, Health Profession Training, Health Tertiary Services, National Health Insurance and health infrastructure.
- Vote 8: Transport and Community Safety. The Budget for the Department of Transport and Community Safety is R9,3 billion over the next three financial years of which R3,0 billion is made available for the 2025/26 financial year. Included in the 2025/26 allocation is R281,2 million for the implementation of provincial priorities, which includes R56,0 million for the Electronic Vehicle Monitoring System. We subsidise buses, and sometimes you can say you have 15 buses when you are operating only three, and on the remaining seven, you are just raking in money. That's over. Do you know why? We will have these gadgets to see what is in

movement and what is not. That can assist us to recover whatever we could provide. [APPLAUSE]

- That's how she wants to deal with you and me. About R3,5 million is allocated for the Moving Violation Recorder. Akere, you check where the traffic cops are and where the fixed cameras are. That is over too, because with this Moving Violation Recorder, you are going to be detected at any and every time. Please watch! About R221,6 million is for various infrastructure projects within the department. The 2025/26 allocation also includes R152,8 million set aside for transfer to Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL), of which R97,8 million will be used for the implementation of GAAL's Service Delivery Improvement Plan Projects, and R55 million for operational costs. The 2025/26 allocation also includes conditional grant funding of R485,0 million, mainly for public transport operations.
- Vote 9: Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. The allocation for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is R15,2 billion over the next three financial years. In 2025/26, an allocation of R5,6 billion is made available, which includes conditional grant funding of R2,6 billion for provincial roads maintenance.
- I must emphasise that the complaints about road conditions go beyond the devastation caused by floods. People want to see new roads, maintenance thereof, and re-gravelling where possible, regular blading where possible, and passable road bridges, some of which we should fix, whether in farming areas or deep rural areas. We believe that we are getting there, Hon Rachoene. Your Dikgerekgere project will be catered for. We also make sure that their maintenance is included in the funding, over and above the initial allocation.
- In the 2025/26 financial year, a total of R577,6 million is earmarked for the implementation of provincial priorities. This includes R150 million for the settlement of municipal rates and taxes, Hon Makamu. It can't be that government owes municipalities. Please refer them, because they really need to do something about it. There is money catered for that. About R100 million is for the procurement of road fleet, we felt that that we did not have enough, and equipment, we want to see them in motion, Hon Rachoene; R100,0 million for the procurement of office buildings; and R89,0 million for the construction of 15 additional parliamentary houses. It should be recorded that the number of Members of the Legislature increased from 49 to 64, and there should be houses equivalent to that number.
- The department's 2025/26 financial year allocation also includes R958,6 million set aside for transfer to Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) to improve the provincial roads network. The allocation to RAL includes funding for the implementation of roads infrastructure and maintenance projects, which have been allocated R420 million and R280,8 million, respectively. A further R125 million is allocated to RAL for St Engenas Zion Christian Church (ZCC) R71 Interchange Project. It has been outstanding here.
- Vote 10: Sport, Arts and Culture. Hon Maseko, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture receives a total Budget of R2,3 billion for the next three financial years, of which of R877,4 million is allocated for the 2025/26 financial year. The 2025/26 allocation includes R216 for the construction of the provincial theatre, the one

everybody passes on the road next to Smelters, and R10 million for the maintenance and upgrading of the provincial archives. We cannot overemphasise the importance of archives. You have the Bible today, written 4 000 years ago, because of archiving, otherwise you would not have it.

- Therefore, our records need to be archived appropriately. Life did not start in 1994; it just got a boost there. So, we have allocated funds to ensure that the provincial archives are maintained and upgraded. Included in the allocation to the department is R233,8 million conditional grant funding for mass participation and sport development and community library services. No amount of social media can replace reading, especially of books. It is one invention mankind has made that we can never replace. What you have on your gadgets should potentially be coming from a book somewhere, or going somewhere to a book.
- Vote 11: Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. The Department of CoGHSTA receives a total Budget of R7,7 billion for the next three financial years. Of this, R2,5 billion is allocated in the 2025/26 financial year. This allocation includes R25 million for the construction of traditional council offices, R5 million for furniture for traditional council offices, conditional grant funding of R925,1 million for human settlements development, and R181,1 million for informal settlement upgrading. Hosi Ngove, we are trying our best to do what we can under the circumstances, simply because the Premier has made sure that we must live with what we did there, when we were there where we were.
- Vote 12: Social Development. The Department of Social Development is allocated R7,2 billion over the next three financial years for the delivery of welfare services, development initiatives, empowerment programmes, gender equality initiatives and advocacy for children, women, youth, the elderly and individuals with disability.
- In the 2025/26 financial year, the department receives R2,2 billion, which includes:
 - R13,9 million to fight gender-based violence and femicide,
 - R16,6 million for social workers, and
 - R17,8 million for HIV prevention programmes.

We are mindful of the fact that someone has withdrawn support that was there, so we have to do more with less, Hon Radzilani.

Now that we have received our fair share of the cow I started with, ensuring that every part has been allocated for the sustenance of our province; let us commit to utilising this Budget for the intended purpose, with responsibility and accountability. A huna miŭvha, a hona mesoba. So, the cow is finished. Nothing should go out of here for any purpose other than what the butcher wants. That's how much we value you and what you can do.

The cow is finished. You know that the hoof, the horns will do something. Even the blood, as you know, we cook it. There is nothing left of the cow, and nothing can go to waste. So, we really beg you and all of us to realise that people are complaining about both real and perceived corruption.

As we conclude, Hon Speaker, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for her steadfast leadership, vision and guidance. Hon Premier, your commitment to the people of Limpopo and your dedication to ensuring that government remains responsive to their needs continues to inspire and has shaped our approach to fiscal management and economic transformation.

We would also like to thank the members of the EXCO Budget Committee for your continued analysis of our provincial financial performance and guidance. They know themselves within EXCO. To Hon Maseka Solomon Pheedi, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, and all honourable committee members, as well as the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa), your continued oversight and support have been instrumental in our progress by ensuring accountability and transparency in the management of public funds.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all my predecessors. I don't know whether my immediate predecessor, Hon Sekoati, is here, or if Hon Phala is here, but I built upon a foundation laid by others whom I haven't mentioned. Their dedication and contributions helped in laying a strong foundation for the Limpopo Provincial Treasury.

To my special guests, you are a diverse group. Some are my friends in the agriculture sector, some are my family. My sister, who sometimes behaves as if she is my mother, is here, and my brother-in-law is there, Mr Ngwetjana. Then there are my colleagues from the FFC, and my colleagues from the Office of the Premier, they know themselves. You don't have to explain what they do, but they are very "dangerous". Let me say so.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation, lastly, to the team at the Limpopo Provincial Treasury, as I call them. They are led by the HOD, Mr Gavin Pratt. I am ordering him to stand up. [APPLAUSE] That's my right-hand man, if you like, together with his team and all colleagues. Your hard work and commitment have led to excellence, and they will never go unnoticed. Ndo livhuwa. Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Siyabonga. Re a leboga, Hon Mahoai. Thank you so much, the MEC for Provincial Treasury. You said that now the cow is finished, and nothing must go to waste. So, there must be accountability from now on. Honourable MEC, thank you once again. Now the whole cow is finished, you have shared it with everybody.

I have realised that when you were speaking on Vote 02, the Premier was looking at me. I must tell the Premier that unless we are happy with the motivation we gave, the Budget might not be passed. So, don't worry about Vote 02. You can be worried about other votes but not Vote 02. Please, Premier, can we negotiate on that? At least, let us agree. Thank you so much. The Premier has agreed.

Honourable Members, the Budget Speech, together with the following supporting documents are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House:

- The Socio-Economic Review and Outlook for 2025/26;

- The Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2025/26;
- The Revenue and Expenditure 2025/26; and
- The Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2025/26.

We shall now proceed with the Orders of the Day under NCOP Business. Honourable Members are reminded that all other matters that were deferred are going to be engaged in during the next Sitting on Thursday. All debates will stand over to Thursday, and Members must go through those debates.

We now proceed to item 8: NCOP Business. Over to you, our Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana. He is the Chief Whip of the House.

8. NCOP BUSSINESS

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much. Good morning, Hon Speaker; Members of the provincial Legislature; Members of the Executive; Hon Premier; Hon Deputy Speaker, and our guests in the gallery. I also wish to congratulate the Honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury for being able to finish reading his Budget Speech.

House Rule 226(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House, read together with subsection 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 Members were appointed to attend NCOP hybrid plenaries as mentioned below:

- Questions to Cluster 2A: Social Services, Basic Education and Higher Education, scheduled for 30 March 2025 at 14:00: Hon M M Lerule-Ramakhanya, Hon N C Rakgoale, Hon G D Matjomane, and Hon V W Maringa.
- Questions to Cluster 2B: Social Services, Health and Social Development, scheduled for 18 March 2025 at 14:00: MEC, Hon F F Radzilani, Dr C W D Malebane so that I'm not accused of something else, Hon M C Mohale and Hon S M Mathye.
- The debate on Human Rights Day, themed "Enhancing Social Justice and a Human Rights Culture" is scheduled for 19 March 2025 at 14:00: Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon H P Ngobeni; Hon D J Mmetle-Ramohlola; and Hon B A Nkonyana
- Questions to Cluster 2C: Social Services, Water and Sanitation, and Human Settlements, scheduled for 20 March 2025 at 14:00: Hon R B Makamu, Hon M C Sepuru, Hon M E Muhlope and Hon M A Matlomane.
- Questions to Cluster 2D: Social Services, Science and Innovation, Sport, Arts and Culture, this is for today. It should have fallen under another motion, but I will just read it: Hon F J Maseko, Hon F P Mdaka, Hon T Mabotja and Hon M C Mohale.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolve to ratify the appointments of the abovementioned delegates in line with the abovementioned provisions. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the adoption of the ratification of the special delegates to the NCOP. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I have no worries with my honourable Member from next door, so, he must be worried. Thank you so much. Hon Chief Whip, you can proceed to item 8.2.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker. The NCOP has scheduled the plenaries for Wednesday, 26 March 2025, and Thursday, 27 March 2025, at 14:00. Provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these plenaries.

In terms of Rule 226(1), I therefore propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend the NCOP plenaries virtually:

- Debate on Ensuring the Continued Existence of the Ithala Bank SOC as an Instrument for Equal Access to Financial Development as an Opportunity, scheduled for 26 March 2025 at 14:00: Hon M A Mokaba, Hon C R Kupa, Hon V W Maringa.
- Questions to the Deputy President, scheduled for 27 March 2025 at 14:00: Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Hon Speaker, Dr M G Makhurupetje; Hon T P Mamorobela; and Hon E M Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? I'm not going to recognise Hon Sebopela. I recognise Hon MdaKa.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as raised by the honourable Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The motion has been adopted as the resolution of the House.

Before I proceed to item 9.I, I must indicate that when we started, there was a very important guest whom I could not acknowledge because the list I was given was very limited. I want to take this opportunity to further appreciate the presence of the Mahoai family. We appreciate your presence in this House, although the sister is now accused of being the mother.

Hon Mahoai must know that a mother remains a mother, it doesn't matter who the son or the daughter is. I must as well take this opportunity go amogela le baruti ba rena. Ke bona baruti ba kereke ya gešo, ya ST Engenas ba gona ka mo, le baruti ka moka ba dikereke tše di fapafapanego ba ba le go gona. You are warmly welcomed, and we really appreciate your presence. Kamoso re tla lokiša taba tša rena tša go le tsebiša gabotse. Ke a leboga.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Can I now proceed to item 9. Are there any announcements? Over to you, Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Portia Mamorobela, although she doesn't like the Portia part. I'm sorry my dear.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think you must use Grace; I was given that name by my grandmother, the late Sophia Maifo.

Greetings to our guests, honourable Members, Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Hon Premier, and Executive Members that are here.

Tomorrow, the Legislature will hold its Strategic Planning Session at Bolivia Lodge, starting at 8:30am. Invitations have been sent to the Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, all chairpersons, Whippers and Whips of different political parties, and all Members of the Oversight Mechanism Committee. We are all needed for this Strategic Planning Session at Bolivia tomorrow.

Additionally, the MEC for Provincial Treasury has invited all of us and the guests to lunch which will be served at the basement parking of the main building. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. I will now move to item 10.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 27 March 2025 at 10:00, in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you so much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 27 MARCH 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, we may take our seats. Good morning. We are once again convened as the Limpopo Legislature on 27 March 2025 to consider today's programme. I would like to be advised on whether according to the Orders of the Day, the Programming Committee has agreed to defer items 2,3,4, and 5. May I confirm that this understanding is correct.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Yes, you are correct.

THE SPEAKER

[ITEMS 2 – 5 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Thank you very much.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS & PAPERS

6.1 Tabling of the Departmental/Institutional Annual Performance Plans for the financial year ending 2025/26 and the Strategic Plans for 2025-2030.

Hon Makamu, the Leader of Government Business, will proceed with the tabling.
[APPLAUSE]

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, colleagues in the Cabinet, Chief Whip, honourable Members, and the Leader of the Opposition. Hon Speaker, in compliance with 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 the Treasury Regulations, I, Basikopo Makamu, on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive, hereby table the 2025/26 Departmental and Institutional Annual Performance Plans, as well as the 2025-2030 Strategic Plans for the following departments for consideration by this honourable House:

- Vote 1: Office of the Premier;
- Vote 3: Department of Education;
- Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Vote 5: Department of Provincial Treasury;
- Vote 6: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and its entities, namely Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA), Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB), and Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA);
- Vote 7: Department of Health;
- Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity, GAAL;
- Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL);
- Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
- Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA; and
- Vote 12 Department of Social Development.

I so submit, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile Tatana Makamu. The Annual Performance Plans and Strategic Plans are hereby referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and subsequent reporting back to the House.

6.2 Tabling of the Limpopo Legislature's Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ending 2025/26 and the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2025-2030. I now call upon the Deputy Speaker, Hon Grace Portia Tebogo Mamorobela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. You have correctly called the names.

Madam Speaker, in compliance with section 13(b) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009, which states that the Executive Authority must table the Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan in Parliament, I, Tebogo Grace Mamorobela, rise to table the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, as well as the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan, for consideration by this honourable House.

I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa, Hon Deputy Speaker. The Annual Performance Plan and the Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025-2030) are hereby referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and subsequent reporting back to the House.

6.3 Tabling of the 2022/23 Section 47 Report on the Performance of Municipalities in the Limpopo Province.

I now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Rodgers Basikopo Makamu.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in terms of section 47(1) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No.32 of 2000), the MEC for Local Government must compile an Annual Report and submit a consolidated report on the performance of municipalities to the provincial legislature.

Furthermore, section 47(2), stipulates that the report must include:

- (a) identification of municipalities that underperformed during the year;
- (b) proposed remedial action to be taken; and
- (c) be published in the provincial gazette

Madam Speaker, in compliance with the provisions of this legislation, I hereby table the 2022/2023 Report on the Performance of Municipalities in the Limpopo province for consideration by this august House.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile. The 2022/23 Section 47 Report on the Performance of Municipalities in the Limpopo province is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and subsequent reporting back to the House.

6.4. Tabling of the reports of the Public Service Commission

Honourable Members are hereby informed that the following reports from the Public Service Commission have been received for tabling in the House, in accordance with section 196(4)(e) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. The reports are as follows:

6.4.1 Report on the qualifications of senior managers in the public service, updated May 2024.

6.4.2 Report on the verification of financial disclosure forms for senior management service members within the Limpopo provincial government for the 2023/24 financial year, August 2024.

6.4.3 Report on service delivery inspections conducted at selected service delivery sites of the Department of Employment and Labour in Limpopo for the 2023/24 financial year, August 2024.

6.4.4 Inspection Report of the Limpopo Department of Social Development for the 2023/24 financial year, March 2024.

6.4.5 Limpopo Overview Report on Financial Misconduct for the 2023/24 financial year, September 2024.

6.4.6 Draft Report: Inspection of service delivery at the Department of Home Affairs, Praktiseer Office, Limpopo Province, 20 September 2024.

Honourable Members, all reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and subsequent reporting back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Motion for the suspension of House Rule 173.

I now call upon the Chief Whip to present the motion.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My apologies, I was given the motion previously read by Hon Makamu.

Madam Speaker, House Rule 173 provides that, unless otherwise stipulated in these Rules, no more than one stage of a Bill may be considered on the same Sitting day if four or more Members object to proceeding further.

In light of this, it has become necessary to invoke House Rule 05 to suspend the provision of House Rule 173, thereby allowing the House to finalise the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025 [B02-2025] before the end of this financial year.

I therefore move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Indeed, you have read the correct motion. Is there a seconder? Some motions can also be seconded by MECs. If the MECs do not second, it may be due to a lack of understanding the implications of the motion not being seconded. Hon Radzilani. you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and good morning to all honourable Members. I rise to second the motion as presented before this august House by the Hon Chief Whip.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Some motions are binding upon all of us. If we do not pass the Budget, we will all be affected.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025 [B02-2025].

I now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Pheedi Maseko Solomon.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and greetings to all honourable Members of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, I stand before this House to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025 [B02-2025] for consideration and adoption.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Is there a seconder for the report? Hon Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning, honourable Members. I rise to second the tabling of the report by Hon Pheedi.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

7.2.1 Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025 [B02-2025].

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Our first speaker will be Hon Ngobeni Hasani Peter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip and Members of the Whippers, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, and honourable Members.

Today, we are gathered in this august House not merely to debate a financial Bill but to discuss the future of our beautiful province, one led by a beautiful Premier. A future that hinges on how effectively we respond to the challenges facing our province.

The 2024/25 Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025 [B02-2025] represents a critical moment in our collective effort to rebuild, recover and strengthen the foundation of our province. From restoring the social infrastructure that sustains our communities to ensuring that our people have adequate access to quality healthcare, education and safety, this Bill is more than just numbers — it's about the lives and livelihoods of every citizen of this province.

This is our opportunity to make meaningful adjustments that will ensure no one is left behind as we steadily gravitate toward progress and development. The Bill represents not just an adjustment of funds but a strategic response to immediate needs, with particular emphasis on disaster recovery, ensuring that the province can rebuild and continue to deliver essential services to our people today, not tomorrow.

In this regard, and with your permission, Hon Speaker, allow me to quote the Holy Bible, specifically the book of Proverbs, Chapter 3, verses 27-28.

“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thy hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbour, ‘Go and come again, and tomorrow I will give,’ when thou hast it by thee.”

This hallowed biblical text, assumes that as the government of the day, we have the capacity to provide services to the people of this province today, not tomorrow. We can give our people services today, for it is within our hands to do so.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has seen a significant increase in its Budget for the 2024/25 financial year, with an allocation increase of R398 743 000. The total Budget has risen from R5,675 billion to R6,074 billion. This adjustment is a direct response to the urgent infrastructure recovery and rehabilitation interventions following disasters that ravaged parts of our province, with Waterberg and Vhembe being the hardest-hit districts.

Furthermore, the additional funding allocated to the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure will enable large-scale provincial rollout of the flagship Dikgeregere Programme. This increased allocation is expected to fast-track infrastructure development and create employment opportunities, including 150 new permanent job opportunities, as mentioned in this august House by the honourable MEC Sebataolo Tonny Rachoene. This will better enable us to assuage the abject and grinding poverty in our communities across the province.

Social infrastructure is the backbone of any community, and the swift repair and rebuilding of critical infrastructure are essential for restoring access to essential services. This allocation will further ensure that hospitals, schools and other community structures can be rebuilt, repaired, and made safer for the people who rely on them daily.

Furthermore, the Department of Health has received an adjustment of R1 037 000, increasing its Budget from R24,757 billion to R24,758 billion. This additional funding is specifically allocated for disaster management interventions related to infrastructure damage caused by floods. The adjustment comes at a crucial time when healthcare facilities are in dire need of refurbishment and upkeep to meet the demands of the province's growing population.

Therefore, it is critically important that we continue to ensure the efficient allocation and spending of these resources to improve the quality of health services, particularly in rural areas.

Turning to the education sector, we must highlight upfront the downward adjustment of R213 737 000 in the Department of Education's Budget. A portion of these adjustments includes the stoppage of R187 965 000 from the Education Infrastructure Grant, which had been underspent.

While this highlights a challenge in efficient fund utilisation, it also presents an opportunity for the department to reflect on the underspending and put solid measures in place to prevent such undesirable situations in the future. However, the department will receive an additional R86 388 000 for disaster management interventions to address flood-related damage. This funding is essential for restoring education facilities and ensuring that a better and more conducive environment is created for learning and teaching to take place without hindrance. The current Budget allocation will enable the immediate completion of Rivoni Special School for the Blind in Vhembe District, which is progressing well and remains on course.

The contractor for Asiphumelele Special School in Sekhukhune has been appointed, and construction has commenced. The completion of this new school project will provide the much-needed infrastructure improvements in the special needs education sector. Indeed, Limpopo is a province on the rise, and this upward trajectory is predicated on the actual provision of services to the people of this province.

However, the committee has noted with great concern the surrendering of funds back to the national fiscus as a direct consequence of underspending in the Education Infrastructure Grant. We have urged the Department of Education in the province and the Provincial Treasury to engage with the national Department of Education to ensure that this R187 965 000 is not lost but rather rolled over for use in the next financial year. It is therefore essential that we work together to support the department in ensuring effective spending of allocated funds to meet the infrastructure needs of our schools.

Education is a tool for the future development of our province, and therefore we cannot afford to allow much-needed resources to be returned to the national fiscus.

The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, (CoGHSTA) has received an increase of R195 million, bringing its Budget from R2,687 billion to R2,882 billion. This increase is to fund provincial disaster recovery and rehabilitation interventions, which are crucial for restoring human settlements severely impacted by the recent floods.

The Department of CoGHSTA plays a vital role in ensuring that our communities, particularly those in rural areas, have access to adequate housing, potable water, and sanitation. This allocation will help fund the second phase of the removal and replacement of 755 asbestos roofs, which has already commenced. To date, 20 roofs have been replaced in the first quarter of the current financial year.

We must prioritise the effective spending of this allocation to ensure that people displaced or affected by natural disasters can have access to secure, stable, and safe housing. Additionally, the department must accelerate its plans to address the housing backlog, which has been a persistent challenge in the province. The allocation should not only focus on disaster recovery but also on long-term development strategies that will improve the living conditions of the people of this province.

Another key area of focus is the Department of Transport and Community Safety, which has undergone a downward adjustment of R50 685 000. While this reduction is part of the province's broader strategy to reallocate funds to disaster recovery, it must not result in the dilution of resources allocated for policing and community safety. The reduction in funding will hinder the department's ability to improve road safety outcomes, including lowering fatality rates, expanding pedestrian safety programmes, and increasing school involvement in road safety education initiatives.

Our policing and community safety efforts must continue to be equipped and resourced to tackle crime and ensure the safety of our communities. This funding should focus on improving police infrastructure and visibility, equipping traffic officers with the necessary tools and technologies, and ensuring that our law enforcement and community policing forums have the resources they need to protect our communities effectively.

As I conclude, the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill is a strategic blueprint to address both urgent crises and lasting development objectives. By reallocating funds to education, infrastructure, policing, and CoGHSTA, we bridge emergency response with long-term growth. Accountability in this regard is important; every department must deliver measurable results through collaborative and transparent execution.

This Bill empowers the government to rebuild critical infrastructure and services, ensuring no community is left behind. Our mandate is clear: transform budgets into tangible progress for every Limpopo resident.

In his article published in December 2024 in the British newspaper, *the Guardian*, entitled We Cannot Afford for Starmer's Government to Fail, columnist Jonathan Freedland makes an important point about the agility and precision with which governments respond to the aspirations and demands of Britons. He said, "Messaging cannot do the job alone. Voters still trust their own eyes."

He suggests that only those who have lived and felt the experiences of the people are truly capable of earning their trust in government. In this regard, everything comes down to leadership. As the Indian lawyer and anti-colonial activist Mahatma Gandhi wisely observed, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mogoma a o tsene tšhemong!

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa. Re a leboga. Honourable Members will observe that today there is no timing. We just want you to time yourselves; there is no timer. There is no one that I'm going to stop. This was deliberate. Let us make sure that we manage our own time and say whatever we think. It is very important for the people of the province.

We will now call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and thank you for allowing us to participate in this debate today.

Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance urges the MEC for Provincial Treasury to ensure that various departments across all sectors receiving this additional funding are transparent in their reporting, held accountable, and maintain fiscal discipline at the forefront when they account. When dealing with disaster funding, we don't always follow all due supply chain processes; it becomes about spending immediately. It is then when we find various sectors failing to follow proper procedures.

The adjustment budget is essentially a revised version of the annual Budget that allows the provincial administration to make changes to its appropriations and allocations during the financial year; in this case, the 2024/25 financial year. The power to adopt the adjustment budget, which takes the form of the Limpopo Adjustment Amendment Bill, lies with this august House. However, an adjustments budget also tells a story. In this case, it tells the story of a province battered by natural disasters, recurring allocation of resources for disaster recovery, and an abject failure by departments to spend desperately needed funds.

Of particular concern to the Democratic Alliance is the underspending of R187, 965 million from the Department of Education's Infrastructure Grant. It is unconscionable that this administration can underspend on grant funding for something as vital as educational infrastructure, forcing the province to surrender almost R200 million to the national fiscus, along with an additional R112 million in so-called declared savings. This is happening despite the ongoing infrastructure challenges in our schools across the province. We are told that negotiations are underway to prevent the forfeiture of these funds, but we ask: How did this situation arise? Where is the transparency, accountability, and responsibility? Where are the consequences? While we note that implementing agents are responsible, we still demand accountability.

Most of the remaining adjustments and appropriations are aimed at funding disaster relief measures following a spate of natural disasters. While this is morally and rationally correct, and the DA supports the principle that provincial departments and stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable, must be supported. We have serious concerns about the capacity and competence of both the Provincial Administration and our municipalities to deliver.

The province has a poor track record when it comes to disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and coordination. In 2023, the town of Phalaborwa was devastated, with 21 homes and lodges burnt down, partly due to the lack of pressurised water and extinguishers to contain the flames.

Disaster relief was promised by Members of this Provincial Executive, some of whom sit in this House, yet to this day, those residents are still waiting. Since then, another disaster struck: the Eden Square Shopping Centre also went up in flames. Again, due to the lack of water pressure. Earlier this year, parts of Vhembe, Mopani, and Blouberg were ravaged by black frost and hail. Once again, we saw a lack of coordination and delayed response. Once again, it was the most vulnerable who suffered the most.

Disaster management starts with prevention and mitigation. The Democratic Alliance asks: What steps is the provincial government, in collaboration with district and local municipalities, taking to prevent disasters or minimise their severity? What risk assessments, early warning systems, spatial planning, and resilience measures are in place? What is the state of our preparedness and response capacity? How ready are we to act immediately to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs?

If Phalaborwa is the yardstick, the answer is: not at all. Our district municipalities lack the necessary skills and resources to adequately respond to disasters. The recovery and rehabilitation functions of disaster management are meant to restore infrastructure, services, and livelihoods after a disaster. They should embrace the principles of building back better; but in Phalaborwa, the people are still waiting.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, we have ventilated our concerns regarding the underspending of close to R200 million from the Education Infrastructure Grant and its return to the national fiscus. We support the adjustments and appropriations that release funding to bolster our response to disasters. However, we will closely monitor the application of relief funds to ensure that they are used transparently and effectively; and that those responsible are held accountable.

As the Democratic Alliance in Limpopo, we will ensure that the newly established Limpopo Portfolio Committee on Disaster Management exercises its mandate fully, and that rehabilitation efforts lead to swift and lasting recovery for our affected communities. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for managing your own time. EFF, I am not sure who is coming. Hon Mapoulo?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and greetings to the august House.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025, is neither as progressive nor as radical as anticipated and expected by the people of Limpopo. This Bill is yet another shameful and malicious compliance exercise that denies our people their constitutional right to access service delivery.

This Bill does not address the socioeconomic conditions of our people on the ground because it is not people centred. Furthermore, it will be difficult to implement programmes funded through the shifting of funds between and within votes, as the state does not have the internal capacity to perform government functions. The state relies more on consultants to execute its mandate, yet half the time, such initiatives do not yield positive results. This is because government continues to underperform, as highlighted by the Auditor-General in the latest financial report.

Hon Speaker, the Kunap River Bridge on the R518 and Road MD2614 in Mogalakwena are critical routes used by the people travelling between Marken and Bakenberg. These roads are in an appalling condition, and yet money is being pumped into the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure each year. Bakgekolo le bakgalabje ba Lekwaleng kua Thaba Bokhubedu, ba tshwenyegile ka ge ba ile ba swanela ke go tšea ditšhelete tša bona tša SASSA gore ba ikagele le bridge gore bana ba bona ba kgone go ya dikolong. Ahh ke di psheša mare, ka lebaka la gore bakgekolo ba tšea their last money; eupša re a ba reta bakgekolo le bakgalabje ka lebaka la gore le lebridge leo ba le theile Bakgekolo le Bakgalabje Bridge.

The Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure has failed the people of Dennilton. There is no maintenance on these bridges; hence, they are getting old fast and are neglected due to the government's "we don't care" attitude. There is generally zero achievement on infrastructure projects in the province; as a result, the socioeconomic condition of our people continues to deteriorate. This government does not understand the importance of infrastructure projects as catalysts for economic growth, resulting in poor service delivery and a lack of sustainable growth.

Even though money has been allocated to the Department of Health every financial year, the people still do not have access to primary healthcare. A majority of clinics in the province do not operate on a 24-hour basis. The untimely death of a 16-year-old teenager, Katlego Ledwaba from Zebediela, after collapsing on a football field, rests squarely on the shoulders of the department and the government. Members of his football club rushed him to the clinic, only to be told by nurses that the facility was closed, and they were turned away. May his soul rest in peace!

Of the 540 clinics in Limpopo, only 220 operate on a 27/7 basis, meaning that 320 clinics do not offer services around the clock. Had the teenager been attended to upon arrival, he might still be alive today.

Even though money has been allocated to the Department of Agriculture, the Zebediela Citrus Estate remains an elephant in the room, as it continues to deteriorate. This iconic project has the potential to create more than 300 jobs, but as it stands, it remains a shadow of its former self.

Hon Speaker, it seems the Musina-Makhado SEZ is a mountain too high for the government to climb. The project is perpetually stuck at the conceptual stage, with very little progress recorded. This project has the potential to create more than 20 000 jobs, yet progress remains stagnant, indefinitely postponing the creation of these jobs. LEDET is failing the people of Limpopo in a fundamental way.

Just recently this year, a Great North Transport bus lost control and overturned, resulting in injuries to thirty passengers. This accident happened near Moratiwa Crossing Mall in Monsterlus, Sekhukhune. The root cause of this accident is the dilapidated state of Great North Transport buses. The situation is untenable. These notorious buses, referred to as “buses of death”, are very old, unserviced and poorly maintained. They are the real skorokoros on our roads. The GNT bus depots are littered with scrap buses that are unroadworthy. This government is disintegrating and crumbling before our eyes. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, I am so happy. It seems the timer is not even necessary at this point; everyone is sticking to their allocated time [LAUGHTER]. Thank you so much. We will now call upon the chair of the committee, Hon Pheedi Maseko Solomon, to close the debate.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, I believe I already extended my greetings when I came earlier.

Firstly, I want to welcome the Budget Speech presented by the MEC. It was a well-balanced Budget Speech delivered last time, and we are happy with how it captured all spheres across our various departments.

Nevertheless, Madam Speaker, allow me to begin borrowing words of wisdom from those who came before us. The timeless words of Julius Nyerere cut to the heart of our challenge today when he said: “Independence cannot be real if a nation depends upon gifts.” As we gather to examine the geopolitical forces shaping South Africa and Limpopo’s economic future, we must confront this uncomfortable truth.

Our province, blessed with abundant minerals, fertile land, and untapped human potential, remains trapped in a paradox of poverty amidst plenty. I believe it was evident that the Budget Speech aimed to address this very issue in a balanced manner. The global economic order, with its lopsided trade agreements and resource extraction models, continues to dictate terms that sustain dependency instead of fostering development. This debate must address how we break those chains and transform Limpopo from a mere supplier of raw materials into a hub of innovation and self-sustaining growth.

The stakes could not be higher. While foreign investment flows into extractive industries, local communities continue to see little benefit. Youth unemployment exceeds 50% and subsistence farmers are struggling to compete against subsidised imports. In this regard, I believe the MEC for Agriculture must, in future, receive substantial financial support to change the landscape of our province; particularly given that we are largely a rural province. We need to see green fields, not only on commercial farms but across our rural areas as well.

Our participation in BRICS offers access to new markets but also risks replicating the patterns of common dependency. Climate finance initiatives from the global North often

come with technologies we must import rather than manufacture. Today, we must ask: Will we continue feeding a system that starves us, or will we build our own tables?

The solution lies in radical economic transformation; from localised renewable energy production to the restructuring of trade partnerships that prioritise the transfer of technology over resource extraction. This is not just policy; it is the foundation of our true sovereignty.

Madam Speaker, we gather to deliberate on these crucial reports. We must recognise that financial governance is more than balancing books; it is about balancing the aspirations of our people with the realities of our resources. The English Poet John Donne once wrote, "No man is an island, entire of itself", reminding us that our financial decisions create ripples across every community in Limpopo. As you heard some honourable Members talking about failures, I believe the leadership in this province has also recognised that.

The clean audit achievement marks a significant milestone in our journey towards financial accountability. However, as we celebrate this accomplishment, we must heed the warning of philosopher Francis Bacon, who said, "Money is like manure; it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around." That's exactly what the MEC has done. Our financial health means little unless it translates into tangible improvements in service delivery and economic opportunities across municipalities. I believe that is where the cow is eaten.

The Infrastructure Assessment Programme deserves particular attention, having evaluated 27 departments and ten prioritised municipalities. This assessment reveals both progress and persistent challenges in aligning our capital investment with community needs. The transversal system training, which reached numerous officials across departments, demonstrates our commitment to building institutional capacity. Yet, we must ask whether these efforts are creating lasting change or merely temporary improvements.

Once again, our Risk Management Framework assessments uncovered systemic vulnerabilities that require urgent attention. The financial statements reviewed across various Votes tell a story of gradual improvement, without disregarding areas that require strong controls. In other words, we are not complacent. We always make sure that we follow the reports and address gaps where we see them, as you have seen in the submissions.

The state of municipal finance reports examined by the provincial department, reveals worrying gaps in financial management at the local government level that demand our collective action. I believe that, working together with the honourable MECs here, we will close that gap. The department's research output, particularly the three fiscal policy alignment documents, represents valuable intellectual capacity. However, as the novelist George Elliot observed, "The important work of moving the world forward does not wait to be done by perfect men." We must implement these policies despite our imperfections, adapting as we learn from experience.

The Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) represents one of our most potent tools for ensuring accountability. The finalisation of 103% of planned audits demonstrates the

dedication of our audit teams. However, as the playwright George Bernard Shaw said, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." Audit findings must be communicated and acted upon with vigour. In other words, the findings will always be followed up, and we will make sure that all the gaps are closed.

The cyber security initiatives undertaken by the department reflect our growing awareness of digital risks to public finances. In an era where financial transactions increasingly occur in digital spaces, we must remain vigilant against new forms of malfeasance. The annual quality assurance review provides assurance about the department's internal processes, but constant vigilance remains essential. As we consider these reports, we must recognise that financial management is ultimately about people, not just numbers.

The training courses on the transversal systems have equipped hundreds of officials with valuable skills, yet true transformation requires more than technical competence. It demands a culture of accountability that permeates every level of government. I think that is what we are all struggling to get right. Once more, the financial governance programme's compliance assessments have identified both strengths and weaknesses in the system of government. While we celebrate a 100% core processing of irregular condonement requests, we must work to prevent such expenditures from occurring in the first place. Prevention will always prove more effective than remediation.

Once again, looking ahead, we must focus on building financial resilience across all spheres of government in the province. This means developing contingency plans for economic shocks, creating reserves for economic emergencies, and fostering inter-governmental cooperation to share best practices. Our financial systems must be robust enough to withstand challenges while remaining flexible enough to seize opportunities.

In direct response to what the honourable Members have said on the issue of transparency, I think it has been shown throughout the reports that our departments are trying their best to ensure we know what they are doing, where they are failing, and where they are winning.

In conclusion, as I reflect on that, let us remember the words of the poet W H Auden when he said, "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water". I think this reflects the efforts we are all making to ensure that the people of Limpopo are supplied not only with water and electricity, but also with other important services. This is partly evidenced by our progress, standing at 95% in terms of electricity and water supply, with all districts in Limpopo working together to make sure our success.

The numbers in this document represent schools to be built, clinics to be staffed, infrastructure to be maintained, and municipalities to be supported. In other words, the report does not overlook key areas in infrastructure, particularly in public works, where there are upward adjustments. It does not ignore the losses we suffered under the Department of Education either, and we hope that, going forward, all of this will be addressed.

I think that the MEC for Agriculture has responded to the issue of the citrus farm in Zebediela several times, and we believe that we are making progress. Similarly, the relevant MEC has demonstrated through GNT that this is no longer business as usual.

As the portfolio committee, we are pleased to see how efforts are being made to correct past issues and improve the present. The transparency shown, particularly from the departments that received an increase in this adjustment, as one of the honourable Members noted, has consistently been reflected in the work of various committees, especially those that are reporting to us.

Let us adopt the report with a renewed commitment to financial stewardship that serves all citizens of Limpopo. May we approach our oversight responsibility with both rigour and compassion, recognising that behind every rand spent is a person hoping for a better life. The true measure of our success will be found not only in audit opinions, but in thriving communities across our province. That will be the true yard stick showing that the people of Limpopo deserve better, and are indeed receiving better services. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Pheedi. The chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury says we must bring a timer, so I'm just indicating that we will ensure its use. In future Sittings, as and when we have debates, let's make sure that we time ourselves. If we say 10 minutes, time yourselves.

Otherwise, you will find the timer stopping you while you are still speaking. We deliberately stopped it today because we felt you were not informed about it. We are now formally informing the House that, in future Sittings, don't be surprised, when you debate, there will be a timer tracking your time.

We will proceed with the Orders of the Day and allow the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury to respond to the debate. Hon Kgabo Elias Mahoi, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. Thank you for your words of wisdom. I believe everything that has been said was ultimately in support of the Bill.

There's not much to respond to, except to acknowledge that this is indeed our responsibility. It's a Money Bill, and as Hon Mapoulo is aware, it doesn't have to address every issue raised. By its nature, a Money Bill allocates funds for a specific purpose and reflects the supremacy of the Legislature in authorising the appropriation of public money. The responsible authority must still make sure that the funds are spent in accordance with the Legislature's approval.

Therefore, while your remarks reflect your views, we appreciate them and hope we can all share a common understanding. Let me reiterate: this process is revolutionary in the sense that this Legislature and this government recognised the need to act swiftly in response to disasters. That is why this mechanism was established in accordance with the law, as it should be.

We know that excesses occur when too little is done to maintain checks, balances and preventive controls. This is why, in emergencies, we sometimes see unfortunate incidents of overspending or mismanagement. We have taken note of everything

Members have said and appreciate the contributions. As we move forward, we believe we are all aligned in our goal to ensure that what has been allocated is put to effective use.

As honourable Members may have seen in our Budget, we are committed on ensuring that the Legislature is adequately resourced to conduct effective oversight. Honourable Members should be the first to highlight whether what they approved yielding the intended results. Our role is to implement, theirs is to oversee and hold us accountable.

I am not trying to rehash this, but rather to emphasise the unity of purpose and the manner in which our system works, whereby the legislative and executive arms work together for a common cause. Of course, it's not a perfect equilibrium, as more power is vested in parliamentarians to ensure that things happen. In short, we have taken copious notes to ensure that, as we go on our business, we consider all matters that have arisen.

On a parting shot, yes, it was indeed unfortunate that we lost that amount to the national fiscus. Actually, not to the fiscus per se, but to the national Department of Education, where it will now be redistributed. They, too, may not spend it, and we have an opportunity to watch and see if we cannot do something about what was left unutilised. As is often the case, unused funds may end up being reallocated elsewhere.

Just as we previously benefited from the reallocation of funds, for example, in the case of Human Settlements, where we gained from reductions in the Western Cape's allocation, we acknowledge the give-and-take nature of the system. We have learned our lessons. From our side, and from the collective, which is the EXCO, we will remain vigilant in monitoring expenditure trends. Some of these issues will not happen again. Not on our watch.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

7.3 Motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B02-2025].

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, I think you should not return to your seat just yet. Please wait a moment. Thank you very much for your response.

I now call upon the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoi.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Now that the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025 [B02-2025], 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, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Is there a seconder? Hon Makamu, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby stand to second the motion as read by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoai. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa, honourable MEC.

7.3.1 Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Amendment Bill, 2025 [B02-2025].

We shall now adopt the Bill, schedule by schedule. Those who agree will say "Yes", and those who disagree will say "Nay".

Schedule 01: Appropriation of adjusted amounts of money.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 02: Amendment of Schedule.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 03: Short title

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

We will now adopt the Bill, vote by vote. Those who agree will say "Yes", and those who disagree will say "Nay".

Vote 01: 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 6: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 7: 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 the Legislature to read the short title.

THE SECRETARY [DR MAAKE]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Amendment Act, 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Secretary. I thought those who adopted the Bill would clap their hands as a sign that the Bill has been formally adopted. Thank you very much.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

8.1. Motion for the Appointment of Special Delegates to attend NCOP Plenaries.

I now call upon Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Indeed, I have the correct motion in front of me.

Hon Speaker, the NCOP has scheduled hybrid plenaries for Tuesday, 01 April, and Wednesday, 02 April 2025, at 14:00. Provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these plenaries, in terms of Rule 226(1). I therefore propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend the NCOP plenaries, as mentioned above. The plenaries are scheduled as follows:

- Debate on Unlocking South Africa's Economic Potential: Removing Barriers to Investment, Innovation, Economic Growth, and Job Creation, 01 April 2025 at 14:00: Hon M A Mokaba, Hon C R Kupa and Hon V W Maringa.
- Consideration of the Select Committee on Finance Report on the Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals. Debate on South Africa's Energy Stability: Taking Decisive Measures to Permanently End Load Shedding and Strengthen Eskom's Operations, 02 April 2025 at 14:00: Hon M S Pheedi, Hon H P Ngobeni and Hon N C Rakgoale.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, before I call a seconder, I just want to check whether both plenaries will be in virtual/hybrid or require formal attendance in Parliament. I think we need clarity.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The first plenary will be virtual, and the second will be physical. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now call for the seconder. Is there a seconder to the motion? Hon Mokoele, over to you.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion for the appointment of special delegates as presented by the Chief Whip. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mokoele.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

I now request the Deputy Speaker, Hon Grace Mamorobela, to make announcements.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We received the SPLUMA Bill when the House was not sitting, and it was tabled in accordance with House Rule 150 and referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and subsequent reporting back to the House.

The Bill has been published in the ATC dated Wednesday, 26 March 2025. Honourable Members will be provided with copies of the Bill. The first question papers are available, and Members of the Executive Council should respond to those parliamentary questions.

Lunch will be served in the Committee's main boardroom. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. You were good participants in the Sitting. Is there any other announcement?

MR MABOTJA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It's not an announcement. I don't know under which rule I would be speaking, but today I felt like listening to interpretation in Sepedi. However, this interpretation is just narrating what is being said here. I thought we should have the privilege of hearing our languages represented. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mabotja, if you don't know how to operate the gadget, we'll teach you. We shall show you where to find Sepedi and provide proper orientation. We apologise for not orientating you earlier.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, as I said, this was amongst the best Sittings I've ever had. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 08 April 2025, at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 08 APRIL 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY 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. Good morning, honourable Members. May I confirm with the Chair of Chairs whether items 2–5 have been deferred to the coming Sittings of the House. Chair of Chairs, you may take the podium.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Good morning, Deputy Speaker. I just want to confirm that those items have been deferred until further notice. Thank you very much.

[ITEMS 2–5 DISPENSED WITH]

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chair of Chairs. Our apologies for that. I hope these mics will now be working.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? MEC for Health, you are recognised. [APPLAUSE]

6.1 Retabling of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Health

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker and greetings to the House. I hereby resubmit the Annual Performance Plan for 2025/26 and Strategic Plan for 2025–2030 for this House to consider. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC. The retabled 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Health is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health for consideration and to report back to the House.

6.2 Tabling of the 2024/25 Departmental/Public Entities Second and Third Quarter Performance Report

I shall now call upon the Leader of Government Business, MEC, Hon Makamu, to come and do the tabling of the 2024/25 departmental/public entities Second and Third Quarter Performance Report.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier of our province, colleagues, MECs, the Chief Whip, all the honourable Members of this House, and Members of the opposition parties. In terms of the provisions of section 40(1)(f), section 51(f) of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999, read together with House Rule 205(6), the departments are required to submit their quarterly reports to the provincial Legislature for tabling on the day to be determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Programming Committee.

Madam Speaker, in line with this provision of House Rule 205(7), I, Basikopo Makamu on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, do hereby table the department and public entities of 2024/25 Performance Reports for the following departments and public entities for consideration and to report back to the House:

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

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker for the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Hon Makamu. The 2024/25 Departmental and Public Entities' Second and Third Quarter Performance Reports are referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and to report back to the House.

6.3 Tabling of the 2024/25 Limpopo Legislature Second and Third Quarter Performance Reports.

I shall now call upon the Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Thabo Mokone, rise to table the 2024/25 reports which are tabled in compliance with Sections 52 and 54 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act of 2009. I move accordingly.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone. The 2024/25 Limpopo Legislature's Second and Third Quarter Reports are referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and to report back to this House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B03-2025].

7.1.1 Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B03-2025]

I shall now call upon Hon Pheedi to come and do the Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill. Hon Pheedi, you may take the podium.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby submit a report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B03-2025] for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Pheedi. I shall now call for a seconder. Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone, you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Thabo Mokone, second the motion as moved by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Treasury.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chair of Chairs. We shall now go to the debate. I shall now call upon, Hon Mapula Mokaba. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier; the Chief Whip of the Legislature in absentia, honourable leaders from opposition parties, honourable MECs present here, honourable Members, and our guest in the gallery. As I stand before you today, as a Member of the Treasury Committee, I am reminded of the words in the Holy Scriptures that teach us about stewardship: "Moreover, it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful". That is from 1 Corinthians 4:2. This passage speaks of the responsibility entrusted to us not just to manage resources but to do so with faithfulness, integrity and in service for the greater good. Our role as the Portfolio Committee on Treasury is not simply about numbers and the budget. It is about managing the resources that allow us to fulfil the mission and vision of this province.

As we engage in discussions, I pray that we are guided by wisdom and discernment, ensuring that every cent entrusted to us is used to further the work that honours our values and serves the needs of others. In fulfilling this sacred duty, I am committed to working with my fellow committee Members in unity, transparency and respect, always seeking to require the highest principles of accountability and services. Together, may we act as faithful stewards of the resources that God has blessed us with for the greater glory of His work.

Good morning, honourable Members and our guest in the gallery. We are gathered here today, weeks after a series of unfortunate events of people wanting to disrupt the tabling of the National Budget by Mr Godongwana. However, we are glad that the attempts did not succeed. Ultimately, the Budget was postponed. The provincial government is also expected to make allocations to the department to enable them to perform their duties and it remains the responsibility of efficiency measures to reduce wastage of government money.

Our province has also experienced the effects of climate change due to global warming, which left our people in a disastrous situation, hence there will be budget cuts from some departments to ensure that financially rigorous interventions are done to respond to the disaster situation. The flood damages to social and economic infrastructure led to the urgent establishment of the Provincial Disaster Management Contingency Plan by the Department of Provincial Treasury. The proposed threshold for the provincial and local budget for disaster management is composed of 1,2% of the provincial budget, which must be reviewed in the context of disaster relief funds and must be reviewed every four years.

The Provincial equitable share has also increased from R69 billion to R76 billion, which is a year-on-year increase. The changes in the equitable share allocations come because of upwards and downwards adjustments as implemented by the national

sphere of government over the 2025 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. The upwards adjustment includes the budget for the new data update and additional funding for wage agreements and the Presidential Youth Employment Initiatives and all this upwards adjustment will be ongoing for three years.

Amongst other departments, the highest share of our provincial budget was allocated to the Department of Education. This was done in line with the provincial government's commitment to continue to give quality education and the implementation of essential programmes to improve the performance of learners across all grades and better their learning environment. The government needs to curb unnecessary wages and additional funds to the funding of wage agreements to sustain the salary of teachers, to enable, encourage and motivate them to do more for our learners.

With what was presented here today, coupled with the budget presentation made by the MEC for Provincial Treasury a few days ago; please allow me to request this House to consider and adopt the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B03-2025] as a true reflection of the Limpopo provincial government's budget allocation. I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokaba. I shall now call upon Hon Smalle Jacobus.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Good morning, Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members and guests. We have limited fiscal resources and weak provincial and ministerial delivery capabilities at a time when we urgently need to remove structural barriers to economic growth. Today, this House considered the adoption of the Appropriation Bill. We do so worrying, in uncertain times and heightened tensions here in Limpopo.

In our country and geopolitically across the world. It would be foolish to blindly adopt a bill without taking into account the situation we find ourselves in. Over the past few days an inability to pass the National Budget, concerns about the future of the GNU and geopolitical tensions have wiped out R1 trillion on the stock market and weakened the value of our rand. At this moment in time, we have an unemployment rate of 33,9% the highest recorded rate of all the G20 countries. Back home in Limpopo, our expanded unemployment rate sits at 46,5%. Over the past few years, economic growth stagnated at around 0,6% whilst debt has ballooned to 76,1% of our GDP.

Speaker, this is an unattainable situation. Our people deserve better, not more misery. Whilst many of the policy reforms that need to be made fall under the purview of the national legislature and its Executive, there is much that we can do here with the provincial spheres of government. Our test as a province is whether we can attract investment, grow our economy, create jobs and drastically reduce the number of people living in poverty. These are the main measurements. Speaker, as the DA in Limpopo, we say, we can no longer tolerate the [Inaudible] underspending of state-owned entities, draining the provincial fiscus and frustrating the development. We need to improve the capabilities and efficiencies of our provincial departments. We call for our provincial departments and municipalities to be subjected to comprehensive spending reviews

with the view to cutting unnecessary expenditure; identifying wasteful and failing programmes and redirecting funds to essential services and infrastructures needed for economic growth and increased productivity.

The stark reality is that following years of poor governance, reckless and ideology-based policy choices, state capture, our share of revenue raised nationally and our equitable share and conditional grant would reduce in the future. We will have no option but to do more with less now and into the future. We cannot condone this administration continuing with the ANC policy of increasing our loan book and bailing out failed state-owned entities. As the Democratic Alliance, we reiterate that we cannot condone the additional R200 million that has been allocated to GNT despite its continued operational collapse. The R152 million proposed to GAAL was once lost in its operation licence and most recently cancelling flights due to the air navigation systems on top of that, nearly R1 billion earmarked for RAL, has overseen the deterioration of our provincial road networks.

As we understand it, RAL is now focused only on new road development, whilst the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will be responsible for road maintenance. In these circumstances, we call for the closure of RAL and the reincorporation of its responsibilities in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. We cannot continue to condone duplications and wastages. The sad reality is, there is little prospect that the R7 billion infrastructure spending in the budget will improve the lives of the 56% of people living below the poverty line unless this ANC-led government do things differently.

We do welcome the establishment of the Disaster Management Contingency Plan, which we hope will improve the responsiveness to disasters. We will have to safeguard these funds. We also welcome the call from the MEC to increase the use of private-public partnerships. South Africa features amongst the top 30 highest income tax-paying nations in the world. With a pick income tax rate of 41%, the country ranks as the 31st highest tax-paying nation.

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. I shall now call upon Hon Jacob Lebogo.

MR LEBOGO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Re kopane mo lehono re wele ka mahlong ka lebaka la go hlokofofala ga Ntate Kubai yo a bolailego ke Masepala wa Polokwane kua lefaseng la Juju Valley, bekeng ya go feta. Re ipiletša go mmušo gore o ye o thuše batho ba Juju Valley ka ge John Mpe, e le go wa ANC a thubile dintlo tša bona. Kabo Tekanyetšo ye ya maloba o laetša e le boradia fela ka ge e palelwa ke go lokiša mathata a e lego gore badudi ba rena ba lebane le ona.

Ge o ka lebelela Tekanyetšo ye a adilwego mo maloba gomme wa lebelela profense ya Limpopo, ga e laetše gore na e ile go lokišetša batho eng. Re kopane fa e le gore, re a tseba gore Tekanyetšo ke yona e lego bohlokwa go re batho ba hwetše ditirelo; eupša

ka mokgwa wo Tekanyetšo e beilwego ka gona, e laetša go sena boitseparelo bja mašeleng, batho ba a itaola mo mmušong gomme mafelelong ikonomi e a wa le badudi ba a sokola.

Molekgotlaphethiši o tšile mo a bolela ka mafolofolo. Re tshepha gore, ka moka le badudi ba dumela gore re gana Tekanyetšo ye ka ge e sa bontšhe gore e lokiša eng. Re tla fa mohlala, tšhelete ya go lekana R730 million ye e išwago kua Musina-Makhado SCZ le Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrila Hub, tšhelete tšeo ke tše nkabe di dira gore go be le mešomo mo profenseng ya Limpopo, eupša ngwaga ka ngwaga mo diprotšekeng tše e le go gore ga go sepele selo re swere bothata bja gore tšhele e ya jewa, e hlafunwa bjalo ka moti.

Re swanetše re botšiše gore naa, mengwaga ye ya go feta ge e sa le ba tsebagatša protšeke ye, naa ke eng se e le go gore badudi ba Limpopo ba se hweditše ka mašeleng a dipilione, a a šomišwago mola, kua ntle megolo ya batho ba ANC ba a lefelwa.. Naa, ke ka lebaka la eng re tšwela pele re lahla tšhelete ka gare ga diprotšeke tše e le go gore ga di direle badudi selo e bile ga gona kabo ya ditirelo. Taba ye, badudi ba Limpopo ba swanetše ba eme ka maoto ka yona go netefatša gore diterelo ba a dihwetšwa ka ge tšhelete ya bona e jewa bošaedi go se na maikarabelo.

Mašeleng a go lekana R206 milione a e le go gore a išitšwe kua Great North ngwageng wo wa ditšhelete, re kgopela gore a šomišwe ka maikarabelo ka ge tabakgolo e le gore e reke dipese. Eupša, re a tseba gore e ile go hlafunwa go swana le tše dingwe. Re reka ge ba palelwa, Great North e tlo swanelwa ke gore e šomišane le boradithekisi ba be le di-partnership, e se ke ya no ba bona ba ikeme ba le tee ka ge ba pelelwa. Ge o etela mo mafelong a dipese, o hwetša maratha a dipese a e lego gore ke mabitla a a sepelago, a na le maoto a mane, di lokela batho ba rena ka gare ga dikotsi bošego le mosegare. Re re taba yeo a e fele ka ge mmušo wo o tšwela pele o bolaya batho. Ke bošaedi.

Ngwageng wa 2024, ikonomi ya rena e godile ka dipersente tša 0,2 e bontšha gore e ya fase ge e bapetšwa le ya 2023 ya dipersente tša 0,3. Bjale, e laetša gore mmušo wa ANC ga o sa na dikgopolo, o thutše siling, o bona leswiswi fela ge re e tla mo tabeng ye ya ikonomi le maphelo a batho ba rena. There is nothing revolutionary about that. Amogelang gore le paletšwe, le tlogele go tlaiša setšhaba sa rena.

Re a tshepha Mohl Mospikara gore, ge re eme mo; temo, bohلامي, go aga le sektara ya dinamelwa ka moka ga tšona di na le seabe go, go palelwa le go phuhlama. Se se dirilego gore GDP ya rena eye fase. Se segolo ke laetša gore mmušo wa Limpopo ga o thekge tšona di-intasteri tše re bolelelago ka tšona. Ba no dithlalela fela tša theksiwa fela.

Ge o ka botšiša gore mananeo ke amafe a go tsoša kgwebo, a go tsoša dikhamphani tše e lego gore di palelwa, ka moka ba šoma go kgotsa go swana le Mopresitente wa naga. Mohl Mospikara, re tshepha gore dithakete tše e le go gore di a bontšhiwa ka gare ga Limpopo Development Plan, tše e le go gore gona bjalo re swanetše gore nka be re etla kgole ka tšona ka ge re latelela ngwaga wa 2030 e se kgale, di bontšha gore mmušo o paletšwe. O sa tlo tšwela pele o palelwa. Re kgopela gore ge le hweditše nako le ikopanye le EFF le badudi ba Limpopo, re le bontšhe ditharollo tša maleba tše e le go gore di tla fetola maphelo a rena. Batho ba nyaka le fase, batho ba leme; renyaka

dimaene di be matsogong a mmušo, di be matsogong a setšhaba. Eupša, dimaene di tšwelapele e le tša dikhamphani tše malwa, batho ba gabo rena ba thuthišwa le mabitla a bo bona ba sa boele ke selo. Re le EFF, re ganana le taba yeo.

The Limpopo Development Plan and the National Development Plan cannot and can never be a strategic vision for South Africa until 2030 because they cannot speak to the nationalisation of mines and monopoly industries as called for by the Freedom Charter, which all of you claim to represent. Therefore, this cannot be a solution because it does not speak about the introduction of free quality education, Molekgotlaphethši.. Bana ba sa timiwa diriphotho o dutše o le gona Molekgotlaphethiši. Ga re gane le apere diroko tše dibotse tša setšo, epuša, a re feng batho thuto ya go lekalekana ya mahala le mengatwana ya lehlapo ya mahala mo dikolong go fihlela, under graduate level.

Hon Speaker, the MEC allocated over R21 billion during the 2025 MTEF period for the provision of infrastructure within the province. But, when you look around the province, the infrastructure is collapsing at a worrying rate. You see serious backlogs, economic collapse, and stagnation. Se se laetša gore ga re sa na mmušo. Gohle fa re sepelago batho ba eta ba Makala gore naa mmušo o kae ge ditirelo di ewa.

The grant funding of R925 million for human settlement development and over R121 million for informal settlement upgrading has been allocated. The Marapong housing project scandals still continues, and the housing challenges are not resolved. We have a lot of RDPs in Makhuduthamaga and many other areas where they have been abandoned; they remain incomplete. In terms of the informal settlement upgrading, we have areas like Juju Valley, which is over eight years old. Simply because those people are independent from the ANC, they continue to suffer, and this grant is utilised for functional purposes. We reject that. Make time to visit Juju Valley in Ward 13, Polokwane and help them with disaster and make sure that those shacks are converted into proper houses and they get services, MEC Makamu.

Despite what we just said on informal settlements, the Departments of Health and Education, which render important social services as enablers of social and economic development, get allocated small budgets. [INTERJECTION]

MS LEBEA

Point of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Member, can you take a seat? What is your point of order?

MS LEBEA

The honourable Member stood there and boldly accused the Executive Mayor of Polokwane of murdering people in Juju Valley. Would he kindly prove that statement or withdraw in that order? Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I think if you have issues in the House, you must write a motion. Ke bolela ka, Mohl Lebogo. The things that you have raised here, you must bring a motion about them. It can't be part of your debate. I wanted to advise you, but as you are about to finish, its okay. It's a good thing that Hon Lebea has raised it. You may continue and also withdraw those statements. You will bring a motion. Thank you very much.

MR LEBOGO

After the Mayor of Polokwane participated in the process, which made sure that a nine-year-old went to ICU last year, the same...[INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

They said you must withdraw and write a motion.

MR LEBOGO

We will write a motion to that effect. But it was important to record that in this House. You can defend him elsewhere, not here. Ye re e bontšhago ke gore, mo go Tekanyetšo ye e filwego batho ba Limpopo ga gona se se tla ba boelago. Re kgopela gore ba tšwele pele ba fiwa ditirelo tše ba di nyakago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Your ten seconds are finished. Ga o sa re bontšha selo gona bjalo. You were supposed to withdraw.

MR LEBOGO

Hon Speaker, with due respect, the EFF rejects the Budget as it is not informed by the needs of the people. Thank you. [INTERJECTION]

MR MARINGA

Hon Speaker. Thank you, Hon Speaker of the day. I am not a fan of orders. I am a very respectful man. May Hon Lebogo rise and withdraw as an order has been raised on him so that we can proceed with ease. Please, Hon Lebogo withdraw that statement about murders and you will submit it via a motion, and we will debate it properly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I wanted to say that, but your mic was already on whilst he was talking. You did not hear me. Hon Lebogo, if you can, just do what is honourable because you are an honourable Member. Please, withdraw that statement about the accusations and do what is correct as an honourable Member. Write your motion. Thank you very much.

MR LEBOGO

Hon Speaker, have you ever been to Juju Valley? If you say I must withdraw, you think I come here and say things that are not honourable.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Inaudible.

MR LEBOGO

I am asking. A person died. Did you not read about it that a person died when Polokwane Municipality invaded Juju Valley. If you are not aware, we are informing you. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Lebogo, I take it as if you don't respect this House, thus you don't want to withdraw your statement. Hon Chair of Chairs, you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Deputy Speaker, I think the honourable Member, Hon Lebogo must do what he wants us to do unto him. It can't be correct that you make fallacious statements as I quote Hon Lebea; and you want to insist and make other statements because if we return it, you wouldn't like it. We still insist that you must withdraw and write a substantive motion so that we should be able to debate it. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, we don't want this House to be stuck because of you. We are not going to waste time because of you. I think you understand what needs to be done. If you could please do the honourable thing. Withdraw and do the correct thing by writing a motion. Don't tell us about Juju Valley. We all know Juju Valley. Don't bring accusations here. Please.

MR LEBOGO

It can't be deferred, like the reason that you must give. Why must I apologise for something which you don't know? The fact is that you don't have knowledge of something. What triggers you to make me apologise?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, I am a very reasonable person, and I am talking nicely to you. I do not want you to be moved out of this House because you don't want to adhere to the rules of the House. I am going to ask you for the last time Hon Lebogo. I don't want stories. I want you to withdraw your accusations in this House. We are not in a police station here, please.

MR LEBOGO

For the sake of the spirit of Ntate Kubayi, who was killed by the security department of Polokwane Municipality led by John Mpe, I am not withdrawing that.

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, you want to speak before I make a ruling on this matter? It seems Hon Lebogo has decided. I must also decide.

MR MATHE

Hon Deputy Speaker, as a neighbour to Hon Lebogo, I will try to be neighbourly and try to persuade him for the last time.

MR LEBOGO

[INAUDIBLE]

MR MATHE

Are we not neighbours? We are neighbours. Are you not my neighbour? A hundred meters is not far. Deputy Speaker, if Hon Lebogo has other commitments, he can continue doing what he is doing because he wants to leave here early so that he is able to attend to his other commitments. The reality here is that, whether a person was killed or not, the issue is that he has been advised on how to make sure that what he is raising can be debated here. So in terms of the rules, you don't just stand up and accuse a person because I can also accuse him, relating to the very same man. I can accuse him. But because I understand the rules, I have got more than 56 months here. I understand. So I am advising him that he withdraws based on the rules, not based on emotions.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

And you are being neighbourly.

MR MATHE

Yes, and I am trying to be very neighbourly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Lebogo, you have got two choices, you withdraw, I continue with my House or you get out of this House. As simple as that. I would want to proceed with the business of the day.

MR LEBOGO

Le na le maano o go re koba ge go dirwa dilo tše bohlokwa. Ka mo, ga re sepele. Ka lebaka la gore rekwe gore le nyaka go hlalefetša batho ba Limpopo bjang, taba ye re tla e buša. Ke tla nna ke e beetše ka thoko. Ke a leboga.

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

MR LEBOGO

Le nyaka eng? Kgane go beela ka thoko ke eng? He banna. Mara lena le na le mathata.

BACKGROUND

O a itshola. [NOISE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lebogo. You are withdrawing. E no ba gore mohlomongwe o ka hwetša Sepedi se tšhabilenyana. You are withdrawing. Ya go re o e beela ka thoko e ra gore bušetša mantšu morago. I wanted to confirm that. Is it not so? Yes, thank you very much. We shall now continue and call upon the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Treasury, Hon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Ka Sepedi ba re; motho ke 'matharimponeg'. It is not an insult. It is when you will be dancing, for instance, at events like traditional dance called dinaka; where you shine because you need those praises. I have seen it happening here from Hon Smalle talking about the GNU and how they refused the Budget to be passed. But the people of South Africa are not stupid. That is the message I want to share with him.

Once again Hon Speaker, let me stand here and say, I am standing on the bloodshed of people like Solomon Mahlangu, Chris Hani and many others. That is why, as the ANC-led government, we will always make it a point that whatever we do, we do for the people of South Africa. Those are the lessons we learned from a very important organisation that taught everyone, including my fellow Mohananwa, Hon Lebogo. He knows what is good for these people. It is just unfortunate. The opposition side is a very difficult side.

I stand here and I want to pass my greetings to you and the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; the honourable Executive Members as well as the Members of the provincial Legislature and yourselves, the opposition parties. Let me also extend my greetings to the guests in the gallery, particularly the Tintswalo group on my left-hand side, up there. I have seen the learners who have come to join us, to whom I say, welcome, the future of this country.

Today this Sitting is taking place a few days after the MEC responsible for Treasury tabled the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B03-2025] whose mandate is to provide the

appropriation and allocation of money from the Provincial Revenue fund of 2025/26 financial year. The Bill was tabled in line with section 119 of the Constitution of South Africa and section 26 of the Public Finance Management Act, [Act No 1 of 1999] which directs the provincial Legislature to appropriate money for each financial year to enable Limpopo province to provide goods and services for the people of this province.

The first reading of the Bill was tabled on 25 March 2025 in line with section 164 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, which puts sole responsibility on the MEC for Treasury to introduce the Money Bill by delivering an introductory speech in the House. Accordingly, the Speaker of the House referred the bill to the Portfolio Committee on Treasury for further processing in line with section 165 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature.

The committee met with the Department of Provincial Treasury, in order to be briefed on the Bill and its principles. It means our challenges were entrusted with ensuring that the allocation is done wisely and effectively to ensure that it will address our government priorities to champion service delivery to our people. In order for our province to prosper, we will make sure that every resident benefits from our collective effort and wisdom as the government of the day.

In line with the Minister's budget presentation, we are duty-bound as the province to make sure that our Budget is aligned with the constitutional principle of equity and efficiency. It must also be aligned with the national budget framework for proper channelling of services and cover the entire scope of government.

The agricultural sector, manufacturing, construction, wholesalers and transport did not contribute positively to the provincial GDP in the previous years. Mining, electricity, finance and personal services reported a satisfying positive growth, which boosted our provincial development growth. To curb this, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development received an allocation of R1,9 billion for the 2025/26 financial year. The amounts include R32,7 million for the revitalisation of agriculture and agro-processing value chain projects and R10, million for the Lebowakgomo broiler house. The department is also allocated conditional grant amounting to R346 million in the year 2025/26.

The investment in infrastructure remains critical for our economic recovery, development and improved living standards for our Limpopo citizens; hence, we continue to introduce fundamental reforms to enhance planning and infrastructure provision. It is also essential to advance the progress made in enhancing infrastructure planning, delivery and procurement over the years, which continues to observe the strategic challenges that require us to have a more proactive approach to our infrastructure delivery and strategies than the reactive approach. This must be ensured by strengthening of government by not only providing value for money but ensuring that infrastructure budget allocations are directed towards the right and responsible projections.

There is a need to enhance the province's capacity to deliver infrastructure projects on time, within the Budget and to the required standard. The province is developing a framework to oversee the capacity and perform... [mic went off].

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Pheedi, your mic is off, please switch it on.

MR PHEEDI

Seboko se tsene nyobeng batho bagešo. We are on duty. Let me repeat that one. To implement our infrastructure plan as said in the framework, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure received R5,6 billion for the 2025/26 financial year, which includes conditional grant funding of R2 billion for provincial roads maintenance. In the 2025/26 financial year, a total of R577 million is earmarked for the implementation of provincial priorities and these include: R150 million for the settlement of municipal rates and taxes; R100 million for procurement of road fleet and equipment; R100 million for the procurement of office buildings; R89 million for construction and R50 million for parliamentary houses.

Once more the MEC presented the Budget which was a clear, well-thought-of; and allocations were done according to each department. As the portfolio committee, out of all other things we wish to see the following happening:

- Measures to be put in place to enhance spending on conditional grant, to improve service delivery and avoid returning money to the National Fiscus, and
- The spending on conditional grant is still a problem in our province, we therefore need to monitor departments which underspent their grants.

Just to mention a few, the Department of Education, on the infrastructure grant, experienced underspending in the previous financial year of 2024/25. The grant was committed to assist the schools' infrastructure challenges in the province.

The Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury hereby request the House to consider and adopt the report of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B03-2025] as a report of this honourable House. [APPLAUSE]

I still have minutes. The land of Juju Valley is a private land. Therefore, the municipality could not do anything by that time to develop the piece of land that they are talking about. I just want to give this information to the people of Juju Valley that there was nothing the government could do on a private land.

I thank you.

MR MOSS

Point of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Moss, you are recognised.

MR MOSS

Hon Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the speaker whilst he was on the floor. However, I stand on Rule 95 that says; “A Member may not use offensive or unbecoming language of bodily gestures during the proceedings of the House, Committee or any of its forums”. Whilst our colleague was addressing this House, our colleague from the MK Party referred to our colleague when he was struggling to find his words, as having ‘babalas’. I don’t think that is proper or parliamentary in this House. I request that he withdraws that. As it pleases the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I did not hear him but, I think he said he is ‘babalased’. Did you say that, Hon Jack Velile?

MR JACK

Hon Speaker, let me not waste your time. The honourable Member is a moruti, he does not drink alcohol. How can he suffer from babalas? But, I withdraw. [LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile. Honourable Members, please be aware that if I am talking and you press your mic, mine switches off. Every time when the Speaker is on the podium, please do not switch on your mics. Just raise your hand if you have an issue to raise so that I can see you and recognise you. I don’t know what is happening with our system, but that is what we are experiencing right now. Can we all cooperate, please?

7.1.2 Response by the Honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury.

I shall now call upon the MEC for Treasury, MEC Mahoai, to come and respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable Members, Hon Premier and everybody in the House. I really want to thank you, because no one, including the opposition, said anything substantive to oppose and/or raise anything substantive regarding the Budget. That in itself shows that we are well on course. We rely on your collective wisdom. Together as a province, we can utilise this as an instrument to advance the course of our nation. Hon Mokaba, at least it is for the first time I get read a scripture and it is encouraging, because indeed it is required that those who have been given trust must prove faithful. On that basis, it is a message not only to me but to all of us, including those who do oversight.

This matters, Hon Smalle, about what you raised regarding the process of the Budget, I think even in my own speech then, I indicated the maturity of our democracy. I think most parties and the leaders should just go back and learn. Go back to basics and understand the budget process in South Africa. It is a very structured cycle and it has stages. One of the most important stages was last week, when Parliament adopted the fiscal framework. There is no more turning back. Now we want departments here and

elsewhere even at the national to elaborate on the Budget. I always argue that not every opposition statement is automatically progressive or the gospel truth. I believe we should desist from misleading our citizenry. When they elect us, they think they elect decision makers not debaters.

They want to see us moving in the same direction, of course, we have different ideas but boiling to the same pot in making sure that their plight is been taken care of. We take note of all what we have been advised about and are very thankful. If Members believe and trust that the money that has been appropriated is going to be spent wrongly, then they are ready to see money being spent wrongly. That is because if you expect something to go wrong, it will go wrong; it presupposes that you know how to prevent it from happening. It's unlike if it just happens and you see it and say, wow, what should we have done?

I may not say everything but, one thing that makes me sleep better is that we all agree that Limpopo is on the move and there is no one who is going to stop it, so is South Africa. It will move. We were taught that behind every storm there is rain. It can never rain until some storm is concocted elsewhere in the atmosphere. All these things, and other issues that are coming and other issues that look bad, etc, are just precursors for a successful democracy that the ANC has worked for and is still working for and maintaining.

I would like to thank you on the basis that I understand that all the parties, including my own party that have given very clear statements that will encourage and inspire our people that, we are serious about them. We dare not fail them and we should not even delay anything, but do what we have been elected to do. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Hon Mahoai. Before I call on the Premier, I would want to acknowledge all the guests. I was never given a list of who is here. But, all of you feel welcome. If you are the guest of the Premier, or the guest of the MECs; Hon Matibe, Hon Ramakhanya or the MEC of Health, and Hon Mashego, you are all welcome. I have also seen two mayors here: the mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality and the mayor of Modimolle-Mookgophong; I have seen two Speakers, and the acting mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, Cllr Munyai; the two Speakers, from Musina Local Municipality, Cllr Shirilele and from Thulamela Local Municipality, Cllr Fhulu Mutheiwana. You are all welcome. DGs and your HODs, you are all welcome.

7.2. Second Reading: Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B03-2025]: Presentation of Budget Votes.

I will now call upon the first citizen of Limpopo, the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to come and deal with Vote 01. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

(Address by the Premier of Limpopo province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; our Chief Whip; the chairpersons of various committees; the Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Legislature; leaders of political parties; members from the religious fraternity; the Director General, and all head of departments; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen good morning.

As I stand before you today to present Budget Vote 01, for the Office of the Premier, I am compelled to address a matter that weighs heavily in our hearts and minds: the pervasive issues of rape and gender-based violence that continue to plague our society. It is deeply troubling that individuals entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding our communities, especially; our children, school principals, police officers and others - have been implicated in heinous acts of violence, including chilling cases of rape, murder, robbery and fraud.

We take pride in the strong stance taken by our biggest teachers union SADTU, which has unequivocally distanced itself from the actions of such principals. Watching the leadership of our federation, Cosatu taking to the streets, not for a wage increment this time around but; to demand justice for our 13-year-old victim of gender-based violence violated by one of their own, her school principal, is heart-wrenching. We can learn something or two as political parties and also as civil society that, even if it is not one of our own, let's be on the side of the victim. We also commend the swift accountability measures taken against police officers involved in these crimes. These developments should serve as the rallying cry for all of us to intensify our fight against these injustices. What we saw in the Eastern Cape when other parties stood by the alleged perpetrator, is disgusting.

As we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter and commemorate the legacy of Chris Hani, we must remain resolute in our commitment to eradicating these despicable acts from our society. Together, we must work towards a Limpopo where every individual can live free from fear and violence; and where justice prevails for all. If one of our own is accused of killing women and feed their bodies to pigs, we must be the first ones to stand up and condemn that act. However, we have seen the silence in some corners, and that is different for us.

The Office of the Premier has been allocated R554 million for the 2025/26 financial year. While this allocation may seem modest compared to others, it has sparked a vital conversation within our social media communities—one that demands clarity on the essential role that the Office of the Premier plays in our province.

The Office of the Premier does not exist in isolation; rather, it serves as the nexus of leadership, coordination and support for the provincial administration. That is why 63% of the R554 million allocated shall be spent on compensation of employees, whilst 37% shall go to goods and services. It is through our three programmes: Programme 01: Corporate Management, Programme 02: Institutional Development Support, and Programme 03, Planning, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, that we will strive to fortify the fabric of governance in Limpopo. Our aim is to empower all departments, ensuring that together we deliver compelling and impactful services to the people we serve. For the Premier to fulfil her legislative oversight function, she would require strong and effective administrative support under Programme 1, which is Corporate Management, hence, an amount of R163 million is allocated to this programme.

On 14 August 2024, during the tabling of our Budget, we made a commitment that in our journey to modernise public service provision, we shall extend the running of the electronic recruitment system across all departments, which was launched in the previous financial year.

We are thrilled to announce to this august House that, it is not only the Office of the Premier that utilises this transformative tool to streamline recruitment processes; whilst promoting transparency and ensuring that we continue to select the best candidates based on merit; but all departments are able to use this system.

In our office alone through this transformative tool which has improved our turnaround time in the recruitment processes, we have managed to reduce and maintain an average vacancy rate below 10%. We should, Madam Speaker, hasten to say that we will continuously enhance and upgrade the system, especially the downtime rate that seems to be an inconvenience to some of the users. Additionally, our commitment to gender equity is demonstrated by 52% of women occupying senior management positions. Equally, 2.96% of our positions are filled by people with disabilities. This achievement can never be celebrated if our departments lag, despite most of them being labour intensive.

Of course, the question we are often asked by oversight committees is; to what extent are we working towards making sure that the entire provincial government achieves equal or more of these results? We shall ensure through our coordination role that, this practice permeates into the fabric of the provincial departments. It is against this background that we welcome the recent appointment of one of our own, our former chair of chairs to head this Directorate of Status of Women in the Premier's Office. [APPLAUSE]

Ms Monyamane knows and understands very well what is at stake when departments fail to comply with this requirement. Her recruitment will go a long way in turning around the situation of the status of women in our province. HOD, be rest assured she will be knocking on your door to want to understand why your SMS is still below 50%. The Premier's Office is at 52%. We are done. We need to make sure that all other departments do so. Remembering this is the question she used to ask us when she was on oversight, now she will make sure she delivers on that.

As we forge ahead with the Seventh Administration, we reaffirm our commitment towards our core business, that is, a coordinated governance agenda. In the allocation provided, R121 million has been set aside for the 2025/26 financial year to support the execution of its functions. We are pleased to report to the Legislature that we have finalised the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025-2030. This is the last iteration of the National Development Plan 2030, and it is aligned with the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP).

To this effect, we have also developed a comprehensive five-year strategic plan. It is aligned with the LDP priorities and most importantly, it is aligned with our ANC manifesto because we are an ANC-led government in Limpopo. [APPLAUSE] It will serve as the guiding document for transformation, service delivery and economic growth. This plan embodies values of accountability, inclusivity and innovation, guiding our collaboration

with departments, our municipalities and stakeholders as they work to enhance institutional capacity and accelerate socio-economic development.

Our Annual Performance Plans will emphasise good governance. It will emphasise accountability and also a relentless pursuit of service provision excellence. We will intensify our skills development efforts, enhance financial management practices and embrace digital transformation to increase our efficiency. We will also strengthen our performance, monitoring and evaluation to ensure our initiatives yield a measurable impact, fostering a culture steeped in ethical leadership and integrity.

At the forefront of our agenda is the Provincial Water Working Group. It is, a collaborative effort with our ten Water Services Authorities, the Departments of Water and Sanitation and our very own CoGHSTA. To date, the Premier's Water War Rooms for Polokwane Municipality, Mopani, Greater Tzaneen Municipality and Vhembe, Makhado Municipality have been established.

This initiative is crucial in addressing the regression in water provision across our province. Access to clean and reliable water is not just a basic need; it is essential for public health, for economic growth, for environmental sustainability and social equity. We are investing in water infrastructure to ensure that every resident, regardless of their location or socio-economic status, benefits from this vital resource. This is a testament to our dedication to building a more equitable and prosperous Limpopo.

On Saturday, 12 April 2025, in her absence, we will be celebrating her greatest academic achievements and those of many others at our very own University of Limpopo. Let me start by congratulating her for this remarkable achievement, for attaining a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Limpopo. For the sake of Hon Selane. I don't want him to...[APPLAUSE]

In the same breath, let me invite all of you, with your doctorates and your qualifications, to join us in contributing to the growing body of new knowledge that this province requires to address some of the socio-economic challenges. Your contribution and that of many others will assist in making sure that the Limpopo research agenda continues to make significant strides by generating knowledge and providing practical solutions in sectors such as water provision, agriculture, healthcare and governance. It shouldn't end on a congratulatory note. We want that new knowledge, Dr Selane.

Institutional Development Support, which is Programme 2, is the cornerstone of government support. It is for this reason that R270 million has been set aside for its functions. One of our tasks is to make sure that departments are headed by qualified and capable heads of department. This has not been an easy task, especially in Departments like of Health, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development and Social Development. However, we want to commit to this House that the process will be finalised in the first quarter since it is already in motion, and adverts have already closed. The position of the Head of Department for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has since been filled.

In pursuit of agile governance, we are allocating significant resources to our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives. This year alone, we will invest over R80 million in critical areas such as email security, digital signatures, electronic content

management and disaster recovery. These investments are essential as we prepare our government for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, ensuring our readiness for a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Additionally, we are excited to announce our partnership with the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) to launch the Limpopo Public Sector Skills Plan. This initiative will ensure coherent skills development that aligns with the National Development Plan's mandate for a capable state, adept at fulfilling its transformative role.

As we progress, we want to highlight our commitment to empowering youth entrepreneurs through the Limpopo Youth Fund. In our first phase, we have empowered over 94 young entrepreneurs with R5,266 million. The second phase of the fund has now closed with approximately 412 applications for business support. We are committed to ensuring these processes are both efficient and effective.

The Director-General has already been directed to finalise the strategy for revitalising the Premier's Economic Growth and Advisory Committee (PEGAC). This committee will play a pivotal role in shaping our economic policies and ensuring sustainable growth, as well as streamlining our relations with stakeholders within the economic development realm.

Our commitment towards the support we are giving to military veterans, including housing them in the Office of the Premier has received a major boost by concluding the protocol agreement between the Office of the Premier and the Department of Military Veterans. The Jane Furse township establishment has been a long-standing issue. We recently convened a meeting to address the challenges and assess the appropriateness of the available land. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been revitalised to tackle these issues and ensure progress. We reassure this august House that, on a quarterly basis, we will update them on progress made in terms of Sekhukhune offices relocating from where we are located to Sekhukhune District where they belong.

To attract investment, we are also convening an investment workshop to reposition Limpopo's role in the global economy. We have already led several trade missions and commitments made during these missions are beginning to bear fruit. As we recently demonstrated during our appearance before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, we successfully accounted for all previous resolutions. We have pledged to the Scopa that together and along with our Provincial Treasury, we will intensify our efforts in providing strategic support and oversight to all our departments. This cooperative approach will help us promote sound financial management and good governance across the spectrum of government institutions.

As we take pride in reclaiming the clean audit within our office in the 2023/24 financial year, we recognise that this milestone is not the ultimate in what we want to achieve, given the small size of our budget, it must be a norm that is maintained without fail every year. In its highest form, it is a clarion call to extend our commitment to excellence throughout all our departments and all our municipalities.

Together, we must foster a culture of financial discipline, of transparency and service provision. Our expectation is clear: every department and every municipality must align

their operations to this principle. Our goal is to create a Limpopo where every government institution proudly achieves a clean audit—a good sign of our dedication to public trust and sustainable development.

Moving forward, our office will harness its coordination capabilities to ensure the effective implementation of all recommendations from the forensic reports commissioned in Limpopo, as well as those from statutory bodies, whether it is the HAWKS, the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), the Public Service Commission, or the Human Rights Commission and including others.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we will not give up the fight against corruption. The Limpopo Anti-Corruption Forum which has been instrumental in our pursuit of clean governance, will be repealed and replaced by the Premier's Ethics and Advisory Council, as per the advice of the Auditor-General.

We must also provide an update on the implementation of SCOPA resolutions. Currently, there are four outstanding resolutions that are transversal in nature. These pertain to the reconfiguration of 3D entities, addressing issues of fruitless and wasteful expenditure, implementing recommendations from statutory bodies and enforcing consequence management.

Regarding our 3D entities, we have established a technical committee to assess their feasibility and sustainability. Reports have indicated concerns about the sustainability of some of our entities. In response, we have decided to establish an Inter-Ministerial Committee which will be led by the Premier to provide political and strategic focus, ensuring that these entities fulfil their mandates effectively.

We will ensure that with each quarterly report, we provide clear progress updates in these areas, develop necessary policies and propose effective turnaround strategies. Our focus is on driving accountability and transparency, ensuring that we fulfil our responsibilities to the people of Limpopo.

We wish to emphasise consequence management, which is pivotal in maintaining accountability. Should a Head of Department fail to act against transgressors in their department, all the MECs shall ensure that actions are taken within the legal framework. The Office of the Premier remains committed to prudent financial management and the efficient utilisation of public resources. That is why we are pleased to report back that we have successfully spent 99.2 % of our allocated budget in the previous financial year, demonstrating our ability to implement planned programmes while maintaining fiscal discipline. This achievement reflects our strong governance, accountability and commitment to value for money.

For the 2025/26 financial year, the Office of the Premier has been allocated R554,810 million, including R109,568 million earmarked for provincial priorities. We will continue to strengthen expenditure management, enhance financial oversight and improve service provision outcomes, ensuring that our budget remains a powerful tool for development and transformation.

As indicated by the MEC for Finance during his Provincial Budget Speech, some of you, like Hon Ngobeni, see that we are a 'mogodu' of the beast that has been slaughtered.

Without the 'mogodu', the cow cannot metabolise the grass leaves that it eats daily. In its state people may not even get to enjoy the delicacy of the slaughtered beast if this vital part is missing. Therefore, together we will nurture our province, ensuring that every citizen is fed and nourished by the fruits of our labour.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Director General and all staff in the Office of the Premier for the work they continue to do, and as we commit these plans, it is in them that we entrust this responsibility. The responsibility of monitoring and evaluation, to ensure that the Seventh Administration is on track in implementing the Limpopo Development Plan and the ANC Elections Manifesto, rests with them.

In closing, I urge all of us to remain steadfast in our commitment to serving the people of Limpopo. With unity and purpose, we will build a government that is a responsive government, a government that is transparent and a government that is dedicated to meeting the needs of our citizens.

Honourable Members, I hereby table to you the Budget for Vote 1: Office of the Premier, 2025/26. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa Mulangavundu. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and to report back to the House.

7.2.2 Budget Speech Vote 03: Department of Education:

We shall now call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya Mavhungu Nyamuofhe. Ndi zwavhukuma vho ambara zwavhuḽi. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Address by Ms M M Lerule-Ramakhanya, MEC for Education)

Hon Deputy Speaker; our Hon Premier, honourable colleagues; Members of the of the Executive Council; Members of the provincial Legislature; the chairperson of the portfolio committee, and members of the portfolio committee, Chair of Chairs; leadership of the African National Congress; leaders of the opposition parties; royal leadership present here; Executive Mayors and Mayors present here; the Speaker of our Municipality, the Auditor-General; religious leaders, stakeholders in the Department of Education; our SGB associations; our unions and school principals' associations; the acting HOD of the Department of Education and other HODs present here; partners and sponsors in the education sector, our learners from Bana Bathari School and principals; our principals and educators from Grace and Hope Special School; all distinguished guests; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen ndi matsheloni.

Let me begin with the timeless words of Nelson Mandela, who reminded us that; education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world. Today,

we gather not merely to allocate resources but to sharpen that weapon, to ignite minds and to dismantle the barriers of inequality that still shadow our beloved province. In the spirit of Steve Biko, we declare that the greatest weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed. We stand here to reclaim the minds, to ensure that every child in Limpopo, from the valleys of Vhembe to the plains of Sekhukhune, is armed with knowledge, dignity and the unshakable belief that their dreams are valid.

The great Tshivenda proverb that says, “Mushumo ushava zwanda” is not a slogan, it is our battle cry. We declare 2025 the year of academic excellence and teacher development. We do so with the urgency of the province on the rise, yet aware of the cracks in our foundation. The poet Maya Angelou once wrote; “Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better”. Today, we know better we know that education is the cornerstone of justice, we know that a child in GaMashashane deserves the same quality of education as a child in Polokwane, and so today we do better.

This budget is more than just numbers. It is a covenant with a grandmother in Giyani who sells peanuts to buy school uniforms; a covenant with a young teacher in Lephalale who stays late to tutor learners; a covenant with the 1,8 million learners of Limpopo whose futures depend on our courage to act boldly, and act now.

I want to emphasise that this budget is not just about numbers, it is about people, our children, our teachers and our communities. It is about building a brighter future for Limpopo, where every child has access to quality education and the opportunity to succeed. Hon Members, as I present Budget Vote 3, let us all remember the words of Malcolm X; “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”. Let this budget be our passport, a passport out of poverty; out of despair and into the Limpopo where every classroom is a sanctuary of hope, every teacher a torch bearer and every learner a testament to what is possible when we dare to care.

Honourable Members and Hon Deputy Speaker, education is the foundation of progress and economic growth in our province. As we present the 2025/26 Budget Vote 3 for the Limpopo Department of Education; our focus remains on expanding access to quality education, improving infrastructure and investing in the future of our learners. For the 2025/26 financial year, the department has been allocated a total budget of R42,529 billion which is comprised of; equitable share at R37,8 billion, conditional grant which is R3,8 billion, own revenue which is R794,721 million. This represents an increase of 6,7% from the R39,8 billion adjusted appropriation in the 2024/25 financial year.

The allocation by economic classification has been distributed as follows: compensation of employees, R32,599 billion; goods and services, R4,4 billion; transfers and subsidies, R4,0 billion; and payment for capital assets, R1,4 billion. It is essential to note that the compensation of employees accounts to the largest portion of the budget at 76,7% demonstrating our commitment to ensuring well trained and motivated educators and of the total equitable share allocation of R38,6 billion. The compensation of employees is actually R32,4 billion which is 84,0% with R29,1 billion which is 89,6% dedicated to educators’ salaries. Furthermore, to support critical education following conditional grant, we have allocated the SNP Grant at R1,8 billion, Education Infrastructure Grant at 1,5 billion.

We recognise that a conducive learning environment is essential for academic success. This budget will enable us to construct new classrooms, refurbish existing facilities and ensure that every school has access to basic amenities, including clean water and electricity. In addition, we will prioritise schools in all areas, ensuring that no child is left behind. We have also allocated ECD development grant at R295 million, Maths, Science and Technology (MST Grant) at R52,5 million, learners with severe profound intellectual disabilities grant at R37,8 million, our Life Skill Education Grant on HIV/Aids at R29,5 million and our EPWP Integrated Grant at R15,8 million.

In addition, the following provisions have been made to support the departmental priorities in education: our norms and standards which is to our schools is R2,9 billion. Independent schools' subsidies is R1,7500 million, public special education schools is actually on R105,4 million, Scholar Transport has been budgeted at R365,2 million, school furniture has been budgeted at R100 million, E-education has been budgeted at R100 million, Learner Attainment Strategy has been budgeted at R161,5 million also support for printing materials for common exam papers has been budgeted at R70 million and teacher development has been budgeted at R16,8 million.

Our educators are the backbone of our education system; we will invest in professional development programmes that equip our teachers with the skills and knowledge they need to inspire and engage our learners. Moreover, by fostering a culture of continuous learning, we will empower our educators to be the change makers in their own classrooms. In addition to that, we have invested in matric results intervention strategy at R15 million, learning recovery at R10 million, Sanitary Dignity Project at R40 million, full-service school assistive devices at R31,6 million, inclusive education at R17,4 million, ECD indoor and outdoor equipment at R40 million, our ECD LTSM at R11 million and Education Management Information System at R16,1 million.

Honourable Members, these are the tools that assist us to be able to give support to our schools. The education infrastructure grant is the cornerstone of Limpopo's mission to dismantle the special and structural legacy of apartheid. With R1,5 billion we are erasing the indignity of learning and teaching under trees; the use of pit latrines and unbearable overcrowded classrooms. Thus, we will be directly advancing inclusive and safe learning environment, and the resilience in terms of our programme in promoting good and habitable infrastructure. These grants fuel the construction of new schools and the replacement of the unsafe pit latrines. We recognise that a conducive learning environment is essential for academic purposes. Hon Deputy Speaker, you would have seen that as Limpopo we have worked, we had a visit of the GNU Minister who was here to congratulate Limpopo on our infrastructure progress, out of what they have termed to be inappropriate of 391 Limpopo is only left with 1 school and that has been delivered by the ANC-led government.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Basic Education has commended the good work done by the province. We are proud to announce that in all our schools we have eradicated the pit latrines, we are only left with one which is being finalised. We made a commitment in this House that Polokwane will receive additional infrastructure to ease the admission budget, we are still on course with the plan and currently finalising the drawings for the state-of-the-arts schools. The procurement of contractors will happen in the coming weeks and we also expect construction to start this year.

There is an additional allocation of R100 million for storm damage and disaster-affected schools. It is not just for construction and structure. It is about restoring dignity, safety and hope to learners who have endured the indignity of learning under trees and unsafe environment. Furthermore, R2 million has been earmarked for head office maintenance for the equitable share and we want to make a clarion call and say to the public. Please stop stripping off the dignity of our learners by making them pose under trees for your political gains, please stop! They have dignity, they are human beings and we hope one day the Human Rights Commission can start to get into that space to follow anyone, anyone that posts our learners in an unsafe environment and use that for their own political gains.

Progress on 2024/25 foundation of success, last year we completed a major upgrade at 15 schools including Seshego Secondary School, Mphareng Primary School, and John Xikundu Primary School. We have delivered water infrastructure to 82 schools and safe sanitation to 89 schools directly combating health risks and advancing our course in provisioning of clean water and sanitation. The construction of Asiphumelele special school is underway, a milestone in our commitment to inclusive education for learners with disabilities.

The 2025/26 priorities are about accelerating transformation. This year we are upgrading 54 schools, refurbishing 106 schools, over 70% of projects target villages and under our key projects under construction we have over 20 school projects that are currently under construction with schools like St. Paul Secondary and other schools that are currently under construction. We are replacing pit latrines and storm-damaged roofs and ensure that no child risks their health or dignity. Over 1000 local jobs have been created through infrastructure projects, special schools like Asiphumelele and the disability upgrades at St. Paul Secondary Schools, are part of the UN Convention on the rise of persons living with disability.

The education management system, through the South African School Administration and Management System, what we call SA-SAMS and Learner Unit Record and Tracking System remains the single source of education information and the backbone of education administration. These systems aim at improving learner outcomes by leveraging school data through the entire education system. In the 2024/25 financial year, the department trained 145 officials on National School Safety Framework and the School Safety Module which aims to improve incident and accident recording and reporting on the SA-SAMS. This changes manual reporting to web-based reporting on EMIS.

The Department of Basic Education selected Vhembe West Education District, as a pilot site for the implementation of the modernised SA-SAMS. The department has reinforced its effort in implementing modernised SA-SAMS for real-time reporting and enhance data security. The funds allocated for EMIS will be utilised to implement modernised SA-SAMS to enhance accessibility across the province and we have budgeted as follows: for the library services at R11,6 million, district accountability session at R5,2 million, quality improvement development support and upliftment programme at R5,0 million, systematic evaluation at R2,4 million, HRD system at R1,4 million, school safety we have budgeted R4 million and this is due to escalation of

incidents of crime and violence which is a manifestation in more social ills. Random searches and seizures of dangerous objects will continue in the new set of our hot spots in our schools for 2025 up to the year 2028.

Social ills such as bullying seem to be in the increase; drug abuse, gangsterism, suicides, rape and other social ills. We are going to prioritise our school safety programme for more intervention by strengthening our partners through renewal of MOAs and MOUs with our sister departments. We will convene the Limpopo school Safety Indaba colloquium and conference to strengthen increased partnership in addressing our current change in circumstances. The Safety Indaba will culminate in the signing of MOUs and memorandums with social partners and other stakeholders to assign roles to newly mobilised partners who will add value in combating the surge of violence in our schools. School safety and beautification in our schools are now key priorities and every SGB is expected to have safety, security, health and environment as their key agenda in every meeting.

On inclusive education, we have embarked on our new journey in inclusive education. The R17,458 million allocated will go a long way in training educators and SGBs on differentiated teaching strategies and universal design for learning. We are also finalising the roll out of specialised buses for special schools. Already 543 subject advisors have been trained on inclusive education, making us the only province in the country to have trained such a significant number. In the current financial year, we have allocated funds to ensure that inclusive education makes phenomenal strides as we provide education for all.

The foundation of a child's future is laid in the early years of life. The allocation equips ECD centres with eight appropriate indoor and outdoor play equipment, climbing structures, puzzles, and all sensory kits to stimulate cognitive and motor development. These resources align with the national ECD curriculum ensuring that our youngest learners, transit to grade R with confidence and curiosity. Quality early learning demands quality materials, so we confirm that the R11,9 million for ECD learning and teaching support material delivers multilingual story books and counting kits will go a long way.

Our mandate as a department is to make sure that every learner reads for meaning by the age of 10, our library services will continue to provide schools with multimedia resources valued at R7,6 million aimed at assisting learners with reading barriers to master reading for meaning as quickly as possible. The directorate will also supply books to schools intended for reading for enjoyment, amounting to R2 million. The books assist schools with enrichment programmes such as after-school reading sessions.

The following provisions have been made to support key issues and I think as we have alluded to and as you will be getting the speeches, you will be able to see all the amounts that have been given for us to be able to use. The department is partnering with the Food Beverage SETA to train all the food handlers who prepare food for learners in public ordinary and special schools.

The 2025/26 financial year, the allocation for the overall skills for the development programme is R96607 million which will be utilised to capacitate the different categories

of serving employees at all levels from our institutions and office-based educators, as well as public service employees. We will continue to pay special attention to the initial teacher education and graduate development programme. The focal point will be on the following programmes: strategic ICT integration; training of SMT members on instructional leadership; mentoring and coaching; coding and robotics; health and safety programmes and ECD level 5 Diploma for ECD practitioners; concentrated introduction of the newly appointed educators and different Bachelor of Education degrees with clear bias Foundation and Intermediate Phase as opposed to the Senior and FET Phase.

As we strive forward to produce a workforce that meets the demands of a dynamic economy, let us remember that education is the cornerstone of sustainable development. It is through quality education that we can eradicate poverty, promote gender equality, and foster innovation. Together we will build an education system that does not only meet the needs of today but anticipate the challenges of tomorrow.

To our SGB associations, our unions, our donor, our sponsor, MECT, SACE, SAPA, SANESA, the royal leadership, executive mayors and their councils and the religious leadership; your constant support on this journey is described in the Bible, one of many miles. Your support is appreciated, as your commitment confirms that education is indeed a societal matter.

We also want to appreciate Team Education administration being marshalled by the Acting HOD. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed, as I always say, let us continue to walk this journey of the renewal of our vows to carry out our responsibilities. Continue working as a team for the benefit of the children's future.

To the portfolio committee chairperson, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale, and the portfolio committee, your diligence is appreciated in ensuring that we render services efficiently, economically and effectively. Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; the faith you had in giving us a task such as the department is truly an honour. Your constant support and guidance in this journey continues to prove fruitful in the efforts exacted by all the stakeholders involved. I want to say to all the stakeholders that are in the Department of Education, let's utilise the budget constructively and effectively for us to be able to benefit the fruits and change the lives of our learners. We want to say, halala to Team Education, halala!

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to also say that; it is not proper and honourable for parties, especially political parties and colleagues in the honourable House; without a vision, they move around holding cameras and waiting for people to pass gossip then when they hear that gossip, they take it as a programme. In doing so they want all of us to believe that they are standing in this honourable House talking about a programme. Our people are not stupid; they are looking at you. Indeed, gossip will remain gossip.

Today, we come to present the Budget on behalf of the Department of Education and our role is to protect children for them to grow in a better society. We want to say to all of us; thank you so much for the support that you continue to give to the Department of Education. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

[APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Ro livhuwa Murado wa Khorotshitumbe Muhulisei Vho Nyamuofhe Lerule-Ramakhanya. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education for consideration and to report back to the House. Ri khou humbela Murado wa Khorotshitumbe Muhulisei Vho Matibe Tshireke Baldwin vha de vha vhale vouthu ya vhu 6. We shall now ask the MEC, Hon Matibe Tshireke Baldwin, to present Vote 6.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(Address by Mr T B Matibe, MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism)

Hon Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; honourable Members of the Executive; Members of the provincial Legislature; leaders of our opposition parties; the Director-General of the Province, Mr Nape Nchabeleng and all Heads of Departments, members of the boards of entities and as well as CEOs of entities; leaders and representatives of our chapter 9 and chapter 10 institutions; leaders of organised labour, faith-based leaders civil society; all the leaders of youth, women and people living with disability; captains and leaders of our various industries; distinguished guests; fellow citizens of Limpopo, Ndi matsheloni.

Today, we gather as a people united in our quest for a brighter future. We, the people of this great province, are committed to being the heartland of Southern Africa, where development is truly about people. We take immense pride in this commitment which is deeply ingrained in our hearts and minds just as it is visually personified by the majestic baobab tree that is at the centre of our provincial coat of arms. The baobab tree holds a profound symbolism for our province. Its sturdy trunk represents strength and resilience, its sprawling branches signify shelter and protection, its deep roots embody our connection to our heritage and our land. This iconic tree inspires our journey towards holistic empowerment, reminding us that our growth and development must be rooted in our values, nurtured by our resilience, and sheltered by our collective efforts.

From the Limpopo River to the Soutpansberg mountain range, this majestic tree stands tall, a beacon of hope. As we move forward, our government is dedicated to reaching into the future and realising our shared dreams, aspirations, and collective future just as the great baobab's crinkly branches reach into the skies.

We build on the vision and leadership of our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, who has outlined the Limpopo Development Plan 2025 to 2030 as a strategic blueprint. Our focus remains on uplifting the lives of 6,8 million citizens, tackling unemployment, poverty and inequality. While we continue, to grapple with the persistent low economic growth rate, we remain optimistic that our catalytic projects will yield the desired targeted growth rate of 2,2%.

Stats SA has announced that Limpopo province's official unemployment rate decreased from 32,6% to 31,9% in the fourth quarter of 2024. The Labour Force Survey indicates that the number of unemployed people in the province decreased by 31 000 to 724 000 in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to 755 000 in the third quarter of 2024. According to the GCIS third quarter cluster report 2024/25, our citizens' confidence particularly in our capacity to galvanise international investments, rose from a mere 47% during the period February to March 2024 to 52% between October and November of the same year. Other findings point to further confidence amongst our people in our provincial government's ability to create jobs and improve the ease to which people go about starting small businesses.

On business registration, a key component to our economic growth, empowerment and empowering previously disadvantaged individuals in the Limpopo Business Registration Act 2023, which simplifies the business registration process making it merely flexible and co-effective. When we were here last time, we announced that only 19 local municipalities have taken on the business registration function. We are pleased to report back that we have surpassed the number by two, making it 21 out of 22 local municipalities with Blouberg and Mogalakwena municipalities being the latest additions. The city of Polokwane is expected to follow suit to make it 22 out of 22, having already passed the council resolution to assume the responsibility for business registration.

In line with President Cyril Ramaphosa's directive to register all spaza shops, we are thrilled to report that over 2030 spaza shops are now registered with the majority being locally owned. This milestone marks a significant step towards formalising townships and the rural economy, putting ownership in the hands of Limpopo residents. In the upcoming financial year, our department will continue to oversee and coordinate business registration at a municipal level. We urge all those who are not yet registered to register urgently at their nearest local municipality.

On economic development and enterprise, Deputy Speaker, we continue to implement our responsive Limpopo township and rural business support programme in pursuit of objectives within the developed Limpopo micro, small and medium enterprises' strategy. Building on our previous achievements, we are pleased to announce that 402 local enterprises have benefited from our programmes in 2024/25, surpassing our previous target of 392. Furthermore, going into the new financial year we want to maintain this trajectory.

Our commitment to vulnerable groups still stands with 277 women-owned enterprises, 90 youth-owned enterprises, 101 enterprises owned by people living with disability and 30 military veterans' enterprises benefiting from this programme. Through our strategic partnership with Coca Cola beverages implementing business in a box programme, an additional total of 33 enterprises were supported from the township and rural areas in the financial year 2024/25. The process is underway to review the current MOU signed with Coca Cola beverages for the better and additional 50 local enterprises will benefit from the programme 2025/26 financial year.

In collaboration with SETA and LEDA, we initiated a capacity-building programme to support local enterprises in the township and rural areas of Limpopo. Currently, 60 enterprises have benefited for 2024/25 financial year, and the programme offers access

to funding, business skills with the aim of supporting another 100 enterprises in the 2025/26 financial year.

In partnership with Allan Gray, we have coordinated the implementation of the Maker's enterprise, intercollege competition aimed at igniting entrepreneurship and cooperative movement in the province in partnership with Allan Gray has already been rolled out in all TVET colleges in our province. Alongside the initiative, 10 learners have received support in the form of laptops as part of the starter-up funding programme which prepares learners for technical and industrial readiness. LEDET, in collaboration with DECLA and SEFDA to implement the township meat retailer's programme to empower township and rural businesses with mobile container shops to operate as meat retailers in their communities, 15 applications have been submitted and pending approval by SEFDA for 2025/26 financial year.

In 2024/25 financial year, we supported over 75 LED practitioners. We are already on the way to reach our target for 2025/26, with already 48 LED practitioners assisted. LEDET will coordinate the establishment of the BEE advisory council, facilitate implementation of capacity-building workshops targeting SCM officials including capacity-building workshops to improve procurement targets towards people with disabilities, women, youth and military veterans-owned business. Coordinate the re-establishment of triple BEE provincial forum. We have also developed a programme designed for youth graduates with technical skills who aspire to pursue entrepreneurship.

The majestic baobab trees in Limpopo are living testaments to the province's rich history and resilience with some dating back over 1 800 years, they hold the stories of the past including apartheid's injustice and the growth of the past 30 years of democracy and serve as the reminder of the legacy we want to leave for the future generation, a legacy of transformative development and programmes that will be spoken for next 1 000 years.

Our special economic zones are key part of this vision, driving seismic growth and development that will industrialise our communities and propel the province forward. Musina Makhado SEZ, Hon Lebogo, as announced by the Premier, our six-point plan with her blessing, has achieved progress in ensuring that we finally unlock the potential of the long-awaited Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone.

Land security has been the biggest hindrance towards progress on infrastructure rollout on the north site. I am pleased to announce to this honourable House, and to reiterate that the Minister of Public Works has signed the concurrence for land transfer to the Musina-Makhado SEZ. [APPLAUSE] The township establishment on the north site has always been held back by the land issue. We can now put the matter to rest as we forge ahead with infrastructure rollout.

On the south site, key stakeholders comprising of service provider, legal team and the municipal officials are addressing lingering issues that still require attention to enable finalisation of township establishment. These are the floor area ratio response to the objections, queries raised by SANRAL and the final submission is expected on 14 April 2025.

To ensure that this progress remains on track, Musina-Makhado SEZ is allocated R460 million for 2025/26, to do what? To do bulk sanitation management project, to do site access project, which is road and storm water, construction of 10MVA electricity at substation, construction of security perimeter fence and bulk water projects, construction of bulk waste-water project, including bulk water supply and bulk sanitation management projects. All design works of these projects have been completed to date. Procurement of these projects will be finalised in the first quarter of the current financial year.

Musina local municipality has on 25 March 2025 signed the special power of attorney to the MMSEZ in relation to the farm Antonvilla 7 MT, granting legal authority to MMSEZ to make a submission to the municipal planning tribunal for township establishments. As we speak, Hon Premier, MMSEZ has attracted approximately R8,6 billion of investments destined for the north site of the SEZ.

With regard to the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, we revealed last year our commitment to work with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to designate Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park as a special economic zone under the SEZ Act of 2014 and have since developed a robust investment pipeline exceeding R9 billion committed to Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. As of yesterday, 7 April we initiated a 30-day public participation process, a crucial step towards industrial parks official designation as an SEZ.

We urge the people of Sekhukhune to participate in this public participation process. Already in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, there are currently 46 companies on the investment pipeline with the combined investment value of approximately R52,6 billion, and that will be the investment that we give to our people in that part of the province. Both Musina Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ have the potential to create more than 16000 long-term jobs for our people in the province.

On industrial parks, as announced in our maiden budget vote through our agency LEDA, we are currently revitalising, refurbishing the industrial parks in our townships as a vehicle for promoting the medium-sized manufacturing sector as well as promoting the regional industrialisation. LEDA has started with the three industrial parks namely, Nkowankowa, Seshego and Thohoyandou.

A total of three SMMEs subcontractors are benefiting from the project, the project has created 140 jobs for now. The project is at 98% completion. In Nkowankowa factory with 251 was fully renovated, it has been completed, operating and contributed to the additional 2 000 jobs for our people. A dedicated water pipeline purification plant for peppadew has been appointed by the contractor on the 27 March and the project is currently at 50% completion stage. The funding application of R50 million for the refurbishment of Thohoyandou industrial park has been submitted to DTIC and the application will, however, be fulfilled in the current financial year.

In our effort to return the Lebowa kgomo abattoir to its vital role in the local agricultural economy, I and the MEC for Agriculture, MEC Nakedi Kekana visited the facility in February this year and established a task team led by the LEDET HOD and Acting HOD Agriculture to monitor the progress. We said to them that they must report to us every

two weeks. I am now pleased with the progress reported and we will be going back myself and the MEC on 14 April 2025. Premier you are also invited for the live demonstration where 5 000 chicks will be slaughtered as part of commissioning the project. [APPLAUSE] At last the project is underway. At Mashashane hatchery, the investor has placed another 7 500 eggs on 3 March and 5 300 chicks have already been hatched. [APPLAUSE] At long last Lebowakgomo abattoir will start working. [Inaudible] You must accompany me, Hon Smalle.

We are happy to announce that Limpopo Investment Conference has yielded R281 billion in investment pipelines across various sectors in the past five years, with R61 billion already contributing to gross fixed capital formation in our provincial economy. As we prepare for 2025 investment conference, we will host a provincial international economic investment symposium to develop a comprehensive strategic perspective positioning Limpopo as a premier investment destination. Renewable energy is emerging as a sunrise sector attracting significant investment. We are committed to supporting investors in translating the R281 billion worth of investment pledges into tangible projects.

During the 2025 Mining Indaba, the province followed up on investors who have made pledges in the previous conference, including Energy Africa, Zero Carbon Charge, Anglo American Platinum, Glencore, Mantengu and Super Precious Metals. Super Precious Metals will work on the tailings of Fumani Gold Mine and approximately 150,000 tons in the next 15 months.

Energy Africa will implement two projects in the Mopani hybrid and Giyane Solar Farm with the hybrid solar project combining wind and solar technology. Mantengu will invest R200 million in the first phase of its project, creating 250 jobs with a full project valued at R3 billion and has acquired PMC in Phalaborwa and will recapitalise it with R50 million to rehabilitate the assets. Both Glencore and Anglo American Platinum are on track to implement their pledges, and they have committed to sign MOA with Fetakgomo- Tubatse Industrial Park to collaborate in key beneficiation projects, including battery storage, fuel cells, hydrogen economy initiatives, skills development and enterprise programmes.

Our effort to grow Limpopo as an export-driven economy has gained momentum. Recent progress includes the export protocol agreement for avocados to China. This has opened lucrative markets for our local agricultural sector. We are exporting to China because in other areas, there are tariffs and everything. [LAUGHTER] To capitalise on the growing global demand for our mineral and agricultural resources, we will launch Limpopo Investment Book in 2025, showcasing investment opportunities in key sectors.

We are poised to capitalise on opportunities presented by the imminent G20 summit, specific to us, G20 programmes that will be held in our province. In an opportunity to explore trade and investment collaboration with G20 member countries. I understand we have G19 because the other one is not coming.

On governance of liquor affairs, honourable Members, you will be pleased to know that the first ever Liquor Indaba on 14 November yielded considerable results, with these engagements providing valuable insights that guided the development of the 2025 Limpopo Liquor Regulations gazetted on 21 March 2025.

On environmental affairs, in the 2025 financial year, the Department of Environmental Affairs has finalised the 160 environmental impact assessments within the legislated timeframes, achieving 100% of its target. This development has the potential to create over 300 000 jobs in the province, with the investment estimated at approximately R1 billion.

The hunting activities continue to grow with 11 792 permits issued by the end of the third quarter 2024/25. The department has concluded 260 compliance on environmental issues and inspections to ensure adherence to environmental legislation. This financial year, we have received from provincial treasury R28 million as earmarked funding to be used to support local municipalities by developing engineering designs for the construction of landfill sites and integrated waste management plans. Four municipalities supported for the engineering designs for the construction of landfills are Maruleng, Makhuduthamaga, Thabazimbi as well as Modimolle Mokgophong. We are supporting your municipality Hon Makamu. The two municipalities supported for development of integrated waste management plans are Polokwane and the Makhado local municipality.

The province continues to support the three biospheres, including Kruger to Cayon, Vhembe and Waterberg biosphere reserves in key projects, including green community initiatives, education and awareness programmes, research and conservation projects. With over 30 000 hectares added to the conservation estate in 2023/24 financial year, the department plans to add more hectares in the 2025/26 financial year following public consultation process.

On tourism, let me highlight that we are excited to report that Marula Festival Reloaded 2025 was the grandest open-air concert in its 19-year history. This year's event was special as it coincided with the decade since the passing of Collen Chabane, the father of the concert and my predecessor as MEC for LEDET. May his soul continue to rest in peace. [APPLAUSE]

The event showcased the best of Limpopo with 15 registered women-led Mukumbi Cooperatives from all district municipalities brewing an impressive 12 000 litres of iconic marula beverages. I hope Hon Mokone, you have enjoyed. The festival was a huge success, with 7 516 tickets sold, generating R888,000 in revenue for the province. As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Marula festival in 2026, we are committed to taking this flagship project to new heights and contributing to the provincial economy.

On National Tourism Exhibition NTCE, our department led by the Department of Tourism in partnership with cultural arts, tourism, hospitality, sports sector, education training and authority hosted the first instalment of National Tourism Career Expo in the new Peter Mokaba stadium in Polokwane from 8 to 10 of October 2024. Over 7 240 people made up of learners from across the country and tourism enthusiasts, attended the three-day expo. Our province will host the event for the two more instalments before it moves to another region.

On infrastructure, in terms of infrastructure management, we are completing upgrades on restaurants, including the kitchen, and installation in Nylsvlei Nature Reserve, which we are going to open very soon. We think in the next two weeks, we will be going there

to open Nylsvlei Nature Reserve, Hon Premier. In the 2026 financial year, the department received a budget allocation of R36 million in infrastructure, which we are going to use for Masebe, Ngwanedi, Dinyala, Wolkberg as well as Nylsvlei.

On Agribusiness, LEDET providing oversight with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, has signed an MOU on various projects. The sweet potato processing project located in the LEDA industrial park in Seshego, under the Capricorn District, is active. This project will receive financial support to acquire new processing machinery and delivery trucks. LEDA has commenced with the process of identifying an investor for the tea production at Mukumbani Tshivhase tea estate. A new potato processing plant has been planned to be developed in Dendron in partnership with Potato SA and the Department of Agriculture and others. This R3,7 billion project will generate over 1000 employment opportunities along the value chain.

On Training and Development, in the same vein, I am happy to announce that to date, a total of 9 271 beneficiaries were trained in both business and technical skills provincially. In this financial year, LEDA aims to implement 12 skills programmes, targeted to offer business skills to 7 300 beneficiaries.

In terms of valuable non-financial support, it is my pleasure to announce that to date, LEDA has incubated 110 co-operatives and 125 SMMEs. We also managed to support 34 youth-owned enterprises and 26 military veterans. The financial support to SMMEs and co-operatives, as the Premier indicated during her State of the Province Address that LEDA has regressed in terms of offering financial support to SMMEs. I have mandated LEDA to review its Business Loan Policy, to enable entrepreneurs, especially the youth, to access funding and remedy this. [APPLAUSE] LEDA will apply for funding for the Critical Infrastructure Programme with DTIC and for the third phase and the CIP funding is kept at R50 million per project.

Limpopo Gambling Board has this financial year, achieved 100% of its performance targets by the end of the third quarter. I don't know why Hon Premier thinks that gambling achieves 100%, maybe is because honourable Members are also supporting the gambling board. In promoting responsible gambling, the entity collaborated with the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation to raise awareness about the risks associated with gambling. The Limpopo Gambling Board exceeded its revenue target, collecting 82% of the revenue, surpassing the norm of 75%. [APPLAUSED] We are surpassing.

As of the end of the 2024/25 financial year, there were 310 licensed gambling operators in the province, and a new bookmaker operator was approved, creating 60 direct employment opportunities. Seven corporate licenses were also issued, contributing to job creation and the transformation of the gambling industry.

However, the province continues to face challenges related to illegal gambling activities. To address these challenges, the Limpopo Gambling Board is strengthening its collaboration with SAPS its oversight. The entity conducted 199 investigations, resulting in the arrest of 88 perpetrators and the confiscation of 585 illegal gambling machines. The implementation of its turnaround strategy, GNT added 15 buses during the financial year 2024, resulting in a contribution of R1,8 million to monthly revenues, increased coverage of routes, therefore increased passenger reach. GNT will be increasing its

fleet size through refurbishment with additional buses as allocated funds by the Treasury.

GNT in partnership with private entities, will begin benefiting and serving communities and passengers in Capricorn, Mopani and Waterberg districts. GNT will also commence with the implementation of the sub-contracting of 30% of the routes to local bus operators who are not contracted to the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

On Limpopo Tourism Agency In 2023, Limpopo and Gauteng, emerged as the leading main destination provinces, recording the highest number of overnight trips. Not only has Limpopo emerged as the leading main destination province but has also recorded the second highest overnight spend of R 20,1 billion and the highest bed nights at R26.8 million. This is a positive indication of the gradual improvements in terms of economic growth over the years. The entity will provide marketing support to tourism entrepreneurs, especially women, youth, and people with disabilities, to access markets and create jobs with a focus to Business enterprise.

Risima Housing Finance Corporation has approved 173 housing finance applications, totalling R104 million and creating 2 402 jobs. Risima offers preferential mortgage bonds to government employees in Limpopo, aiming to provide 180 housing finance options worth R100 million.

On corridor mining resources restructuring of Sefateng Chrome Mine to facilitate early value release, aligned with the sustainability programme and liquidating mature investments. CMR is evaluating proposals for the Khumong Mines and expects onboard investor by the end of the second quarter.

On audit outcomes,, in terms of audit outcomes, we are collectively maintaining a healthy sign of accountability for fiscal. However, we remain committed to transparency and accountability; as such, we are taking decisive steps to restore financial integrity and achieve clean audits for our department, entities and subsidiaries. We are also tightening supply chain processes to eliminate inefficiencies and ensure transparent financial reporting through real-time monitoring. Furthermore, we have been working closely with the Auditor-General's office and Internal Audit to swiftly implement all audit recommendations. For the financial year 2023/24, LEDET received unqualified audit opinion with LGB and LTA receiving unqualified audit opinions or what we call clean audit.

The 2025/26 Budget Appropriation for LEDET is as follows; for the upcoming financial year, LEDET has been allocated a total budget of R2,286 billion across various sectors. Administration is allocated R431 million; Integrated Development Services, R1,299 billion; Environmental Affairs, R419 million; Tourism, R138 million and totalling R2,286 billion. Additionally, the Budget includes transfers to public entities; Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) receiving R1,144 billion; Limpopo Tourism Agency receiving R102 million; Limpopo Gambling Board receiving R72 million and the total transfer is R1,319 billion.

Hon Premier, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen in the gallery, as I conclude, let me again draw your attention to the majestic baobab tree, which is often referred to

as the upside-down tree due to its unique shape. This iconic tree is a powerful symbol of innovation and unconventional thinking, echoing the words we have come to know and love from our Premier, "Dilo di tšhentšhitše". A call to embrace new ideas and approaches, just as the baobab tree adapts and thrives in challenging environments, we too must be willing to challenge the status quo, and explore new solutions to drive growth, development, and transformation in our province. Let us draw inspiration from this remarkable tree and strive to embody its spirit of resilience, innovation and community.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Hon Tshitereke Matibe. We shall now refer the Budget Speech to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for consideration and to report back to the House. We shall now call upon the MEC wa Maphelo, Mme Dieketseng Mashego, gore atle a re balele Vote 07. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you very much.

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (Address by Ms D M Mashego, MEC for the Department of Health)

Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip; and the Deputy Chief Whip; the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on health, Hon Dr Malebana; honourable Members of the House; Director General of the province and all HODs; our Traditional Leaders; our traditional health practitioners; leaders of the religious community; esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we gather here to affirm our unwavering commitment to the health and wellbeing of the people of Limpopo, under the banner of hope and progress. As the MEC for Health, I stand before you not only as a representative of the African National Congress, but as a servant of the people, entrusted with the sacred duty of safeguarding their health, ensuring that every citizen has access to the care they deserve.

This Budget Vote comes at a significant time, as we mark Freedom Month, a time when we commemorate and celebrate the immense strides we have made over the past three decades of democracy since 27 April 1994. It is also a moment to honour the sacrifices of the unsung heroes and heroines who fought for a country that is democratic, equal, and free from all forms of discrimination. These sacrifices lay the foundation for the progress we now see, and it is in their memory that we remain dedicated to delivering quality healthcare to every individual in Limpopo.

Our vision for health is rooted in the principles of equality and equitable healthcare; and our manifesto reflects this core commitment. We envision a Limpopo where no one is left behind, a province where all people, regardless of their socio-economic status, have access to high-quality healthcare services. A healthy population is not only a

fundamental right, but it also drives economic growth, reduces inequality, and fosters a society that can thrive.

In alignment with the National Development Plan Vision 2030, and our provincial development strategy, which is the Limpopo Development Plan; the 7th Administration has focused on the critical pillars for progress in the healthcare sector:

- Driving inclusive economic growth and job creation within the healthcare sector;
- Reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living through affordable healthcare initiatives; and
- Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state that delivers on its promises.

While our department contributes to all these priorities, we are particularly focused on the second pillar: reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living. By providing free primary healthcare and affordable services at the hospital level, we are not only making health services accessible; but also empowering our citizens to fully participate in economic activities. A healthy society is a productive society, and a healthcare system that is both affordable and accessible, ensures that economic opportunities are within reach for all.

Madam Speaker, it is an undeniable fact that expensive healthcare burdens households, erodes income, and increases the cost of living. This is why the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI) must no longer be a subject of political debate. It is a critical step towards achieving health equity, and it is a health solution whose time has come.

The NHI will remove financial barriers to essential health services, providing universal access and ensuring that healthcare is not a privilege, but a right for every South African. Madam Speaker, our mission is clear: to continue making progress towards a healthier, more equitable Limpopo. The journey we are on is one of hope, hope for a future where every individual has access to the care, they need to live long and healthy lives, and to contribute to the prosperity of our province and nation.

Primary healthcare stands as the cornerstone of our health system, being the closest point of contact for the community. With this in mind, the Department of Health has made a deliberate and consistent effort to improve access to health services by extending the operating hours of our primary health care clinics. However, this progress is often undermined by unfortunate incidents, particularly criminal activities, which have led to the suspension of 24-hour services at some of our facilities. As a result, the number of clinics providing 24-hour services has decreased from 217 to 211.

Madam Speaker, we started this year on a painful note, where there was a break-in at Chuene Clinic and two of our nurses were kidnapped and raped while on night duty; Just this past weekend, at GaMadiba Clinic, thugs stole a Clear View fence. They held security guards at gunpoint, while they removed the installed fence meant to provide security at the facility.

Once again, we call upon all community members to partner with us, along with law enforcement, to ensure that our facilities are protected. By working together, we can preserve the progress we've made and continue to offer accessible care to all; And we are saying, we don't give up, ka se GNU re re, ons sal nie opgee nie, ga re fele maatla, ga re lahlele toulou, Ngeke si phele amandla, we will continue activating those clinics to render the 24 hour service that is needed; That is why the department is currently doing an audit of all the PHC facilities, starting with those offering 24 hour services; with the aim to standardise and improve security at our PHC facilities, which will not only rely on human beings, but enhanced with technology.

Moreover, mitigating the staff shortage is equally vital in ensuring that our healthcare services remain uninterrupted. The unexpected attrition of nursing staff has further impacted our ability to maintain consistent 24-hour services. In response, the department has launched a recruitment drive to hire 305 professional nurses and 40 staff nurses, all of whom are set to begin their duties this month. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to ensure that our health facilities are adequately staffed, enabling us to provide timely and continuous care.

Another area of focus is the prevention of diseases, such as cervical cancer, which remains a significant health concern for women. Globally, a woman dies from cervical cancer every two minutes. In South Africa, nearly 11 000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually, with a staggering 50% succumbing to the disease. This loss of life is particularly tragic because these deaths are preventable.

To combat this, the national government has introduced the Human Papillomavirus vaccine, a key measure to protect women from cervical cancer. Since 2014, in partnership with the Department of Education, we have administered the HPV vaccine to over 700 000 girls in schools. Last year, we expanded access to this vaccine by targeting healthcare facilities, reaching an additional 63 000 girls. For this financial year, we have allocated a budget from the district health conditional grant to continue this vital work. Through these efforts, we are not only preventing cancer but also providing hope for healthier futures for women across the province.

In addition to addressing preventable diseases like cervical cancer, our department continues to make strides in tackling malaria, a disease that has historically affected many of our communities. Despite the recent heavy rainfall, our Malaria programme continues to make significant strides. The department is proud to report that malaria cases in Limpopo have remained within the alert threshold, with no outbreaks recorded. In fact, the province has seen the lowest malaria caseload in more than a decade, with just 751 cases reported.

This remarkable achievement is due to the strategic indoor residual spraying carried out in high-risk areas, combined with intensive surveillance efforts. We are also grateful to the communities in these high-risk areas for their cooperation and support, which has been instrumental in the success of this programme. Through our collaborative efforts, spraying teams have reached over 926 000 structures this year, with the help of purpose-built indoor residual spraying trucks that ensure our teams can safely reach even the most remote areas.

Furthermore, our malaria mortality rate remains well below the 1% threshold, with only three deaths reported. This reflects the department's commitment to effective diagnosis, treatment, and case management, backed by an uninterrupted supply of essential medicines and testing kits. With the dedication of our frontline healthcare workers, we continue to make progress in the fight against this preventable and treatable disease, ensuring that no community is left vulnerable.

Our commitment to health equity also extends to the fight against HIV and Tuberculosis, two diseases that continue to burden our communities. Madam Speaker, one of our key achievements has been the launch of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), which is PrEP in Limpopo, which was introduced during the World AIDS Day commemoration on 01 December 2023. PrEP is now available in all our health facilities across the province, and we have already surpassed our target by initiating 19,021 patients, against a target of 10 000 for the 2024 calendar year. The success of this initiative is reflected in the low positivity rate among adolescents and youth in the province, which remains at a steady 1,0% from April 2024 to December 2024, despite increased HIV testing within this group. Furthermore, the PCR positivity rate at birth and six months remains low, at 0,6% and 0,17% respectively.

The resilience of South Africans trumps all other interventions in the fight against HIV. Despite a decrease in donor support, I am confident that we will not only survive this challenge but grow stronger in our resolve to combat the epidemic. It is also important to highlight that, on 25 February 2025, the Minister of Health launched a campaign to address the missing 1,1 million individuals on ART; for Limpopo, we have set a target to link 180 996 known positive clients, as well as those who have disengaged from ART to treatment by December 2025. To make it easier for patients to remain on treatment, the department will continue to strengthen the Centralised Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution and Multi-month Dispensing Programme Programmes.

In parallel to our efforts on HIV, the fight against TB remains a priority. TB continues to be a significant challenge both nationally and in our province. To ensure that we overcome this battle, the department has implemented advanced TB testing methods, including the TB Nucleic Acid Amplification Test. This innovative diagnostic tool not only detects TB, but also identifies patients' resistance patterns to current treatment regimens. To date, we have successfully tested 77 908 patients across Limpopo using this technology. As a result, we have seen a 5,5% increase in the TB treatment initiation rate, rising from 92% in the 2023/24 financial year to 97,4% in 2024/25.

This achievement surpasses national and provincial targets and demonstrates our ability to connect TB patients with essential treatment services. Thanks to improved case management and effective strategies, the TB burden in our province has decreased from 13,268 cases in the 2023/24 financial year to 11 902 cases in the 2024/25. Furthermore, the TB-related death rate has been reduced by 3,5%, from 12,4% in 2023/24 to 8,9% in 2024/25. These advancements reflect the progress we continue to make in the fight against TB, ensuring better health outcomes for our communities.

As we set ourselves these bold and ambitious targets to continue making strides in improving our primary healthcare, lowering maternal mortality, to create lasting impacts in our relentless fight against HIV/Aids and tuberculosis, and to enhance nutrition and

overall healthcare within our facilities, we are fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead. The road to achieving these goals is not without its costs, both financial and logistical. However, it is a cost that we are committed to bearing, as the wellbeing of our people is of paramount importance.

In recognition of these challenges and the vital need for comprehensive healthcare services, we have allocated a significant R13,6 billion for the current financial year. This allocation will be directed towards strengthening our district hospitals and district health services, which is also comprises of our primary health care facilities, ensuring that our healthcare system is more resilient, accessible, and capable of delivering quality care to every corner of our province. We understand that this investment in healthcare is an investment in the future of our society, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a healthier, more prosperous South Africa for all.

Equally, as we address critical health challenges, the department remains committed to creating opportunities for economic participation and job creation through initiatives such as the Expanded Public Works Programme. Through the Limpopo Department of Health's EPWP programme, we have created 639 work opportunities in the 2024/25 financial year. These opportunities include positions for assistants, and data capturers. Looking ahead, we aim to create an additional 383 work opportunities in the 2025/26 financial year.

While the reduction in job opportunities for EPWP cadres can be attributed to a reduced budget allocation in the 2025/26 financial year, the department is committed to using the available resources wisely. As part of our continued commitment to job creation, we have set aside a budget to create 1 836 EPWP work opportunities, bringing the total number of opportunities to 2 219.

These opportunities not only help to empower individuals, but these efforts contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of our communities. Through all these efforts, we remain steadfast in our vision of a healthier Limpopo, where every citizen has access to quality healthcare, and together, we continue to make significant strides towards a brighter and a healthier future for all.

Reducing maternal deaths has been one of our major occupations over the years, through assessing and measuring maternal deaths by different levels of care independently, such as district, regional and tertiary hospital performance separately. The department has reported a low maternal mortality ratio performance at 104.7 per 100 000 live births against the 115 per 100 000 live births target in the 2023/24 financial year. Although the 2024/25 financial year data is not yet ready, as this indicator is reported annually by the end of quarter four reporting, the preliminary data shows that maternal mortality ratio performance would still be within the target of 115 per 100 000 live births. No woman should die while giving birth, the department is committed to progressively decreasing the maternal mortality ratio target of 70 per 100 000 live births by 2030.

To enhance the neonatal care in Vhembe District, two Alternative Building Technology, which are ABT structures, were provided at Tshilidzini and Elim Hospitals. These are fully furnished neonatal units with state-of-the-art medical equipment. Nutrition plays a critical role in the healing process for both adult and infant patients.

The department has made substantial strides in expanding breast milk banks, with the number increasing from 3 at Letaba, Mankweng, and Philadelphia Hospitals to 4, with the newest addition being at Mokopane Hospital in the Waterberg District. We are committed to furthering this progress in the current financial year, with plans to open another breast milk bank in Vhembe District.

Our goal is to continue establishing satellite breast milk banks and call upon the community, especially mothers, to become donors in the fight against malnutrition. In addition, over the past two years, the department has procured food preparation equipment for various health facilities. This initiative will continue, as we work to provide better equipment for the remaining health facilities across the province.

On Emergency Medical Services, Madam Speaker, the provision of emergency medical services in the province, has seen significant improvement with the procurement of 569 ambulances at the close of 2023/24 financial year. This investment has led to remarkable gains in response times, with urban and rural response now at 98%, surpassing the 65% urban target and 75% rural target. We are indeed exceeding expectations in this rural area ya rena, our rural province Limpopo.

Additionally, 37 planned patient transport vehicles have been added to our fleet, enhancing our capacity for interfacility transfers. We will be formally launching and distributing them in the coming days. We plan to procure another 37 emergency vehicles in the 2025/26 financial year. The department has finalised the procurement of the Computer Aided Dispatch System, which will allow centralised access to the ambulances and ensure that the ambulance that is closest to the incident is dispatched. We are anticipating that the CAD system will lead to many improvements, from the management of the fleet to patient care delivery by Emergency Medical Services. The system will be the first of its kind in the province, with Limpopo being the third nationally to implement it.

We are far from finished when it comes to the vital work of enhancing our emergency medical services. This is a critical sector that directly impacts the lives of every citizen, and as such, it deserves our continued, unwavering commitment. We are steadfast in our determination to not only improve our fleet, but also to integrate cutting-edge technology that will ensure faster response times, better patient care, and overall operational efficiency.

The need for top-tier emergency services has never been more pressing, and it is our responsibility to rise to the challenge. This financial year, we have allocated a substantial investment of R1,2 billion, a clear reflection of our commitment to strengthening this essential service. These funds will be directed towards modernising equipment, expanding our capabilities, and ensuring that EMS remains at the forefront of healthcare innovation. The people rely on us in their most vulnerable moments, and it is our duty to ensure that we provide nothing less than excellence in every emergency response.

On Tertiary Services Conditional grant, the department's efforts to improve mental health services are supported through the National Health Insurance Grant. This grant has played a pivotal role in reducing the backlog of forensic mental observations, which

stood at 396 cases. By contracting independent service providers, the department has successfully completed over 260 forensic mental evaluations by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. Additionally, the grant has enabled the recruitment of 8 clinical psychologists, 6 social workers, 13 registered counsellors, and 1 occupational therapist to enhance the mental health workforce across the province.

On the oncology front, the department is pleased to announce the procurement of the Positron Emission Tomography, it is a PET CT Scan machine, now installed and awaiting commissioning at Pietersburg Hospital. This machine will provide crucial diagnostic services, ensuring that cancer patients no longer need to travel to Gauteng for imaging. This timely intervention will greatly improve clinical outcomes. In 2025/26, we will further enhance treatment capabilities by procuring an additional Linear Accelerator to strengthen radiation therapy services.

We are also investing in training healthcare professionals in palliative care, to ensure that we strengthen our holistic care for patients with end-of-life conditions. To further strengthen our tertiary services to ensure that they meet the overwhelming demand, for the financial year, we are allocating an amount of R2,3 billion for central hospital services. This will enable our central hospitals to, among other things, invest in cutting-edge medical equipment in order to improve the turnaround for all tertiary services in the province; furthermore, we have set aside an amount of R3.2 billion for regional and specialised hospitals.

The allocation of specialists at various levels of care is a critical part of enhancing the delivery of specialised services and reducing patient waiting time. Over the years, Limpopo has faced challenges in recruiting and retaining medical specialists. However, the department has made notable progress. In the 2024/25 financial year, only 10 medical specialists resigned, a significant improvement compared to previous years. As a result, the number of medical specialists in Limpopo has risen to 172, with 122 specialists serving in tertiary and specialised hospitals, 43 in regional hospitals, and 7 in district hospitals. This decline in resignations can be attributed to improved recruitment strategies and better working conditions, which are key to retaining skilled professionals.

The department's partnership with the University of Limpopo has been instrumental in training both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Currently, 121 registrars are training to become specialists in various disciplines, and 13 supernumerary registrars have been sent to universities outside the province. The department's focus on increasing the number of specialists is particularly crucial within the construction of the new 488-bedded Limpopo central hospital, which is 21% complete.

The department is committed to training a sufficient number of specialists in the province. It is for this reason that an amount of R650 million has been committed to health science and training in this financial year. The biggest chunk of this allocation will go to work done by our own nursing colleges to produce more nursing graduates, to ensure that we meet the demands.

Hon Speaker, significant progress was made in improving healthcare infrastructure across Limpopo during the 2024/25 financial year. The department installed alternative power supply systems, including inverters and batteries, at 85 primary healthcare

facilities to address the challenges of load shedding. New generators were also provided to several hospitals in different districts to ensure reliable backup power. Additionally, the department overhauled mortuary facilities, replaced theatre air-conditioning systems, and completed targeted maintenance at various health facilities to improve service delivery.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, the department will upgrade key areas at Ellisras and FH Odendaal Hospitals, complete Phase 2 of the power supply project at 19 more facilities and refurbish mortuary chiller plants and theatre air-conditioning systems at Elim and Botlokwa Hospitals. Continued maintenance, including improvements to water and sanitation, will also be carried out across the province to further enhance healthcare services.

Madam Speaker, ensuring that our healthcare system not only grows but thrives, requires more than just expanding services; it demands that we maintain and revitalise the very infrastructure that supports these services. The condition of our healthcare facilities directly impacts the quality of care that our communities receive, and it is essential that these facilities are equipped to meet the demands of a growing population. That is why, for this financial year, we have set aside a substantial allocation of R900 million specifically for health facility management.

This allocation is crucial in ensuring that our health infrastructure is not only well-maintained, but also modernised to create an environment that promotes healing, comfort, and dignity for both patients and healthcare professionals. By investing in the revitalisation of our health facilities, we are laying a foundation for a more efficient, accessible, and high-quality healthcare system that can meet the needs of all South Africans. This is not just about bricks and mortar; it is about building a healthcare environment that enables our medical teams to deliver the best possible care, in spaces that reflect our commitment to the wellbeing and health of our people.

On Rural Health Matters Outreach Projects Statistics, Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Department of Health remains unwavering in its commitment to prioritising rural healthcare, particularly through the Rural Health Matters Project. We are immensely grateful for the selfless dedication of specialists, both from Limpopo and those working in other provinces, who volunteer their expertise in various surgical disciplines. In the 2024/25 financial year, this project has already achieved an outstanding success, with 2 268 operations and 156 radiological procedures stand out as one of the key accomplishments. And these surgeries honourable Members are performed in our district hospitals, our rural hospitals.

These efforts reflect the collective commitment to enhancing healthcare access in our rural areas. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and selflessness of our rural health team that is working on this project. Today, Hon Speaker, some of the healthcare professionals that we continue to be indebted to are here; therefore, I ask you to join me in recognising and acknowledging the incredible and patriotic citizens who are here with us today; the professionals who are dedicating their time, free of charge to ensure that they assist the people of Limpopo with the backlog that we have on surgical procedures, we have: Prof Matshidza, Dr Mudau, Dr Dikgale, Dr Latakomo, Dr Mkabile, Dr Vyamungu, Dr Masotja, Dr Muhlari, Dr Hadzhi, Dr Masegela, and Dr Baloyi, who are seated over there. As they are standing.

[APPLAUSE]. Their hard work and tireless service have truly made a difference in the lives of many. We really appreciate your hard work, and we say that may God continue blessing you. You are the best.

Limpopo's Forensic Pathology Services have garnered national recognition for their expertise in managing mass disasters. In the past year, the department responded to a tragic incident in the North West Province, assisting with the identification and management of fatalities following a mining disaster. The department understands the emotional toll of working in forensic pathology and has allocated resources for off-site debriefing session to support the mental health of FSP staff members. These are members who are rendering services outside the province; So, as Limpopo re a kgona.

To enhance health technology, the department has procured two Computed Tomography, CT scanners for Mankweng and Pietersburg Hospitals, along with ten Digital Ceiling Suspended X-ray machines and other essential medical equipment worth R84 million for regional and district hospitals. The financing of health services in the Limpopo Province continues to be a significant challenge. The allocated financial resources fall short of meeting the healthcare needs of the province's residents, largely due to the country's unfavourable economic climate and the steady decline in the province's equitable share. This situation has been exacerbated by the turbulent economic conditions experienced during Medium-Term Expenditure Framework periods, which led to budget cuts and had far-reaching implications for the department's equitable share allocations.

To help mitigate this shortfall, we have prioritised revenue collection, and community members are encouraged to pay for the health services they receive. The department is on track to surpass its revenue collection target of R220 million for the 2024/25 financial year, with projections of increasing revenue in the coming years. We are also committed to ensuring that Primary Healthcare Services, such as clinics and mobile clinics, remain accessible and free of charge to those in need.

The 2025/26 Health Budget has increased by 5,8% to R26,1 billion, with a significant portion allocated to strengthen district health services and district hospitals. About R13,6 billion has been earmarked for this purpose, making it the largest share of the budget. Other key allocations include R3,2 billion for regional and specialised hospitals, R174.1 million for malaria control, and R2 billion for HIV and TB services. This increased funding will support the continued expansion of health services and infrastructure, ensuring that the province remains on a path of progress and improved health outcomes for all.

In conclusion, honourable Deputy Speaker, we stand at a pivotal moment in the evolution of healthcare in Limpopo. The progress we have made from reducing maternal mortality to improving emergency medical services, advancing our nutrition programmes, and investing in state-of-the-art medical technology, demonstrates that hope is not just a concept, but a living, breathing force that propels us forward. Our work is far from done, but with each step, we are laying a foundation for a healthier, stronger, and more resilient province.

As we continue to build on these achievements, we remain united by a common purpose, to ensure that every resident of Limpopo has access to the care they deserve,

when they need it most. Through innovation, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to progress, we will continue to turn the vision of a healthier future into reality. Together, we will bring about the transformation our people deserve, guided by the banner of hope, sustained by the promise of progress, and driven by the belief that together we can, and we will achieve more to reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living through affordable healthcare initiatives.

And all of this would not have been possible without the hard work and oversight of our Portfolio Committee on Health, which we appreciate, led by our chairperson of Portfolio Committee, Dr Malebana. We appreciate you and the team. Let me also appreciate Team Health, led by our acting HOD, Dr Ndwamato, this is the team that does not sleep in ensuring that the quality healthcare services, that we are talking about is indeed realised in this province. We would also like send our appreciation to all our stakeholders, we know that we cannot make it alone as the Department of Health, but together we can.

Lastly, Hon Premier, we want to thank you for granting us the opportunity to serve the people of Limpopo and we shall serve them. When we serve in the Department of Health, we serve with honour, we serve with a smile, and we give them love, because that is what is expected from us.

We thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE].

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga MEC, Mme Mashego, MEC wa rena wa tša Maphelo. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health for consideration and to report back to the House.

I shall now call upon the Hon Chief Whip on Motion for the Ratification for the Appointment of Special Delegation who attended NCOP Plenaries. The podium is yours, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENTS OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND NCOP PLENARIES

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 NCOP hybrid Plenaries mentioned below:

- Questions to Cluster 2: Social Services, Water and Sanitation, Science, Technology and Innovation, on 03 April at 14:00: Honourable MEC R D Makamu,

Hon D M C Sepuru, Hon M A Mokaba and Hon K J Netshifhefhe, Khathutshelo John.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned special delegates, in line with the abovementioned provisions. I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. I shall now call upon the seconder. Hon Sebopela, you are recognised.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sebopela. Hon Chief Whip, please continue.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Once again, thank you, Hon Speaker.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND HYBRID PLENARIES

The NCOP has scheduled Plenaries for the 08, 09, 10 and 15 April 2025 at 14:00 in a hybrid format. Provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these Plenaries. In terms of rule 226(1), I therefore propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend these NCOP Plenaries:

- Plenary on 31 years of democracy: “Commemorating 31 years of Collective Efforts to Build a New Society Rooted in the Ideas of Freedom Charter”, to be attended virtually, today, 08 April 2025 at 14:00: Hon M G Makhurupetje, Hon G D Mamrobela and Hon E M Mokgonyana. They know their positions.
- Debate on housing inadequacy in South Africa and the prevalence of informal settlements on 09 April 2025 at 14:00: Hon D M C Sepuru, Hon M A Matjomane and Hon M E Muhlophe.
- Debate on measures to address poverty and hunger; expanding the effectiveness of measures that are geared towards tackling the enduring legacy of poverty and hunger on 10 April at 14:00: Hon D M C Sepuru, Hon D A Neguda and Hon M C Mohale.
- Questions to cluster 2: Social Services and Social Development on 15 April 2025 at 14:00: Hon S M Mathe, Hon M Shai and Hon M C Mohale.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, very much, Hon Chief Whip. I shall now call upon a seconder. Hon Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I second the motion presented by the Chief Whip 100%. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ke a leboga, Dr Selane. Before I call upon announcements, as I said, I was not given a guest list. Hon Premier, as the Presiding Officer, I should have recognised those doctors, the ones that are volunteering their time to make sure that the people of Limpopo get assistance on the challenges of health. That is very important, and we salute you our doctors. We also acknowledge our children that are here, the children that came with Principal Ramakhanya. We also acknowledge you, the future of Limpopo. I shall now call upon the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hassani Ngobeni, for announcements.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, the esteemed Members of the Executive Council the Chief Whip the Deputy Chief Whip and Members of the Whippers, guests and honourable Members. Hon Lebogo, when we leave here, a re ye re kote meriri gore dihlogo tša rena di kgone go naganela go fihla bofulatholo, gore di se ke tša fihla bofulapudi. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise to make the following announcements:

- That the presentations on the budgets will continue on Thursday, 10 April 2025 here in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.
- That lunch will be served at the basement of the main building.

Thank you ever so much, Hon Speaker for the opportunity. Thank you very much honourable Members for your attention.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs. [INTERJECTION].

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

And the guests are also dearly invited for lunch. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of Chairs. The House is adjourned to Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 10 APRIL 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You may all be seated. Good morning, honourable Members; Hon Premier in absentia; honourable MECs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; ladies and gentlemen.

Gape re na le baeng today. Good morning and thank you. Today, we have visitors because of four Budget Votes that will be presented. It is important for me to acknowledge all our guests who have joined us this morning for this Sitting where we will present the Budget Votes for the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Provincial Treasury, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, and the Department of Social Development. I know that there are several guests from these departments, and we also have our own people following us on social media.

We warmly welcome all our guests to this Sitting of the Limpopo Legislature. I would also like to acknowledge some of the invited guests. If your name is not on the list or has not been read, please do not feel unimportant; everyone present in this House is warmly welcomed.

Allow me to acknowledge the guests submitted to us by the MECs. As I indicated earlier, I will read the list of those whose names were provided.

I welcome and acknowledge the following guests:

- Mr Malan van Zyl from ZZ2;
- Ms Estella from SA Poultry;
- Mr Phokele Maponya from Agricultural Research Council;
- Mr Serage Dibesho from Groundstone Farming;
- Representatives from the African Farmers Association (AFASA);
- Mr Marokane Rachichi from Potato South Africa;
- Representatives from Harmony Abattoirs;
- Professor Risenga from the University of Limpopo;
- Ms Deidre Carter from Agri Limpopo;
- Former Member of the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Jossey Buthane; you are warmly welcomed, and we miss you on this side;

- The ruling party's regional secretary of the Waterberg Branch, Mr Rufus Mahoro; and
- The employer of the majority of people who are sitting here in the Chamber; the provincial secretary of the African National Congress, Vhamusanda Vho Reuben Madadzhe. You are all most welcome to this Sitting.

Without wasting any time, let us proceed. Like I have already said, to all our guests: feel at home. The Limpopo Legislature is your House. We are here to serve you, and it remains your voice.

Thank you very much. We will now proceed to the Orders of the Day.

Honourable Members, in terms of the Orders of the Day, the Programming Committee has agreed during its sitting that certain items will be deferred to the next Sitting. All these items have been deferred and will not be considered 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 & PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Without wasting any time, I will go straight to the point, because as Sepedi se re, "Mampša re lapa melala". Let us proceed to:

7.1: Second Reading: Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B03-2025].

Budget Speech Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

We shall now call upon the MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms Nakedi Kekana, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 04: the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Honourable MEC, the podium is yours.

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Ms Kekana N G, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development)

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba in absentia, and Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress; Vhamusanda Vho Reuben Madadzhe; leaders of the opposition parties; all honourable Members in the House; Executive Mayors; Mayors and Speakers; Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, led by Hosi Ngove; officials from both the provincial and national Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; representatives from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development; stakeholders from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; representatives from Chapter Nine and Ten Institutions; all sector organisations; religious communities; business and farming communities; media representatives; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, thobela.

Hon Speaker, it is a profound honour for me to rise before this august House and table Budget Vote 04 of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the 2025/26 financial year.

The true test of democracy lies not in the strength of our institutions, but in the tangible improvements we bring to the lives of ordinary South Africans, particularly those in rural and farming communities. Service delivery is not a tick-box exercise; it is the heartbeat of our social contract. In the words of President Nelson Mandela: “What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

Honourable Members, this Budget Vote is anchored in the priorities outlined by President Cyril Ramaphosa for the Seventh Administration. It speaks directly to the urgent challenges confronting our people; the high cost of living, persistent poverty, joblessness and inequality.

As a department, our strategic posture is clear, we will drive inclusive growth, enable transformation, ensure food security and build a capable and ethical developmental state, through agricultural production, agro-processing, and rural development. Our new five-year strategic plan aligns with this vision which aims to:

- Promote meaningful participation of black farmers;
- Advance the inclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and military veterans; and
- Transform emerging farmers into fully commercial producers.

This approach is inspired by the words of Amílcar Cabral, who reminded us: “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...”

Hon Speaker, agriculture is one of the key economic drivers in our province to fight poverty, create jobs, and tackle the high cost of living. We are intensifying efforts to revitalise primary production and strengthen agro-processing capacity. However, this work does not occur in a vacuum.

Climate change is no longer an abstract global threat, it is a daily lived reality in Limpopo. Both our emerging and commercial farmers continue to feel the pressure of erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and natural hazards such as the recent black frost, armyworms and floods, all of which compromise productivity and livelihoods, thus eroding our democratic gains.

These challenges are compounded by geopolitical tensions that drive up global input costs, including tariffs on key agricultural products. These increases inflate the prices of seeds, fertilisers and mechanisation. In response to the recent rise in US tariffs on South African goods, we will make sure that, indeed, our farmers do not feel pressure. We must begin to build self-reliance.

In response, the department is investing in climate-smart agriculture and resilient farming systems, scaling up RAAVC (Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain) infrastructure projects, promoting sustainable land use practices, and developing critical, and future-focused agricultural skills.

We are also countering elitist and imperialist narratives brought by the ultra-right, which seek to undermine our efforts to build a non-racial, non-sexist, united, and prosperous democratic society. We remain resilient in our mission to bring dignity and opportunity to rural communities.

However, Hon Speaker, we are facing a structural crisis in the department. Our farming population is ageing, while thousands of agriculture graduates remain unemployed. We must change the narrative and make agriculture fashionable; from Early Childhood Development through to tertiary institutions. We must reimagine agriculture as a career of innovation, science, technology, and social impact.

To this end, the department will continue to absorb unemployed graduates into internships and training programmes, implement a well-defined exit strategy to help them establish their own agri-businesses and use public employment programme and cooperative support to create pathways to ownership and productivity.

Hon Speaker, Limpopo province remains the most food-secure in South Africa, with a food security rate of 93,1%, according to the May 2024 General Household Survey. The remaining 6,9% of households remain our priority, and we are committed to ensuring they become food-secure through our initiatives.

Our province contributes 49% of the country's citrus production, 32% of its livestock and 36% of its grain. Over and above that, the province has introduced canola as a new grain crop. However, our agro-industrial clusters remain underdeveloped. Our dominance in primary production is not yet matched by a thriving value-adding agro-processing sector, this must change.

We will invest in infrastructure, research and innovation, skills development, unlocking the digital economy, and industrialisation and beneficiation for inclusive economic growth and job creation.

To that effect, Hon Speaker, allow me to share a powerful story of hope and determination. Edward Molatelo Kgarose, a 33-year-old from GaMolepo, who is here

with us today, outside Polokwane, turned employment adversity into opportunity. In 2016, he founded Kgarose Kgaros; an agro-processing enterprise that produces “PotaYoga”, a yoghurt made from sweet potatoes. Madam Deputy Speaker can attest to its taste.

Today, his innovation stands as a shining example of what becomes possible when young people are supported to transform primary agricultural produce into high-value, market-ready products. In line with this vision, the department has provided strategic support to Edward to ensure that, as his business expands, he contributes to job creation and to economic growth in both township and rural areas. Currently, he has employed four people. Once his newly acquired infrastructure becomes fully operational in the Seshego Industrial Park, Hon Lebogo, because we are utilising the land for developmental purposes, not only for residence, as those very residents will need food security, where we have partnered with LEDET through LEDA, more hands will be needed and more jobs will be created.

However, it does not stop there, Hon Speaker. Edward tells me he will need at least 60 tons of sweet potatoes per month, effectively creating opportunities for primary producers. In response, and through the Farmer Support Programme, we will motivate farmers, especially the youth to meet Kgarose Kgaros’ requirements. This is how we move from subsistence to surplus, from raw to refined, and from potential to prosperity.

In our quest to put South Africa to work and create job opportunities, the department was allocated R4,7 million for the EPWP for the 2024/25 financial year from the Conditional grant, and R2 million from the equitable share. The department managed to create 2 329 job opportunities, of which 54% were for women and 5% for persons with disability.

For the 2025/26 financial year, about 1 550 job opportunities are targeted from a budget allocation of R5,289 million. In addition, the department participated in the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES), an initiative created by the President through the national department programme, which targets temporary jobs and ultimately contributes to food security and inclusive economic growth.

In furtherance of the National Development Plan (NDP), the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP), the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020, and our own Young Producers and Entrepreneurs Strategy (YPES), the department has partnered with the Limpopo Department of Education. The MEC, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, is leading the initiative to transform all agricultural schools, including special schools and ECDs, into centres of excellence, equipping them with practical agricultural skills to promote food security from an early age.

In the first quarter, the department will rollout agricultural support to 25 ECDs five per district. We have also supported Dimani High School with a poultry house for 1 100 layers and Merensky Agricultural Academy with infrastructure for 1 000 chicken layers.

This is an initiative to plant seeds for change. Young people are not only beneficiaries, they are also the architects of our future. Their energy, advocacy, and innovation challenge us to do better and be better. That is why the department has allocated; R2,3 million via AgriSETA for the upskilling of departmental employees, bursaries to five

students in veterinary medicines, and fifteen external bursaries in key fields such as agricultural engineering, civil engineering and veterinary sciences.

Hon Speaker, our efforts to invest in jobs are reflected in our youth development programmes. During the 2024/25 financial year, we placed 440 unemployed graduates on farms to gain practical experience under the guidance of seasoned mentors. A further 140 graduates were appointed to 35 departmental projects, and five of them have exited the programme after securing better job opportunities. This is a success we welcome.

To bear testimony to this, we share the story of Mashoto Ramalefo, a 32-year-old female farmer from Mogodi, GaManthata. She completed her 24-month unemployed graduate programme in our department and is currently listed amongst the aspirant commercial farmers. Through departmental support, her enterprise, Shatonez farming, has been equipped with agricultural infrastructure and mechanisation.

This created an enabling environment for the Land Bank to enter into discussions with Mashoto. During a visit to her farm, together with Ms Shertina Maremane from Land Bank, who is here with us today, further support was explored to assist her in becoming a fully-fledged commercial farmer.

For the 2025/26 financial year, we will retain 435 graduates for a 12-month experiential training programme and implement an exit strategy to inspire them through success stories like that of Mashoto Ramafalo.

The same approach will apply to Wendy Moshakga, a young female farmer from Lonsdale in Moletji. In the next financial year, we are planning to develop her newly acquired site, which was provided by Kgoshi Moloto III. Re a go leboga, Mohlaloga.

Hon Speaker, a capable and ethical developmental state requires our human resources to invest in people by providing goods and services. This is a testament to the sterling work our department is doing. Despite some delays in expenditure patterns not being completed timeously as prescribed, the department achieved an overall expenditure of 99%, exceeding the norm prescribed by Treasury.

We will put our hands on deck to implement Scopa and portfolio committee resolutions, as well as the internal audit and audit action plan, in order to attain a clean audit and move beyond the current stagnant unqualified audit opinion. We are also finalising the recruitment process to fill critical skills and funded vacant posts. Furthermore, we will continue to capacitate our supply chain personnel to implement forward planning and begin procurement in the first quarter of the financial year.

Hon Speaker, in pursuit of a better Africa and a better world, Limpopo has a twinning agreement with Gaza Province in Mozambique to promote trade in agriculture — particularly in the areas of fruit, vegetables, and livestock.

We plan to strengthen and formalise the current trade practices with a view to creating a more conducive environment and ensuring greater contributions to the economy, thus promoting a free continental trade area.

My colleague from LEDET, honourable MEC Tshitereke Matibe, in his Budget Vote, alluded to our combined efforts to grow Limpopo as an export-driven economy, which are gaining momentum. He stated: "...recent progress includes the export protocol agreement for avocados to China. This has opened lucrative markets for our local agriculture sector." We will indeed work together to realise this goal.

Allow me also to inform this august House that the province will host the Meeting of Chief Agricultural Scientists (MACS) G20 from 26 to 28 May 2025, as part of South Africa's hosting of the G20 Presidency for the year 2025. We stand to derive significant advantages and opportunities from this platform, which could not have come at a better time. We will robustly advance our agricultural opportunities, priorities and interests.

Dr Jacob Mashilo, who is here with us today, is a professional scientist within our department at the Towoomba Research Station. He adds to our good story to tell. He has made remarkable strides in the field of Horticultural Sciences, having published over 90 scientific articles to date.

In 2022, he achieved national and continental recognition when he was ranked nr 31 out of the top 500 researchers in Africa in his category by SciVal, an international research analytics tool developed by Elsevier.

This ranking is not just a number; it is a powerful testament to the calibre of professionalism we have within our ranks, and to our ability to employ the requisite skills to build a capable, ethical, and developmental state. We are truly proud of Dr Mashilo and commend his continued contributions to scientific research, innovation, and the global visibility of Limpopo's agricultural intellect. Together with the collective of the well-oiled machinery within the department, this sector will thrive.

Through the Agricultural Development and Producer Support Programme, the department has allocated R812 million for the 2025/26 financial year. This allocation includes, among other things, on- and off-farm infrastructure, technical and advisory services, as well as development training to ensure the participation of producers in the integrated agricultural value chain across various commodities.

During the 2024/25 financial year, a total of 54 agricultural infrastructure investment projects were planned and successfully implemented across the province. The infrastructure rollout includes the installation of water-efficient irrigation systems, environmentally controlled production facilities, and livestock water infrastructure.

All projects were designed to provide long-term solutions for drought mitigation, climate resilience, and agricultural recovery. These initiatives respond directly to the President's priority of driving inclusive growth through targeted infrastructure investment that supports local economies and improves service delivery. For the 2025/26 financial year, the department has prioritised the implementation of 51 agricultural infrastructure projects.

This programme is funded through conditional grant and equitable share allocations. Moreover, these projects are not just about physical structures, they are also about people and capacity. As part of the rollout, targeted categories of farmers, including women, youth and persons with disability received technical training and mentorship.

This ensures that our infrastructure investments are not only sustainable, but also inclusive and skills driven.

In line with our strategy on energy efficiency, the department incorporates solar energy specification into some of the infrastructure projects as called for by the President to support green economy.

To ensure food production and sustainable farming operations, the department is implementing a mechanisation subsidy scheme as provided for in the Farmer Support Policy. Through this scheme, three farmers in Capricorn were assisted in procuring tractors and implements at a total cost of R2,7 million in the 2024/25 financial year. Under this scheme, farmers are subsidised at a rate of 80:20, 80% funded by the department and 20% contributed by the farmers, to procure tractors up to R1 million and implements up to R400 000.

The provision of mechanisation is crucial to ensuring that farmers operate optimally throughout the year. In the 2025/26 financial year, the department plans to support three more farmers one in Capricorn, one in Waterberg, and two in Vhembe District, with a total amount of R2,2 million to procure tractors and implements, making mechanisation accessible to smallholder farmers.

Additional planning to support more farmers in the subsequent phases will take place during the 2025/26 financial year, focusing on assessing the suitability of farms for intended agricultural operations.

These activities are funded through the CASP and Ilima-Letsema conditional grant. To date, over 1 000 farmers have been trained in both soft and technical skills. These initiatives will continue to accommodate designated groups to ensure their meaningful participation in the mainstream economy across various commodities and their value chains.

In the Capricorn District potato belt, we are unlocking value and commercial opportunities. Four irrigation infrastructure projects have been completed at a cost of R21 million, adding 80 ha of irrigated land to support smallholder potato farmers. This has resulted in the creation of 40 permanent jobs and over 200 seasonal job opportunities.

Two new producers Mosibudi Farming and Nthekge, both in the district will be supported in 2025/26 to develop irrigation and post-harvest infrastructure, adding a further 40 ha of irrigated land.

The total investment is R7,5 million. A further R3,6 million has been allocated to Nsete Primary Cooperative and Ramahwidi Projects to complete reservoirs, ablution facilities and pack shed facilities, thus ensuring SA GAP compliance. They are here with us today and can attest to this, because people are their own liberators.

Hon Speaker, we remain steadfast in utilising every available hectare of irrigable land to boost production and mitigate climate change. The Mogalatšane Irrigation Scheme was fully rehabilitated in the 2024/25 financial year, our chairperson, Hon Bella Kupa and we now boast 40 ha dedicated to cotton.

This marked the first cotton harvest in nearly 13 years, an incredible milestone, with 1 869 tons produced. To sustain this momentum, an additional R3,2 million has been allocated for a new centre pivot Spilpunt besproeiing, Hon Smalle, to expand irrigation to 70 ha. Already, 35 ha have been planted with maize this season.

Just like Mogalatšana which is currently thriving, we are hard at work to resuscitate the Krokodile, Setlaboswana, Phetwane, Mphaane and Malope schemes. Our intervention is pending, I need to emphasise this, in compliance with set regulations. A multi-disciplinary forum, including the respective local municipalities, is finalising plans and engaging communities.

This is not by chance, it is the District Development Model (DDM) in action. As the provincial champion for this model in the Sekhukhune District, we will continue to oversee and support the implementation of projects such as the MoutseBulk Water Supply and the Malekane Steel Bridge, employing the partnership between government, business, labour and members of civil society.

The department is also celebrating the success of Dibesho Serage, a young managing director of the Groundstone Peach Project in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality. The project has entered formal markets, including Woolworths and Spar, by producing 12 ha of quality nectarines and peaches.

Through the social compact with makgoshi, further land for expansion was made available by the late Chief Sello Kekana III of the Ndebele Tribal Authority — may his soul rest in peace!, through the Induna Mojapelo “Sealeboga Ga-Moshate.”

In the 2025/26 financial year, the department will support the project with additional shade nets for 9,74 ha and other irrigation infrastructure.

In the Waterberg District, within the red meat agro-ecological zone, we continued to support projects valued at R4,5 million, creating 37 temporary jobs. These include; David Monyamane (border camp fencing), BN Agric Projects (stock water reticulation), Fufix Pty Ltd (animal handling facilities and feed processing equipment), and Baradipelo Livestock (stock water systems and fencing).

The Immerpan projects, which include solar-powered water systems across six farms, are benefiting 36 individuals, maintaining 20 permanent jobs, and creating 31 temporary jobs. The project is now 90% complete.

We also welcome and appreciate another investment into the red meat value chain by SAMPAADA Holdings (Pty) Ltd, which has developed a livestock farm and butchery in the Modimolle area. SAMPAADA is on track to become the largest 100% black-owned red meat producer in Limpopo, creating over 300 jobs. [APPLAUSE]

The company has invested in 20,5 hectares of high-tech multispan tunnels for the production of strawberries for export to the European Union and Middle Eastern countries; markets we aim to rely on through their GlobalG.A.P-certified packhouse.

In the Sekhukhune District, construction of the Manini Holding Packing House will begin in this financial year to support a 80 ha citrus project valued at R60 million. This project, funded through blended financing, will create over 40 jobs. An additional R10 million has been allocated from Ilima-Letsema to support grain and cotton producers in Sekhukhune with inputs and mechanisation. We are also exploring models for better utilisation of the government fleet to benefit secondary cooperatives.

In the Mopani District, the department created 485 job opportunities during the 2024/25 financial year, including 248 for women, 43 for youth, and two for persons with disability. For the 2025/26 financial year, the department aims to create over 118 permanent jobs, primarily benefiting designated groups.

To support vegetables and subtropical fruit production, the department has put aside R20,6 million for agricultural infrastructure at Itumeleng BaMakhutswe, Thabina Irrigation Scheme, Madikhabeshe Farming, Tanani Matiko, and Manelaspruit Estate. Additionally, R2,5 million has been allocated to Anius Eden in Maruleng for animal handling infrastructure, creating a further 10 temporary jobs.

the Vhembe District attests to the department's support for agro-climatic potential, with 36 farmers at Nwanedi supported to meet SA GAP compliance. In Tshilwavhusiku, R7 million was spent on four projects, and in HaGumbu, a chilli drying facility was established at a cost of R4,1 million as part of an agro-processing initiative.

The department has identified 33 producers with the potential to reach full commercial status within the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. Support will focus on water development packages, business development, and infrastructure to help these projects thrive.

One such project is Matika Subtrop Farming, which will expand its production infrastructure with an allocated R1,8 million. The farm specialises in macadamia nuts, avocados and litchis. To date, it has created 49 job opportunities; 32 for males, 17 for females, and 31 for youth. Collectively, the target for the 2025/26 financial year is to create 55 job opportunities through such infrastructure projects.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the department provided support to 14 military veterans with 52 breeding livestock. The beneficiaries, -- I heard an honourable Member requesting that we must not just give them seeds but also bulls, are part of the designated groups.

I am also humbled by the correspondence received in March 2025 from the provincial chairperson of the Limpopo Military Veterans, attached to the Help Desk in the Office of the Premier. May I quote him as follows: "On behalf of all military veterans in the province, I would like to express my sincere and profound gratitude to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for providing farmer support to military veterans. Your department has, in the previous years, provided training in almost all districts of our province. The current initiative to support military veterans with animals is much appreciated. This is a trendsetter in the country, and we hope that other provinces will follow suit to mitigate the plight of military veterans". The military veterans are here with us today.

Through the Blended Finance Scheme, in partnership with Land Bank and the national Department of Agriculture, six projects have received support to acquire land, procure implements, and secure production inputs.

Allow me also to report on the power of public-private partnerships, as realised through blended funding in the case of Torofina Trading Post (Pty) Ltd in Blouberg, which produces potato seeds; one of the scarce commodities in our province. Our farmers will no longer struggle to source potato seeds from other provinces. The project currently employs 11 permanent staff and over 50 seasonal workers.

We salute Mr Phophi Simon Raletjena, the sole Director and shareholder of this entity. He was meant to be with us today, but unfortunately, he is meeting with the Brazilian partners. This farming operation, established in 2005, is the first black-owned enterprise to produce potato seeds.

Mukatangi Farming Operations CC: Operating in Vhembe with 202 ha, the farm has 120 planted citrus trees and employs 35 permanent and 190 seasonal workers. Yarena Investments (Pty) Ltd: Owned by Ms Mochanya Pinkie Ratjomane, [Malibongwe!]; this enterprise has nearly 2 000 ha for potato and tomato production, employing 25 permanent and 123 seasonal workers. Mazeli Farming and Projects (Pty) Ltd: Based in Blouberg, the farm has 10 ha under centre pivot irrigation and mechanisation, creating 10 permanent and over 20 seasonal jobs. Ndisedzi Group (Pty) Ltd: An egg production enterprise in Mopani employing two people, with youth job creation plans underway.

The department will continue to contribute to and champion the transformation agenda by facilitating inclusion and prioritising domestic investment. A successful partnership with Grain South Africa in the Sekhukhune District has empowered communal farmers to transition into commercial farming. A member of the Zaaiplaas Study Group, Mr Jim Masemola, won the 2024 Best Smallholder Farmer Award for achieving an 8-ton-per-hectare yield at the Grain SA National Awards.

A total of 833 communal farmers, including 235 subsistence producers, have received support to cultivate over 349 ha of land. These farmers, once operating at subsistence level, are steadily transitioning into the commercial space.

As part of our initiative to combat food insecurity, poverty, and hunger, we are launching the "One Household, One Backyard Garden" programme, which will also extend to churches and schools. This initiative is intended to be embraced by the community, and it should start with us, honourable Members of this House, to promote local food production for food security.

Ke re go lena Bahlomphegi, mogoma o tsene temeng, Ndzi tile na mbewu, mi ta byala emakaya for food security and, also green your household. I will be monitoring that. [APPLAUSE]

The department has also initiated an environmentally controlled infrastructure programme for poultry houses, with five sites already handed over to contractors for repairs. These will support the Lebogakgomo Abattoir, with completion expected by the end of June 2025, as alluded to by the MEC for LEDET.

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development continues to implement high-impact programme that are changing the lives of our people, especially the youth, across the province. We will support youth-led projects including Sekgale Farming, TAF, Livhatri, Nemabaka Layers and Thuto Agro Nursery.

In the previous financial year, the department allocated R31,35 million for the implementation of revitalisation projects in the agro-processing value chain. These catalytic projects are designed to invest in infrastructure that promotes inclusive economic growth and job creation .

Majeje Citrus, in collaboration with commercial partners, has already planted 324 ha of citrus trees out of the 450 ha planned. Infield irrigation, two dams, and a solar panel system generating 520 kilovolt-amperes have been completed. The project has created 43 permanent and 30 seasonal jobs, with a projection to employ over 350 seasonal workers at full production capacity. The development at Majeje Citrus will be concluded in the 2025/26 financial year, by which time all 450 ha will have been established.

At Zebediela Citrus Estate, we handed over the farm's revitalisation master plan, developed by the Impact Catalyst, to the Board of Trustees. The good news is that new Bjatladi CPA has been elected, and a steering committee has been established to lead implementation.

We are working hard to explore various funding options through strategic partners for the implementation of the completed master plan. Currently, the estate sustains 50 permanent and 80 seasonal jobs. During the 2024/25 financial year, we also supported the Tshilwavhusiku Secondary Cooperative with infrastructure for irrigation, pack sheds, and cooling facilities. With support from the Perishable Products Export Control Board, we are assisting the cooperative with Global GAP and SAGAP certification processes to enable market access. This initiative forms part of the broader Vegetable Cluster and has created 220 short-term and 145 long-term jobs. Furthermore, catalytic support will be provided to the Tafelkop Farmers Association to boost agro-processing and local employment.

We are also utilising the services of aggregators to assist with market access for these initiatives. The Kgapane Project in Sekhukhune serves as a good example of such assistance. The Makgoba Dieplaagte Project is located on land restored through the restitution programme to the Mamphoku Makgoba Community Trust. The department is funding 70 ha of avocado development on behalf of the project beneficiaries. This is another strategic partnership with ZZ2, who are here with us today and are also providing funding for the project development.

The Vhembe Agricultural Multiplier Project (VAM) is unlocking 3 000 ha of underutilised land by harvesting excess floodwater from the Limpopo River. The department has signed a memorandum of understanding with VAM and various partners.

Upon completion, of the project's first phase, 1 500 new job opportunities will be created. Regarding Norjex, the Tomato Growers Association has appointed strategic partners, and the process of purchasing land is eminent.

The department has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Palabora Copper Mine for development on Pompey Farm in the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. This initiative is an integrated agricultural project aimed at commercialising 2 000 ha. Innovation and market access are key to growing the sector.

At the inaugural AgriXpo, held from 13 to 15 March 2025, the department showcased more than 50 smallholder farmers and agro-processors from across the province.

We witnessed innovation in action: baobab coffee, avocado seed tea—they are outside, and you can go and purchase them—moringa tissue oil and livestock genetics kits. Taste the natural beverage; our chairperson, Hon Bella Kupa, can attest to the taste, and many more.

These are tangible examples of how agriculture, particularly natural agriculture, meets agro-processing. We must support agro-processing and recognise how local enterprises are carving out a place in new markets.

Hon Speaker, the Sustainable Resource Management Programme has been allocated R138 million for the 2025/26 financial year. This programme supports our efforts in climate-smart agriculture, soil conservation, and water infrastructure development... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Sorry, honourable MEC for interrupting you. I thought we had a deal. Can we please stick to the deal. I cannot explain what the deal is about; let's stick to it. Thank you, and I apologise for interrupting the speech.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you. As I conclude, allow me to thank the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, chaired by Hon Bella Kupa, for their unwavering oversight support; the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for keeping us on our toes; and the farmers who, on a daily basis, put food on everyone's table, as well as the community and all aspiring farmers across the province who, together, put food production on the rise.

Allow me to also thank the ANC for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and Team Limpopo, led by the Acting Head of Department, Ms Mpho Abigail Mashamba, and Mr Jethro Sandile Nowata, who steered this ship as the acting HOD during the previous financial year.

A special heartfelt appreciation goes to my beloved family, who have supported me through thick and thin in my endeavour to serve the people of Limpopo. Re a leboga. I therefore table Budget Vote 04 for the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the financial year 2025/26. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and report back to the House. Before we proceed to item 7.1.2, allow me to again apologise to our guests while Hon Mahoai is still seated. The department has not done us good because we have important guests in this House and they have not submitted the names of those guests. It is unfair. When important guests come to this House, they deserve proper recognition.

From where I am sitting, I have noticed several guests who should have been acknowledged. For example, baruti ba dikereke tša rena ba gona ka go fapana bona, baruti ba kereke ye kgolo ya ZCC they are here in the House, baruti ba kereke ye kgolo ya St. Engenas are here. The leadership of the South African Council of Churches is here as well, led by Chairperson Bishop Sikhwari. We see you. We have seen magoši ba gona mo. We should have acknowledged you properly, and for that re ineleleng diatla meetings. Re le bona re šetše re dutše fase.

We also have leaders from Chapter Nine and Ten Institutions who deserve acknowledgment.

From the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, this important gathering includes legendary figures from the boxing world: Cassius “The Hitman” Baloyi is with us today; Isaac “The Angel” Hlatwayo is here; and Tshifhiwa “Spider” Munyai is present. They are joined by their boxing managers, Hlonipha “Superstar” Maboko and Abel Masembe Sithole. We also welcome representatives from the Softball Team: Benny Boshomane, Technical Director Milcent Matlala, and Nakedi Motlake, Coach Nakedi Motlake. [APPLAUSE] You are all welcome

To all MECs who will present their budget speeches, we have kindly pleaded with you to honour the time limits.

Please, let us stick to the allocated time so that other MECs may also present their budgets within schedule. On that note, we now proceed to item 7.1.2 and call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgabo Mahoai, to present Budget Vote 05 for the Department of Provincial Treasury. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCIAL TREASURY

(Address by Mr Mahoai K E, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Speaker of our provincial Legislature, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Premier in absentia; my fellow honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the provincial Legislature; leadership of the governing party led by Vhamusanda Reuben Madadzhe, accompanied by my own regional secretary, Mr Magoro; chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Hosi Ngove and the rest of the magoši; all heads of department present; leaders of organised labour, faith-based and civil society organisations; captains and leaders of various industries; esteemed guests present, ladies and gentlemen, thobela.

Hon Speaker, a government budget allocation without supporting machinery and oversight mechanisms contradicts the very essence of fiscal discipline. That is why today I stand before this august House to table the 2025 Vote 05 Budget; based on the recent tabling by MEC for Finance, and to reaffirm the Provincial Treasury's steadfast commitment to strengthening financial governance and ensuring that every cent from the provincial purse delivers measurable value.

Therefore, allow me to remind Members of the House and the public that, as Provincial Treasury, we carry a profound responsibility, one that lies at the very heart of good governance and serves as a necessary thread in building a capable and ethical state. Our team has been working tirelessly to prepare the provincial budget, monitor the spending patterns of provincial departments, municipalities and public entities, and ensure compliance. Our team further supports and oversees that the allocated budget is spent within the ambit of the legislation.

Hon Speaker, admittedly, this is not work we can claim to do alone, especially with limited capacity. We rely on strong partnership across the local, provincial and national spheres. By working together, we can strengthen financial management in our province.

As alluded to earlier, we have noted that our country's financial position has come under mounting pressure since 2012. As I table this Vote 05 Budget, it is evident that our provincial economy is not immune to both internal and external factors. Consequently, our economy is not growing at the desired pace, making it difficult to address socioeconomic challenges. As I indicated during the tabling of provincial Budget, in order to effectively cater for the basic needs of our impoverished population, our economy must grow above 2,2%. This imperative is clearly captured in the Limpopo Development Plan, and we note with concern that we are still crawling toward that target.

Slow economic growth has made it challenging for the national government to fund all national priorities. To mitigate this, provinces are stepping in through the implementation of revenue enhancement strategies that enable departments and public entities to increase provincial revenue, thereby contributing to the provincial equitable share. This support helps maximise provincial revenue and supplements the equitable share baseline.

Funds generated from provincial own revenue are allocated to address service delivery needs within the province. In essence, the province is taking proactive measures to boost revenue and alleviate fiscal pressures, ensuring that essential services are delivered to our communities. Furthermore, as I indicated during the tabling of the provincial budget, we are encouraged by improvements in the implementation of our revenue enhancement strategy. Our provincial own revenue target has increased from R1,8 billion in 2024/25 to R2,2 billion in 2025/26 financial year, reflecting an average growth of 6,0% over the MTEF period. This upward trend signals our commitment to strengthening our revenue base.

Hon Speaker, the Provincial Treasury continues to play a critical role in managing the wage bill of the provincial government, ensuring a balanced approach to the funding of frontline service delivery personnel and provincial priorities — both essential to grow the economy and create jobs. To achieve this balance, the province has implemented what

we call the Provincial Personnel Management Framework, a strategy to manage the cost of employee compensation. It is worth noting that national fiscal consolidation efforts have necessitated a rebalancing of our Budget allocation, resulting in the need to contain employee-related costs.

Over the years, this strategy has yielded notable results: a decrease in the proportion of the compensation of employees' budget relative to the total budget. This reduction has freed up additional resources for catalytic projects aimed at driving growth and development in the province. As the MEC for Finance has emphasised, infrastructure development remains key. The reallocated funds provide the very foundation from which we must proceed.

Recently, the Minister of Finance announced that the national government will lead the spending review project during the 2025/26 financial year and beyond.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo provincial government initiated spending review processes in the previous financial year and will continue to seek guidance from the national government to intensify these efforts in 2025/26. Given the tight fiscal environment, characterised by rising service demands, spending reviews will assist in identifying inefficiencies, reducing waste, eliminating duplication of functions and closing fiscal leakages. The efficiency gains identified through this process will be reprioritised toward high-priority projects, so that we can allocate money to where it is really needed.

To ensure effective financial stewardship we will continue to conduct monthly performance monitoring through in-year monitoring and expenditure analysis reports, accompanied by recommendations for improvement. These reports will be presented in various forums, including, but not limited to, the CFOs Forum, HODs Forum and Provincial Executive Council. Additionally, regular bilateral meetings with MECs will be held to assess the financial performance of departments and public entities, augmented by technical engagements.

I will now turn on to the municipalities, Hon Makamu, as we also administer the Municipal Finance Management Act. We are guided by section 154(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which mandates us to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own finances within the prescripts of the MFMA.

Our efforts are aligned with what National Treasury has identified as the six key game changers in municipal financial management. These are: budget management, revenue management, supply chain management, asset management, accounting support, and the implementation of the municipal standard chart of accounts, known as mSCOA. Within these areas, we pay special attention to critical issues such as ensuring municipalities adopt funded budgets, reducing their reliance on consultants in budget and treasury offices, cutting down on unwanted expenditure, unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, wasteful expenditure, improving revenue protection, and supporting better audit outcomes.

Based on the 2023/24 audit outcomes and the AG's general report, we have reviewed how we provide support. We have since reconfigured our approach to ensure that the additional support offered to municipalities directly responds to the weaknesses

identified. This is not just about audit results, it's about helping municipalities comply with legislative prescripts and putting them on a path towards financial sustainability.

We are also conscious of the fact that the current municipal finance and governance structure is not adequately geared to respond to the realities faced by local government. That is why we are in the process of reviewing this structure to ensure that it reflects the current needs, challenges, and aspirations of our municipalities. One of our key priorities remains the improvement of audit outcomes across our municipalities.

As Provincial Treasury, we are working with the central authorities, namely s CoGHSTA and the Office of the Premier, to support municipalities in addressing audit-related challenges and ensuring their Budgets are funded and adopted by municipal councils. We will continue to conduct budget engagements to ensure that all relevant stakeholders participate in the planning and budgeting process of municipalities.

Equally important is our support to municipalities, in strengthening both revenue and expenditure management. Municipalities cannot achieve financial sustainability without improving their revenue collections. However, we remain cognisant of the economic difficulties faced by ordinary residents. Our approach must be both responsible and compassionate.

With this in mind, we urge municipalities to implement their policies on free basic services for the indigent, while also ensuring that their credit control policies are enforced fairly but firmly. We encourage municipalities to explore additional economic activities to unlock new revenue sources. We will continue to provide the necessary guidance on revenue management so that we can eliminate leakages, curb non-priority spending, and protect every rand that comes in.

Accountability remains key in local government. Therefore, the Provincial Treasury is committed to supporting local government structures through training and continuous guidance on the implementation of finance-related prescripts. While mSCOA is a legislative requirement, it is also a key reform aimed at ensuring the standardisation of transacting and reporting in the local government sphere.

We have taken note that municipalities have made huge strides in implementing mSCOA, one of the biggest reforms in local government. I am pleased to inform you that Limpopo is among the highest performing provinces in the country in this regard. This process can be complemented by further improvements. We further encourage municipalities to pay attention to the gaps identified, particularly in the use of the asset management module and transacting within the system. [APPLAUSE]

I will not overemphasise the importance of infrastructure as the vital cog in how we can improve our economy. Our future as a province relies on investment in infrastructure. This can only be a game changer if it leads to improved economic growth.

It is also important to note that the Treasury's role does not end with allocation of funds but extends to strategically monitoring the effective execution of projects. Together with the relevant stakeholders, we will support departments and municipalities by applying Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) best practices, as well as providing resources and expertise to maximise our impact on infrastructure delivery.

Hon Speaker, allow me to table the 2025/26 Vote 05 Budget for consideration by this House. The MEC for Finance referred to 12 votes within a single vote, known as programmes, through which we allocate the Budget. When you monitor a budget performance, it must be assessed against the allocations tabled here today.

The overall Budget for Vote 05: The Limpopo Provincial Treasury, as allocated by the MEC for Finance, amounts to R512,897 million for the 2025/26 financial year. If you can check it, it may be the smallest and lowest, but the most effective. This represents an increase of 7% compared to the main appropriation for the previous financial year, which was R478,062 million.

The key focus in the current financial year remains on strengthening the Provincial Treasury to improve its strategies in supporting and monitoring provincial departments, municipalities, and public entities. This is meant to improve compliance with the PFMA, MFMA and other relevant policies and legislation, affirming our commitment to rebuilding public trust.

I now turn to the economic classification:

- Compensation of employees increases from R337, 908 million in the 2024/25 financial year to R370, 776 million in the 2025/26 financial year. This allocation will be used to fund reprioritised critical vacant posts.
- Goods and services increases from R128,684 million in 2024/25 to R132,568 million in 2025/26, due to budget reprioritisation to fund contractual obligations and key accounts.
- Transfers and subsidies decreases from R4,890 million in 2024/25 to R2,499 million in 2025/26, due to a decrease in the number of officials expected to retire during the financial year.
- Payment for capital assets increases from R6,580 million in 2024/25 to R7,054 million in 2025/26. The allocation will cater for the procurement of IT equipment and other essential tools of trade.

The Budget Programme is structured as follows, although I will not go into detail considering the time, however, it is there in the speech itself.

Programme 1: Administration is allocated R220,160 million to provide effective and efficient strategic management, administrative support and sound financial management to the Provincial Treasury.

Through this programme, the department will appointing 30 interns for a 24-month period, along with experiential learners during the 2025/26 financial year. The stipend for experiential learners will be paid by the respective SETAs. These interns and learners will attend in-house capacity-building programmes in advanced Excel, report writing and digital skills.

Programme 2: Sustainable Resources Management is allocated R93,178 million. This allocation will be used to fund financial resource distribution and to manage the provincial Budget of R88 billion. It will further support the monitoring of provincial departments, municipalities and public entities to ensure the efficient and effective use of the province's fiscal resources.

Programme 3: Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management receives an allocation of R58,319 million. This allocation will be utilised to provide policy direction and facilitate the effective and efficient management of assets, liabilities and provincial supply chain management processes in all our departments and public entities.

As we all know, supply chain management remains one of the important instruments in the department which is used to transform the provincial economic patterns. It encourages departments and public entities to prioritise and support procurement from local SMMEs. It also fosters participation by historically disadvantaged individuals and groups in the provincial supply chain ecosystem.

Programme 4: Financial Governance receives an allocation of R81,152 million. This will be used to strengthen governance structures, including shared audit committees and other oversight bodies that support departments and public entities in financial accounting and audit matters.

In this regard, the province has finalised the appointment of independent risk management committee chairpersons within departments to encourage uniform and standardised risk reporting and provide overall oversight on enterprise risk management. We hope in collaboration with the MEC for CoGHSTA, to cascade this shared service down to municipalities, as we have seen that it is beneficial at the provincial level.

This year, we will continue advertising for the recruitment of capable audit committee members, and all members of the public who qualify are encouraged to apply. We do not just pinpoint; they are assurance providers without whose oversight, we can never improve audit outcomes.

In line with the third government priority of building a capable, ethical and developmental state, this programme will continue to provide capacity-building initiatives earmarked at professionalising CFOs' offices. This is meant to address the skills and competency gaps identified during the assessment of the CFO units.

Hon Speaker, last year the Provincial Treasury reported on its plan to roll out the Logistical Information System (LOGIS) and procure LOGIS scanners in the province. We are now able to report that all 11 Limpopo departments have successfully migrated to the LOGIS Assets Module and are busy with asset register maintenance and support.

Departments are now using LOGIS scanners for asset verification, which updates the asset register in real time, moving away from time-consuming manual asset verification processes and eliminating errors that could result in material findings. Departments can also capture immovable assets and contracts in LOGIS to assist with the monitoring of both,

Working with National Treasury, a LOGIS invoice tracking dashboard was deployed in December 2024. This enables departments to have a single view of the status of the status of captured invoices, allowing them to monitor the 30-day invoice payment requirement, which must now be monitored very closely.

We are also working with National Treasury to enhance LOGIS with an Invoice Tracking System that will monitor the capturing and authorisation of each its subsequent payment, to supplement the dashboard. We cannot speak of economic development when suppliers wait weeks or months to be paid simply because there is no effective mechanism.

National Treasury has also released the Central Supplier Database Request for Quotations functionality. Starting 01 April 2025, Limpopo Provincial Government departments will begin using the central supplier database to manage quotation requests for procurement below R1 million. The current manual system will be phased out over time and will run concurrently with the new functionality during transition.

Programme 5: Shared Provincial Internal Audit receives an allocation of R60,088 million. This unit protects the organisational value of the province by providing risk-based, objective assurance, advice and insight. It also coordinates a combined assurance model to broaden audit coverage and avoid duplication of audit effort.

We mean business. In the next two years, Limpopo must achieve clean audits across the board. This is a realisable dream we intend monitoring throughout. We do not want to prioritise auditing at the expense of service delivery. These goals can, and must be pursued in parallel to reverse the current challenges in recording provincial audit performance.

The Provincial Treasury continues to ensure that the Audit Support and Improvement Strategy is not just adopted, but actively implemented. Sometimes, strategies are announced without practical plans to realise them. Our implementation addresses issues raised by the AG as well as those flagged internally by the Provincial Treasury and the Internal Audit Unit, so we know, on the spot, what is outstanding, what requires action and how it should be addressed.

This strategy is implemented through targeted projects across departments and public entities. It includes analysing findings and assisting entities to perform root cause analysis. We cannot remedy a situation without proper diagnosis and identification of root causes to enable meaningful improvement.

In the interest of time, I will move to a key highlight. In the 2024/25 financial year, 20 learners were recruited for the Internal Audit Technician Learning Programme, facilitated by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Upon completion, these learners will be ready for the job market.

The unit has also produced 8 chartered accountants, certified by SAICA through the CA Training Programme. Furthermore, four trainees who passed all SAICA board examinations will be signed off as qualified CAs during this financial year. We are making progress. The department is working with the Department of Public Service and Administration and National Treasury to finalise a retention strategy for these graduates.

As I conclude, allow me to extend my deepest appreciation to the Members of Executive Council, led by the Premier; to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, chaired by Hon Pheedi, for the multi-partisan way in which they conduct oversight. It is really encouraging, and we thank you for your wisdom and continued guidance. Lastly, I wish to thank the staff of the Limpopo Provincial Treasury, led by HOD Gavin Pratt, for their hard work and commitment. Your efforts play a key role in building a foundation for an ethical and accountable province, I look forward to our continued success together.

Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. Ndo livhuwa, Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We learn by example from Provincial Treasury. Ka Sesotho ke be ke tlare ke dingame ka tšhelete le nako because they have truly used their time as allocated. We really appreciate Hon Mahoai for keeping to the agreed time o re file le balance nyana ya nako. Others can learn from that. The Budget Speech is hereby referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House.

We call upon the MEC for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Jerry Funani Maseko, to present Budget Vote 10 for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Gape le seke la Makala ge go na le mekgolokwane today, the families are here. And they are allowed to and they are allowed go letša mekgolokwane.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

(Address by Mr Maseko F J, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The MEC for CoGHSTA is intimidating me here. He's asking how can I take 45 minutes ka R500 million Budget. I have responded that, while this might be the smallest department by allocation, it is the biggest in terms of programme scope.

Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief of the governing party; esteemed Members of the House; special greetings to the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mdaka; members of statutory and non-statutory bodies; Mayors and maaparankwe; special acknowledgement to our employer, Reuben Madadzhe, and special recognition to our boxing legends present, my girl Motlanalo Rammalo and our singer, Candy Tsamandebete, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you.

Today, 10 April 2025, we commemorate 32 years since the life and times of the revolutionary leader; the leader of the South African Communist Party and Chief of Staff of uMkhonto We Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, the late Chris Hani, whose life was tragically taken when he was assassinated by Polish immigrant, Janusz Walus in the driveway of his Boksburg home. May his soul continue to rest in peace! The freedom we enjoy today was not handed to us on a silver platter. Many cadres laid down their lives to achieve this.

Allow me also to pay tribute to one of Limpopo's finest sons, a former leader of the ANC Youth League whom we buried last week; my chairperson, Cde Matthew Malebana, a true servant of the people, a stalwart of courage and principle and a legal guru who served as Director of Legal Services in the department. May his soul also rest in peace!

Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to express deep regret over the recent withdrawal of learners from the final stages of the 2025 National School Sports Championships Autumn Games, held at Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein. The withdrawal took place on the last day as Team Limpopo members raised concerns about accommodation and logistical challenges during their week-long stay. I offer an unreserved and sincere apology to every learner who was looking forward to completing this journey. I also extend apologies to the parents who entrusted us with their children, and to the dedicated educators and coaches.

What transpired is totally unacceptable. The safety and wellbeing of our learners remain a top priority. Our department has launched a full-scale investigation to determine the cause of the challenges faced by Team Limpopo. I commit here today that, working with the Department of Education under the stewardship of Ms Lerule-Ramakhanya, we will ensure that an incident of this nature never happens again under our leadership. We deeply regret what happened, and we are sorry for that.

Madam Speaker, Team Limpopo also participated under unpleasant conditions at the South African Sports Association for the Physically Disabled National Championships, held recently in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape. Despite these challenges, we are proud to report that the team managed to bring home medals. We have summoned our administration team to ensure that such a situation does not recur.

Boxing plays a significant role in promoting social cohesion and nation-building. At the recent Ministerial Boxing Special Awards Ceremony, Limpopo-born boxers were honoured, as presented by the Speaker in her guest acknowledgments. The province is proud to have participated in both, a period that holds great significance in the history of our liberation struggle.

As part of our efforts to raise awareness in communities about freedom, democracy and human rights, the department recently held a Cultural and Creative Industry Dialogue. This initiative focused on developing strategies to address and overcome gender-based violence and femicide in our communities.

The dialogue proved that our artists are indeed active agents of change, capable of supporting the Limpopo government in the fight against this societal pandemic. Their involvement is crucial in promoting social transformation, cohesion and nation-building. We call upon all our artists, because historically, artists have used their platforms to conscientise society about the evil ills of apartheid, through songs that revived the spirit of the liberation struggle. We are saying that today, the pandemic of gender-based violence and femicide must receive the same level of attention.

Let us work in collaboration with our artists to awaken and educate society. That is the only way to deal with this matter.

In his State of the Nation Address, the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, stated: “As South Africans, we stand for peace and justice, for equality and solidarity. We stand for non-racialism and democracy, for tolerance and compassion.” As the department responsible for social cohesion and nation-building, we have embraced and committed to this ethos of unity and oneness.

We remain committed to building a morally regenerated society. We strive towards an active winning citizenry, and a united, socially cohesive nation. According to recent studies conducted by the Inclusive Society Institute, specifically, the 2024 Social Cohesion Index, Limpopo has consistently demonstrated strong social cohesion over the past four years. The province's index score has remained high compared to the other provinces across the country.

We report to this esteemed House that our department is committed to building a capable, ethical and efficient organisation. In line with this, we are focused on sustaining the clean audit outcome achieved during the 2023/24 financial year.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all committed oversight structures, such as the portfolio committee, Scopa, and our hardworking administration team, for their efforts in strengthening internal systems to help sustain a clean audit outcome for the 2025/26 financial year.

During the State of the Province Address, Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba emphasised the significance of the cultural economy, which links culture to economic value. She aptly stated: “The creative industry has become part of our sunrise economy.” Indeed, both the creative industry and sport are sunrise sectors in our province.

This was clearly demonstrated through our recent successful events, including the sold-out match at Peter Mokaba Stadium, which hosted the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier between Bafana Bafana and Lesotho. This was further displayed when Polokwane hosted two of Soweto's football giants last weekend: Kaizer Chiefs against TS Galaxy, and Orlando Pirates against Polokwane City. [APPLAUSE]

The masses of people who are beginning to have an interest in sports assist us to build the local economy. This boosts the hospitality industry, enables SMMEs market and sell their products, and drives economic circulation within Limpopo. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the commitment and strong collaboration between the department, Polokwane Local Municipality, Limpopo Tourism Agency, SAFA, and the chairpersons of the PSL teams in Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, it would be a significant oversight if we did not take this moment, as the department to recognise and congratulate champion Tebogo Prudence Sekgodiso, the 800m gold medallist. At only 23 years old, this remarkable athlete from Kgapane, Bolobedu, in the Greater Letaba Local Municipality in Mopani District, has made history as the first South African female athlete to win the 800m World Indoor Championships. [APPLAUSE]

As the department and government of Limpopo, we are incredibly proud of her. Prudence, keep shining and continue to raise the flag of Limpopo and South Africa v.

Limpopo le ikgantšha ka wena ngwana wa rena. Tšwela pele go taga le go phagamišetša folaga ya Limpopo le ya Afrika Borwa godimo.

Let us take a moment to appreciate and congratulate the Limpopo trio of cyclists: Karabo Mokoo from Riba Cross ka kua Tubatse, Sekhukhune District, aged 21; Mahlakwane Gauta from GaMathabatha, Makgoba, Capricorn District, aged 22; and Ndou Maxwell from Vhembe, aged 24, for the passion and dedication they have displayed. These young athletes truly exemplify a true love for sport.

The trio cycled from Limpopo, departing from Burgersfort with the aim of reaching Cape Town using normal bicycles. Their mission was to raise funds and attempt to break the Guinness World Records. These boys are an inspiration to the youth. They have proven that it is possible, it is doable. Well done, boys! Keep leading the way. No shuma vhaṭhannga!

Special thanks to all donors who recognised the importance of this milestone; those who contributed both financially and in kind to support these cyclists. A special thanks goes to the Mayor of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, whom we requested to fly out and meet the boys. Thank you, honourable Mayor Eddie Maila, for that spirited gesture.

May I also take this opportunity to appreciate a world-renowned dancer and choreographer, Matome Robert Mahlatse Thoka from Botlokwa, ga bo Jimmy Machaka, bare Motlokwa ga ana Motlokwana.

This boy inspires young people across the globe to pursue their dreams and pursue passion in choreography and dance. He is our global icon. Keep flying the Limpopo and South African flags high on the international stage. We will continue to support you, always.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Limpopo softball men's team for their championship victory at the recent National Provincial Championships held in North West. That is why we invited them. Their remarkable performance and dedication have again placed Limpopo on the national stage, showcasing the province's sporting excellence. President Benny Boshomane, our technical director Ms Millicent Matlala and coach Nakedi Mohlake, your contributions are highly valued. Continue to represent us with pride.

Lastly, allow me to express our appreciation to the Beka Ntsan'wisi Foundation, in collaboration with SAFA, for bringing together 22 teams of grandmother footballers from countries, including the USA, France, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, and Togo, alongside local teams from South Africa, for the Grannies International Football Tournament 2025, known as GIFT 2025.

This exciting event recently took place at Nkowankowa, a township outside Tzaneen and was massively attended under the leadership of Hon Molapisane and the District Mayor, Mr Pule Shai, with whom we collaborated to ensure that we prepared the logistics around that area and revitalised the stadium so that reached a state where it could be approved for such types of games. Thank you very much to all those who contributed to the success of the event. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, ntumelele ke botše Palamente goba Legislature ye gore kamo go rena ditšhiwana tša modimo re swere bokae. As Hon Makamu said to me when I arrived here: “are monna, don’t take 45 minutes ka go presenta budget ya R500 million. I’m sure the MEC for Treasury is listening, and my HOD, Mr Pratt, is also present. You will hear what I’m about to share.

Allow me to present the Budget allocation for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the 2025/26 financial year. The overall Budget of Vote 10 has increased, which we appreciate, after a long battle and lot of noise, Hon Mavhungu, ga ke swane le tšeo di theogilego, ye e okeditšwe.

Hon Speaker, from R827,099 million to R877,492 million We got an increase of R50 million, and we are happy as the department. We are going to use it to build social cohesion and make sure that our arts industry is developed so that we can build the future of the province. Thank you very much, MEC Mahoi, for increasing our Budget.

The Budget consists of an equitable share allocation of R643,637 million, which accounts for 73% of the overall Budget, and R233,855 million, which is 27% in Conditional grant, within the total allocation of R877,492 million. The allocation is as follows:

- The Administration Programme is allocated R210,507 million,
- The Cultural Affairs Programme is allocated R292,682 million,
- The Library and Archive Services Programme received R263,258 million, whilst
- The Sport and Recreation Programme receives one R111,045 million.

That is the total allocation for all these programmes.

We are saying that the Administration Programme plays a crucial role in ensuring efficient and effective governance. This programme is wholly funded by the equitable share and takes 24% of the overall Budget.

The Cultural Affairs Programme promotes arts and culture, library services, archive services, and manages historical assets and resources of the province, and it accounts for 33% of the total Budget.

In promoting social cohesion, the department is continuing to commemorate significant months, thus bringing people together in observances of Freedom Month, Africa Month and Heritage Month.

As part of celebrating Freedom Month, we will host various cultural activities across all districts as build-up events towards 27 April 2025, where we will bring together diverse people to celebrate collectively. We will also afford SMMEs opportunities to participate in the economy through such events by ensuring that local businesspeople are included and benefit.

Throughout its proud history, the ruling party, the African National Congress, has remained committed to fostering national unity and combating all forms of tribalism,

racism and sexism. To address these challenges, the department will roll out extensive social cohesion dialogues across all five districts.

These dialogues will aim to enhance unity among all ethnic groups, tackle issues such as gender-based violence and femicide, and address other social ills that perpetuate moral decay. In recognising the talents and excellence of our artists, the department will host the inaugural Cultural and Creative Awards in the current financial year; just to thank you for your participation.

In terms of infrastructure development and job creation, we are pleased to report to this House that the construction of the Provincial theatre is progressing well, under the leadership of MEC wa Dikgerekgere, Hon Tony Rachuene. It is expected to be completed within the planned construction period, which follows a three-year construction model. The project is allocated R216 million from the total Arts and Culture Programme budget. It has already created 50 job opportunities and continues to empower SMMEs within the local space around Polokwane.

The much-anticipated provincial theatre holds significant potential for creating job opportunities in the creative industry, including script writers, stage managers, costume designers, sound engineers, producers, actors and many others. This will not only boost the creative economy but also contribute to the broader township economy. The majority of beneficiaries here will be the previously disadvantaged individuals.

In efforts to promote and preserve our heritage and museum services, the department has operationalised the state-of-the-art Schoemansdal Museum. We have officially opened it and handed it over. Its exhibition centre will serve as a gallery to exhibit heritage objects, heritage publications and artefacts. The museum is one of three provincial museums, including Dzata and Muti wa Vatsonga, that will be refurbished or maintained through an allocated budget of R1,5 million.

In efforts to preserve and provide a durable testament to the country's journey to liberation, three sites, Tshitangadzimeni Battlefield, the Battle of Motale, the University of Limpopo Trafalgar Square, and the Tjate Heritage Site, are now set for implementation. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Heritage Council, and this financial year an amount of R13 million will be transferred to the department for structural construction. We are no longer speaking of design, we are speaking of implementation. The funding of R13 million is available.

We are proud to announce that we successfully completed the Botshabelo and Vleifontein libraries during the previous financial year. What remains is to operationalise them, purchase furniture and books, and appoint librarians to go and work in these two libraries during this financial year.

The long-awaited Mulamula Library will be operational during this financial year. We have finally completed it, and although we will continue to manage certain operational dynamics, there is full commitment to opening the library and delivering necessary services to the community; because we are now ready.

During the 2025/26 financial year, we will be completing two outstanding projects that have disturbed us a bit. These are Tshaulu, currently 45% completion, and originally

scheduled for finalisation in the last financial year, and Mampane which is currently at 87%. We are working in collaboration with the leadership of Public Works to fast-track the completion of these two projects, and we can assure this House they will be finalised during this financial year.

The implementing agent, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, has appointed contractors for library projects: Moutse West in Sekhukhune, Bungeni in Vhembe and Makhuva in Mopani. Designs have been completed, and these three projects are scheduled for implementation during the current financial year.

Still on the construction of libraries, the department will resume design work for libraries in Moutse East, Mamaila, Khuvhi, Masemola, Matseke and Bela-Bela, earmarked for outer years. It is important that we design these projects upfront so that we can implement them as and when the honourable MEC for Treasury allocates some cents for us. We rely on your, Sir, to give us money for these projects.

In efforts to embrace the digital age, the department has launched a project to provide free Wi-Fi and internet connectivity in 111 public libraries across the province. Departmental libraries are also moving towards digitisation. The rollout of eNewspapers and ePeriodicals has already begun and is scheduled to reach all 111 libraries within the first quarter of 2025/26 financial year. We are currently in the process of procuring eBooks to offer communities access to a wider variety of reading material.

In this context, the department, working in partnership with the Archives Advisory Council and the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, will host the Oral History Conference in Limpopo during the third quarter of this financial year.

In our quest to preserve the indigenous languages, we will continue rolling out multilingualism campaigns aimed at promoting the province's official languages. These campaigns include the celebration of International Translation Day, International Mother Tongue Day, Deaf Awareness Month, Language Indaba, and the Literary Excellence Awards. You can see, that the department's programmes are many and huge, which is why we call for additional funding.

The department continues to provide capacity-building opportunities to authors of literature books through authorship workshops aimed at capacitating communities with good writing skills. The department will also support authors with funding for literature-related events, such as book launches.

We recently partnered in the successful of The Lion of the North, a book authored by Cde Mpho Castro Nchabeleng, son of revered anti-apartheid activist, the late Peter Nchabeleng. We are opening opportunities for local authors to participate in supplying our libraries with literature.

The Sport and Recreation Programme acts as a powerful catalyst for growth, fostering the development of a socially cohesive citizenry. It plays a key role in identifying, developing and nurturing talent, contributing to both individual and community development.

The programme is allocated 13% of the total Budget, which amounts to R114,045 million. Of this, 40% is derived from the equitable share and 60% from conditional grant allocations.

School sport is the bedrock of sports development and a critical element in the holistic development of learners. It nurtures not only physical and motor skills, but also vital life skills, positive attitudes, and social cohesion.

To ensure consistent participation across schools, the department, through a signed implementation protocol with the Department of Education, successfully hosted a roadshow attended by school sport structures, sport confederations, the Limpopo Academy of Sport, teacher unions, municipalities and federations from all five districts of the province. For the 2025/26 financial year, the department plans to increase the number of schools participating in school sport from 1 000 to 1 500.

As part of fostering a culture of sport development within communities, we have launched a consultative programme with sport communities across districts. We are visiting all districts as a department to resuscitate sports activism across the province, creating a platform for equitable access to available resources. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

We are reminding you about time.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

I'm here, I started at half past. I still have 10 minutes, and I'm concluding. You must check your time, Speaker, please. Ke lebeletše nako here, I'm clear. I have 45 minutes, Hon Speaker; currently I'm on 35 minutes. No, no, ungenzi njalo, ungenzi njalo Somlomo. Thank you, Hon Speaker, and my apologies.

We held a consultative meeting with our elite athletes in the province. One of the key issues raised was the high number of athletes migrating to Gauteng and other provinces due to a lack of resources, particularly the absence of a high-performance sporting centre in Limpopo. This remains one of the critical challenges facing our elite athletes.

In an effort to keep our elite athletes in the province, we are in the process of developing a high-performance centre over the next five years, in collaboration with the Limpopo Academy of Sport. [APPLAUSE]

We hereby call upon the Premier and the Executive to assist us in lobbying for this essential infrastructure. Without it we will continue to lose our athletes to Gauteng. ge ke kopana le MEC Chiloane ka kua Gauteng, o boaster ka gore yena he is a province of champions. Boasting about our own athletes is very important, Hon Speaker and Hon Premier, in absentia, because we must begin to actively mobilise resources for this facility, even if it means engaging the private sector and mining houses that are abundant here in Limpopo.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to all Department of Sport, Arts and Culture oversight structures for holding us accountable. We remain fully committed

to implementing all resolutions and ensuring that the department sustains its clean audit outcome.

To our key stakeholders, our athletes and artists, statutory and non-statutory bodies, the sport fraternity and the creative industry, your unwavering support in helping the department achieve its goals is deeply appreciated.

Let us remain united in our efforts, serving our communities with dedication. As Martin Luther King Jr once said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"

Hon Speaker, I hereby table the 2025/26 Budget Vote 10, of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to this august House for consideration. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Ke a tshepha, Molekgotlaphethiši wa Matlotlo ba kwele gore mošomo ke o ma kaakang akere? The Budget Speech shall be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for the Department of Social Development, Hon Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 12. Honourable MEC, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Ms Radzilani F F, MEC for Social Development)

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje and Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, in absentia; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the governing party; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; leaders of opposition parties; chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Simon Mathe and the entire team; Members of this august House; honourable Mayors; Speakers and Chief Whips of our municipalities; Provincial Secretary of the ruling party, Cde Vhamusanda Reuben Madadzhe; chairperson of the provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leadership, Hosi Ngove; all faith-based organisations in our midst; distinguished guests; the community of Limpopo following us on various social media platforms; ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon to you all.

Hon Speaker, it is my sincere honour to stand with a sense of courage and commitment before this august House to present the budget proposals for Vote 12, Department of Social Development, on behalf of the Seventh Administration led by the African National Congress. Today, as we stand before this august House, we are not merely presenting a Budget. We are laying a foundation for the future of our province; for the dreams, aspirations, and hopes of millions of people in Limpopo who trust in us to deliver on the promises we made. Those promises are to provide:

- provide comprehensive and integrated services;

- protection against vulnerability;
- sustainable development;
- facilitating access to social grants;
- promoting social integration;
- monitoring population trends; and
- monitoring other welfare services in line with our constitutional mandate.

This constitutional mandate compels us to work hard towards the realisation of the Freedom Charter, which this year we will commemorate on its 70th anniversary. We will mark this tremendous milestone following the 31st anniversary of freedom and democracy. We pride in the achievements we have made together, and we recognise that we are still obliged to do more. This is because we have not yet attained the totality of the aspirations enshrined in the Freedom Charter.

Let me set the tone and thematise the presentation of the commitments tabulated in our Budget Vote, and recite for the words of American poet, novelist and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou, when she said: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

This is the determination behind our approach to rendering services, as stated in my preamble where I outlined the mandate of our department in delivering services to our people. In line with our election manifesto priorities, we are committed to delivering services that people can see, experience and, most importantly, that transform their lives in ways that make them feel the progress we are making. Among its priorities, the manifesto commits to:

- the strengthening of our comprehensive social security system to reduce poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion and inequality through social assistance; and
- preventing vulnerability and destitution as a result of income loss, through social insurance for workers.

It is a solemn responsibility that we must carry with pride, determination and unwavering commitment. As we set forth our budget commitments for the financial year ahead, I wish to highlight the pivotal role of the Department of Social Development in implementing the three government priorities as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan.

Hon Speaker, I, stand before you today confident that we are on an upward trajectory, making tangible progress towards the ultimate objective of a better life for all. Every decision we make, every programme we implement, every cent we allocate must be seen as a step forward in fulfilling this vision.

We understand that safety is paramount; thus, increasing the sense of safety among women and children will remain a crucial focus. We will enhance our services and support systems to combat gender-based violence, ensuring that our communities become safer environments for all citizens.

In line with the priority to build a capable, ethical, and developmental state, we are committed to the mainstreaming of gender and the empowerment of youth and persons with disability. These commitments also play a crucial role in contributing to pillar four

of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, which focuses on response, care, support and healing.

We will invest in training and support for our social workers, ensuring that they adhere to the highest ethical standards and serve as dedicated professionals committed to the public good. The department will implement programmes that foster economic opportunities, equipping our youth and marginalised groups with the skills and resources necessary to thrive in a competitive job market.

We stand ready to implement these priorities, affirming our commitment to building a more equitable and prosperous nation for all. Together, we will strive to uplift the lives of the vulnerable and create a society that fosters growth, safety and dignity for every citizen.

As we reflect on the achievements of the department, it is essential to recognise that part of our work involves ensuring that facilities serving our most vulnerable citizens, particularly people living with disability, children, and the elderly, meet the highest standards of care, respect and dignity.

Regrettably, not all non-government-run institutions have upheld these standards. In response to these shortcomings, we have taken decisive action to protect the lives of the vulnerable and restore public trust.

One of the most significant and challenging issues we faced in recent months, shortly after assuming office was the appalling conditions at three facilities for vulnerable people: Vuthari Centre in Greater Letaba, Nape-a-Kanyane Centre, and Angels of Planet Earth Centre in Makhuduthamaga. These were providing services for which they were not accredited.

All of these non-profit organisations were found to be operating far below the minimum care standards required for facilities that cater to people with disability, the elderly, and mental care users.

Hon Speaker, at the Vuthari Centre, we ensured that 22 residents were safely reunified with their families, while two individuals whose families could not be traced remain under our care as we continue to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Similarly, at Nape-a-Kanyane Centre for the Aged and Angels of Planet Earth Centre, the facilities failed to meet the required standards. After thorough assessments, together with the Department of Health, we removed all residents from these facilities. Thirty-five elderly individuals were successfully reunified with their families, and 25 residents in need of continued care are now under our protection.

These actions, though difficult, are a testament to our commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of vulnerable people. We understand the vital role that non-governmental care facilities play in the lives of individuals who cannot fully care for themselves; however, we will not tolerate any institution that compromises their safety and wellbeing.

The closure of these facilities was not just a response to the immediate crisis, but also a clear message that the Department of Social Development will continue to hold accountable those who take it upon themselves to care for the vulnerable members of our community. I would like to appreciate the confidence of the community who, upon observing these violations, did not hesitate to report the abuse of vulnerable persons to our officials.

The department recognises the critical need for support from well-managed non-profit organisations, functional families and civil society to help ease the burden of caring for individuals who cannot care for themselves. Our resources are limited and often insufficient to meet every need.

Therefore, to ensure that our services are both efficient and impactful, we seek collaboration from these key stakeholders. However, let me hasten to emphasise that while we welcome their support, we will never compromise the safety and wellbeing of the vulnerable individuals we serve. We will not partner with those whose primary interest is profit over the welfare of our community members.

The wellbeing and dignity of older persons remain a top priority for the department. In recognition of the invaluable contribution of our elderly citizens, we have focused our efforts on ensuring that they receive the care, protection and support they deserve.

This is reflected in the department's continued commitment to expanding both residential and community-based care facilities, alongside offering opportunities for active engagement and social participation. For the 2025/26 financial year, we have budgeted R35,263 million for placing older persons in residential facilities and community-based care centres.

To date, over 500 older persons have accessed residential care facilities, ensuring they receive the specialised care they require. So far, more than 15 600 older persons have benefited from community-based care and support centres, which continue to provide essential services to those in need; especially in their own communities, where they feel most comfortable.

Hon Speaker, coming to persons with disability, the department remains dedicated to delivering prevention programmes that ensure the care and protection of persons with disability. By the end of the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, 289 individuals with disability had accessed residential facilities, while 3 950 participated in protective workshops. Protective workshops are safe, disability-friendly environments designed to provide opportunities for people with disability to develop and improve their skills. These workshops enable participants to earn an income through the products they create, supplementing their disability grants.

Thanks to sustained advocacy efforts, there has been a significant increase in the number of persons with disability accessing a wider range of social development services, thereby enhancing their overall wellbeing. The department is currently funding 108 protective workshops, six provincial councils, three residential facilities, as well as 37 stimulation centres, with an allocated budget of R105,760 million.

The stimulation centres are specialised facilities designed to support individuals with disability, particularly those with developmental or cognitive impairments. These centres provide a range of activities and therapies aimed at enhancing sensory, motor, cognitive and social skills. In the 2025/26 financial year, we have budgeted R210,4 million, which includes funding for the Shiluvani Frail Care Centre.

The department, in collaboration with funded non-profit organisations, continues to implement critical social and behavioural change programmes aimed at preventing the spread of HIV, STIs and tuberculosis (TB). By the end of the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, a total of 620 implementers were trained to deliver these programmes.

In addition to these efforts, 17 573 beneficiaries received psychosocial support services, further strengthening our commitment to holistic care. To support vulnerable children, we have allocated R1,321 million for the procurement of school uniforms, benefiting 780 learners from 269 schools.

Let me take this moment to address an important development regarding funding for the HIV/Aids and TB initiatives. As you all now know, it has been announced that the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR, has withdrawn its funding. However, I want to join the MEC for Health in reassuring everyone that this decision should not cause panic among those benefiting from PEPFAR programmes. The department is sufficiently funded to meet our targets and uphold our commitment to providing essential services to people living with HIV and tuberculosis, as per our Annual Performance Plan.

Hon Speaker, in support of those infected and affected by HIV, the department has earmarked R8,078 million for food parcel distribution, benefiting 4121 individuals. Additionally, 13 NPOs providing Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) programmes and 49 Home and Community-Based Care (HCBC) organisations have received funding to continue their vital work.

A total budget of R36040 million has been set aside for this financial year to ensure the continued success of these initiatives. Through these efforts, we remain steadfast in our mission to improve the lives of our most vulnerable communities while contributing to the ongoing fight against HIV/Aids, STIs and TB.

The school uniform programme, which I had the privilege of leading, has been a key initiative in restoring the dignity of our learners, particularly those from financially constrained families. By ensuring that no child is excluded from school because they cannot afford a proper uniform, we are providing not only a physical garment but also an affirmation of the worth and potential of each learner.

It is a simple but powerful way to ensure that our children focus on their education, not the disparities that may exist in their appearance due to economic hardship. One of the most significant lessons we have learned from this programme is the power of collaboration.

In this case, our partnership with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) has been invaluable. Their experience in reaching vulnerable communities, combined

with our collective efforts, ensured that the programme was successfully rolled out in all five districts.

I want to take a moment to recognise and commend the invaluable services provided by our non-profit organisations. These organisations play an essential role in our communities; caring for abandoned children, offering safe havens for abused and neglected youths, and supporting people living with disability and older persons. If there are honourable Members among us facing similar challenges, you are more than welcome to receive the services from the department.

For the 2024/25 financial year, our goal was to reach 850 beneficiaries across all five community care centres in the province. I am pleased to report that, to date, 1441 children between the ages of 15 and 18 have already benefited from this initiative. More children are expected to access these services during the 2025/26 financial year, and therefore, R179,8 million has been allocated for this purpose.

In our continued efforts to ensure that non-profit organisations provide high-quality services to their beneficiaries, the department, in collaboration with the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA), is launching the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme. This programme targets community caregivers working in funded NPOs and aims to provide them with formal qualifications in child and youth care work.

On the social relief of distress programme, our department has continued to respond swiftly and effectively to emergency needs arising from disasters and other adverse social conditions, which often result in undue hardship for our citizens. Through the Social Relief of Distress Programme, we have been able to support 7903 individuals and families affected by incidents of disaster and trauma, ensuring they receive the assistance required to overcome these challenges.

For the 2025/26 financial year, we have budgeted R1,346 million for the Social Relief of Distress Programme, which we believe will bring much-needed support to those requiring socio-economic relief.

On care and services for families, the families of Limpopo face numerous challenges that hinder their ability to provide for themselves and their children. These challenges include economic pressure, poverty, violence against women and children, substance abuse, mental health issues, lack of alternative care during parental absence, and disrupted family structures. In response, our department has provided vital support to 285 630 families. Additionally, we have partnered with 24 civil society organisations that provide essential services to children and families.

Regarding the community-based prevention and early intervention services, we are committed to empowering children and communities to move from vulnerability to resilience. In the 2024/25 financial year, 844 208 children benefitted from community-based prevention and early intervention services provided by 419 registered drop-in centres funded by the department.

These centres offer essential services such as educational support, child protection, psychosocial care, economic strengthening, health promotion, and HIV/Aids

programmes. Moreover, we have trained 29 child and youth care workers on the National Qualifications Framework Level 3, child and youth care work qualification.

On the crime prevention programme, social crime prevention remains a cornerstone of our efforts to address the root causes of criminal behaviour. By focusing on improving social conditions and promoting positive youth development, we have reached 20 393 individuals through various crime prevention initiatives. Additionally, young offenders in conflict with the law have had access to secure care centres, with 548 individuals completing diversion programmes aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Coming to the Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP), our programme continues to provide essential support to individuals affected by crime, violence and abuse. This initiative offers psychological, legal and social support to victims of gender-based violence, domestic violence, human trafficking and child abuse. In the past year 8 335 victims accessed support services, and 35 individuals received sheltering.

During the opening of the Seventh Administration, the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, issued a directive for enhanced collaboration between key government departments and stakeholders in the fight against crime in our province. In response to the Premier's instruction, a collaborative approach was established, bringing together the SAPS, Department of Social Development, Department of Transport and Community Safety, Department of Health, National Prosecuting Authority and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

This partnership led to the formation of a consultative forum aimed at addressing the pressing issue of crime in our communities. We are confident that through all the resolutions adopted at the Provincial Crime Summit, the province is on the right direction.

On Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods; poverty, hunger and unemployment remain significant challenges faced by communities throughout this province. In response, the Department of Social Development has committed, as part of its five-year plan, to address these issues by increasing employment opportunities, reducing poverty, and improving livelihoods through various poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood programmes.

In the 2024/25 financial year, R30,681 million was allocated to the implementation of these programmes. As of the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, a total of 1 247 individuals benefitted from this programme.

For the 2025/26 financial year, the department has allocated R32,042 million for poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods. A target of 1 500 individuals is set to benefit from these initiatives.

On institutional capacity-building and support; the department is also mandated to register and support non-profit organisations, recognising the pivotal role these entities play in community development and service delivery. To this end, the department allocates resources annually to provide institutional capacity-building to NPOs. In the 2024/25 financial year, R11,966 million was allocated to assist our NPOs, and almost 2 867 benefitted. For the 2025/26 financial year, the department has allocated R10,999 million.

On the youth development programme; youth unemployment remains a pressing issue in our country and province. The department contributes to addressing youth unemployment through skills development and entrepreneurship programmes. In the 2024/25 financial year, R16 million was allocated to youth development, with a focus on funding youth-led NPOs and skills development initiatives.

For the 2025/26 financial year, the department plans to provide skills development programmes for 650 youth, including specialised training in cell phone repairs, accredited through the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MERSETA). The National Youth Development Agency has committed to support these youth with business development training upon completion of their training.

Coming to the women development programme; in the 2024/25 financial year, the department allocated R4 million to support our women's empowerment initiatives aimed at poverty reduction. Additionally, R1,1 million was allocated for the training and development of women. Through these efforts, 15 048 women participated in programmes focused on crop and animal farming, marketing, financial management and production.

In the 2025/26 financial year, the department plans to empower 17 100 women through similar programmes. We are pleased as the department to announce that we are finalising our organisational structure and, though this process has taken longer than expected, we plan to implement the new structure in the 2025/26 financial year.

During his recent delivery of the provincial Budget, the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgabo Mahoi, announced allocations for infrastructure development across all departments in alignment with the priorities of the medium-term development plan and the strategic objectives of the Limpopo Development Plan.

I am pleased to share that the Department of Social Development has been allocated R15 million for this purpose. This essential funding will be utilised to maintain and refurbish existing facilities across all our districts, ensuring that their structural integrity and compliance with the occupational health and safety standards.

To this end, in the Capricorn District, we will conduct maintenance at the Polokwane Welfare Centre and refurbish our offices in Senwabarwana. In the Mopani District, renovations will take place at both Lebaka One-Stop Centre and Kgapanne One-Stop Centre. The Vhembe District will see refurbishments at the Thohoyandou Child and Youth Care Centre and the Mavambe Secure Care Centre. In the Sekhukhune District, we will renovate park homes and the Fetakgomo One-Stop Centre, while in the Waterberg District we will upgrade Roedtan and Bavaria offices.

In total, 18 properties will receive maintenance, refurbishment, or upgrades from this infrastructure funding, marking a significant investment in our commitment to improving service delivery across the province. I therefore present the 2025/26 Budget allocations as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration is allocated R467,807 million;
- Programme 2: Social Welfare Services is allocated R577,489 million;
- Programme 3: Children and Families is allocated R719,887 million;
- Programme 4: Restorative Services is allocated R275,862 million; and
- Programme 5: Development Research is allocated R253,821 million.

Hon Speaker, these allocations make the total Budget of our department to be R2,294 866 billion. Hon Makamu, we are part of the billions.

Hon Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and express my sincere gratitude to our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba, for her continued guidance, and to my colleagues in the Executive for their unwavering support in this endeavour. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the members of the portfolio committee, led by Hon Simon Mathe, for their ongoing robust engagement, ensuring that we remain focused on compliance and accountability.

A special thank you goes to the acting head of department, Dr Martin Sehlapelo. Allow me to repeat myself. A special thanks goes to the acting HOD, Dr Martin Sehlapelo, whose leadership has brought much-needed administrative stability and efficiency to our processes.

For those of you who know the doctor, you will remember that Dr Sehlapelo serves in the Office of the Premier in a very senior position. Yet, when the Premier requested his assistance in the Department of Social Development, he availed himself because he is committed to serving the people of this province. [APPLAUSE]

I would be making a cardinal mistake if I do not appreciate the men and women of the Department of Social Development who, on a daily basis, strive to deliver comprehensive social protection services to the great masses of our people. I salute you.

Together, through the effective use of this Budget, we will continue to work towards a brighter future for all our people, ensuring that no one is left behind. Let us remain united in our efforts to achieve the dream of a truly inclusive and prosperous society for all. May the faithful God bless us all.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa. Re a leboga, honourable MEC, Hon Florence Radzilani. Vho Fulufhelo vha khou amba zwauri, ka Sepedi ba re, moja morago ke kgoši. Today I have seen it.

The Budget Speech will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development for consideration and report back to the House. We shall now proceed to the next item.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements, Hon Deputy Speaker? You said I should now call you Grace, isn't it?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Yes, my name is Grace. I think even Hon Makamu is understanding that now. Thank you very much, and greetings to all honourable Members and guests. My special greeting goes to Mutholi wa vho rine, our Provincial Secretary, Vhamusanda Vho Maḍadzhe. Nḍivhadzo dzi khou ri:

- Nga Lavhuvhili ri khou dovha hafhu ra ḍa ra dzula fhanu ri tshi khou fhedzisa Migaganyagwama yo salaho ya mihasho miḇa ine ya vha hone.
- Vha Muhasho wa Vhulimi vho vha ḇekedza mbeu dza uri vha tshi swika hayani na vhone vha swike vha tshi ṭavha maṭamaṭisi. Vha nadzo nga ngomu ha bege. Ri khou livhuwa muhulisei MEC Vho Nakedi Kekana.
- Ri khou humbela MEC dzoṭhe dze dza vha dzi tshi khou ṇetshedza zwipitshi zwa vouthu dza migaganyagwama ya mihasho ya dzo uri musi Dzulo li tshi vala ri ye nga afho nḇa u fodiwa zwinepe navho vhoṭhe.
- Tshiswiṭulo tsha ḇamusi tshi khou lelwa hangei Lepelle-Nkumpi Civic Centre Hall. Vha songo khakha vha ya kha basement kana ngei boardroom ngauri vha ḍo wana hu si na zwiliwa. Roṭhe kha ri ye Civic Centre ya Lepelle-Nkumpi.
- Tshinwe hafhu ri khou livhuwa Muhasho wa Vhulimi kha tshiswiṭulo tsha ḇamusi.
- Nḍivhadzo ya u fhedzisela ye ya vha I songo ṇwaliwa ndi ya uri nga Mugivhela, Mulangadzulo vha khou ri ramba uri ri ye u pembela navho kha u fhedza pfunzo dzavho dza vhudokotela. Mushumo uyo wa u pembela navho u ḍo farelwa ngei Bolivia Lodge nga 13:00 hune ra ḍo la navho tshiswiṭulo. Vha khou zwi vhona musi uri muvhuso wa Limpopo wo farwa nga madokotela.

Ndo livhuwa nga maanda, Mulangadzulo.

THE SPEAKER

I should not have allowed you to come back. I didn't know this was the announcement you had forgotten. If I had known, I would not have agreed. Thank you so much. We now come to the end of our Sitting for today.

We want to take this opportunity to appreciate and thank all honourable Members who came to today's Sitting, and, just as importantly, all the guests. I hope, since you have been invited for lunch, those who are able to join us will, as a courtesy from our MECs. Let's go and have lunch with them at the Lepelle-Nkumpi Civic Hall.

We shall now proceed to the next item.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 15 April 2025 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. The House is adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you so much, honourable Members. We may take our seats. Good morning, honourable Members. According to the Orders of the Day, the Programme Committee has agreed that we will defer items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

[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 & PAPERS

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Second Reading: Presentation of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B03-2025].

Budget Speech Vote 02: Limpopo Legislature. I shall now call upon the Hon Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature to present the Budget Speech, Vote 2.

THE SPEAKER

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
(Address by Dr Makhurupetje M G, Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I'm worried that some people are already looking at the time before I even start, so they want to see if I will manage my time properly. Hon Premier, I assure you I will manage my time.

Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela, who is presiding today, and the Hon Premier of the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, I have heard we've got Magoši a rena, ma apara nkwe, beng mabu. Ge re bona lena re a kwatama, ra lotšha rare Thobela, Aa, ha mi losa, ha mi khensa ku va mi ri kona namuntlha. I will also want to acknowledge the presence of the honourable MECs who are here today; Members of the Legislature, as led by the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mmanoko Mokgonyana; Leader of Government Business, Hon Basikopo Rodgers Makamu; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Makgabo Lawrence Mapoulo in absentia; Chairperson of Chairpersons, Hon Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; the chair of the Oversight Mechanism Committee, Midiavhathu Khosi Vho Kennedy Tshivhase;, honourable Members of this august House, thobela.

We are told there are very important guests in this House, including Mayors, Executive Mayors of our province. We acknowledge your presence. Secretary to the Legislature, Dr Timothy Maake and your team, we acknowledge you. But I need to acknowledge one of the important guests, who is the leader of the African National Congress in the province, the Provincial Secretary, Vho Mosanda Reuben Madadzhe and other leaders of political parties represented here today. Ke a le dumediša. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Lotjhani. Good morning. Goeie more.

Deputy Speaker, the 2025/26 Budget Speech is being delivered during this Freedom Month. This is a period during which our democracy was realised through the first democratic elections held on 27 April 1994. This election gave hope to the people of South Africa, particularly the people of Limpopo.

We must celebrate this Freedom Month, mindful of the realities that confront society to this day. Honourable Members, we need to remember that we also celebrate 70 years since the adoption of the Freedom Charter at the Congress of the People in Kliptown, marking a significant milestone of our country and the people of Limpopo province. The Freedom Charter outlines a vision of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and a prosperous South Africa.

A vision of a country in which government is founded on the will of the people, where the land is shared among those who work it, where the people share in the country's wealth, and all are equal before the law. In his State of the Nation Address on 6 February 2025, His Excellency, Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, alluded to this in line with the celebration of 70 years of the Freedom Charter. He said, "It is this vision that continues to guide us as we work to build the nation we all want."

The Hon Premier of the Limpopo province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, further elaborated on this in her State of the Province Address: "As we commemorate 70 years of freedom in our province, as we commemorate 70 years of Freedom Charter, our province's economy has shown resilience in sectors like mining, government services, finance, trade and personal services, and transport."

The people of Limpopo want a provincial government that treats all people with dignity, humility, and respect. They want a government with accountable leaders prepared to serve with complete dedication and public servants who are ethical, skilled, and prepared to serve with passion.

To this end, section 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa makes it obligatory for the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary, and all organs of state to respect and protect the human dignity of everyone. This must be done without a compromise. Honourable Members, I need to reiterate our constitutional mandate, as the Legislature, which is law-making, maintaining oversight over the Executive and ensuring public involvement in matters that affect them.

To do this, we have taken strides to ensure that we do this without fail. Hon Deputy Speaker, we table this Budget Vote 2, which is the Limpopo Legislature in the Seventh Legislature, under the context characterised by four key elements, and they are as follows:

- The number of Members of the Legislature has increased from 49 to 64. This has increased the capacity of the Legislature towards executing its legal mandate. To this effect, we are required to make sure that the much-needed resources are provided to the additional Members without fail. With that in mind, we would like to appreciate the understanding we have forged with the Provincial Treasury on the magnitude and critical importance of law-making, oversight and ensuring community involvement.
- Political parties represented in the House have also increased from four to six. It is necessary to ensure that they are also well-resourced to make their contribution to ensure that the democratic project is successful.
- Thirdly, the Legislature is designated as a critical infrastructure, previously known as a national key point. In terms of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act 8 of 2019, this comes with huge responsibility to make sure that the critical infrastructure is fully and properly secured. In this regard, we need to ensure that resources are available to respond to the requirements as set out in the Act. To this end, we'll upgrade our infrastructure, safety and security systems to meet the required standards.
- For the Legislature to put in place effective oversight mechanisms while making impactful laws, there is a need to examine the current systems and mechanisms. One of the observations we have made is that the support provided to the committees is not adequate, as outlined in the sector oversight model. In this regard, we must review the administrative support provided through researchers, coordinators, communicators and legal advisors to realise and maximise their full functionalities.

Deputy Speaker, we are delighted that during this Seventh Legislature, we ushered in a new wave of belief and approach in doing our work. In this regard, we want to share with you the key priorities of the Seventh Legislature as follows:

- Improve governance and leadership. The emphasis on this priority is that we will make sure that the capacity of Members in doing their work is forever improved, and that we must strive for accountable and responsible leadership.
- Strengthen the law-making process and oversight mechanisms. It has been observed that we need to improve our law-making processes and how we hold

the Executive to account. One of those critical things we plan to do is to ensure that our laws must result in impact on the lives of the people of Limpopo instead of just passing laws that might not assist in changing the lives of the people. This we shall do, working with everyone.

- Enhance public participation. We have been conducting public hearings whenever there are Bills that require the attention of either Parliament or the provincial Legislature. However, we have observed that at times, such engagements are not empowering enough for our people. In this regard, we are going to make sure that we identify key stakeholders so that we can forge a relationships with them to enhance participation. In simple terms, we plan to embark on a drive to conduct formal engagements with stakeholders such as faith-based organisations, institutions of higher learning, just to mention a few, on the work of the Legislature and how they can contribute.

Deputy Speaker, we have embarked on a strategic planning process that led to our new impact statement. The newly crafted impact statement on the Legislature reads as follows: “A Legislature that strengthened oversight mechanisms and enhances the legislative process for the improvement of the quality of life of all its communities.”

This impact statement forms the spine and theme of the legislative work through the Seventh Legislature. Our performance measures will be more impact-driven. To this end, the Legislature will ensure that all reports, including Annual Performance Plans, Annual Reports, and quarterly plans, are timely tabled in the House as per the Standing Rules and Orders of the House.

This is an indication to us that the dilo di tšhentšhitše Premier, philosophically, is a serious paradigm shift as pronounced by Thomas Kuhn, in the book titled *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*. The Legislature will promote accountability by taking its parliament outreach programme, commonly known as Taking Parliament to the People. This will be taken to all the districts in the financial year.

This parliamentary outreach programme will take stock and receive reports from the Executive Council about the progress and programmes in place affecting service delivery challenges, specifically in the targeted geographic space. Since the commencement of the Seventh Legislature, the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions has been hard at work, and it managed to assist a petitioner, Makgato Raisibe Catherine, who was left in a devastating condition due to a lack of a house in GaTjale village at GaDikgale. The MEC, through donors, built a house and officially handed it over to the beneficiary on 20 December 2024. The standing committee members were there. Thank you so much, MEC. We can see the outcome of the petitions committee.

The petitioner, Ms Mahlangu S J, complained about nonpayment of accommodation while acting as the district director at the Department of Education. The nonpayment was resolved. She received the payment. The petitions system brings hope and trust to the citizens of the province as a responsive and accountable government. As the Legislature, we appreciate the support from Members of the Executive Council and other entities. They responded to complaints and availed themselves for adjudication and meetings to listen to their people despite their congested and pressing

programmes. Thank you so much, Premier. We will rely on you to release them to come and participate when they are needed. Honourable Members, oversight and accountability provided by the Constitution of South Africa, portfolio committees and standing committees will scrutinise, examine or look closely at reports from the Executive.

It is in this context that accountability is required by the Legislature to hold the Executive arm of government to advance a better life for our people. Quarterly reports from the Executive and the Legislature, the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009, normally, we call it FAMPPLA, as well as the Rules and Orders of the House affirm that APPs, Annual Reports and quarterly reports from the Executive and provincial Legislature be tabled in the House on the date determined by the Speaker. The Speaker has authority.

Further, all resolutions by the House regarding Scopa should be reported in the House. Ke sa boeletša, dilo di tšhentšhitše. This part of accountability and good governance is underpinned by the Constitution, which provides that the executive is accountable collectively and individually to the Legislature. The people of Limpopo's dreams and aspirations are that the provincial administration expend public funds in line with what they voted us for.

Deputy Speaker, questions for oral and written reply are an extended oversight mechanism by individual Members. The Legislature, supported by the Standing Rules and Orders of the House, continues to encourage Members of the Executive to issue Executive Statements to inform the people of Limpopo about service delivery. Honourable Members, in the recent State of the Province Address, the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, reminded us about the floods which struck our province.

To this end, the Limpopo Legislature has established for the first time a new committee that we call the Pandemic and Disaster Oversight Committee, guided by the Disaster Management Act, 2002, [Act No. 57 of 2002]. The province is more vulnerable to potential health and natural disasters, particularly relating to the potential hazards like flooding, storms, hazards, materials, and incidents, with a strong emphasis on collaboration between various government departments, local municipalities, and community stakeholders to ensure a unified approach to disaster management. The Limpopo Legislature Pandemic and Disaster Committee will play an oversight role to monitor and proactively mitigate such disaster risks.

Honourable Members, the Legislature has already undertaken site visits to existing agricultural projects like Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir, Mashashane Hatchery and Zebediela Citrus Farm. The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development recently concluded a series of insightful oversight visits to flood-affected farms and critical sites such as SL and Sons, Tsela Trading, and Baradipelo Farming Project in Waterberg. The committee observed the remarkable rehabilitation efforts at catalytic projects such as Chilwavhusiku Cooperative in Vhembe, Majeje Citrus in Mopani District, Tafelkop Farmers Association in Sekhukhune District, and at the Potato Land in the Capricorn District.

To demonstrate our quest to improve the lives of our people through oversight, we have already hosted the North West Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, which

was interested in learning best practices in this regard. They will still come because our vision is to achieve impact, and similarly, we shall also embark on such learning opportunities.

Honourable Members, the Legislature, through the Portfolio Committee on Education, congratulates the department on its improvement in the matric results to 85% in the 2024 academic year. The committee further wants to tell a good story. Limpopo province is currently number four in terms of the bachelor passes, with 41 370 bachelor passes, and it currently produces 44,3% bachelor passes. In this regard, a plausible good story to tell.

The Seventh Legislature will undertake monitoring and focus intervention oversight on the foundation phase, focusing on early childhood development. Honourable Members, the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, Limpopo Gambling Board, Limpopo Tourism Agency, Limpopo Economic Development Agency, and all their subsidiaries will be monitored on whether they implement the government policy and plans in view of contributing to the economic growth and sustainability.

We shall do this to ensure that the government develops an economy which is responsive to the plight of our people. The committee in the Seventh Legislature will monitor government procurement on youth, women, and the rural economy to promote, localise, and expand SMMEs. This is in line with the implementation of economic recovery, which places the impact of legislation at the centre of the oversight by the Limpopo Legislature.

This includes catalytic projects such as the Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZs, industrial parks such as the Nkowankowa, Seshego, and Thohoyandou industrial parks. Deputy Speaker, the Department of Social Development provides the bulk of its services in partnership with civil society organisations, which include non-profit organisations and community-based organisations. It is proper that these various centres, which include drop-in centres, social behavioural change centres, community-based centres focussing on HIV and AIDS, residential facilities for both older persons and people with disability, proactive workshops across the province, and many are visited to assess their situation and understand where our vulnerable people are served.

Honourable Members, the Legislature's role through the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA is to play an oversight and monitoring of the work designated to the department, which includes the performance of municipalities, among others. While we appreciate and congratulate municipalities that continue to show some improvement in governance, more still needs to be achieved in translating audit outcomes to sustainable service delivery, a matter close to our hearts.

In this regard, the portfolio committee will exercise oversight on how the department is working with municipalities and will achieve the objectives of local government as enshrined in section 152 of the Constitution. Deputy Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety had noted and embraced the National Development Plan Vision 2030. The portfolio committee should strive to ensure that the department remains consistent in terms of increasing the revenue of the province through its services.

Oversight visits and support by the committee will be conducted to ensure that our drivers, learners and traffic services are more effective and efficient, equipped with the necessary infrastructure. Law enforcement officers must be equipped with the necessary resources to be able to enforce law and order. The committee had further noted that the crime prevention campaigns should be implemented across the whole province.

Crimes against vulnerable groups with a special focus on gender-based violence and femicide must be curbed. Deputy Speaker. The Portfolio Committee on Health oversees the implementation of health programmes. In this regard, the portfolio committee will ensure that all health facilities, including the 474 clinics across the province, are monitored with an intention to ensure that the health of our people is not compromised.

This oversight will include the monitoring of the maintenance, upgrading, revitalisation, and construction of health facilities meant to implement the National Health Insurance. This will include the timely completion of the Limpopo Academic Hospital. Honourable Members, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury ensured that five departments and two public entities improved their audit outcomes.

Overall, the province achieved clean audits with four departments and two clean audits with public entities in the financial year 2023/24, and this is plausible. This brings the clean audits to a total of six when compared with the previous financial year. The committee should ensure that the expenditure on infrastructure and conditional grant is improved.

Honourable Members, we have observed the efforts by the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure to ensure that our roads are maintained and repaired through the Dikgerekgere programme. This has ignited the province insofar as road maintenance, and we must appreciate it. In announcing the work of the department, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure is ready to conduct oversight in all areas of responsibility for the department, including the maintenance of buildings owned by the government.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Seventh Legislature has already made tremendous progress in the accountability and oversight ecosystem. To this end, all government departments and entities have appeared before Scopa from January to March 2025 on the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years audit outcomes. This committee conducts its oversight role in line with section 115 of the Constitution, which says that, "a provincial Legislature or any other committee may summon any person to appear before it to give evidence under oath or affirmation to produce documents."

Scopa's work enhances the public trust due to its transparency when conducting Legislature work. Scopa acts as a watchdog that tracks how the rands and cents appropriated by the Legislature were spent by departments and public entities. Scopa is the voice of the voiceless in rooting out corruption, malpractices, and maladministration.

Scopa must in the Seventh Administration, work tirelessly to conduct the public hearings and request department and public entities to provide evidence on matters raised by the Auditor-General. The committee will identify projects where collaboration with other

portfolio committees will be sought to assess progress made on projects and financial implications. Therefore, this is part of oversight and accountability.

The new approach in the Seventh Legislature is that Scopa will hold public hearings quarterly. Deputy Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture plays an oversight role on the department. The committee has ensured that the department has broken the chain of years of unqualified audit opinions and finally became clean in the 2023/24 financial year.

This committee is planning to interact with all statutory bodies in a quest to understand their operations and account for their allocated resources. This includes bodies such as the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council, the Limpopo Language Committee, Provincial Library Information Services Board, the Limpopo Heritage Resource Authority, Limpopo Provincial Geographical Names Committee, and Limpopo Province Archives Council, amongst others. Deputy Speaker, in ensuring that the department contributes to the creation of a diverse, socially cohesive society within common national identity and efforts to increase economic growth, the building of the Provincial theatre, which was planned more than a decade ago, has finally commenced in January 2024, and to date the progress is very satisfactory.

As a result, the portfolio committee will continue to conduct periodic oversight visits to this project as well. Deputy Speaker, after I have said all these things, you will ask me where the Legislature will get money to do all these things? Now that we have highlighted all the critical areas of our work, we will focus on the resource plan to achieve the above-mentioned tasks. We tried to lobby honourable Members, but we couldn't get everything we wanted.

We were told, and I must indicate that we can only get R671 million in this financial year, and we will get R702 million in the coming financial year, and R744 million in the other year. We will continue to negotiate because we think this is not enough. In terms of the programmes, This is how we have allocated our R671 million to our four programmes:

- Programme 1: Governance and Leadership, we have allocated R229 million;
- Programme 2: Administration, is allocated R199 million;
- Programme 3: Parliamentary Services, which is the main and core business, is getting R125 million;
- Programme 4: Strategic and Knowledge Management Services, R37 million, direct charge, R78 million; and
- The total is R671 million.

Deputy Speaker, I wish to indicate that a high sum of this Budget we are presenting today shall be spent within the province, as highlighted by MEC Mahoi during his Budget Speech. In this regard, I'm pleased to confirm that soon we shall be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Limpopo to support us in capacity-building programmes, which will include members of our staff, members of our Municipal Public Accounts Committee, and Speakers to augment the work done by both Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, allow me to express my deepest gratitude to the Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Grace Portia Mamorobela; Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Mokone;

Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hasani Peter Ngoben, the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; and the entire whippers for their wise counsel, support and leadership.

I also want to appreciate all chairpersons and members of portfolio committees for the sterling work you continue to render. Thank you so much, even when I talk about whippers, I refer to the Members on the other side, which we think is the opposition. In this Legislature, we don't feel the opposition, and we thank you so much for your cooperation. We don't necessarily feel you, not that you don't do your work, but because you are submitting constructive advices to us, and we can implement those advices so that we can do our work in harmony in the Legislature.

I also want to appreciate all chairpersons and members of portfolio committees for the sterling work you continue to render, and I can see now that you are even deployed to work even during Good Friday, you will not have Good Friday. We appreciate the good work that you are doing.

Thank you to the Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu, you always come in handy when we interface with EXCO, and our things also go well when we interface with EXCO. We must thank the Chapter 9 institutions, particularly the Auditor-General, for their support in the work of Scopa. We also want to thank the Chapter 10 institutions for supporting the work of the Legislature, led by the resident Public Service Commissioner.

As I conclude, allow me to thank the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for her leadership in the Executive, which makes our oversight work easier. I would also like to thank the Hon Deputy Speaker, as I have already said, and I thank all other team members. I will be committing a mistake if I don't appreciate the members of the Oversight Mechanism Committee, as led by Thovhele Vho Midiavhathu Prince Kennedy Tshivhase, for making sure that we account for the work of the Legislature to the committee. We thank all of you and the committee. We will continue to appreciate your counsel.

To all the Members of the Legislature, thank you so much. You can now see how much your Budget is. Deputy Speaker, the vision that we espoused as the Legislature would not have been possible if it were not the tireless work and effort of the former Acting Secretary, Dr Nkuna, who steered the ship when we started this Legislature and now Dr Matshankutu Timothy Maake for continuing to work on the base laid by Dr Nkuna. As a collective, we think we can still go far. Thank you so much for the commitment and the dedication you have demonstrated, and for your leadership.

I also want to thank all the staff members of the Legislature. When you have the Legislature's official opening, Hon Premier, all staff members from the lower level to the higher level were committed to the fact that we want to make the Legislature a better place to be. I thank you so much for the good work that you continue to do.

It is my honour and privilege to table this Limpopo Legislature, 2025/26 Vote 2 Budget to this august House. Thank you. Ndo livhuwa. Ke a leboga. Ha khensa. Ngiyathokoza. Baie dankie. Ke zwa zweo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Dr Grace Mmakoma Makhurupetje. The Budget Speech is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House. Before I call the next vote, I would like to recognise the Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Hadebe and the Deputy Provincial Commissioner, General Scheepers with your entourage. I would also like to recognise the chairperson of the ANC Women's League, Mamedupi Teffo and Thovhele Vho Rambuda, ri navho hafha namusi.

I will now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to come and present the Budget for Vote 9, Hon Tony Rachoene. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(Address by Mr Rachoene E S, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure)

Thank you very much, Hon Premier and deputy chair for bailing me out. Let me start by acknowledging my special quests here: Ba Mošate bo Kgoši President Mokoena; bo Kgoši Malekana; Kgoši Rammupudu; Hosi Ngove; Kgoši Moloto wa boraro; Kgoši Ledwaba; Kgoši Maila; Kgoši Malepe le Vho-Thovhele Rambuda; kea le tamiša beng mabu. Ke tamiše baruti ba kereke ya ZCC, baruti le baemedi ba kereke ye kgethwa ya Mohalaledi Engenas, kere Kgotsong. Speaker, Dr Grace Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; ke kwele ge le bolela lere Executive Mayor wa Capricorn, Pula ya Medupi le yena o gona fa, le yena re a mo acknowledge. Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; colleagues in the Executive Council, Provincial Secretary of the African National Congress, Lekgowa la rena fa, Vhamusanda Vho Madazhe; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana and Deputy Chief Whip; our royal leaders who have joined us today as guests; leaders of the opposition parties; chairperson of the our portfolio committees Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe; Members of the provincial Legislature, ke rekgotsong setšhaba ka moka sa Limpopo.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is an honour to present the Budget Vote for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the 2025/26 financial year. The Budget Vote responds directly to some of the priorities of the Seventh Administration of the ANC-led provincial government of Limpopo, under the stewardship of the first female Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. As the people of Limpopo province, we are saying Singo! Singo! Ene muila mutshila wa mbudzi ngeno mutumbu a tshi ja. Phophi mutshena. Tshidzimba ha toholi, u ja na makanda a tsho. Singo! The mandate of the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure remains clear which is to plan, construct, maintain, and manage provincial public infrastructure and roads that are safe, functional, and accessible to all communities of Limpopo province. As the province continues to grow and develop, our role becomes ever more critical in enabling service delivery, driving economic development, and creating much-needed job opportunities. We stand here as the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, which is an integral contributor to the achievement of the priorities of this Seventh Administration. This, we say with full understanding of the magnitude of work that is required to be done.

Allow me to take this opportunity and indicate that the Dikgerekgere Wednesdays service delivery initiative, which is aimed at re-graveling, blading and roadside de-bushing is yielding positive results in communities. Many of our communities are now easily accessible. To further

capacitate our internal roads and infrastructure directorate we have set aside R2,055 billion for the Roads Maintenance Grant. Through the internal roads and infrastructure programme, we were able to birth the #DikgerekgereWednesday to make sure that our gravel roads are drivable.

Since the launch of the programme, at least 117 kilometers of roads have been re-graveled, while 43 324 kilometers have been bladed. Furthermore, 352 867 square meters of potholes were patched through the Operation Thiba Mekoti programme. There is no denying that #DikgerekgereWednesday concept is a success as more and more people expressed gratitude for the intervention on the roads. At this juncture, allow me to salute the men and women who for the past 10 months have been working tirelessly even during weekends, sacrificing time with their families, stretching their mental and physical capacity to the limit, to ensure we cover much-needed ground. [APPLAUSE] It is unfortunate that flooding and adverse weather conditions that resulted in Limpopo being declared a disaster-stricken province impacted our gains as far as our #DikgerekgereWednesday programme was concerned. In the wake of the massive damage to infrastructure, I have again implored the internal roads maintenance team to put shoulder to the wheel and attend to the huge task ahead.

The success of the #DikgerekgereWednesday programme gave birth to the concept of #StakeholdersTuesdays. This is an engagement session with the public in their different formations, to discuss service delivery matters requiring intervention, especially road infrastructure related. The engagement sessions have also served as a reliable feedback mechanism to our people on the work we are doing, and challenges that are being faced. Thus, rebuilding confidence and strengthening relations. This also assists us to avert protests by genuine communities who take to the streets, simply because they do not have updates or information in terms of the department's plans to deliver services.

We have managed through #StakeholdersTuesdays, to bring on board members of the public on the work we are doing on issues concerning RAL and how we intend to move forward. These sessions have been beneficial to both the department and communities. We are appealing to our communities to make use of this platform so we can together attend to the challenges on the ground. We can confirm that we have taken a decision to allow RAL space to solely focus on the upgrading roads from gravel to tar. This decision seeks to ensure that all maintenance efforts are coordinated and managed by the department and all upgrades are coordinated accordingly at RAL. To this end, R958,617 million is set aside for transfer to RAL to improve the provincial road network.

Honourable Members, RAL continues to play a pivotal role in improving roads infrastructure across the province and it is important to acknowledge the challenges it faced in delivering on its mandate; however, we also need to acknowledge the progress registered during the difficult period. We also managed to appoint a new Board of Directors which started doing work from 01 April 2025. This is a positive step towards bringing RAL to its former glory. It is my strong conviction that RAL, as led by the board chairperson, Mr Moses Tseli, and the entire board members will be able to take the entity to greater heights. Today, we are pleased to report that Segole 1 and Segole 2 roads from N11 to Masebe Nature Reserve, which focused on 7km of the road, is completed. This road will enhance links to the nature reserve, spurring both tourism and local commerce in Waterberg.

The Thapane access to N'wamitwa, a 6km stretch, is fully completed. This has bolstered transport efficiency for communities in Mopani District. The Atok Mine to Ga-Selepe road: The design phase for this critical road has been successfully completed. While challenges were

encountered in sourcing high-quality construction materials, these issues are being addressed. The Malope to Phokwane Road: construction of the first phase of 2,5km has been completed. This upgrade is set to improve transportation efficiency in the area. However, the province is still in the process of securing additional funds to complete the next phase of the project. We urge the people to be patient as we work towards securing additional funding.

On Malemati roads, a contractor has been appointed for the first phase of 3km, and construction activities are at 71%. Apel to GaNkoana and D4190: scope of work and preliminary design reports have been approved. The consulting engineer is progressing with the detailed designs. Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek: Construction of the second phase, which is 5km is progressing well ensuring improved access to healthcare and surrounding communities. Progress is currently at 78%.

Tshatshama road: A 3km of road is currently under construction with progress at 97% progress in the Mopani District. This road will support economic activities in the area. GaRamoshwana, GaRammetlwana, and GaRamotlokwana roads: construction of phase 1 of 12,9km is at 86% in the Capricorn District and is progressing as planned. The Glencowie to Malaka road: the construction of 7km is underway at 74% in the Sekhukhune District, enhancing regional connectivity. The Musekwa to Maranikwe road: work is advancing on the 6 km upgrade and is presently at 58% in construction in the Vhembe District. The Mamatonya road: construction of 10km of upgrade is complete.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, through its entity RAL, exercises zero-tolerance of nonperforming contractors, Hon Premier. We have made good progress in identifying and reprimanding contractors that record unsatisfactory performance. One such incident is that of Mavhunga access road, where we terminated the initial contractor due underperformance, and a new contractor has been appointed. Currently, about 38% of the 3,7 km upgrade is complete and the work is progressing very well. This road connects Phadzima, Mavhunga, and Rabali in Vhembe District, improving rural mobility.

After a series of engagements with various stakeholders through the Stakeholders Tuesdays, we managed to listen to the dire situation of service delivery particularly in the space of roads and infrastructure. Our people are in dire need of roads, and the reality is that we are faced with a serious backlog where of the 21 000 total kilometers of the provincial road network, 13 000 kilometers is still gravel. We need about R350 billion to get these gravel roads tarred. This paints a gory picture in that regard. The stakeholders' engagement sessions also assists us to identify immediate areas of need and interventions through our Dikgerekgere Wednesdays service delivery initiative, which I will later talk to.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in terms of new projects to be implemented by Roads Agency Limpopo, we are going to deal with the following projects: in the Capricorn District, we have the Madisha Road in Zebediela, Nobody to Laastehoop to Ga-Mothapo, Matlala to Limburg, Ga-Mothapo, Ga-Molele to Schoongezicht to Ga-Dikgale to Uitkyk.

In the Mopani District we will pay special attention on the Ga-Moroka to Mawa, the Letaba Ranch to Eiland, Mhangweni-Mafarana road and Xikukwani to Mbatlo.

In the Waterberg District, we have Rauuele-Phafola, the bridge along on the road to Segole, Marolaneng (Haakdoring) to Segole, the Monte Christo road, the Tiberius road and Ham Number One to Mokobe.

In the Vhembe District, the D3754 and D3719 in Bungeni, the Rambuda road, the Tshikonelo road, the Mulima and the Magona road. [APPLAUSE]

I must pause here and clearly indicate that these roads are not going to be tarred in their entirety, but are to be done in different phases or to be delivered through multi-year projects. Rere bana ba motho ba ngwathelana hlogo ya tšie. We humbly appeal to other communities for cooperation given the reality confronting us regarding financial constraints to implement other projects. RAL and Limpopo Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure are engaging National Treasury and Infrastructure South Africa to support the province in securing funding to implement new other projects that have not been mentioned today. We are also looking into alternative material sources like platinum slag and coal ash as new technologies to reduce cost of construction in implementing these projects.

There are also about 69 roads scheduled for maintenance, for example, the road from the N1 intersection to Elim in Makhado Local Municipality, Hon Basikopo Makamu, Melkrivier, Viking Thabakgone, the R25 Dennilton to Moutse, the Jane Furse to Ga-Malekane, the Bismark road, Dr CN Phatudi to Shiluvane road and Burgersdorp to Callais road.

The department will further engage the communities that are affected by the 69 maintenance projects to be rolled out across the five districts.

These are examples of roads that are beyond routine maintenance. It must be noted that this list is not exhaustive, it is but an indication that we have heard the voices of our people and we are ready to intervene. We have taken up opportunities at our disposal to strengthen inter-governmental relations and to rebuild strategic partnerships that are aligned to our course. In terms of the public-private partnerships with the mining sector, we are also making significant strides in that regard.

The Steelpoort Bridge in GaMalekane is a shining example of the power of public-private partnerships. With 82% of the funding provided by the private sector, this critical link in the Sekhukhune District is now 91% complete and is on track for completion by April 2025. [APPLAUSE] Once operational, this bridge will strengthen the mining value chain and enhance regional connectivity and support economic growth as well as the improved infrastructure towards the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, Hon Premier. In the same breath in the Waterberg District, the Northam Platinum mine has committed an investment of R41 million in partnership with government through our entity of Roads Agency Limpopo towards Road D2357 in the district. The 3km stretch, plus a vital bridge on R511 is important for the mobility of goods and our people in that particular locality.

In the Mopani District, a vital partnership is that of Phalaborwa Mining Company to work on two roads in the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality area. The projects are valued at R205 million, jointly contributed by RAL which is R105 million and Phalaborwa Mining Company R100 million. Both roads of Mashishimale and Lulekani are under active construction with completion planned for December 2025.

Our efforts to stabilise and restore normalcy at RAL have started to yield positive results. Just last week we managed to add more collaborations with the De Beers mining company. The mining company has committed to inject a total of R184 million to assist us in the upgrades and maintenance of our roads infrastructure in the Musina and Blouberg municipalities, in Vhembe

and Capricorn District Municipalities respectively. This is where the Venetia Mine is operating from. Team De Beers Group has also joined the Sitting as my guests, and I am humbly requesting them to take a bow. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you. As the MEC responsible for Dikgerekgere and on behalf of the Provincial Government led by Dr Ramathuba our Premier, we really appreciate this good gesture from the private sector. Our professionals will be availed to ensure that work is fast-tracked as we upgrade the Eldorado, GaDankie, GaKibi and Taaibosch roads, the maintenance of the Venetia-Musina Road and some internal streets in the Musina Local Municipality. To all the businesses in different sectors, your contributions are welcomed and appreciated.

On the national investment and collaborations in the Limpopo Roads Infrastructure. The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has also been brought on board to invest on the road network of Limpopo. Sixteen roads have been gazetted for SANRAL maintenance on behalf of the province. This strategic move will ease provincial budget pressures. It is also my pleasure, Hon Speaker and Hon Premier, to update this august House and the people of Limpopo on the positive strides that have been made in relation to the much talked about St Engenas Zion Christian Church Interchange. The designs are now complete. A contractor will be appointed by the end of April 2025 and construction work will start in earnest. Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba will then lead a sod-turning ceremony marking the start of the construction work for this important milestone by the end of May 2025. [APPLAUSE] The interchange will ease congestion and improve safety, especially during pilgrimage periods. An earmarked funding of R125 million is allocated to that effect. The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone link roads project is in its detailed design stage. Implementation will begin once budget provisions are allocated. These nationally driven projects underscore strong intergovernmental cooperation aimed at expanding our provincial infrastructure network.

On the Welisizwe programme; through a collaboration of the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the South African National Defense Force, and the department, ultimately 30 “Welisizwe” bridges are planned for our province. Four are already under construction in Waterberg, each employing around 40 local workers. Completion percentages vary. Goodhope Bridge is at 85%, Lesodi Mootlana Bridge at 75%, Segole Bridge at 25%, and Preezburg Bridge at 80%. Additional bridge structures will commence in due course once SANDF completes these 4 bridges. The essential starting point in the pipeline of road construction is to have professional designs in accordance with road construction standards. The roads that are earmarked for construction or maintenance need to have designs and some of these are in progress while others are awaiting the availability of budgets.

With the agricultural sector being one of the major economic contributors in Limpopo, the department is continuing to work jointly with the sector. Through a long-standing partnership between Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and ZZ2, key agricultural roads such as the Politsi Road (D1801) and Selokwe Road (D2674) have been identified for maintenance to support the transportation of high value crops like tomatoes and avocados. This partnership, driven by private sector funding, ensures that agricultural goods reach markets efficiently and without road-induced damage. Plans are also underway to engage farmers in the Letsitele Valley for the improvement of Road P43/3, a critical route for transporting agricultural produce. These discussions aim to prioritise road upgrades that directly support economic activity in this vital agricultural hub. The department is also putting efforts in supporting the tourism sector. The Shangoni Gate to the Kruger National Park project is under detailed designs stage. [APPLAUSE] Once the project is complete it will directly benefit the tourism sector and create more jobs for our people.

At the Tshatshingo Pothole Waterfall and recreational area, a catalytic project will soon make access easier to the tourism attraction point in Thulamela Local Municipality. The completion of a block paving project will go a long way in supporting the sector as well. Furthermore, we have also re-gravelled the roads leading to the Lupepe-Nwanedi Nature Reserve in Musina in the Vhembe District, the Marekele National Park and Vaalwater in the Waterberg District, as well as Lekgalametse Nature Reserve in Maruleng, Mopani District. [APPLAUSE] This has been done through the Dikgerekgere Wednesdays service delivery initiative as already alluded to. These interventions not only improve accessibility but also align with our vision for sustainable tourism development by providing high-quality infrastructure that supports increased numbers of tourists, while preserving the natural environment.

The remarkable achievements, alluded to above, are supported by the 2 604 work opportunities that were created through RAL projects, in the three quarters of 2024/25 financial year. These include 1 466 work opportunities for youth, 1 246 for women and 57 persons with disability. Full-time equivalent jobs created are 397. These strides will be maintained in the financial year 2025/26 with the relevant projections aligned to the resources as part of the key priorities of the Seventh Administration, especially that of reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living. Our road infrastructure projects at RAL alone have empowered 395 Small and Medium Enterprises in the three quarters of 2024/25. Further empowerment was through training to 860 local labourers as part of project legacies that equip the workers with the necessary skills. The impact of the training is that the workers are better equipped to secure jobs in other construction projects in future. The departmental roads infrastructure projects yielded 4 999 work opportunities.

The department is also responding, Hon Makamu, positively to the creation of jobs as directed by the priorities of the Seventh Administration. In December 2024, we unveiled at least 174 newly appointed officials to bolster human resources and assist in the road infrastructure space. [APPLAUSE] Just two weeks ago, on 1 April 2025, we welcomed 168 new officials appointed on a permanent basis, joining the public service to serve the people of Limpopo. We can proudly say, Hon Premier O e lekole ge o dira di assements in a space of 5 months, we welcomed a total of 342 permanent officials.

In the 2024/25 financial year, we procured through the earmarked allocation of R100 million, new yellow fleet and related machinery, as part of building internal capacity as far as tools of trade is concerned. Today, we welcome another earmarked funding of R100 million pronounced by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoi, for the 2025/26 financial year, for the same course. So Dikgerekgere tšela le di bonago ka kua ntle Premier, ke tša the last financial year, re sana le R100 million yeo re sa tlilego go reka, another yellow fleet ka yona.

The Executive Council has approved the Limpopo Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy for implementation in the 2025/26 financial year. This is an important milestone as the strategy provides guidelines on all infrastructure maintenance activities across the province. In line with the strategy, the department will, in the 2025/26 financial year, continue with the refurbishment work at the Lebowakgomo legislature, Thohoyandou government complex Block-H and Giyani government complex respectively, with a combined allocation of R23 million. [APPLAUSE] This is the prestige portfolio we commit to continuously maintain in order to keep it in proper condition. The Premier's guest house and the Parliamentary Village are part of this prestige portfolio we commit to bring to a standard where they meet national key-point requirements as well. We have appointed a service provider to commence work at the two sites. We are also working with the

Independent Development Trust (IDT) in the construction of 15 additional houses at the village with an earmarked allocation of R89 million.

On education and infrastructure, we will continue implementing the long-term infrastructure plans in line with 131 school infrastructure programme. The department has prioritised and commenced with the implementation of 55 school projects out of the 131 schools' infrastructure projects in 2021/22 to date. The department has been hard at work delivering quality school infrastructure in the 2024/25 financial year. We are working with the Department of Education to build schools across the five districts in our province. The department has successfully achieved the following milestones:

Out of the 55 school projects, 17 have successfully reached practical completion stages in the 2024/25 financial year. The following schools are from Mopani District: Chameti Secondary, Diphuti Secondary, Napsadi Secondary, Ramatima Secondary, Sehonwe Primary, Mphakani Primary, Ngwana Makhutswe Secondary. The following are from Sekhukhune District: Dikgalaopeng Primary, Seboeng Primary. The following is from Vhembe District: Masikwha Primary. The following are from Waterberg District: Matsibe Secondary and Suswe Secondary. The following are from Capricorn District: Matsuo kwane Secondary, Rasema Secondary, Seale Secondary, Sekete Secondary and Kgarahara Secondary.

Five projects reached various stages of completion in the previous year and are at completion stages. They are:

- Alldays Primary School (Capricorn District) at final completion;
- Marude Secondary School (Vhembe District) at practical completion;
- Mahlagaume Primary School (Sekhukhune District) at final completion;
- Leduma Mahume Secondary School (Sekhukhune District) at final completion, and
- Gidela Secondary School, practical completion.

Twenty-nine projects are currently under construction in various districts across the province. In Mopani District we have the following schools: Makgopele Secondary School (Matimu Secondary School, Ooghoek Primary school, Runnymede Primary School, Ukuthula Primary School and Vallabrosa Primary School.

In Sekhukhune District we have the following schools: Kopa Secondary School, Kopanong Primary School, Lekoko Secondary School, Moleshatlou Secondary School, Nkgonyeletse Secondary School, Phaphamani Primary School, Thabane Primary School, Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School, Rebone Secondary School, St. Paul Secondary School, and Makhwese Secondary School.

The following schools are from Waterberg District: David Scara Primary School, Maphuthi Manamela Secondary School, and Mokhari Combined Secondary School.

In Vhembe District we have the following schools: Nkatini Secondary School, Pfumbada Primary School, Vutivi Primary School, and Mayeke Primary School.

The following schools are from Capricorn District: Dikoloi Secondary School, Matsobane Primary School, Potokela Primary School, Rakgoatha Primary School (Capricorn District), and Chita Kekana Secondary School

Four projects are at various stages of preplanning and are earmarked to start with construction in the 2025/26 financial year. They are Hututu Secondary School in Sekhukhune District and Thabakgone Primary School, Piet Hugo Primary School and Rethusheng Special School in the Capricorn District.

Thirty-two ECD's were implemented across the province in the 2024/25 financial year, with the remaining 2 ECD's to be completed in the first quarter of 2025/26. An additional 34 infrastructure maintenance projects for Early Child Development (ECD's) Programme are planned for implementation and completion in 2025/26 financial year. This is part of the forward planning, we introduced to manage the risk of delayed completion of projects. Part of this is the 49 infrastructure maintenance projects planned for implementation and completion in 2025/26 financial year, 42 infrastructure school projects planned for implementation in 2025/26 and to be completed over Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

We are also implementing infrastructure on behalf of the Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. This is a department which is very close to my heart as the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, magoši a rena, ma apara nkwe. In providing support to traditional councils across the province, we have provided infrastructure for council offices on behalf of CoGHSTA. In the 2024/25 financial year, we completed the construction of 3 council offices that are Raphahlelo in Mopani, Mphaphuli in Vhembe District and the Matlala-a-Thaba council office in Capricorn District.

In the 2024/25 financial year, we commenced the construction and refurbishment of 7 traditional council offices, that are Bakone, Litho-Ndzundza and Mapela in the Waterberg District, Makuya in Vhembe District, Bashayi-Ditlou in Mopani District, Mampane in Sekhukhune District and the Ditlou-Manchidi in Capricorn District. These projects will continue into 2025/26 financial year. Transport for the transport portfolio committee, we have appointed a professional service provider for the long outstanding completion of the Thohoyandou taxi rank. The project will be ready for tender in the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. We can confirm, Hon Mathye, that the construction of the Thohoyandou and Seshego K53 testing stations is on course, scheduled for completion during the first and third quarters for 2025/26 financial year, respectively. In the same breath a contractor has commenced with renovation work at the Lephalale Traffic Station. We expect to complete that project in the fourth quarter of 2025/26 financial year. Upgrading work has also just commenced at the Groblersbrug weighbridge and completion is expected in the second quarter.

Hon Speaker, with the Limpopo Traffic Training College in Vhembe, we encountered challenges with the service provider concerning the construction of the kitchen and canteen. We are in the process of terminating the contract due to the service provider's poor performance. [APPLAUSE] The project is scheduled to be up and running by June 2025 when we have concluded processes to appoint a new service provider. At the same precinct, Block B projects are at practical completion and waiting for final accounts.

The Department for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Jerry Funani Maseko, as far as projects for Sport, Arts and Culture are concerned, we can report that the provincial theatre is progressing well with physical progress at 35% as of the end of February 2025. We have also reached practical completion for the Vleifontein Library and are approaching completion for the Botshabelo Library, standing at 99% completion stage. We are continuing to implement the outstanding Tshaulu and Mampane libraries, in Vhembe and Sekhukhune Districts respectively. Sites were handed over to contractors in March 2025 for the construction of new

libraries in Bungeni, Makhuvha and Matlekereng. A budget of R2 million has been set aside. The department is also gearing up to do maintenance in eight libraries in different parts of the province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have been tasked to implement two heritage projects in the 2025/26 financial year for Tshitangadzimeni and the University of Limpopo in the Vhembe and Capricorn districts respectively. To date, we have allocated these projects to an in-house architect and quantity surveyor. We plan to appoint a contractor by June 2025 at Agriculture. For the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development renovations and repairs at Tompi Seleka Mzana building are at final completion stage. At the same site, we are also providing support to DBSA who are implementing the renovation of the 6-storey building, which is currently sitting at 50 % completion stage. We are also busy with the refurbishment of 3 veterinary laboratories in Mokopane, Lephalale and Makhado as well as the Madzivhandila security upgrade which includes a fence and a guardhouse. Work of refurbishment of 5 Mopani Redline Houses, building renovations, plumbing windows, water storage and septic tanks through DBSA is also well underway. There are also two projects where we are concluding the appointments of professional service providers for the construction of two agro-ecological office buildings in Mopani District North and West. For the Department for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, we are currently renovating the office building on Suid Street in Polokwane. We are also fast tracking the work on the ground, which currently stands at 51% completion stage. We are also in the process of planning for the refurbishment of their nature reserves.

For the Department of Social Development, we have three refurbishments of existing facilities where sites were handed over in the fourth quarter of 2024/25 financial year. The projects are Sekutupu Old Age Home, Polokwane Welfare Complex and DSD Capricorn district office. The projects are to be completed in the first quarter of 2025/26 financial year. We further are in the process of looking for suitable office accommodation for the Department of Social Development in order for it to have office space, to continue to render social assistance to people who are in dire need of this service. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is the work we implement on behalf of the provincial government in order to fulfil infrastructure needs of the province. We acknowledge our responsibility to strengthen the province's professional pool as far as the building environment is concerned. We are to this end as part of the Limpopo Contractor Development Programme, have enrolled 36 learner contractors, who already have started their training from 07 April 2025. The objective is to develop and skill emerging contractors who are at lower Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) grading of level 2 and 3 and within 36 months, these contractors will be thoroughly developed to a competitive level of grade 4 and 5.

Of the 36 emerging contractors that we enrolled, 67% are young people and 53% of these learners are women. During the period of this development, their economic status will be uplifted, poverty levels will be reduced, and the department shall have produced skillful men and women contractors who will be capable of delivering quality and sustainable infrastructure projects and create job opportunities for the people of Limpopo province. Our engagement with TVET colleges to partner with us as far as skills development is concerned has also reached the highest point. We have opened the doors to create opportunities for TVET college students to acquire their practical and workplace-based learning experience. We have prepared our mechanical workshops in all our districts for this purpose. This follows our vision of resuscitating all our 13 mechanical workshops and all the 36 cost centres in our province. Our cost centres are the strategic points for service delivery, and they must rise and get back to serving our

people, maintaining our road network as well as government building. Having appointed personnel to strengthen these centres and having purchased machinery and equipment to support all programmes at our cost centres, this partnership with TVET colleges, will also adding to our objective of resuscitating all our centres and workshops and get Public Works to be at work.

On property management, one of our core mandates is to ensure that we secure and manage office space to enable government services to be rendered from. In the 2025/26 financial year, we will be procuring a building which we are currently leasing, Hon Premier, for office accommodation. The Provincial Treasury has made available a budget of R100 million towards this initiative. On the much-awaited relocation of government offices from Lebowakgomo in Capricorn District to the Sekhukhune District, the wheels have started turning. I have been appointed to chair the inter-ministerial committee which has been established at the level of the Office of the Premier to help deal with all the matters pertaining to the relocation. We also appreciate the Hon Premier for the confidence she has shown in us. Constant engagements and updates will be shared with all the relevant and affected stakeholders. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives R3,203 billion for overall infrastructure development.

Expanded Public Works Programme: In the previous phase, phase IV, the province was allocated 475 358 work opportunity targets over a period of five years, thereby contributing 10% to the national target of five million work opportunities at the time. The province was able to create 510 166 EPWP work opportunities which is an over-achievement of 107% of that five-year target. The Premier of Limpopo province, Hon Dr Phophi Ramathuba, successfully launched EPWP phase V and the celebration of 20 years of the programme's existence in Limpopo on 11 October 2024 at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium. I was there. The Limpopo Provincial Government is implementing the EPWP based on 5-year work opportunity targets, aligned with the term of the Seventh Administration and Phase V of the approved programme.

On Administration, we recognise our position as the centre of service delivery, be it through management of government land and buildings as well as the conveyor belt of goods and services, through the road network we manage. All these are enablers of economic growth in the province.

In 2025/26, an allocation of R5,627 billion is made available, which includes conditional grant funding of R2,055 billion for provincial roads maintenance. The budget allocation is as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration: Provides support to the departmental operations, is allocated R638,852 million;
- Programme 2: Infrastructure Operations: Has a mandate that includes the determination of accommodation requirements, rendering expert-built environment services to client departments as well as the acquisition, management, maintenance and disposal of provincial government land and buildings is allocated R1,2 billion;
- Programme 3: Expanded Public Works Programme: Responsible for the coordination and implementation of EPWP across all sectors is allocated R 91 million;
- Programme 4: Roads Infrastructure: Responsible for road infrastructure maintenance is allocated R3,632 billion; and
- Entity: Roads Agency Limpopo: Responsible for road infrastructure upgrades will receive R958,617 million.

As I conclude, allow me to thank the Hon Premier of this province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for her leadership and the support she is always providing. I also thank the honourable members of the portfolio committee on this department as led by the chair, Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, your guidance is valued. The same goes to the members of Scopa led by the chairperson, Hon Esther Mokwele. The staff of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, led by the Head of Department, Mr Motlhanke Phukuntsi, let us tie our boots again and go to the ground. Staff at the entity, led by the acting CEO, Mr Makhitha Chesane, the RAL Board of Directors just to mention a few.

Lastly, and most importantly I would like to take this opportunity and express my special appreciation to Mmago Rachoene, Nogana a Phakana, Mmago bašimane and the entire Rachoene family for all the support you are giving me as I work diligently to carry out my responsibilities. Coming home from hectic long hours, you are always there to give me all the necessary support I need. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, I therefore table the 2025/26 Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and approval by this august House. Kgotso ya Modimo a ebe le lena! I thank you. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Rachoene. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and report back to the House. Hon Premier, I saw when the Speaker was debating, you were checking the time, but when Hon Rachoene was presenting, I didn't see you checking the time. [LAUGHTER]

Let's call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Basikopo Makamu for Vote 11. You must keep your time.

THE MEC FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGHSTA)

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COGHSTA

(Address by Mr R B Makamu, MEC for CoGHSTA)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of our Legislature; esteemed colleagues in the Executive Council; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Hon Sepuru and members of the committee; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Pandemic and Disaster, Hon Mpho Shai; honourable Members of this august House; Your Worship, Executive Mayors and Mayors of our municipalities, leadership of SALGA in our province, chairperson and deputy chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, including its entire committees, I greet you this morning.

Leadership of Contralesa in our province, together with the President of Contralesa who have graced our Sitting today; esteemed majesties and royal highness present; leaders of Chapter 9 institutions present; leaders of the African National Congress, the ruling party led here by the Provincial Secretary Vho-Musanda Reuben Madadzhe and all

alliance partners present; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; leaders of opposition parties; representative of NHBRC, RISIMA and HBA; CoGHSTA staff led by the Head of the Department, Dr Malahlela; including the unions in our department, Nehawu and DSA present today; contactors from the housing sector; members of the media; invited guests and stakeholders of the department; comrades; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Hon Speaker, let me start by thanking you for inviting us to table this Budget Speech, Vote 11 of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs before this august House.

This Budget Vote takes flight from the story of hope and resilience we learnt from Kokwani Madzivandela Chauke from Matiyane village, right at the doorstep of the Punda Maria Gate in Vhembe. Kokwani Chauke lived for 104 years to get her beautiful and fully furnished home, under the Breaking New Ground housing scheme. This is one of the many progressive and good stories to the world and those who care to listen. This is a progressive government of Limpopo that lifts the burden off the shoulders of its people, a story of hope and a story of courage that inspires and motivates our people, that indeed the spoils of democracy shall in the ultimate end be enjoyed by all who want to enjoy it.

We indeed inspired by the story of Kokwani Chauke and that of other centenarians in Limpopo province, who kept going even when the odds were against them. To us this is the story that gives us wind beneath our wings, the story that keeps lifting us higher in the service of our people.

We stand here in this august House to declare to all and sundry that nobody in this world will ever detach us from the plight and the lived realities that confront our people. To a granny in Dzingidzingi in Mopani, to a victim of gender-based violence in Tshilapfene in Vhembe and to a child-headed household in Maswiakae in the heart of Sekhukhune, to an aunt who commute daily on the dusty roads of GaMashashane to Polokwane, to an unemployed graduate of Mookgophong in Waterberg, we say hang in there.

The service delivery train of the ANC-led government is coming your way. It is delivery of services to the people that must be planted upon the tested foundations of political freedom. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make to achieve a better life for all. We will never, not now and not in the future, sever ties with our masses, the poor, the marginalised and the downtrodden because they are our greatest inspiration.

This Budget Vote is tabled against the backdrop of the progressive and straight forward State of the Province Address where our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, outlined a multi-faceted strategy to fast-track service delivery in the province. We appreciate the Premier for giving meaning to effectiveness and efficiency in the service of our people. The Premier is becoming a trailblazer and trendsetter in service delivery and a passionate advocate for quality of life of our people. We are standing here, and signs are emerging that suggest a positive blend of successes, and it is all thanks to the exceptional loyalty and dedication by the Premier to the residents of Limpopo.

On Administration, which is programme 1 in our department has an allocation of R449,369 million which is 17% of the total Budget of the department. Last year, in this august House, we made a commitment that the department will fill 55 advertised vacant positions, and to date 40 positions have been filled and we are on course to finalise the recruitment process for the remaining positions.

The department has sustained the unqualified audit outcome. Although we are not satisfied with the stagnation and working hard to improve the audit opinion, there were no material findings on our annual financial statements and overall reduction in number of material findings in the last audit.

Hon Speaker, on Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements, the Freedom Charter states that, "There shall be houses, security and comfort". Housing remains a cornerstone of human dignity and a key indicator of society progress. Our commitment to Breaking New Ground in integrated human settlements has led to significant strides and in providing housing for all particularly the vulnerable groups.

During the previous Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) period, the department achieved significant milestones. A total of 34 904 housing units were completed against a target of 30 732, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to meeting housing needs. [APPLAUSE] Furthermore, we surpassed the MTSF target of 8 435 serviced sites, delivering an impressive 17 577 serviced sites across all five districts.

Last year, in this august House, I made a commitment that the department would deliver 4 555 housing units in both rural and urban areas. I am pleased to report that we have exceeded this target by completing 5 053 housing units. We are well on our way to defeating the triple challenges facing people through the creation of job opportunities. [APPLAUSE]

The department is continuing to conduct the structural integrity assessment on incomplete houses which were previously abandoned by poor performing contractors. The NHBRC has already assessed 3 630 units. We have prioritised the completion of blocked housing units through a phased approach and for 2024/25 financial year, 135 units were completed against a target of 350 housing units.

Hon Speaker, the eradication of mud houses remains one of our key priorities, ensuring that no family is left in undignified living conditions. Last year, we committed to eradicating 500 mud houses, and to date, 109 have been demolished and replaced with proper housing. Similarly, our commitment to providing housing for military veterans remains steadfast. Last year, I announced that we would construct 132 housing units for our veterans across five districts. To date, 58 units have been completed, with further work continuing. The programme, however, encounters obstacles, including the untraceable beneficiaries and the unavailability of fully serviced sites within various townships.

Hon Premier, I must tell you that Cde Cojongo came and told me that he wants a house as a veteran, but he does not want it in N'wamitwa, he wants it in Tzaneen. So, as such we sometimes fail when we find that we don't have sites there, but Hon Lulamile Jack got the house, therefore they will also get the house. [INTERJECTION]

MR MOLAPO

The point of order is clear Deputy Speaker, we cannot have a conversation in this House. The Premier is out of order to be conversing with the speaker on the platform. Thank you very much, if you don't see that as a point of order, then I don't know.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, there's no point of order. You may continue MEC for CoGHSTA.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The dangers of asbestos are well-documented, which is why many nations, including South Africa have banned its use. In response, the department in collaboration with Housing Development Agency has prioritised the removal and replacement of asbestos roofs. Last year, I committed to the Phase 2 implementation of Seshego Asbestos Removal and Replacement Programme, targeting the removal of 755 asbestos roofs and conducting an audit of 10 500 roofs across all five districts. I am pleased to report that 577 asbestos roofs have already been removed, while the audit exceeded expectations with 11 823.

In our efforts to support first-time homeowners, the department committed to disbursing 70 subsidies under RISIMA's First Home Finance Programme. To date, 74 subsidies have been disbursed. We have in the gallery, Hon Speaker, one of the beneficiaries of this programme and my special guest by the name of Racheku Mapule Dorothy from Mmotong wa Perekisi, who benefited from this programme in February 2025. She's part of us, so that people can see a living work that we are doing. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, as more South Africans migrate to economically viable areas in search of opportunities, we are ensuring that housing infrastructure keeps pace. To this end, we are constructing Community Residential Units (CRUs) in Marapong in Lephalale, Tshikota in Makhado, and Talana in Tzaneen.

In Marapong, we are committed to delivering 514 CRUs. Despite initial project challenges, 514 units are now roofed, and will be completed by 30 of June 2025. Hon Premier will be there to handover, and that does not call for an order if the Premier of the province is doing work.

Recognising the need to accommodate previous hostel dwellers who cannot afford formal rental housing, the department has appointed two contactors to build 200 housing units at Altoostyd or better known as Joe Slovo site. The Tshikota CRU will yield 118 units with related services. Installation of engineering services is in progress, after which the construction will commence. In Talane procurement of a contractor to build 146 units is currently underway, with work expected to commence in the Second Quarter of 2025.

A title deed is more than just a document; it is an instrument of economic empowerment, granting our people legal ownership of their homes. Last year, I informed the House that our target was to register 1,460 properties in the names of the rightful beneficiaries. To

date, 913 title deeds have been registered in the names of rightful beneficiaries, and we are intensifying efforts to meet and exceed our target.

We continue to drive spatial planning ensuring that human settlements development aligns with our broader planning objectives. I am pleased to report that two new townships have successfully proclaimed: Polokwane Extension 79 and Nancefield in Musina. Proclamation of these townships will facilitate the registration of title deeds to rightful beneficiaries.

Upgrading informal settlement remains on our agenda. In 2024, we committed to delivering 5 236 serviced sites by Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme Grant, and to date, 3 000 sites have been connected to sewage. Our commitment to revitalising mining towns has also yield tangible results. We undertook key infrastructure upgrades, including water treatment works in Motetema, bulk water and sewer in Masakaneng, geohydrological studies, borehole refurbishment, and infrastructure mapping in Roossenekal in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. I am happy to report that all these projects have been successfully completed.

Hon Speaker, due to our performance, our improved utilisation of allocated conditional grant funding has led to an additional R200 million being allocated for human settlement programmes from the national fiscus. This reflects our department's efficiency in planning and implementation and I must say this is coming from the so-called best performing province in the Western Cape.

Despite the challenges, we remain firmly on course to ensuring that ultimately, there shall be housing, security and dignity for all. For the 2025/26 financial year, we commit to the following:

- With Human Settlements Development Grant, the department will continue to provide adequate housing through the construction of 2 923 housing units across all five districts;
- As part of supporting municipalities and responding to the migration to urban areas, 1 962 sites will be connected to water and sewers;
- To reduce informal settlements in the province, two informal settlements will be formalised under Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Maruleng municipalities;
- To address the challenge of gap market in housing delivery, 70 housing subsidies will be disbursed to the qualifying beneficiaries under the First Home Finance programme;
- To register 1 500 title deeds;
- Construction of 51 housing units for military veterans for this financial year.
- Eradication of 606 mud houses in our province; and
- About 250 incomplete housing units will be completed in this financial year.

Honourable Members, constraints of bulk infrastructure negatively affect the ability to provide new housing opportunities. Therefore, the department through ISUPG (Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant) is determined to support municipalities and water service authorities in provision of new bulk infrastructure and upgrading of the existing ones. To this effect, 26 multi-year projects are approved across five districts. The engineering designs were completed for all 26 projects and the department will implement five of them in the 2025/26 financial year under Mopani and Capricorn

Districts, these are: Ha-Mawasha Sewer Bulk Line in Mopani; Bulk Water Pipeline in Giyani Section F; Senwabarwana Bulk Sewer Pipeline; Siyandhani Bulk Sewer Pipeline and Bulk Water Pipeline at Giyani Ext H

On cooperate governance, municipalities continue to be at the coalface of service delivery due to their proximity to the people. We are relentless in our effort to ensure that all municipalities are stabilised and well-governed to deliver all basic services to communities. As I stand before you today all the municipalities in the province, all governed under the leadership of the African National Congress are stable with functional councils. [APPLAUSE] We are, however, concerned by signs of instability rearing an ugly head at Makhado Local Municipality

So far, our municipalities' spending on the Municipal Infrastructure Budget was R2,2 billion by the end of March, which translates into 67,5%. We are concerned that this expenditure is below straight-line projection of 75%. We want to appreciate municipalities that received additional budgets in March 2025 during the stopping and reallocation. These municipalities are Greater Letaba, Maruleng, Makhado, Collins Chabane, Capricorn, Bela Bela, Modimolle-Mookgophong, Ephraim Mogale, Elias Motsoaledi, Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo-Tubatse.

Honourable Members, the provision of water to our communities continues to occupy a centre stage, as the Hon Premier already made it clear in this august House. We are worried that access to this essential resource in the province has declined by 6,5% between 2011 and 2022, from 86% to 79,5%. According to Stats SA, Limpopo has the highest number of households with no access to piped water which stands at 20,5%. The decline is mainly caused by ageing infrastructure, thus affecting sustainable and reliable water supply. The province is 0,5% below the Limpopo Development Plan target. On the same breath, there has been improvement on sanitation access from 38% to 57,7% in 2022.

In line with Priority 3 of the ANC's 2025 election manifesto, which is fixing local government and ensuring water security, we commit ourselves to ourselves to working hand in glove with our municipalities to make them work for the people in delivering this basic service.

In this context of the above, we take this opportunity to welcome the assurance made by Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba during the State of the Province Address to establish a functional Provincial Water Task Team, whose work is to coordinate the implementation of the Provincial Water Strategy. The provincial government is currently drafting a strategy for the provision of water and sanitation in the province. This differentiated approach is aimed at ensuring that water is provided to all communities as we make a clarion call to our water services authorities, including municipalities, to prioritise and incorporate areas without water in their IDPs and prioritise maintenance of water infrastructure network throughout our water value chain. Hon Speaker, this will enhance the #HiNwaMatiFriday.

The 2023/24 municipal audit outcome performance paints a picture of our local sphere of government well on its way to good governance with the prudent utilisation of public resources. We bow our heads as we celebrate with Capricorn and Waterberg District

Municipalities for obtaining unqualified audit outcomes without matters, the so-called clean audits. [APPLAUSE]

We also commend all the 14 municipalities that have obtained unqualified audit opinions with matters of emphasis. The following 6 out of 14 municipalities: Maruleng, Molemole, Makhuduthamaga, Makhado, Greater Letaba and Greater Tzaneen, have obtained unqualified audit opinions for five consecutive years, they are appreciated and encouraged to work towards achieving clean audits as they are good candidates to obtain that.

It is worth noting that Mogalakwena obtained unqualified audit opinion improving from the previous qualified opinion. This means that the municipality has fairly risen above its challenges that made the headlines previously for wrong reasons. It is the municipality that is coming okay.

We encourage all municipalities to emulate these good performers on audit outcomes by ensuring that whatever they do is in the best interests of the people and is done within the prescripts of the law. We equally congratulate Polokwane Local Municipality under the Executive Mayor for having been graded to level 6, making it a serious contender to be the first Metropolitan Municipality in our province. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, overreliance on consultants by our municipalities has led to this sphere of government losing millions of rands which could have been used for providing services to our people. To reverse this trend, we are working together with my colleague Hon Mahoi, to support municipalities and build capacity to reduce the cost and only use consultants for specialised services.

Honourable Members, we have stabilised Thabazimbi Local Municipality following the Provincial Executive Council decision to place the municipality under section 139(1)(c) on the 02 October 2024. We had to place the municipality under administration because as government we could not sit idly and watch the council deteriorate. We had to intervene and bring experienced administrators to assist in turning the situation around and make Thabazimbi work for the people again and comply with the constitutional mandate governing local government.

The new Thabazimbi municipal council was duly constituted on 12 December 2024 following the successful by-elections, which automatically led to the lapse of section 139(1)(c) intervention. To this effect, the municipality is supported through section 154 of the Constitution. They started to appoint even though the Municipal Manager.

Hon Speaker, our commitment to implement District Development Model (DDM) remains a priority, as the model that helps in joint planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. All our District Municipalities are called upon to focus on implementation and monitoring of districts One Plan. The DDM in our province has noticeable progress that has been recorded.

As we gather here honourable Members, we continue to mourn the deaths of 25 people, comprised of 15 children and 10 adults who perished by drowning during the recent heavy rains and thunderstorms. We meet here with heavy hearts because hundreds of our people were left homeless, roads, schools, clinics, bridges and other critical

infrastructure damaged because of flooding in almost all the parts of our province. This served as a reminder that when mother nature is angry, she can destroy even that which is made of iron and steel.

We take this opportunity to pause and thank the disaster management team of the department, sector departments, we will not forget to mention Hon Radzilani, MEC for Social Development for giving us support as always. We also appreciate the non-government partners such as Gift of the Givers, the South African Red Cross Society and many others for work done.

Limpopo province was included amongst other provinces in the classification of National State of Disasters in a row between 12 January and 05 March 2025 by NDMC. This reveals that the magnitude of disasters experienced, and the frequency of disaster incidents occurrence in the province are unprecedented.

In response, the provincial government has made available an amount of R500 000 000 from the Provincial Revenue Contingency Fund which was allocated to four departments to repair public infrastructure as follows:

- Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure : R400 000 000
- Education : R80 000 000
- Health : R1 000 000
- Sport, Arts and Culture : R332 000 000

This is in addition to the funds from national fiscus for both provincial government and municipalities. As the provincial government, we will remain vigilant and agile in ensuring that these allocations are utilised for their intended purposes. The task ahead of the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure requires us to do more with less, as the damages are estimated at R5,2 billion. It is therefore critical that the sources of funding for disaster be leveraged prudently to complement and partner across government to deal with disasters as disaster is everybody's business. We call upon all departments and municipalities which received these grants to spend them as a matter of urgency.

On traditional leadership, traditional leaders remain a powerful component to bring about unity and social cohesion in our communities. They have always been part of governance since time immemorial. Even during the dark days of apartheid, the institution of traditional leadership practiced democracy, sitting under a big tree. In one of his memoirs, former president Tata Nelson Mandela tells of traditional leadership as the bedrock of democracy. Tata Madiba says the matter brought before the traditional court would be subjected to debate where everyone, even the lowest or lowly placed commoner in the community would be given an opportunity to speak.

We are the children of the warrior kings and queens who fought fearlessly the fierce battles against the white colonial masters in defence of their land. Today we are standing on the shoulders of these great leaders such as King Sekhukhune, King Makhado, King Mokopane and King Ngungunyane fully aware and in recognition of the role they played in the struggle for freedom in South Africa. The legacy left by these great leaders serves as a reminder of the role they played in navigating their people through one of the most challenging periods in our country. Unfortunately, this show of

bravery is overshadowed by the ongoing rifts, disputes and infighting in some of the royal families in our province.

We are making a clarion call here and now to the institution of traditional leadership in its entirety to restore the dignity attached to this age-old institution, by ensuring that the dirty linen of the royal family is not washed and hanged in public. In Sepedi there is an adage that says “Marumo fase bana ba Sebatakgomo, ntlo lerole ga e tswale Kgoši”. Infighting within royal families not only have a negative impact on the developmental goals of the rural communities but also erodes the level of respect that had been attached to it for many years. The sad part is that it destroys the social fabric that our traditional communities are built on.

We congratulate Her Majesty, Queen Masalanabo VII, whom His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa recognised as the Queen of Balobedu Queenship. We also shower Queen Manyaku Thulare who was recognised as the acting Queen of the Bapedi Kingship. We call and appeal to the royal families of Balobedu, VhaVenda and Sekhukhune respectively to follow their internal processes and procedures in resolving their challenges and return these institutions to their former glory.

As President Cyril Ramaphosa committed during SONA to assist this institution, we too are going to walk this road with our esteemed traditional leaders. There is no denying the fact that stable and peaceful royal families are key components of the reconstruction and development programme.

We made a commitment here during the 2024/25 Budget Vote presentation to procure vehicles for senior traditional leaders and I am proud to announce that indeed, we have procured and handed over all but seven vehicles to senior traditional leaders. The remaining seven vehicles are being processed for delivery during the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year.

In continuing to modernise the sector, we are continuing with the construction of traditional council offices. Procurement of contractors has been concluded and handed over the sites to the following traditional councils: Ba Shai Ditlou which is at 23%, Makuya in Vhembe at 40%, and Mapela at 5%. We are further renovating Litho-Ndzundza in Waterberg and Mampane in Sekhukhune. Work on these five offices will be completed and handed over in this financial year.

Additionally, we have handed over three fully furnished traditional council offices which Hon Rachoene spoke about; I will not go back to those ones. But I must indicate that we have completed the ones that we are going to hand over this year: Majeje, Manoke, Davhana and Bakwena Ba Matsepe traditional council offices which are all completed and will be handed over this financial year.

Hon Speaker, we have already started with the designs for the following offices that will be concluded and made ready for implementation: Matlala Ramoshebo, Tau Nkadimeng, Mamaila Kolobetona, Mashau and Mankweng. We will also commence with the planning for the construction and renovation of Masakona, Mabunda and Mashamba traditional council offices, which Hon Mahoi must allocate funding for these projects unless you want to risk your deployment on that portfolio.

Honourable Members, the reconstitution of traditional councils, has commenced with the training of the members for them to perform their duties within the prescripts. We are working towards finalising the recognition of approximately 250 headmen and headwomen where there are no disputes. With the procurement of traditional council office furniture, we will deliver furniture to 38 traditional councils.

Hon Speaker, Initiation schools as a rite of passage continue to play an important role as cultural institutions that prepare young men and women for adulthood. During the 2024 initiation season, the province had a total of 631 legal initiation schools and 18 illegal schools. As much as we take pride for being the leading light and good example of running incident-free and successful initiation schools, we are saddened by the deaths of three initiates during the 2024 initiation season. This happened in Mopani, Sekhukhune and Vhembe, we all recorded one death each. Although it is a small number, we always say this can be avoided because one death is one too many.

As we move forward, the plan for the 2025 initiation season is at an advanced stage. All applications to operate initiation schools have closed on 28 February 2025 and assessment commenced from 16 March 2025.

After all is said and done, our work will be baseless if it does not find expression in the lived realities of the people and the material conditions on the ground that they face. It is on the behest and mandate of our people that we serve in these positions, and if our actions do not represent them, then we will be failing in our duties. The people of this province are our beacon of resilience, our greatest inspiration. We once again commit ourselves to pick from the good work of 2024/25 financial year, working together with all our stakeholders in the broader departmental value chain.

Hon Speaker, the Budget I am tabling today is composed of four components: Administration which is mainly support, Human Settlements, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. In 2025/26 financial year, a total Budget available for the department is R2,5 million. The departmental budget allocation per programme is as follows:

- Administration :R449 000 000
- Human Settlements :R1,2 000 000
- Cooperative Governance :R333 000 000
- Traditional Affairs :R530 000 000

In conclusion, I would like to send kudos to the African National Congress, my political home for giving me all the support and guidance throughout my political deployment. I also thank the Premier of our province, Hon Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for appointing me as one of her Executive Committee to lead the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. I acknowledge the Premier and the entire Executive for their continued guidance and support they give to us.

Appreciation also goes to the chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA and the newly established Committee on Pandemics and Disaster for providing support and dedication. We also acknowledge the guidance we get from Scopa, under the leadership of Hon Mokoelé.

Thanks to the chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi- San Leaders, Hosi Ngove wa Vuntlhanu, Mhlava for his stewardship of the esteemed House and for leading it to stability. Ha khensa Ndhavezitha for always being a go-to source and well of wisdom on matters of traditional leadership. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the Head of Department, Dr Malahlela and the executive management team, entire staff including the security and cleaners for their commitment to the department. It is because of each and every CoGHSTAZEN that we see the improvements in the performance of the department.

Finally, I thank my family for always providing me space to serve the people of Limpopo province and for understanding the political environment that I work under. Thank you for encouraging me to push above my potential. You always remain my shoulder to lean on. Without you I would be lost in a world without direction. To my colleagues present here today, delivery of services to our people is a war that we need to win.

Allow me to end this presentation with an extract from a speech by former United States President, Abraham Lincoln, during the American Civil War, in what is commonly known as the Gettysburg Address, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Thank you. Inkomu. Ndo livhuwa. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa Vho-Makamu. The Budget Speech is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House. We shall now call upon Hon Violet Mathye for Vote 8.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

(Address by Ms S V Mathye, MEC for Transport and Community Safety)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Teboho Mamorobela; Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; honourable Members of this august House; Members of the Executive; chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders; vukosi hinkwabyo lebyi nga kona, vukosi bya ka Xihoko laha ndza humaka kona. Ndzi khinsamisa tsolo ra mina ndza mi losa, leadership of the African National Congress, the church that I belong led by Vho-Musanda Madadzhe. I am sure I am the first to call you Ndhavezitha, they call you Vho-Musanda. I tried to call you in my language. Head of Department, Mr Matjena, and your team; Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant-General Thembi Hadebe and your team; board and management of GAAL led by chairperson, Mr Victor Xaba; all unions represented in this House; SANSBOC; SANTACO and NTA; all invited guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Please receive our warm and fraternal greetings from myself and Team Transport and Community Safety, on this special occasion of reporting to the people of Limpopo about our plans and programmes to develop their lives.

Deputy Speaker, It is both an honour and a privilege to present this Budget Speech to this august House. The first year of the Seventh Administration has indeed, been unprecedented, shaped by the evolving dynamics of the Government of National Unity at the national level. Despite the complexities, we remain committed to delivering on our mandate with focus, integrity, and purpose.

Let me record that, I am standing before the august House walking on a foundation laid by my predecessors especially the 'izimbokodos' in the form of: Hon Pinky Kekana, Hon Mapula Mokaba, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje, Dr Polly Boshielo, Hon Nandi Ndalani, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, and Hon Florence Radzilani.

I am not ashamed to mention in this House, the great women of valour, in the mould of Hon Pinky Kekana, Hon Mapula Mokaba, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje, Dr Polly Boshielo, Hon Nandi Ndalani, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, and Hon Florence Radzilani who have paved the way to what is today known as the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

I am further enjoined by our historic past to reflect on the contribution of our forebearers in the form of Lilian Ngoyi, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke and many others. These gallant fighters fought the struggle within the struggle. The struggle for liberation and also the struggle for the emancipation of women from patriarchy. Now, let me borrow a statement from the dearly departed, Mme Charlotte Maxeke, a daughter of Limpopo and Motlokwa par excellence, "if you can rise, bring someone with you."

I therefore call upon women leaders in the House and beyond to support our Premier, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba, because when she rose up, she carried along other women to the top. In our effort to play our part, we have seen women in the transport industry that we need to rise with. In the gallery today we have women who are participating in the bus industry and also women taxi owners.

Deputy Speaker, our department plays a vital role in propelling the provincial economy, as the safe and efficient movement of people and goods lies at the heart of our mandate. From children to pensioners, our services are designed to protect and serve every resident within the four corners of our Province. It is also worth highlighting that under the capable leadership of Lieutenant-General Thembi Hadebe, a distinguished woman at the helm of the SAPS in our province.

We continue to be recognised as one of the safest provinces to live in and conduct business. While challenges persist in certain areas, we remain grateful for the commendable work being done and the continued efforts towards maintaining safety and security for all.

They deserve to be applauded for the outstanding work they continue to do in keeping our communities safe. Amongst many notable successes is the arrest of a suspected drug lord operating an illicit drug laboratory on a farm in the Sekhukhune District, an operation that posed a significant threat to public safety. Equally commendable is their

swift response leading to the arrest of a farmer in the Capricorn District, who allegedly committed a heinous crime involving the murder of two individuals and the disturbing attempt to conceal the evidence by feeding their bodies to pigs. These cases underscore the dedication and vigilance of our law enforcement agencies in confronting even the most serious and complex crimes head-on.

Deputy Speaker, the Budget we are presenting is designed to unlock reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for our people, whether they are travelling to work, schools, places of worship, or tourist destinations. In alignment with the Seventh Administration's priorities, we aim to focus sharply on driving inclusive economic growth, creating jobs, and addressing the high cost of living. Through targeted investments and strategic interventions, this Budget seeks to improve mobility while contributing meaningfully to the social and economic upliftment of our province.

The department is actively working to undo the legacy of oppression and exclusion faced by women, youth, and persons with disability. I have made it unequivocally clear that appointments lacking meaningful representation of women will not receive my approval.

Thomas Sankara reminds us that, "From the first beginnings of human history, man's mastering of nature has never been accomplished with his bare hands alone."

It is for this reason that we are unflinching when it comes to issues of gender equality in the department. Since assuming office, I am proud to report that our first round of recruitment reflected this commitment. Women accounted for 55% of the 96 posts filled, with youth making up 26% and persons with disability comprising 5%. Overall, women now represent 47% of our workforce, leaving a small 3% gap to reach full gender parity a target we are determined to meet. [APPLAUSE]

We have also placed the employment of persons with disability high on our agenda. Recognising the barriers many face in accessing opportunities, we have taken a proactive approach by partnering with district municipalities to identify suitable candidates, assist them in the application process, and ensure they participate fully in the selection stages.

We are not just paying lip service we are deliberately and strategically intervening to change the lived reality of our brothers and sisters with disability, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Hon Speaker, in our endeavour to break the shackles of poverty and exclusion of the boy and girl children, we embarked on a Motor Mechanical Learnership that has enrolled 40 learners. We have deliberately brought in girls to be part of the motor mechanic industry, and we will definitely employ them as and when we replace the ageing manpower in our workshops.

On transport operations, the National Land Transport Act, as amended, mandates municipalities to act as transport planning authorities and to develop Integrated Transport Plans (ITP) in line with this requirement. The department has ramped up its efforts to support local municipalities in the development of their ITPs. To date, we have successfully assisted Maruleng Local Municipality, and in the current financial year, we

will extend our support to Thabazimbi and Blouberg Local Municipalities in developing their ITPs.

These ITPs will play a crucial role in helping municipalities assess supply and demand related to transport permits and operating licenses. Once approved, the provincial regulatory entity will resume the issuance of these permits and licenses. Through the development of these ITPs, the department aims to address inefficiencies in transport networks, ensuring seamless integration between different modes of transport, thereby enhancing accessibility for communities. To this end, the Department will allocate over R7,6 million in the current financial year to assist municipalities in preparing their ITPs.

On the subject of the taxi industry, I would like to acknowledge the relative calm that has prevailed, thanks to the positive role played by SANTACO (South African National Taxi Council) and the NTA (National Taxi Alliance) in stabilising the sector. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. Our message is clear: dialogue is the only path to sustainable, long-term solutions, and violence has no place in resolving conflicts. We are committed to addressing and confronting any instances of extortion perpetrated by taxi patrollers. Law enforcement is our responsibility, and we will not allow any outside forces to undermine the rule of law.

Madam Speaker, in pursuit of greater efficiency and effectiveness, the department has rationalised 26 existing bus contracts into 9 consolidated agreements. These new contracts, negotiated under a Special Purpose Vehicle model, officially commenced in April, marking the beginning of the current financial year. The new agreements will deliver over 29 million kilometres of subsidised bus services, including the introduction of routes in previously underserved areas such as Phalaborwa, the eastern part of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Thabazimbi, Modimolle, Makhuduthamaga, Elias Motsoaledi, Blouberg, and Fetakgomo-Tubatse.

The department has budgeted over R900 million to sustain and improve the quality of these public transport services. To ensure the successful implementation of these contracts, effective monitoring is essential. Currently, this function is performed manually by dedicated departmental officials, but the process is vulnerable to human error and potential manipulation. To address this, the department will introduce innovative digital monitoring systems using modern technology to enhance compliance, transparency, and service reliability across all subsidised bus operations.

Deputy Speaker, Limpopo's strategic location in the SADC region necessitates a comprehensive freight transport strategy. The department is collaborating with key stakeholders to modernise freight corridors, promote investment in logistics hubs, and ensure compliance with freight transport regulations to improve safety and economic growth. The department will kick start the process to review the provincial freight transport strategy which will be implemented as a multi-year initiative over the next two financial years.

On rail, our province, in partnership with Gauteng province, has initiated a process of establishing a high-speed rail link between Gauteng and Limpopo. As outlined in the provincial Budget, funding has been allocated for a comprehensive pre-feasibility study to assess the project's viability. This high-speed rail project promises to be a transformational development, offering commuters greater choice between road, rail,

and air travel. Once realised, it will significantly enhance connectivity, reduce travel time, and serve as a catalyst for economic growth and regional integration.

Deputy Speaker, the department continues to provide funding and strategic oversight to Gateway Airport Authority Limited, a Category 3D public entity. Currently, GAAL is not financially self-sustaining. In response, the Board has developed and adopted a bankable turnaround strategy designed to reposition GAAL as a viable and sustainable business entity.

As the current Board's term concludes in September, the department will commence the recruitment process for a new Board. This new leadership, together with executive management, will be tasked with driving the implementation of the turnaround strategy and ensuring GAAL becomes a financially sustainable contributor to the province's economy.

Key to this strategy is the enhancement of infrastructure and service offerings at Polokwane International Airport, positioning it as a strategic enabler within the regional logistics hub. This includes integration with other provincial aviation assets such as P R Mphephu and Siyandhani Airports.

Additionally, GAAL must prioritise efforts to attract new airline routes and expand air cargo capacity, thereby aligning its operations with the broader provincial economic development agenda. Strengthening these core areas will not only improve financial performance but also stimulate trade, tourism, and investment across Limpopo. GAAL is a business, and it must evolve accordingly. It cannot remain a perpetual liability dependent on public funds without delivering measurable returns. The department remains committed to ensuring GAAL becomes a sustainable and economically impactful entity.

As part of our commitment to expanding international air connectivity, we are actively working with the Maruleng Local Municipality to support Hoedspruit Airport's application for international licensing. This strategic initiative aims to position Hoedspruit as a key gateway for tourism and economic investment, particularly within the wildlife, conservation, and hospitality sectors. While we acknowledge that progress has been slower than anticipated, we are engaging closely with the relevant authorities to ensure full compliance with international regulatory standards and to accelerate the licensing process.

Deputy Speaker, the department, in partnership with the national Department of Transport and the Department of Education, is committed to supporting learners who are currently walking long distances each day to reach schools far from their homes. During this financial year, the department will provide over 600 bicycles to deserving learners across various districts. This initiative not only aims to improve access to education and increase school attendance, but also promotes physical and mental wellbeing, while contributing to a more eco-friendly and sustainable mode of transport. The provision of bicycles will go a long way in enhancing learner performance and ensuring that no child is left behind due to lack of mobility.

The department has allocated a significant portion of the Budget for the procurement of essential tools of trade, including vehicles for traffic officers, to strengthen law

enforcement and enhance visible policing. This investment is expected to greatly improve administrative efficiency and service delivery at key service points, ultimately ensuring a more responsive and effective public service.

The budget also prioritises the integration of technology in law enforcement, which is critical for reducing human error and enhancing operational efficiency in the promotion of road safety. To this end, the department will invest in the procurement of e-Force gadgets and modern mobile speed measuring equipment, enabling traffic officers to perform their duties more effectively and with greater accuracy.

The department will implement a comprehensive plan to ensure that all government vehicles are properly maintained, leveraging government garages and existing government contracts for servicing and repairs. We acknowledge the current shortage of marked traffic vehicles, which poses a challenge to the successful implementation of the envisaged 24/7 shift system and expanded traffic operations. To address this, the department will develop a three-year fleet replacement plan aimed at phasing out aging vehicles and equipping traffic officials with reliable and roadworthy resources.

Madam Speaker, as part of our ongoing commitment to community safety, the department has established Community Policing and Safety Forums across all police stations and municipalities. These forums, which play a crucial role in local crime prevention efforts, are supported through monthly stipends to encourage active participation.

In addition, we are implementing volunteer-based initiatives, including the Young Civilians on Patrol and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design programmes. These structures work collaboratively with the South African Police Service to safeguard our communities.

While these initiatives have shown promise, we acknowledge that their effectiveness has varied across regions. To strengthen and standardise their impact, the department has allocated R5 million to support community forums, Community Policing Forum and Community Safety Forum. And R3,5 million towards the Young Civilians on Patrol programme and Crime Prevention through environmental design initiatives during this financial year.

Let me take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all patriotic citizens, including members of Neighbourhood Farm Watch and similar community initiatives, who go above and beyond in supporting the police in the fight against crime. Their dedication and vigilance play a vital role in enhancing community safety and strengthening our collective efforts to build safer neighbourhoods.

Madam Speaker, we further appreciate the swift responses by the police in the event of harrowing crimes that are gender based related. We would like it to be a norm that once a crime is orchestrated, the requisite response follows suite each and every time.

In our pursuit efforts to engender a culture of accountability, we have a Civilian Secretariat for Police division that follows through on every complaint that is lodged against the police. We are going to have road shows to familiarise the public on the role of this division in a quest that attention is given to every complaint. We are not doing

well as a province given the increase in accidents and fatalities in the last festive season. Most of the accidents were caused by human factors as most of them were caused by speeding, pedestrians on the roadway and reckless driving.

We have come to note that most of the accidents happen in the odd hours when our traffic officers are off duty. We also note the rise in pedestrian casualties of which the majority happen during odd hours, and the motorists do not stop after hitting the pedestrians. It is for this reason that we are embarking on a 24/7 traffic law enforcement which calls for the increase in traffic personnel. We had an injection of 147 officers this financial year and are now planning on a 200 new intake this financial year.

We are further moving with technology as we will be procuring Automated Number Plate Recognition System. [APPLAUSE] Hon Rachoene, I hope you are listening. I'm on your heels now by numbers. The system will assist the department in the collection of revenue and enhance compliance by motorists by detecting fake drivers and vehicle licenses. This will go a long way in boosting our collection from infringement tickets.

We note further that our motorists are queuing for long when they visit the licensing offices either to renew driver's and vehicle registrations. It is for this reason that we are embarking on infrastructure investment. The construction of K53 and the Examiner of Motor Vehicle Pit at Thohoyandou Traffic Station is at 70% in terms of progress and Seshego K53 and Examiner of Motor Vehicle Pit is at 47% towards completion.

On the Thohoyandou taxi rank project update, while the finalisation of the Thohoyandou taxi rank project has progressed more slowly than initially anticipated, we are pleased to report that the project is now actively moving forward, with the Independent Development Trust playing a central role in its implementation. New architectural and engineering designs have been completed, and a team of consultants has been appointed and is currently hard at work. Furthermore, the appointment of a new contractor is scheduled to take place within the first quarter, who will then begin with the necessary remedial work to bring the project to completion.

As alluded to, speed is one causative factor for high accidents in our province and the country at large. Almost every single day, a motorist is arrested for driving averagely at 180 kms per hour. In a worst scenario a driver was arrested for driving at 202 kms per hour. We are investigating further why a certain brand of car is more often involved in accidents. We suspect that buyers are first time buyers who are young and are attracted to its deadly speed.

It is for this reason that we are procuring speed prosecution cameras and a service contract for the maintenance of the speed cameras. Engagements with SANRAL on the handing over of average speed cameras are at an advanced stage. There were delays due to the process of review of the standards in line with the Legal Metrology Act, 2014. The department will start implementing the newly developed Limpopo Road Safety Strategy 2025-2035. The department appreciates the support from the Office of the Premier for engaging an impact catalyst for the development of this strategy, which is first of its kind in the country.

On road safety ambassadors, to strengthen our efforts in improving road safety, the department will employ and deploy 189 Road Safety Ambassadors and 4 data capturers

across all districts. This initiative has received valuable support from the National Department of Public Works through a dedicated grant. The ambassadors will play a key role in promoting road safety awareness and responsible behaviour, while the data capturers will assist in monitoring and evaluating the impact of our interventions on the ground.

Hon Speaker, having sketched the nature of business being mobility and movement of people and goods and further the safeguarding of lives and properties, let me delve into the language of rands and cents. Let me hasten to indicate that ours is not a mere packaging of numbers that are purported for feel and look good.

On revenue generation,, the department remains the highest revenue contributor in the Provincial Administration, with almost 47% of the entire provincial revenue collection. [APPLAUSE]

During the 2024/25 financial year, the department collected R893,8 million which shows an overcollection by R3,1 million, which translates to 0,4%. The actual collection target was R890 million. The department is delighted with the support of the Provincial Treasury in implementing the Revenue Enhancement Strategy to maximise the revenue collection. Deputy Speaker, the department has the potential to over-collect by bigger margins during the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

The department contributes to Provincial Revenue through traffic functions i.e. motor vehicle license & registration, penalties and traffic fines. The department is projecting to collect R931,5 million in 2025/26, R974,3 million in 2026/27 and R1,018 billion in 2027/28 financial year.

On allocation, the department has been allocated an amount of R3,025 billion for the 2025/26 financial year, which is an increase of 16,7% when compared to 2024/25 adjusted budget. Deputy Speaker, included in this Budget is conditional grant as follows:

- R48,4 million is for the Public Transport Operation Grant for 2025/26 financial year, R503,5 million for 2026/27 and R526,2 million for 2027/28;
- R2,5 million for EPWP Integrated Grant which is for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; and
- R1,1 million for EPWP Social Sector Grant for Point Duty.

Hon Deputy Speaker, furthermore, included in the allocation for 2025/26 financial year is earmarked funds amounting to R281,2 million, as follows:

• Gauteng-Limpopo High Speed Rail	:R80.0 million.
• Remedial work at Thohoyandou Facility	:R58.0 million.
• Revitalisation of Traffic Training College	:R28 million.
• Revenue Enhancement Provincial K53 Projects	:R25 million.
• Refurbishment of Traffic Facilities	:R11.6 million.
• Vivo Weigh in motion	:R5 million;
• Electronic Vehicle Monitoring System	:R56 million.
• Moving Violation Recorder	:R3.5 million.
• Refurbishment of Government Garage and Departmental Office	:R14 million.

The compensation of employees budget, which includes the appointment of 147 traffic officers, amounts to R627 million. The department has also allocated an amount of R152,9 million and R40,9 million to transfer to Gateway Airport Authority Limited for implementation of service delivery improvement plan and operational costs for 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years respectively.

The Budget per programme is as follows:

- Administration :R 627,048 million;
- Transport Operations :R1,331 billion;
- Transport Regulation :R1 billion;
- Provincial Secretariat of Police Services :R 65,997 million; and
- The total is :R3,25 billion.

As I conclude, let me refer to a quote by Maya Angelou, “Develop enough courage so that you can stand up for yourself and then stand for somebody else.” Madam Speaker and the House, let us be counted for standing up for those less privileged. Let us be keepers of our brothers and sisters for them to realise we mean well and shall make them proud.

Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity and appreciate the governing party, African National Congress for having supported the Hon Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba in appointing me to be her Executive Member. [APPLAUSE] To her I say, thank you so much for putting your trust in me.

I also want to thank my colleagues in the Executive for the continued support they are giving me, further the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, led by Hon Kedibone Lebea, and all Members of this august House, I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

I also want to pass my kindest regards to the Members of this august House, for the words of guidance and commitment in their oversight work. I am grateful to the Team Transport and Community Safety led by the HOD Mr Matjena Stephen. Thank you for the good job and dedication.

Deputy Speaker, lastly; allow me to reveal the secret of the smile that I am always wearing on my face. Behind this smile there is a giant whose shoulders I am standing on. My long-time friend and husband for more than four decades. As I speak, the giant is amongst us, accompanied by our first-born daughter, Duma. To him I say thank you so much, Gajeni, Mathye, my husband, thank you for always being there for me. [APPLAUSE]

Deputy Speaker, it is my honour to table 2025/26 Budget Vote 8, for Transport and Community Safety in this august House for consideration and approval. I thank you. Inkomu. Ndo livhuwa. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Violet Mathye. As the House we also recognise the giants. Before we go for announcements, I would like to also recognise Ngoato, the regional

secretary of the ANC in Sekhukhune, Mr Tala Mathope. He is in the House with us.
[APPLAUSE]

Ke kgopela go bitša Motlatša Modulasetulo wa Baduladitulo, Hon Hasani Ngobeni.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker; Premier of the province, Dr Phophi “Singo”; African National Congress provincial secretary, Vho-Musanda Madadzhe; Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the whippery; guests and honourable Members, receive my warm greetings.

I rise to make the following announcements:

- From today 15 April 2025 the House will be on recess until Tuesday, 27 May 2025. The constituency and committee work will proceed as normal after the Good Friday holidays;
- Friday, 18 April 2025 is Good Friday, and we urge all honourable Members, officials, the people of Limpopo to adhere to road traffic rules and regulations. Let us drive with care and arrive alive to our various destinations;
- Hon Deputy Speaker, we have this morning learnt with great sadness and sorrow about the untimely and sudden death of Hon Regina Mphahlele of the EFF;
- For that we want to take the opportunity and pay our condolences to the EFF, the family and honourable Members; and
- After this Sitting, MECs who presented their Budgets are requested to a photo session at the foyer. Lastly, lunch will be served at the basement in the main building.

Thank you very much, and thank you for your attention and all guests are invited for lunch.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of Chairs, may we all rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of the late honourable Member.

May their soul rest in peace. Thank you.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, the House is adjourned to Tuesday, 27 May 2025, at 10:00 in this august House, Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL SITTING
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
WEDNESDAY, 23 APRIL 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 12:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Chief Whip? There are none. Thank you very much.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

3.1 Opening and Welcoming Remarks by the Presiding Officer

Good morning, honourable Members; Speaker of the Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council; leaders of political parties; Chief Whip of the Legislature; Hon Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition.

Let me also greet the family representatives, the children, relatives, friends, and colleagues of the late Ms Mphahlele, and all the guests; good afternoon. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to open this special Sitting. It is also an honour for me to welcome all of you to this House, in particular the children, the family and relatives of the late Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele.

It is important to indicate that the Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature has invoked Rule 25 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature to convene a special Sitting for us to pay tribute to one of our own, the late Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele. Honourable Members were duly notified on 17 April 2025 about the special Sitting, so we are gathered here today to afford honourable Members an opportunity to reflect on the contribution made by the late Hon Mphahlele to the development of this institution called the Limpopo Legislature. We are gathered here today to reflect on the contribution of Ms Mphahlele when it comes to oversight and accountability. We are here today to celebrate her contribution to youth and women empowerment in the Limpopo province. The late Ms Mphahlele was a fighter who championed for equality and justice for all. In this regard, all political party representatives will be given an opportunity to pay tribute to the late Hon Mphahlele. As the Limpopo Legislature, we wish the family, relatives, and anyone associated with her to gain strength during these trying times. To God be the glory.

3.2 Motion for the Suspension of House Rule 5(2) to Allow Nonmembers to Address the House. Hon Chief Whip, you may proceed.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and good morning to the Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; chairpersons of committees; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; and Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje.

House Rule 5(1) provides that any provision of these rules relating to the business or proceedings of the House, or of a committee, may be suspended by the resolution of the House. Hon Speaker, I, Essob Mmanoko Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip of this House, move that the Rules of the House be suspended in line with the provisions of House Rule 5(2), to allow a nonmember of this House, a representative of the Mphahlele family, to address the House. I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. May I have a seconder. Yes, you are recognised, Hon Mogoane.

MS MOGOANE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I apologise for speaking seated. I second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mogoane. Tribute (Eulogy) to the Late Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele (MPL)

I shall now call upon honourable Members for the tribute. We shall now start with the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Kanyane Rodgers Monama.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Mamorobela; Hon Speaker of this august House, Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje; Hon Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council present; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana; Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni; chairpersons of portfolio committees and standing committees; honourable Members of this august House, Secretary to the Legislature, Dr Tim Maake and your staff; ba lapa la bo mohu, Mohlomphegi Regina Mphahlele; meloko le metswalle; baeng ba ba hlomphegago; comrades and compatriots and fellow mourners, ke a le dumediša. Legatong la mokgatlo wa Modimo le badimo, wa African National Congress re re; mahloko go ba lapa la Mphahlele. Bakgaga ba ba ikgonnego senko. Re manyami ka leru le leso, leo le le aparetšego. Re apeile ka pitša ye kgolo. Re ithwele megono. Mošomišanimmogo wa rena o iketše boya batho. O iketše ga maotwana hunyela – molete mohlalela thupa. Re sa nyamile le bjalo. Ga re tsebe pele le morago ka gore tladi ya lesehla e rathile ya tšea kgogotswaadi, thagatheto le moswarathipa ka bogaleng. Re re mokgapa'mogolo o wele dinonyana tša lla bošogošogo. Le lehu ke la pitšana, ge e be e le la segwana re be re ka roka.

Eupša, molaetša wo mogolo ke go re botša gore, ba re; segole akga dinao, o a le kwa la borwa le a duma. Nako ye nngwe le ye nngwe, le ka no ratha. Kgaphampshikela ye, ke motho wa moriri wa hlogo gape ke motho wa lerato. Eupša, manyami Mohlomphegi Lebogo ke gore, ge Modimo a dira dilo tša gagwe ga a rerišane le rena. Ge a be a re reriša re be re ka se re a tšee Mma Mphahlele. Re be re ka no fapana gore a tšee mang, eupša ga se se re se tletšego mo lehono.

I stand here before you with a profound sense of great sadness and deepest sympathy on this unfortunate day of the memorial service in remembrance and in honour of our colleague, the late Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele, whom we all loved and treasured. It is unfortunate in the sense that we did not expect what has happened to happen so unexpectedly. Undoubtedly, this has been a very difficult time for all and sundry to come to terms with the reality that our beloved colleague, the late Hon Mphahlele, is no more.

When we heard the unpalatable and sad news about the untimely death, we spoke to each other with disbelief and denial. We vehemently struggled to get to terms with the stark reality. We are, indeed, grief-stricken and devastated. This colleague of ours has left a void in this august House, which will be difficult to fill. Because of our nature as human beings, we disagree over a lot of things. We use different theories to analyse and interpret the world, and things around us. We usually arrive at different answers. We disagree a lot, but we all agree about this certainty of our mortality. We may be coming from different religious and political backgrounds; we may speak in different languages; we may be of different social classes, but ours is a common destiny. Go ba ga rena mo lehono indeed confirms the sad reality that, indeed, she is no more.

One of our own has fallen. Let's celebrate her short life – a life well lived. It is incredibly sad that the deceased did not live long enough to reap the fruit of her hard work. Undeniably, she was a dedicated, hardworking and conscientious public servant. Nonetheless, the Mphahlele family must take solace in that their loss is shared across the length and breadth of our province and the country at large. A truly impeccable human individual of excellence is no longer with us. Her priceless soul has entered the Almighty God's abode. Sadly, we have seen that many people who have made our world better in big and small ways have vanished before we were ready to let them go.

A colossal mind and wonderful spirit have ceased to exist. A phenomenal woman of substance, fortitude, rectitude and probity is no more. She has left our earthly shores. We were, indeed, blessed with an intellectual rarity and an irreplaceable gem that those in heaven are anxiously awaiting your illustrious presence. This august House has lost a phenomenal woman, like I said, of fortitude. Undoubtedly, with a vault of wisdom, great leaders and icons, like all human beings, live and die, but what distinguishes them from the rest of us is the immortality of their ideas and teachings, an imprint of their footprints.

Madam Speaker, surely those who were close to her have learnt lessons in their lives, which underpin the following basic tenets of life: humility, peacefulness, honesty, and above all, respect for all irrespective of their social standing. The deceased knew quite well, gore re tlile mo lefaseng ka morero wa Modimo; go mo direla le go mohlankela, go thuša ba ba nyakago thušo, go direla ba ba sa kgonego go itirela le go leka ka natla go ba direla ka boikgafo le boikokobetšo, e se go ka boganka le boikgogomošo le go phela ka nnete le tlhompho. Ka moka tše, mohu o di phethagaditše.

This world needs people like her, who are principled and selfless. A cadre of a special type in the public service terrain, who adds value to the people and organisation they serve, people who handle themselves with their heads and handle others with their hearts, who inspire and motivate rather than intimidate and manipulate, who discipline themselves so that they will not be disciplined by others, who follow the moral compass that points in the right direction, regardless of trends. She was able to master all these features because she was a committed public representative. We know that there is no grave big enough to carry this African elephant. To the bereaved family, your loss is our loss too. As the African National Congress, we will always remember her with immense pride, deep affection and fondness. To her colleagues of the EFF, members and bereaved family, she was certainly a remarkable person who leaves a legacy of insight, generous spirit, and deep wisdom and love. May her memory guide you, always. May her warmth and generosity of spirit remain with you always. To her children, I say,

your mother was a remarkable woman who leaves behind the legacy of insight. Sepedi se re; tšhuana metša mare bohloko bo ye le pelo. A lerumo la mogale le se ke la swa le mphato. A re tšee lerumo le la mmago rena re tšwetše ntwā ye ya tokologo pele.

We are gathered here to say goodbye to our colleague and sister. I'm fully aware that friends never say goodbye. However, there is good in "goodbye" just like there is hail in "halo", lie in "belief", over in "love", end in "friend", if in "life". It is not the goodbye that hurts; it is the flashback that is set to follow. I'm assured that goodbyes are not forever. They are not the end; it simply means we will sorely miss you until we meet again. We call all and sundry to support the bereaved family as they lay the mortal remains of our colleague, our leader, our sister to rest. May her soul find eternal peace! Ga di lebogwe, ba EFF.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. I shall now call upon Hon Maila Kobodi. I don't see him in the House. I shall proceed by calling upon Hon Jack Velile Cyril.

MR JACK

Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Ms Mamorobela; Hon Premier, Dr Ramathuba – ke di-similarities – honourable Members in the House; my colleagues from the EFF; and the mourners seated in the gallery, good afternoon.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the MK party, on behalf of J Z, to send our message of condolences to the family of the late Ms Mphahlele, the EFF, and Members of the House. Colleagues, I won't stand here and begin to tell lies about Ms Mphahlele. I only knew her for a short stint. Even the message that I was going to be a speaker today came late; hence, I couldn't do research of lies and begin to talk lies.

One thing for sure, she was still in the pipeline to liberate our people from the dungeons of poverty. She was looking forward to making sure that the land comes back to its rightful owners, and to represent the dignity of our kings, queens, our traditional healers and baruti ba rena. As Mbokodo, it is also paining us that in this Seventh Administration, we are mourning the death of a second female. I don't know. We don't criticise God. It's just like weather; when it's hot, you complain that it's hot; when it's raining, you complain. It means you don't admire what God gives you. It is according to God's will that He has decided to take another Mbokodo. However, you are all together. One thing that I've discovered is that I am married to the Mphahlele family. Hon Rachoene, mosadi yo ke ngwetši ya gešo, e se go wena ka lebaka la gore le batamelane. Ga o sebara, e bile o ngwana. Ka mantšu ao ke rata gore go ba lapa la ga Mma Mphahlele le bana, nxese, akwehlanga lungehlanga. Okwenzekileyo kuyafana nokudaliweyo. Hamba kahle, Mbokodo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Jack. I shall now call upon Hon Maila. He is now in the House.

MR MAILA

Ke a leboga Motlatša Mospikara. Hon Premier; Hon Chief Whip; distinguished guests; members of the Mphahlele family and all the honourable Members, good day. Thobela. Ndi masiari. Avuxeni.

Ke eme mo e se ka go rata ga ka, eupša ke eme go tlo tshediša ba ga Mphahlele. Ke re, Bakgaga, se se diragetšego ga se se le rena re be go re se emetše. Se se le go gona ke gore,

yo mongwe le yo mongwe yo a phelago mo lefaseng, o a tseba gore matšatši a gagwe a badilwe.

As the United African Transformation, we are here to pay tribute to the Mphahlele family and her political party, the EFF, the one who sent her to be a public representative. It was not by her will to leave her family and the EFF, or her organisation that she loved so much, but it was by the will of God. Even if we do not fully know her, she seemed to be a good leader who was deployed to serve the people of Limpopo.

To the family friends and all the people of Limpopo, let us love one another and continue to serve our people warmly and with respect. Let us be the architect of our province and make things happen as the late Hon Regina Mphahlele was devoted to bringing remarkable change to the province. However, we request that we must not be envious of one another. Instead, we should help each other as Africans and promote ubuntu among ourselves, gobane motho ke motho ka batho. Bjalo, ka mantšu ao, re le ba United African Transformation re re; robala ka khutšo Mokgaga. Modimo a be le wena. Ke lebogile.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maila. Hon André Moss: I can see he is not in the House. I shall now proceed to Hon Evelyn Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Deputy Speaker; Speaker; Premier; esteemed Members and visitors in this House today.

There is little doubt that we live in times of great uncertainty. We live in a world today of great turmoil, a time of wars, of tumult, and a time where things like rape and GBV along with other violence seems to be becoming the norm. We are fast becoming a world living in fear of violence, of starvation, of intimidation, and a myriad of threats, like severe illnesses and even strange weather phenomena causing flooding and much harm. At a time like this, amidst the toils we already face, the loss of someone dear to us simply adds to heartbreak and the added trauma. It is hard, and it hurts.

Death has no answers. All the why's we ask, come without answers. Why me? Why us? Why them? There are simply no answers; no one here who can tell us. The good Lord knows, but until our time comes, we are unlikely to get answers that will take away the pain, the hurt, and the devastation of the passing of someone dear to us. Yes, obviously we don't want them to go. Family is family, and family and love and support are part of the stability we have. It is the glue that holds us together. We, by nature, find it hard to accept that there is nothing better than our togetherness, our love for each other.

I, however, believe that amidst the chaos and uncertainty of the world we live in, one must believe that those who have departed, no matter who they are, how young they are, how old they are, or where they even come from, are going to a home better than this tumultuous world – a world of peace, of calm, of love, of great beauty, and tremendous joy. It is promised to those of us who believe, and it is at times like these, that I am reminded of a poem by an unknown author. It says, "When I come to the end of the road, and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom-filled room. Why do you cry for a soul set free? Miss me a little, but not for long, and not with your head bowed low. Remember the love that we once shared. Miss me but let me go. For this is a journey we must all take, and each must go alone. It's all part of the Master's plan, a step on the road to our new home. When you are lonely and sick at heart, go to the friends we know and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds. Miss me but let me go."

In our remembrance of Hon Mphahlele, let us remember her for the love that she brought, the good deeds that she did and the lessons she gave. Follow her footsteps and bury your sorrows in the same good deeds: those of caring, those of love, those of upliftment, and do it with fortitude and with the love she shared with you. She will not be forgotten; she will forever live in our hearts. We uplift her family, colleagues and friends in our prayers, and we ask for God to give them strength and peace at this time of heartbreak. May her soul rest forever in peace in her new home! I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. I shall now call upon the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Lawrence Mapoulo.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker of Limpopo Legislature, Dr Makhurupetje; it's a doctor this time, I can't say comrade, indeed, may God bless you on that achievement; Hon Premier, out of your busy schedule, re a tseba gore re boloka mma wa gago yo a go tlogetšego. When the call came to your ears, you explained the love and the relationship you had before you became the Premier, and we appreciate that you know she is the mother of the nation; honourable MPLs; Chief Whip of the majority party and the Chief Whip of my organisation, the EFF; Hon Chair of Chairs; chairpersons of portfolio committees; staff of the Legislature, led by Dr Maake.

Let me start first by saying to the two families, ba ga Ramatla and Mphahlele, indeed, we are here to confirm to the Speaker that ke lefelo le a bego a šoma go lona.

She was always seated there. You can see where she was always seated. This is a fact. You would find her at the factory floor in this House, because she was a servant of the people. Being a servant of the people is when somebody who is not present but available. Somebody can be present in the House but not be available for the challenges that our people are facing out there. She was also available when the clarion call was made by the Economic Freedom Fighters, to make sure that we emancipate our people; drive them out of the bondage of poverty towards economic freedom in our lifetime,

Ms Mphahlele practised what was contained also in our Constitution, which also is an instruction and one of the commands of God. She loved everybody. To my recollection, I never heard her one day telling me, as the Chairperson of the province, to say, "I am differing with somebody." She had that love of a mother, indeed. When God says we must love one another, ours is to return to God and say, indeed, we get the message.

We might be coming from various political formations, beliefs and ideologies, but in terms of the love that God gave us, we are bound to love one another to please God. Hon Mphahlele, when the pain struck, she never resisted. She was always resolute. Even when experiencing pain, she would never say, "I'm sick", until her body said "No". That was the kind of leader that we had, that we enjoyed working side by side with. She did not like to appear in history books, by not contributing towards fighting for the struggles of our people. She was not passive. She said, "I'm not going to die being a coward. My name, like it is said in Revelation 22, must be written in the history books that I have contributed."

She was not somebody who could sit back and become a spectator when our people do not have water. When our children didn't succeed in getting their funds from NSFAS. Always, she would be in the front line. We are emotionally drained as a movement. Over the past weeks, we have not only lost our mom, but we have lost one soldier on the battlefield. Now, the past two weeks, Hon Premier, are not well for the EFF. She had a belief that her body and soul, her

bones would be carried over to the world of economic freedom. She never resisted. She was always available, saying, "Even if I die, even if I die; carry my soul, carry my body and bones to the end until we achieve economic freedom in our lifetime."

She won't rest until socialism is achieved in our midst. Hon Speaker, I would like also to thank you. When the call was made, you never reflected on any political post, like the Premier, inclusive of your staff. Let it not be only to us but to any human being who is under the shade of God. Whatever you have done for the EFF and to Ms Mphahlele, we appreciate. She is no longer with us, indeed, physically, but spiritually she is with us, especially us who worked with her. She would forget about her beautiful house and beautiful bedroom, once she's deployed. Most of the time you would find her in shacks; you would find her in areas where our people don't know when the next meal is. She didn't care about herself – the reason why the EFF realised that this was a leader. We would like to thank the family because the family never had a clear opportunity to enjoy being with her, especially her grandchildren.

They never had an opportunity, those grandchildren, to play around with their grandmother, like any other person. She was always out. The family never enjoyed her during her time. She devoted herself to work for the people of our country. You tolerated us. We thank you very much, and we will be with you as a family. We are saying to this august House, the House will never be the same again. As long as, every day, we are losing Members of this House, it is becoming disfigured. It is becoming disfigured because their ideas would never be enjoyed again.

The order that we have been receiving from Ms Mphahlele with her voice, you'll never hear her voice again. What we are saying is, may her soul rest in peace! You will never receive the lessons of love, unity of sharing, because Ms Mphahlele, in her presence, there were no fighters who could go hungry. She would always share whatever she had. Therefore, we would like to thank everybody who, when the news of Ms Mphahlele came, felt in your heart that we have lost a soldier. Therefore, we say, may God bless her soul! We would continue with the struggle to liberate our people fully for economic emancipation, and victory for socialism will be achieved through your spirit, our ancestors, and God. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mapoulo. I shall now call upon the Speaker to the Legislature, Dr Makhurupetje Grace.

THE SPEAKER

Presiding Officer of the day, Deputy Speaker Hon Tebogo Grace Mamorobela; Hon Premier of Limpopo province, Hon Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council who left all their work, today is Wednesday, Hon Premier, we thank you so much for allowing Members of the EXCO to come and join us here. We know today is your day, but you allowed us to proceed. We thank you so much. Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone and your Deputy, Hon Ngobeni; leadership of opposition parties who are here, led by Hon Mapoulo, who is the leader of the opposition, the EFF and the Chief Whip, Hon Mogoane; all Members of the Legislature present today; the family of Hon Mphahlele, with specific reference to bana ba Mme Mphahlele; sesi Tebogo, brother Phaahla, sesi Dipuo, malome, mmame and all family members who are here, including the family representative, Mr Benny Tsebe and all other people who are here today; relatives and friends of the late Hon Mphahlele; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen. Thobela. Dumelang. Avuxeni. Ndi masiari. Lotjhani.

Deputy Speaker, I want to thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to close our tributes for the late Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele. This is a special Sitting meant to allow honourable

Members to pay their last tribute to one of their own. One of our own, the late Hon Mphahlele. We are not yet used to it because we still feel that she's still with us.

Allow me first to greet the children, family and friends of the late Hon Mphahlele. This House was the place where we spent most of our time with her, Hon Mapoulo you are correct, in ensuring that the public receive quality services from the government. It is a place where we spend most of our time advocating for legislation to address the triple challenges of poverty, employment and inequality as faced by our own citizens. It is equally important to indicate to the family and relatives of the late Hon Mphahlele that the Limpopo Legislature is represented by a number of political parties. We are six political parties: the ANC, the EFF, the DA, the Freedom Front Plus, the MK Party and the UAT.

Despite our diverse political ideologies and different constituencies, what brings us together is our common interest and passion to serve the people of Limpopo. All honourable Members of this august House are mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, despite our different political agenda and orientation, to ensure that there is quality services delivered to the people of the province. Our daily task is to represent the interests of the people of Limpopo without failure to execute our constitutional task. We had to execute our constitutional task with the late Hon Mphahlele without failure.

Deputy Speaker, we are gathered here today to honour and remember the life well lived by the late Hon Mphahlele. We are paying tribute not just to an ordinary woman but a woman who realised at a very early age that education is key for societal development. As our first democratically elected President of South Africa in 1994, President Nelson Mandela, said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The late Hon Mphahlele enrolled in her tertiary education with the University of Limpopo, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree and an Honours in Education. She later earned a Bachelor of Education in Management from the University of Pretoria.

The late Hon Mphahlele dedicated many years of her life to education, beginning her career as an educator at Mazwe Secondary School. She was later transferred to Fred Ledwaba High School, where she served as a deputy principal.

The late Hon Mphahlele left the education sector to pursue a political career. She became a member of Limpopo Legislature in May 2019, where I personally met her for the first time. I can indicate to this House that I served with Hon Mphahlele in the previous term of the Sixth Administration in a number of committees. She was re-elected now to serve until her untimely passing. Hon Mphahlele was our mother. I remain her daughter. Sis Tebogo, I was the first daughter, maybe, that is how I regarded myself. Even when we had difficulties in the Legislature, in the Seventh Administration, we started off on a very bad note with my friends from the opposition parties on the other side. It was not very nice. Every time she met with me, she would say, "Ngwanaka, ke mošomo. Re tšile mošomong, ngwanaka. O se ke wa belaela. Re tla ba ra kgona." She would ask why we had to differ in the manner that we did. She continued to say: "O se ke wa belaela, ke mošomo ngwanaka. Re tla be ra fihla."

She served the Limpopo Legislature in various standing and portfolio committees. She was a member of various committees, such as the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, and People with Disability, as well as portfolio committees such as Treasury; and Transport and Community Safety.

Considering her political background, educational knowledge, and dedication, it was clear that Limpopo Legislature has gained an asset to effectively hold the Executive accountable without fear or favour. Her life was defined by an unwavering commitment to the struggle for dignity, equality, and better service delivery to the people of Limpopo. Through the Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability, she championed for

the empowerment of previously disadvantaged groups in our society, The late Hon Mphahlele was a fearless fighter for economic opportunities, justice, and equality for all. She tirelessly advocated for the poor and the marginalised groups.

She served the Limpopo Legislature with humility, loyalty and discipline. She always executed their legislative work with dedication and commitment. She was a committed Member of the Limpopo Legislature and dedicated public representative. Her contribution to the Limpopo Legislature will be sorely missed by all of us.

The people of Limpopo, particularly in Mokopane, have lost their role model. They have lost a jewel, whose contribution to their lives was immense. The late Hon Mphahlele inspired hope where there was hopelessness in the community. She inspired many young girls and boys to take their education seriously. The community of Mokopane has lost a person they could relate to; a person who gave them hope that tomorrow their dreams could be realised. As the Limpopo Legislature, we have lost an experienced and fearless Member who was always ready to drive our constitutional responsibilities to a higher trajectory. We have lost a Member who had energy and drive to ensure that the people of Limpopo enjoy the gains of our democracy. As the Limpopo Legislature, we are deeply affected by the departure of Hon Mphahlele from this planet. The late Hon Mphahlele has touched many of us, and since we were told about her departure, honourable Members have been sending messages of condolences to the family. They have been wishing the entire family to gain strength during these difficult moments. We believe that through these messages the family will gain strength and comfort. I felt it was necessary that I mentioned some of those messages, so that you know what kind of sympathy and comfort honourable Members were sending, because some of the messages were sent on the WhatsApp group that we have as Members and might not have reached the family.

The Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, said: "Deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Mphahlele family, friends and colleagues, and the EFF. May her beautiful soul rest in peace!" The MEC for Health, Hon Mashego, said: "Condolences to the family. May her soul rest in peace!" The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Maseko, said: "Condolences to the broader family, and may her soul rest in peace!" The Leader of Government Business, MEC Makamu, said: "Condolences to the Mphahlele family and the EFF. May God give you strength during this difficult time. May her soul rest in peace!" The Chief Whip of Limpopo Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana, said: "Condolences to the Mphahlele family and the EFF." The Deputy Chief Whip of Limpopo Legislature, Hon Monama said: "We are saddened and heartbroken beyond measure to hear about the unfortunate and untimely loss of one of the most outstanding, phenomenal women of substance, rectitude and probity. We are really commensurate with the bereaved family, relatives, and the EFF as her party. May her soul rest in eternal peace! You will always be etched in our hearts and minds with your rich legacy." The leader of the MK Party, Hon Jack, said: "Heartfelt condolences to the family and may her soul rest in peace! Hamba kahle Mbokodo." The leader of the DA, Hon Wilson, said: "We uplift her family, friends, and colleagues." Hon Molapo from the EFF said: "It is heartbreaking. May the soul of our comrade and colleague rest in peace!"

These are examples of messages sent by the honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature. We believe that through these messages, the family will gain strength and comfort. We, therefore, call upon the Almighty God to give the family and relatives of the late Hon Mphahlele more strength during these trying times. As revealed in Psalm 29:11, we call on the Lord to give the family strength, to bless the family with peace and accept the things they cannot change. We further call on God to give the family courage to change the things they can, and wisdom to know the difference. The Bible further reveals in Psalm 91 that: "He who dwells in the shelter of the highest will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." To the family and relatives, during these difficult times, let us trust in God and be next to the Lord. God will wipe your tears and protect you. Isaiah 41 also says: "So do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand."

The late Hon Mphahlele has been wonderful to all of us. We enjoyed our work together and experienced challenges together with her. Second Timothy 4:7 says: "She has fought a good fight. She has finished the race. She has kept the faith." On behalf of the Limpopo Legislature, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her three children: Tebogo, Phaahla, and Dipuo, family, friends and comrades of the late Hon Mphahlele and the EFF in general. May the soul of Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele rest in revolutionary peace! A Modimo wa lešoko, Modimo wa dikgaogelo a be le lena go fihla ge re mmea, mafelelong.

Ms Mphahlele, as your children, as your daughter, we will miss you, but we know we have gained an angel, and your children have gained an angel in heaven. Re tla dula re go gopola gore, tše botse tše o re diretšego tšona re tšwele pele ka tšona, di re rute bophelo re kgone go tšwela pele. Robala ka kutšo mmago rena. Hamba kahle Mbokodo. Ga di lebogwe.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

4. REMARKS BY A FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE: MR BENNY TSEBE

We shall now call upon the Sergeant-at-Arms to lower the mace so that we can allow the non-member to come and address the House. Thank you very much. We shall now call upon a family representative, Mr Benny Tsebe, to address the House.

MR TSEBE

Hon Speaker, thank you for affording me this time to say a word or two on behalf of the family. Firstly, I'd like to greet the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and all the Members of this respectable House. I don't want to make mistakes. I will start making mistakes when I try to call you one by one. Instead of saying this, I will say something very negative. Instead of saying "Chair of Chairs," I might say "seat of seats". I don't belong to this House and I'm afraid of making mistakes. I always hear people saying protocol observed.

I'm standing here on behalf of the family. I've been sent by the Mphahlele family together with the Ramatla family. We heard those who spoke here. We heartily receive your condolences as a family. Our hearts are broken, but your condolences make us feel that we are not alone in this. This very House, the law-making machinery here, is with us. One of the parts of this machinery has broken, hence you called us here to come and just be with us as you remember what she did for you.

Yesterday when they called me to come and talk on behalf of the family, I said to them: "Can you write something, because I want to hear what is in you and what you would want me to say to the people. What is written here is a tribute in loving memory of Selaelo Regina "Winnie" Mphahlele – a life of service, love and unwavering strength. As we gather today to honour the life of our beloved Selaelo Regina Winnie, we do not mourn alone, for her legacy is woven into the lives of all who knew her. She was not just an honourable Member of Parliament, but a devoted mother, a cherished sister, a guiding light in our community and the very foundation of our family.

To her children, maybe I must also introduce them since they are here: Tebogo, Phaahla and Dipuo. They are seated right there at the back; they were seated with me. We also have her siblings: Sello Joe Ramatla, her brother. He can just raise his hand for you to see him. Her sister, Shirley, is from Johannesburg. She has been here since the illness of our beloved sister Selaelo. To her children: Tebogo, Phaahla and Dipuo, she was more than a mother. She was their greatest champion, instilling in them the values of courage, compassion and resilience.

Her love was their shelter, her wisdom, their compass, and her laughter, the melody of their home.

You can bear witness that Selaelo Regina Winnie was not a loud person. Seriously, she was not a loud person. You would just see from her smile that she appreciates something, but you wouldn't hear negative things coming from her. To her siblings, Sello Joe Ramatla and Shirley Rameetse, she was a sister who led with love and a constant source of strength and unity. To her nieces and nephews, she was an aunt in the true sense, always present, always encouraging, and forever their safe haven. In the community she stood as a fearless advocate and a compassionate servant, who dedicated her life to uplifting those around her, whether in Parliament or on the streets of her constituency. She carried the voices of the people with unwavering commitment. To her family, she was our rock. Her presence was a source of comfort, her guidance a gift, and her love, a thread that bound us all together.

Though our hearts ache because of her absence, we find solace in knowing that her spirit lives on. In the loss, she transformed and the love she planted in each of us. Rest in eternal power, our matriarch, our leader, our heartbeat. You fought the good fight. You finished the race and now you take your rest. We will carry you with us, always with love and gratitude, the Mphahlele family.

What I wanted to say, in addition to this, is that the machinery here cannot wait for us. I think the seat that she occupied, not very long, would be occupied by someone else. However, in the family, there's no one who will come from outside and be a role player like she was in the family. We will remain as a family, trying to find ways of getting these roles that she played and the responsibility that she executed in the family, delegated to some of the members of the family so that we then close the gap that is there. We will be burying her this weekend; I think that will come with the announcements. I thank you very much on behalf of the family for just calling us to come here and be with you in this respectable House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. May Sergeant-at-Arms to position the mace again.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

We shall now call upon the Deputy Chair of Chairs to come and make announcements.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I'm not the "Deputy Seat of Seats". Hon Speaker; Hon Premier of our province; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; Hon Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chief Whip; chairpersons of committees; Members of the Whippers; honourable Members; family of Hon Mphahlele, good afternoon.

I wish to start off by summoning the extraordinary words by the Irish poet, Mary Lee Hall, in her poem titled "Turn Again to Life". "If I should die and leave you here a while, be not like others sore undone, who keep long vigils by the silent dust, and weep. For my sake – turn again to life and smile, nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do something to comfort weaker hearts than thine. Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine and I perchance may therein comfort you."

I, therefore, take the opportunity to make the following announcements:

- The funeral service of our dear colleague, the late Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele, will be on Saturday, 26 April 2025, at 06:30.

- The venue for the service is the Church of the First Born, formally known as Phakgadi Church next to Mahwelereng Hospital in Mokopane.
- As the Presiding Officers, we have come to realise that honourable Members of this august House and staff, do not attend memorial services as well as funerals of our Members. It is our call; therefore, let's always support each other and ensure that we condole each other. Hence, we call upon Members of the House as well as staff to attend this funeral.
- The family and relatives of Hon Selaelo Regina Mphahlele are requested to go back to the boardroom of the Speaker, where you had your breakfast this morning. Lunch will be served there.
- All honourable Members and guests will be served at the main committee's boardroom. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

6. ADJOURNMENT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of Chairs. The House is adjourned until further notice.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 27 MAY 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Good morning, honourable Members. [NO AUDIO]]

Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Premier of our province; Chair of Chairs; Members of the Whippers; Leader of Government Business; all MECs and honourable Members, good morning.

**CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ANC VETERAN, MS GERTRUDE
NTITI SHOPE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice that this august House notes that:

- ANC has learnt with a deep sense of sadness about the unfortunate passing of one of our outstanding veterans, Ms Gertrude Ntiti Shope, who passed away on Thursday, 22 May 2025, at the age of 99 years. The late first President of the ANC Women's League was a well-decorated veteran of our glorious movement, who lived and dedicated her entire life to fighting for a non-racial, non-sexist, free and prosperous South Africa.
- While still reeling from the passing of the ANC Deputy President, Cde Lungi Gcabashe, whose mortal remains were returned over the past weekend in KZN, we now mourn yet, another profound loss, that of Isithwalande/Siaparankoe, Ms Shope. A stalwart whose life defined the strength, courage and resilience of South African women in the liberation struggle. The death of our veteran closes a chapter of a political life dedicated to the liberation of the people of South Africa, and her passing has robbed our country of a phenomenal woman of substance, fortitude, great stature and sound leadership acumen.

- Through her vast knowledge, wisdom and political experience, she made immense contributions. Death has indeed robbed the people of South Africa of a true revolutionary whose involvement was not an accident of history. To say she was a heroine is perhaps an understatement of the veteran she was. She was indeed a legend. The story of the South African liberation struggle and the role of women in the struggle is incomplete without the name of Ms Shope. She was a towering figure, a committed activist, an organiser, a thinker and a disciplined cadre of our movement.
- Undoubtedly, her influence was felt across generations, and her humility and compassion remain unmatched. We celebrate the life of this titan of our revolution and honour her extraordinary life's immense contributions. Ms Shope belongs to a distinguished generation of struggle heroes and heroines who ensured that the ANC continued to live even when apartheid security forces believed that they had infiltrated the party.
- We pay our last homage to her legacy of integrity and servant leadership. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, comrades, and the ANC Women's League, the broader alliance and the people of South Africa. Hon Speaker, we have also lost Gideon Tlou Mokgonyana; the elder brother of our Chief Whip, Hon Manoko Essop Mokgonyana, who was also in his own right an ANC activist and volunteer, and who perished a few days ago. We are hurt beyond imagination by the passing of these selfless members of our glorious movement.
- On behalf of the ANC caucus, we extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family, friends and relatives during this difficult period of bereavement. The ANC mourns these deaths and many others who have perished over the past few months, and we send messages of condolence to the bereaved family, friends and comrades.

I move accordingly. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. May we please have a seconder. I recognise Hon Rakgoale.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Nkakareng Rakgoale, rise to support the presentation as made by the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. EFF, do we have any other motions? Hon Molapo, you may proceed.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. Greetings to the Leader of the Opposition and Members of this House.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE EFF'S
MASAKHANENG SOUP CHICKEN**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- The Economic Freedom Fighters celebrates and congratulates the first anniversary of the Masakhaneng Soup Kitchen, located in Masakhaneng, Zone 1, Seshego. The idea of the soup kitchen was conceptualised by the Commander-in-Chief and President of the Economic Freedom Fighters. It continues to feed more than 300 poor people daily. The project has gone a long way in... [INTERJECTION] [Inaudible] Can we have order from that side. The project has gone a long way in reducing hunger, especially among the poor people of Masakhaneng in Seshego.
- The Economic Freedom Fighters is the last hope for the people of Limpopo and South Africa as a whole. Our people continue to be inspired by the generous ideas of the Commander-in-Chief and President of the Economic Freedom Fighters.
- We celebrate this anniversary with pride, realising that our people cannot starve under our watch. Soup kitchens are part of a broader social relief programme and are often a crucial component of food security initiatives, providing free meals for struggling people in townships and rural areas.
- The Masakhaneng Soup Kitchen provides a daily meal for people in need, and we are doing this consistently without fail. Currently, the Masakhaneng Soup Kitchen provides meals to almost 100 elderly people, 70 middle-aged persons and over 100 kids.
- Madam Speaker, the Masakhaneng Soup Kitchen further delivers 184 meals daily to elderly people and people living with disability who cannot walk to the kitchen.
- We call upon all samaritans to support this initiative by donating food, clothes and anything that can sustain this project.
- Indeed, it is the best initiative for the Seshego community, initiated by the Economic Freedom Fighters.
- The EFF also salutes and appreciates the work done by volunteers on a daily basis at this Masakhaneng Soup Kitchen. We commend the Commander-in-Chief and President of the EFF for his visionary leadership in our society. Indeed, our people are properly led. Happy first anniversary of the Masakhaneng Soup Kitchen.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Mr Magolo, you are recognised.

MR MAGOLO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Molapo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Do we have any other motions? I recognise Dr Malebana.

DR MALEBANA

Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; and honourable Members, good morning.

**DISCIPLINARY MEASURES INSTITUTED AGAINST A DOCTOR WHO
ATTEMPTED RAPE
(Motion without Notice)**

I hereby move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- As the African National Congress in this House, we welcome the disciplinary measures that have been instituted by the Department of Health against the doctor who reportedly attempted to rape a pregnant woman at the George...
[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. For the record, I'm known as Hon Mathe in this House. So, if you pronounce it as '*Mathey*', you confuse the public. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise to object to a motion that was presented by the Economic Freedom Fighters, particularly in relation to the soup kitchen project that is happening, of which Hon Mapoulo would know that it is happening 120 metres away from my parental home. Eupša gore ke kgauswi le gagešu. Where is sickness there? Where is sickness?

I'm raising an objection to the motion so that the public should not be misinformed. What is presented in this House, Hon Speaker, is the total opposite of the actual happenings. I find it very unnecessary that a grandstanding statement or motion can be made in this House, which is far from the truth while, of course, people are getting chicken feet. It is not necessarily a chicken soup. That is misleading. I therefore object on that basis.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, you can't raise an order on top of an order.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Please, Hon Speaker. We are not joking on this matter. If Hon Mathe is full of jokes, there are Mashabelas and others who are competing out there, not here. Here we are speaking about the plight of the people; the people who are downtrodden. This House must also take it very seriously. It's not about chicken feet from the families that are eating chicken feet, there are people suffering because of the state of affairs in their families. We must call him to order because we are proud of our people who are eating chicken feet also. It means that he is eating seafood in his house. Let's not vilify our people. Our people are poor out there.

MR MATHE

You are lying.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I'm struggling to talk. Hon Mapoulo, but also at the same time, you are debating. You can't call an order on top of an order. The honourable Member is objecting. Whether it's a lie or the truth, right now he is objecting the motion. Okay. It's not an issue, honourable Members. Do we have a seconder for the objection? Hon Mapoulo and Hon Mathe, its fine, can we go back to the House now. Hon Mapoulo, please. Do we have a seconder for the objection? I don't see a seconder. Okay, can we proceed to another motion. I notice Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO OUR NATIONAL UNDER-20 SOCCER TEAM
CROWNED AS AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS CHAMPIONS**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- On a positive note, I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House that this House notes the tremendous achievements of our National Under-20 Soccer Team, "Amajita", as the newly crowned Champions of the African Cup of Nations.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Che Selane.

MR SELANE

I rise to second the objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, you don't do that.

MR MOLAPO

Order! On a point of order, Madam Speaker. Give me an opportunity to raise my point of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

[Inaudible]... you don't do that. Can we have order in this House. Listen here: you don't call an order on an objection unless if you show me the rules that say so. I want me and you to go to the rules. Unless you give me the rules that say that you can call an order on an objection, no. Let's work on rules. Give me the rules. If you are not giving me a rule, you are going to sit down. I'm giving you an opportunity.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks, Madam Speaker. You see, you must run this House professionally. You passed on the secondment of the objection and closed it, then the person stood up there on a different matter. You want the person to go back to the item that you have already closed? You passed on that. Nobody supported that nonsense there of the guy who burned the house of the government. Please, we passed that. Don't be biased. His nonsense was not supported by anyone.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members and Hon Mathe, let us not participate in these things. Let's be orderly Go nale melao mo. I asked him to quote a rule, but he didn't do that. Can we not entertain that and let's keep quiet and be orderly in this House. Honourable Members, is there is any other motion? Hon Mdaka. Thank you.

MR MOLAPO

Your nonsense was not supported. Your own people did not support your nonsense.

MR MDAKA

It's like it's Blue Monday; I don't know what's happening in this House today.

MR MOSS

On a point of order, Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise on Rule 144(5). It says: "If there is an objection by a Member to a seconded motion and the objection is seconded, then the motion shall be put to a vote." Before we proceed to the next motion, there should be a voting exercise first. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

That is not a problem, and I don't think that would be an issue. Let's deal with that so that we pass to the next item. Honourable Members, can we check: those who agree with the objection will say 'Yeah' and those who disagree with the objection will say 'Nay'. Those who agree with the objection that was seconded by Hon Mdaka?

THE BACKGROUND

Yeah!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who are disagreeing?

THE BACKGROIUND

Nay!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay. Thank you very much. The objection stands. Now can we go to the next motion. It was Hon Malebana who was following, then you will come after.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you for the opportunity. May I acknowledge the presence of the Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; honourable Members and the guests.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES INSTITUTED AGAINST A DOCTOR WHO ATTEMPTED RAPE (Motion without Notice)

I hereby move a motion without notice on behalf of the African National Congress that the House notes that:

- We welcome the disciplinary measures that have been taken or instituted by the Department of Health against a doctor who reportedly attempted to rape a pregnant woman at George Maseve Hospital in Mokgalakwena Local Municipality.
- This disgusting incident does not only undermine the Oath of Health Professionals, but it also portrays hospitals and other health facilities as humble spaces which are not safe for our people.
- We call upon the MEC for the Department of Health, Hon Dieketseng Mashego, to ensure that disciplinary measures are taken against this perpetrator. It is concerning that someone who is bestowed with the trust of saving the lives of our people could be a threat to their safety.

- We are also calling upon other health practitioners within the sector to always prioritise the safety of our people as they discharge their responsibilities.

I so move. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Dr Malebana. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lebea. The motion is seconded. Is there any other motion? You may come in first and then Hon Mdaka will be the last one.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the House; all Members; and the Leader of the Opposition.

UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS IN LIMPOPO
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move a motion without notice: that the House notes:

- The shocking unemployment rate in our province. The EFF is alarmed that the province lost staggering 55 000 jobs between the fourth quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025. This shocking revelation was made public by StatsSA Labour Force Survey, first quarter report of 2025.
- That the province's expanded unemployment rate is currently 48,6%. The majority of our people are discouraged jobseekers who have lost hope of ever finding a job under this current government. They no longer seek or go out to hunt for jobs because there are no jobs anymore. Jobs are now reserved for the people close to the elites, as well as their family members and friends.
- The ANC councillors recommend and forward lists of their family members to departments for EPWP jobs and other jobs in general.

That the cadre deployment policy of the ANC has ensured that jobs are reserved exclusively for individuals politically aligned to the ruling party. Terrible things are happening in the African National Congress; you have to be a family member in order to get job in the ANC government.

- The current economic trajectory does not inspire confidence in terms of job seeking. More people have been forced out of the job market as instead of being kept in jobs.
- There is general lack of support in the agricultural sector, mining and other key economic drivers. The situation in the mining sector is aggravated by the fact that the majority of ANC elites are now shareholders in mines. Therefore, it is difficult to hold the mining companies accountable in terms of the social labour agreements that they undertook. We need progressive leadership with political will to change the lives of our people, including growing the economy and creating jobs for the citizens.
- That there is an example in Africa where Captain Traore, the President of Burkina Faso, is a shining example of what African leaders need to do. Since he took over in 2022, he has nationalised two mines,,, [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Really, now you are debating. What is the motion in what you are saying? You will never know; maybe we are misinterpreting this motion's words.

MR MAGOLO

... on the given example.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

There is an order. I recognise Hon Mahoai.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to call an order on the speaker because the motion that he is presenting does not meet the requirements of a motion without notice. The motion should be confined to the issues of the province but the quotations that he is making does not meet the requirements. Therefore, I to object it. That is not a motion without notice. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. That is what I asked. I asked him, and I can't understand what he is talking about. That is not a motion. Over to you, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I don't want to repeat what the Leader of Government Business has said, but he is clearly correct. It is also my understanding of the Rules. Subsequent to that, there is a secured time limit on motions as well. I will leave that in your hands to deal with, Hon Chair.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members, let's just assist each other with microphones. When one Member is talking, let's switch off our microphones. Honourable Member, that is not a motion without notice. Let's proceed. I recognise Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Manana Xipikara, ku va mi ndzi nyike nkarhi lowu i khale ndzi karhi ndzi lava ku yima ndzi hlaya xiringanyeto lexi ndza tshemba leswaku sweswi mi nge he ndzi tshamisi ehansi.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO OUR NATIONAL UNDER-20 SOCCER TEAM CROWNED AS AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS CHAMPIONS (Motion without Notice)

I rise to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House, that this House notes the tremendous achievements of our National Under 20 Soccer Team, 'Amajita', as the newly crowned champions of the African Champion of Nations.
- What makes this victory more prominent is that the coach who was mentoring the Under-20 National Soccer Team is a product of this province. nghala ya mona, i maseni. Coach Raymond Mdaka was born and raised in Tzaneen. [APPLAUSE]
- Together with his charges they have revived the 1996 memories when Bafana Bafana was crowned the champions of the African Cup of Nations. The 1996 AFCON counts, amongst others, as one of the turning points that placed this country on a developmental pedestal.
- It has not only opened the world of opportunities for our sporting talent, but it also serves as leverage to heighten this country's capability to host events such as the World Cup and other international tournaments. We congratulate Coach Mdaka and the team for their ability to awaken our hope of becoming international champions again.

Indeed, coach Mdaka, lava mi va tivaka coach Mdaka va sungule khale hala masayiti ya Giyani va tlhele va tlakusa xipano xa Maindisi ku va xi kota ku fikela ku va ehenhla. Ndza khensa. Inkomu swinene Manana Xipikara.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Maseko.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion from the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

A very blessed morning to you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I'm Kedibone Lebea from the African National Congress, right from the Peter Mokaba Region.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE SWIFT ARREST BY MEMBERS OF THE
SAPS AFTER A SHOOTING AT LAASTEHOOP**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- We welcome the swift arrest by members of the South African Police Service of a suspect involved in a shooting incident at Laastehoop, GaMolepo, outside Polokwane. A 30-year-old male suspect is facing an attempted murder charge after shooting another male victim in the early hours of Saturday morning at a funeral at GaMolepo.
- We commend the police for effecting this arrest, and we condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of violence as a means of dispute resolution.
- Tomorrow, Wednesday, 28 May 2025, the South African Police Service in Limpopo will release their provincial crime statistics of the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 financial year.
- We cannot improve our public safety record if such incidents continue, where people draw their weapons against anyone who differs with them.
- Our fight against crime will amount to nothing if we allow such people to thrive in our society. We therefore make a clarion call to our men and women in blue, led in the province by the Provincial Commissioner, Ms Thembi Radebe, under the supervision of the honourable MEC, Ms Violet Mathye, to deal harshly with anyone posing a security threat to our people.
- Limpopo province counts among the safest places to live in the Republic, and it remains our wish that the safety records should not be blemished.

I move accordingly. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member from the Peter Mokaba Region. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I'm from wherever I'm known to be from. I second Hon Lebea.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mathe. Are there any other motions? There are none. Are there any Notices of Motions? I recognise Hon Wilson.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to call for an urgent debate on the collapsed water infrastructure in the province, the outcomes of the SIU investigations, and the implications for our water service authorities and their relationship with Lepelle Water. No longer can we sit back and watch the citizens of Limpopo being denied their basic human right to life-saving water provision. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. Are there any other motions? There are none. Are there any Members' Statements? I recognise Hon Smalle, and Hon Moss will follow.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

SHOCKING EXTENT OF THE NON-PAYMENT OF GNT PENSION FUNDS (Members' Statement)

The shocking extent of non-payment by GNT of employees' pension fund and medical aid contributions, and the hardships, distress, and anxiety caused to its employees, was laid bare at a meeting of the LEDET Portfolio Committee held this past Friday evening. Unpaid pension fund contributions now total R6,78 million, affecting 945 employees. If the default continues, the employees' risk permanently losing their pension benefits.

Unpaid medical aid contributions i now total R3,21 million, affecting 247 employees. All medical aid coverage for GNT employees has been suspended, meaning that employees cannot access healthcare services unless they pay out of their own pockets.

Who should account for this historical state of affairs? Is it the CEO and senior executives of GNT, the Board of GNT, the Executive and Members of Board Leaders, or the sole shareholder? I asked you, honourable MEC, will you here today in this House, apologise to the employees of Great North Transport? Advise us as to what steps will be taken, when the R10 million due will be paid, and what accountability and consequence management steps you intend to take? Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. Over to you, Hon Moss

ADV MARX

FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE LIMPOPO LEARNERS' PARTICIPATION IN THE SA NATIONAL SCHOOL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, it has now been more than a month since the Speaker of this province stood before the people of Limpopo and promised a full-scale investigation into what transpired at the SA National School Athletic Championship. That promise, made on 11 April 2025, came after learners were forced to sleep on buses without food or accommodation. It was not only a national embarrassment, but also an opportunity lost for all those children involved. The Premier promised a report within one month. However, two months later we have nothing; no report, no accountability and no justice for those learners.

Hon Speaker, I would be failing in my duty if I did not speak on behalf of those children in this august House. Hon Premier, the children want to know from you when that report will be released and what the findings were? Honourable MEC for Sport, our children want to know from you what accountability steps have been taken against those responsible?

The Premier herself said, "This is not merely an isolated incident. It's a blatant pattern of negligence that we can no longer condone." Therefore, honourable MEC for Education, I asked you on behalf of our children: who was held accountable, and what steps have you taken to ensure that this pattern of negligence does not continue under your watch?

If the Limpopo government is serious about protecting the dignity and future of our children, they must act — and be seen to act — with transparency and urgency, taking accountability steps against those officials responsible for this neglect. The Democratic Alliance demands the immediate release of the full report, and we will not rest until those officials responsible for the mistreatment for our children are held accountable. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, Hon Baloyi.

MR BALOYI

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings once more to the Leader of the Opposition and Members of this august House.

APPALLING STATE OF ROADS IN LIMPOPO (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the Road Agency Limpopo is responsible for a road network of close to 20 000 km. Only 35%, which is about 6 800 km, is paved or tarred, while the remaining 13 200 km is unpaved. The state of roads in our province is appalling. A typical example is road D2219 between Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Jane Furse in GaMalekane. There are more potholes than road left, making it extremely dangerous for both pedestrians and motorists. In Fetakgomo-Tubatse, there are villages that not only have not seen a paved road, but they have also not received their roads being gravelled.

Those are villages such as Makotaseng, Taung, Mahlatse, Kgotlopong and Kgautswane, where the honourable MEC for Sport is coming from. The Limpopo government must get the basics right and ensure that every resource is deployed efficiently and effectively. In the 2023/24 financial year, RAL reported fruitless and wasteful expenditure of about R16 million. In the same year, RAL reported a staggering irregular expenditure of about R8 billion. These figures are reported in the annual report of RAL.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, in the same financial year, incurred irregular expenditure of over R400 million. All those moneys can go a long way in ensuring that over 13 000 km of unpaved or untarred roads are paved and potholes are fixed. Instead, it appears that the department is more obsessed about squandering our resources. Hon Speaker, there appears to be a trend of awarding specific service providers big contracts in the department. The following are some of the service providers that are getting big contracts: Taza Properties, which has been awarded a contract of over R40 million to refurbish the Thohoyandou Government Complex. We will be paying attention to this contract, the work it does, and the quality of work being delivered.

Taza Properties was also awarded a contract of over R50 million to build the Seshego K53 Driving Licence Testing Centre and Vehicle Pit. We will be paying close attention to this contractor. We are also monitoring the construction of the provincial theatre, which is allocated over R300 million. We will be conducting unannounced visits to this contractor to see if there is value for the money being spent. Like the state of our roads in this province, which are riddled with potholes, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure seems to be riddled with nepotism and cadre deployment when it comes to employment opportunities.

We have seen that members of the ANC are the ones who are hired in this department, and as the EFF we are going to pay close attention to this pattern, which seems to be nepotism and corruption. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other Members' Statement? There is none. I shall now afford an opportunity to the Premier and the Executive to respond. Hon Makamu, you may proceed.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I will respond to the Members' Statement which refers to the work of the RAL in the absence of my colleague, Hon Rachoene. I think the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture and the MEC for LEDET are here; they will come after me. Thanks very much. We want to acknowledge receipt of the Members' Statement from the honourable Member, which refers to RAL and the potholes in the province. We want to assure the House that at the start of this Seventh Administration we were very clear on the revamping the work of RAL.

It's a recorded story in this province that even the changes effected in the RAL Board and in the RAL management were intended to ensure that we have an effective entity that will help us resolve the issue of roads.

I think the work of RAL and the work of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is well recorded not only in the province, but all over the country, where people appreciate the work being done. On the part of the roads mentioned, it is true that there are those which have potholes or which are unpaved. You will have noticed that it's only in this province that we experienced a serious disaster which created a lot of damage to our road infrastructure. You were here in the House when we dealt with budget adjustments and made money available for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to deal with such matters.

You spoke about the road to Malekane, but you decided not to mention the work we are doing to ensure that the bridge at Malekane is something you can be proud of under the Seventh Administration. I think that was not ignorance on your part; it's just that you had forgotten. You spoke about the issue of irregular and fruitless expenditure. I want to educate this House and the honourable Member that irregular expenditure does not necessarily mean that money has not been used, it's available to do other work also.

It's only the procurement process that has been followed which did not necessarily satisfy the supply chain management requirements, but the work has been done, and there is a process that the department will follow to ensure that such matters are condoned. It should be mentioned that most challenges of RAL, in incurring irregular expenditure, arise when communities' protest and the agency resolve some of the challenges without necessarily going through the full process.

We will welcome you to the unannounced visits for the projects that we have. The only caution we give each other is that we must not go and disrupt the construction of these projects. Unannounced visits by honourable Members are highly welcome; in fact, that is what our work is all about as Members of this House. We welcome you to do so.

The statement that members of the ANC are employing only members of the ANC is something we want to refute at all costs. It is recorded in this province, Hon Leader of the Opposition, that eight out of ten people support the African National Congress.

Where will you get other people if, out of ten, eight are members of the ANC or support the ANC? It means that the majority of people in this province are ANC members, and we will not find others in a community where 80% of the members support the African National Congress. Where will you get the others?

On this matter, we want to thank you and say we will continue with that. In this province, it is 70%. I don't want to waste time. My honourable Members accept that the ANC still has the 80% in this province, and as a result, we will appoint just from them. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, for allowing me to respond.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, Hon Matibe.

THE MEC FOR LEDET

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. We acknowledge the statement as raised by the Democratic Alliance. In fact, it is a statement that comes after we went to the portfolio committee. We must indicate that we also noted the statement by the Democratic Alliance that they have opened a case. They are opening the case on top of a case that was opened by us as the department in respect of the non-payment of entities.

We opened a case on 25 January 2025. The SIU is also investigating the non-payment of pension funds at GNT. We must further indicate that part of the work we are doing with GNT is to try and move it out of the woods, because it has been experiencing serious challenges as an entity. The work we are doing together with the new GNT Board and the LEDA Board is to ensure that indeed action is taken.

We have directed LEDA as well as GNT to take action. Besides the cases we have already opened, law enforcement agencies, including the SIU, are currently investigating. We have directed them to take action on management for non-payment, because the non-payment of pensions as well as medical aid is a criminal offence. That is why we opened that case. We, therefore, regard the opening of a case by the DA as a grandstanding, because the case is already there.

We must also indicate that, besides the cases already opened, we have appointed actuaries who are working on the issues of pensions to check the pension funds of all the members, right from the time of amalgamation of GNT and other boards. Therefore, the work is continuing. We will come and brief the honourable Members on the progress of the work we are doing. LEDA, together with the GNT Board, have met over the weekend and committed that they are going to pay the outstanding amounts that are due. The work of the actuaries is continuing. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matibe. Over to you, Hon Premier.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Members of the Executive Council; and Members of the House. Let me appreciate the inquiry raised by the DA, since we have made a commitment that we are indeed worried about what happened to our learners who were supposed to be participating in sports. Let me just take you back. It was from 2 to 6 April when our learners were supposed to fully participate, and after the story broke out, we directed the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Maseko and the MEC for Education, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya to investigate the matter.

They did investigate and gave the Office of the Premier a preliminary report within five days. On 11 April, as the Premiership, we also came out having gone through that preliminary report, which was not answering many of the questions we were asking. You are quite correct when you said, in my statement, that I even indicated that this is not an isolated incident. I then reminded the people of this province that when you really want to completely treat a patient, you must spend time diagnosing, and once you know the diagnosis through investigations, you will be able to successfully treat your patients and the prognosis will be good.

Even in this case, the preliminary report that we have is not going to solve the problem. Year in and year out we are still going to be faced with similar challenges. That is why I directed the Director-General to work with the two MECs and appoint a high-profile team that has been to Bloemfontein. For now, I have received a report that they have been to Bloemfontein. They have even visited those lodges that were supposed to be accommodating the students.

Some, we are told, are even in the Northern Cape. They also investigated the service providers and the allegations against some officials within the Department of Education and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Be assured, the matter is receiving full attention.

You will definitely get an update because we want to solve it once and for all. Thank you very much.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier. Do we any Executive Statements? There are none. We shall now move to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

6.1 Tabling of the Withdrawal of the Tabled 2025/26 Appropriation Bill and Related Budget Documents

We call upon Hon Mahoai to table the first report.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip in absentia; Hon Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair

of Chairs; honourable Members of the House; Leader of the Opposition; ladies and gentlemen.

On 25 March 2025, I came to this august House and tabled the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B03-2025] and the related accompanying documents, following the tabling of the National Budget on 12 March 2025.

The Minister of Finance has since withdrawn and subsequently re-tabled the 2025/26 Division of Revenue and Appropriation Bills and related budget documents. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is against this background that I hereby withdraw the Limpopo Appropriation Bill and the related documents. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahoai. The withdrawal submission is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for further scrutiny and report back to the House. We shall now go to the tabling of the Section 131 report on measures taken by municipalities to address issues raised by the AG in the 2023/24 Local Government Audit Outcomes and any omission thereof. Over to you, honourable MEC Makamu.

6.2 Tabling of the Section 131 Report on Measures taken by Municipalities to Address Issues raised by the AGSA in the 2023/24 Local Government Audit Outcomes and any omissions thereof

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. In terms of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, [Act No. 56 of 2003], section 131(2)(b), the MEC for Local Government in the province must assess all annual financial statements and report to the Provincial Legislature any omission by a municipality to adequately address issues within 60 days. Hon Speaker, in line with the provisions of the abovementioned legislation, I hereby table the report on the measures taken by municipalities to address issues raised by the AGSA in the 2023/24 Local Government Audit Outcomes and any omission thereof, for consideration by the House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The report in terms of section 131, on measures taken by municipalities to address issues raised by the Auditor-General in the 2023/24 Local Government Audit Outcomes and any omissions thereof, is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury for the tabling of the In-Year Monitoring section 71(7) report for 30 September and the In-Year Monitoring report for 31 December 2024.

6.3 Tabling of the In-year Monitoring Section 71(7) Reporting: 30 September and In-Year Reporting: 31 December 2024

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Madam Speaker, in terms of section 71(7) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, the Provincial Treasury must, within 30 days after the end of each quarter, make public, as maybe prescribed, a consolidated statement in the prescribed format on the state of municipalitys' budgets, per municipality and per municipal entity. In line with the provisions of the abovementioned legislation, I hereby table the State of the Municipal Finance Reports for the quarters ended 30 September 2024 and 31 December 2024, respectively, for consideration by this august House. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahoi. The reports on the In-Year Monitoring, section 71, for 30 September 2024 and 31 December 2024 are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House. I shall now call upon the Leader of Government Business to table the 2024/25 Departmental and Public Entities Fourth Quarter Performance Report.

6.4 Tabling of the 2024/25 Departmental and Public Entities Fourth Quarter Performance Reports

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier and Members the House. Hon Speaker, in terms of the provisions of section 40(1)(f) and section 51(f) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act No. 1 of 1999 as amended, read together with House Rule 205(6), departments are required to submit their quarterly reports to the Provincial Legislature for tabling on the day to be determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Programming Committee.

Madam Speaker, as a result, in line with the provision of House Rule 205(7), I, as the Leader of Government Business on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive, hereby table the Departmental and Institutional Performance Reports for the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter for the following departments and public entities, for consideration by the honourable House:

- Office of the Premier;
- Department Education
- Department of Provincial Treasury;
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities: LTA, Limpopo Gambling Board and Limpopo Economic Development Agency;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity GAAL;
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure together with its entity Road Agency Limpopo;
- Department of CoGHSTA;
- Department of Social Development; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

I so submit, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Makamu. The 2024/25 Departmental and Public Entities Fourth Quarter Performance Reports are referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and to report back to the House. I shall now call upon Madam Speaker for the tabling of the 2024/25 Limpopo Legislature Fourth Quarter Performance Report.

6.5 Tabling of the 2024/25 Limpopo Legislature Fourth Quarter Performance Report

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity. I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, rise to table the 2024/25 Limpopo Legislature Fourth Quarter Performance Report for consideration by this august House. The quarterly reports are tabled in compliance with sections 52 and 54 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009. I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Performance Report of the Limpopo Legislature is referred to the Oversight Committee for consideration and to report back to the House. We shall proceed to the Snap Debate on Africa Day. I call upon Hon Maseko Fumani Jerry to open the debate.

7. SNAP DEBATE ON AFRICA DAY

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I am sending you a signal that I am checking my time so that there should not be any confusion with regard to time management. On a serious note: Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Hon Premier of our province; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chief Whip; leaders of opposition parties; esteemed Members of this House; ladies and gentlemen; good morning.

The month of May is a period of revolutionary memories that cannot easily be neglected. It is a month in which Africa, as a continent, South Africa as a country, and the ANC have lost a stalwart of the liberation movement, Cde Walter Sisulu, the former ANC activist and volunteer-in-chief, who died on 5 May 2003. Walter Sisulu served as the ANC Secretary-General from 1949 to 1954 and later became the ANC Deputy President from 1991 to 1994. He was also a member of the central committee of the South African Communist Party. As we commemorate Africa Month, we honour the legacy of African leaders who fought for our freedom and self-determination.

The African Union, in its current position, is made up of 55 member states, which represent all countries on the African continent. We remember the sacrifices made by our founding fathers and mothers who paved the way for our democratic dispensation. Let's remember the contribution made by our African leaders, the likes of Kwame Nkrumah, the Ghanaian activist and revolutionary. He was the first Prime Minister and

the President of Ghana, having led the Gold Coast's independence from Britain in 1957. An influential advocate of Pan-Africanism, Nkrumah was a founding member of the Organisation of African Unity and the winner, for that matter, of the Lenin Peace Prize of the Soviet Union in 1962.

Africa Day celebration can never be complete without mentioning Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, a Nigerian politician who was the first and only Prime Minister of Nigeria. He was an important leader in the formation of the Organisation of African Unity and in creating a cooperative relationship with French-speaking countries in Africa.

Madam Speaker, we can never forget the contribution of Apollo Milton Obote, a Ugandan political leader who led the Ugandan revolution and achieved independence in 1962 from the British Colonial Administration. Obote, as Prime Minister of Uganda from 1962 to 1966 and President of Uganda from 1966 to 1971 contributed immensely to the formation of the Organisation of African Unity, now the African Union.

This gathering comes two days after Limpopo province successfully held its provincial Africa Day celebration on 25 May at the George Phadagi Community Hall in Thoyondou, Thulamela Municipality. During this august event, the Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, delivered a keynote address: "Africa Day reminds us of the visionary spirit of our forebears, who established the OAU with a mission: to promote solidarity, encourage trade, support development, resolve conflict, and protect the sovereignty of African nations. Today, more than ever, it is our responsibility to bring the vision of the AU to life."

Premier Ramathuba further said: "Limpopo, as a gateway to Africa, plays a strategic role in promoting regional economic integration, particularly within the SADC region, bordering Botswana, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. We serve as a critical hub for trade, investment, and continental cooperation. Through initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, we are opening new frontiers of opportunity. This is an affirmation of the province's commitment to the African Union.

Hon Speaker, as we present this speech here and now, let us reflect on the year's theme, which is "Building the Africa we want through Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability. This resonates deeply with our own provincial aspiration of becoming a unified province in our diversity. As we strive to build a better Africa and a better world, we recognise the importance of regional integration, cultural diplomacy, and socioeconomic development.

In South Africa, and our province of Limpopo, we continue making significant strides in promoting arts, culture, and preserving our heritage. The mandate of our department includes, among others, promoting social cohesion, utilising our culture to build moral values in society. We are committed to continuing to support the preservation of indigenous languages, moral regeneration, and the preservation of our heritage sites, so as to be able to narrate our own African stories.

As we conclude, Hon Speaker, we remain committed to working together to build a stronger and prosperous Africa, a successful South Africa, and a more diverse, united Limpopo province. We are proud to host the G20 Presidency this year, and we will

further utilise this platform to promote the African agenda and strengthen the African Union's institutions and policies.

As I wrap up, allow me to quote one of the greatest speeches from our former President Thabo Mbeki: "I am an African. I owe my being to the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever-changing seasons that define the face of our native land. My body has frozen in our frosts and in our latter-day snows. It has thawed in the warmth of our sunshine and melted in the heat of the midday sun. The crack and the rumble of the summer thunders, lashed by startling lightning, have been a cause both of trembling and of hope. At times, and in fear, I have wondered whether I should concede equal citizenship of our country to the leopard and the lion, the elephant and the springbok, the hyena, the black mamba, and the pestilential mosquito. A human presence among all these, a feature on the face of our native land thus defined, I know that none dare challenge me when I say - I am an African!" Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Maseko. We shall now call upon Hon Velile Cyril Jack.

MR JACK

Good afternoon, everybody. Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Premier of the province; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs Chief Whip of the party in absentia; and his unforgivable Hon Rodgers Monama; our colleagues in the House; and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mmakgabo Lawrence Mapoulo.

Today, as we commemorate Africa Day, we gather to celebrate the rich cultural heritage, diversity, and resilience of our great continent as members of the MK Party. We take pride in honouring the spirit of Pan-Africanism, which has been the driving force behind the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality.

As President Traoré of Burkina Faso put it: "Africa's future is not in the hands of its enemies but in the hands of its sons and daughters." We must take full ownership of our destiny and reject any praise of white monopoly capital tendencies.

In South Africa, we have a legacy of leaders who have championed African development and pride. President Zuma's commitment to rural development, land reform, and protecting our mineral resources is a statement to his dedication to the empowerment of people. You know this well.

As we reflect on Africa's riches, we are reminded that our continent is endowed with vast mineral resources; from the gold of Mzansi to the diamonds in Botswana and oil in Nigeria. Africa's wealth is undeniable.

As the MK Party, we believe that African solutions lie in African-led initiatives and partnerships. We must learn from Burkina Faso's commitment to empower citizens and promote economic development. Local agriculture, and industrialisation will build unity and solidarity amongst Africans, enabling us to unlock this vast potential. Not the apology we give to Donald Trump for the genocide that we do not know of.

Hon Rodgers, did you see any genocide in the past three months here in Africa? On 16 December we commemorated our young people who were slaughtered by the same enemy that now claims to be involved in genocide. Aowa ke bakgotse ba lena. O rile go sa šetše nako ye nnyane ya Mohlomphegi.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I shall now call upon Hon Maila Kobodi. He is not in the House. I shall now call upon Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

I am so happy that my neighbour there, Hon Mokone, and the Premier were clapping hands, otherwise I was not going to give them lunch. [LAUGHTER] They are now invited for lunch after the Sitting since they have clapped hands. That was on a lighter note.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Hon Grace Tebogo Mamorobela; the Premier of the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama, who is here; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo; and all other political parties that are here in the Legislature; honourable Members of the Legislature; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, Thobela.

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to present a debate about Africa Day. Africa Day is commemorated annually across the African continent on 25 May. Africa Day is a symbolic and historical day celebrated in Africa and beyond in commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

The 2025 African Union theme for Africa Day was: “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations.” The theme focused on building resilient education systems and increasing access to quality, inclusive and relevant learning.

Deputy Speaker, today's debate is happening as the Hon Deputy Chief Whip has presented, when we are mourning the passing of our mother, leader, and struggle veteran who fought for women's rights and equality in South Africa and the continent for many years; Ms Gertrude Shope, who passed away on 22 May 2025. May her revolutionary soul rest in eternal peace! Therefore, I saw it befitting that this debate be dedicated to her life and times.

Ms Gertrude Shope was born in Johannesburg on 15 August 1925 and was raised and educated in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. She worked as a teacher before becoming a member of the African National Congress in 1954. Joining the campaign against Bantu Education, she turned to teaching crafts instead. She then became an active member of the Federation of South African Women, which was called FEDSAW at that time. For a very long time, she led the Central Western Jabavu Branch of the ANC women's section.

She lived in exile from 1966-1990, leading the party's delegation to the Nairobi Women's Meeting and working for the World Federation Trade Unions. From 1970-1971, she was the secretary to Ms Florence Moposho, helping her to establish the publication of the newsletter called *Voice for Women*.

With her husband Mark Shope, who was born in Tzaneen in Limpopo, she lived in a variety of locations during her exile, including Prague, Botswana, Tanzania, Czechoslovakia, Zambia, and Nigeria. In Lusaka, she served as a chief representative of the African National Congress.

Several months after the ANC was unbanned by the apartheid government, the ANC Women's League was relaunched in Durban on 9 August 1990, the anniversary of the famous 1956 Women's March. In April 1991, the League held its first national conference in several decades in Kimberley. Ms Gertrude Shope was elected its first president after the unbanning.

In 1994, Ms Shope was elected as a Member of Parliament. It was therefore necessary for us to remember that she served as a Member of Parliament. Ms Shope was married to her husband Mark Shope, in 1957, till her husband passed away in 1998. When she died on 22 May 2025 at the age of 99 years, a remarkable milestone, Ms Shope was a symbol of the unity of Africa. We wish to honour her life, which teaches us lessons on how Africans can work together to achieve greater unity, cohesion, and solidarity among African countries and nations. Furthermore, her legacy accelerates the political and socioeconomic integration of the continent.

Deputy Speaker, Ms Shope and her counterparts in other countries worked tirelessly towards the achievement of establishing what we call the Pan-African Women's Organisation, which was founded in 1962. In 1974, the organisation changed its name to the Pan-African Women's Organisation, now called PAWO. It was originally formed as an organisation to fight against colonialism and racial discrimination, and to allow women across Africa to unite in their efforts to gain socioeconomic equality and independence. Later, as apartheid ended, its organisational goals shifted towards human rights and peace activism.

I must indicate that Africa has a population of about 1,5 billion people. Africa is a continent incredibly rich in a variety of mineral resources. For instance, 70% of the global supply of cobalt is mined in the DRC, while South Africa is the world leader in the production of platinum and gold metals. The abundance of minerals and natural resources makes the African continent a preferred investment destination in the world.

Despite these rich minerals and natural resources, the African continent is considered the least wealthy continent per capita and the second least wealthy by total wealth. The opportunity to grow the African economy seems to be hindered by political instability, among other factors. In many instances, political instability is fueled by former colonial masters who want to continue exploiting the mineral resources without benefiting local communities. A case of in point is what is happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As South Africa, but specifically as Limpopo province, we are the gateway to Africa. It is therefore very critical that we take greater advantage of participation in the African

Continental Free Trade Area, which was established in 2018, making Africa the continent with the largest population after Asia, as I already said.

Honourable Members, the first democratically elected South African President, Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela once said: “We stand at the dawn of an African century, a century where Africa will take its rightful place among the nations of the world. This is not an idle statement, but one that has the full commitment of people and leaders of the continent through the newly formed African Union and its plan for socioeconomic reform, namely the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, which was NEPAD.”

Again, our own President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa further said in 2023, when addressing the nation: “We learn the importance of collaboration between African countries and that if we work together, we can rebuild our economies, restore hope in our people, and chart a new future. The AU Charter calls for African countries to safeguard and to consolidate their hard-won independence, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and for resistance against neocolonialism in all its forms.”

The Organisation of African Unity was formed primarily to encourage political and socioeconomic integration among member states and to eradicate colonialism and neocolonialism in the African continent. The organisation has played a pivotal role in dealing with apartheid and colonialism. However, eradicating colonialism and neocolonialism from the African continent is a deep and complex challenge and requires a multiphase approach.

Unfortunately, the legacy of colonialism in Africa has led to significant political, economic, social, and cultural challenges. While the formal colonial rule ended in the mid-twentieth century, neocolonialism, the practice of indirect control through economic, political, and cultural influence, persists in various forms even today.

The Organisation of the AU was also formed to promote African unity, solidarity, and cooperation among African states. It aimed at safeguarding the continent’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, eradicating colonialism and apartheid, and fostering international cooperation.

Today we commemorate Africa Day as a symbol of solidarity and corrective strength for African countries. We celebrate Africa Day to honour the efforts made to unite the African continent, particularly in the face of colonialism and its aftermath. It serves as a reminder for the need to collaborate and support each other in areas such as cultural exchange, politics, the economic space, as well as development.

To many of us, Africa Day is a symbol of Pan-Africanism; the idea of Africans sharing common interests and working together for mutual prosperity. The day highlights the importance of working together to solve the continent's challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and conflict, without undue pressure from outside Africa.

Today’s Sitting acknowledges the struggles and sacrifices made by African nations to gain independence from colonial powers. Africa Day reminds all of us about the importance of self-determination and freedom from oppressors.

It is my call to all honourable Members that we must use Africa Day as an opportune moment to celebrate the continent's rich cultural diversity. We need to showcase our cultural diversity through cultural festivals, music performances, dances, and other forms of expression.

Africa Day celebrations also give us an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made and to renew our commitments to peace, stability, and economic development across the continent. Let us also use the day to raise global awareness about the issues and challenges Africa faces.

It is an opportune moment to highlight the contributions that African nations and individuals have made to global culture, science and development. Today, we celebrate the day in honour, remembrance, and respect, and we give honour to the soldiers who died during a peacekeeping mission in the DRC.

It is an occasion to remember the bravery of African leaders who provided the necessary resources to support us during the dark days of apartheid. It is the day we remember their contribution to justice, peace and security on the African continent.

Africa Day celebration is an annual reminder that, despite the hardships Africa faces, its people continue to strive for a better future. As the Limpopo Legislature, we should celebrate Africa Day by ensuring that the quality of life is realised by the people of Limpopo. We should use Africa Day to showcase to the world that we are united despite our cultural diversity. We are capable of initiating programmes that can improve the state of our economies.

Deputy Speaker, the South African government, for instance, has made huge progress in ensuring access to quality and inclusive learning. The government has introduced school nutrition programmes, scholar transport programmes, free education, and offers bursaries and scholarships to build resilience in the education system. As a country, we are doing our best to foster solidarity, equality, and sustainable development across the African continent.

As I conclude, Presiding Officer, it is important to state that beyond just celebrating Africa Day, we should strengthen trade and diplomatic ties and foster a more unified political and economic landscape in Africa. That is the reason why the Deputy Speaker and the delegation were in Kigali last week. There is also a need to advocate for shared values. Unity and diversity should be considered as core pillars of Africa's identity. This implies that the Africa Day celebration should also focus on reinforcing values, of solidarity, peace, and shared African heritage.

Africa faces significant environmental challenges, which implies that we should use Africa Day as a platform to raise awareness and encourage sustainable practices. It should be used as an opportunity to push for more investment in clean energy solutions, such as renewable energy sources, across the continent. Many countries in Africa, including the DRC, are still affected by conflict and instability. This implies that the Africa Day celebration agenda should also focus on peace initiatives, such as silencing the guns, reconciliation efforts, and supporting conflict resolution mechanisms within the African Union.

There is a need to expand access to the internet, digital literacy programmes, and foster technological innovation hubs to drive social and economic change. As the Limpopo Legislature, we should celebrate Africa Day by embracing one another and honouring our cultural diversity. We should all volunteer our service to build the Africa we all want. I am an African. I pride myself on being an African; Monnyana wa Molobedu. Thank you. Ke a leboga, Ndza khensa, Ndo livhuwa, Ke Zwa Zweo ka Khelobedu. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We shall now call upon Hon André Marx.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of this House; and guests. Good morning.

As we celebrate Africa Day today, we are not merely marking a date on the calendar. It is a moment for reflection; considering our past, assessing our current position, and contemplating our future trajectory as a continent. Fellow South Africans, let us not deceive ourselves into thinking that everything is flawless. Africa is rich in potential. Its history, culture, and talent are present in every region. However, we cannot overlook the challenges: poor governance, corruption, societal divisions, and persistent poverty that continue to afflict many. We owe it to ourselves to confront these realities, rather than glossing over them. I will be straightforward: mere slogans and hollow promises will not suffice. If we aspire to achieve genuine progress, we must adhere to fundamental principles: governments that uphold the law, safeguard freedom, and do not merely pay lip service to their Constitutions.

Hon Speaker, let us not dispel the notions that these are exclusively "Western" concepts. Justice and opportunity are universal rights, meant for all, not just a select few. The concept of unity in Africa is often discussed, but it should not imply that everyone must conform to a single standard. Our strength lies in our diversity; our languages, cultures, and backgrounds. In South Africa, we exemplify this. Every community, regardless of size, deserves to have its voice, language, and way of life acknowledged and respected within the framework of the law.

True unity does not entail erasing differences. It involves fostering respect, allowing every group to flourish and contribute. This is how we create something enduring. We must also be candid about the obstacles we face. These challenges are not solely the result of external influences. Nepotism, corruption, racial discord, and the abuse of power are issues that originate within our own borders. Until we confront these problems directly, we are undermining our own potential.

As the FF Plus, we advocate for transparent and effective governance. We believe that the wealth of Africa should belong to its people, rather than to political insiders or privileged elites. As we celebrate Africa Day, let us strive to make it more than just a display. We must genuinely commit to safeguarding our freedoms, honouring our diversity, and creating a future in which every African, regardless of their race, language, or belief, can exist with dignity and peace. South Africa has the potential to lead, but it

must do so by setting a positive example. This is what our nation and our continent genuinely require.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Moss. I always call Hon Moss, Marx. Hon Marx; I apologise. Now I see that I was mixing your names. I shall call upon Hon Wilson Evelyn Rayne.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Reparatory justice and racial healing are foundational pillars of our constitutional vision of a just and equitable society. A vision not just for South Africa but for the whole of Africa. Clearly, though, neither will succeed without a key ingredient, and that is respect.

Respect, according to Wikipedia, is in its simplest form the showing of admiration, consideration, and politeness towards someone or something considered important.

It involves recognising their value and worth and treating them with care and dignity. Respect can also be a feeling of deference or a sense of obligation to certain rules, laws, or traditions. In essence, respect involves recognising the inherent value and worth of others; our fellow citizens and neighbours; and treating them with consideration. It is a fundamental principle for building healthy relationships, fostering social progress, and creating a more respectful and equitable world.

Respect does not belong to a selective few but must be afforded to all across all borders. It must cover cultures, religions, and all people, regardless of their demographics, colour, and it includes the past and the present. However, Speaker, respect must go beyond words; it must manifest in how governments govern, how resources are allocated, and how opportunities are created.

Deputy Speaker, the Preamble to our Constitution recognises the injustices of our past. It calls for the divisions of the past to be healed and for the establishment of a society based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights. It states that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity. It commits to improving the quality of life of all citizens and freeing the potential of each person.

Our Constitution, which sets out our national vision of a just and equitable society, has now been in force for almost 30 years.

The question for this House, especially the majority, must be asked: has our Constitution failed to deliver our national vision so eloquently set out in the words of its Preamble, or has this government shown enough respect to our Constitution and its people to redress the injustices of the past, foster reconciliation, dignity, and a shared sense of belonging among our different communities, and deliver the most basic of human rights as set out in the Constitution; such as water, decent health, equality before the law, and safety, just to name a few?

Today, as a nation, we face an ever-worsening national calamity driven by multiple economic, fiscal, unemployment, poverty, inequality, social, and transformative crises. Are we the example that we should be for the whole of Africa?

Just this month, as the DA, we lamented the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey report, which reported that Limpopo had lost a staggering 55 000 jobs and that our expanded unemployment rate now stands at close to an astounding 50%: 48,6% to be precise. We called upon you, Premier, to remove the structural barriers to growth and job creation, or face the province becoming a welfare state,

Deputy Speaker, I want to put it to this House that it is not the Constitution that has failed, but the ideological means and lack of respect by which this government in Limpopo, the ANC, has attempted to achieve our shared vision of a just and equitable society.

What is clear is that the ANC's ideology, based on the National Democratic Revolution, has failed to deliver. They promised transformation but delivered patronage. They promised social justice but created elite accumulation, which has left the poor and vulnerable across this province in dire straits, without even the most basic of service delivery. They wanted a developmental government to drive the economy and transformation but hollowed out the state coffers. Their command-driven transformation policies, such as BEE and cadre deployment, have benefited only a narrow, narrow political elite. Their policies have over-regulated markets and killed business confidence.

The end result is that we face stagnation, corruption, and exclusion rather than inclusion. That is not what your hard-fought democracy is about. Speaker, we as the DA, believe that only a thriving, growing economy can deliver the jobs and opportunities our people need; and economic growth is the most powerful engine of transformation.

Our commitment is real, respectful empowerment; not through patronage or quotas, but through access to education, jobs, ownership, and opportunity. A growing economy expands the opportunity pool, enabling more people, especially those previously disadvantaged, to access jobs, start businesses, and build wealth. It requires a government that respects its people; each and every one, and all who live here. Transformation without growth and respect results in redistributing poverty, not prosperity. Let us make the changes necessary to uplift South Africa so that we can be the shining light. May God protect our people. 'Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika'

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. I shall now call upon Hon Mapoulo Lawrence.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; my colleagues from the Economic Freedom Fighters; good morning.

On this day, the Economic Freedom Fighters reaffirm its commitment to the ongoing struggle for freedom, equality, and justice for all Africans. The EFF strongly believes

that the only way for Africa to prosper and realise its fullest potential is through solidarity, equity, and sustainability with the nations that recognise the principle of human rights and democracy is sacrosanct for the Africa we want.

The Africa we want is the one that Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, Kwane Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, and many other African giants dreamt of. We recognise that, despite changes in power, the lives of many people remain impacted by unemployment, and poverty. Therefore, we are calling for young people to actively participate in addressing these issues. The African youth must stand up and define their future, because there is no one who can do it on their behalf without betraying their mission.

Hon Speaker, the Western colonial period involved a complex and often exploitative relationship with the slave trade and forced labour practices. The scramble for Africa in the late 19th and 20th centuries, for example, was driven by a desire for raw materials and labour and it paved the way for the colonisation of our continent by European powers.

While legal slavery was abolished in many places during the 19th and 20th centuries, forced labour practices persisted even after the end of colonialism, often in the form of indentured servitude and economic exploitation. Furthermore, colonialism significantly impacted African trade relations by creating a system where African nations became dependent on their former colonisers for trade. This dependency was fostered through the introduction of cash crops, the disruption of existing trade networks, and the imposition of trade monopolies that favoured the colonisers. The legacy of this colonial trade system continues to affect Africa today, hindering its ability to achieve through economic independence.

Hon Speaker, the EFF wants a united Africa. We want an Africa that can feed the people without interruption or intervention by the former colonies. African unity is seen as a threat to imperialists because it undermines the colonial structures and systems of exploitation that benefit imperial powers. Imperialism relies on divisions and dependency to maintain control, while African unity fosters self-reliance and collective power.

Most importantly, one of the consequences of the divide-and-rule system of imperialism and colonialism in Africa is self-hate. The Europeans have successfully managed to psychologically imprison us into self-hate. The sooner we wake up from the mental chains of self-hate, the better. Self-hate is when you do not see yourself and your fellow African brothers and sisters. We need self-love to actualise the much-praised Ubuntu philosophy, which is a treasure to the continent.

We are hated all over the world as Africans. A unified Africa can potentially challenge imperialist influence in trade, politics, and economics, ultimately disrupting the established order.

We commend and salute Captain Ibrahim Traoré's regime for ditching former colonial power France in favour of a strong alliance with Russia. That has included the deployment of a Russian paramilitary brigade and the adoption of left-wing economic policies. This included setting up a state-owned mining company requiring foreign firms

to give it a 15% stake in the local operations and to transfer skills to the people of Burkina Faso.

Traoré offers an alternative, recapturing the spirit of two historic epochs: the post-independence era when leaders like Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia rose to prominence, and in a later era, Thomas Sankara and Ghana's Jerry Rawlings, whose coup in 1979 was also very popular at that time.

Another imminent revolutionary era in our time is led by our Commander-in-Chief Julius Malema, whose political stance is rooted in Pan-Africanism; a movement which emphasises the unity and solidarity of people of African descent worldwide. This ideology evolved to advocate for the deliberation of Africa from colonialism and neocolonialism, as well as promoting self-determination and economic empowerment of African nations.

The imperialists are shaking as billionaires and American psychopathic politicians met at the Oval Office in the White House to discuss our CIC. They are under so much pressure from the revolution that President Trump even ordered President Ramaphosa to arrest one of our own, the Commander-in-Chief, Julius Malema. It is clear that the enemy wants to retaliate harshly through trade and other forms of economic sanctions.

Hon Speaker, our struggle songs are our heritage, and therefore we must defend them at all costs. The EFF will continue to sing Dubula iBhunu until imperialists like Trump begin to understand our stance, as former President Mbeki said. The EFF stands in solidarity with Africans both on the continent and in the diaspora, celebrating their shared heritage and resilience. Hon Speaker, as I conclude, Thomas Sankara — the African revolutionist — profoundly asserted: “Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see, and my feet never take me to a society where half of the people are held in silence.”

These words resonate powerfully today, reminding us that the true liberation of Africa hinges on the liberation of its women and children. The prosperity and development of Africa can only be driven by Africans themselves. Aluta! [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mapoulo. I shall call upon Hon Tshivhase Kennedy.

MR TSHIVHASE

This is Africa Day; we are not talking about the Commander-in-Chief. We are talking about Africa Day. No, no, no. I just want to give an example: it is God, the Magoshi and the Baruti. You can read, which means that I am a commander [LAUGHTER].

Hon Deputy Speaker; Speaker; Premier; Deputy Chief Whip; chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members; colleagues in the gallery; and fellow Africans; good morning.

Deputy Speaker, as we bring this momentous celebration of Africa Day to a close, I stand before you not only as a royal leader or as a servant of the people, but as a proud

African. A son of this sacred soil, deeply humbled by the spirit of unity, purpose, and hope that has filled our gathering today.

Africa Day is more than a date on our calendar; it is a living reminder of who we are: people of strength, people of rhythm, people of wisdom and vision. People of Ubuntu. Today, we are gathered not as tribes or kingdoms, not as a nation divided by colonial borders, but as one African family, united under the vast and ancient skies of our beloved continent. From the plains of Limpopo to the desert of the Sahara, from the shores of the Cape to the mountains of Ethiopia, we stand together. We have celebrated our rich cultures, honoured our heroes, reflected on our struggles, and, most importantly, reaffirmed our commitment to the journey ahead. A journey towards peace, prosperity, and self-determination.

Let us remember: our ancestors did not fight for survival so that we could inherit poverty, division, or disunity. They dreamed of an Africa where children are free to dream, land is cultivated with love, and leadership is rooted in justice, wisdom, and integrity.

As royal leaders, politicians, community builders, and custodians of African identity, we carry a sacred duty to revive our indigenous knowledge and pass it on; to restore dignity to our youth, empowering them not to follow but to lead; to protect our environment, the secret source of our lives; and to invest in Africa's solutions to African challenges.

The Africa that we want is not a distant dream; it is within our reach. However, we must walk together, side by side, heart to heart, as one.

Deputy Speaker, we must continue to embrace and advance the principles and ideals set by NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism in promoting clean governance, partnership, and development for the entire continent. Let us leave here today with this truth in our hearts: the greatness of Africa lies not in her gold or minerals, but in her people.

To the women of Africa; the pillars of our homes, our healers, our nurturers; we honour you. To the youth of Africa; the carriers of our future; we believe in you. To our leaders, both political and traditional, we call upon you: lead with humility, serve with honour, and never forget the people.

Hu pfi vhathu ndi mapfura, vha a doliwa. Literally, people are like oil; beautify yourself with them. We must value one another and cherish the bonds that unite us. We should also learn to resolve our differences through consensus and political dialogue.

As I conclude, I would like to recite the words from our Premier, Hon Phophi Ramathuba: "The continent's quest for a future defined by solidarity, equality and sustainability, in order to propel Africa forward; harnessing natural resources for sustainable development, promoting local industrialisation and job creation."

We can only do that when we are together. Let us work together across borders and across divides to build the Africa we want to see. Hu pfi u funana ha vhathu nga hu vhe vhushaka ha dzimbilu. Let us love and be genuine. Let us love one another with sincere hearts.

Deputy Speaker, may love lead us forward. May unity guide our steps. May Africa flourish. May Africa rise stronger and more united than ever before. Let us pursue a brighter future for all Africans. Working together, we can do more for our continent. Ndo livhuwa. Nndaa! Ro livhuwa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Midiavhathu Tshivhase. We shall now call upon the Deputy Chief Whip for the NCOP Business.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

8.1 Motion for the Ratification for the Appointment of Special Delegates who attended NCOP Plenaries

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby present a motion for the ratification of the appointment of Special Delegates who attended the joint Sitting of Parliament.

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 or is in recess. In line with these provisions, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend NCOP hybrid plenaries, as mentioned below:

- Questions to Cluster 1A: Peace and Security, Police and the Ministry in the Presidency on 13 May 2025 at 14:00. The MEC for Transport and Safety and Community Safety, Hon S V Mathye, together with Hon K Lebea, Hon D A Nengunda, and Hon C Mohale.
- Questions to Cluster 1B: Peace and Security, Correctional Services, held on 15 May 2025 at 14:00. The MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon S V Mathye, together with Hon K Lebea, Hon S Shai, and Hon B A Nkonyana.
- Questions to Cluster 1C: Peace and Security (Home Affairs): held on 20 May 2025 at 14:00. The MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon S V Mathye, together with Hon K Lebea, Hon D A Nengunda, and Hon M C Mohale.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this august House resolves to ratify the appointments of the abovementioned Special Delegates in line with the provisions of House Rule 226(1), read together with section 61(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. May I call on a seconder?

MS SEPOPELA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Ke ema go thekga tšhišinyo bjalo ka ge e tlišitšwe ke, Mohlomphegi Motlatša Sefepikgolo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Sebopela. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, please continue with the next motion.

8.2 Motion for the Appointment of Special Delegates who Attended NCOP Plenaries

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby present the motion for the designation of Special Delegates to attend the NCOP hybrid plenaries scheduled for 27 and 29 May 2025.

Hon Speaker, the NCOP has scheduled hybrid plenaries for Tuesday, 27 May, and Thursday, 29 May at 14:00. Provinces are required to designate Special Delegates to attend these plenaries in terms of Rule 226(1). I therefore propose that the House designate the following Members as Special Delegates.

- 27 May 2025: To deal with reports, legislation and the debate on Africa Day: Hon H P Ngobeni, Hon B A Nkonyana, and Hon M C Manthata-Mahasela.
- 29 May 2025: To deal with questions to the Deputy President: Dr M J Makhurupetje, Hon T P Mamorobela, and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Hon H P Ngobeni.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. May I call on a seconder for the motion? Hon Mokoele, you are recognised.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I stand to second the motion moved by the Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokoele. Are there any announcements, Hon Chair of Chairs?

THE CHAIRPERSON OF CHAIRPERSONS

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Ke tlile go bolela ka dilo tša khitšhini ya nnete. [LAUGHTER]. The Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Whippery; Hon Chair of Chairs; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; and honourable Members. I rise to make the following announcements:

Thursday, 29 May 2025; The official opening of the Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders will be held in Thengwe, Vhembe District. All honourable Members are invited to join the Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature in visiting the family of the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana, to convey condolences to the family. The visit will take place on Wednesday, 28 May 2025 at 14:00 at Madiba Park, Polokwane.

Lunch will be served at the Main Committees' Boardroom 'Khitšhini ya nnete ya three course'.

Thank you very much for the opportunity, Deputy Speaker.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs. May I request the House to observe a moment of silence for the fallen stalwarts: Ms Getrude Nititi Shope the first President of the ANC Women's League, who also served on numerous portfolio committees in Parliament; and Mr Mokgonyana, brother of Hon Essob Mokganyana, the Chief Whip of the Legislature.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you very much. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 3 June 2025, at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 03 JUNE 2025
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. We may all be seated. Ge ke tsena mo, go na le batho ba bego ba bolela ka Kaizer Chiefs. I don't know whether those people are allowed to do so. Ke tla botšiša Ngaka, Che Selane le Mohlomphegi Mathe, whether that debate is acceptable or not.

Good morning, honourable Members. Let me greet all of you, Premier, MECs, I welcome you all to this Sitting. We have already done item 1, in terms of the Orders of the Day. We are now moving to item 2.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, Premier, MECs, and honourable Members.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE TWO LIMPOPO FOOTBALL CLUBS
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to table the motion without notice for this House to note that:

- We congratulate the two Limpopo football clubs that were playing their trade in the Premier Soccer League and ended the season in good positions.
- It gives us pleasure as the people of Limpopo that, after months of bad spells, Mageri FC has ended the season in a good position to avoid relegation.
- We are also thrilled with Polokwane City's performance, which finished the PSL season within the Top 8 bracket.
- The fact of the matter is that the development of sports in our province is largely intertwined with economic development.

- The participation of these teams in top-flight football also means that we can leverage and draw some form of revenue from sports tourism and grow other sectors of the economy.
- As the people and government of the Limpopo province, we are obligated to continue to support their outfits to ensure that they continue to campaign in the country's elite football league.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as moved by Hon Mohale, thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any other motions? Hon Maringa, you are recognised.

MR MARINGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE SUSPENSION OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE GREAT NORTH
TRANSPORT SERVICE**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to table the motion without notice for this august House to note the suspension of the members of the executive management of the Great North Transport bus service. We hope this development will bring to a halt the much-publicised mismanagement of this entity.

The entity has for the longest time been marred with allegations of failure to provide bus service, nonpayment of employee pensions, and medical aid contributions as a result of mismanagement by the previous board as way back as 2018, resulting in its current financial incapacibilities.

By acting in this matter, the board has sent a strong message to the public that the government is working hard to restore the pride and credibility of our people's trust in the transport system of their choice.

It is our submission that the board should be given the necessary support to bring about changes and steer the company in the right direction by restoring its former glory.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Oh, you are recognising my professional standing? I, Che Selane, ke nyaka go thekga Mohlomphegi Maringa, ka tshisinyo ya gagwe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My apologies.

**CHALLENGES FACED BY PARENTS ANNUALLY CONCERNING SECURING
PLACEMENTS IN SCHOOLS IN HOTSPOTS CIRCUIT, SUCH AS POLOKWANE,
MOKOPANE, TZANEEN, AND LEPHALALE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to table the motion without notice that this House notes that:

- During 2025, Limpopo had a significant number of unplaced learners in hotspot circuits like Polokwane, Mokopane, Tzaneen, and Lephalale.
- This time of the year is a stressful time for parents as they apply for acceptance at various schools.
- Some of our parents have to double-park their learners and their children on the system due to a lack of classrooms. Parents need to confirm their choices before the end of June to allow the department to complete its admission process.
- We call on the department to institute a rapid school building programme to quickly construct new schools and expand existing ones to address overcrowding in our hotspot circuits.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS WILSON

Thank you, Chairperson. I second the motion submitted by Hon Smalle. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Greetings to the Members of the Executive Council led by the Hon Premier, and Members of the Legislature.

**THE SAD NEWS OF THE PASSING OF DEAN TSHENUWANI SIMON FARISANI,
THE FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND FORMER SPEAKER OF THE
LEGISLATURE**

(Motion without Notice)

We have received the sad news of the passing of Dean Tshenuwani Simon Farisani, a former Member of Parliament, former Speaker of this Legislature, former Member of the Executive Council of this provincial government, who was a proponent of freedom fighters and a prolific clergyman.

The death of Cde Farisani Tshenuwani has robbed the people of this province and South Africa of a meticulous and all-around politician, who used every iota of his vein to wage ferocious war against apartheid.

He was an impeccable leader who has left an indelible mark in both his tenures as the Speaker of this Legislature and the MEC for Roads and Transport in this province. He has also served the African National Congress with aplomb in various capacities. Cde Farisani was an upright leader who was beyond reproach and was always on the side of the truth.

A proponent of black consciousness, Cde Farisani was identified from an early age as an adversary by the apartheid regime and had been arrested on multiple occasions. Each arrest had its own set of experiences of torture, but he remained steadfast and unrelenting in the cause of freedom and the disfranchisement of his people.

We have also learnt with heavy hearts about the passing of Ntate Mbuti Elijah Nkonyana, the father of Hon Bongani Nkonyana, a Member of this august House and the whippers on the policy and study group. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Nkonyana family as they prepare for the funeral sendoff. May the souls of the departed compatriots rest in peace!

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mmetle-Ramohlola, you are recognised.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mmetle, second the motion as presented by Hon Netshifhefhe.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any further motions? Are we done with motions? No, no, it was motions without notice. We will now move to item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker.

**CALL FOR URGENT DEBATE BY THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE REGARDING
THE CONTINUED STAGNANT AND POOR PERFORMANCE IN 27
MUNICIPALITIES
(Notice of Motion)**

I stand on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to call for an urgent debate with regard to the continued poor and stagnant performance of our 27 municipalities as per the Auditor-General's consolidated report on local governments for the 2023/24 financial year.

Our major concern is the R2 billion lost on noncompliance with procurement and contracts, unauthorised expenditure, unfunded budgets, and noncompliance with SMME debt relief.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I stand to second the motion as read by Hon Wilson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed. Is there any further notice of motion? In the absence of further notice of motion in line with Rule 146. We will now proceed to item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MR SMALLE

**A CALL ON THE MEC FOR LEDET TO INITIATE A TURNAROUND STRATEGY
FOR MMSEZ TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

(Members' Statement)

MEC for LEDET, during the State of the Province Address, the Premier indicated that you, as the MEC for LEDET, must initiate a turnaround strategy for the MMSEZ to improve their economic opportunities. In light of the implementation of that plan in January 2026, are you confident that the timelines agreed upon with reference to internal roads and stormwater, construction of bulk sewer pipeline reticulation, and construction of wastewater treatment works will be met, and when does the MEC expect the first investments from other role players?

Numerous reports and oversight visits by the portfolio concluded serious maladministration by the previous board and operational personnel. In light of those findings, has the MEC lodged or commenced any internal or external investigations? If so, what information can the MEC share with this House currently?

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there any further Members' Statements? Ga ke bone leina gobotse mo, nka dira phošo. Please mention your name so that we don't make mistakes on record.

MR BALOYI

It is Hon Baloyi, Madam Speaker. Maybe I am sitting on the wrong chair.

NONPAYMENT OF CONTRACTORS BY GOVERNMENT

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the government has a reputation of not paying contractors what is due to them. This results in a lot of projects being abandoned. In some instances, contractors complete the project, do the handover, and end up not being paid the balance due to them.

In 2009, the company called Mawasha Building Construction concluded the project, the Dilokong Hospital Sub-Acute Ward A and B contract as number LDPWB041045. To date, the company has not been paid the balance for the work that has been done.

This matter has been raised with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, but the contractor is being ignored. He wrote several letters to the department, and no response has been received so far. Such is the level of arrogance we have come to witness from this government against its citizens. The arrogance can be equated with that of the gum-chewing Minister of Higher Education.

Furthermore, the contractor has written a letter to the Office of the Premier on the same matter, only to be referred to the same Department of Public Works, Road and Infrastructure, which failed to assist the contractor. The department must come clean as to why they did not want to pay the contractor his outstanding money, rather than suffocate his emotions. This matter cannot be left hanging as it has dragged on for too long.

Without any recourse for the contractor who suffers from the loss in the project, we call upon the MEC to immediately intervene in this matter and lay the matter to rest.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Baloyi. Is there any further Members' Statement? In the absence of any further Members' Statements, allow me to call upon the Executive to respond on all Members' Statements. Hon Matibe Tshitereke, MEC for the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

You will note, Hon Speaker, that we had deferred issues of construction in Musina-Makhado SEZ while we are still looking for the issues of land. Now the land has been resolved in Musina-Makhado. Public Works is done with the concurrence in consultation with the MEC for Provincial Treasury and the MEC for Agriculture. So, the issue of construction in Musina-Makhado SEZ will start in earnest.

We are starting with the process of procurement in the second quarter, then we'll start the process. The issue of investment, we have got an investment pipeline for Musina-Makhado SEZ as well as Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. All that will start in earnest. When the finalisation of the designation of the north side of Musina-Makhado happens, then we'll start.

The south side is still having some challenges because of the issues of dispute in terms of township establishment, but the north side, after designation, the investment pipeline will come in earnest.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matibe Tshitereke. Is there any further input from EXCO? Hon Vho-Basikopo Makamu, Leader of Government Business.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Speaker. We acknowledge firstly the statement as mentioned by Hon Baloyi. Hi tshemba kuri a mi lavi poso. The contractor who has done work is waiting for their retention.

We are going to make sure that all the requirements that need to be satisfied when you have to pay for retention are satisfied. One of the requirements, you know, is that the work that you have done is still intact. So, we will talk to the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to intervene on the matter.

Hikokwalaho, ndzi vula leswaku kumbe xana mi lava poso n'wina kwalaho, a ndzi tivi. But what we are going to do is that we are going to investigate.

Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, I wanted you to allow Hon Makamu to conclude. So, when you were interrupting, I was worried. Thank you so much. We now move to item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? We call upon Hon Susani Violet Mathye.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Inkomu Manana Xipikara, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Xandla xa Xipikara, Manana Teboho Mamorobela; Dr Phophi Ramathuba, our Premier; Chief Whip in his absentia; leaders of the opposition; Members of the Provincial Legislature; members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. Avuxeni.

Madam Speaker, allow me to join mourners throughout the whole country and abroad in passing condolences to the religious and powerful political leader, Dr Tshenuwani Simon Farisani. On behalf of my family, myself, and the department, we wish to extend our condolences to the Farisani family. Dr Farisani was instrumental in forging unity talks amongst the various taxi associations.

During the last Limpopo SANTAGO AGM, he was instrumental in shaping policy issues. We have lost a leader. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity and thank you for allowing me to render the Executive Member Statement. Recently, the national Minister issued crime statistics for the fourth quarter. Hon Speaker and honourable Members, Limpopo has recorded a 26% year-on-year decrease in murder cases, and attempted murder dropped by 11%. [APPLAUSE]

Assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm is down by 16%, common robbery declined by 8,3%, and car hijacking fell by 42% in reported cases. Hon Speaker, I must emphasise that crime does not have colour, creed, nor race.

We must at all times assist each other by making sure that we deal with incidents of gender-based violence. Madam Speaker, we are worried by the rise of such incidents in Thohoyandou. What we must know is that the police station is serving more than 400 villages.

We are at least happy that efforts are underway to build a police station around Khubvi. This will go a long way towards reducing such GBVF incidents. Madam Speaker, we

are pleased to inform you that recently, we conducted a peaceful march around Thohoyandou to raise awareness.

Speaker, we are also delighted to inform the honourable House that a young man by the name of Pfano Ungedzani has decided to walk for 448 kilometres from Pretoria to Thavhani Mall from 01 June to 12 June 2025. The aim is to encourage young people on how to fight GBVF using sports as a key.

Speaker, to further reduce crime, the following measures will be applied: deployment of newly appointed constables, and strengthening collaboration with traditional leadership and CPFs. Speaker and honourable Members, we are proud to inform you that the partnership between SAPS and communities is yielding a positive result.

Hon Speaker, on a more serious note, we wish to caution South Africans to refrain from spreading rumours of genocide, which is not even happening. We wish to remind everyone that spreading rumours about crime which is non-existing is a crime on its own, and the law enforcement agencies will deal with such liars harshly.

Speaker, thank you for the opportunity once more, and I wish to reiterate that Limpopo is the safest province in the entire South Africa and a safe place to come and stay in and do business.

I thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC, for the Executive Statement in line with Rule 200. Following an Executive Statement by MEC, a Member or Members of each party may comment on the statement for not more than three minutes per party. So, I'm going to allow those who would like to make comments on the statement. Freedom Front Plus are you willing to comment? No. UAT, are you willing to comment? MK Party? DA? EFF? Hon Baloyi, you are recognised.

MR BALOYI

Ndzi twa ku vava enengeni, Xipikara. Khalanga hi mina. A ndzi na swo tala, kahlekahle ndzi lava ku tisa xibumabumelo eka mhaka ya Muchaviseki Makamu. [BACKGROUND NOISE] Oh, a ndzi nga swi twisisangi. There's no need for me to comment, I belong to that portfolio committee.

THE SPEAKER

Unfortunately, you can't comment on any other thing. The rule says you can only comment on the Executive Statement done by MEC Mathye. Order Members! Can I now go to the African National Congress. Today we have got the acting Chief Whip. Our Acting Chief Whip of the day is Hon Christina Mohale. Do you have any comment ma'am?

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, MECs; Members of the august House, I want to take this opportunity to appreciate the presentation made by MEC Mathye. It is indeed great that this province, called Limpopo Province, reaffirms that it is a province of peace. We always say that this is the Garden of Eden, where everything starts.

The Premier always says that, as you go through Mogalakwena, that's when God starts to be awake. When you pass Boyne and you start approaching Magoebaskloof, you see that indeed, God was happy because He created that beauty. And as He passed Dan village, and that's where some of us are, there. [LAUGHTER]

It is indeed the statistics show that Limpopo is the place to be. And this shows that we can have people to come and invest in our province. However, we note the issues of GBV, which, even during the weekend, there were problems. And we are happy that the MEC says they have also taken active programmes to deal with this problem. For me, you need to keep it up. We see your work, we see what this province is doing. We will keep on encouraging our people to be vigilant, to make sure that Limpopo remains a great Limpopo.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokone, for commenting on behalf of the African National Congress. We now proceed in terms of the Order Paper to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS, AND PAPERS

Are there any reports of the committees or papers? There's none. I will move directly to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 First Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, [B04-2025].

We call upon MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgabo Mahoai. Iphi imali?

THE BUDGET SPEECH FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

(Address by Mr K E Mahoai, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; my fellow Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the provincial Legislature in your different ranks and designations; ladies and gentlemen; people of our province, Limpopo, thobela. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni.

Hon Speaker, I rise to re-table the 2025/26 Limpopo provincial Budget following a series of developments at both the national fiscal and monetary policy levels that have impacted our provincial fiscal planning.

Last week, we received encouraging news from the South African Reserve Bank. The Governor, Mr Lesetja Kganyago, announced that the Monetary Policy Committee has decided to reduce the interest rate by 25 basis points. This brings the repo rate down to 7,25% and the prime lending rate to 10,75%. The decision offers a degree of relief in an otherwise turbulent and volatile economic climate. It is expected to ease financial pressure on our people and support economic activities. This monetary policy shift coincides with adjustments at the fiscal level and aligns to support economic stability.

Hon Speaker, you will recall the events that led to the revised national fiscal framework. The Minister of Finance has re-tabled the revised national budget in Parliament on 21 May 2025 in line with the developments. Subsequent to that, I withdrew the Limpopo Appropriation Bill and related documents on 27 May 2025, which were previously presented to this House on 25 March 2025.

In terms of section 27(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, MECs of Treasury in provinces are required to table their budgets within two weeks of the national Budget. Accordingly, we are gathered here today to re-table the 2025/26 Limpopo Appropriation Bill and supporting documents, aligned with the updated national fiscal framework and current economic conditions; the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B04-2025], and the amended 2025/26 Budget Speech.

The following budget documents as previously tabled on 25 March 2025; Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2025, Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2025, Socio-Economic Review and Outlook 2025 and supporting gazettes.

Going on economic overview, according to the International Monetary Fund, the global economy is expected to remain stable, but has stagnated, growing by only 0,6% in 2024 and is expected to reach a growth rate of 2,8 % in 2025. Africa is promising, with over half of the top 20 fastest-growing economies projected to be from the continent. In contrast, South Africa's economy will rise by 1,3% by 2026. Limpopo's provincial economy also experienced minimal growth. It is heavily reliant on the mining sector and faces challenges in agriculture and other sectors.

Projections from both global and domestic institutions denote a downward revision over the medium-term period due to persistent geopolitical fragmentation as well as low economic growth. The recent interaction between the US President and our President might result in improved trade relations, which in turn will boost economic growth, given that the US is one of SA's biggest trading partners, together with Sub-Saharan Africa, the Eurozone, and China.

Addressing provincial economic growth challenges, perhaps, looking back 10 years, we will note that the unemployment rate in Limpopo was below 20%, compared to the current rate of above 33%, which is the fourth lowest among the nine provinces. To address this, we should take advantage of the Minister's recent announcement on the newly gazetted public-private partnership (PPPs) regulations, by thoroughly exploring collaboration between the state, the private sector and civil society in the economy.

According to the Minister, the newly gazetted regulations will reduce the procedural complexity of undertaking public-private partnerships, making it easier for government and the private sector to collaborate on infrastructure and service delivery projects. This

will unlock new opportunities and reduce Limpopo's reliance on government services for its growing population. By developing new industries in support of the Limpopo Development Plan and the Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework, our province can promote sustainable growth, adapt to global market fluctuations, and improve living standards.

This strategic approach can stimulate innovation, create jobs, and increase resilience to external shocks, ultimately enhancing the overall economic wellbeing of the province and its people.

On provincial revenue, Hon Speaker, over the 2025 MTEF period, our target has increased significantly, from R1,851 billion in 2024/25 to R2,0 billion in 2025/26; R,1 billion and R2,2 billion in 2026/27 and 2027/28, respectively. This represents an average increase of 6,0% over the 2025 MTEF period. We continue to incentivise provincial departments and public entities that exceed their revenue set targets through revenue retention, ensuring that the revenue target set is realistic and achievable.

The revenue enhancement strategy includes investing in provincial government holiday resorts infrastructure, Hon Matibe, supporting the implementation of the Provincial Liquor License Act, and extending the K53 learner's and driver's license functions, Hon Mathye. All departments and public entities are required to continue prioritising revenue collection to augment the provincial equitable share.

On provincial receipts, Hon Speaker, as announced by the Minister of Finance on 21 May 2025, allocations to provinces remain unchanged from what he announced on 12 March 2025. Therefore, national transfers to the province, which comprise equitable shares and conditional grant, remain the primary revenue sources for provincial payments over the 2025 MTEF period. These two sources of funding contribute 98% of the total receipts of the province, with provincial own revenue contributing only 2%.

The 2025/26 transfer receipts from the National Government increased by R4,9 billion from R81,4 billion in 2024/25 to R86,36 billion in 2025/26. The National Transfers further rise to R89,3 billion in 2026/27 and R93,8 billion in 2027/28, that's the whole MTEF. Overall provincial receipts (including own revenue) increase by R5,1 billion or 6,1% from R83,2 billion in 2024/25 to R8,3 billion in 2025/26. The total provincial receipts are expected to increase by 3,5% in 2026/27 and 5,1% in 2027/28 to R9,4 billion and R96,0 billion, respectively.

Over the 2025 MTEF period, the provincial equitable share increases from R69,6 billion in 2024/25, to R74,0 billion in 2025/26; R77,7 billion in 2026/27; and R81,8 billion in 2027/28 financial years. In rand value, this translates to a year-on-year increase of R1,139 billion, R1,3 billion, and R1,8 billion. Over the 2025 MTEF period, this increase amounts to R4,3 billion, and this is allocated to protect the social services. Our budget is redistributive, I have to emphasise.

On spending priorities, Hon Speaker, as I am about to confirm the allocation per vote, I am glad to announce that the baseline allocations across all 12 votes remain unchanged as announced on 25 March 2025. This budget remains redistributive, as I said; it directs R223,5 billion or 81% of the R274,8 billion MTEF budget to social services over the next three years. This is money that will be spent to fund free basic services, including

education, healthcare, and welfare services.

This budget also demonstrates our resolve to change the composition of spending from consumption to investment. A total of R21.6 billion will be spent on infrastructure investment over the next three years, with the bulk of this funding allocated to the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure. We want to see Limpopo as a construction site.

Overall, the provincial payments estimates are confirmed at R274,8 billion over the 2025 MTEF period, of which R88,9 billion is allocated in 2025/26, and this increases to R94,771 billion in the outer 2027/28. The 2025 MTEF allocation includes conditional grant allocation, which remains unchanged at a total of R35,9 billion, with R12,3 billion allocated in the current financial year, decreasing slightly to R12,07 billion in 2027/28.

The budget allocations to each Vote are as announced in the previous tabling and are as follows:

- Vote 1: Office of the Premier receives R554,81 million in the 2025/26 financial year.
- Vote 2: The Provincial Legislature receives R671,6 million in the 2025/26 financial year.
- Vote 3: The Department of Education still receive the highest share of the provincial budget, amounting to R4,5 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.
- Vote 4: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development receives R1,9 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.
- Vote 5: The Provincial Treasury receives R512,8 million
- Vote 6: The Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism receives R2,2 billion in the 2025/26 financial year, which is inclusive of transfers to the department's public entities.
- Vote 7: The Department of Health is allocated the second largest budget, which amounts to R26,0 billion.
- Vote 8: The Department of Transport and Community Safety receives R3,0 billion, which is inclusive of transfers to the department's public entity.
- Vote 9: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives an allocation of R5,6 billion in this current financial year, which is inclusive of transfers to the department's public entity.
- Vote 10: The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture receives R877,4 million.
- Vote 11: The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs receives R2,5 billion, and lastly

- Vote 12: The Department of Social Development receives R2,295 billion in this current financial year.

Honourable Members, as I have presented the allocation for provincial departments, it is imperative to emphasise the importance of fiscal discipline as a cornerstone of our financial strategy.

Given the tight fiscal environment, we must remain vigilant against fiscal leakages and inefficiencies that threaten our resources. Therefore, we will continue to implement stringent measures to safeguard our funds through monthly and quarterly expenditure monitoring. We will also continue to conduct spending reviews in support of national initiatives. This will enhance accountability and transparency in the usage of funds and eliminate waste and inefficiencies.

Hon Speaker, we remain committed to our monitoring role by guiding municipalities to apply sound financial management. This includes adopting funded budgets, implementing cost-reflective tariffs and complying with debt relief conditions. We continue to discourage the excessive use of consultants for tasks that municipalities can perform internally, and we encourage municipalities to focus on value for money, especially in infrastructure delivery, where poor quality leads to cost overruns and public dissatisfaction.

Hon Speaker, we expect municipalities to update and implement audit action plans, strengthen internal audit and risk management functions, and work within the ambit of the District Development Model to meet the goals of the Medium-Term Development Plan. If we get this right, if we strengthen financial management, enforce accountability, and align spending with service delivery, our municipalities will function better, and our province will move forward in addressing the plight of our residents.

As we conclude, Hon Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for her leadership and guidance in shaping our approach to fiscal management and economic transformation. I would also like to appreciate the Executive Council and EXCO Budget Committee for their invaluable support and guidance on the budget processes.

Allow me to also appreciate the support of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, led by Hon Maseka Solomon Pheedi and Scopa, led by Hon Mokoele. Thank you for your oversight and support in promoting accountability.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Limpopo Provincial Treasury team, under the leadership of our HOD, Mr Gavin Pratt, for your commitment to delivering on our mandate. Let's not forget to thank our party, which is so supportive of our course, and which is responsible for this fiscal prudence.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

If you don't clap your hands, he will come back and change the figures. Thank you so

much, Hon Mahoi, for re-tableting the budget. All of us are affected, so if you don't clap your hands, he will come back and change the figures. The Budget Speech, together with its supporting documents, will now be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

8.1 Motion for the Appointment of Special Delegates to attend NCOP plenary.

The acting Chief Whip, Hon Christinah Mohale, you are recognised.

MS MOHALE (THE ACTING CHIEF WHIP)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The NCOP has scheduled a hybrid plenary for Thursday, 15 June 2025 at 14:00. Provinces are required to designate Special Delegates to attend this plenary, in terms of Rule 261. I, therefore, propose that this House designate the following Members as Special Delegates to attend the NCOP Plenary.

The Plenary to Debate the Mid-term Strategic Review of the South African National Defence Force by the Joint Standing Committee on Defence. Names of Special Delegates are: Hon K Lebea, Hon D A Nenguda and Hon M S Shai.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

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

THE SPEAKER

Rolivhuwa Vho-Mahasela. We will now move to item 9.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presiding officers? Who is making announcements? Today is the day for Chair of Chairs, Dan, stand number 39 and 40.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

O a ntseba gore ke noba ke hloka mašeleni, kebe ke tla gofa.

Inhlikani lowunene eka Yindlu hi ku angarhela. Ndzi teka nkarhi lowu ndzi khensa Xipikara, Dokodela Makoma Makhurupetje ku va a ndzi nyikile nkarhi lowu. Ndzi lava ku tivisa leswi landzelaka:

- Lava va tsakelaka ku yisa tidyondzo ta vona emahlweni, va komberiwa ku tihlanganisa na Manana Risenga eParliamentary Village. Ndzi ta vulavula hi ririmi ra va dya hlampfi leswaku lava va nga vanghana va hina va ta kota ku hi twa. What I'm saying is, I also want to cover my friend Hon Smalle. They said kindly take note that Ms Risenga will be providing in-person assistance for Members to register for the UJ and Wits capacity building programme at Parliamentary Village, on Friday, 06 June 2025 from 10:00.
- Tanihilaha va vuleke hakona leswaku hi weriwile hi papa ra ntima, un'wana wa vatirhikulobye wa hina, Muchaviseki Nkonyana Bongani, u lahlekeriwile hi tatana wa yena. Xipikara u ta va a rhangela vanhu lava va yaka ku ya ku chaveleleni eka Nkonyana hi 05 Khotavuxika 2025. One of our honourable Member, Nkonyana Bongani, has lost his father. The Speaker will be leading the delegation to send our condolences to the family on 05 June 2025.
- Vari nyoka yi famba hi marhumbu. Xa buba xivambelana. A ndzi tivi leswaku hi Xinghezi ndzi nga vula leswaku i yini. Vari swakudya i matutu vana va ntavasi, tanani mi ta tiphina kwale mi nga tolovela kona, masiku na masiku.

Ha khensa, inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Re lebogile, Bakgaga ba ga Maake.

Honourable Members, I will now take this opportunity because we have been informed as this Legislature that we have lost the former Speaker, Dr Farisani, and also the father of Hon Nkonyana, who is one of our own. I will now take this opportunity to request all of us to stand up for a moment of silence.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Ke a leboga.

Honourable Members, we have come to the conclusion of the Sitting today. I am announcing that we were supposed to reconvene on 05 June 2025 at 10:00 in this Legislative Council Chamber, but where I'm sitting, I received information that there could be other programmes which will be clashing. After consulting with the Programming Committee, a decision will be made in terms of what will happen on Thursday.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned until 05 June 2025, on Thursday at 10:00 at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

Good morning, honourable Members. We shall now have an opportunity for silent prayers/meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you so much. Honourable Members, guests who are with us today. I wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the presence of the Leader of Government Business, who is the Acting Premier. We know that you are Acting Premier, you are acknowledged in your capacity as the Acting Premier, Hon Makamu.

We must as well acknowledge other guests that are here, including the Auditor General of South Africa is with us in the House, represented by Mr Mohamed Issa and Ms Metsi Phasha. They are welcome in the House and all other officials from other departments who are here, they are humbly acknowledged.

We will now proceed with the business of the day.

In terms of the business of the day, I must indicate Chief Whip, I hope you're not going to call me to order because normally our honourable Members, they submit the list and when I arrive in the House, I see other hands that are not part of the list. I'm advising that for now, we will allow that, but in future let's make sure that the list that gets submitted of Members that will be giving motions, we stick to the list so that we are able to manage our time accordingly.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

I'm now going to move to a motions without notice in terms of our rule 145. Hon Mdaka you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Dr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS ON THE BRAVERY OF MR JOANNES MARIUS
MOSEHLA WHO WON COMRADES MARATHON AT THE AGE OF 83 AND
BREAK HIS OWN RECORD
(Motion Without Notice)**

Greetings to all the honourable Members, honourable MECs of this august House. I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to congratulate the bravery of Mr. Joannes

Marius Mosehla, who became the oldest person to complete the Comrades Marathon at the age of 83. As the people of Limpopo and the provincial government, we applaud Mr Mosehla act of bravery by breaking his own record as the oldest Comrades Marathon runner.

Mr Mosehla, who hails from Ga-Mogashoa in the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, joined hundreds of runners from the Limpopo province who took part in the 98th edition of the Comrades Marathon in eThekweni this past weekend. With this accomplishment, Mr Mosehla has beaten his own record, which he set in 2023 when he was 81. The last octogenarian to complete the Comrades Marathon was Walei Hayward, who achieved this milestone in 1989 at the age of 80.

According to Mr Mosehla running the Comrades Marathon has always been his long dream, but he was unable to do so because of the stringent conditions which were set by the apartheid regime then. We congratulate Mr Mosehla and hundreds of other runners from the Limpopo province who took part in the 2025 edition of the ultimate human race. I so move, Hon Dr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mdaka. Any seconder? There is no seconder for the motion? Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Nna ke le Leswafo Joshua Matlou ke thekga tšeo di boletšego ke Mohlomphegi Mdaka. Ke zwa zweo.

THE SPEAKER

Ke zwa zweo. Can I see other hands? Hon Mogoane.

MS MOGOANE

Hon Speaker, honourable Members, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Commissioner Lawrence Mapoulo.

THE DEVESTATING CHALLENGES FACED BY SECURITY GUARDS IN LIMPOPO (Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move without notice that the House notes that the outsourced security guards in Limpopo often face precarious working conditions, including low wages, long hours, and lack of social benefits and recognition.

They are often employed by companies that struggle with compliance and face issues like unpaid wages and non-payment of statutory benefits. The security guards continue to suffer minimal labour rights protection, potentially creating a system that resembles modern-day slavery. In Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, for example, when a new service provider called Tlou ya ditlou came in, he made it clear that he's going to employ

his own people, the people of which are submitted by ANC counsellors and the mayor of the ANC in that municipality.

This potentially implies that more than 100 security guards who have been working in this municipality were thrown out in the street, and they are now jobless. The same thing happened in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, where companies like Hany Security and Ross Security are subjecting our people to the same treatment, and our observation is that this is the practise throughout the province. The unfair dismissal of security guards in Limpopo Municipalities is rife and rampant, which is completely unacceptable. This happens under the watch of the ANC government.

Therefore, it is very important, Hon Speaker, that we champion the insourcing of all security guards and cleaners within our province, including full benefits of pension, housing and medical aid. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Any seconder?

MR MOLAPO

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Walter Molapo rise to second the motion, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Any further motion? There is a hand. Hon Deputy Chief Whip

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker and all Members of the House. I'm not necessarily seconding or objecting the motion per se.

The motion is very critical and very important, but also contentious, that it needs a response in its form. It's not a motion without a notice, but more of a member's statement. That is the clarity that I wanted to put across, so that we are able to discuss all the issues that honourable Members have raised, because it has a potential or a propensity to raise issues that must be responded to, more especially about the plight of our own people.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

I need to be guided. Chief Whip?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. After the clarity sought by the Deputy Chief Whip, I rise to object to the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Can I get the seconder for the objection before I allow the clarity to be given? Hon Mathe

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Taking into consideration what was presented by Hon Monama, and further analysing what was presented by honourable Member, I therefore second the objection that is raised by the Chief Whip of the House, Hon Mokgonyana.

I second the objection. Thank you

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mogoane, I think it's now an opportunity for you to respond. Let me clarify myself if I may, I understand in a way that they are saying that, bring it as a Members' Statement.

MS MOGOANE

What I want from you, is whether they are rejecting the contents, or they are saying, that this should be a in the item of Members' Statement. I just want to be clarified as to exactly are they objecting. So that our people who are watching can hear. You can't be singing here because we allow you to speak, we don't interject you. Why are you singing when we are speaking? You must protect us, Hon Speaker.

We are not deputy Members, we are all Members, and we are equal. So, I want it to be clear what is it that they are rejecting with this motion. That's the clarity that I want.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, want to clarify?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, honourable...[INTEJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, order. Can I call order to all of you? I'm calling order to everyone. I'm not going to take any hand. Hon Mogoane, you have raised your point. Let's give an opportunity to the Chief Whip to address the House.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The motion is contentious, as Comrade Deputy Chair has indicated here.

Therefore, we are advising that it either be brought as a formal motion to the House, so that the House can debate it, or as a Members' Statement, so that there will be a response given to the motion. It raises a lot of issues that would need to be debated or be responded to. A motion without notice should not be debatable, like what Hon Mdaka has presented. It's a celebration or a congratulatory message.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

I think, can we agree that the motion can still be submitted as either as a notice of a motion or as a Members' Statement. Thank you so much. Can we now proceed to the next speaker, Hon Helm Marie it's your turn to be on the floor.

MS HELM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, our Premier in absentia, our MECs, all our Members, guests, our officials.

FARM SECURITY INCIDENT HAPPENED AT MR POTGIETER IN MUNNICH OUTSIDE POLOKWANE (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to move that this House notes the latest farm security incident at Munnich, outside Polokwane last week, where the home of Mr Potgieter was allegedly torched. Notice that the claim is made on social media, which has drawn international attention, despite an ongoing investigation by the SAPS, under case no 0106/2025 Morebeng Police Station.

Further notes that this is a regrettable incident, which jeopardises the safety and harmony of all affected communities and is a catalyst for frustration to be aired on social media. The DA therefore calls upon our MEC for Transport and Community Safety to ensure that this investigation in this case is prioritised, that the outcome of the investigation is publicised and suspects are arrested. Clear and evidence-based investigations by SAPS are needed to build trust in the SAPS, especially in our rural communities.

So I move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Marie, any seconder?

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as read by Hon Marie Helm. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mokgonyana

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Once again, I stand to object to the motion because the motion is instructive to the MEC.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Any seconder to the objection? Hon Mathye.

MR MATHYE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I want to second the objection as raised by the Hon Chief Whip and what motivates me to second the objection is what he has alerted us to as the motion is highly instructive. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Marie. Unfortunately, your motion now falls off as it has been objected, unless if you want to divide the House.

We now proceed with motions without notice. Hon Phokane.

MR PHOKANE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker, greetings to you, Hon Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Acting Premier, the MECs, the Chief Whip, and the entirety of the Whip party, the leaders of opposing parties, as well as Honourable Members present here.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING
PREMIER OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HON BASIKOPO MAKAMU FOR
A SHORT PERIOD WHILE THE PREMIER IS AWAY ON GOVERNMENT
BUSINESS IN CHINA
(Motion without Notice)**

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House knows the appointment of Hon Basikopo Makamu as the Acting Premier of the Provincial Government, while Dr Phophi Ramathuba is away on government business. The Premier, Dr Ramathuba is attending an international infrastructure forum in the People's Republic of China.

This forum is a platform for global infrastructure collaboration and investment. It creates dialogue and partnerships amongst key stakeholders within the infrastructure sector. It bodes well with our bold intentions of building a provincial economy that is anchored on infrastructure development as its cornerstone.

We wish MEC Makamu all the best during the few days that he will be at the helm of this Provincial Government.

So, I move. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Any seconder to the motion? Hon Pheedi

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to yourself, as well as all Members in the House.

I rise, Hon Speaker, to support, I mean to second the submission made by Hon Phokane.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. is there a hand for objection? No.

Thank you so much. Let me allow Hon Molapo for his motion without notice.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Allow me to recognise the Leader of the Official Opposition, Commissar Lawrence Mopoulo and the Chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS BY THE EFF TO MR JOHANNES MOSEHLA OF
AGE 83 FROM SEKHUKHUNE, GA-MOGASHOA FOR WINNING COMRADES
MARATHON**

(Motion without Notice)

Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move without notice that the House note that Mr Johannes Musehla, who is at the age of 83, from the district of Sekhukhune, Ga-Mogashoa, in Ward 13 of Makhuduthamaga...
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Switch off the mic. The motion was already read by the Chair of the Portfolio Committee of Sports.

Honourable Members, let me listen to him then I will make a determination in the process. You can proceed.

Hon Molapo, you can switch on the mic. Honourable Members, you must remember, on a very serious note, that we need to listen to each other. Once a motion is done, it can't be repeated.

So I'm just saying, let's give you an opportunity, but you must be aware that according to our rules that we can't read same motion twice in the same Sitting. But you can proceed. Let's hear the contents of your motion.

MR MOLAPO

Madam Speaker, Thanks for that revolutionary decision. It is befitting that we all celebrate and stand in salutation for this greatest runner in our lifetime, a man of resilience and determination. Ntate Mogashoa has earned his seat amongst some of the greatest African runners of all time. The likes of... [INTERJECTION]

MS MOGOANE

Order, Hon Speaker. Order.

THE SPEAKER

What is the point of order?

MS MOGOANE

I think we are very worried that you as The Speaker, right! the other side, to give a Member a chance to speak, and the other side continues to howl and undermine you like that. We are very worried. We stand here to try and protect you, that you must be respected. These people must not disrespect The Speaker.

It can't be correct, Hon Speaker. So they must stop howling and allow you to run this business. You are quite capable to run this House, The Speaker.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

You know, it's very interesting. Remember, we are in the House, people are permitted to raise their views, and I must give them an opportunity to raise such views. Hon Vongani

MR MARINGA

Hon Speaker, I'm rising on a point of order. I want to call this House to order.

You have just made a very critical, fundamental mention that a motion cannot be presented twice on the same note, on the same content, on the same day. However, Hon Speaker, you still allow a platform for an honourable Member to present a motion on the same note. If we continue in this fashion, Hon Speaker, we are going to degenerate the house.

Once we allow that process to proceed, you need to prepare yourself that in the next sessions in the future, it's going to come and bite us and haunt us. With that said, Hon Speaker, the honourable Member who still wants to speak about the marathon must

just assist the house and sit down, because his presentation of that motion, in its form and content, out of order. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can I get other views? What are you saying, Members? Can I divide the House and get guidance from the House? Hon Mokone

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, I think Hon Maringa is right. If the Members were given an opportunity to second, and they have taken that opportunity to second, and they have been able to say what they wanted to say. But this one, they like to grandstand and call themselves revolutionaries, which they have never been into trenches, I'm saying...
[INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

Hon Speaker, I'm standing to raise a point of order. You see in this House, in this House, there is no body. Order. Order!

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I am not going to allow any Member to speak. Hon Mathye sit down. Can I please get direction honourable Members, please direct me. Allow me the opportunity to direct the House, honourable Members. There's an order raise by hon Maringa, right? And that order is objection that this motion must proceed, is there any seconder to it? Hon Deputy Chief Whip

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks, Hon Speaker, I think in this House we are not using common sense, but we are creature of statute. I'll refer you to secondment of Hon Maringa that a motion I'm talking about the admissibility of the motion, how we deal with them and process them in the House may not be the same in the substance as the draft resolution that has been approved or rejected during the same session. I therefore, second in line and we mustn't create a precedent that will haunt in future. Thank you

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I'm now taking a ruling. Hon Malapo, unfortunately you will not proceed with your motion in the House, so now we proceed honourable Members. I will allow the next speaker on the floor which is Hon Marx.

ADV MARX

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO KGO THATSO MONTJANE FROM SESHEGO FOR WINNING IN A WHEELCHAIR TENNIS WHICH WAS HELD IN WIMBLEDON IN 2014

(Motion without Notice)

I move without notice that this House congratulate Kgothatso Montjane from Seshego, a world class wheelchair tennis player who not only triumphed at Wimbledon in 2024 but has now added the Roland Garros title to achievements. I move that this House commits to celebrate and support Limpopo's sporting excellence and ensuring that the success stories of these athletes like Montjane are shared widely to inspire the youth of our province and our country.

Hon Speaker, and this is on a lighter note, I rise to commend the driver of SJY032L, probably transporting one of our MECs or a high-ranking political official, for a reckless performance on the R579, who was overtaking on solid white lines and driving at breakneck speeds. The driver threatened public roads like a private racetrack, reminding us that traffic laws are seemingly optional. I move that this House notes the blatant disregard for road safety and calls on the responsible MEC to take decisive steps.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Marx, you are out of order. There was one motion that we are congratulating Kgothatso Montjane. We will not recognise the next part of your motion.

MR MARX

Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Sit, there is still another motion without notice. You are only seconding the first part, right?

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I stand to support the congratulations on our wheelchair player in the first part of the Hon Marx's motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can we proceed with a motion without notice? I think this is the last speaker. Hon Shai.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, greetings to ourselves and honourable Members of the House.

THE FATAL INCIDENT THAT LED TO THE DEMISE OF MS NDZALAMA MLONDOBOZI (Motion Without Notice)

Hon Speaker, the ANC has pledged with dismay about the fatal incident that led to the demise of Ms Ndzalama Mlondobozi, whose death is now treated as a subject of capable homicide, while she could be a victim of gender-based violence.

Hon Speaker, according to reports, Ms Mlondobozi was allegedly run over by a vehicle which was driven by a lover after they had a violent altercation. We join the multitudes of people who are calling for the police to conduct thorough investigations to establish the true cause of this death.

In the same vein, it is humbling to note that the MEC for Transport and Community Safety in the province, Ms Violent Mathye, paid a courtesy visit to the family and has also committed that government will do everything in its powers to ensure that this matter is fully investigated. We owe it to the Mlondobozi family and many other victims of gender-based violence who have perished in the hands of the same people who were supposed to be their protectors. We urge members of the community to allow the police to do their work without any hindrance.

And we are confident that this matter will reach its logical conclusion. I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Any seconder to the motion? Can we get a seconder? Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby second the motion of Hon Shai and send our condolences as the Legislature to the family. Thank you.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can we move to the next item Members. Are there notice of motion in terms of House Rule 146? None.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

We will now move to item 4 in terms of Statement by Members, Rule 199.

I see Hon Baloyi for a Members' Statements.

MR BALOYI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Xosungula ndzi rhandza ku xeweta Muchaviseki Mapoulo tanihi murhangeri wa EFF.

POLICE BRUTALLY VIOLATE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, this government has become a dictatorship in a state where a dissenting voice is suppressed. Police brutality, violence, and level of intolerance has become the order of the day against peaceful protest. When citizens protest for the lack of service delivery. The government responds with violence instead of addressing their failures.

Hon Speaker, last week in Giyani R81 road. The police unleashed brutality and violence on protesters who were demonstrating peacefully. The protesters were taking a simple video of the police who were overstepping their boundaries. The protester who was taking the video was shot seven times by rubber bullets.

Furthermore, a lady seen being pulled around, thrown to the floor, stepped on, got arrested and taken to police station, and denied bail. This is completely unacceptable, especially in a country where crime and violence are rife. This excessive and unwarranted use of force by the police against our people must stop.

It is an extreme form of police misconduct and is a civil rights violation which must never be tolerated in our country, especially in our province. We call upon the MEC of Community Safety to investigate this matter and make sure that responsible police officers face the music when always overstepping.

Hi ta ka n'wina manana Violet Mathye leswaku mi langutisisa mhaka leyi kahle hikuva maphorisa ya n'wina a ya endli swona. Hi kombela leswaku mi swi landzelerisa, maphorisa hinkwavo lava va kandziyelaku timfanelo ta vanhu lava va kombisaka ku vilela hinkwalaho ka vukorhokeri va ku meka va khomiwa kumbe va kumeka va byarisiwa vutihlamuleri hi ku hetiseka. Inkomu swinene.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will move to the next Members' Statement. Hon Mapoulo.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The capable one and the Hon Premier in absentia.

Oh, is there an Acting Premier? The Chief Whip of the Opposition Party and colleagues, Members of the Executive Council, I'll acknowledge him in my statement.

THE ANC GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO FAIL TO DELIVER SERVICE DELIVERY

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, service delivery failures in our province, and especially under the leadership of the ANC government, has now reached a proportional level.

Batho ba kamo Thabazimbi bana le tekano ya mengwaga yeo re sa tsebego gore ke ye mekae ba sena meetse. Ge re bolela ka yona tsela ye, ga ba kgone go ithomela dintlwaneng tša boithomelo ge e le bošego, ba ithomela ka gare ga diplastiki ba le lapa ka moka; ba swanela ke gore ba lahle mantle a bona mola bo sele.

Ka gore yalo re tla kamo Ngwakong go bega gore setšhaba sa Thabazimbi, kudu Ward 9, 10 le 12 se amegile kudu. Se ke se boelago ga se paesekopo go swana le Molekgotlaphethiši Basikopo Makamu. Lebaka la gore ke nyake go bolela le Molekgotlaphethiši Basikopo Makamu, ke gore Molekgotlaphethiši Basikopo o lebeletše paesekoko ya Thabazimbi mola batho ba sena ditirelo, o lebeletše pasekopo bjalo ka leina la gagwe . tšatši ka tšatši ge a tsoga ke paesekopo ya bath oba go hloka ditirelo, pasekopo ya batho ba go hloka meetse, paesekopo ya dintlo tša mmušo tša go se fele . Ke boletše, ebile ke boletše gantšhi le gantšhi, Molekgotlaphethiši yo, o duletše lefela, o dutši fela kua godimo, ga a diri selo, o iketlile fela, o bogetše paesekopo.

Seemo sa maphelo le sona se tloga se belaetša kudu, kua lefelong lela. E se kgale batho ba tla ba lwala bolwetši bja Polio, ka lebaka la gore ke a tseba gore go boima jwang ge ele gore batho ba seemong sa gore melao ya tša maphelo ga e latelwe. Ge o tsena go nkgalelela tšhila, bjale re letetše go bona go phatlalala ga bolwetši bja Kholera ka Waterburg. Rere re bona go palelwa ga mmušo o.

Ge ke tswalela kere, mmušo wa EFF o boletše gomme e tla boeletša gore ge rena re tšea mmušo, setšhaba se ka se dule ntle le meetse ao a hlwekilego, se ka se dule ntle le dintlwana tša boithomelo tša go hloka meetse. ke boletše fela lehono, Ke tla lebotša ka mafelo ao ka moka ka Labone, ge go kgonagala ke tla tliša kgatišo ya bedio ka e bea kua bjalo ka Trump, gore le bone dilo tšeo batho ba di dirago bošego, ga ke nyake go bolela matšu a bohloko. Ngwana yo a belegwego ka ngwaga wa 2019 kua lefelong lela ga a tsebe TV, o tseba Paesekopo.

THE SPEAKER

I will now allow Executive Members, who wants to make an input, after the Members' Statements. Hon Susani Violet Mathye, MEC responsible for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Nkarhi i wa n'wina manana.

MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Manana Xipikara, inkomu ku va mi ndzi nyike nkarhi wa ku ta hlamula swin'wana leswi swi nga vutisiwa hi Muchaviseki Valoyi.

Hon Speaker, I think as a democratic country, we don't do as we wish. There are processes that need to be followed when we want to do something, especially when we want to embark on marches.

So, because some of the things that are happening during marches are unlawful, and because there will be police who will be guarding that particular march, anything might happen. The risk issue that you have raised, Hon Valoyi, I think the issue is going to be investigated, and the report is going to be reported back into this august House. But if I will be late, I'm sure you have the right as a member of the community to write to the section called IPID, where you write or you report every wrongdoing by the police.

I think you will follow that step. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Acting Premier. Tatana Rodgers Basikopo Makamu.

THE MEC FOR CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I'm standing here as the MEC for Corporate Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs, but also duly sworn in as the Acting Premier for our province.

Honourable Leader of the Opposition has got the responsibility to acknowledge that there is an Acting Premier in the province. I want to respond on the issue of Thabazimbi local municipality and take a moment to remind this House that when we tried to support the municipality in order for the municipality to deliver services, there were failures of local government in that area. We, as the Executive Council finally took a decision to dissolve that municipality and went to by election.

The council is there, and we are trying to support them. I'm aware about the challenges of water shortages in Thabazimbi, not only in Ward 10, 9 and 12, but personally, I was there in Ward 12, and I was able to resolve the issue of a sewer spillage, which was going through, including passing through the church and a particular household. We are resolving those issues there.

What we are calling upon, it's about the issue of support and strengthening, because there are political parties, including the Economic Freedom Fighter is part of that. So, we should be able to work together with the people of Thabazimbi. We are resolving a number of things.

We have even brought mines to support us in making sure that water get to be provided for. I will not be watching on a basikopo on these matters. That's why I said I was physically in Ward 12.

I resolved the issue of water in Ward 3. It's not necessarily something that we saw on a basikopo. But of course, the name Basikopo might be used as a joke, but I should be able to let people know that names of people sometimes remain a particular context and define moments within the families. So, mine as well is part of that.

It's not necessarily that you should be able to say, it's basikopo, it's basikopo, it's basikopo. The parents were recording a particular moment in their family by this name and use it for that. I'm not necessarily worried about it.

It makes me popular when you raise it like that. But at the same time, I should be able to say it should not be something that we are not taking the people of the province serious. That's why we don't watch them on a basikopo.

We watch them physically when we go down. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC for Department of CoGHSTA and Acting Premier of our province, Hon Rodgers Basikopo Makamu.

Thank you so much, Honourable Members.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We can now move quickly to item 5. We don't have any Executive Statements or is there any Executive Statement? None.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

We now move to item 6: Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers. I must indicate that we've indicated to you that AG South Africa is here.

6.1. Tabling of the Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes for 2023/24 [RP2024/25]:

The AG South Africa have the responsibility that when they conclude their audit findings and audit outcomes for every financial year. They do present to Parliament; they do present to us as the Legislature. So today, they will be tabling the consolidated general report on local government audit outcomes for the 2023/24 financial year, which the report will be presented by MEC for Provincial Treasury on behalf of the AGSA as a joint report with CoGHSTA as well. Hon Mahoi, the platform is yours.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, Hon Acting Premier, honourable Members of the Legislature, in your different designations and levels, the representatives of the AGSA, ladies and gentlemen.

TABLING OF THE CONSOLIDATED GENERAL REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT OUTCOMES FOR 2023/24

Madam Speaker, Section 188(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 provides that, "the Auditor General must submit audit reports to any Legislature that has a direct interest in the audit, as well as any other authority prescribed by National Legislation."

Madam Speaker, it is in the context of this aforesaid and in line with the provisions of the above-mentioned Legislation, and in terms of the provisions of Section 21 of the Public Audit Act No.25 of 2004

I therefore table in this august House the general report of non-audit outcomes of the Limpopo local government 2023/24 for consideration by this House. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The report as tabled by the MEC is referred to the portfolio committee, which is going to be a joint Portfolio Committee because municipality support is both CoGHSTA as well as Provincial Treasury. Therefore, this report is

referred to the Portfolio Committee for Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA for consideration and report back to the House. Thank you so much.

6.2. Re-tabling of the Departmental/ Institutional Annual Performance Plans for the financial year ending 2025/26 and Strategic Plans: 2025-2030:

We'll now proceed to item 6.2, re-tabling of the departmental/institutional annual performance plans for the financial year ending 2025/26 and strategic plans 2025-2030. Remember, the reports were tabled, but because of the re-tabling of the budget, we now have to re-table those APPs. I will now hand over to the Leader of Government Business.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip and honourable Members of the House.

RE-TABLING OF DEPARTMENTAL/INSTITUTIONAL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

Madam Speaker, in compliance with the provision of section 27(4) of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999, Act No 1 as amended by Act No 29 of 1999, as well as Chapter 5 of Treasury Regulations.

I, as The Leader of Government Business, on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, do hereby re-table the departmental and public entities annual performance plan and strategic plans for the following departments and its entities 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 which is the LTA, the Limpopo Gambling Board and LEDA;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity, GAAL;
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity, RAL;
- Department of Sports, Arts and Culture;
- Department of CoGHSTA; and
- Department of Social Development.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Honourable MEC, as the Leader of Government Business. Today, we must continue to call you Acting Premier.

The departmental/institutional annual performance plans and strategic plans are referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and report back to the House.

6.3. Re-tabling of the Limpopo Legislature Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ending 2025/26 and Strategic Plan 2025-2030:

Item 6.3, re-tabling the Limpopo Legislature annual performance plan for the financial year ending 2025/26 and strategic plan 2025-2030. Deputy Speaker, Mme Grace Tebogo Mamorobela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, the Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair, the Executive Council, Leader of the Opposition and all Members.

RE-TABLING OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 2025/26 AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

The Speaker, in compliance with the Section 13B of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act 2009, which provides that the Executive Authority must table the annual performance plan and strategic plan in the Provincial Legislature.

I, Tebogo Grace Mamorobela, rise to re-table the 2025/26 annual performance plan and 2025-2030, five-year strategic plan of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature for consideration by this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. The annual performance plan and strategic plan for the Limpopo Legislature are referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House.

6.4. Tabling of the 2023/24 Municipalities Annual Reports:

We now proceed to 6.4, tabling of 2023/24 Municipal Annual Reports, MEC CoGHSTA.

THE MEC FOR CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE 2023/24 MUNICIPALITIES ANNUAL REPORTS

Section 132(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act provides that municipalities must submit their annual oversight reports to the relevant Provincial Legislature.

Madam Speaker, in line with the provision of the above-mentioned legislation, I, as the MEC for CoGHSTA, table the following municipalities annual report for the financial year ending 2023/24 for consideration by this august House:

- Molemole Local Municipality;
- Blouberg Local Municipality;
- Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality;
- Bela-Bela Local Municipality;
- Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality;
- Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality;
- Mogalakwena Local Municipality;
- Capricorn District Municipality;
- Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality;
- Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality;
- Polokwane Local Municipality;
- Sekhukhune District Municipality;
- Mopani District Municipality;
- Greater Letaba Local Municipality;
- Collins Chabane Local Municipality;
- Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality;
- Greater Giyani Local Municipality;
- Waterburg District Municipality;
- Maruleng Local Municipality;
- Makhado Local Municipality; and
- Musina Local Municipality.

Hon Speaker, I must indicate that the following municipalities have failed to meet the deadline:

- Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality;
- Thulamela Local Municipality;
- Vhembe District Municipality;
- Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality; and
- Thabazimbi Local Municipality.

The interventions are being made for the submission to this honourable House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Acting Premier, in your capacity as the MEC of CoGHSTA for tabling the reports 2023/24 Municipal Annual Reports, and they are referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and report back to the House.

Honourable Members, we are supposed to go to item 7. I humbly take this opportunity to apologise.

There was a very miscommunication, because when the Programming Committee discussed the matter on Order of the Day, in terms of the committee reports, there was

an understanding that there are legacy reports, that we did not want to waste your time with the legacy reports. We are just going to come present them and adopt them so that we are able to comply. But unfortunately, in the order paper today, the reports that are mentioned are not legacy reports.

The reports that are mentioned there, the whole item from 7.1 up to 7. 10. They are not legacy reports, are the reports that have been processed properly by the committees. So in terms of the procedure, we needed to have a Speakers' List, so that the reports can be adopted, debated upon, and adopted properly by the House. So on that note, the whole item 7 has been removed from the Order Paper today.

We are referring it back to the Programming Committee. We hope the Programming Committee will meet as soon as possible and be able to advise us that these recent reports, they must be debated accordingly. They will advise us as the Programming Committee on how we must deal with that.

But if there are still legacy reports, we are willing to use the same method as they've agreed. But on both annual report, first quarter reports, these are recent reports. They can be dealt with as if they were not properly processed by the committees.

On that note, we are jumping the whole item 7. We are deferring it to the next Sittings. We hope the Programming Committee will sit quickly and be able to consider that. So on that note, that's why we have received a new and amended Order Paper, and that might have caused inconvenience on your side.

I, as the Speaker, take responsibility and humbly apologise to the House for the inconvenience caused. We will now move to the new item 7. In terms of the new item 7, which was initially item 8, our responses from the questions.

The following questions have been responded to, and the response are published on the ATC, dated Tuesday, 10 June 2025, and therefore, they are being disposed of. The first one, it's question 12, and 13 of 2025, it was a written reply by the Premier. The second one is question 13 and 19 of 2025, it was a written reply from the MEC Treasury. Question 13 of 2025, written reply for MEC of Health. Question 13, 2025, written reply from the MEC Sports, Arts, and Culture. Question, yes?

ADV MARX

My apologies. Hon Speaker, it seems to be an error, because it repeats 13, but if you look at the pink document, 13 refers to a different document, because Health cannot answer for Sport, and Sport cannot answer for Health, so maybe you can just give us clarity on that, please.

THE SPEAKER

There are questions that are put. It's possible that one question is sent to different MECs. So, look at the written response. If Members are not happy with the written response, then they can make the follow-up questions on them.

further, question 13, 23, 24, 26 of 2025, written reply, MEC Transport and Community Safety. Question 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 28, 29, 30, 31, written reply for MEC of CoGHSTA. Question 3, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21, for written reply, MEC LEDET.

So, if Members who have asked these questions are not happy with the responses, they have an opportunity to still make follow-up on the questions they've asked, so that proper answers are given where you are not happy with the answers given. But now, as the legislature, we've handed over back to those that have asked the questions, they can consider the responses and decide later. Hon Marx.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Speaker. I would like to rise on Rules 196 and 197; deliveries of replies to questions should be done within 21 days. Some of these questions are on the paper for the fourth time and Rule 197 kicks in. Therefore, Hon Speaker, I would like to request that the following questions be referred to oral reply and those are the ones that I have asked, and this is question 5 of 2025, question 6 of 2025, question 32 as well as... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Can we help one another? Remember, these are written questions, and I am indicating that where you think that you are not satisfied, you still have that opportunity to write back to the Speaker and indicate what you are indicating so that... [INTERJECTION]

ADV MARX

Speaker, may I quantify my point. the point says if we did not receive any answer or whatsoever like in my case, questions that I have asked have not been answered by the MEC then Rule 197 says the following; if the responsible MEC has not furnished the reply like the ones I have just mentioned then after 21 days the Secretary must, if the member in whose name the question stands so requests which I am doing place the question on the question paper for oral reply, so all these questions that I have just listed Honourable Speaker have not been answered by the MEC; therefore, Rule 197 is now applicable. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

However, I don't understand why I call you to order, and you still repeat, because I say to you, we have given you the responses, you have read the Rule. You will consider on the responses you got that there are those that within 21 days were not responded to then write to the Secretary so that we allow the Secretary to bring those questions for oral reply. Do we agree members? [Inaudible] because it can't happen here now [SILENCE]. Hon Smalle, do you want to clarify something?

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Chairperson. I will just try to recommend that questions that did not follow the procedure that is outlined in Rule 196 be referred to the Programming Committee for further tabling, and I think that is how we should deal with them. I don't think it is the

responsibility of the Secretary to deal with the programme of the Legislature, so I think we will just refer the unanswered questions to the Programming Committee, that is my proposal.

THE SPEAKER

I mean you are saying the exact same thing, Honourable Deputy Chief Whip [INAUDIBLE]

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I think the very same Rule 197 states categorically clear that it is the Secretary and not the Programming Committee; that is where we need to refine it, and if they agree with Mapoulo, it is fine, but it is wrong.

THE SPEAKER

[LAUGHTER] Can I summarise? I said these are the written replies that we have given, go and consider the replies and where you think the Rule 197 has not been followed you write formally to the Secretary that the following were not responded to, we want them to be part of the ATC and the Order so that Members can be able to reply orally. Okay thank you so much, I really...

9. NCOP BUSINESS

9.1 Motion for the Appointment of Special Delegates to Attend the NCOP plenary

Over to you, Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Acting Premier, Members of the Executive, Deputy Chief Whip and Leader of the official opposition; Hon Mapoulo Makgabo Mosehla. Hon Speaker, the NCOP has scheduled the hybrid plenaries, and the provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these plenaries. In terms of Rule 226 (1) I therefore propose that this House designate the following members as special delegates to attend NCOP plenaries:

- Plenary to debate Youth Day under the theme: Advancing Skills for the Evolving World of Work, Empowering Youth for Economic Transformation 10 June 14:00: Honourable S T Sebopela, Honourable K Lebea and Honourable M S Shai.
- Plenary to consider the finance report on the fiscal framework and revenue proposals, 11 June 2025 14:00: Honourable M S Pheedi, Honourable G D Matjomane and Honourable L J Matlou.
- Plenary to deal with questions for cluster 1D: Peace and Stability Justice and Constitutional Development in International Relations and Cooperation 17 June 2025 14 Hours: Honourable K Lebea, Honourable M C Mohale, D A Nenguda.

I so move Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Manthata Caroline Mahasela, rise to second what has been said by our Honourable Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Hon Manthata-Mahasela. I sometimes make mistakes; I apologise Manthata-Mahasela. Thank you. We now move to the item on announcements. I am not sure, Presiding Officers, who is doing the announcements.
[INAUDABLE]

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you very much, Speaker, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Tebogo Mamorobela; Acting Premier, Hon Basikopo Makamu; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; members of the Whippers; and esteemed Members of the Council. I rise to make the following important announcements, hoping that after this the Acting Premier will appoint me as the MEC. [LAUGHTER]

- First announcement is that the August House will convene on the 12 of June 2025 here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber at 10:00.
- That on the 11 June 2025, there will be Limpopo South African National Aids council men's forum meeting with the Speakership. The meeting will be at the Parliamentary Village at 13:00.
- That there will be a Speaker's forum on the 20 June 2025 at Meropa Casino.
- Lastly and most importantly, lunch will be served in the Committee Boardroom.

Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable Members

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We plead with the Chairperson of the Programming Committee that you meet today to relook at the programme. Some Members thought that there will not be any Sitting on Thursday because Monday is a June 16 holiday. Therefore, they thought that Tuesday will be a given holiday. It is important that we get informed on time so that Members can have enough time to prepare. I decide that the Sitting will be on

the 12 June 2025, but the Programming Committee will determine the programme for Thursday so that we do what is right as the Members of the Legislature. Banna, gago sa na nako ya go khutša, nke re boeng mošomong. Nako ya maikhutšo e fedile. E se kgale, re tla be re eya go nako yenngwe ya maikhutšo gape re swanetše re sepele re feditše mošomo. E re ke no lebotša gore lehono, go na le motho yo mongwe o a gola. Ke kgopela gore lena Maloko le mo opeleleng. Ke Ntate Hasani Ngobeni, yola wa go kuka meisi. Today is his birthday. Anke re mo opeleleng, hle. The Sitting stands adjourned until the 12 June 2025 10:00 in this Legislative Chamber. Thank you so much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 12 JUNE 2025
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. Let us continue with the business of the day. I have got a list from Members and their political parties. We normally allow that if a party has submitted a motion and a member who is on the list is not around, it can replace them. So, don't worry.

On that note, I will allow those who will be doing motions without notice in line with House Rule 145. Are there any hands? I apologise. There is a very important person that I did not recognise and, ge ke tsamaya mo mošomo o ka no fela.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip. These are very important people because as and when there are problems, I always run to them. So, if I make a mistake of not acknowledging them, I would be wrong. I really apologise. You are welcome, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip. I have already acknowledged you, Hon Premier. I told them that you are running the province. Running a province is not the same as running a department.

Hon Members, we are on item 2.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice? Hon Sepuru, you are recognised.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FOR ITS
PROACTIVENESS IN PREPARATION FOR INITIATION SCHOOLS
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the majority party in this august House, the African National Congress, to commend the provincial government's proactiveness as we approach the winter season, which will see the majority of our children undergoing the customary right of initiation schools.

On Saturday, we saw the provincial government, led by the very acting Premier, Hon Basikopo Makamu, and the MEC for Health, Dieketseng Mashego, interfacing with the initiation school's operators, SAPS, the NPA and traditional leadership, who are the custodians of our invaluable traditional practices.

It remains our wish as we head towards this important season that all the initiation schools should comply with the conditions which have been set by the government. We are also aware, Hon Speaker, that there might be unscrupulous characters who might want to use this period to operate unregistered and bogus schools.

We call upon the provincial government to show no mercy – no mercy at all – on initiation schools that do not comply with the Customary Initiation Act – no mercy.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sepuru. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Pheedi, you are recognised.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to support the submission made by Hon Sepuru.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I have seen Hon Mapula Letsoalo. You raised your hand on the motion. You are on the platform.

MS LETSOALO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CASES IN LIMPOPO (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move without notice that the House notes the prevalence of GBV cases in Limpopo.

The prevalence of gender-based violence in Limpopo, which continues to soar unabated, is quite disturbing. GBV has serious consequences for women's physical health as well as their sexual, reproductive and mental health. It is a fundamental violation of human rights and the adverse economic and social consequences on women and children in communities. Gender-based violence is a significant issue in South Africa, South African society, in particular Limpopo. Not only does it have devastating private and social effects, but it also has a sizable economic impact.

South Africa faces a crisis of gender-based violence with its justice system struggling to effectively address the issue. Despite declaring GBV a national emergency, conviction

rates remain low, and survivors often face systematic failures and challenges in accessing justice.

A senior manager at Mogalakwena Municipality drove over his girlfriend, Ndzalama Mlondobozi, with a car over a heated altercation at his house. She subsequently died from the severe injuries caused by this painful and unthinkable ordeal inflicted on her by a man who was supposed to protect her.

Regrettably, the perpetrator of this horrendous crime is still walking on the streets whilst he was supposed to be in prison cells. The justice system continues to fail women and children in this country. The justice system is the primary perpetrator of GBV in this country because it continues to fail to ensure that the people who commit GBV acts are put in prison.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MAGOLO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as raised by Hon Letsoalo.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. A blessed morning to you and the honourable Members.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO SAPS LIMPOPO FOR THE PROGRESS THEY UNDERScoreD IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024/25

(Motion without Notice)

I, Kedibone Lebea of the African National Congress of Peter Mokaba region, rise without notice for this House to note that:

About a week ago, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety in the province, Hon Susani Violet Mathye, took to the podium in this House to announce the immense progress that has been underscored by the SAPS of this province during the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year.

- We, therefore, felt compelled as the portfolio committee to use this platform to highlight some of the breakthroughs which were recorded during this period and also commend the immeasurable work done by the SAPS in this province, and these include:

- The arrest of a 37-year-old foreign national for the possession of illegal explosives at the Beitbridge border post on 03 April;
- The successful intelligence-driven operation that led to the arrest of two dangerous suspects and the recovery of four unlicensed firearms in Sekhukhune on the same date;
- The conviction and the subsequent sentencing of a 42-year-old pastor, Thabiso Victor Mongatane, who abused his powers and raped a vulnerable woman after making her to believe that she had a condition that needed spiritual intervention;
- The arrest of a 27-year-old suspect for the brutal murder of his father aged 74 on 03 June 2025 at their residence in Magatle village;
- The arrest of a 35-year-old scholar transporter on 24 April 2025 for raping a five-year-old girl in Mafefe village outside Lebowakgomo; and
- The famous arrest of two police officers in Mankweng aged 55 and 41 years for stealing exhibits of illegal cigarette boxes, which were meant to serve as evidence in the prosecution of spaza shop owners in that area.
- As I conclude, we have also received the exciting but sad news that the Polokwane High Court had convicted Mogaleadi Magdaline Mehlahe, in the murder case of her father, Dr Malekutu Johannes Mehlahe. Mogaleadi has been given a life sentence for orchestrating this hideous act in December 2023.
- These breakthroughs are countless, as some include stock theft, illegal mining, house robberies and many others, where police had made swift arrests, and the perpetrators had been brought to book.
- We have also witnessed the great work that SAPS has done in other parts of the Republic.
- We want to make a clarion call to our communities to keep on helping the police in order to combat crime and create a safer society.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, our Member, Hon Lebea. Today I will keep on calling you “the birthday baby”. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mmetle, you are recognised.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I stand to support the motion as moved by Hon Lebea.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Nempumbuluni, you are recognised.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje.

**WELCOMING THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT MATAMELA CYRIL
RAMAPHOSA FOR FORMING THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

(Motion without Notice)

I, Nempumbuluni T C, rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House to welcome the announcement by the President, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to form the National Dialogue as a platform to address some of the pertinent challenges facing our nation.

We also want to congratulate the individuals who have been roped into the Eminent Persons Group, who are charged with the responsibility of taking this process forward.

We have noted with excitement the inclusion of a number of individuals from the Limpopo province into the Eminent Persons Group: His Excellency Bishop Barnabas Lekganyane, the leader of the Zion Christian Church; His Grace Bishop Engenas Lekganyane, the leader of St Engenas Zion Christian Church; Ms Kgothatso Montjane, the grand slam tennis champion who hails from Seshego within Polokwane Municipality; Prof Harry Nengwekhulu, a former activist and educationist who has served the people of this province with the highest distinction; and Hosi Phyllia N'wamitwa, an illustrious and exceptional traditional leader who continues to lead the people of N'wamitwa with diligence.

We have noted with contempt allegations by some quarters of the political spectrum that these individuals are somehow sympathetic or have historical relations with the African National Congress. This should be viewed as a vague attack to distract the government from its force to rebuild the economy and foster social cohesion. As a nation that is centred around debate and negotiation, we are optimistic that this platform will help our government to craft the much-needed solutions to some of the challenges that we have.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mabotja, you are recognised. [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

He is an advocate.

MR MABOTJA

Thank you very much, Speaker. I rise to second the motion as moved by Hon Nempumbuluni. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Must I address you as an advocate?

MR MABOTJA

No.

THE SPEAKER

I need to be advised so that I don't make a mistake on that. Thank you very much. The motion is seconded. EFF, you had two motions, so are you withdrawing the other one?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We now move to the next item.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? I did not receive any. I take it there are none. Let's proceed to item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 199? I have a long list here: from the EFF, the DA, the Freedom Front Plus and the MKP. The UAT has apologised. I cannot see the MKP, but we will proceed with those that are here. Hon Wilson, you may start.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker.

MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY' FAILURE TO DECLARE THE MONEYS PAID INTO ITS ACCOUNT BY THE VBS LIQUIDATOR (Members' Statement)

On 04 February 2022, the Makhado Municipality received R4,3 million on VBS dividends bailouts. A further R11,3 million was paid over on 12 December 2024. As of 29 May 2025, the council was not made aware of these payments. In fact, the first time they

became aware of the payments was when the matter was raised in a special council meeting on 29 May 2025, and it was not even on the agenda.

It is apparent that since February 2022, there have been no updates to the council with regard to these moneys – where these funds show in the financial report, where the money was allocated and where it has been spent.

The Makhado Council resolved that in the next meeting, they must be furnished with a full report as to why these moneys were not transparently declared, where it was allocated in the adjustment budget and if there are any specifications as to where and for what these moneys should be used. In fact, when the Mayor was questioned about these funds, she did not know anything about the money related to the VBS.

The finance portfolio meeting, according to reports received, was not made aware of moneys being allocated to the budget. There is no evidence that these funds were publicly reported in terms of section 71 channels, monthly reports, adjustments budgets, or council discloses in terms of the MFMA.

The matter requires urgent investigation by both the Treasury and the MEC for CoGHSTA, and any lack of transparency or breach of any Act or regulation must have serious consequences. We will follow this process very carefully.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. We move to the EFF. Hon Magolo Matlebjane, the stage is yours.

MR MAGOLO

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings to the Members in the House.

CHRONIC WATER SHORTAGES IN TZANEEN AND IN GIYANI (Members' Statement)

Service delivery failures of the current government are of the highest proportion with regard to the chronic water shortages in Tzaneen and Giyani. It has become apparent and clear that they will not be rehabilitated because, indeed, there is no prospect in this regard. No amount of rehabilitation can assist to pull them out of the incompetence and mediocrity, especially in terms of fulfilling their constitutional mandate of providing basic services to our people.

The people of Giyani are still suffering from the Giyani water scandal, where more than R3 billion meant to provide water to our people was misused. To date, there is no concrete evidence of consequence management that was applied to the companies and officials who are responsible for this horrendous corruption.

Equally, the people of Tzaneen continue to be water-starved due to the corruption and incompetence of the district municipality and the Tzaneen Municipality under the leadership of the African National Congress.

Just recently, the residents of Tzaneen Municipality protested against the municipality because of a chronic shortage of water in their area. In fact, two protests have taken place since the start of this year. The Mopani District Municipality and the Tzaneen Local Municipality have not shifted an inch in terms of providing water to the people. This is a serious water crisis, and it has become clear that the government does not have the capacity to provide basic services like water to the people.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

RISK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE FROM SMUGGLED GOATS FROM ZIMBABWE (Members' Statement)

Organised Agriculture in Limpopo has stated that it is no longer a matter of "if foot-and-mouth disease will return, but when. The threat is real and is imminent". In March, I wrote directly to the Hon Premier, alerting her to the rampant unmonitored smuggling near Mapungubwe National Park alongside the Zimbabwe border. These are not small operations. They are run by sophisticated organised criminal syndicates, reportedly even using drones to watch us and evade detection.

Most alarming is the smuggling of goats known to be foot-and-mouth disease carriers from Zimbabwe. Reports indicate that syndicates possess fraudulent veterinary certificates to bypass FMD control zones, raising serious concerns about the complexity and corruption within state structures. Our letter urged swift action and cooperation between the provincial and national authorities.

Yet, Office of the Premier, MEC Kekana and MEC Matibe, we are reliably informed that the smuggling continues unchecked and unchallenged. Smugglers are currently using boats. As the dry season lowers the water levels, goats and cattle will soon cross on foot alongside the river banks. A clear intervention would be to establish semipermanent roadblocks on exit routes from the area, staffed by SAPS, SANDF and veterinary officials, and to work with the farming community who have already organised themselves, yet your government has failed to act to date.

We ask again with urgency, what decisive steps will you take to stop the smuggling? Do you agree that roadblocks will help, and what will you do to ensure that you establish and maintain visibility?

Inaction now will have dire consequences on Limpopo's livestock, industry, food security, rural livelihoods and our export markets.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SEPAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Smalle. Do you still have another Member's Statement, EFF? I think it was a mistake that they wrote you have two as well. Now we will move to, Hon Andre Moss from the Freedom Front Plus.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

WELCOMING OF THE VERDICT IN NICCI JANSEN VAN RENSBURG FARM MURDER CASE (Members' Statement)

The Freedom Front Plus welcomes the guilty verdict handed down to the three accused in the brutal murder of Mr Nicci Rensburg, which took place on 07 October 2022 on his farm in Roedtan, Limpopo.

I was present at yesterday's court proceedings to support the family and loved ones of the deceased. During the attack, Mr Van Rensburg's fiancée, Ms Veronica Grobler and her young boy were assaulted, tied up and forced to witness these horrific events as they unfolded. On 21 August 2023, during the court proceedings, the defence sought to have the case dismissed, alleging insufficient evidence.

However, the late Hon Marcelle Maritz, the then MPL and the provincial leader of the Freedom Front Plus, intervened by contacting the Waterberg District police commissioner to ensure that the investigation was completed and all the relevant evidence submitted. Following her intervention, the matter was referred to the National Prosecuting Authority, which recommended the continuation of the investigation and the detention of the accused. Justice has now been served. The three perpetrators were found guilty of multiple charges, including murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, robbery with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm, conspiracy to commit crime and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

We hope the verdict offers some closure to Mr Jansen van Rensburg's family, and we commend all those who worked tirelessly to bring this case to justice.

However, this incident is not isolated. On 06 June 2025, I visited the farm of Mr Karel Potgieter, whose farm was set alight following acts of intimidation. The police have confirmed an arson investigation, and yet no arrest has been made to date. Farming communities remain under siege. These are not just attacks on individuals, they are attacks on food security, rural livelihoods and the very backbone of our nation. Justice must not be delayed. The safety of our rural communities must become our priority.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Moss. It means we have now concluded the item of Members' Statements because I can't see Hon Jack, even though he indicated he was going to

give one. Unfortunately, he is not in the House. I will now allow all honourable MECs who want to respond to the Members' Statements. Before the Acting Premier comes, is there any other MEC who wants to make a comment? Acting Premier, let me allow other MECs to start, then you will close.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Acting Premier; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; and all honourable Members present in the House.

Let me take this opportunity to indicate that on the question raised by Hon Smalle regarding the smuggling of goods and animals, as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development together with LEDET, we are working closely with the interministerial committee, constituted by various Ministers, i.e., the Minister for Defence, the Minister for Home Affairs and, to a certain extent, the Minister for Health. The committee also works closely with the Border Management Authority to make sure that they address the issue of the smuggling of both goods and animals across the borders. They also use drones introduced by the very same interministerial committee together with the Boarder Management Authority.

They are making significant strides in ensuring that those who are found wanting in terms of the law are incarcerated. So far, on the issue of the selling of the veterinary certificates by the veterinary extension officers, the matter will be investigated. However, what we want to bring forth to the House is that the veterinary extension officers are hard at work to make sure that they control the movement of animals from South Africa to Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

We are also making significant strides in ensuring that our veterinary officers control disease outbreaks and manage animal health so that our farmers can meet agricultural export standards. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC Hon Kekana, for that response. If there is no other response from any MEC, I will now allow the MEC for CoGHSTA, who is the Leader of Government Business, to respond on behalf of other MECs who are not here. Now we recognise you, Hon Basikopo Makamu, the Acting Premier.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Deputy Speaker; colleagues; MECs; the honourable House; the Chief Whip, and the Deputy Chief Whip of the Legislature.

I am here to respond to the statement made by Hon Wilson about the Makhado Local Municipality, one of our best municipalities in the province, regarding the nondeclaration of the proceeds that the municipality got out of the liquidators of the VBS. The only concern which is being raised here is that the Mayor did not know, and that it was also not included in the budget adjustment. The fact that the honourable Member is making a statement about that amount which is known by the public, means it is public money. Definitely, that money will be part of the report of the municipality, and we can assure

you that we will also go and check why it was not necessarily declared in the adjustment budget, because in the revenue of the municipality, it should have appeared.

As I am standing here, Hon Speaker, I may not necessarily know the details. That is because the honourable Member was talking about the report which I have not been favoured with, and I may not necessarily know the details. However, I have taken note of that matter, and we will investigate and make sure that the money gets to be declared in the books of the municipality.

Hon Magolo is talking about the shortage of water in Giyani and Tzaneen. Fortunately, I am coming from Giyani. I am aware of the water shortage challenge. I always have constant contact with the Executive Mayor of Mopani. The shortage is not necessarily about corruption as it is mentioned here. It is about capacity and resources. Hence, we know that there is a project to bring water from Nandoni to support the water in Giyani. The corruption matter that has been reported long before is being attended to by the national department. I don't think there is somebody in this province who does not know that the ANC-led government was the first to come out and declare corrupt activities that took place in the Giyani water project, and it is something that is not mentioned.

The President has been there; the Deputy President has been there; and the Minister has been there just recently to talk about this issue. However, I don't get a sense why Tzaneen is being put as if the Mopani Municipality is corrupt. I think we will be able to quantify and not bring statements that we cannot give evidence for. If there is a corrupt activity in the Mopani District Municipality, I will advise the honourable Member to bring that as an issue, but you know that Limpopo is a water-scarce province – sometimes we may have water and sometimes not. However, to attribute the shortage of water mainly to corruption, I think it is overexaggeration of the challenge we have in the province. We should be able to investigate and make sure that everybody gets water. That is what is important.

Hon Speaker, I listened and tried to figure out the Members' Statement made by Hon Andre Moss from the Freedom Front Plus. I could not get a sense of the instructive part of the Members' Statement to the Executive – what it is that we should do. However, we also appreciate that he was part of the court proceedings yesterday as Members have got a responsibility to support our communities, and we want to appreciate the fact that he was part of the proceedings yesterday. There is not much that we can do; that matter is with the judiciary, which is another arm of government, so that it can be able to deal with it. I so submit, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Premier of the day and for covering all the other departments as well. On that note, we have come to the end of item 4.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements, honourable MECs? There are none. Please Leader of Government Business, in future if Members want to submit a statement, we need to be informed on time so that we don't get surprised when people raise hands. That is why even all other parties do submit their motions. Even MECs, through the

Leader of Government Business, should make sure that we are informed long in advance that they want to make statements. Thank you so much. We now move to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there tablings of reports, other reports and papers? There were no committee reports.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

I am aware that the Programming Committee has agreed, don't be surprised, that there might be a number of reports that are presented, but when the debate comes, it becomes one debate. So, MECs should be ready to respond when the debate is done. The debate will cover a number of reports. As and when they debate, please just concentrate so that if there are issues that either fall under the Annual Reports or the quarterly reports on oversight, make those notes so that by the time you come to respond, you know which report you are responding to. This is for our proper recording of the proceedings. We are now proceeding without wasting time.

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill 2025 [B04-2025]

Hon Pheedi, the chairperson of the committee, you may take the stage.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makoma Makhurupetje; and greetings to the Deputy Speaker, Hon Portia Grace Mamorobela; the Chief Whip; the Chair of Chairs; the Deputy Chair of Chairs; the Executive Members and all the honourable Members of this House.

Before I continue with the submission, I just want to share with the House that the initiation school is not just a school, it is a real school where most of us went through. In that school we have learners. In that school we have teachers, and in that very same school we have principals as well as HODs. For those who were part of my regiment, we are at the position of HODs at that school. Thank you very much.

Hon Speaker, I come before this House to present a report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Pheedi. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much.

Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B04-2025]

I shall now refer you to the Speakers' List in terms of the debate. It is only the debate that is going to be done separately. Hon Pheedi will still come back for other reports. We are now going to allow Hon Ngobeneni Hasani Peter to open the debate.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Acting Premier and Leader of Government Business, Hon Basikopo Makamu; honourable MECs; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip and Members of the Whippers; honourable Members of the House, distinguished guests; members of the public in the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury has thoroughly considered the Limpopo Appropriation Bill as retabled by the MEC for Provincial Treasury on 03 June 2025. We do so within the context of the constrained physical environment of the National Treasury's ongoing fiscal consolidation policy. Whilst these majors are aimed at stabilising the national debt and restoring the microeconomic balance, they have placed significant strain on the provincial budgets, limiting our ability to fund key priorities fully. Nonetheless, we welcome the increase in the provincial Budget from R83,1 billion in 20204/25 to R88,9 billion in 2025/26. This demonstrates renewed fiscal space and strong commitment to delivering core services to the people of Limpopo.

Education remains the foundation for any progressive society, specifically in this regard. We acknowledge and welcome the R42,5 billion allocation to the Department of Education, which is the highest share of the budget. This investment affirms the government's dedication to delivering quality education and driving learner performance across all grades. Encouragingly, we are already seeing the results of these efforts in the improved 2024 matric results, an achievement that inspires continued investment in this important sector. In the end and in essence through this budget, we must ensure that every learner in Limpopo has an equal opportunity to succeed, whether they are in Vhembe, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Waterberg or Capricorn.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee on Provincial Treasury knows the continued commitment to strengthen public healthcare through the second highest allocation of R26 billion to the Department of Health for the 2025/26 financial year. Seventy per cent of this amount goes directly to District Health Services, which include clinics, district hospitals, outreach services and health centres. This allocation ensures the department continues to sustain the salaries of medical health professionals, revitalise health infrastructure and procure medicines, amongst other things. We recognise that quality healthcare relies on a skilled workforce. These efforts also support the rural health

programmes, which have consistently demonstrated their impact in improving the health and wellbeing of our communities through Rural Health Matters campaign.

We also note with great appreciation that the 2025/26 Budget reflects a deliberate shift from recurring expenditure towards long-term capital investment. An allocation of R21,6 billion over the next three years has been earmarked for infrastructure development. The committee acknowledges that the bulk of this investment is directed to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure with the intended outcomes of upgrading provincial roads, maintaining public facilities and extending service delivery infrastructure where it is most needed. To put it more dramatically, it is our conviction that this budget will help complete road D3150 from Morebeng in Capricorn to Sekgosesa in Mopani and many other incomplete roads in the province.

Furthermore, the committee welcomes the prioritisation of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, LEDET, recognising its critical role in stimulating inclusive economic growth, enabling job creation and improved overall ease of doing business in our province. As we mark 70 years since the adoption of the Freedom Charter in June 1955, a document that remains the moral compass of our democracy, we are reminded of its call to end hunger, grinding poverty and land inequality. This mission continues to guide our agricultural priorities to this end. We appreciate the allocation of R1,9 billion for the current financial year to the Department of Agriculture. This investment will strengthen household food security and contribute to inclusive economic growth. It further aims to improve access to agricultural resources, empower women and youth, and support sustainable rural development. We believe that a collaborative cross-sectoral approach is key to unlocking agricultural full potential. As such, partnerships between government and the private sector will be crucial in delivering services and maximising developmental impact.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, one of our African proverbs reminds us that *lehumo le tšwa mmung*, which translates into, riches come from the land. This is for the purposes of Smalle to further comprehend this assertion. In this spirit, we echo the words of the renowned agricultural economist, Wandile Sihlobo, who once said, in his book provocatively entitled A Country of Two Agricultures, "Growth in agriculture remains 2–3 times more effective at reducing poverty than an equivalent amount of growth generated [outside agriculture] in other sectors..."

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee on Provincial Treasury is satisfied that the Limpopo Appropriation Bill reflects a responsible people-centred approach for governance and financial management. We, therefore, recommend that this honourable House considers and adopts this Bill.

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

THE SPEAKER

You must take it from the Deputy Chair of Chairs; you are still left with one minute and forty-three seconds. I do have a watch myself; I am just saying they have displayed the watch, but it is not visible to you. However, at least he was able to complete it within time. Hon Smalle, you may take the podium.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Members of the Executive and the House, good morning.

Hon Speaker, much has changed since the first iteration of the 2025/26 draft budget was tabled in this House. South Africans, led by the Democratic Alliance, stood up and demanded a national reset. We made it clear that we will no longer fund or tolerate unchecked, inefficient, wasteful and unsustainable government expenditure. We united in rejecting an increase in VAT. Our national growth forecast has since been revised downwards, and we received the shocking news that Limpopo lost 55 000 jobs in the first quarter of 2025, pushing our expanded unemployment rate to a staggering 48,6%. This means one out of every two people has stopped looking for a job.

In the lead-up to this budget being tabled, the DA made it very clear that we need a reset with expanded unemployment nearing 50%; stagnant growth; and a constrained fiscus placing pressure on both provincial and municipal budgets. The province faces intersecting crises in the form of crumbling infrastructure; collapsing municipal service delivery; ineffective, wasteful projects; and provincial entities that fail in their mandates – yet bleed the Treasury dry.

We called for a decisive shift in the budget priorities – one that rejects waste; demands accountability; prioritises investment and infrastructure; and places job creation and service delivery at the centre of every rand spent. Our province's budget must focus on creating conditions for investment, growth and jobs. It is only through growth and job creation that we can defeat unemployment, poverty and inequality, and build a just and equitable province, where each citizen is empowered through opportunity and choice.

Speaker, we are not convinced that this draft budget lives up to the expectations of the DA or the people of Limpopo. About 98% of our provincial revenue comes from the national fiscus. Limpopo is vulnerable to national fiscal consolidation and must prepare for reductions in the outer years of the MTF. If you want to understand what corruption and maladministration can do, look no further than the GNT. At its peak, the Great North Transport operated 540 buses, covering 36 million kilometres and servicing over 36 million passengers. Today, only 23 buses are operational. About R600 million, including R206 million in this budget, is proposed for fleet renewal over the MTF.

The recent turnaround attempts at GNT have failed. Without removing those responsible for corruption and the collapse of GNT and the inability to turn the matter around, we must question the efficiency of those allocations. We also question the R730 million allocated to LEDA for the MMSEZ, FTSEZ and other catalytic programmes, especially in relation to the MMSEZ, where the northern site remains ungazetted as a SEZ; the southern site operator is under performance review; procedural flaws, litigations and unresolved EIAs persist; community and environmental opposition remains unaddressed; and there is little evidence of a reliable investment. We note the R950 million allocated to RAL, but the question is the capacity to deliver. Roads have been handed over to Sanral because of RALs'... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You are left with 30 seconds.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Will it bring improved infrastructure maintenance and expansion and the result of increased investment in the province, job creation and poverty alleviation? We will, nonetheless, exercise our oversight and ensure accountability. We, however, support the Budget as presented by the MEC.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Sorry, honourable Members, I will interject when I see that the time is running out. Hon Letsoalo, Mapula Gratitude, you may take the podium.

MS LETSOALO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. E re ke leboge Maloko a Lekgotlatheramelao; the MECs and also greet the distinguished guests and the people of Limpopo.

Mmao Mokhipikara, the Appropriation Bills are essential for managing public finances, but they face several weaknesses related to their implementation and oversight. These include challenges with underspending, the potential for irregular and wasteful expenditure, concerns about debt service costs outstripping allocation for critical areas, and the need for stronger consequence management and accountability, especially in areas like infrastructure spending.

A recurring problem is that allocated funds are not always spent as intended, leading to underspending and missed opportunities for service delivery and economic growth. Infrastructure spending is also often cited as an area where allocations are not fully utilised, impacting service delivery and economic development. Weak accountability undermines the effectiveness of the budget process and can foster a culture of impunity, making it difficult to address corruption and the misuse of public funds. Under the ANC-led government, the Limpopo province faces significant challenges in effectively managing and utilising conditional grant, including delays in recruiting staff, procurement issues and misleading reporting, leading to reduced allocations.

These impact various sectors like education, health, and infrastructure, resulting in delays in project completion, poor service delivery and unmet needs in the province. Of the total MTEF allocation, R110 billion or 82% is directed towards funding Public Ordinary Schools Education to cater for over a one million learners in no fee public ordinary schools in line with the national norms and standards for school funding. It is disturbing that there are no allocations provided for special schools, which is testimony to the fact that special schools are being undermined.

The health function is allocated over R82 billion over the next three financial years to support the equitable provision of public health services, including free primary health care, and yet nothing has been said about ensuring that all public schools open 24 hours 7 days a week. The Department of Health is struggling to contain the medicolegal bill which is the main cause of botched operations and related medical negligence. The money spent on medicolegal claims could be justifiably channelled to the course of

making sure that all clinics operate 24 hours seven days a week so that you stop the phenomenon of women giving birth right at the gates of the clinics. It is unfortunate and regrettable that the department is currently sitting with R10 million medicolegal bill. It is also like the core mandate of the department is to pay medicolegal claims.

Entities like GNT, RAL and GAAL are in deep leadership, governance and financial mess. Lack of superior logic continues to fail the government, especially on the governance of entities which naturally are expected to be self-sustainable. The department's 2025/26 financial allocation also includes over R958 million set aside for transfer to the Roads Agency Limpopo to improve the provincial roads network.

Despite this allocation, Limpopo province continues to face significant road infrastructure challenges, particularly concerning the extensive network of gravel roads and the high cost of upgrading them. The province has faced a backlog in upgrading roads and maintaining both paved and gravel roads. We continue to see massive deterioration of infrastructure in Limpopo under the watchful eye of the government.

Hon Speaker, ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ke tšona tšeo, Balobedu. Is there any seconder? No, there is no need for seconder for this one. A ke re bjale ba nthabišitše ka gore ba bolela Selobedu sa gešu. Lenthabišitše ka maatla. E bile ke gakanegile le gore lenaneo le tla kae. Ka mokgwa wo ke be ke ekwa bose ka gona. Ke a leboga. We now go to the closing debate by Hon Pheedi Solomon.

MR PHEEDI

I am still allowing the Hon Speaker to enjoy the language. Thank you, Hon Speaker. I can also tell you that re hlapa ka mageu, meetsi re tšhaba go sehlefala. Greetings to the Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; the Hon Deputy Speaker, Tebogo Portia Grace Mamorobela; the Hon Acting Premier, Hon Basikopo Makamu; Members of the Executive; the Chief Whip; the Deputy Chief Whip; the Chair of Chairs; the Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen. I would also like to pass my greetings to the leaders of the opposition parties who are in our midst.

Today's Sitting is taking place a few days after the MEC responsible for Provincial Treasury retabled the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B04-2025], whose mandate is to provide the appropriation and the allocation of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund of the 2025/26 financial year.

The first reading of the bill was tabled on 25 March 2025 in line with section 164 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, which puts sole responsibility on the MEC for Treasury to introduce the Money Bill by delivering an introductory speech in the House accordingly. The Speaker of the House, therefore, referred the Bill to the Portfolio Committee on Treasury for further processing in line with section 165 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature.

The committee met with the Department of Provincial Treasury in order to be briefed of the Bill and its principles. Once more, Hon Speaker, the provincial Budget for the 2025/26 financial year amounts to R88,9 billion, as Hon Ngobeni said, which includes the equitable share allocation of R77,6 billion and the provincial conditional grant allocation of R12,3 billion. The retabling must also be seen as an event wherein we remind ourselves about a number of regrettable activities that took place after the First Reading by the Minister for Finance.

Because we are coming from a history of listening to the people, Hon Speaker, our honourable Minister has also taken heed of the plight of our people, and the withdrawal of the budget was also made. He continued engaging with various stakeholders persuaded by the lessons we learnt from our legend Ray Phiri when he said, “Singa Jindi Majita” (Don’t Give Up). It is out of that notion that we always say, a quitter never wins, and a winner never quits.

To meet our goals of redistribution, redress and structural transformation, our economy needs to grow much faster in an inclusive manner because it has been stagnant for over a decade. This is our central objective as the current administration. Amidst our challenges, we are entrusted with ensuring that the allocation is done wisely and effectively so that it will address our government priorities and champion service delivery to our people. In order for our province to prosper, we will make sure that every resident benefits from our collective efforts and wisdom, as the government of the day.

In line with the Minister’s Budget presentation, we are duty-bound as a province to make sure that our Budget is aligned with the constitutional principle of equity and efficiency. It must also be aligned with the national budget framework for proper channelling of service and to cover the entire scope of government.

Once more, Hon Speaker, on a temporary setback, the agricultural sector, manufacturing and construction, wholesales and transport did not contribute well to the provincial GDP in the previous years. It is only mining, electricity, finance and personal services showing a positive uphill, which boosted our provincial development goals. We believe that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the allocation of R5,9 billion over the next three years, of which R9,1 billion will be made available for the 2025/26 financial year, will make tremendous strides to make sure that we see positive results out of that.

In the distribution of these funds, we still believe that the Department of Agriculture should make sure that it looks at emerging farmers in order to make sure that we contribute to the food security of this country. The 2025/26 allocation includes the R32,7 million for the revitalisation of the agriculture and agroprocessing value chain project and R10 million for the Lebowakgomo broil houses. The department is also allocated conditional grant amounting to R346 million for the 2025/26 financial year, which is anticipated to grow to R370 million in the 2027/28 financial year.

Once more, investment in infrastructure remains critical for our economic recovery, development and improving the living standards of our Limpopo citizens, hence we continue to introduce fundamental reforms to enhance planning and infrastructure provision. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure was allocated R15,2 billion for the next three financial years. In 2025/26, an allocation of R5,6 billion

is made available, which includes conditional grant funding of R2 billion for the provincial roads' maintenance.

For the 2025/26 financial year, a total of R577,6 million is earmarked for the implementation of provincial priorities, which include R150 million for the settlement of municipal rates and taxes, R100 million for the procurement of roads, fleet and equipment, R100 million for the procurement of office buildings and R89 million for the construction of 15 additional parliamentary houses. Once again, the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is allocated a budget of R5,1 billion over the next three years, of which R2,2 billion is made available for the 2025/26 financial year.

The budget is inclusive of R730,7 million for the implementation of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Hub catalyst projects and other economic development enablers.

Hon Speaker, we have engaged thoroughly with the MEC for this department to make sure that if R10 is allocated for buying bread, you either bring bread or you bring the R10 back. There is a total of R206,6 million allocated to Great North Transport in the 2025/26 financial year for the acquisition of buses to provide much-needed relief to the existing aging fleet, enhancing operational efficiency and passenger experience.

The highest share of the provincial Budget is allocated to the Department of Education, which received R133.8 billion over the next three years in line with the provincial government's commitment to continue providing quality education in the province and implementing programmes vital to improving learner performance across all the grades. Out of the overall total Budget, an amount of R110,5 million will be directed towards building public ordinary schools, education to cater for 1,6 million learners in no-fee public ordinary schools in line with national norms and standards for school funding.

In conclusion, let me indicate that the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs has also been allocated money to make sure that we work with the chiefs, improve their offices, as well as buying them fleets and other important items, including furniture.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoai, to respond to the debate by honourable Members. Hon Mahoai, the stage is yours.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Acting Premier; honourable colleagues; Members of the august House in your different ranks and designations, thank you for this opportunity.

Perhaps one should first acknowledge and appreciate that indeed as per our optimism yesterday in the NCOP, all nine provinces voted in favour of the adoption of the 2025 Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals, 100%. [APPLAUSE] On the other hand, in the National Assembly, it was a two-thirds majority – only 88 who voted against and only two who abstained.

With your cooperation, this country will always move, and it is moving. With the approval of this framework, of course by both Houses, the budget process will move as planned. I believe in the next week or so the Division of Revenue Bill and the Appropriation Bill will be passed, and this will ensure that the implementation of the much-desired projects is fast-tracked, and cash flow will move. We appreciate and really believe that all that has been pessimistically looked at in our country is a thing of the past. South Africa is in good hands, and it will move.

Coming back to the matters raised here, I appreciate all the inputs. There is not much for me to say other than to acknowledge some of the advice and counsel. I do take note of the issue of GNT. I believe together with LEDET; Transport and Community Safety; and all stakeholders, we should find a permanent solution for this one. As in the case of other things that have happened, we will always overcome as we are overcomers.

So, we are very thankful for all the inputs given about the budget and the move to adopt this Appropriation Bill and move us further and await that the whole budget process is concluded and that Limpopo will become a winner. We are taking note of the call for accountability. Yes, this is what we have always wished for, and we believe it is doable. We have taken good counsel from the Members of the committee and the Members of this august House; we believe we will overcome, and we are overcoming. We will always win, and Limpopo will be the most beneficiary of this win.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, indeed, South Africa is in good hands. Whilst we have Parliament adopting the budget with a two-thirds majority, I have heard the debates here; the Members are not necessarily saying they don't support, they are saying let's look at other areas, which I am happy that the MEC is acknowledging. For us to move forward, we must go that direction as well. Today we have concluded the Second Reading, and the Third Reading will come soon after the other processes have been followed. We hope for the best as the Limpopo Legislature, and we hope we will do the same as what the National Assembly has done. Thank you so much.

We now proceed in terms of the Order Paper.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, you may take the stage. Now you can sit here until you finish your reports.

MR PHEEDI

Hon Speaker, greetings once again. I will just continue presenting the following reports.

Hon Speaker, these performance reports reflect the extent to which the Limpopo Provincial Treasury has performed against each quarterly targets in respect of the tabled 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan. The Department continues to strive towards attaining its vision of excellence in public resource management for socioeconomic development. [Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Switch off the mic and take your seat so that we can advise on what needs to be done. You are on item 7.2.1. Your duty is to move for the adoption of the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, I am sorry for fast-forward planning. Hon Speaker, as the Portfolio Committee on Treasury, we hereby submit the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report as well as the 2023/24 Annual Report. May I continue with other reports, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

No.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Please sit right there. Can we please call for a seconder for the consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report. Hon Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hereby second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable chair, you can proceed to item 7.2.2, 2023/24 Annual Report.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the portfolio committee, I submit the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Provincial Treasury. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mokoele, you are recognised.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We second the report as presented. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now move to item 7.3.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, 2024/25 First Quarter Report

Hon chair, the floor is yours.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I stand before this House again to present the 2024/25 First Quarter Report for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You can go now go back to your seat, Hon Pheedi. We will call you back at the right time. Is there any seconder? Hon wa gešu, Bolobedu ka moo, Joshua Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mospikara, Dr Makhurupetje. Nna ne ke emela gore tšona tše di boletšwego ke Ntate Pheedi, ke se tlatše ka maatla, le ka kua komiting ke eme ke kgone go se thekga ka mokgwa wo a boletšego ka gona. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ke yena molobedu, re ka tšwela pele. We are challenging the Deputy Speaker to speak kasi Hananwa, we are challenging Hon Matjomane mo la. Kufanele bona sikhulume. Somkhandlu wezemiDlalo, sibawa usifundise ukukhuluma, le re rute isiNdebele; it is an official language in this House. We need all these languages. Hon Wilson, praat ment ons daar.

Thank you so much, we will now go to the Speakers' List. The Speakers' List is as follows: Hon Member, Dr Selane Che Bonnie David is the one opening the debate.

THE SPEAKER

The time has increased from 10 to 12 minutes, 5 to 7 minutes and 7 to 9 minutes. We have added 2 minutes to all the parties.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Grace Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Deputy Speaker, Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Acting Premier, Hon Basikopo Makamu; Hon Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of this august and majestic House; and distinguished guests.

June is the month in which we must remind the children of Dr Jan Smuts, the children of Dr Cecil Jan Rhodes, Dr H F Verwoerd, the children of Dr D F Malan that the genocide was committed by them when they orchestrated the vexatious and draconian government. It is for that reason that today as South Africans we remember everything that they did. Uncountable young people, particularly the students, were incarcerated, tormented and machine-gunned by them. As a result, during this month we remember everything that they did.

Hon Speaker, I rise in this august House to contribute to the debate on three key oversight instruments, i.e., the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report, the 2023/24 Annual Report and the First Quarter Performance Report of the 2024/25 financial year of the Limpopo Provincial Treasury.

Firstly, I would like to commend the Department of Treasury, under the leadership of MEC Kgabo Mahoi, and his HOD, for the consistent delivery of the key functions of this department, even in the face of economic constraints and systematic pressures. The department remained a central enabler of service delivery, ensuring that all the provincial departments, municipalities and the public entities manage their financial affairs responsibly and in line with the principles of transparency, accountability and efficiency.

These reports that I have already specified are more than just an administrative tool or records – they are political statements. They are our mirror that reflects our stewardship over public resources; they are tools which we must account for to the people of Limpopo, especially those in the villages of Sekhukhune, the township of Polokwane, the farms in Vhembe and the growing informal settlements in Mopani. The Annual Report reflects that the department has achieved a significant portion of its performance indicator, particularly in areas related to financial governance, budget management and supply chain oversight.

Notably, the Provincial Treasury continues to support the departments and municipalities, even the public entities, through the transversal training, risk management, interventions, and compliance monitoring. However, it is critical to note that while performance targets may be met administratively, the real test lies in how this financial system translates into tangible improvements in the lives of our people because the ultimate goal is not just a clean audit but clean governance with developmental impact.

The persistent challenges faced by provincial entities such as GAAL, GNT, Mesina-Makhado SEZ and municipalities in Limpopo remain a matter of great concern. The Fourth Quarter Report reveals that several municipalities, GAAL, GNT or those state-owned enterprises continue to experience regression in audit outcome primarily due to weak internal controls, administrative interference, irregular expenditure, and poor revenue management. As the portfolio committee, we must reiterate our call for stronger

consequence management and capacity building at the local government and those state-owned enterprises. The Provincial Treasury must sharpen its interventions through relevant legislation and work closely with CoGHSTA and Salga to improve oversight and governance in our municipalities. LEDET must not be isolated.

The First Quarter Report of 2024/25 indicates the continued use of transversal contracts and central supplier database. While this mechanism aims to standardise procurement and prevent abuse, it must also serve the developmental goal, as we have already indicated. The time has come to make public procurement a tool for economic justice. Whilst making public procurement a tool for economic justice, we must ask ourselves the following questions: How many youth-owned enterprises access procurement opportunities? Are rural/township women-led businesses being empowered through treasury policies? Is local content being prioritised necessarily because the Provincial Treasury must do more to track procurement impact to publish our supplier data that is accessible in format and guard against any form of manipulation from supply chain management processes?

In addition, this can restore the confidence of our people. The Provincial Treasury role in coordinating the budget is foundational. We acknowledge the efforts to align the departmental spending with the Limpopo Development Plan and key priorities such as infrastructure, youth employment, education, and health. However, we must reflect on the effectiveness of this alignment. The question remains, does our budgeting respond to the crises of unemployment, poverty, and inequality? Are we investing adequately in rural development and township economies, and TVET infrastructure to stimulate economic growth? These are the questions we must ask Treasury from time to time, especially when they are aligning their budget.

We are debating this report in the context where our economy is under severe strain; youth unemployment remains dangerously high; inequality is deepening; and the pace of inclusive development is far too slow. Our understanding is that budgetary allocation coordinated by Treasury must respond to this reality. The Limpopo Development Plan and Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy must guide expenditure priorities not for political convenience or historical sluggishness. It is in our interest to see the budget align with a catalytic infrastructure project, the revitalisation of industrial parks, the support of TVET colleges and the investment in agriculture and, moreover, the township enterprise development.

In the era of a declining public trust, the role of Treasury is more important than before. Our people are losing confidence in our government, not because we lack policies, but because we fail to enforce them. The Department must serve not only as a custodian of financial control but also as a guardian of ethical leadership. It must lead by example by eliminating all fruitless and wasteful expenditures, and by tightening internal controls and upholding the Batho Pele principles. We, therefore, call upon the Treasury to move beyond compliance and embrace the value driven in public finance culture, one that is people-centred, outcomes-focused and resolute in fighting financial misconduct.

In our portfolio committee meeting, we had to challenge the department that in all the spheres of government, a dangerous and deeply entrenched culture has taken place – a culture that erodes accountability, betrays public trust and undermines ethical governance. At a centre of it all, there is a systematic recycling of corrupt managers

through secondment and deployment, rather than dismissal or prosecution. This trouble pattern has emerged in all departments and state-owned entities, across the country, even here in our province, because senior officials who are accused or found guilty of financial misconduct, dereliction of duties or maladministration are not held accountable, instead they are seconded, redeployed or promoted to new positions often with greater responsibility and access to resources. This is precisely because those who are political connected and powerful are protected, and the ethical governance is silenced.

Therefore, corruption is institutionalised by eroding the culture of integrity, which the public service must embody. At a heart of this crisis, is a deeply flawed consequence management framework that lacks coherence and political will. Although consequence management exists, it is poorly implemented, inconsistently enforced and it is riddled with loopholes. On top of that scenario, there is a poor centralised system which traps or flags officials under investigation with a record of misconduct.

The Department is operating in silos, creating fertile ground for those who have committed an offence to evade accountability... [INTERJECTION] Wa tseba Mospikara, o mpheditše maatla, mara ge le re batho ba utswa, re ba boditše ra re, tla re phatlalatšeng tsebišo ya go bontšha gore motho o utswitše from the Department of Agriculture cannot be seconded to the Department of Finance. Anyone who is found corrupt cannot be seconded or redeployed, necessarily because he or she must account before being seconded or given greener pastures, and that is our argument.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Dr Selane. I shall now call upon Hon Smalle, and do not tell me that the timer does not exist. Thank you.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. If I could second the previous speaker, I will and I hope that a lot of these Members and the Executive Council listened very closely to what was said today.

In our South African context, the proper and ethical performance of our treasuries can mean the difference between good and bad governance. It was our Minister for Finance and our National Treasury that resisted and blew a whistle on state capture. However, in our province, it was the failure – at least in part – of our own Treasury, the collapse of its regulatory and oversight functions which made it an enabler of the crisis which saw this province being plundered under administration in 2011. May this never happen again.

As the DA, we welcome Treasury's return to a clean audit for the 2023/24 financial year, following the regression in the previous year. It is important that Treasury leads by example. We are nonetheless concerned about the reported 22 attempts made to defraud Treasury through the LOGIS system in December 2023. However, fraudsters

were able to gain access to the User IDs of three staff members, and they were able to access the system externally.

We note that these attempts resulted in R1,9 million being fraudulently paid to illegitimate service providers, and we are concerned by the statement in our Annual Report that the prospects of recovering this money are very slim. As the Democratic Alliance, we will not rest until this breach is fully explained, these moneys are recovered, and action is taken if it is found out that there was internal collusion. We also call for a full update from the Hawks on this matter.

We note the efforts by Treasury to build financial governance capacity and improve audit outcomes at various municipal levels. Yet, over the past while, we have not seen any significant improvement in municipal audit outcomes, whilst municipal infrastructure and service delivery across our province continue to collapse and worsen. Municipal roads are pockmarked with potholes; residents go without water for months; sewage run down our roads; and electrical outages occur daily. We will monitor the efficacy of Treasury's efforts, but our citizens need to see improvement, infrastructure, and reliable service delivery. How can we expect investment, economic growth, more jobs, and the creation of a more equal society when we continue to fail to fix the most basic sphere of our system of government?

We note from the 2023/24 Annual Report that Provincial Treasury boasts that it successfully managed and monitored the provincial Budget at 98,6% expenditure rate by year end. However, this 98,6% expenditure rate does not measure the efficiency of what was spent. As the DA, we question whether our provincial administration has the will and ethical commitment to ensure that every rand is spent in the best interest of our people of Limpopo, whether it is more committed to ensuring continued enrichment of our cronies within and outside of the government, whether it truly aspires to capable governance, or is more concerned with deploying some of those cadres.

We do not see many positive results from the almost R80 billion spent in the 2023/24 financial year. What we see is increasing of misery, increasing unemployment, increasing poverty and increasing inequality. We note the reports, particularly the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Provincial Treasury. As the DA, we understand the importance of a strong and ethical Treasury, and we will continue to protect our Treasury from the predators in and outside of our provincial administration.

However, we also need to see real value for money and the efficiency of how that money is being spent. Section 29(1) of the PFMA states: "If an annual budget is not passed before the start of the financial year to which it relates, funds may be withdrawn in accordance with this section from the relevant Revenue Fund for the services of the state or the province concerned during that financial year as directed charges against the Fund until the budget is passed.

This is where we count ourselves for the first part of this quarter. However, unlike section 29 of the PFMA, there is no provision made for a 10% allocation per month after the 45% has been exhausted in accordance with section 27(1) of the 2024 Division of Revenue Act.

Although the Department has not yet exceeded the 25% threshold, we still want to caution against any unnecessary spending due to possible late equitable transfers from National Treasury.

The Democratic Alliance is convinced that Limpopo Treasury is managing the situation and has been transparent in its reporting to the portfolio committee.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. I shall now call upon Hon Letsoalo Mapula Gratitude.

MS LETSOALO

Ke leboge once again, Deputy Speaker. Ba re madume ga a fele bagešu ka mo go Ngwako. The EFF is concerned that this department is not doing enough to fulfil its mandate, which is to ensure sound financial management of the province's resources, promoting transparency and accountability in all financial matters. This includes preparing an implementation of the provincial Budget, monitoring its execution and promoting effective management of provincial revenue, expenditure assets and liabilities.

Furthermore, this department does not focus on strengthening good governance and public resource management at both provincial and local government levels to ensure sustainable service delivery. This department fails to oversee the execution of the approved budget, ensuring that funds are spent as intended and in accordance with the established regulations.

Furthermore, they do not strive to ensure that the provincial departments and public entities are transparent in their financial operations and effectively manage the revenue expenditure, assets and liabilities. The Treasury must provide assistance to provincial departments and public entities to improve their financial management capabilities. Can the MEC tell us why GAAL and RAL continue to struggle under his watch? What is the Department doing to ensure financial sustainability for RAL, GAAL and GNT which are still facing financial difficulties caused by poor governance and leadership?

Government entities are expected to be self-sustainable, generate revenue, grow the economy and create jobs for the people of Limpopo. Sadly, in Limpopo entities continue to milk government fiscus through unsustainable bailouts. This department must also ensure the provincial departments and public entities adhere to the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and other relevant regulations. The provincial government continues to be scandalised by vacant critical posts in the department itself, which remain unfilled as it may impact negatively on the functionality of the department, especially on support systems offered to various departments, state-owned entities and municipalities.

Local government support is lacking, and if the status quo remains, the constitutional right of the people will continue to be infringed upon. There is serious deficit in terms of

sustainable fiscal policy in the provincial government which the Department of Treasury fails to spearhead and implement for the smooth running of departments. What is the turnaround strategy of the department to ensure that the entities are financially self-sustainable and are rescued from total collapse? The greatest weakness of this government is to make promises that they never come to pass when all people desperately need services. Do all the departments in the province have infrastructure maintenance strategy? if not, which departments have maintenance strategy, and which ones do not have the strategy and why? Infrastructure development contributes to the economic growth, e.g., people use road networks to go to work every day and be productive for the growth of the economy.

Therefore, we stand here as the Economic Freedom Fighters to educate the government run by the ANC basic economics. It can't be. [INTERJECTION] honourable MEC, are we singing? Are we singing, Hon Acting Premier?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Let us be orderly, honourable Members.

MS LETSOALO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for the protection against the Acting Premier. So, through you, Hon Speaker, we advise the honourable MEC to adhere to the call of the Legislature, which is to ensure that we are an accountable government that relates to and revisits the regulations that we are set to deliver. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Letsoalo, you left four minutes. I shall now call upon the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Pheedi Maseko Solomon Mohananwa Maleta Dithaba.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I think after this Sitting, I will be called a man of the match. Hon Speaker, without much ado, receive my warm greetings. May I just go straight to the reports. These performance reports reflect the extent to which Limpopo Provincial Treasury has performed against its quarterly targets in respect of the tabled 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan. The department continues to strive towards attaining its vision of excellence in public resource management for socioeconomic development, and the good work we are talking about is done under a very watchful eye of the honourable MEC, who's capable of performing his duties.

These reports are in line with the mandate bestowed upon the National Assembly and the provincial legislatures by the Constitution to conduct oversight over the executives of the government departments authorised by section 114(2), section 133(2) and Section 133(b). The report further considers the performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury in terms of compliance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), Treasury Regulations as well as the Rules of the House.

The committee noted that one capacity building programme was implemented, and the Information and Technology Programme Steering Committee meeting was held in compliance with the Corporate Governance of Information and Communication Technology Policy Framework. The committee commends the department for having achieved 100% payment of suppliers' valid invoice paid within 30 days. The committee further applauds the department for having achieved 77% for procurement of goods and services from women-owned enterprises. Nevertheless, I just want to warn the department not to disregard other participants in these economic spheres. Therefore, there should not be a winner-takes-all type of an approach.

In the Annual Reports, three research documents were produced to align with the provincial fiscal policy, and an assessment on revenue was conducted to ensure collection of set targets. During the quarter under review, three consolidated provincial in-year monitoring reports were produced in line with section 32 of the Public Finance Management Act; 27 infrastructure assessments were also conducted in the department with infrastructure budget; and 10 infrastructure assessments were also conducted in prioritised municipalities.

Furthermore, the committee noted that 26 municipalities' state of finance reports were also assessed. In other words, the issue of saying the department is disregarding its responsibility in applying oversight over the municipalities is unfounded. Once again, the provincial revenue original target for the 2023/24 financial year is R1,7 billion, which is revised to R1,9 billion or increased by R214,5 million. During this period, the province collected an amount of R2,2 billion or 114% against the revised annual own revenue target of R1,9 billion, which reflected an overcollection of R269,2 million or 14%. The overcollection is from the interest received on bank balance by the Provincial Treasury, online report betting, taxes by LEDET, tuition fees recovered by Agriculture, patient fees recovered by Health and the sale of assets by Health, and Public Works. The collection is below that of the previous year corresponding period of R2,4 billion or 109%.

The provincial infrastructure expenditure is at R7,7 billion or 98%. This is against an adjusted budget of R7,9 billion. The provincial infrastructure expenditure recorded the following as at 31 March of that financial year, i.e., 2021/22 at 91%, 2022/23 at 92% and 2023/24 at 98%. This already reflects a tremendous improvement on the side of the department. The provincial expenditure performance for the current year has positively increased in both value and percentage compared to the previous financial years.

The infrastructure report is a reporting tool which incorporates the project and programme management practices by projecting monthly cash flow and monitor the expenditure against the budget. It allows for designated departments to establish a cost envelope that sets a tolerance in which actual expenditure performance must be contained. The infrastructure adjustment budget was structured to address a number of inconsistencies regarding the reporting patterns of some departments.

The challenge, however, is that the infrastructure report model in the segment of EPWP requires extensive details and continuous updating, which majority of the departments are still struggling with. We have noted that the department has achieved 92% target achievements for the quarter under review. There are noticeable improvements in the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the provincial risk profile. The

committee noted that 100% of provincial irregular expenditure condonement requests were considered in terms of the National Treasury irregular expenditure framework.

Furthermore, the committee noted that the department had approved an organisational structure consisting of 537 posts, of which 374 or 69,6% were filled. To this end, 163 or 30,3% posts were vacant. As at 31 March 2024, a total of 28 posts were filled, and 27 posts are awaiting assumption of duty. There must be programmes in place by the department to offer support to municipalities as well. Once again, the department is in the process of finalising appointments of new staff to improve service delivery. The department has just emerged from a strategic planning session which, amongst other things, dealt with the department's plan to strengthen the shared units in the revised structure. Having scrutinised the report, the portfolio committee recommended to the department to fully implement mitigation measures identified in the provincial risk profile; finalise the provision of irregular expenditure condonement requests in line with the irregular expenditure framework developed by National Treasury; fill 100% of the identified vacancies by the end of the financial year, finalise the appointment of new staff to strengthen the department unit efforts to improve service delivery; and also design programmes to empower municipalities to rely on internal capacity to develop financial statements.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, allow me to request the House to consider and adopt the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report, the 2023/24 Annual Report and the 2024/25 First Quarter Report as the reports of the House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. We will now allow the MEC for Provincial Treasury to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, thank you. We want to express our appreciation once again for the oversight work of the committee, and we have taken note of all the matters, some of which we believe honourable Members will still find out. It should be noted that we do both the portfolio and transversal work of the Department of Finance as it is and of the departments that we support. For example, the public entities that are frequently being referred to here are overseen by their mother departments, and we look at them as a whole. Of course, in the spirit of collaboration, we work together, and most definitely, we are on course with different departments that are affected. We work together to ensure sustainability of those entities that have been referred here; most importantly GAAL and GNT.

I must indicate, however, that we can do as much as we do, but one of the things that we will not claim to be doing is to take the place of other players and then play that role. We are an entity that is given power, through the PFMA and the MFMA, to execute those functions as listed there and not any further. Accountability is the standard benchmark of what this government has really premised everything on. As a result, we trust that the full governance and institutional frameworks are sufficient to ensure that excesses are prevented and a lot of good governance is being done.

Recently, EXCO approved a maintenance strategy. This is a tool that will address all matters that have been raised regarding the issue of maintenance, across the board, of infrastructure or facilities, and we already see the fruits of having such a kind of an instrument, because most of the time budgeting was not taken into consideration – the issue of how to allocate for maintenance. We would do something and thereafter wait until it is dilapidated. So, I believe the 7th Administration machinery is well oiled to ensure that this is attended to.

We have taken note of what Dr Selane has indicated in as far as his emphasis of instances where apparently there could be recycling of individuals based on whatever could have happened. We will look into that matter to see the extent to which it is rife, if any, and we will be able to give evidence when we have seen these happenings. We are willing to account every time we appear before the committee on any matter that may have been a question, be it something that may be a product of an investigation or something that is taking place that needs urgent attention.

We believe that in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation, nothing is impossible. We believe that leadership that is provided by this government under the leadership of the Premier – and in this case the Acting Premier – will all together ensure that all matters that are raised from oversight are accounted for in subsequent appearance before the committee so that when the committee comes back in other subsequent quarters of the year, at least we will be able to showcase that we have done all that has been suggested here.

Section 29(1) has been overtaken by events because I believe in the course of this month, the budget will be approved, and we will be able to avoid having to go beyond. So, this is the first time we tested our own constitutional democracy – that what has happened, as we said, was never a crisis, because the forefathers or those who pioneered this Constitution ensured that there are checks and balances, that any circumstances will be provided for. For example, the crisis of budget in the current system means that there is a government of national unity – there is a multi-partisan approach to things. It is a learning curve, but it starts with maturity; it is a paradox because you do something wrongly then mature later. In this case, the state of maturity was reached before, so this is South Africa, a South Africa that we are all yearning to have.

I believe that we are in a safe and investment-friendly country, where the rule of law is the most important basic instrument that can assure everybody that when the ANC said they will govern this country, they meant it. This country is governed in terms of the rule of law. Even when we are on the back foot, we are able to draw wisdom from our own legal instruments, apply and implement them even though sometimes it might be challenging. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. We must now be conscious of time; the Order Paper is still a bit long. We are now on item 7.4.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

We are going to call upon the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA to come and present the consideration and adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Hon Sepuru. You will present and then take your seat; I will then indicate when we are done.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I stand to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, is there any seconder? Hon Phokane, you are recognised.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker, I second the move made by Hon Sepuru for the House to adopt the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Phokane. We are now on 7.2.4.

MR SEPURU

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I also rise to move for the adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Report. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATABOGE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I second the adoption of the Annual Report of 2023/24, as moved by Hon Sepuru.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mataboge, re tla e thutha sona, ra se tseba gabotse. We now move to item 7.5.

7.5 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee of CoGHSTA.

Over to you, chairperson of the committee.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I further move for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 First Quarter Report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chair. Do we have any seconder? Hon Sonnyboy Shai, you are recognised

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Shai for the secondment of the report. We now move to item 7.6.1: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA on the Oversight Visit.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I further stand to move for the consideration and adoption of the report on the oversight visit to Sekhukhune, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality on the set date. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We now request a seconder. Hon Manthatha-Mahasela.

MS MANTHATHA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke rata go leboga Mosipikara nako yeo le mphile yona. Lenna ke tshitshinya ke tše di boletše ke mo dula se tulo wa komiti ya-CoGHSTA. Ke a le leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ka moka re e thutha Setokwa; tše di botše ditšwa Botokwa fela. Thank you so much. We now proceed to 7.6.2. Committee chair, you may proceed.

MR SEPURU

Hon Speaker, your joke reminds me of the interaction between the Batokwa and the Balobedu when we were still at school. Thank you. Hon Speaker, I move for the consideration and adoption of the report on the oversight visit to Mopani District Municipality Ward 4, GaMametja in Maruleng. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

You can now take your seat. Can I request any seconder. Hon Deli Matjomane, you are recognised.

MS MATJOMANE

Ngiyathokozo Somlomo, Dorh. Makhurupetje. Ngisikimela ukusekela umbiko othulwe nguSihlalo we-CoGHSTA. Ngiyathokozo.

THE SPEAKER

Nathi siyathokozo. Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. In terms of the Speakers' List, Hon Machete Phetole Percy is the one who is opening the debate. He has an option to come to the front or present where he is. It is your choice, honourable Member.

MR MACHETE

Thanks very much. Let me rise and observe the protocol already established and other related salutations. I am honoured and privileged to be afforded this opportunity to address this august House when we are considering and adopting the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter and Annual Reports, 2024/25 First Quarter Report on the oversight visit to Sekhukhune District Municipality, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality on 08 November 2024; and oversight visit to Mopani District Municipality, Maruleng Local Municipality Ward 4, GaMametja on 18 October 2024 of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

I take this opportunity and greet this august House and indicate that we are only four days away from the commemoration of one of the most historical days in our struggle for liberation and the emancipation of the marginalised, the poor and the downtrodden in our society. We shall remember the courageous youth of 1976 who stood against guns and hippos of a well-trained oppressive system of that time. Let us do that, not forgetting Hector Peterson, those who were with him and all those who laid down their lives so that we could sit in this House called an august House.

Moreover, let us remember that this was attained through the blood of our freedom fighters. It is us the ruling party in Limpopo province, the African National Congress, through our manifesto which is a public declaration, that we entered into a contract with the people of this province that we will provide quality basic services to them. It is through the Department of CoGHSTA that the people of Limpopo province are entitled to better houses. They are entitled to municipalities that are functional and efficient and can provide quality basic services to them. They are also entitled to live in traditional leadership areas of jurisdiction that operate the way corporate governance does.

Though section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, as amended, the legislature must ensure that all organs of state in the province are held accountable and should maintain oversight over the Executive Authority, hence we present this report today. Conducting oversight and monitoring over the Department of CoGHSTA's performance on service delivery is the constitutional obligation of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA. We are implored by sections 26 and 27 of the Public Finance

Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), to make sure that there is accountability in this department and other departments.

At the end of the fourth quarter, i.e., 31 March 2024, the department had spent 94% of all its allocated budget in its four key programmes: Administration; Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements; Cooperative Governance; and Traditional Affairs. It has spent R2,847,456 billion of its allocated budget of R3,020,715 billion. This is a pleasing overall budget performance which must be commended. However, there are individual programmes that did not perform satisfactorily. The department is encouraged to intensify performance in those programmes.

For the department to achieve this, we have an Administration programme which support the core functions of the Department. This programme had spent 92% of its budget by the end of the fourth quarter, with the performance of 53,3% and has not yet achieved 50% women on SMS – this is related to senior management posts. We would like to indicate that a revolution cannot triumph without the emancipation of women. The Department is advised to develop a turnaround strategy for this programme.

On Integrated Human Settlements, the department has an achievement of 44% of its performance targets, having spent 96% of its budget. The purpose of this programme is to ensure 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.

This programme had 18 performance indicators and targets in the quarter under review, and 8 were achieved, translating to 44% achievement. The department failed to achieve 10 targets, which translate to 56% unachievable targets. The department included the indicator, number of integrated implementation programmes for priority development areas completed per year, which was due for the third quarter, but their reports indicate that the priority development areas were completed during the 2022/23 financial year.

This is the eighth year since community residential units or socialising units in Marapong, Lephalale, have been under construction. The project which started under the Fifth Administration overlaps to the Seventh Administration. The department is still citing poor performance by the principal agent and the contractor as reasons for the noncompletion of the project, which is in its eighth year without any sanctions taken against the contract. The department should provide progress on constructing CRUs in the Marapong, Tshikota, Talana CRUs projects. It was previously reported that 20 units in the Marapong CRU projects had been completed.

Our people need houses; they need them as in yesterday, and this is where the department is faced with challenges. Housing projects like Marapong community residential units, Altoostyd temporary accommodation, Vingerkraal temporary accommodation in the Waterberg District, Talana community residential units in Mopani District, Burgersfort community residential units in Sekhukhune District, Tshikota community residential units and Venetia Mine community residential units in Vhembe District were embroiled in challenges involving contractors' capacity, delays from contractors, nonpayment of subcontractors and subsequent delays and vandalism.

Our people were becoming anxious and agitated until we went to do oversight visits, and we gave them hope. However, we know that it is houses that they need. The department has taken over from the project managers and the challenges are being addressed. The department is hands-on, and there is progress in the projects. Our people will get the houses that they so direly need.

Climate change is a challenge in the whole world, and it causes natural disasters that are a common feature of late, caused by concomitant inclement weather which comes with strong winds, heavy rains and hailstorms. There are floods; roofs are blown off; windows and roofs are smashed by the strong and heavy hail; and the damage to food, clothing and bedding is putting a heavy strain on the plans to provide housing for our people. This demands that the disaster management plans, disaster management teams and disaster management budgets be adjusted and mobilised. This has an impact on departmental capacity to accelerate the provision of houses to our people. The most unfortunate part is loss of life as a result of the effects of climate change.

On Cooperative Governance, the department carried out its mandate as directed or mandated by section 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It acquired the 100% achievement of its planned targets – at the end of the fourth quarter, the department had spent 99% of the budget allocated for this programme.

On Institutions of Traditional Affairs, we have demonstrated our appreciation of the pivotal role our traditional leaders play in the lives of our people. The department, by the end of fourth quarter, had spent 88% of the budget allocated for this programme, with the performance of 100% – the programme had 6 performance targets and achieved 5 of them. This translates into 83,3% achievement. This performance is appreciated, and the department is encouraged to do more since this translates into services to our people. Our traditional leaders should be requested to hold hands with us so that when the department brings the much-needed services to the communities, they should focus more on their projects than on themselves and not make demands that will stall the progress in the provision of the much-needed services. We need to hold hands with our traditional leaders in educating our people about climate change and how to assist in making sure that it does not get worse. This we can do well as there are meetings of our people in the traditional counsels at least once every month.

Our traditional leaders should be implored to assist the department by not allocating stands in low-lying areas, areas which are known to become streams and rivers when it rains, and wetlands.

At the end of the financial year, the department had spent 94% of its allocated budget, with programme 1 having spent 92%, programme 2 having spent 96%, programme 3 having spent 98%, and programme 4 having spent 88%. The most worrisome programme is programme 2, which must provide housing for our people and completion dates keep on being moved further while our people need houses. The department is implored to expedite the completion of the houses and hand them over to the beneficiaries.

At the end of the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, i.e., 30 June 2025, the department had 25%, i.e., R627,505 of its budget of R2,473,151 at 72,4% performance,

with programme 1 having spent 22% of its budget at 73% performance, programme 2 having spent 28% of its budget at 22% performance, programme 3 having spent 23% of its budget at 94% performance, and programme 4 having spent 23% of its budget at 80% performance. This is an indication of underspending in programmes 1, 3 and 4, and the department should find ways to arrest this situation as early as now.

The municipality has failed to consult with traditional leaders, a concern they emphasised while appreciating the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA's engagement and respect for their leadership.

As I draw towards the conclusion, I should be able to indicate that the Portfolio Committee on its work will ensure that we strengthen capacity in relation to the provision of human settlements. We will also ensure that there is proper representation of women. We believe that we should also strengthen our work in terms of cooperative governance and play a pivotal role in ensuring that the institutions of traditional leaders perform at their best and are able to cooperate better in ensuring that we provide services to our people. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Machete. We now proceed to Hon Wilson Evelyn Rayne.

MS WILSON

Hon Speaker, the definition of transparency in government refers to the open, honest and accessible nature of government operations, allowing the public to know how decisions are made and how resources are allocated. It is about making government information readily available to the citizens and enabling them to participate in and hold their government to account.

When reviewing the AG report, quarterly reports and having attended oversights into the department, I must say, someone has not disclosed to the MEC or his department what transparency means. Their transparency is murky at best.

Lack of transparency creates an impression that the water is muddy and there are ulterior motives in nondisclosure of facts. Even the Auditor-General raised this concern.

On programme 2, Human Settlements, the AG states that there were no processes to consistently measure and report achievements against planned indicators, and that supporting evidence was also not provided for auditing. The report advised that the indicators and their related targets were not measurable, resulting in an inability to test reliability.

The notes state that as this is a key programme for the department, there is an increased need for transparency. This has affected service delivery. This was clearly apparent on our visits to Altoostyd and Marapong CRU. The presentation received from the department at the Council was far from the truth when we reached the sites.

To advise us that these projects would be finalised by the end of June and end of August were blatantly untrue. The contractor confirmed this. These projects are 10 years old

and will not be completed in the near future. Water infrastructure was not in place, three quarters of the units at Marapong were incomplete, road budgets have been cut back and not started. With only 2% of the budget left, this project is in trouble.

The AG was clear, CoGHSTA has not met compliance with key legislation in three very key areas, i.e., expenditure management, strategic planning and performance management, and procurement and contract management. Hon Speaker, how can this be?

Noncompliance with supply chain management regulations resulted in irregular expenditure of R1,1 billion. The main contributors were that functionality criteria were not objective, bids were not evaluated in line with the terms of reference, the bid adjudication committee undertook business without a quorum present, winning bidders unfairly passed the administrative compliance and bid conditions requirement.

Furthermore, bidders were not evaluated properly on the functionality, and the bid adjudication committee did not apply proper due diligence when examining and adjudicating the results of the bid evaluation committee for compliance with relevant laws and regulations. These are not just muddy waters, Hon Speaker, they are smelly water, and they smell fishy.

With regard to Cooperative Governance and oversight of our municipalities, it is equally disturbing, Hon Speaker. The stagnant performances of our 27 municipalities as per the AG's consolidated report on local government for 2023/24 do not inspire confidence.

According to the report, outcomes remained largely unchanged and tolerance for transgressions, excessive spending on consultants and poor performance continue to persist. This is not new. This has been going on for several years now, but where is consequence management?

We applaud those municipalities that got clean and unqualified audits. However, 10 municipalities received qualified audits and the embattled Thabazimbi Municipality received a disclaimer. This is no surprise. About 93% of municipalities had material misstatements in the financial reports, and due to a lack of skills or vacancies, Limpopo municipalities collectively spent R278 million on consultants.

Despite that expenditure, 20 municipalities still submitted financial statements with material misstatements that fell within the scope of the work supposed to be performed by consultants that they paid millions of rands for. Areas of concern raised by the AG include:

- Noncompliance with procurement and contract management legislation resulted in irregular expenditure of R2,03 billion, mainly because the procurement processes were not followed – again.
- More municipalities adopted unfunded budgets.
- Municipalities incurred R2,1 billion in unauthorised expenditure.
- Three Waterberg municipalities owe Eskom a combined amount of R454 million and risk being removed from the Eskom debt-relief programme.
- Four municipalities disclosed going concern uncertainty and R149,5 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

- The delay in water infrastructure projects deprive communities of an adequate water supply, 3 reservoirs due for completion in November 2021 remain incomplete, and as are projects in other districts, but budgets are all spent.
- Thirty-four of the 40 had material irregularity notifications issued in the province amounting to financial losses estimated at R1,43 billion.

The DA is concerned about the MEC for CoGHSTA's lack of transparency in the gradual and systemic collapse of our municipalities. The AG specifically noted that MEC Makamu did not table the 2022/23 Consolidated Report on municipal performance in the provincial Legislature, as it is required by law.

The report on those municipalities that had failed to adequately address our audit report findings was tabled, but the provincial Legislature has yet to make any resolutions based on the observations of that report.

Day after day, the poor people of Limpopo do not get water. I have submitted numerous complaints about the Vhembe District Municipality not delivering water in Makhado. Phalaborwa's mall burnt down because of lack of water in the town, and nothing was done to address this disaster.

Pleas for the submission of reports by all water service authorities, as per the Human Rights Commission's report, have come to nothing. Lo and behold, the five municipalities that did not submit financial reports on time, include Vhembe District Municipality and Phalaborwa.

Surely, MEC, the time has come to put these municipalities under administration. Do the officials not respect your position, or is it lack of oversight, or is it simply cronies who are not qualified for their jobs?

The people of Limpopo continue to receive poor or no services due to financial mismanagement, nonaccountability, and poor governance. It is time to vote out indifferent politicians who are only in it for themselves. Local government elections of 2026 are around the corner, and we look forward to them.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for managing your time, honourable Member. We really appreciate it. Hon Magolo Matlebjane, from the EFF, the floor is yours.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to all MECs available and other Members in the House.

Hon Speaker, the current government has a tendency of covering up corruption, but unfortunately for them, criminal activities do not rot. The problem in the department is mainly caused by failure to comply with the supply chain management processes and not being sufficiently transparent on the reporting of the progress on projects.

Now, where are the investigation reports by the SIU or Public Protector on Tubatse land, VBS, Talana, Marapong CRUs and Insig? The R33 million advanced payment made to the contractor in the Marapong CRU in Lephalale is still not accounted for. These are all standing matters, but the government wants us to forget them by sweeping them under the carpet as they remain unresolved. Equally, we are in the dark when it comes to the progress made on litigation cases that arose from the Kgatla Commission report.

Hon Speaker, we are very much worried that the department fails to ensure that there is consequence management for officials responsible for the financial misconduct, financial mismanagement, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditures, and that those misappropriated funds are recovered.

This is the reason these anomalies continue to recur and soar in the provincial government – officials know that they will do funny things, and nothing will happen to them. To the MEC, can we get the breakdown of houses built as well as those that were rectified.

There are many officials suffering from mental health and depression in the department, and yet the department is not doing anything about them. The depression is caused by politicians who want officials to sign for wrong things and become the scapegoat when corruption is exposed.

Can the MEC provide us with the MIG expenditure report for the last five financial years. The department should acquire land to fast-track the upgrading of informal settlements like Mahlakong in Lephalale and many others around the province.

Hon Speaker, one of the reasons municipalities fail is that the department is not ensuring that the municipalities employ qualified CFOs, technical service managers and planning managers with the requisite skills to perform their responsibilities and not rely solely on consultants for functions they were hired to perform. That is an absolute failure of the cadre deployment of the ruling party in the province. Ward councillors do not consult the traditional leaders as it was apparent in the visit to the stated area, and they are not consulting them on the project or meetings to be held at the villages and communities of the traditional leaders. Traditional leaders must be accorded the respect they deserve as the important stakeholder in the governance. The boreholes in Maruleng need rehabilitation to provide water to the community of ward 04 and other affected communities within the municipality.

Hon Speaker, the utilisation of consultants by municipalities in preparing and compiling annual financial statements is a worrying matter. The EFF will abolish the use of consultants and develop state capacity for government to be able to perform its own functions.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, water is a serious challenge in our province because district municipalities, which are water authorities, continue to fail our people. The entire province is water starved, and it looks like the situation is not about to improve or change any time soon. This is the problem that is encountered in the whole province.

All the municipalities in the province are water starved. One example is the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality which consists of 16 wards, where only 1 ward, which is ward 7 – a town of Marble Hall – is having water.

This is shameful considering the fact that we attained this democracy over the past 30 years, and we are failing to even supply one village with water. We only supply running water to one town and leave all other villages in the municipality. This is felt all over the villages of the province. We need to take proper care of that before we mess up.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, EFF, for saving our time by 2 minutes and 48 seconds. We are now proceeding to the last speaker who is closing the debate, the chairperson of the committee, Hon Mmakgabo Champ Sepuru. The floor is yours

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Acting Premier and MEC for CoGHSTA; Members of the Executive Council; chairpersons of the portfolio committees and standing committees; honourable Members of the august House; ladies and gentlemen; comrades and friends.

Much of what I needed to say was covered in the main by Hon Machete. Mine is not to regurgitate what he has said, but just to emphasise salient points.

Hon Speaker, it is indeed a great pleasure to stand before this august House on the occasion of considering and adopting the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter and Annual Reports, 2024/25 First Quarter Report as well as the oversight visit to Fetakgomo-Tubatse in Sekhukhune District and Ward 04 GaMametja in Mopani District.

Hon Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remind this august House that on 07 June 2025, just a week ago, we laid to rest the former Speaker of this provincial Legislature, Dr Tshenuwani Farisani.

In his tribute, His Excellency President of the Republic of South Africa, Hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa said, “We are to bid farewell to Dean Tshenuwani Farisani. His life bears witness to the mission of Christ espoused in the Gospel of Luke chapter 4. ‘The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed.’” He has concluded by saying, we have lost an extraordinary man who led an extraordinary life [the liberation struggle].”

As highlighted by Hon Machete, the work of the dean and the youth of 1976 cannot be completed unless and until we as the provincial Legislature, through various portfolio committees, are able to ensure that the Executive Authority is held accountable. Hon Machete has detailed the achievements and the budgets.

On Administration, the department has failed to achieve its employment equity target of 50% women on SMS, and we are urging the MEC to expedite the filling of posts to reflect its equity target. The 96% expenditure of the budget on Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements is not in tandem with the performance.

As the portfolio committee, we are urging the department to move with speed in providing houses to those in need. Floods that have ravaged most parts of our districts impacted negatively on the department's capacity to accelerate the provision of houses to our people.

These called for the adjustment and mobilisation of the disaster and management plans, disaster management teams and disaster management budget. On Cooperative Governance and the Institution of Traditional Affairs, the department has done well by achieving 100% each. I thought the august House would be happy with that and clap hands. [APPLAUSE]

We urge the department to move with speed to accelerate the building of traditional offices and the provision of tools of trade.

Madam Speaker, we undertook visits to Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Ward 04 of Maruleng. The purpose of the visit to Fetakgomo-Tubatse was to assess for ourselves the extent of the damage of the floods. We have realised that the local sphere of government is not helping in this regard. We urge the provincial Department of CoGHSTA to help in this regard.

We had challenges at GaMashishi, GaMahlokwane, Mooihoek, Mandaagshoek and Rivercross. As I'm speaking, the damage that occurred there has not yet been redressed. In ward 04, the situation is dire. Of the 9 boreholes, only one was functional, and they needed to be attended to so that people can have access to water. Remember, those people of ward 04 are sharing water with animals at the Lepelle River.

As the provincial government, we need to help in that regard, and we are urging the department to take the "Hi Nwa Mati Fridays" project to the areas where there is no water as a matter of urgency and to attend to other challenges that were raised there.

Another challenge that was encountered was the internal access street wherein the ordinary people used pick and harmer to construct the road. Therefore, we need intervention in that regard because there were a lot of stones and rocks that could not be removed with bare hands.

Hon Speaker, this brings us to the end of our presentation. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

You have broken the record. Two-minutes forty seconds remaining. Well done, chair. Others are learning. We will now give this opportunity to the honourable MEC for CoGHSTA to respond to the debate. Honourable MEC, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker and thanks very much to the honourable members of the portfolio committee led by the chair, Hon Sepuru. Let me first agree that I will be very brief as we always continue to get guidance when we have meetings with the committee.

Let me acknowledge the issue of not meeting the target in terms of the appointment of females in the senior management positions of the department, but I must indicate, Hon Speaker, that we are on course. We have recently appointed three women and one man in the senior management positions. They will be starting on 01 July 2025. We are going to make sure that we achieve that.

We have listened to all Members who spoke about our performance in terms of the CRUs, starting with Marapong, Tshikota and Talane. With regard to consequence management, we would like to indicate that people might not have read the entire report.

There are people who have been charged, and who have gone through disciplinary processes. Verdicts were given on the Marapong performance. We will continue to make sure that we complete these projects as they are.

We have listened about our performance on disaster management, and we have made announcements in this august House that we are taking the matter seriously. You have seen our influence, through the Executive Council, that disaster is becoming a business of the Executive Council, hence we put aside about R500 million from the Executive to deal with matters of disaster.

I would also like to touch on the issue of the Kgatla Commission report. I would like this House to understand that ours as the provincial government is to take a decision on the recommendations that have been made. We don't have any power to decide who should be a kgoši or not a kgoši in a particular royal family.

Once the commission has made recommendations, then we can take a decision. That is exactly what we are doing. It is families which are fighting amongst themselves, and not necessarily with the government.

On the issue of municipalities, I have listened to Hon Wilson, and she selectively spoke of a particular municipality and left out some of the municipalities which may impact on the leadership of the Democratic Alliance.

I don't know why of all the municipalities, which were performing or not performing, she did not mention Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality which was under the leadership of the DA, which got the debt of up to R300 million. Today, it is over a billion rand which has been incurred by that municipality, and you don't talk about sound financial management in that particular municipality.

I am worried as well that Thabazimbi got a disclaimer. We are told here that we should be able to act and put other municipalities under administration or intervention, and yet we have intervened. You were here when we intervened in Thabazimbi, which was of course not only your challenge. The municipality was mainly in the hands of the DA when the governance collapsed, and we have intervened there.

We should be able to talk about the use of consultants. We have got a plan as a department. Together with MEC Mahoai, we have been meeting with the municipalities and the reduction in the use of consultants is visible and tangible in the province, and we are working on the very same matter.

I would also like to acknowledge the visits made by the department, more especially in Maruleng Ward 04. On the issue of the boreholes, I will interact with the district municipality to make sure that they are refurbished.

I'm not so sure whether it is correct or factual to say that out of all the wards in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, it is only a town which has got water. I was there at Malebitsa; we were together at that particular time. Water was there, but it was not necessarily enough during the specific times. However, to put the facts here as if there is no water in all the villages of Ephraim Mogale Municipality is not necessarily correct. We should be able to state the facts so that we could intervene where there are challenges. [INTERJECTION] I was saying I was with the said honourable Member in Malebitsa. You may not know Malebitsa because it is far from where you stay. We were there; water was there, but it was not enough. However, these are the facts. You may not have been to Malebitsa, unfortunately, but it is the area where we were.

However, I should indicate, honourable Members, that through the guidance we got from the Members, we will make sure that the department improves.

Thanks very much. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa Tatana Makamu.

Honourable Members should not be surprised when they do not see the Acting Premier and other MECs, especially MEC Hon Radzilani and MEC Hon Kekana, in the House. Both of them are supposed to join another meeting online. Possibly, they will still join us after that meeting. I don't think they are leaving for good. So, don't be surprised when they join us later on. However, you can see that my presiding officers' team is not here today; it has apologised for many different reasons.

Hon Ngobeni and Hon Mmetle have left for the same meeting. They have indicated that their meeting starts at 14:00 in Polokwane. That is why they have left. The Deputy Speaker and Hon Mokone have got family some family emergencies. We are still here; we still quorate, and will still proceed with our Sitting.

Leader of Government Business, please make sure that you do the necessary arrangements so that as and when the debates are made, the responses from their expected departments are made accordingly. Thank you so much. I hope the Chief Whip was engaged in the matter. We are now proceeding to item 7.7. I am very happy that Members are concentrating. Hon Smalle, what is your point of order?

MR SMALLE

Chairperson, I am rising on a point of order. Normally, when the relevant MEC is not here, the Leader of Government Business acts on behalf of their behalf. I can see that we are in a situation where the relevant MEC and the Leader of Government Business are not here. I don't know if the reigns have been handed over to one of the MECs to respond. However, you need to indicate who will respond in that regard, otherwise we might have to make a problem.

THE SPEAKER

Chief Whip or MEC Mahoi, who is the Leader of Government Business in the absence of Hon Makamu? You can't point a finger at another person. It is a given, honourable Member; you are the MEC for Treasury. It is a given that in the absence of MEC Makamu, in terms of protocol, you are next in the line.

Can we now proceed. If Hon Radzilani is not here, it means you will be responding on her behalf. Thank you very much, Hon Smalle, for bringing up the matter.

7.7 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

Committee chair, Hon Mathe, the floor is yours. You have the same special treatment as Hon Machete, but it is optional. [INTERJECTION] Hon Mathe likes exercising; for him it is better to exercise.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and greetings to the honourable Members.

I hereby present the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption by the House.

THE SPEAKER

You may please switch off your mic and take a seat. Can we please have a seconder to the report? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Dokodela Makhurupetje, ndzi yima ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi Mutshamaxitulu wa Komiti ya Photifoliyo ya Nhluvukiso wa Vaaki, vona Tanana Simon Mathe. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene. Hon Mathe, you may please proceed to the next item.

7.8 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

MR MATHE

Thank you very much. I hereby present the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption by the House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. You can seat where I sit in case you don't want to go back. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Shai, you are recognised.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I second the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development as presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Wilson has got an objection.

MS WILSON

Yes, I have an objection. Thank you, Hon Speaker. I have a concern with item 7.8.1: 2024/25 First Quarter Report by the Department of Social Development. Please note that the DA will not ratify the submission of that report. Thank you. [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

On a point of order!

THE SEAKER

Let's allow the chairperson to raise the matter.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. An objection, when it is raised in this Sitting of the Legislature, needs to be objective – not subjective. You don't object in the Sitting of the Legislature as a political party, but you object as a Member of the Legislature. You don't stand up here and say, as the ANC, I am objecting, and you don't object to a report of a committee which you were never part of. I cannot stand here and object to a report of Scopa whereas I am not a member of Scopa. When those who are Members of the Legislature with me from different parties, either useful or useless political parties, are part of a committee that has adopted the report, but you are not there, and you come here and say you are objecting, that is satanism – it is satanic in nature. Therefore, that objection has no merit. It is grandstanding. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Wilson is out of order because when you have got matters in the committee, they are supposed to be resolved in the committee. Now we are at a point where the

committee has adopted the report, and the report is now on the table of the Legislature, and in the Speakers' List, the DA has got a member who will be debating. If there are issues that there is a member who wants to debate on the issues, they must wait for that time of debating.

However, in future we must know that we are not going to resolve committee politics in the Legislature. If there was any matter, you should have written formally to the chair of the committee and raised such concerns. However, that does not mean that the report that has been adopted by the committee and signed off, can't proceed to be considered by this House.

Can we now proceed to the Speakers' List. The first speaker on the Speakers' List is Hon Mohale Mankwana Christinah.

MS MOHALE

Hon Speaker; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Acting Premier, Hon Mahoi; honourable Members of the House, ke a le dumediša ka moka.

Hon Speaker, in the previous year's quarters, the Department of Social Development struggled to meet the target of having 50% women representation in senior management positions. However, after the committee's urging, the department managed to make it to 52% representation, although it was short-lived. We sincerely urge the department to adhere to the regulations and ensure that there is 50% representation of women in senior management posts.

The African National Congress has consistently championed equality and advocated for women's representation in leadership and management roles. This reflects the ANC's longstanding commitment to empowering women.

Hon Speaker, we would like to commend the department for consecutively upholding the 2% employment of people with disability. Out of 2 800 people employed by the department, 59 are persons living with disability.

We note all the efforts made by the department in ensuring that members of the vulnerable groups that include women, children, older persons and people with disability are well catered for.

Hon Speaker, out of the 18 audit findings by the Auditor-General, 15 matters were resolved, meaning that 83% of the matters were resolved. The Portfolio Committee on Social Development requires the department to hasten the process of solving the outstanding matters as noted by the AG.

We would also like to applaud the department in adhering to the requirement of paying invoices within 30 days from the date of receipt. In the 2024/25 first quarter, only 1 out of 1 883 invoices that were received was not processed due to incorrect capturing of the date received.

The department has upheld the procurement from business owned by the designated groups. Preference has been given to them. The department targeted 3% owned by women, 2% owned by the youth and 1% owned by people living with disability.

The department managed to award 75% of companies owned by women, 24% companies owned by the youth and 0,8% owned by people living with disability. It has been observed with concern that companies owned by people with disability continue to struggle for recognition within the department.

This is a serious issue, and it calls for immediate and meaningful intervention. We urge the department to actively develop strategies that encourage and empower people living with disability not as an afterthought, but as a priority.

Discrimination, whether it is intentional or systematic, has no place in our society. When businesses owned by people living with disability are overlooked, it is not only an injustice but a poor reflection on our commitment to inclusivity and fairness.

These entrepreneurs bring innovation, resilience and valuable contributions to our economy, yet they still face unnecessary barriers that hinder their success. It is crucial that we implement measures to ensure equitable access to resources, opportunities and recognition. Let us reaffirm our dedication to building an economy that uplifts every citizen. Let us work towards policies that make empowerment more than just words.

Hon Speaker, gender-based violence and femicide remain a pressing concern in South Africa. The President of South Africa, Hon Cyril Ramaphosa, even described it as a pandemic.

The devastating impact is evident in the lives lost, homes shattered, and the countless women injured at the hands of men who were supposed to love and cherish them. While we are heartened to see an increase in victims accessing support services, we are dismayed by the rising numbers of gender-based violence cases.

Despite efforts made to identify human trafficking victims, none were confirmed in Limpopo. The staff at Khuseleka care centre assured that some individuals may misrepresent themselves as victims of trafficking to contravene the Immigration Act by entering the country without proper documents.

The portfolio committee is proud of the department for ensuring the safety of gender-based violence and femicide survivors at the Khuseleka care centre. However, given the six-month limit on accommodation, we urge the department to develop strategies to empower these women with certified skills that will enable them to rebuild their lives.

Hon Speaker, the community-based prevention and early intervention programme has achieved a higher attendance rate among children and the youth, which is very crucial for the youth. These programmes play a pivotal role in teaching young people essential life skills, helping them to understand that actions have consequences. These programmes empower young people to make informed and better decisions.

By participating in these initiatives, several young individuals can be diverted from engaging in criminal activities that might have long term negative impacts on their lives.

We commend the department for implementing the budget increase in drop-in centres because many lives have been touched.

Hon Speaker, as part of our oversight work, we visited the Polokwane Welfare Complex, where we were met with a lot of mixed emotions. The welfare houses three distinctive categories, i.e., a child and youth centre, secure centre and Khuseleka, a centre that houses GBV survivors.

The secure centre rehabilitates children who are undergoing rehabilitation for being in conflict with the law. Honourable Members, we would like to applaud the department for its outstanding work in ensuring that they provide a safe haven for vulnerable children including survivors of gender-based violence and young people in conflict with the law.

However, we noticed a pressing concern amongst many – the welfare is severely understaffed, particularly in terms of psychologists. As a Portfolio Committee on Social Development, we firmly believe that psychosocial counselling is crucial in addressing the trauma experienced by these children in conflict with the law, victims of abuse and GBV survivors.

We urge the department to prioritise hiring more social workers and psychologists. This will assist the centre to provide efficient therapy which will help these young individuals to heal and reintegrate into society. The number of children in conflict with the law and who completed diversion programmes exceeded the initial targets this entails that there is improved compliance in diversion orders.

However, we would like to recommend that the department conducts impact assessments of offenders who undertook the diversion programme to check the effectiveness of the programme and evaluate as to whether offenders do not repeat the same offences.

Hon Speaker, as the former President of South Africa, Ntate Nelson Mandela used to say, “Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity but an act of justice.” Unfortunately, poverty remains a social ill in our communities. The poverty reduction initiatives exceeded targets, with 463 people benefiting in the first quarter, surpassing the target of 250.

We urge the department to continue with such initiatives and efforts as they ensure no child goes to bed hungry. We are dismayed by the decrease in households accessing food through the DSD (Department of Social Development) food security programmes due to the absence of food parcel contracts.

We urge the department to speed up the appointment process of a food parcel contract to ensure that no person goes to bed hungry. On a positive note, the number of people accessing food through the DSD funded centres far exceeded targets. We applaud the department’s efforts and recommend continued support to ensure that no child goes to bed or school hungry.

The department reported a significant participation in its youth skills development programmes and entrepreneurship programmes, facilitated by a strategic partnerships and various stakeholders. Notably, 1 011 youth benefited from skill development

initiatives, while 8 020 participated in youth entrepreneurship development programmes.

Furthermore, women empowerment programmes demonstrated increased engagement, attributed to collaborative efforts with key partners. We acknowledge the department's progress and recommend continued outreach to youth and women to maximise impact.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, we urge the department to continue with its commendable work, which is addressing the challenges, gaps identified and ensuring that no one is left behind. Together we can build a society that is more just, equitable and caring.

Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We now proceed to the DA. I think Hon Wilson is the one who is taking the debate.

MS WILSON

Hon Speaker, item 7.8.1 is consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of Social Development. However, the Annual Reports of Social Development have yet to be presented to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

The last Annual Report of this department was retracted or withdrawn in October last year. Nine months later, it is yet to be presented to the committee. This is seriously disturbing and indicates that there is a serious problem within the department.

Surely, this must be a contradiction in terms of the rules and regulations. However, more concerning, Hon Speaker, is the fact that the First Quarter Report is here for ratification.

The Annual Report and, more importantly, the AG's comments, recommendations and concerns in the Annual Report are vitally important to the performance and monitoring of a department in the following year. The AG's report also highlights problems with the APPs.

Without this, we are asked to support the First Quarter Report of the department. What are we monitoring and assessing without the understanding of the department's shortfalls highlighted by the AG? It is a serious issue, and failure in APPs in the year prior.

On this basis we, the DA, cannot support the First Quarter Report because without the AG's report, performance cannot be effectively monitored. The MEC for Treasury is not here, nor is the Leader of Government Business.

We ask that this matter be attended to urgently and that the reasons for noncompliance of Annual Reports and the problems therein are submitted to the portfolio committee

urgently. Until then, we cannot be pressurised to support the report that has not been ratified.

Hon Speaker, I ask the detailed notes of Rule 112 in the Standing Rules and Orders, under the heading: “Acting for an absent Member”. A Member may take charge of an order of the day in the absence of the Member in charge, if he or she has been authorised in writing to do so by the absent Member – which I have been.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Your objection is misdirected because the 2024/25 First Quarter Report has got nothing to do with the Annual Report. It has got everything to do with the APP. [NOISE] Can we please listen to each other. This is because the Annual Report is related to the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report, and we agree on that. However, when you want to link the first quarter of another year with the Annual Report of the previous year, the two things don't meet.

I am just saying that in future we should not interrupt the Sitting. Let's sort out our problems in the committees so that we are able to deal with them through the chairperson. Without wasting our time, we will allow Hon Magolo to come and debate. Your nine minutes starts now.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Once again, greetings to the Members in the House.

Hon Speaker, the department must ensure that the rezoning of the expropriated land is fast-tracked as promised. The government must fast-track that expropriation and make sure that the expropriation happens without compensation. Re se ke sa tšhaba makgowa; a re tšeeng naga re e fe beng ba yona e le go batho baso.

Hon Speaker, it is disheartening that companies owned by the people with disability are still struggling to get recognition and not being appointed as the service providers in the department. The government continues to segregate against the marginalised groups. They suffered discrimination under the apartheid government, and they are now suffering discrimination against the new dispensation.

As it stands, there are no workshops available for persons living with disability and those aspiring to become entrepreneurs. These marginalised groups in our society are on their own, as government continues to sideline and ignore them.

Hon Speaker, there is lack of continuous training of NPOs. There is no sufficient training of NPOs on compliance matters to ensure sustained improved provision of services, especially to vulnerable people. The vulnerable groups in society are human beings and, therefore, they must be treated the way other people are treated – in other words, the way all of us are treated. The department must ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the ICT unit for routine maintenance and backup solutions.

Honourable MEC, Limpopo is one of the poorest rural provinces in the country. Can you outline the poverty reduction strategies and interventions in your department. We want to see something in this regard to cover the entire province.

What is the state of facilities accommodating older persons, persons with disability, centres where children receiving partial care services are accommodated, including shelters for victims of gender-based violence? The old age home at New Generation Church in Lenting continues to suffer exclusion for reasons known by the department. They can't even offer them conditional registration. It is so sad.

Hon Speaker, the food parcels programme is being abused by the ANC, especially with by-elections and elections in general. It seems to be a common practice in all the by-elections, that the food parcels are being abused. It is even going to be worse with the next year's local government elections.

We are going to see the abuse of food parcels programme taken to the higher level. The department must put measures in place to ensure that the qualifying beneficiaries get what is due to them. The real beneficiaries are not benefiting out of the food parcels programme.

Hon Speaker, the department must categorise the kind of abuse encountered by the children. The future of our children lies in the hands of all of us.

Hon Speaker, while the Department of Social Development is helping the destitute people in the province, we are seeing a practice which is not good. We are seeing the Department of Health collecting money or charging people, ba ba etelago dipetlele. Ge Kgoro ya Tlhabollo ya Leago e fana ka di R350 e fana ka di diphuthelwana tša dijo, bona ba kgekolo ba le, ba dula le bana bao ba sa šomego.

We have seen that the unemployment rate in our province is at a staggering 48%. The dependants of all those old age recipients, ke bona ba patelago diamalense le go patela go fiwa difaele kua dipetlele. Bjale, ke se e lego gore ga se sa loka. Ke setlwaedi sa phošo. Ke nagana gore re swanetše re e tloše ka mo go Ngwako ka Lebaka la gore ga e thuse ka selo. Molekgotlaphethiši wa Maphelo o boletše mo maloba a re; o kgobokeditše.

I am happy that the MEC for Finance is here. The MEC for Health reported here that she had collected R2,2 billion in revenue, and the bigger percentage of that comes from these very same users of the public hospitals who are paying for ambulances and those services in the hospitals. It is irrational. That practice must be relooked at and must be scaped.

I understand that government needs revenue, but where are we supposed to get this revenue? In the recent past, the Minerals Council South Africa reported that they had reached the primary sales on minerals of R900 billion. Ga se ra swanela go tšhaba makgowa. Re swanetše gore re tsebe gore go ya ka, Ke tsebile gore ge re bolela ka mokgwa gore go tla ba ka mokgwa o mongwe.

That is one source, and I am just giving an advice, honourable MEC. That is one source where you can get billions of rands. The very same council I am talking about is saying

they contributed R16 billion in royalties. Imagine once they will say their sales go to trillions of rands and they are proud to say they paid R16 billion in royalties.

Now the government needs the money. There is the money, honourable MEC. We are calling on government to go to the right people.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Let's focus on the debate, honourable Members. Now is the time of Hon Mathe Matsobane Simon to come and debate. Ga ke tsebe gore ke moreta ka sa Bahlaloga goba ke moreta ka se sefe. O tla re botša gore re moreta ka se sefe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. My full name, as reflected in my ID, is Mathe Simon Matsobane Risimani. Hon Speaker, I have 10 minutes or so, but I think the previous speaker has made my work much easier. It is unfortunate I was not delegated to be the "deputy" MEC and respond to them.

Firstly, I want this House to note that as the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, we worked very well with Hon Marx. We worked very well, but today we are surprised that somebody that we have never seen in any of our meetings, comes here and speaks things that we don't know as the portfolio committee.

Secondly, Hon Speaker, I would like to advise all political parties to follow the examples of the African National Congress to ensure that there are some competency tests for people who come here as candidates. This is because when we speak on issues of the elderly and the destitutes, what do we have to do with the expropriation of land?

You come here and speak about social development; we speak about HIV/Aids. We speak about visits to treatment centres, which you don't even attend; you come and speak about the expropriation of land. We need competency tests. You come and speak about mines and royalties.

There is money that you are going to be getting tomorrow, Hon Magolo, you must work for it. You will be getting money tomorrow. No! You must attend these oversight visits so that you can see these centres. Today, theoretically, you come here and proudly speak about them, and yet you have never attended any oversight visits. [INTERJECTION] I am debating, I am not talking, I am debating. There is a difference.

Hon Speaker, we want to indicate to this House that the report has shown that the elderly persons that are able to access our residential facilities have not necessarily surpassed the initial targets, but at least there has been a slight increase in the first quarter of the relevant year.

Two weeks ago, the Portfolio Committee on Social Development visited an old age home called Sekutupu Old Age Home, which is situated in Zebediela.

Madam Speaker, we were pleased to find that our senior citizens are well cared for. Although the infrastructure surrounding the old age home is abandoned and dilapidated

which attracts criminal elements, this poses a significant safety risk to both our elderly and the staff.

The old age home provides a clean and safe environment to its patients. We commend the department for ensuring the wellbeing of our senior citizens. However, we urge the Department of Social Development to address infrastructure issues and consider replacing the beds in old age homes.

Hon Members, our citizens, particularly those in care facilities which we mainly refer to as old age homes, are the ones we should cherish the most as they are under the care of the government.

Services to people living with disability – and I am one of them – leave much to be desired; it is only to take advantage of our disability and want to source tenders. There are lots of things that persons living with disability can do besides sourcing tenders, Hon Abraham Magolo.

The number of persons with disability, who are accessing residential facilities, has declined, simply because many of them have now built their own homes. The initial targets as planned were 294, but only 286 persons living with disability accessed the residential facilities.

This is apparently due to the preference of families to care for their persons with disability at home. We highly commend the families for taking care of their own, and we wish they could continue to do the same. Some family members struggle to provide the necessary care and support for their loved ones often due to limited resources, lack of patience or understanding.

In some cases, people living with disability are only kept at home not out of love or the desire to care for them, but rather for financial gain such as relying on the disability grants. This tendency often leads to neglect and inadequate care of persons living with disability.

Hon Speaker, we are pleased with the turnout of persons with disability in accessing services in protective workshops. This shows and ensures us that the Department of Social Development is indeed headed towards the correct direction.

Hon Speaker, on the subprogramme relating to HIV/Aids, where you only know your status once you have tested, I so wish that we could go for testing next week Tuesday – all of us here. I have been tested; I am negative. It says nonreactive. It does not say negative, it says nonreactive. A ke re, Molekgotlaphethiši Mashego?

On beneficiaries receiving social and behavioural change programmes in all quarters, the initial targets were greatly surpassed. This proves that a lot of people have been willing to get help and break the stigma.

The high turnaround was achieved through the strengthened collaboration and partnership with various stakeholders. On psychosocial support services during the 2023/24 fourth quarter, the numbers drastically dropped, but they immensely increased during the 2024/25 first quarter.

The committee would like to recommend the department's continuation in strengthening their relationship with the Department of Health as they are the ones responsible for referrals. We, therefore, want to ensure that such a relationship is intensified.

Due to the rising incidents of disasters in the province, the number of people relying on the Department of Social Development Social Relief programme has significantly increased. To date, 2 508 people have benefitted from the Social Relief programme, surpassing the initial target of 1 047. As the Department of Social Development's mandate is to help those who are in need, we commend the department for not turning anyone who requires assistance away.

On Children and Families, honourable Members – if you are all honourable, because I have doubts that others are – the number of members participating in... [INTERJECTION] Are you provoking me? Are you provoking me? When you come here and misrepresent facts, there is nothing honourable about misrepresentation... [INTERJECTION] Are you provoking me? Hon Smalle, please reprimand her because if I decide otherwise ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Wilson, the facilitator of the session is the Speaker. If there is any matter that you want to raise, please raise a hand so that you don't interrupt the speaker on the podium. We are now wasting his two minutes. Can we please allow Hon Mathe to proceed without being interrupted.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for that protection. Please refund me the remaining two minutes that was wasted by Hon Wilson. We think that in relation to children and families, Hon Speaker, the target for the department in the first quarter of 2024/25 was 16 795 and the department was able to surpass that particular target. We are, therefore, pleased with the work that has been done.

On Child Care and Protection Services, there has been an increase in the number of reported child abuse cases, although it is our wish that no children should experience any type of abuse. We applaud the department for hosting awareness campaigns on child protection. These awareness campaigns hosted by the department gave more people strength to report cases of child abuse.

The department reported 34 583 children with valid foster care orders because some were discharged after reaching 21 years of age. The committee would like the department to ensure that children who have reached adulthood under the foster care system receive some sort of support that will assist in living life outside the foster care system.

There has been a constant increase in the number of children in child and youth care centres. This means that more children and youth need more care and more protection. The number of children reunited with their families has exceeded the initial target. This is because children and their families were ready for reunification.

On Substance Abuse, Prevention and Rehabilitation, which includes excessive drinking of alcohol honourable Members, the devastating impact of substance abuse is claiming young lives and destroying futures. It is a pandemic sweeping across South Africa, including Limpopo, with addiction numbers escalating daily. This crisis fuels crime, as those struggling with addiction often prioritise their next fix over everything.

It is so heartbreaking to witness our youth, the leaders of tomorrow, squandering their potential, but in getting disappointed or heartbroken by our youth, we must also be getting disappointed and heartbroken by our elders. As the future of this province is in the hands of the youth, we must act urgently to address those issues.

Madam Speaker, we visited the Seshego Treatment Centre; we were impressed by the centre's cleanliness and professionalism. It is alleged that the centre's kitchen is reportedly one of the best in South Africa. Observing their progress and listening to their stories was heartwarming.

However, given the centre's 3-month programme, we urge the department to establish post-discharge support system, including skills training. This will help prevent relapse and ensure their continued recovery.

We were heartbroken to learn that the treatment centre caters for adults only, which meant 18-year-olds and above. There are a lot of children suffering from substance abuse, and they also deserve a second chance in life. We beg the department to come with alternatives to cater for young substance abusers.

We are pleased to report that the substance abuse prevention programme exceeded its first quarter target, reaching 20 504 people, far surpassing the initial goal of 11 320.

I want to take the remaining 14 seconds, Hon Speaker, and thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Risimani Matsobane Simon Mathe. Re a leboga. Can we now allow MEC Hon Mahoai, who is acting on behalf of the Leader of Government Business, to come and respond on behalf of MEC Hon Radzilani.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT]

Hon Speaker, honourable Members, indeed, I am responding on behalf of MEC Radzilani, and we have taken note of all the comments, especially those that fall within the ambit of this department. However, let me first acknowledge that the department is, indeed, making commendable progress across all areas of performance, as alluded to by various members of the portfolio committee.

With regard to representativity, we can confirm that the department has achieved 52% representation of women in senior management. We have taken note of the reference to infrastructure backlog at Sekutupu, amongst others, which will be taken care of. The department will be on hand to ensure that it is attended to.

Regarding social relief of distress, there is no selective way in which the department is assisting. Instead, the department has responded effectively to all forms of disasters and trauma incidences as evidenced by the figures confirmed by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. So, this increase underscores the commitment of the department to provide immediate relief to those that are affected.

The department has indeed successfully allocated 70% of business to women-owned companies, and only 0,8% to companies owned by persons living with disability. The department is determined to improve opportunities for businesses owned by people living with disability, and it will do so without fail.

With regard to the majority of the issues raised here, we acknowledge that, indeed, some of the issues may not fall within the scope, and it was handled appropriately by the previous Member.

With regard to the Seshego Treatment Centre, Hon Mathe, we thank you for that. We would like to encourage members in their constituencies to continue urging communities to utilise facilities such as that one. We also caution against unregistered or bogus centres, which often exploit vulnerable families.

So, in short, Hon Speaker, all matters that have been raised have been taken note of, and those that may still need attention will be referred accordingly. We believe that we should be able to do all that it takes to ensure that this department continues to do well. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. I want to caution members that will be debating now that we are left with two debates, but I am worried that it is 14:00. We are not going to break, but help to manage the time so that we can finish quickly. It is only two debates that are left, and those debates are the ones that will determine our finishing time. So, can I now move to item 7.9.

7.9 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

The birthday girl who is coming to present is the chairperson, Hon Kedibone Lebea. Malibongwe!

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, our dearest Doctor. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Manana Xipikara. Ndzi lava ku teka nkarhi lowu ndzi seketela vurhangeri bya Komiti ya Photifoliyo ya Vutleketli, Manana Kedibone Lebea.
Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa Dokodela. Over to you, chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise again to table for consideration and adoption the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report of the Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL). I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? Over to you, Hon Mabotja.

MR MABOTJA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I would like to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Lebea. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

You are welcome. Honourable chairperson, you may proceed.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise again to table for consideration and adoption the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety by this august House. I move accordingly, Dr Makhurupetje.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? No, it can't be the same people; I will point out those who have never raised their hand. Who has not raised their hand today? Nna ga ke sa tseba. I am confused; I apologise. Hon Mnisi Gloria, you are recognised.

MS MNISI

Apology accepted, Hon Speaker., I am rising to second the submission of the report by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson; Hi khensile Manana.

MS LEBEA

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL) by this august House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Bella Kupa, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza. [INTERJECTION] Yes, it is official. Ke Moroka wa Boroka le Borokana. Ke rata go ema go thekga seo boletšego ke Mohlomphegi Lebea. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Kupa-Mabuza. We now proceed to item 7.10.

7.10 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Hon Lebea, you may proceed.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MOKOELE

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Ngaka Makhurupetje. Ke eme fa go thekga Modulasetulo wa Komiti ya Phothofolio go Dinamelwa le Polokego ya Setšhaba. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks. Over to you, chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise again to table for consideration and adoption the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of the Gateway Airports Authority Limited by this august House. I move accordingly, honourable Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR PHEEDI

Ke a leboga, Ngaka Mospikara. Ke tla fa bjalo ka Mohananwa, go tlo thekga polelo ya Modulasetulo, Mohlomphegi Kedibone Lebea. Ndaa. Re a leboga rena Bahananwa.

THE SPEAKER

Ke tsebile gore Sehananwa se tla tla. So, there is a side where I do not see hands; I am going to point at you, even if you have not raised your hand. I am sorry, Chief Whip, I will have to do that. We are now on item 7.11.

7.11 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Hon chairperson, over to you.

MS LEBEA

Ere ke go leboge Mospikara. Ke eme fa go ala pego ya rena ya Ketelo ya Tekolo go Airforce Base Hoedspruit, East gate and Hoedspruit Airports ka Sedikong sa Mopani yeo e dirilwego ka la 17 March 2025. Ke šišinya kere yalo.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Nempumbuluni, you are recognised. Go šetše Mohlomphegi Nenguda.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

3:59:25Ndo livhuwa Vhodokotela Mulangadzulo. Ndi nne Muhulisei Vho Nempumbuluni T C. Ndo imela u tikedza zwe Mudzulatshidulo wa komiti ya potofolio vha amba zwone kha Madalo a zwa Vhulavhelesi ngei Hoedspruit Airport and Eastgate Airport nga la 17 Thafamuhwe 2025. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Ndi zwone, ndo livhuwa nga maanda. Let's move to 7.11.2. Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS LEBEA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. I stand here to table for consideration and adoption the report on the oversight traffic monitoring visits to Capricorn, Sekhukhune, and Waterberg Districts, during the 2024/25 festive season for Group 1. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Ke leboga kudu, Mohlomphegi, Mospikara. Ke be kere ke thekga tšeo ba di boletšwego mabapi le ketelo ya tekolo yeo e dirilwego ke ba Komiti ka Sedikong sa Sekhukhune le Waterberg. Ke Zwa Zweo.

THE SPEAKER

Ke Zwa Zweo. Over to you, chairperson. Ke Mosia, o a kwešiša.

MS LEBEA

O a se bolela. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise again, for the last time, to table for consideration and adoption the report on the oversight traffic monitoring visits that took place in Capricorn, Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts for Group 2. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You can go back to your seat now. Thank you so much. We need the seconder. Hon Mnisi, you are recognised. I must get it right.

MS MNISI

Hi swona swi nga endla ndzi yimisa voko Muchaviseki Xipikara. I Muchaviseki Mnisi, ndzi yima ku ta seketela xiviko lexi andlariweke eka Yindlu leyi ya ku chaviseka, hi Mutshamaxitulu, Muchaviseki Lebea. Ndza khensa Muchaviseki Xipikara.

THE SPEAKER

Manana Mnisi, hi khensile swinene. Na mina ndzi ti twa ndzi ri kahle, ndzi kotile na ku lunghisa timhaka ta mina.

Thank you so much, honourable Members. we are now moving directly to the Speakers' List. You have been allocated minutes, but it will assist us if you shorten your debate to manage time because we still have another item on the snap debate. I know that you are dealing with many reports; don't leave out important things. Hon Nenguda Dowelani Alton, ndi tshifhinga tshavho.

MR NENGUDA

Ndi a livhuwa, Mulangadzulo, Vho Dokotela Makoma Makhurupetje. Ndi tshi tama u thoma nga u lumelisa Tshimebi Tshihulwane, Vho Essob Mokgonyana; tshanda tsha Tshimebi Tshihulwane, Vho Monama; the honourable Members of this august House, distinguished guests in the gallery; ladies and gentlemen. Ndi masiari.

Madam Speaker, the mission of the Department of Transport and Community Safety is to provide safe, accessible, efficient, and sustainable transport services and to intensify the fight against crime and corruption through partnership with stakeholders. Indeed, today we have seen the South African Police Service in Limpopo province intensifying the fight against crime and corruption by recording a decrease in crime statistics in the previous quarter. Congratulations to the collective leadership.

Limpopo province recorded an overall crime decrease of 3,1%, with property crime down by 0,5% and other serious crimes down by 6,8%. The decline in these stats is the result of high-density operations, such as Operation Shanela (Kukula) in hotspot areas, and awareness campaigns in crime-ridden communities.

The recent enlistment of 563 police officers has also reinforced the capacity of various police units, thus enhancing visibility and crime prevention. We continue as Limpopo to be recognised as one of the safest provinces to live and conduct business in. While challenges persist in certain areas, we remain grateful for the commendable work being done and continued effort towards maintaining safety and security for all.

In order to provide safe, accessible, efficient, and sustainable transport services, the department has rationalised 26 existing bus contracts into 9 consolidated agreements. These new contracts officially commenced in April 2025. The new agreements will deliver even more kilometres of subsidised bus services, including the introduction of routes in previously underserved areas such as Phalaborwa, the eastern part of Collins Chabane, Modimolle, Thabazimbi, Makhuduthamaga, Elias Motsoaledi, Blouberg, and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipalities.

To ensure the successful implementation of these contracts, effective monitoring is essential. Currently, this function is performed manually by dedicated department officials, but the process is vulnerable to human error and potential manipulation. To address this, Madam Speaker, the department promises to introduce innovative digital monitoring systems, using modern technology to enhance compliance, transparency, and service reliability across all subsidised bus operations.

Madam Speaker, we are proud to announce that our province, in partnership with Gauteng province, has initiated the process of establishing a high-speed rail link between Gauteng and Limpopo. As outlined in the provincial budget, funding has been allocated for a comprehensive, prefeasibility study to assess the project's viability. This high-speed rail project promises to be a transformative development, offering commuters greater choice between road, rail, and air travel. Once realised, it will significantly enhance connectivity, reduce travel time, and serve as a catalyst for economic growth and regional integration.

Madam Speaker, the department continues to provide funding and strategic oversight to Gateway Airports Authority Limited, a category 3D public entity. Currently, GAAL is not financially self-sustaining. In response, the board has developed and adopted several strategies, designed to reposition GAAL as a viable and self-funded business entity.

As the current board's term concludes in September this year, the department will commence the recruitment process for a new board. This new leadership, together with

the executive management, will have the responsibility of driving the implementation of the turnaround strategy and ensuring that GAAL becomes a sustainable contributor to the province's economy. GAAL is a business, and it must evolve accordingly. It cannot remain a perpetual liability, dependent on public funds, without delivering measurable returns. The department remains committed to ensuring that GAAL remains a sustainable and economically impactful entity.

Madam Speaker, the provincial department should engage the national Department of Public Works, with a view to allocating land at the Eastgate Airport to the Gateway Airports Authority Limited, as the custodian of all airports and landing strips in the province, in the long term.

Madam Speaker, as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure community safety, the department has established community policing and safety forums in ten municipalities. These forums play a crucial role in local crime prevention efforts and are supported through monthly stipends to encourage active participation. The department is implementing volunteer-based initiatives, including the young civilians on patrol and crime prevention, through environmentally designed programmes. These structures work collaboratively with the South African Police Service to safeguard our communities.

Madam Speaker, even though there has been a decrease in the number of fatalities in the last festive season, most of the accidents were caused by human error, as most of them were caused by overspeeding, pedestrians on the roadway, and reckless driving. It is for this reason that the department is embarking on a 24-hour traffic law enforcement, which calls for an increase in traffic personnel this May. We had an injection of 147 officers in the last financial year, and this is not enough; more officers need to be added in order for the 24-hour traffic law enforcement operation to be realised. We note further that our motorists are queuing for long periods when they visit licensing offices, either to renew their driver's licences or vehicle registrations. It is for this reason that the department is embarking on infrastructure investments.

The construction of K53 and the examiner of motor vehicle pit at Thohoyandou Traffic Station is at 70% in terms of progress; and Seshego K53 and the examiner of motor vehicle pit is at 47% towards completion. While the finalisation of the Thohoyandou taxi project has progressed more slowly than anticipated, we are pleased to report that the project is now actively moving forward with the Independent Development Trust playing a central role in its implementation.

Madam Speaker, in January 2025, Grobler's Bridge port of entry was temporarily closed due to adverse conditions caused by high water levels as a result of heavy rains. The increased water level has reached a point where it significantly compromises the safe and efficient functioning of the port. According to research studies, Grobler's Bridge border post is currently located in a flooding zone area and occasionally closes and ceases to operate during heavy rain seasons, often for months. The border was closed for a year in the year 2000. However, the Department of Public Works has completed a feasibility study in the new location, and the matter is still under consideration.

Madam Speaker, our border posts continue to experience challenges, such as shortage of immigration officers, poor ablution facilities, general cleanliness and shortage of

water supply. However, the border management authority continues to do a sterling job with the use of drones at the Beitbridge boarder post. Drones have been deployed to detect smuggling attempts and intercept undocumented migrants, contributing to the significant increase in the illegal border crossing interceptions.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to extend my gratitude to the members of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, under the chairpersonship of Hon Kedibone Lebea, for their unwavering commitment to improving services for the people. I thank you. Ndo livhuwa. Ndau ya nduna. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ndo livhuwa nga maanda. Hon André Moss, the floor is yours.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of this House and guests.

Hon Speaker, the Mampakuil and Mooketsi weighbridge findings reflect a disturbing trend in this province: dilapidated infrastructure, and poor management of essential enforcement facilities. It is unacceptable that the weighbridge, such as Mampakuil, was allowed to deteriorate to the point of closure, or that the toilets at Mooketsi weighbridge remain nonfunctional despite materials being available on site. This reflects gross neglect by the Department of Public Works and a lack of interdepartmental coordination.

Regarding the Department of Transport and Community Safety's First Quarter Report, only 16% has been spent, which is way below the expected 25%. We know that the response will be that it is normal for a first quarter, but what is not normal is the year-on-year under delivery on critical transport infrastructure; rural communities continuing to wait years for public transport access, overburdened and unsafe roads riddled with potholes. What is normal is the disrespect shown to Limpopo's commuters, taxpayers and rural families who receive no benefits from budgets written on paper but not implemented on the ground.

Hon Speaker, while the department boasts oversight and safety research in schools, there is no clear strategy to address the severe shortages of police personnel and resources in rural areas. Farming communities in remote towns remain vulnerable to crime, with response time from law enforcement often dangerously slow. This government's failure to allocate adequate resources to rural policing is a constitutional neglect of its duty to protect all of its citizens equally.

The Freedom Front Plus is deeply concerned about the ongoing failure of the Great North Transport, which has left commuters in Mokopane, Giyani, and Marble Hall stranded due to a failing and ailing fleet. How many more quarters must we endure this embarrassment? GNT is a provincial embarrassment, operating on life support while communities are left without affordable and reliable transport. The department is clearly incapable of holding GNT accountable for its continued contractual obligation, and the public pays the price.

Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus has continuously advocated for the decentralisation of service delivery. Municipalities should not be forced to wait for provincial departments to resolve transport planning and safety issues. Let the decision-making power lie closer to the people, where there is greater accountability and urgency.

Hon Speaker, an airport is currently functioning on military property without a legitimate lease agreement, staffed by uncertified air traffic controllers, and failing to meet the standards set by the South African Civil Aviation Authority. The situation presents not only a legal dilemma but also poses a risk to national security.

The idea that military personnel are ineligible for certification in international civil aviation matters should have been addressed many years ago. The Secretariat of Police Service achieved 100% of the indicators, but that does not mean that communities are safe. Limpopo communities remain amongst the most crime-afflicted and underpoliced in South Africa. The 100% achievement does not include actual community feedback, crime reduction statistics, or independent verification. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Moss. Hon Helm Marie, the floor is yours

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Can I please take this opportunity to wish my chairperson a very happy birthday, and may I, on a lighter note, note how many reports are coming from this committee and not the others. We can see who is doing the work.

Hon Speaker; all MECs present, Whippery; all honourable Members and guests, thank you very much for the opportunity. I would like to commend our department for doing very well in reducing road fatalities. I think that we have done very well. I would also like to acknowledge that there is a reduction in crime, but let us also tackle the other issues that are still like a rotten apple in a bag. Corrective measures must be taken against employees who fail to comply with the disclosure of financial interests while doing business with the government.

As far as the provincial Secretariat of Police Service is concerned, the excessively high rate of violence against women in the province is of a deep concern. Thohoyandou is a crime hotspot, and this is interesting, not only in Limpopo but in South Africa. Thohoyandou is listed in South Africa's top 30 stations 13 times. More importantly, Thohoyandou is prominent in 17 community-reported serious crime categories and prominent in the sexual offences category. Thohoyandou is listed number 1 in the following categories:

- Sexual offences: If we look at sexual offences in South Africa, Thohoyandou is number 1, Seshego 13 and Mankweng 18. Our province is not doing well.
- Rape: If we look at rape in the top 30 stations in South Africa, Thohoyandou is number 1 again, Seshego number 12, Mankweng number 15, and Mahwelereng

number 25. We cannot allow this; women and children are no longer safe in Limpopo

Further, the Court Watch programme, which is supposed to assist us, needs a serious overhaul. The 15 visits that is spread across the province for 5 days per quarter is just not enough. It is unacceptable that of the 199 case dockets that were monitored in the magistrates' courts, 98 were withdrawn or struck off the roll due to incomplete investigations, and 44 dockets were not brought to court. It is important that this programme is expanded and that the SAPS proposes ways to improve this dismal performance. The department must hold the SAPS accountable, and urgent steps are necessary to bring down rural crime that is destroying our province.

Crimes such as stock theft both in traditional areas and on farms – and we all know about this – attacks on farmers and farm workers, and other rural crimes must be addressed, and we can only read in newspapers to see what I mean. We need more support for community structures that are fighting crime, such as CPF, Town Watch, Farm Watch, and other structures. We need more than just stipends; we need to make sure that we empower these structures with support to put up and maintain cameras in high-crime areas. We need to investigate the possibility of drone technology in isolated farms and for farm workers, and we need better training and cooperation between security companies and these community structures.

The DA cautions against reducing the budget allocation to this vital programme and should find ways to strengthen the police stations with the unacceptable crime rate. It is suggested that this department create a list of the 10 worst SAPS police stations and give special attention to those. So that we can reduce the crime rates. It is suggested that this department creates a list of the 10 worst SAPS stations and gives special attention to them to reduce the crime rate.

Support for rural transport is important. We are concerned that it seems that the planned bus contracts, especially in Mopani, are creating conflict and concern with taxi associations. It seems as if these contracts were concluded without proper consultation with taxi organisations. During a meeting on 04 June 2025, taxi organisations expressed concerns that those routes now allocated to the three contracts in Mopani were filled by taxis as they were neglected by GNT. The concern is that the buses will just move in and take over the taxi routes, and as we know, that is not good news. The DA cautions the MEC that proper consultations must be made before budgets are spent. We should prevent boycotts and violence regarding transport in these areas.

GAAL as an entity is still struggling. If we look at the First Quarter Report, the performance was very poor. Let me give an example, in this quarter, 14% is spent, whereas it should be 25%; administration is 12%; business development is 22%; and business operations is 11%. This is unacceptable, and they just continue with the same excuses.

The question is, how is risk management done if in the past there were missed landings and cancellations of scheduled flights? Surely, if the management and board are well informed and familiar with airports and how they work, they should have foreseen this risk. Instead, they waited for the cancellation of flights and then jumped into action. This is not good enough, and GAAL must do serious introspection.

The Seventh Administration is now 12 months in the saddle, whereas this department is already 30 years in the saddle. We urge all involved to work harder to achieve the same results as those that we have achieved with the reduction of road fatalities. Thank you so very much.

THE SPEAKER

We now proceed to the EFF; Hon Baloyi is not here. We will proceed to Hon Kedibone Lebea to close the debate.

MS LEBEA

I thought that the Speaker would protect me, I am being insulted at the back there, Hon Speaker. It's Hon Vongani Maringa.

Ndza khensa Manana Xipikara. Avuxeni. Mi pfukile xana?

Thank you, Hon Speaker, our Dr; the remaining Members of the Executive Council in the House; honourable Members of this august House; distinguished guests; members of the media fraternity in the House and those that are watching through different live streaming channels. A blessed day to you.

Hon Speaker, this debate is dedicated to the youth of 1976 and young people of this province, led by Phineas "Boko Haram" Sebola and our dear Ms Faith Sebopela. Hon Speaker, this debate in particular, is dedicated to a distinct and steadfast woman, born and raised in the dusty streets of Seshego, an extraordinary, a revolutionary, a great thinker and a rare breed, a product of the Mass Democratic Movement, a product of the masses of Polokwane subregion branches, Peter Mokaba Region and the Province of Limpopo. A woman full of convictions to hope and aspirations of Mama Sharlotte Maxeke when she said, "This work is not for [us] 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."

Hon Speaker, an eternally grateful and immensely blessed woman, a woman of virtue and integrity, the gentle yet assertive woman, who is fully aware of and believes in mutual respect until the menaces try to the contrary, until they linger in an unfortunate attempt to use an element of disrespect to approach her, that is when all hell breaks loose. A woman who knows dimming one's light will never make yours shine any brighter.

Hon Speaker, on this special day, the day that our good Lord has made, as ascertained by the gospel, according to David in Psalms 118:24, the special day of 12 June, this debate tapped sober, the state of the birthday address is dedicated to none other than the chairman of the congress movement, Hon Lebea of the African National Congress. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, going back to the business of the day, in exercising our constitutional mandate, we took stock of the teachings of Mark Hitler when he said, "Oversight is not an optional extra, it is essential to ensure that money is spent wisely and appropriately."

We then, as a committee, met with the department on the briefings of the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Reports and its Annual Report, 2024/25 First Quarter Reports for both the department and its entity Gateway Airports Authority Limited. Hon Speaker, I must say that, as a committee, we were elated by the extensive knowledge displayed and expressed by the department.

Hon Speaker, Hon Nenguda has represented us so well; he spoke on a whole lot of issues that I will not speak to because of time, which I am also checking. However, it is important that we remind the House of the ITP, which is the integrated transport plan of the department, on its successful conclusion with the municipalities. That will ensure that the department is able to issue permits to taxi owners. We believe that this effort will put an end to the unfortunate scourge of taxi violence in our district and elsewhere in the province.

Hon Speaker, we can't stand here as a portfolio committee and not commend the department for collecting the highest revenue in the entire provincial government, and I know that Hon Mahoi, seated here, knows that The Department of Transport and Community Safety is the first collector of revenue in the province. As a portfolio committee, we are commending that stance. In noting the good work, Hon Speaker, it does not say that we are unable to discharge our oversight role, not at all.

Section 206 of the Constitution of the Republic mandates us to play a proper oversight role; furthermore the department is able to oversee the efficacy of Police Service, which was mentioned in a motion without notice. I will not continue to speak about that here, but equally, Hon Helm has also represented us so well with regard to the issues of community policing forums.

Hon Speaker, it would be quite unfortunate if we stand here and not commend the mammoth task of these CPFs. These CPFs in and around the province selflessly give up their peace of mind and quality time with their better halves and children for the betterment of their communities and their surroundings through all their crime prevention efforts. We urge the department to put measures in place and ensure that CPFs in and around the province are remunerated, Hon Mahoi.

Hon Speaker, taking from the words of one of the steadfast, tenacious and indomitable minds produced by the congress Kedibone Lebea of the African National Congress when she said, "An empowered mind moulds tomorrow," we implore both the department and its entity for utmost honesty.

Taking from the teachings of a great man who once walked this side of heaven, a great man from Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, a revolutionary, an intellect and philosopher Amilcar Cabral, when he talked about honesty and commitment to the struggle of truth and justice, rather than easy victories through deceits and manipulation when he said, "Tell no lies ... Claim no easy victories," Hon Speaker, Gateway Airports Authority Limited must attract tourists and increase the number of inbound and outbound flights. One of the pertinent issues is to invite another airline to the airport that will assist in fair competition, that will see, and leave travellers spoilt for choice.

We are pleased to report to this House that when we met with the department and the board, they shared their turnaround strategy. If this is anything to go by, it will be implemented; it will ensure the attainment of optimal level of sustainability.

GAAL should ensure that it fills all critical funded posts, and increase its efficiency by employing sufficient and qualified staff. We have noted the rollover from the entity with disdain, and we are making a clarion call that as a portfolio committee that is responsible and adequately covered by the legislation, GAAL will find its wings back in the sky again, and to the meddlesome gore tsebe ya kgaoswi e a ikwela, GAAL will be able to implement its notable planned revenue collection, and it will move towards self-sustainability.

The committee highlighted the urgent need for an aggressive marketing strategy, and this will be followed up to its logical conclusion. At the time we table for consideration and adoption the first quarter of the 2025/25 financial year, we should be reporting a different story. We are saying again to the meddlesome, tsebe ya kgauswi e tla ikwela.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, may our good Lord bless us with long, fulfilling and prosperous lives. As he blesses me on this special day, may He extend his warm hands towards us and our loved ones for His name's sake. On this note, Hon Speaker, I therefore move that all reports tabled on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety and its entity, Gateway Airports Authority Limited, be adopted by this august House. Ndza khensa Manana Xipikara. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene, Muchaviseki, Kedibone Lebea. We will now request Hon Funani Maseko.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Greetings to the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; colleagues in the Executive Council; and Members of the House.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, Ntumelele ke eme legatong la Mme Violet Mathye gore ke tlo arabela Ngangišano ye ye bohlokwa. Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ke be ke šomiša didirišwa tše tša go tlhatholla. Kebe ke theeditše ge go bolelwa Khelobedu, ke re ke nyaka gore ba tlhatholla jwang, efela ke a kwa gore goa pala.

I think that the administration must look into that so that Khelobedu must also be catered for. Let me acknowledge the oversight role that is being played by the portfolio committee under the stewardship of the birthday girl, Hon Lebea, and the collective. It is very clear that there is a lot of oversight work that is being done by this very important committee of the Legislature.

Allow me to give you a brief history of the functionality of GAAL. During the Sixth Administration, there was a time when Scopa convened a meeting with the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, the then Premier and MEC for LEDET to engage on the turnaround strategy that must be developed by GAAL, because it had very serious

challenges. However, I want to report that the board has developed a turnaround strategy, and that strategy is at an implementation phase. We understand that there will be more airlines made available, from Polokwane to Cape Town, Polokwane to Durban, and in Africa. The strategy tries to speak to that as part of redressing the challenges that the critical institution is facing, which has a lot of potential in economic spin-off.

Hon Speaker, the board is also aiming to create a cargo hub for mining and agricultural products so that those products can be transported from Gateway Airport to different destinations, which will limit the transportation of fresh produce from here to Johannesburg, and it is going to create a lot of job opportunities.

With regard to crime, Hon Speaker, let me acknowledge the observation made by Hon Helm Marie in Seshego and Thohoyandou. It is within our competence as the department and the plans are available to begin establishing some satellite police stations, particularly in hotspot areas so that we increase the capacity of police service to deal with crime according to our highlights in our APP for 2025/26. Hon Speaker and the House, let me also indicate that we are aiming at reducing accidents by half in the province by 2030.

How are we going to do that? We have agreed that we are going to employ technology to ensure effective enforcement. So, I want to urge our Members, Hon Speaker, to go and settle their outstanding traffic fines because once that technology is available, re tšile go bona gore le a kolota, Mohlomphegi Letsoalo; jwale re kgopela gore go tloga ga bjale go fihlela theknolotši e tsebišwa le ye le yo patela ge e le gore le a kolota, Mohlomphegi Phokane, ka lebaka la gore tšhelete ye ntši e sweri ke lena, ge rere ga rena tšhelete re bolela ka lena, kudu baotledi. Jwale re kgopela gore le lefe ditekete gore le seke laba batšwa sehlabele ba ditiro tša lena.

Let me indicate again, as I conclude, that we have identified challenges with regard to issues of access to the renewal of licences, driver's licences, taxi licences, etc. So, we are considering reopening Seshego and Thohoyandou licence stations so that we can maximise the capacity of government and give people access to their licences as an attempt to avoid serious challenges. That is going to assist us in expanding our revenue base because you know that the provincial government relies heavily on this department for revenue collection and enhancement. I, therefore, thank you very much and acknowledge the inputs from the portfolio committee.

THE SPEAKER

Siyabonga. Siyathokoza, MEC. Is it siyabonga or siyabulela? Re reng? Ke nyaka isiNdebele le Siswati sela sa lena.

BACKGROUND

Siyabonga!

THE SPEAKER

You must at least teach us one word each time when you speak, Hon Maseko, just one word, and we will be learning. Thank you so much, we have now concluded the business in terms of the committee reports; we are now moving to item 8.

8. SNAP DEBATE ON YOUTH DAY

Honourable Members, we know that in a few days' time, we will be celebrating Youth Day. Some youth took to the streets 49 years ago, which is why we have democracy today. On that note, as the Legislature we need to honour this day and honour those giants who are the torchbearers that have opened the way for us to be where we are today.

On that note, we will now go to the snap debate of the Youth Month to ensure that we do not postpone it to next week after the event. We will now request to move directly to the Speakers' List. The person who is opening the debate is a real young man, who must tell us what he wants us to do for the young people. Come and talk to the young people of Limpopo, who are here to listen to you. Hon Mpho Sonnyboy Shai, you are opening the debate.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip and members of the Whippery; MECs; chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mahlodi Manthata-Mahasela; and Hon Members. Ke a le dumedisa.

Hon Speaker, as we stand here today to commemorate June 16, let us remember that this day is more than just a public holiday, it is a day to honour the bravery and sacrifices of the youth who revolted against the apartheid regime in 1976. The courage and determination of the youth of 1976, led by the brave Tsietsi Mashinini, continues to inspire us till today. As we reflect on their legacy, let us also acknowledge the ongoing struggles of the youth and reaffirm our commitment to empowering them to build a better future for all.

The 1976 youth fearlessly confronted the apartheid regime, sacrificing their lives to pave the way for future generations. Their bravery and defiance in the face of oppression have given us the freedom and democracy we enjoy today. We pay tribute to the courageous young people who refused to be defined by the regime. We would also like to remember the Fees Must Fall activists, who continued the struggle that started in 1976, where university students protested against the fee increment. The 2015 Fees Must Fall struggle is a testament to the continued struggle for equality and justice that began decades ago.

We also remember great leaders like the former president of the African National Congress Youth League, Cde Peter Mokaba, the "Lion of the North," and the former secretary general of the ANC Youth League, the late Cde Sindiso Magaxa, who lost his life in July of 2017. It shows that it is indeed the Youth Month, as there are significant developments in the case surrounding the death of the late Sindiso Magaqa.

Post-1994, the South African government has created different opportunities for the youth, including the National Student Financial Aid Scheme for higher education. The

government provides opportunities like free basic education, and there are other stakeholders like the National Youth Development Agency, which was specifically established to fund young entrepreneurs.

As Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Education serves as a dual purpose, as it equips the young for careers and empowers young people to face certain challenges in life and contribute positively to society. Additionally, young entrepreneurs can access business funding, particularly in the agricultural sector, where the government is looking for more food producers. There are internship programmes that are available through various governmental departments and sector education and training authorities.

As I have highlighted before, the youth of Limpopo is faced with high rates of unemployment. According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, quarter four of 2024, the Limpopo unemployment rate stood at 31,9%, with the expanded unemployment rate sitting at 41,9%. The youth aged 15–34 years continue to bear the brunt with 4,7 million unemployed, with a youth unemployment rate at 46%; this is so disheartening as young people live below the poverty line. The Limpopo province officially launched the Labour Activation Programme. This programme aims to train and equip 13 609 young people across the province. The programme will also assist the youth of Limpopo to combat the high unemployment rate.

In an attempt to combat the high unemployment rate, the Limpopo province, the Limpopo provincial departments have a two-year internship programme that also aims to tackle youth unemployment across the province. Millions of young people have already benefitted from the Presidential Stimulus programme. We are happy to note that some schools in the province offer coding, robotics, and technical subjects. There is a technical school here in Lebowakgomo, where learners managed to design their own electrical system. The province also has agricultural schools, where they equip the youth with more practical skills than theory.

We would like to plead with the Department of Education to ensure that these skills-providing subjects reach every school in the province. I also urge all young people in the country to demonstrate the bravery and resilience that was shown during the Soweto uprising. The youth should be the greatest source of employment for the coming generation. We need to work together to combat all these issues that are faced by young people and fight for economic emancipation – economic freedom in our lifetime. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Velile Jack is not here. We will allow Hon Moss to proceed. Remember the three minutes.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. All protocols observed. I recognise the importance of commemorating Youth Day; nevertheless, I struggle to grasp the extent of pride the government expresses in 2025, after disregarding the youth they intend to celebrate.

Unemployment rates have soared to unprecedented heights, particularly amongst the younger demographic.

In Limpopo, the essence of our province lies in its youth – dynamic, inventive, and full of promise. However, this promise is hindered by systematic shortcomings. The assurance of a better future seems insincere when graduates wander the streets, their degrees collecting dust. The policies of the ANC have not succeeded in generating sustainable employment or empowering young entrepreneurs. Did the ANC deliver on the dreams of the 1976 youth? Did the ANC create a South Africa where the youth, regardless of race, language, or background, can live safely in their communities, receive quality education, and find meaningful work? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

Education, which serves as a foundation for advancement, represents yet another area of conflict. Our educational institutions are underresourced, characterised by overcrowded classrooms and obsolete materials. Rural youths are particularly marginalised, deprived of access to quality education and modern technology. The digital divide transcends mere terminology – it constitutes an obstacle that prevents our young individuals from competing in a global marketplace.

Hon Speaker, crime and substance abuse are robbing our youth of their potential. In the absence of opportunities, numerous individuals are drawn into hopelessness, with substance abuse such as nyaope fracturing communities. The government's reaction has been insufficient; where are the rehabilitation facilities, programmes for youth development, and a safe environment for our children to flourish? The Freedom Front Plus advocates with all young South Africans who dream not of handouts but of a Nation that sees their potential and provides them with tools to thrive.

The Freedom Front Plus advocates for decentralised education governance, allowing communities more control over schools and for the full recognition of mother tongue education. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much for managing your time so well. Hon Smalle, your five minutes starts now.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I just want to say to the youth, your real youth starts when you go past 50, then your life starts.

On a more serious note, June 16, Youth Day, is an important and powerful date in our history, which is also important in allowing us to reflect on the realities of our young South Africans in our province. It is a date we remember and reflect on our history and, most importantly, to take time and honour the youth of 1976, who were brave enough and determined to stand up for a brighter future for themselves, and their courageous action and sacrifice is an example of resilience, bravery and great potential that the youth in our country have always possessed throughout the years.

As we commemorate Youth Month, under the theme “Skills for a Changing World – Empowering the Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation,” while June 16 commemoration of Youth Day is further supported by the tag line, Geared for Greatness, it is important to remember that many of the youth in Limpopo have still not achieved that bright future. This theme and tag line for the Youth Day focus on skills development and youth empowermentth by providing them with economic opportunities, but the current socioeconomic situation in South Africa and similarly in Limpopo threatens to hamper this.

It is characterised by high unemployment; widespread poverty; inequality; limited access to quality education; infrastructure deterioration in our schools, hospitals, etc., and social ills such as drugs, high rate of rape, sexual assault, GBV and other serious crimes that continue to hamper our attempts to create an environment where our youth make may thrive.

The DA stands with the millions of youth in Limpopo, who continue to struggle for economic inclusion, jobs and quality education, even those with degrees and other formal qualifications sit at home because there has been a failure by the government in the past to create an environment conducive to job creation. The high number of youth unemployment has instead created a youth population that is vulnerable in our province. Key to empowering our youth is the crucial need to kick-start the economy, through structural reforms that start to address factors that are currently hampering growth. Furthermore, youth should be at the centre of any plans that seek to encourage economic growth and create opportunities in this province.

There is a real need for a holistic approach to ensure that our youth are well equipped to compete in the job market, and also in any other economic space they may find themselves in. This requires a focus on improving early childhood development; fixing our basic education system and offering quality education; expanding access to tertiary education; ensuring meaningful skills development; and providing economic opportunities to the youth, as well as entrepreneurial opportunities.

The Democratic Alliance is committed to creating a Limpopo where every young person receives quality education, where every young person can find work, where every young person feels safe and is optimistic about their future, and is where every young person is treated fairly. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Mogolo, it is now over to you.

MR MOGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters will reflect on the historical significance of this day and the bravery of the youth who stood against the oppressive apartheid regime on June 16, 1976. It must be remembered that the youth then were fighting the oppressive regime to attain political freedom, and we applaud them for their sacrifices. Today, we need the bravery of the government to create jobs for the youth and to also assist them to start their businesses and create jobs for the young people.

Hon Speaker, we need state-led economic development in our country and the province. Youth unemployment is very high in the Limpopo province and many other parts of the country. It is, therefore, important that the youth, as the marginalised group in socioeconomic activities, be equipped with the right skills to navigate the challenging unemployment environment. South Africa holds a strong history of youth activism and revolutionary movements that led to the end of apartheid in 1994.

During the apartheid era, youth participation became increasingly radical and organised, suitable for that time. On June 16, 1976, the Soweto uprising brought youth participation in politics to the forefront. The uprising, sparked by the government's imposition of the Afrikaans language as a medium of instruction in schools, saw thousands of students take to the streets in protest. Unfortunately, after the fall of apartheid in 1994, there was a decline in youth participation in politics. This was partly due to the sense of disillusionment with the new government, which is failing to address the needs of young people.

However, youth participation in politics has now begun to resurface in recent years with the rise of the Economic Freedom Fighters, which has been driven by the support of young people. Hon Speaker, youth unemployment is rife in Limpopo province, whereby drugs, alcohol, HIV/Aids, and crime affect young people. A great number of these young people are unskilled or semiskilled, and therefore not able to create jobs for themselves; they rely on the government for job creation. In this regard, we are also facing the unfortunate circumstances, whereby even the graduates are not able to get employment. These challenges contribute to a cycle of disadvantage and limit opportunities for development and upward mobility.

As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we have been critical of the government's record on poverty, inequality, and unemployment, and we have appealed to young people's sense of frustration and disillusionment. The party that once betrayed the youth has been reduced to a mere 40% of votes at the national level, a decisive action that has shattered their monopoly and allows other participants in the political arena. However, it is with great sadness that we acknowledge the severe challenges that our youth face. Youth unemployment remains a significant issue in Limpopo, with youth unemployment sitting at the rate of 46,1% at the end of the third quarter of 2025.

This means that a large proportion of young people in the province are actively looking for work but are unable to find one. The high youth unemployment rate contributes to a broader economic crisis in the province, with a decline in overall employment and a significant loss of jobs in key sectors like construction and mining. Limited access to education and skills training, coupled with social and economic disadvantages, are major factors driving youth unemployment, worsening the unemployment rate in the province. These challenges are exacerbated by factors such as drug abuse, alcohol misuse, HIV/Aids, and crime, affecting the wellbeing and future prospects of young people.

Many young people lack skills and experience. We call on the youth of today, throughout the province, to remain radical and never compromise on their future; they must know that the party that is leading this province is still using the same method that has been used since 1994 because they still believe that in order to create employment, they need to go and beg western countries to come and invest in our province, which has

been failing and will continue to fail if we keep them at 74%, as we did in the previous elections.

It is important to note that the only way to resuscitate the economic activities in the province is through industrialisation. We need state-led factories; the state in the province must build factories in Giyani, Tzaneen, and all over the province, so that young people can get employment. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We now go to the last speaker, who is closing the debate, Hon Vongani Wesley Maringa. Tanana mi ta pfala, Tatana Maringa. I nkarhi wa n'wina wa ku pfala njhekanjhekisano wa namuntlha. Hi pfala hinkwaswo.

MR MARINGA

Hon Speaker, all protocols observed. This year marks exactly 49 years since the 1976 student-led Soweto uprising that happened in Soweto, a very strong revolution. South Africa is well aware of the extensive impact and the immense pressure that the revolution that took place in Soweto has added, when young people resisted the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction, and out of that, the apartheid regime was able to feel the pressure. The revolution was led by the ruling party, the African National Congress, as part of the battle to fight for freedom.

Hon Speaker, the country has marshalled itself very strongly to move to a point where we have attained freedom; now with freedom comes responsibilities. There are few very strong milestones that we have scored since the advent of that particular revolution which was led by students in Soweto. One amongst those is that the ruling party in government has seen to it that our students are fed, when they are in the classroom situation, at the level of primary and high schools. The ANC, through its leadership in government, has seen to it that even students who are at a higher level, in terms of the higher education system, are also receiving funding, through the process and application of the NSFAS provision that is there in the country.

When you put these battles together, they find resonance with what has happened in 1976, through the generation that lived then. However, Hon Speaker, freedom comes with responsibilities. What we have realised over time is that young people that we have today, have their visions and challenges, and the challenges they face are far different to the challenges of the 1976 generation. One of the biggest challenges that young people are facing today comes from the weakness of the border guarding systems in the country, which has opened the floodgates for foreign nationals and many others to bring substances that are not acceptable in the country, which we have seen a lot of young people consuming.

We can speak very boldly today that young people are consumed by substance abuse, that they have become alcoholics, but we don't deal with the extent to which all these things are being sourced from. Hon Speaker, the current development in terms of the Fourth Industrial Revolution has also created a very strong and dangerous environment for young people. It has provided young people with an opportunity and avenue to have easy access to irresponsible activities, which also bring about irresponsible conduct.

While we embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we need to be very conscious of how we best manage this aspect of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in order to assist the contents and the extent to which young people are able to access information that exists through accessibility of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

We need to note one thing today, as we engage in the 49th year of the commemoration of the 1976 revolution. The National Development Plan recognises the vital role of the youth in shaping our country's future, placing them at the centre of both social and economic development. It is important to invest in the development of young people. When we take it from the line that I have presented, Hon Speaker, you will then begin to say, let's have an engagement about what avenues the government should put in place to assist young people to participate in the mainstream economy:

- We need to create some centres in all local municipalities; we need to develop systems where we have entrepreneurial centres that exist so that our young people are able to access those venues and avenues and taught about possibilities and grounds within which they can become employers of the future.
- We need to invest in capacity building in all the facilities that the government has put together. Our current situation of the National Development Agency (NYDA), in terms of what the ANC-led government has put together, has some serious and strong weaknesses because the red tape that is there in respect of the funding of the entrepreneurs is too heavy; we need to loosen the screws a bit.
- The other critical component that we need to look at as the government is the aspect of the prerequisite for one to qualify to be employed, be it in the state situation or private sector. We are putting high conditions in terms of experience, in respect of entry point positions, so much that those who have recently graduated are not able to meet those conditions that are required in terms of available positions. This is a serious issue that we need to interrogate to check whether all the conditions that were put there are easily accessible to a person who wants to be employed for the first time. This is what government needs to pay attention to.
- Another thing that the government needs to take care of, Hon Speaker, is the aspect of what then becomes the theme for today's engagement of the commemoration of June 16.

The theme for this year is, "Skills for a Changing World – Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation". Hon Speaker, I want to submit to this honourable House that one of the most critical challenges that South Africa is struggling with regarding young people is the aspect of skills development. How do we then achieve that component? We need to reassess how our education system is allocated in respect of TVET colleges in terms of speeding up skills development. We must avoid what happened in 2010, when we had to source the skill of welding in Indonesia, when we were building the stadiums that we enjoy today as a country.

Hon Speaker, the demise of school sport activities has had a far difficult consequence in society. Years ago, young people used to be found in playgrounds, playing soccer and tennis, even though the fields were not conducive to playing tennis. As we speak

today, the only thing that young people can do when school is out at 14:00 is to loiter the streets – you find them loitering the streets without activity; the country is quiet about that; we are also quiet about which societal activities to create on the ground in order to keep young people entertained.

It is for these reasons that, at the ultimate end, we give them a lot of money, and they get food at school, and they do a quick collection of resources. What then happens to those resources? They are now dedicated to these activities that we are not condoning; it's either substance or alcohol abuse. We need to consider a situation where the country and society develop systems that can keep young people together when they come back from school and on weekends.

Hon Speaker, until we put together all members of society, i.e., churches, parents, traditional healers, and traditional leaders to discuss how best we can take care of young people, we will just be doing policies and putting them together and find it quite difficult to implement. A child is in the hands of a teacher when they are in school, and when they leave school, they are in the hands of the community. We will not be able to achieve the objectives that we set out for ourselves until the community becomes very aware, and we roll out a programme on drug abuse to the entire society.

As we celebrate 49 years, we want to change the situation, we want to change the scenarios, we want all young people's hands on the deck, every young person must be at school, every young person who is not at school must be playing soccer, those who are not playing soccer must be participating in what we usually call hard labour in skills for development so that we are able develop young people to stand up for themselves beyond their young age as and when they graduate.

The last thing that I want to submit to you, Hon Speaker, is that we need to have an education system or platform that is accommodative of the programmes of the other side. What do I mean by that? When you graduate, the first thing that happens is that you start putting your papers together to look for work. There is no programme that exists on the other side except for the internship that can take care of you on the other side. Young people are unable to be accommodated by the universities. Another challenge that we are facing today is that we do not have sufficient institutions of higher learning to absorb graduates when they pass matric.

You just imagine, out of the 100% who write matric, only 33%–45% of them are accommodated at higher institutions of learning. What then becomes the space for this imbalance in society is that these are the same young people that we find in the streets, who end up being lost and being part of these illegal substances that we spoke about.

Lastly, I would like to submit that we have got a generation of young people, who have since graduated, and a lot of them; these are young people that have been to varsities, spent four years, some five while for others is six years, but they have graduated, and they are not absorbed by the system.

The primary function of government is not necessarily to create jobs; the government has the responsibility to create material conditions that are favourable for the economy to grow and thrive. We, therefore, still rely on the private sector to get people to create jobs, to create a situation whereby young people can be absorbed, but how do we get

there? The government must continue to put together policies that are easy, possible, and workable so that the worker can have an appetite. How do we bring appetite into the situation of our province, if I were to bring it home? We have Musina-Makhado SEZ, which has a lot of potential to bring appetite in the form of investments, and we also have Fetakgomo-Tubatse. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please conclude, honourable Member.

MR MARINGA

In conclusion, Hon Chairperson, the topic is about young people, so it gets very interesting. The last round of my engagement, as I conclude, Hon Speaker, is that we are a country with great potential; we can end the challenge of substance abuse, and we can create an environment for investors to come and invest and employ young people. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene. A ti tele timhaka, kova nkarhi lowu a wu nga pfumeli hikuva se ku fikile na nkarhi wa swakudya swa nhlikani. Loko swi ri tano, hi khensile swinene Tanana Maringa and all other Members who have debated on the snap debate. All your inputs show that, indeed, you care about the people of the province. It is not a mistake that you are all sitting where you are because of the confidence the people of the province have in you – that you will continue to raise sharply, the issues that they are concerned about on the ground. Honourable Members, we are now on item 9.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

I will do the announcements; all my presiding officers are not here today. The announcements are as follows:

- The Legislature is saddened to announce the passing of one of our staff members, Mr Benard Nesengani, who was working at the Finance Section. We just received this sad news this morning.
- The Speakership will be having a meeting with the South African Human Rights Commission at Parliamentary Village on 13 June 2025 at 10:00. They are going to be raising issues that are affecting a number of portfolio committees. On that note, the chairpersons of the following portfolio committees are invited to attend the meeting at Parliamentary Village tomorrow: Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale; chairperson of the Standing Committee on the Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and Disability, Hon Manthata-Mahasela; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Hon Champ Sepuru; and chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, Hon Johannes Phokane. Chairpersons are allowed to delegate a member if they are not available.

- The Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, invites all Members to the youth commemoration that will be held at Leeuwfontein Sports Ground in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in Sekhukhune on Monday, 16 June 2025 at 07:00. Seven o'clock is not the time of arrival but the starting time, so we need to arrive on time. Our concern as the administration is that Members wake up on Sunday requesting accommodation for the following day; it is not possible. When an invitation is posted on time through WhatsApp, please communicate your request to the relevant person from protocol on time, whether it is the request for transport or accommodation, so that they can secure accommodation for you. However, they will not be able to find accommodation for you if you book late. I am just pleading with you to confirm on time when an invitation is made in the future, to allow those who are making logistical arrangements time to make bookings.
- Honourable Members, I am told that lunch will be served in the Main Committees Boardroom.
- The House will not be sitting on Tuesday, 17 June 2025, but we will have a Sitting on Thursday, 19 June 2025, here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chambers.

I would like to request all of us to rise for a moment of silence... [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

My apologies, Hon Speaker. There are two outstanding announcements:

- There is a cake that is to be served in the Main Committees Boardroom for all the Members who are available today, in celebration of Hon Lebea's birthday.
- Another one is about academic registration scheduled for tomorrow at Parliamentary Village; some of us were not there, so we don't know if it is still going to take place or not.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. As we rise to have a moment of silence for one of our staff members who has passed on, we remember him in our thoughts; we send our heartfelt condolences to the family; we hope that they will be comforted, and we are saying to Mr Benard Nesengani, may your soul rest in peace! Thank you. While we are still on our feet, let us honour the invitation made by Hon Mathe and sing "Happy Birthday" to one of our own, Hon Kedibone Lebea.

[SONG]

10. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you very much. The House is adjourned until 19 June 2025 at 10:00.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We will now have the opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you so much, honourable Members. We may take our seats. Good morning, honourable Members. We would like to welcome Hon Mapula Johanna Ledwaba. [APPLAUSE] She has been sworn in earlier today as a Member of the Economic Freedom Fighters to fill the vacancy that occurred during the passing of Selaelo Regina Mphahlele. Hon Ledwaba, we welcome you back to the Legislature.

Honourable Members, items 2 to item 6 on today's Order Paper are deferred to the ensuing Sitting.

[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 & PAPERS

We shall now proceed to the Orders of the Day.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Second Reading: Presentation of the Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B03-2025].

Budget Speech Vote 01: Office of the Premier. I shall now call upon the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to present the Budget Speech, Vote 1, Office of the Premier.

Honourable Members, please take note that you do not have more than 15 minutes. Thank you.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

(Address by Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker of our Legislature, Chief Whip of the Legislature, Chairperson of Committees, Deputy Chairperson of Committees, chairpersons of various committees, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Legislature, leaders of different political parties, traditional leaders in our midst, members of the religious fraternity, the Director General of our province, all heads of department, government officials, and all state owned entities. Avuxeni. Ndi mats Sheloni. Goeie môre. Good morning. Lotjhani. Thobela.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we return today to this esteemed assembly after the MEC for Provincial Treasury has re-tabled the provincial Budget on 10 June 2025. As I stand before you, I wish to re-table Budget Vote 1 of the Office of the Premier. This is in response to the changes and requirements stemming from adjustments within both the national and provincial budgets.

Our statement of intent regarding the R554 million allocation remains unchanged. Hon Speaker, we reaffirm the commitment shared on 08 April 2025. The Office of the Premier does not operate in isolation; it serves as the central hub for leadership, coordination, and support within the provincial administration. The Office of the Premier is strategically located to make sure it strengthens the unity amongst our resilient people of Limpopo, who continue to work hard in fighting common enemies; the enemy of poverty, unemployment, inequality and tendencies of tribalism which we saw this week trying to raise its ugly head in some other parts of our country directed to the beautiful people of our province, Limpopo.

A video that surfaced this week shows Qiniso Cibane, a youth leader from the MK Party, referring to another young person as “Ishangane lase Limpopo.” It is unacceptable, and as the Premier of this province, I feel if left unchallenged will continue to undermine the people of our province and the work we do daily to unite our people. While celebrating our cultural diversity, upon which as a province we were founded, we are proudly representing the Vatsonga/Machangani, Vhavenda, Northern Sotho speaking people, amaNdebele, Batswana, Afrikaners and English-speaking communities. There is no such an animal as “Ishangane lase Limpopo”; perhaps it exists somewhere else, but not in our province.

As the Seventh Administration, we will not tolerate derogatory language directed at our residents, whether from political parties, organisations or any other entities. Our government will not accept this provocation. Hon Speaker, our commitment towards providing leadership and support is reflected in the allocation of 63% of the R554 million to compensation of employees, with the remaining 37% dedicated to goods and services. These warm bodies are critically needed because they are tasked with the responsibility of providing support, monitoring and evaluation to all our 10 departments together with their state-owned entities.

Through our programmes, Corporate Management; Institutional Development Support and Planning; Coordination; Monitoring and Evaluation, we strive to strengthen governance in Limpopo, empowering all departments to deliver impactful services for our communities.

Hon Speaker, we recently returned from China, continuing our work following the Investment Roundtable Discussion held in May 2025. Our participation in the 116th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) in Macao illustrated the potential for infrastructure investment in Limpopo.

The IIICF is a globally recognised platform that encourages international collaboration in infrastructure development, promoting cross-border investment and showcasing innovations in the sector. This year's forum attracted senior officials, business leaders and global investors from over 70 countries.

Our goal was to advocate for investment in infrastructure, particularly focusing on our two SEZs, the Musina-Makhado and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones, because we are aware that even this House, rightfully and correctly so, is becoming impatient with the work that is supposed to happen at these two SEZs. We want to ensure that their functions become a reality in our lifetime.

Honourable Members, I hereby table the Budget for Vote 1: Office of the Premier, 2025/26 financial year.

Ndza khensa. Inkomu. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier. You took six minutes. I'm now expecting MECs to take five minutes. Thank you very much. The Budget Speech for Vote 1: Office of the Premier is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the Speaker, Dr Makoma Makurupetje, to come and present the Budget Speech for Vote 2: Limpopo Legislature.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

(Address by Dr M G Makhurupetje, Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature)

Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Portia Grace Mamorobela; Hon Premier of the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council present here today; Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Essop Mmanoko Mokgonyana; Leader of Government Business, Hon Rodgers Basikopo Makamu; Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Mapoulo – but today I can see the EFF is led by Hon Kgothatso Mogoane; Chairperson of Committees, Hon Thabo Mokone; Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Hon Hassani Peter Ngobeni; chairperson of the Oversight Mechanism, Hon Tshivhase Midiavhathu Prince Kennedy, honourable Members of this august House; leadership and guests that are here today, you are highly recognised. Ladies and gentlemen, thobela. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Lotjhani. Good morning. Goeiemôre.

Hon Deputy Speaker, on 03 June 2025, Hon Mahoai, the MEC for Provincial Treasury, stood up in this august House and said: “I rise to re-table the 2025/26 Limpopo Provincial Budget following a series of developments at both the national fiscal and monetary policy levels that have impacted our provincial fiscal planning. Hon Speaker, you will recall the events that led to the development of the revised national fiscal framework. The Minister of Finance re-tabled the revised national budget in Parliament on 21 May 2025, in line with these developments. Subsequent to that, I withdrew the Limpopo Appropriation Bill and related documents on 27 May 2025, which were previously presented to this House.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, on that basis, I stand here this morning to present and re-table the Budget of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Budget Vote 02, in line with the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act 10 of 2009, to this important august House.

Honourable Members, we present this Budget a few weeks after the burial of the former Speaker of this august House, Dr Tshenuwani Simon Farisani, a liberation fighter who fought the apartheid regime and who, in his lifetime, suffered and paid a price for having taken a stance against it. This struggle icon journeyed through the walls of the Legislature in his pursuit of a better life for our people, serving as a Speaker of this very august House, until his retirement in 2009 to continue his activism. In his honour, we are dedicated to continuing to strive and put our efforts towards making the Legislature an agent in a mission to change our people’s lives for the better.

On the other hand, we are tabling this Budget Vote during the month of June, whose commemoration is linked to a series of solidarity events that overlapped beyond 16 June 1976. These events took place throughout the length and breadth of our country, with sporadic attacks by the apartheid police on young people who were enjoined to demonstrate their commitment and determination to defeat a stubborn regime to usher in, at long last, a national democratic society, as long envisaged by our forebearers.

As we honour the legacy of the generation of young people and their struggle, it is very important to also remember one of our own – the son of the soil, lion of the north – Cde Peter Ramoswhana Mokaba. At his burial, our first President, Nelson Mandela, described him as follows: “Cde Peter Mokaba was fiery and militant, expressing the energy and impatience of the youth. Yet he could reach out to all sectors of society, including traditional leaders and the other older generation. Cde Peter Mokaba rose to speak in a measured and respectful tone, explaining to the king that the toyi-toyi was a chant and dance of resistance against apartheid and racial oppression. The traditional leaders, he pointed out, were not part of our oppressors, and the toyi-toyi was not directed against them.”

Indeed, the commitment and determination of the preceding generation of young people were not in vain. We stand here today in a democratic South Africa because of their relentless contribution to the struggle for freedom. As this Legislature prepares to host the Youth Parliament next week, we call upon all young people to come prepared to give inputs to inform both the Legislature and the provincial government on how we must ensure that the legislation we put in place, and the programmes implemented by our provincial government, guarantee them a better future.

Together with our youth, we are determined to eradicate the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality, as the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa entrusts this august House with the legislative authority to make laws within its jurisdiction – but more importantly, the authority to perform oversight responsibility by ensuring that organs of state in the province are accountable to it.

In addition, the Constitution further entrusts the Legislature with the responsibility to maintain oversight of the provincial executive authority as well as other organs of state, and lastly, stipulates that the Legislature must ensure public participation and active citizenry. We are saying to the young people of Limpopo: it is not the time to complain or point fingers; it is the time for you to prove yourselves by bringing your resolutions to this Legislature for us, as Members, to adopt during the Youth Parliament and for the provincial government to implement. The better future is now, and it is in your hands. This Legislature is your voice; use it, and we are here to serve you.

In fulfilling our constitutional mandate and obligations, it must be understood that there are critical factors which have influenced the resource needs and allocation for the Legislature during this budgeting period. Some of these factors include the fact that the current electoral term under the Seventh Legislature has seen an expansion in the size of the Legislature, owing to the increased number of Members of the Legislature from 49 to 64, and an increase in the number of political parties from four to six. I must therefore emphasise that increased resource allocation, aligned to these key developments, is necessary to ensure the ability of both Members of the Legislature and political parties to perform their duties in fulfilling their legislative mandate under the Seventh Legislature.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the implication of this on our call for increased resource allocation cannot be overemphasised. Lastly, this august House must further note that we are at the tail end of reconfiguring the organisational structure that will provide more administrative capacity and improve our oversight mechanism and its coordination. This shall enable us to effectively and efficiently fulfil our constitutional mandate on oversight.

This Budget will therefore focus on some of the following key deliverables: The Freedom Charter's emphatic point on public participation is embodied in the phrase, "The people shall govern," which entitles citizens to take part in the administration of the country as well as in democratic organs of self-government. The strengthening of both the Taking Parliament to People programme and our petition system demonstrates our dedication to fulfilling our constitutional mandate. Indeed, as has been maintained in the Freedom Charter, the people must govern.

The Legislature will hold a series of events. Taking Parliament to the People; this programme will be structured in a way that it will be held for the whole week, focusing on key service delivery points in a specifically identified district. All 64 Members of the Legislature will be present in one district. We will be expecting the Premier and the collective of MECs to attend and address the community on the last day. This initiative will be taking place in July 2025.

Hosting of the following Sectoral Parliaments: Youth Parliament is taking place on Friday, 27 June 2025. We encourage all political parties in the Legislature to prepare their delegates, while the Standing Committee on Quality of Life is working on other

relevant stakeholders accordingly. A warning to you, honourable Members; the youth don't want to be addressed by senior citizens. Therefore, go and make sure that the representatives that you bring are young people, because the last time we had a Youth Parliament, it was called off because they refused to be addressed by senior citizens. Only the young people must come and talk about their issues and their views.

Women's Parliament, People with Disability Parliament, and Men's Parliament will also be held by the Legislature in this financial year. We will be hosting the first Speaker's Forum on 04 July, which is the forum for us to engage on matters of oversight, including at the municipal level. The relevant standing committees and portfolio committees will be invited to make presentations, including CoGHSTA, Treasury, Scopa, and the Standing Committee on Petitions, to mention a few.

We will strengthen the administrative support to portfolio committees to ensure they implement their functions with minimal disruptions. We continue to explore the support of committees who wish to take on study tours, nationally, regionally and internationally, as required by different committees. The implementation of the full 2025/26 APP, and all APPs as adopted by all standing and portfolio committees, will be fully supported.

We will continue our regular engagements with the MEC for Public Works and his administration on matters relating to the maintenance of both the Legislative Chamber and offices in Lebowakgomo, Parliamentary Village, as well as on projects including the construction of new houses for Members.

The Legislature is designated as critical infrastructure, previously known as a National Key Point, in terms of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act 8 of 2019. This comes with a huge responsibility to make sure that the critical infrastructure is fully and properly secured. In this regard, we must ensure that resources are available to respond to the requirements as set out in the Act. To this end, we will upgrade our infrastructure, safety, and security systems to meet the required standards, as we will be working together with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Provincial Treasury.

To carry out this enormous work, the Budget for the Limpopo Legislature in the 2025/26 financial year still stands at R671 660 million, as there are no changes from what was presented previously. The complete breakdown of this Budget is as follows:

- Programme 1: Governance and Leadership is allocated R229,847 million;
- Programme 2: Administration is allocated R199,713 million;
- Programme 3: Parliamentary Services is allocated R125,599 million;
- Programme 4: Strategic and Knowledge Management is allocated R7,722 million;
- Direct Charge is R78,779 million; and
- The total Budget is R671 660 million

Honourable Members, as I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made our journey easy towards presenting this Budget Vote. My gratitude goes to the Premier, Members of the Executive Council, the Deputy Speaker, all Members of the Provincial Legislature deployed in various responsibilities, our staff led by the Secretary, Dr Tim Maake, Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, and communities in general

who continue to raise issues through the Legislature and contribute to our work. We reiterate the significance of your continued cooperation, collaboration, and support in ensuring that the Legislature fulfils its constitutional mandate.

It is my honour and privilege to table the Limpopo Provincial Legislature 2025/26 Budget Vote 02 to this august House for consideration and adoption.

Thank you. Ndo livhuwa. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Siyathokoza. Baie dankie. Ke tswatsweo!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The Budget Speech for Vote 02: Limpopo Legislature is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism for consideration and to report back to the House. Thank you very much.

We shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Rodgers Basikopo Makamu, to come and present the Budget Speech for Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (Address by Mr R B Makamu, MEC for CoGHSTA)

Greetings to the Hon Speaker of our Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the Legislature; colleagues in the Executive Council; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Hon David Sepuru, and the committee members; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Pandemic and Disaster, Hon Shai, and the committee members; honourable Members of this Legislature; Members of the opposition parties, the acting HOD of CoGHSTA and all other HODs. I see the full complement of accounting officers, including the Secretary of the Legislature.

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for inviting us to table our departmental Budget Vote 11 in this august House. The Budget we presented in April remains the same, which is R2 573 445 000.00 – a slight increase from the previous year's Budget of R2 556 000 000,00. This is broken down as follows:

- Administration : R449 000 million;
- Human Settlements : R1,2 billion;
- Cooperative Governance : R333 million; and
- Traditional Affairs : R530 million.

Hon Speaker, Programme 1, which is Administration, serves as an axle around which the department evolves in terms of human capital. This programme has an allocation of R449 million, which is 17% of the total Budget of the department. The department is continuing to build capacity by filling critical positions in the ISHS, Cooperative

Governance, Finance branches and Traditional Affairs. In the current financial year, the department will be filling 58 vacant positions, which include two Deputy Directors, General for Traditional Affairs and Cooperative Governance, as well as a Director in Anthropology.

On Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements, in this financial year, we will deliver the following projects with the R1,2 billion allocation: 2,923 Breaking New Ground houses; 1962 serviced sites; 1500 title deeds; 68 military veteran houses; removal of 500 asbestos roofs; completion of two informal settlements in Phase 1; disbursement of 70 subsidies under the RISIMA First Home Finance programme to cover the missing middle. In our quest to ensure access to adequate housing opportunities, we will complete 514 units in Marapong, the long-outstanding project, and we will further continue with the construction of the Tshikota and Talana CRUs.

Hon Speaker, on Cooperative Governance, our municipalities' spending on their Municipal Infrastructure Grant is R2,8 billion as at the end of May 2025, which translates into 83%. We will continue to use the budget to support the municipalities, and we appreciate those municipalities that received additional allocations due to exceptional performance.

On Disaster Management; climate change is upon us, and therefore, in order to mitigate and respond effectively to disasters, we will be finalising the Provincial Disaster Management Plan, together with the designs of our disaster management centres in our province.

In relation to Traditional Affairs, upon capacitating this institution, we will hand over three traditional council offices during the 2025/26 financial year. We are also fast-tracking the finalisation of the recognition of all outstanding traditional leaders within the stipulated 90 days, following the final meeting with royal families, provided there are no disputes.

Madam Speaker, our plans for the 2025 initiation season are well on track. We received 569 applications for both the winter and summer initiation schools. Out of these, a total of 530 applications were approved by the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC). This comprises 322 schools for males and 208 for females, respectively. The PICC, under the chairpersonship of Hosi S E Chauke, disapproved 40 applications which were found not to have complied with section 26(4)(a)(b)(i) and (ii) of the Customary Initiation Act no. 2 of 2021. Our clarion call to all key role players this year is: "Abaye baphila, babuye baphila," so that we can record a zero-death initiation season.

I therefore, honourable Members, present the 2025/26 Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

Thank you. Inkomu. Ndi kho livhuwa, Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Makamu. You made sure that you finish in less than six minutes. The Budget Speech for Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Education, Hon Mavhungu Maureen Lerule-Ramakhanya, to come and present the Budget Speech Vote 3: Department of Education.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Address by Ms M M Lerule-Ramakhanya, MEC for Education)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier; Hon Speaker; honourable MECs, led by the Hon Leader of Government Business; honourable Members of the provincial Legislature; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale, and committee members; Chair of Chairs; leadership of the African National Congress; leaders of the opposition parties; royal leadership; religious leadership; stakeholders in education; SGBs and unions; the DG and all HODs present; and partners from the education sector, good morning.

Hon Deputy Speaker, education is the foundation of progress in economic growth in our province. The immediate catalyst for resistance was the apartheid regime's 1974 Afrikaans-medium decree, which forced black schools to teach mathematics and social studies in Afrikaans, a language widely viewed as that of the oppressor. Students rejected an education system designed for subjugation, recognising that it would prepare them only for manual labour. Schools in black townships faced severe overcrowding and infrastructure neglect. Annual spending disparities were stark, and black students were further entrenched in economic apartheid laws.

The 1976 uprising amplified resistance against apartheid's education system, which offered no prospect of meaningful change. Violence, including pass laws, forced relocations, and job discrimination, formed the backdrop. Students marching to Orlando Stadium were met with police tear gas and live ammunition. Among the young students were 12-year-old Hector Pieterse and 15-year-old Ndlovu, who were killed. Protests spread to communities nationwide.

Post-1994 achievements saw policy shifts, beginning with the abolishing of Bantu Education. The 1996 Constitution guaranteed the right to basic education in one's chosen language. Increased access to near-universal primary enrolment and the introduction of no-fee schools for low-income learners led to a surge in secondary enrolment. Rural and township schools' infrastructure has significantly improved.

June 16, which is Youth Day, honours the 1976 martyrs. The Hector Pieterse Museum preserves their legacy. The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention includes learnerships, entrepreneurship support, and skills training.

Recognising the plight of the girl child, we drive campaigns on sanitary towels to uphold their dignity. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is about us in the Department of Education. We

want to reaffirm that our presentation, which was done in April in this House, and our Budget have not changed.

Therefore, we want to present the 2025/26 Budget Vote 3: Limpopo Department of Education. Our focus remains on expanding access to quality education, improving infrastructure, and investing in the future of our learners. For the 2025/26 financial year, the department has been allocated a total Budget of R42,529 billion, thanks to the MEC for Treasury and our Premier. It is going to be spread as follows: equitable share; conditional grant; and own revenue

This represents an increase of R2,6 billion, which is 6,7% from the R39 billion allocated under our Adjusted Appropriation Bill in the 2024/25 financial year. The allocation by economic classification has been distributed as follows:

- Compensation of employees : R32,5 billion;
- Goods and services : R4,4 billion;
- Transfers and subsidies : R4,0 billion; and
- Payments for capital assets : R1,4 billion.

To support critical education programmes, we have allocated the following conditional grant:

- National School Nutrition Programme Grant, R1,848 billion;
- Education Infrastructure Grant, R1,567 billion;
- Education Infrastructure Grant: Building a Legacy of Dignity and Equality;
- Early Childhood Development Grant, R295,968 million;
- Maths, Science and Technology Grant, R52,584 million;
- Learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability (LSPID) Grant;
- HIV/AIDS (Life Skills Education) Grant; and
- EPWP Integrated Grant

Norms and standards for public ordinary schools will be transferred to schools, and through their systems, will receive an amount of R2,963 billion. The ANC's "No-Fee School" policy is fortified here, ensuring that poverty never bars a child from accessing textbooks, science kits, and/or safe classrooms. Subsidies for independent schools have been allocated, and funding for public special schools has also been allocated. We have allocated R365,215 million to scholar transport. School furniture has been allocated R100,000 million, while E-education has been allocated R100,000 million.

We have also allocated a budget for the learner attainment strategy, and a budget for the printing of examination common papers to improve our results. We have also set aside R16,821 million for teacher development. We have allocated R15,000 million for the matric results intervention strategy, as the Premier demands. We have allocated R10,460 million for learning recovery, which will benefit all our learners and classrooms, as we are still recovering from COVID-19. We have also addressed the needs of the girl child through the Sanitary Dignity Project.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are also committed to inclusive education, and equally, active in the ECD space. We have allocated funds for ECDs' indoor and outdoor equipment,

as well as for ECD Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM). Additionally, we have made an allocation for the Education Management Information System, which enables us to track our learners' records.

In the Department of Education, we have also provided for library services and district accountability sessions, as part of holding our teams accountable at the district level and supporting both primary and secondary schools. We have allocated funding for systemic evaluation, the HRD system, and school safety. Due to escalating incidents of crime and violence, which are manifesting in more social ills, random searches and seizures for dangerous objects will continue to be implemented in our hotspot schools.

Hon Deputy Speaker, you will agree with me, as Nelson Mandela once urged: "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great." I want to call upon all of us in Limpopo to say, "Let us be that great generation." Let us work hand in hand, with dedication and passion, to ensure that the standard of education in Limpopo rises to new heights. Together, we can create a legacy of excellence that empowers our youth and transforms our province into a beacon of hope and opportunity.

I therefore present the Budget Vote 3, Department of Education, for the financial year 2025/26.

Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ndo livhuwa thoho ya zwickolo zwa Limpopo. The Budget Speech for Vote 03: Department of Education is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education for consideration and to report back to the House.

Honourable Members, we shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Nakedi Kekana-Sibanda, to come and present the Budget Speech for Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Ms N G Kekana-Sibanda, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; fellow Members of the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip; Hon Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; fellow Members of the provincial Legislature; distinguished guests; and the citizens watching from home, Avuxeni.

We meet today in the sacred month of June, which is Youth Month—a month in which we honour the brave generation of 1976, whose revolutionary spirit paved the way for the democracy we enjoy today. Their struggle was not in vain, and today, we carry that torch forward by empowering the youth of our nation, not just through words but through tangible action. In the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, we are driven by the fundamental belief that agriculture is not just the backbone of our

economy; it is the engine for transformation, inclusive growth, and sustainable development.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as we re-table Budget Vote 04 for the 2025/26 financial year, we do so amid global challenges — from extreme weather patterns caused by climate change to rising fertiliser and food prices. We can attest to these challenges, as we saw the tragic loss of 90 lives in the Eastern Cape. These hurdles threaten food security and economic stability.

Yet, despite these difficulties, we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving the people of Limpopo. Our department is intensifying its focus on building an inclusive, ethical, and developmental state. We are expanding farmer support, improving infrastructure, opening local and international markets, and working together with traditional leaders, learning institutions, and households to increase food production and improve livelihoods.

For the 2025/26 financial year, the total Budget allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development stands at R1,909 billion, reflecting a 7,14% increase from the previous year. This demonstrates the government's confidence in the sector's transformative potential.

Hon Speaker, this allocation consists of: equitable share: R1,563 billion and conditional grant: R346 million.

Honourable Members, the conditional grant is broken down as follows:

- Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme : R242,8 million
- Letsema : R83,5 million;
- Land Care : R14,2 million; and
- EPWP : R5,2 million.

These grants will directly support food security, infrastructure development, and employment creation; especially in rural communities and among the youth.

Hon Speaker, the allocation per programme is as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration is allocated R381 million.
- Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Use and Management : R138 million, which includes EPWP and Land Care funding.
- Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development is allocated R811,9 million, the largest share of the Budget. This programme supports the poorest of the poor and the downtrodden. It also covers portions of the commercial farmers, referred to as the patriotic bourgeoisie, because they too benefit from the national democratic revolution, Hon Mavhungu. The programme will further support smallholder and commercial farmers, and agricultural infrastructure and mechanisation.
- Programme 4: Veterinary Services is allocated R23,17 million. Limpopo continues to provide biosecurity measures, which is why we don't experience foot-and-mouth disease.

- Programme 5: Research and Technology Development is allocated R95,1 million.
- Programme 6: Agricultural Economics Services is allocated R83.8 million, including R32,7 million for the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) programme. This is a very progressive programme aimed at infrastructure investment and at accommodating the “triple P’s” for inclusive economic growth.
- Programme 7: Structured Agricultural Training is allocated R160, 9 million.
- Programme 8: Rural Development is allocated R6,5 million.

Hon Speaker, this Budget is not just numbers on paper; it is a social compact with the people of Limpopo, a continuation of the ANC-led government’s efforts to dismantle the legacy of land dispossession and economic exclusion. It is about creating real economic opportunities for youth, women, persons with disability, and emerging farmers.

Of course, we take into cognisance the phrase in the Freedom Charter, the progressive document whose 70th anniversary we celebrate this year, which declared that “the land shall be shared amongst those who work it.” This spirit is reinforced by the signing into law of the Expropriation Bill by the President of our country, to advance a just and equitable society.

I extend my gratitude to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, under the capable leadership of Hon Bella Kupa, and to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for their oversight and guidance.

Thank you to the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for your unwavering support, and to the entire Team Agriculture, led by our Acting HOD, Mpho Mashamba. To our farmers: your struggle is our struggle. We are in this together – and together, we shall rise and thrive.

Hon Speaker, I therefore humbly re-table Budget Vote 04 for the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the 2025/26 financial year.

Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nakedi Kekana. The Budget Speech for Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgobo Mahoai, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 05: Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL TREASURY

(Address by Mr K E Mahoai, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela; Hon Speaker of the Legislature, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; colleagues in the provincial Executive Council; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Hon Pheedi; leadership of the opposition parties; Members of the Legislature; HODs; religious leaders; traditional leaders; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Hon Speaker, Budget Vote 05 remains the same as tabled in this House on 10 April 2025, with an allocation of R512,8 million for the 2025/26 financial year, compared to the main appropriation of R478 million in the previous year, 2024/25.

The key focus in the current financial year is to strengthen the Provincial Treasury by improving strategies to support and monitor provincial departments, municipalities and public entities. Our departmental budget programme structure is composed of five programmes, with allocations as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration is allocated R220 million, to provide effective and efficient strategic management, administrative support, and sound financial management to the department.
- Programme 2: Sustainable Resources Management is allocated R93,1 million, to fund financial resource allocation and manage the provincial Budget. It will also support and monitor provincial departments and municipalities. An amount of R12 million is ring-fenced to strengthen the Provincial Treasury's capacity to support municipalities through focused support and intervention, while R5,9 million is ring-fenced for infrastructure support.
- Programme 3: Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management is allocated R58,319 million, to provide policy direction and facilitate the effective and efficient management of assets, liabilities and provincial supply chain management processes across departments and public entities.
- Programme 4: Financial Governance is allocated R81,1 million, to strengthen governance structures, including Shared Audit Committees and other oversight mechanisms.
- Programme 5: Shared Provincial Internal Audit Services is allocated R60 million, to protect organisational value through risk-based objective assurance, advice, and insight. The programme also coordinates a combined assurance model to broaden audit coverage, avoid duplication, and improve collaboration with assurance providers across the province.

Hon Speaker, the economic classification is as follows:

Compensation of employees	: R370,7 million;
Goods and services	: R132,5 million;
Transfer and subsidies	: R2,4 million; and
Payments for capital assets	: R7,0 million.

Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. Ndo livhuwa, Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahoi. The Budget Speech for Vote 05: Provincial Treasury is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Tshitereke Balwin Matibe, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 06: Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(Address by Mr T B Matibe: MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism)

Hon Mahoi has put me under a lot of pressure. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature , ndi matsheloni.

Today, we stand united with determination and purpose as we take bold steps toward a more prosperous Limpopo. Our province, rich in natural assets and entrepreneurial spirit, is poised for transformative growth. This Budget is crafted to drive economic activity, create jobs, and promote inclusive development. It is anchored in our strengths: agriculture, mining, tourism, and small enterprises. It builds on the vision we set out on 08 April 2025; one of shared prosperity, youth empowerment, and community upliftment.

Honourable Members, our Budget allocation, inclusive of transfers to our entities, remains unchanged since its presentation in April 2025. The LEDET group continues to implement the mandate of economic development and industrialisation, transforming the economy through enterprise development and facilitating market access.

Our 2025/26 Budget Appropriation for LEDET is as follows:

- Administration: : R431 million;
- Integrated Economic Development Services: R1,299 billion;
- Environmental Affairs : R419 million;
- Tourism : R138 million; and
- Total : R2,286 billion.

Additionally, the Budget includes transfers to public entities as follows:

- Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA): R1,144 billion;
- Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) : R102 million;

- Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB) : R72 million; and
- Total Transfers : R1,319 billion.

In our shared commitment to a reliable and sustainable public transport system, I seek the support of this honourable House for a strategic reallocation within the current budget of Great North Transport (GNT). The challenges of GNT are well known to this honourable House. We are proposing that R93 million of the existing R309 million capital grants, originally set aside for procuring 120 buses, be reallocated to address pressing operational needs. These include pension and medical fund obligations, addressing legacy gaps from 1999 to 2009 on pensions, and installing fleet management systems.

GNT has adopted a new, forward-looking operational model that blends new, refurbished, and leased buses. Early revenue data from leased buses confirms this is a more viable path. It shifts maintenance risks away from GNT and enables greater efficiency and focus on service delivery.

Hon Premier, we have heard your consistent reflections on the limitations of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency. We agree that LEDA, in its current form, lacks the agility to deliver on the Seventh Administration's economic and industrial development mandate. In response, we will implement LEDA's Sustainability Plan, endorsed by both EXCO and Scopa, aligning the agency with its Schedule 3D status under the PFMA.

This begins with a skills audit to ensure staff alignment with the mandate, and a restructuring of assets in mining, agro-processing, and real estate. Our goal is to position LEDA as a commercially viable and developmentally impactful institution that drives inclusive growth and job creation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I therefore submit the 2025/26 Budget for Vote 06.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. You did well. The Budget Speech for Vote 06: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Health, Hon Dieketseng Mashego to present the Budget Speech for Vote 07: Department of Health.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Address by Ms D M Mashego: MEC for Health)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; colleagues in the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip and Deputy

Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Dr Malebana, and all Members of the portfolio committee; Leader of the Opposition; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; Director-General of the province and all HODs; our traditional leaders; traditional health practitioners; leaders of the religious community; esteemed guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I rise before this House today as a proud deployee of the African National Congress and as the entrusted custodian of health services in our beloved province, to re-table the 2025/26 Budget Vote 07 for the Limpopo Department of Health. The 2025/26 health Budget has increased by 5,8% to R26,1 billion, with a significant portion allocated to strengthening district health services and district hospitals.

The R26,1 billion is comprised of R20,4 billion equitable share, R4 billion conditional grant and R220 million departmental receipts. The breakdown in terms of departmental programmes is as follows:

- R300 million is for Administration;
- R16,3 billion is for District Health Services;
- R1,3 billion is for Emergency Medical Services;
- R2,9 billion is for Provincial Hospital Services;
- R2,3 billion is for Central Hospital Services;
- R577 million is for Health Science and Training;
- R169 million is for Health Care Support Services; and
- R849 million is for Health Facility Management.

Of note, R174,1 million has been allocated for malaria control, and R2 billion for HIV and TB services. This increased funding will support the continued expansion of health services and infrastructure, ensuring that the province remains on a path of progress and improved health outcomes for all.

As I conclude this re-tabling of the 2025/26 Budget Vote 07 for the Department of Health; I do so with a deep sense of purpose and responsibility. This Budget is more than numbers on a page; it is a lifeline. It represents hope for the sick, relief for the overburdened health worker, and a promise to every citizen of Limpopo that their health and dignity remain a top priority.

We re-table this budget not as a setback, but as a step forward; one that strengthens our alignment with provincial imperatives and ensures that every rand is spent with impact, integrity, and accountability. We are tackling persistent health challenges such as maternal and child mortality, non-communicable diseases, and the HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics. We are building a province where no one is left behind; rural or urban, rich or poor.

We cannot do it alone. We call on this House, our social partners, our communities, and every health worker on the frontlines to walk with us on this journey. Let us move forward together; boldly, accountably, and united in our shared vision of a long and healthy life for all the people of Limpopo.

Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Molekgotlaphethiši wa Maphelo. We are managing our time very well, honourable Members. The Budget Speech for Vote 07: Department of Health is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for the Department of Transport and Community Safety, Hon Manana Suzan Mathye, to come and present the Budget Speech for Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

(Address by Ms S V Mathye: MEC for Transport and Community Safety)

Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Mamorobela; Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. Let me stand on the protocol that has already been established. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Madam Speaker, the department remains the highest revenue contributor in the provincial administration, accounting for almost 47,0% of the entire provincial revenue collection. During the 2023/24 financial year, the department collected R828,1 million, which is slightly less than the target. The actual collection of revenue represents 99,4%. The department projects collections of R931,5 million in the 2025/26 financial year, R974,3 million in the 2026/27 financial year, and R1,18 billion in the 2027/28 financial year.

Madam Speaker, allow me to deal with the allocation. The department has been allocated R3,25 billion for the 2025/26 financial year, an increase of 16,7%. Included in this Budget are conditional grant as follows:

- R481,4 million for 2026/27 financial year;
- R526,2 million for 2027/28 financial year;
- R2,5 million for EPWP; and
- R1,1 million for EPWP Social Grant for point duty.

Furthermore, the 2025/26 allocation includes earmarked funds amounting to R231,2 million, shared as follows:

- Gauteng-Limpopo High Speed Train: R80 million;
- Remedial work at Thohoyandou facilities: R58 million;
- Revitalisation of traffic craning College: R28 million;
- Revenue enhancement, provincial K53 projects: R25 million;
- Refurbishment of traffic facilities: R11,6 million;
- Vivo Weigh-In-Motion (WIM): R5 million;
- Electronic vehicle monitoring system: R46 million;
- Moving violation recorder (MVR): R3,5 million; and

- Refurbishment of government garage and departmental offices: R14,8 million.

The compensation of employees budget, which includes the appointment of 147 traffic officers, amounts to R627 million.

The department has also allocated R152,9 million in 2025/26 and R40,9 million in 2026/27 financial years for transfers to Gateway Airport Authority Limited for the implementation of the service delivery improvement plan and operational costs

The budget per programme is as follows:

- Administration : R627,48 million;
- Transport Operations : R1,331 billion;
- Transport Regulation : R1,1 billion; and
- Secretariat of Police Services : R65,97 million.
- The total Budget is R325 billion.

Madam Speaker, I hereby present to this august House the 2025/26 Budget Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety for consideration and adoption.

Ku dya i ku engeta.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech for Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Phakama Tony Rachoene, to present the Budget Speech for Vote 09: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(Address by Mr S E Rachoene: MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure)

Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Portia Mamorobela; Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; colleagues in the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the African National Congress, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip and the whippers; Members of the provincial Legislature; chairperson of our portfolio committee, Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, kere kgotsong.

It is with great humility and a deep sense of responsibility that I rise before this esteemed House to re-table the Budget Vote for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the 2025/26 financial year.

Honourable Members, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is not only a delivery department, but also a department of hope, progress, and empowerment.

On strategic priorities, in the year ahead our focus remains aligned with the Limpopo Development Plan, the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, and the Infrastructure Investment Plan. Our priorities are as follows: Job Creation Infrastructure: We must ensure that every rand spent creates value, not only in concrete and tar, but also in work opportunities, enterprise development, and skills transfer. The department managed to appoint 354 people on a permanent basis within a period of eight months, as part of our efforts and dedication to strengthen internal capacity, as directed by the priorities of the Seventh Administration under the stewardship of the first female Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

Furthermore, the Executive Council approved that the department may fill replacement positions vacated in the 2025/26 financial year, within the available CoE budget. This means that as posts become vacant, we fill them immediately without necessarily waiting for a long period. An additional 95 posts have already been advertised, with the extended closing date set for 20 June 2025. These 95 vacant posts will be filled in an estimated three-month period.

Maintenance and Sustainability: It is no longer enough to build; we must maintain. The cost of neglecting our assets far outweighs the cost of timely maintenance. Our Dikgerekgere programme will continue to intervene in the maintenance of gravel roads across the province. Recently, we visited Road D5000 in Tshiendeulu, in the Makhado Local Municipality, and witnessed the positive impact of such an intervention. Similar work is happening on many other roads across the province.

Communities affected by gravel roads in a dire state can attest to and appreciate these interventions, which provide temporary relief to our motoring public and communities by ensuring that the gravel road network is drivable. Our people must not be misled and lied to by people who are anti-progress, criticising the work of the #DikgerekgereWednesdays service delivery initiative to score cheap political points.

The ANC-led government is determined to serve its people. In the 2025/26 financial year, the entity of the department, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), will upgrade 21 new roads from gravel to tar. The specific roads have previously been highlighted in this august House, and I will not mention them again to save time.

We will continue with all projects planned for our client departments, as well as those that received earmarked funding.

I take this opportunity and reconfirm the Budget allocation for the 2025/26 financial year, which amounts to R5,627 billion. This Budget includes conditional grant funding of R2,55 billion for provincial roads maintenance. The allocation is further broken down as follows per departmental programme:

- Programme 1: Administration, which provides support to the department, is allocated R638 million.

- Programme 2: Infrastructure Operations, which has a mandate that includes determining accommodation requirements, rendering expert built-environment services to client departments, as well as the acquisition, management, maintenance and disposal of provincial government land and buildings, is allocated R1,2 billion.
- Programme 3: Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP): Responsible for the coordination and implementation of EPWP across sectors, is allocated R91 million
- Programme 4: Roads Infrastructure: Responsible for road infrastructure maintenance, is allocated R3,6 billion.
- Roads Agency Limpopo: Responsible for road infrastructure upgrades, will receive R958 million.

Let us work together, government, business, and communities, to build infrastructure that restores dignity, unlocks opportunity, and propels our province to greater heights.

I hereby re-table Budget Vote 9: Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and approval by this House.

Ke a leboga. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Dikgerekgere. The Budget Speech for Vote 09: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and to report back to the House.

We shall now call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Jerry Maseko, to come and present the Budget Speech for Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, AND CULTURE

(Address by Mr F J Maseko: MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture)

Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council; chairpersons of committees; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chairperson of Committees; honourable Members. Avuxeni.

I rise before this august House today to re-table the 2025/26 Budget Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, a Budget that speaks directly to the souls of our people, the spirit of our youth, and the cultural heritage that defines us.

Our mandate remains the transformation of sport, culture, and heritage in a manner that fosters social cohesion, drives nation-building and creates economic opportunities for

the people of Limpopo, including the youth, women, and persons living with disability. We are not merely custodians of heritage sites or organisers of cultural and sporting events, but enablers of dreams, builders of identity, and architects of a united, active, and creative society.

The overall Budget for Vote 10 in the 2025/26 financial year stands at R877,492 million, an increase from R 827,099 million in 2024/25, reflecting a growth of 6,1%. The Budget consists of an equitable share allocation of R643,637 million (73% of the total), and the remaining R233,855 million (27%) is allocated to conditional grant.

The Budget allocation per programme is as follows:

- Administration : R210,507 million;
- Cultural Affairs : R292,682 million;
- Library and Archive Services : R263,258 million; and
- Sport and Recreation : R111,045 million.

Madam Speaker, this Budget is not just a compliance document, but a roadmap outlining how we intend to deliver on our constitutional and developmental mandate. We are currently implementing the approved recruitment and procurement plans, which will see the department mainstreaming previously disadvantaged women, youth and persons with disability.

As we conclude, Madam Speaker, I wish to reiterate that this Budget is not just numbers on a page. It is a moral contract with the young footballers in Lephalale, the aspiring actors in Thohoyandou, the upcoming artists in GaMarišane, and the cultural archivists in Giyani.

Therefore, firstly, you are invited to join Members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs) every Tuesday at 06:00 in Parliamentary Village. Etlang re tle re sepele bagešu, le a lwala. Le a lwala, etlang lebe le rena mesong ya Labobedi le Labone lelengwe le lelengwe, re tle re le pshatleng dimpa tše. Mohlomphegi Matibe. Numeber two.....
[INTERJECTION]

[BACKGROUND]

Le a lwala!

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Le a lwala!

Secondly, we have organised a mass walk and boxing event in Thohoyandou for Youth Month, on Saturday, 28 June 2025 at 08:00. Re a lenyaka, etlang le tle le sepele, lea fokola.

Thirdly, there will be a “Survival of the Fittest” internationally acclaimed Boxing Extravaganza next Friday, 27 June 2025, in Limpopo. I, Funani “Jerry the Dynamite” Maseko, will face Tshitereke “Slow Poison” Matibe in Thohoyandou. You are requested

to buy tickets and support the event, because we want to see the economy flourishing in that area.

Lastly, let us commend Mamelodi Sundowns FC for their sterling work and for representing us. Re ba bethele matsogo.

I hereby present to this the august House the 2025/26 Budget Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, for consideration by this House. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Maseko, the Budget Speech for Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and to report back to the House.

Honourable Members, you are making noise. You are even causing MEC Radzilani to stand before I call her.

We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Social Development, Hon Florance Radzilani, to come and present the Budget Speech for Vote 12: Department of Social Development.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Ms F F Radzilani: MEC for Social Development)

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the governing party; leaders of the opposition parties; chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mathe, and the entire team; honourable Members of this august House; Director-General of our province; HODs and all senior government officials; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, very blessed morning to you all.

I stand before you today to re-table the Budget Vote for the Department of Social Development, a necessary step following the national directive requiring provinces to re-table their Budget allocations. I would like to inform this august House that the departmental allocation remains unchanged from the initially tabled Budget. Considering this, the plans for the department as presented in the Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan are also not changing.

Therefore, let me hasten to re-table our allocations for the financial year 2025/26 as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration is allocated R467,807 million.
- Programme 2: Social Welfare Services is allocated R577,489 million.

- Programme 3: Children and Families is allocated R719,887 million
- Programme 4: Restorative Services is allocated R275 million.
- Programme 5: Development Research is allocated R253 million.

These allocations therefore makeup the total Budget R2,294,866 million, that is R2,295 billion for our department.

Hon Speaker, the start of the 2025/26 financial year regrettably saw our province experiencing a surge in incidences of gender-based violence, predominantly affecting women, children, and the elderly. In response, the department is committed to doubling its efforts to combat this scourge. We are actively coordinating a comprehensive plan to address gender-based violence, ensuring coordinated action at all levels in Limpopo.

We have also observed with great concern the challenges faced by non-profit organisations (NPOs). Many NPOs struggle with adherence to legislation, administrative compliance and financial accountability, amongst others. To address this, we have taken a keen interest in strengthening our NPOs through rigorous training aimed at improving governance and enabling them to deliver essential services to our vulnerable populations effectively.

Since taking the helm of the Department of Social Development at the start of the 2025/26 financial year, we have orchestrated a remarkable turnaround, achieving significant milestones. Notably, we have increased women's representation at senior management level to 52%, underscoring our commitment to fostering inclusive leadership. Furthermore, we have managed to reach the employment target of 2% for persons living with disability.

We are also nearing a significant milestone with the upcoming appointment of the head of department by our Premier, who will provide pivotal leadership in driving the strategic administration of our department. The recruitment process is at an advanced stage, and we look forward to welcoming a highly qualified and capable candidate to this key role.

The department's remarkable turnaround is a direct result of the outstanding leadership provided by the Acting HOD, Dr Martin Sehlapelo, coupled with the unwavering commitment and teamwork of our entire staff. This achievement is a testament to the collaborative effort and dedication of the entire departmental team, who are working tirelessly with a shared vision to ensure that our department delivers quality services aligned with its mandate. This commitment is a reaffirmation of the aspirations articulated in our electoral manifesto, confirming that the ANC-led government remains people-centred and people-orientated, particularly towards our most vulnerable citizens, whose wills and wishes are housed in this Vote that we are re-tableing today.

We shall continue to serve our people, as we have done in the past. Together with our people as well as our various stakeholders, we must strengthen social compacts, solidify partnerships, and enhance the constitutional mandate bestowed upon us.

I therefore wish to express my appreciation and thank the executive leader of our government, Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for her visionary and thoughtful leadership, support and guidance.

In the same vein, let me express sincere gratitude to my fellow Members of the Executive Council for their continued support and teamwork, as well as our portfolio committee, led by Hon Simon Mathe, for their robust engagement, which has been instrumental in the progress and positive transformation we are experiencing as a department. Together, we will continue to build a society where everyone's dignity is upheld, and their rights protected.

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Radzilani. The Budget Speech for Vote 12: Department of Social Development is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development for consideration and to report back to the House.

Honourable Members, the MEC for Provincial Treasury has made sure he was brief, as he only took three minutes to render his speech. The rest of the MECs took a bit more time, five minutes, six minutes, even eight minutes. The longest speech, of course, came from the owner of the House.

[LAUGHTER]

We appreciate it, honourable Members, and that was on a lighter note. Thank you very much.

8. NCOP BUSINESS

I shall now call upon the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana for NCOP Business.

THE CHIEF WHIP

You must always know that when I take the podium, it means we are nearing lunch.

8.1 Appointment of Special Delegates to Attend NCOP Plenaries

Hon Speaker, the NCOP has scheduled hybrid plenaries, and provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these plenaries. In terms of Rule 226(1), I therefore propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend the NCOP Plenary:

- Plenary to deal with Questions to Cluster 1: Peace and Security, Defence and Military Veterans, taking place on 24 June 2025 in a hybrid format: Hon K Lebea, Hon M C Mohale and Hon D A Nenguda.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. I shall now call for a seconder. Over to you, Hon Sebopela.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for seconding, Hon Sebopela.

9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements from the Deputy Chairperson of Committees?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. When you call me seat of seats, it means you are calling me seats. Please call me the Chairperson of Committees.

Hon Maseko, please add me to that line-up. I will choose whom to take from the opposition, maybe Hon Lebogo. Yes, he has accepted. Add us to the line-up, Hon Maseko.

Thank very much, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Leader of Government Business and all Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip and all members of the whippers; Members of the opposition parties and all honourable Members. I also wish to congratulate Hon Ledwaba, who was sworn in this morning.

I rise to make the following announcements:

- Firstly, the Hon Speaker, has received a resignation letter, with effect from 30 June 2025, from Hon Maila of the UAT, who is also a Member of this august House. We would like to wish you well in your future endeavours.
- Secondly, the funeral service of the late Mr Benard Nesengani, an employee of the Limpopo Legislature based in the Finance Section, will be held tomorrow, Friday 20 June 2025, at Vuwani Town Hall. The funeral service will commence at 10:00. Honourable Members who wish to attend the send-off are advised to see the Protocol Section for transport arrangements.
- Thirdly, when the House adjourns today, it will reconvene on Tuesday, 08 July 2025 in the Lebogakomo Legislative Chamber.
- Fourthly, the Standing Committee on Quality of Life will convene a preparatory meeting on Monday, 23 June 2025, at Parliamentary Village at 12:00.;
- Lastly, lunch will be served in the Committees' Boardroom.

Thank you very much.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of Chairs. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 08 July 2025, at 10:00, in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 08 JULY 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. THE SPEAKER

We will now take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you so much. Good morning, honourable Members; the Premier; honourable MECs; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; Leader of the Opposition and all other Members.

We acknowledge the presence of the honourable Member. I know that we have acknowledged you, Hon Ledwaba; but we are formally acknowledging you now. [LAUGHTER]. So, you are warmly welcome.

We want to welcome everybody who is sitting in the gallery, and everybody who is following us on social media. We are starting with today's sitting of the Limpopo Legislature. Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much.

We have concluded item 1.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

We are now moving to item 2. Are there motions without notice in line with Rule 145. Over to you, Hon Maringa.

MR MARINGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE BLASTING INCIDENT THAT DAMAGED HOUSES IN THE BURGERFORT
AREA**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The blasting incident damaged the houses of residents in the Burgersfort area about a week ago.
- We have received reports that several houses in the villages next to Chromex Mine, outside Burgersfort in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality, were damaged.

- We are making a clarion call to the government to make interventions, investigate this incident, and ensure that the affected residents are properly compensated.
- This government has a duty to protect citizens, and we are therefore obliged to pursue the mines and ensure that a similar occurrence does not happen again in the future.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? You are recognised, Hon Mmetle.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I second the move as proposed by Hon Maringa.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS HELM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S DECISION TO LIFT THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE MANAGEMENT AREA (Motion without Notice)

I move on behalf of the DA that this House notes the Minister of Agriculture's decision to lift the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) management area, which had been in place since September 2022 and covered portions of Mopani and Vhembe Districts.

Limpopo is now, after seven years, officially free of the foot-and-mouth disease; i.e., outside the province's permanent FMD controlled area, which remains in place due to its proximity to Kruger National Park.

The House acknowledges the severe impact that FMD outbreaks have on exports, the farming community, and society at large.

The House further acknowledges that the successful eradication of FMD requires coordination and collaboration between various organs of state, the farming sector, and society at large. And now the important one:

The House expresses its appreciation to all role players who contributed to the upliftment of the disease management area, including our own Limpopo Veterinary Services, SAPS, SANDF, Red Meat Industry Services, Limpopo Red Meat Producers

Organization, Fleis 'n traal, Kock 'n Seuns, organised agriculture through Agri-Limpopo and Taal SA Limpopo and the province's commercial, small scale and also subsistence farmers.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. I second the motion as submitted by Hon Helm. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Any further Motion? Over to you, Hon Magolo. Am I correct? Okay.

MR MAGOLO

Yes! Good morning, and thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE EFF SYMPATHISES WITH COLLEGE OF AFRICA STUDENTS AFTER FIRE BROKE OUT ON CAMPUS (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF in Limpopo sympathises with the students of College of Africa, in Mankweng, near the University of Limpopo, after a fire broke out on campus.
- Several buildings, including residential buildings for both male and female students, caught fire, resulting in devastating effects.
- The cause of the fire is still unknown as the investigations regarding the incident are still ongoing.
- The EFF is thankful that there are no reported injuries to students due to this incident, but in the absence of fatalities, fires can lead to both physical and psychological trauma.
- It is regrettable that the students' identity documents, academic documents, laptops, and clothes were burned beyond recognition; such is the magnitude of the damage the fire has caused.
- Furthermore, this incident will have a negative impact on teaching and learning, especially as we approach the crucial year-end examinations.

- We call upon Home Affairs to set up satellite offices to assist students with identity documents.
- We also call upon the municipal disaster management to urgently deal with the situation in order to restore normality.
- The Department of Social Development must also come on board to provide relief aid to the students in the form of food parcels until the situation is fully resolved.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? You are recognised, Hon Baloyi.

MR BALOYI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to second the motion, presented by Hon Magolo.

THE SPEAKER

No, they are saying that you should stand up. Please stand up.

MR BALOYI

Is it because it's me? She was not standing, she was not standing, and you didn't say anything.

THE SPEAKER

No! I think that it was an omission on my side; I accept the responsibility. It was an omission on my side. [INTERJECTION]

MR BALOYI

Okay! No, it is fine. I am here to second the motion presented by Hon Magolo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any other motion without notice? Over to you, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much; a very blessed morning to the Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. My name is Kedibone Lebea of the African National Congress.

**THE TREMENDOUS SUCCESS OF THE SAPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME IN
THE MALAMULELE AREA, VHEMBE DISTRICT**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise without note in this august House, for the House to note:

- The tremendous success that the SAPS recorded in the fight against crime in the Malamulele area, Vhembe District.
- That there was a spate of sporadic criminal activities that involved robberies, murder, attempted murder, and rape between January and May this year.
- That a total of 11 cases were reported, and an intelligence-driven operation led the police to the arrest of suspects who were linked to the commission of all these activities.
- That an invader was fatally shot in one of the incidents during a house robbery, and his circumstances had to finish him off, as they attempted to run away from the house.
- That we have witnessed the people of Malamulele taking to the streets not so long ago, protesting against the spate of criminal activities in the area.
- That we are delighted to announce in this august House, that the SAPS, through its superior fighting endeavours, led by the provincial commissioner, Mme Thembi Radebe, has managed to apprehend the perpetrators and they are currently awaiting trial.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Lebea. Is there any seconder? Hon Shai, you are recognised.

MR SHAI

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Lebea.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there further motions without notice? You may proceed, Hon Ledwaba.

MS LEDWABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

SASSA'S SUSPENSION OF OLD AGE GRANTS
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF for the House to note that:

- The EFF strongly condemns SASSA's suspension of the old age grant.
- This agency is currently denying and blocking pension payouts for reasons that cannot be morally justified.
- They are also denying individual pensions to spouses of those working in government. More than ten thousand pensioners did not receive their pensions this month in the Capricorn District.
- This ill treatment of elderly people by SASSA is regrettable and unfortunate. Pensioners are the most vulnerable group in society, and they rely on their monthly grants for food, medication, and basic survival. These pension grants are their only source of income. The suspension of grants has far greater implications for sustainable livelihood in communities.
- The majority of recipients of these grants are breadwinners who are feeding their grandchildren who are orphaned due to a variety of circumstances. These children are not receiving grants from the government to help them navigate through life.
- While the elderly suffer abuse in the hands of family members on a daily basis, the actions of SASSA have made their lives seem even more difficult going forward. They are not sure as to whether they will get their grants next month; of most disheartening is that they do not know where their next meal will come from.
- SASSA's decision to suspend grants is extremely reckless and insensitive...

BACKGROUND

[Inaudible]

MS LEDWABA

Nke le ntlogeleng.

BACKGROUND

[LAUGHTER]

MS LEDWABA

- ...insensitive and morally distasteful in a society where poor households depend on these grants for daily survival. Le ntlwaela gampe.
- The MEC for CoGHSTA must ensure that all municipalities do not disconnect municipal services to affected grant beneficiaries.

- Furthermore, we demand that the Department of Social Development provide immediate food hampers to affected families until this matter is... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Order! Order honourable Members. Can we have order, honourable Members!

MS LEDWABA

- ...completely resolved.
- There must be a special run for payments of those who were affected by this illegal suspension. This unfortunate situation confirms that, indeed, ANC only cares about people during election seasons.
- It is clear that our people are on their own, and the EFF will push the government to prioritise resolving this life-threatening matter.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Magolo, you are recognised. I see the hand of the Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and good morning to honourable Members. Whilst we sympathise with those who did not get their SASSA grants, we object to the motion based on the fact that firstly, it started on a generalist note, not being specific as to who must we sympathise with. Secondly, it started to be instructive as it went further; which is not allowed in terms of the rules of motions without notice. Thirdly, it became littered with accusations against other people that are not related to the matter. We, therefore, object to the motion on those basis, with very reserved thoughts, because we sympathise with those beneficiaries.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the objection? Over to you, Dr Selane.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Dr Che Selane, support anything that the Chief Whip and the majority party raise in this House. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

According to the rules, a motion automatically falls off if it is objected to, unless you want a division of the House. Okay. [LAUGHTER]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

The message has been delivered. Ba kwele.

THE SPEAKER

The motion falls off. Thank you so much, we are now proceeding, honourable Members. I recognise you, Hon Mokaba. A motion without notice, the stage is yours, madam.

MS MOKABA

Finally, thank you. Hon Speaker. Good morning, honourable Members.

**ANC'S CONGRADULATORY MESSAGE TO EDWARD KGAROSE FOR HIS
DELICIOUS SWEETPOTATO YOGHURT**
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, as the ANC in this august House, we applaud the entrepreneurial spirit of Edward Kgarose. A young person from GaMolepo outside Polokwane, where my parents come from. Ka kua thoko tša bo Mankgaile, re a tšweletša. He is producing a unique sweet potato flavoured yoghurt.

It is also encouraging to note that the government has also intervened in his enterprises and provides him with some form of assistance from many of its programmes, assistance from the African National Congress-led government.

Mr Kgarose's sweet potato flavoured yoghurt is a first of its kind, and it has received interest and great reviews from other parts of the globe.

We urge the government to continue to support initiatives like these, as their existence will assist in its job creation endeavours.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the motion? Honourable Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga mosepetša mošomo, Ngaka Makhurupetje. Tšeo a di bolelago ke nnete, le nna ke ile ka ja yokate ye, e bose kudu. Ke tloga ke thekga se ba se boletšego. Ke a leboga.

E bose kudu.

THE SPEAKER

Bare ba ekwele, e bose kudu. Thank you so much. Are there any further motions without notice? In the absence of any, we will proceed to item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? There is none. We will now proceed to item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there Members' Statements in line with Rule 199? Hon Baloyi, you are recognised.

MR BALOYI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR'S FINDING ON THE MALADMINISTRATION IN THE
ANC-LED VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND MUSINA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)**

The EFF in Limpopo has noted with dismay the findings of the Public Protector on the maladministration of the ANC-led Vhembe District Municipality and Musina Local Municipality. The two municipalities openly failed to monitor, maintain, and upgrade the sewage infrastructure. This resulted in sewage spillage in the area they served. The spillage was causing environmental damage and endangering public health.

It is disappointing that the two municipalities failed to mitigate the situation by fixing the damaged sewage pipes and all other relevant infrastructure in this regard. Sewage spillage can lead to water-borne diseases, contaminate water resources, and have a negative impact on tourism and agriculture. Furthermore, sewage spillage can overwhelm wastewater treatment plants, requiring costly repair and maintenance.

The shocking level of maladministration of the two ANC-led municipalities reflects maladministration in many other ANC-led municipalities in the province of Limpopo. The majority of the dysfunctionality results in people not receiving the services they deserve.

We call upon the MEC, Hon Basikopo Makamu, to force the two municipalities to urgently implement the recommendations of the Public Protector, within the stipulated timeframe. Tatana Basikopo Makamu, mi swi tiva kahle leswaku leswi hi swi vulavulaka laha i ntiyiso. Leswi humelelaka eMusina swa vava, a va ha dyi kahle na vuswa vanhu. Ku na thyaka leri nunh'waka. Kutani hi kombela mi swi tekela enhlokweni, mi hatlisa mi swi lunghisa hi ku landza xiviko xa Public Proctetor.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any further Member Statement? Over to you, Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE APALLING STATE OF WASTEWATER SEWAGE PLANTS IN LIMPOPO
(Members' Statement)

I made a statement in this House on 07 March 2024, about the shocking state of the wastewater and sewage plant in Limpopo. At that time, the then Minister of Water and Sanitation and the DA had laid charges against Sekhukhune District Municipality, Ellias Motsoaledi, and Ephraim Mogale Municipality for noncompliance with legislation. In that statement, we raised concerns about the severe health risks and contaminated water being supplied to residents in Limpopo, as mentioned by the EFF. 16 months down the line, and there have been no changes; in fact, the situation has deteriorated even further.

Polokwane's wastewater plant is spewing untreated water into the Sand River. Fish are drying in droves, but people are trying to sell them, and an independent water test has shown that the eco-life count is over fifty times higher than it should be. Limpopo, as mentioned, made headlines again when the Public Protector confirmed that Vhembe District Municipality and Musina Municipality are guilty of maladministration for poor maintenance of their wastewater treatment plant.

After his recent visit to Limpopo, the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation announced that 78% of our wastewater treatment plants are dysfunctional. Hon Premier and MEC Makamu, how long are the people of Limpopo expected to be subject to this appalling state of affairs? It is a disgrace, it is embarrassing, and it drives away investment and job opportunities.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any Member Statement? Over to you, honourable Ledwaba.

MS LEDWABA

Le thomeng akere?

THE SPEAKER

I hope that the MECs are noting all the issues, and then they will respond afterwards. Over to you, Hon Ledwaba.

MS LEDWABA

**THE DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCIAL TREASURY IS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO
ENSURE THAT SUPPLIERS GET PAID WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD**

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, this department is not doing enough to hold other departments accountable, ensuring that suppliers get paid within the prescribed time of 30 days. The majority of service providers continue to struggle because of this violation of policy, and in worst-case scenarios, they close shop and shed jobs.

Many women-owned enterprises have been prioritised for procurement, monitoring, and technology governance areas. How are enterprises owned by people with disabilities being prioritised for procurement, monitoring, and technology governance areas? Why is the department setting aside 70% of its budget for women-owned enterprises and not for all the departments and state-owned entities? Surely this progressive move cannot be one for the department only; it can be for the entire provincial government.

Hon Speaker, the vacancy rate of 10% is disappointing because it has adverse effects on service delivery. At face value, this may seem to be at a similar percentage, but it has serious implications for service delivery. What we need is 0% vacancy rate. Every vacancy must be filled within a space of six months to avoid service delivery disruption.

The EFF is concerned about the target of 52 municipal assessments that will be conducted in municipalities. The target is so low that the department may not achieve what it seeks to achieve for the things that are compromising service delivery. Furthermore, the budget for programme 4, Finance Governance, was reduced by 0.2%. The move is extremely backward and has devastating effects on service delivery...

MS LEDWABA

Nke le iketleng. Budget on programme 01... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Ledwaba, I have deliberately allowed you to debate, but I think that the concern is that we still have a debate, and it seems like you are already in the debate; however, you can conclude if you think that it is a Members' Statement.

MS LEDWABA

It is a debate.

THE SPEAKER

Okay.

MS LEDWABA

This move is extremely backward and has devastating effects on service delivery. Service delivery sabotaged by this department is clear enough for all to see. Why do you decrease budgets on programmes? When you should be increasing them for an accelerated service delivery. This defeats logic, and it shows the highest form of laziness in thinking.

There is a direct link between budget increase and service delivery. This is basic logic that you should be aware of. What measures have you put in place to promote accountability and compliance with financial norms and standards as contained in the Public Finance Management Act? Can the department update us on the implementation of successful resource management to date?

Hon Speaker, we ask all these questions because we have a responsibility to hold the government accountable and make sure that the people of Limpopo get what they deserve. Can...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion.

MS LEDWABA

Okay.

THE SPEAKER

As you conclude, Mama.

MS LEDWABA

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. You have made your Members' Statements. It is now time for the Honourable MEC and the Executive to respond to the debates made by honourable Members.... [INTERJECTION]

MS WILSON

Sorry, point of order, Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

Yes, Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

There is a timeframe on motions and Members' Statements in terms of the rules. I think that maybe it's time that those timeframes that dictate time allocations on Members' Statements and motions be recirculated, because they have clearly been forgotten. There is a difference between Members' Statements, a debate, and a speech. I think that that information must be recirculated. I also think that those are the instructions that we must adhere to in this House. I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Monama, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Okay. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I think that I am not necessarily supporting Hon Wilson, per se, but I agree and share the same view as her. I think that the decorum of this House has some limitations when it comes to the motions and Members' Statements and the timing thereof. A statement sounds more like a debate. I understand the energy that the new Member still has. However, we must not relax the rules and orders of this House, just to massage the egos of newly sworn-in Members. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The Presiding Officer's view is that I will request the Programming Committee to look at the time when they draft programmes upon receiving statements and motions, so that we can be timed accordingly. We know how much time we need. So, we will be guided by the Programming Committee in terms of time allocation.

Thank you so much. We will now proceed to allow Honourable MECs to respond. MEC Makamu, who is the Leader of Government Business and also the MEC for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, it's your turn.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much for the opportunity, Hon Speaker. I was interacting with the MEC for Treasury. We wanted to respond to the Members' Statement, but there are several issues that were raised there. I agree with your ruling and what the Deputy Chief Whip has said. We will deal with it in the Programming Committee. We were able to hear some of them, even though the matters were so many that they do not deserve to be a Members' Statement.

On the issue of payments of the small and medium enterprises within a period of 30 days, this provincial department receives a report from each and every EXCO, which shows how much we are doing. Comparatively speaking, you can go all over the country, and you will see that we are one of the provinces that are doing very well in terms of paying invoices that are not being disputed within 30 days.

Hon Baloyi raised an issue about something that he read from the Newspaper; a report that was issued by Public Protector, Gcaleka, about the Musina sewage spillage. I must say to honourable Members that they must learn how Chapter 9 Institutions work. They only come after people have raised issues, and the government has tried to do its work, and there are failures in some areas. You do not have to call upon me to make the two municipalities work together to address the Musina-Makhado sewage spillage. You can go there tomorrow, and you will see that we are already on-site as CoGHSTA, trying to fix the sewage in Musina, using our budget. [APPLAUSE].

I can even mention the name of the contractor, because I was shocked when I saw the story that you read in the Newspaper. I have the story, and I am willing to share the link so that you can go through it; that is the work that we are doing in Musina to support the municipality. This can be done as an oversight.

With regard to the issue that you have raised about sewage spillage in Sekhukhune, Hon Wilson, I can confirm that you can go check the work and the amount of money that we have raised and invested to support the Ellias Motsoeledi Local Municipality in trying to deal with sewage and water rejuvenation. It is something that is for you to access as an honourable Member. You are allowed to do that. We have evidence.

Coming to the visit by the Deputy Minister, I am worried about the fact that the Department of Water and Sanitation has two Deputy Ministers, Minister Seithloho and Minister Mahlobo. The Deputy Minister Seithloho was also in the province on the same day that you are talking about. To show that you are trying to do certain things, Hon Member, you only talk about one Minister, who was just on a tourist type of visit in the province.

Just choosing specific areas that have challenges, which the government is attending to; by going to Mogalakwena, Mopani, and all these areas are areas that the government is not going to. It is not about cheap politicking scoring; we are saying that we are resolving the sewage issue in Polokwane and Mogalakwena, as you have mentioned. This Polokwane matter is not coming for the first time; we have said that we are still busy with the local municipality to ensure that the wastewater treatment plant is being attended to.

I even have pictures that show how this was affecting people. It is good that I will come back and try to respond specifically to this challenge. However, I am saying to the honourable Members, let us not use our opportunity in the Legislature for cheap politicking scoring, because we are dealing with these matters. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You will remember that in as much as Hon Makamu was responding for CoGHSTA, he is also a Leader of Government Business. So, he can respond for everyone. I hope that he has represented you, Hon Mahoai. Okay.

Thank you so much. We will now proceed. Hon Premier, we would like to thank the honourable MEC for responding in the manner which he did for everyone. You are happy. Can we proceed? Thank you so much. We will now proceed to item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements? None, I didn't receive any indication, so we can proceed to item 6.

Can we now proceed, honourable Members?

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS, AND PAPERS

We are now on 6.1. Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports, and Papers. Hon Mathe [LAUGHTER].

6.1 The Tabling of the Consolidated Report of the Municipal Finance Act No 56 of 2003, in the Year Monitoring Section 71.7, reporting 31 of 2025

Hon Mahoai, the MEC for Provincial Treasury, it's over to you.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Section 71(7) of the Municipal Finance Act provides that the Minister for the Department of Treasury must, within a period of 30 days after the end of each quarter, make a public statement as may be prescribed, a consolidated statement in a prescribed format on the state of the Municipality Budget per municipality and municipal entity.

Madam Speaker, in line with the provisions of the above-mentioned legislation, I hereby table the consolidated MFMA section 71(7) report for the quarter ending 31 March 2025 for consideration by this august House.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I submit.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The consolidated section 71 report of the Municipal Finance Management Act for the financial year ending 31 July 2025 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 2023/2024 Annual and Oversight Report of Thabazimbi Local Municipality

Honourable MEC Makamu, the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs, it's over to you. Molekgotlaphethiši wa Kgoro ya Pušotirišano, Bodulo bja Batho le Merero ya Setšo.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Ndza khensa, Xipikara, Dokodela Makoma Makhurupetje.

Section 132(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act provides that municipalities must submit their Annual Oversight Report to the relevant provincial Legislature. Madam Speaker, in line with the provision of the above-mentioned legislation, I hereby table the Annual Oversight Report for Thabazimbi Local Municipality, for the financial year ending 2023/24, for consideration by this august House. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Honourable MEC. The 2023/24 Thabazimbi Local Municipality Annual Oversight Reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House. We now move to item 7, Orders of the Day.

Honourable Members, the time is going to work now. Please make sure you time yourself, because we are not going to have mercy today. The debates are almost four or five. So, we will try to stick to time. Let's stick to the time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1, Second Reading Debate: Approval of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025].

Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

It's over to you, committee chairperson, Hon Bella Constance Mabuza. [APPLAUSE].

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Chief Whip; the Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chairperson of Committees; Deputy Chairperson of Committees; Premier, and honourable Members. Good morning.

I, Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza, the chairperson of Agriculture and Rural Development, hereby present the report before the august House for consideration, adoption, and making it a resolution of the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Do we have any seconder to the report? You are recognised, honourable Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mospikara, Ngaka Makhurupetje. Ke ema go thekga tšeo Mshengu a di boletšego. Ka lebaka la gore ke rena Maloko a Komiti. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ke zwaa zweo, molobedu. Re a leboga. We shall now move to the Speakers' List. The first honourable Member to come to the podium is Hon Wesly Vongani Maringa. Let's make it quick, honourable Members. Your ten minutes start now.

MR MARINGA

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; the Chief Whip and the whippers, and all honourable Members of this august House, avuxeni.

Hon Speaker, it is an honour to stand in this august House, for consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and its Budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Allow me to remind this House of the critical role that this department plays in humankind and human life. Everyone who is present here has interacted with a farmer from the time we woke up, from the very second you left your bed, to other activities that have been completed, including the breakfast that you have enjoyed today.

Hon Speaker, I must refresh this august House by highlighting the critical aims to develop annual budgets, the critical roles that come with how we deal with strategic planning in terms of our readiness for expenditure, and our readiness for commitment in terms of dealing with delivery related to agricultural purposes as a department.

Hon Speaker, it is evident that, for the time that we have had to see a budget being read many times since the dawn of democracy, and at some point, we had to wait for a long period of time before the National Budget could be approved. This is a response to the challenges that society has faced in terms of the holding processes, the patterns, and the results thereof. We must take pride in the fact that we are sitting here to adopt the budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Hon Speaker, during our oversight visits as a department, we got exposed to schools, and I will only mention two schools from those that we have visited. We visited an agricultural school in the Vhembe area. We also had a chance to visit another school in the Mopani Region. These two schools are both involved in agricultural practices in terms of their teaching and learning thereof. Hon Speaker, allow me to present another aspect that requires funding for agricultural purposes. The school in Tzaneen is on one level while the school in Vhembe is on the other in terms of facilities that are supposed to be more critical for students to do their practicals in that space.

It then comes back to the government, to then say, how much money are we putting in place for our students to be able to take care of all processes of practical in agricultural learning. The department has allocated R106 933 000 in the 2025/26 financial year for critical research in innovation and the development of skilled professionals in the two agricultural colleges in Limpopo, which are Ntombi Seleka and Madzivhandila. The allocated budget is commendable, and we welcome it, as it is going to assist in the broader scheme of empowering students in those colleges.

The migration of the two colleges to higher education, led by the two MECs, is another commendable call; and we want to encourage the two MECs to move with speed, so that the two colleges of agriculture are allocated accordingly, so that we can move for the development of the colleges and the betterment of the farmers. The department has allocated the budget according to its programmes, the three programmes that have received a major share as compared to others are:

- Agricultural Development and Producer Support Programme, which has been allocated R112 000 000, that is 42, 551%;
- Administration has been allocated R382 000 000, which is 19,97%; and

- The Veterinary Services has been allocated R232 000 000, which is 12,13% for the financial year 2025/26.

The major portion of the allocation in the farmer support programme is quite acceptable and progressive, in the sense that it is the main mandate, which must support small commercial farmers in our province, with the aim of sustaining them and creating permanent and temporary solutions for the future, while creating intervention and job opportunities.

On Administration, we will be delighted if appointments are completed and funded posts are filled. If we can process this as a department, we will then be able to create a change in the level of unemployment in the province.

On Veterinary Services, the Honourable MEC, Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana, during her Budget Speech, pointed out that Veterinary Services remain the frontline of defence in Limpopo's livestock economy; as outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease continue to threaten farmers, especially in villages that are bordering the Kruger National Park borders. The department will prioritise keeping Limpopo free from foot-and-mouth disease. This will be addressed through the management of vaccinations and control of movement of livestock within the province to curb the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in the province.

The allocation highlights the department's commitment to tackling foot-and-mouth disease in hotspot areas in the province. The honourable MEC, Nakedi Sibanda, said once again during her Budget Speech, "We will put our hands on deck to implement Scopa and portfolio committee resolutions on internal audits and securing proper audit outcomes during the process and expenditure process of the financial allocations that have been designed for the department."

Madam Speaker, the department has to commit itself to the same principle of avoiding underspending while avoiding overcommitment at the same time, in respect of financial availability for the growth of our farmers and securing enough market for our farming communities. We have observed that a portion of our farmers are producing goods, but they do not have proper markets, and we need to fix this as a department so that they can have access and be able to generate income, and once that income is generated, it will be able to create employment for the people of our province.

In conclusion, if we can do well in farmer support and migration of small farmers into commercial farming space, we will do well for our province because that will deal with the issue of food security and the aspect of creating employment for people who are in the farming space.

With that said, Hon Speaker, inkomu. I thank you. Baie dankie. Ke a leboga. Ndo livhuwa. Ke zwaa zweo.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene Tatana Maringa, ku va mi swi kotile ku hi hlayisela nkarhi. The next Member is Hon Velile Jack. The platform is yours. Your three minutes start now.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning, Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Premier of the Province, Chief Whip and his Deputy; and all honourable Members in the House.

Hon Premier, I learned two weeks ago at Merensky that if you know nothing about agriculture, you are as good as someone who is not educated, because food security is very important. You can't think while you are hungry. I want to emphasise what Hon Maringa has just said, on the difference between Merensky and Damani. It gives a true reflection of how we live in South Africa. Some are fairly treated, and there are those who are unfairly treated. I think that Damani School is also a school of agriculture, and it needs a treatment equal to that of Merensky.

As MKP, we appreciate the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for investing in climate-smart agriculture and resilient farming systems, agro-processing, and the development of youth skills in agriculture. This tells us that the department is serious about the sustainability of agriculture and agro-processing in the province. Such initiatives not only enhance food security but also empower local communities by providing them with essential skills and knowledge.

By prioritising this investment, the department is paving the way for a more sustainable and economically viable agricultural sector. MKP would like to encourage the department to do more in terms of agro-processing because the Limpopo province ships out more raw materials and fresh produce to export markets. MKP wants to see more of Edward Molatelo Kgarose. We want the department to invest more in agro-processing than in developing primary agriculture.

We would also like to encourage the department to train more farmers and graduates rather than providing Agri-SETA-accredited training to already experienced and qualified technicians and scientists. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

In conclusion, please. Your time is up.

MR JACK

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. I have warned you to please watch the screen so that you can conclude properly. Watch the screen, it will indicate to you. A Member of UAT was supposed to come and present at this moment, but unfortunately, he will only be sworn in on Thursday. So, we will skip this item. We will now proceed to call upon Hon Moss.

MR MOSS

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of this House; and guests, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, the department bears both the constitutional and ethical obligations to assess one of the most vital sectors in our province, agriculture, which not only sustains livelihoods and nourishes households, but also possesses the capacity to alleviate unemployment and poverty. However, despite the passage of the year, the same issues persistently hinder effective delivery, excessive spending, inadequate planning, and ineffective execution of accountability.

Our two provincial colleges are in a crisis. They suffer from a lack of qualified staff, broken infrastructure, and an outdated training system. Community projects, such as Zebediela Citrus Estate, are collapsing. There is lack of support and poor coordination. The department must take full responsibility for the breakdown in these projects. Taxpayers are no longer in a position to fund initiatives like the Lebowakgomo Abattoir, the Makgoba Tea Estate, and the Zebediela Citrus Project.

Over the years, these projects have seen little to no meaningful advantage, leading to growing concerns about reliability. It is crucial for these ventures to reach a level of self-sufficiency, to ensure their sustainability, and to reduce the financial burden on taxpayers. An additional R5 million has been allocated to the Zebediela Citrus Estate, along with another R10 million that is allocated to Makgoba Tea Estate. It is unjust for taxpayers to continue to bear the costs for these failures.

The APP outlines 56 agriculture projects, valued at R142 million, yet only twelve of them have to be recorded in his spending today. This is a crisis of delivery; from poultry houses, irrigation schemes, to veterinary labs, most projects are stalled due to poor coordination with Eskom, unresolved water issues, and delayed procurement. We cannot accept another year wherein farmers plant hope but harvest disappointments.

The potential of agriculture in Limpopo is vast, but potential without leadership, delivery, and accountability remains a dream. It is our responsibility to challenge and rebuild a better plan, one that places our farmers... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

We now call upon Hon Helm.

MS HELM

Good morning, Hon Speaker

THE SPEAKER

Good morning, your five minutes start now.

MS HELM

Thank you very much, good morning to the Premier of Limpopo; all our MECs present here; honourable Members; and our distinguished guests.

I see that they make things grow, change things that don't work, and out of the smallest of its full potential, as a driver of inclusive job creation, which is our most pressing national challenge; the department must start to think differently by first acknowledging uncomfortable truths. Agriculture is one of our remarkable economic driver, the successors due to the grit, determination, and innovation of however small a number of commercial farmers, which is largely overlooked and receives little to no support in the budget speech.

The Flakser Project mentioned by MEC Kekana is a pressing point; the Majeje Citrus Development, the Makgoba Dieplaagte Avocado Project, and the recently launched Vhembe Agricultural Modified Project are included in community-based empowerment partners working in collaborations with the skills and expertise of the private sector. On the other hand, continued attempts to resuscitate Zebediela Citrus Estate seem futile at this stage.

Another uncomfortable truth with this budget is the complete lack of accountability. We hold our MEC accountable through the portfolio committee. Surely the MEC must hold each recipient accountable for the money that they receive. The Lebowa Kgomomo Broiler Project is a case in point. Good money is continuously given but there is no consequence management. We cannot use money over and over again on unprofitable projects.

We need to urgently be informed about the constant resuscitation of projects. How many times does the department resuscitate certain projects, while other worthwhile projects do not receive support? I know many good farmers who are really good farmers. I am talking about small-scale farmers who do not receive a single cent from the department; we cannot do that anymore.

The same uncomfortable truth applies to the province's CPAs, community projects associations. This is heartbreaking for me; most CPAs are dysfunctional, disinviting, and they sit on a very good and valued agricultural land. We need to find a solution; as a province, we are blessed with vast tracks of unutilized land, primarily, communal and state-owned areas. These must be turned around so that we can be able to produce food for Limpopo and beyond, not only produce food for this province.

We have a very good agricultural sector. So, we need to support them. It might be worthwhile to find out how many are employed in the total agricultural landscape and agro-processing. What is the total product export for all the areas in Limpopo? We sit in a very good department and sector. The department seems to focus on one side of the sector; the other side is completely neglected and undervalued. It is equally important to know how the land reform and land restitution farms are sustainable, commercial enterprises, and I know that is the purpose. Let's get to the purpose.

There must surely be a better option than going through the same thing over and over again, and there is another option. Those of us who have oversight at the Tshiavhusiku Project know exactly what we are talking about. There are a lot of farmers, but each one is farming his land. They do marketing together, and they can actually produce products for Pepper Dew and Spar. We know the secret, we do. Let's just multiply that secret throughout the province.

As the DA, we are looking out for the day when commercial farmers are also supported by our budget, but the day may be that one day we will have one agricultural sector, a Mandela Agricultural project for all our farmers. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed to call upon Hon Malemela Dumisani.

MR MAGOLO

Good morning, and thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Members in the House; Hon Premier, MECs available; and our guests. Hon Speaker, I am here on behalf of Hon Dumisani Malemela and the EFF.

The EFF is concerned about the lack of aggressive and radical support to black farmers, women, youth, persons with disability and military veterans through dedicated infrastructure, training, mentorship and financing. The department has failed to accelerate the establishment of progressive support structures in relation to emerging black farmers, youth, and women living with disability.

Furthermore, the portfolio committee is concerned that several projects could not be implemented due to a lack of water rights licences and electricity, resulting in under expenditure and failure to assist farmers in the previous financial years. This is disappointing to say the least, that a department that has a mandate of promoting economic growth and food security through sustainable agriculture, entrepreneurship development, while fostering rural development, can drastically fail to deliver services to the people, in a manner that they did.

Essentially, it means that the people of Limpopo should not expect anything developmental and progressive from this department. Furthermore, we fail to understand why the department will maintain the 135 unemployed graduates in agriculture enterprises for practical skills development, instead of increasing the number of beneficiaries.

The level of shortsightedness and lack of vision in this department is shocking. How many extension workers are up to the task of providing necessary support to the farmers? Can we get the statistical breakdown in terms of the distribution of extension workers in the five districts of the province? Can we get clarity on the strategy, as to how beneficiaries including women, children, people living with disability, -headed homes, are identified? We want to see something there. The department can do better than this, because this service delivery target is just a drop in an ocean.

Hon Speaker, this department must tell us how much in total was allocated for the procurement of vaccines and medicine, because they are just throwing figures around to confuse us; but that is their purpose, to confuse us. [LAUGHTER]. The target of Veterinary Services for the clients to ensure healthy animals, sustainable and profitable animal production enterprise, safe trading of animals and animal products, as well as the wellbeing of animals and the public, is appalling.

The plan to provide 2 000 breeding livestock and 10 000 fish breeding stock as gross target setting will lead to undermining service delivery. An allocation for Majeje Citrus at R5,5 million, Kgarose at R4 million, Tafelkop R5 million, and Zebediela Citrus Estate R5 million is disappointing to say the least.

Agricultural colleges are characterised by challenges such as insufficient staff capacity and an incompatible financial model wherein the colleges are run as the department's sub-directorate, a lack of infrastructure maintenance, and poor local community relations. Hon Speaker, in terms of the lack of infrastructure maintenance, I can provide an example of what happened at Ntombi Seleka College in the past two months, where the room of the SRC president at the college got burnt and she lost everything in the process. That is an indication of poor maintenance of the infrastructure.

How do you expect agricultural colleges to perform when they are engulfed by such serious challenges? We are also alarmed that there is no indicator of the student intakes in the colleges; this is all part of poor planning. Can we get an update on the restitution and land reform projects, as well as the recruitment of officers for post-settlement purposes? We are of the view that the leadership in this department does not inspire confidence. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now move to the person who is supposed to close the debate. It is the chairperson of the committee, Hon Constance Ramadimetja Kupa-Mabuza. [APPLAUSE].

MS KUPA-MABUZA

A ke go leboge, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, Mme Makhurupetje. Kere ka gore go šetše go sele, ke kgale re le mo, ebile rena re le bana ba kgoši mašila a gatiša ka lekopelo, re re madume ke ao.

Once again, thank you for affording me an opportunity to address this august House. Agriculture is one of the key drivers of the economy in our province, and it should be properly aligned with our strategic goals and priorities to achieve the desired results by tackling the high cost of living, creating jobs, and growing our economy. The department's strategic plan aims to promote meaningful participation of black farmers, advance the inclusion of women, youth, persons with disability, military veterans, and transform emerging farmers into full commercial producers. This strategic plan was also cited by the MEC during the recent speech,

The department should strive very hard to achieve the plans; because if achieved, it will mean that the manifesto of the governing party is on the right track, because the promotion of black farmers and all the disadvantaged groups, created by the imbalances of the past will be redressed and they will participate fully in the development of our province. Transforming emerging farmers into fully commissioned producers, through farmer support, will mean that many jobs will be created and the unemployment rate will be reduced. That is according to the assessment report.

Madam Speaker, the Freedom Charter states clearly that, amongst other principles, the land shall be shared amongst those who work it. In the context of our disadvantaged groups that were created by the apartheid past, the time to support them is now, because they have earned it, and intervene for those who need it, if there is potential. The budget allocation in the Agricultural Development and Producer Support Programme is R812 million, which is 42.51%.

We plead with the Department of Agriculture, especially the administration, to unleash all the energies to achieve the set strategic priorities and plans. Madam Speaker and honourable Members, in her recent budget speech, the MEC has alluded to the fact that the department is working very well with the portfolio committee, which is true. The purpose of the working relationship is to enhance the strategic priority objectives and the plans of the department to achieve the delivery of services to our people in the province.

The portfolio committee has developed a model of questionnaires to assist the department in tracking resolutions. We can confirm that some of the targets are included in the plans, and they are allocated budgets. Hon Speaker, we have been engaged in oversight, and the challenges that we came across are mostly common and need collective leadership of the department, particularly the administration at the provincial and district levels to intervene.

Without necessarily going from farm to farm, the most common challenges encountered during visits are access to funding markets, capacity-building infrastructure development, depending on the model of the farm. These are common challenges that we get in almost all the farms. As we have highlighted above, we request the administration to zoom in on the development projects that will assist our people to thrive. It does not mean that the good work done by the administration is not noticeable. It is visible, but we are just requesting them to push even harder if we are to build a capable developmental state.

Honourable Members, the Farmer Support dominates the budget by R82 million, which is 42.51%, followed by Administration with R382 million, and Veterinary Services with 12.13% and the least allocated programme is Rural Development with 0.34%. Research and Technology Development, and Agricultural Services are all at 4.98%. The figures assume some balance and affirm the department's posture on the alignment of strategic planning, which aims at supporting emerging and commercial farmers.

Madam Speaker, the department has been stagnant on unqualified audit opinion for some time, and it is, of course, primarily in the wish list of the governing party, the ANC, and each leader in the Executive Authority, who has been given the responsibility to serve our people in the province to achieve a clean audit. We believe that the targets put forward on the annual performance plan are achievable, and therefore, they should lead to a clean audit.

Madam Speaker, the Vision 2030, which is our National Development Plan, points out that focus on the agricultural sector, amongst other things is the increased availability of irrigated farming as well as dry land production to small holder farmers and established agricultural business should become supporting partners of smallholder farmers and the creation of jobs; while on the other hand, the Limpopo Development

Plan, as the cascaded plan for our province, aims for food security and the creation of jobs in the agricultural sector.

Having asserted about the aims of the NDP and the LDP respectively, it is also upon the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, through their programmes, mainly farmer support programmes to realise that amongst other things that we are doing in the province, we carry a burden of prosperity for the total realisation of job creation, food security and inclusive economic growth in our province; hence the budget allocation is higher than all the programmes.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, we are calling upon the Executive Authority and the strategic management of the department to pay attention to the financial control and to treat every programme with caution to avoid being easily deviated from the plan as outlined, which will mean that oversight or silly mistakes can be avoided. The department can achieve a clean audit and move from a stagnant and unqualified audit opinion. By so doing, as the governing party in our province, we trust in the leadership of the MEC, Nakedi Sibanda Kekana and her administration, that they can deliver as planned.

Ke a leboga. Ke tšona tšeo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. We will now allow the MEC to respond to the debate. The Leader of Government Business will respond on behalf of the MEC, Nakedi Kekana.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to our Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; chairperson of the portfolio committee; Hon Kupa-Mabuza, and all other Members of the House.

I take pleasure in coming to respond to the debate of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Hon Speaker, I must indicate upfront that some Members came to debate, while they are confused, and we were worried as to why they would proceed to take the podium and represent the public while they are confused. Nevertheless, we will try to respond to the debate, and we appreciate the guidance that Members have given while they were on the podium.

I must talk about a critical matter that mainly affects three provinces in the country, i.e., KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, and the Eastern Cape. The issue of the foot-and-mouth disease. Some may want to take glory out of this, while this provincial administration has been doing its best at putting money into it, and we do that in every budget.

Our Hon Premier was all over trying to work with the MEC on the issue of foot-and-mouth disease and have been leading by example, that is why the Minister could not hesitate to lift the area as a foot-and-mouth disease free area; because of the work of

this provincial administration. It should not be taken elsewhere when the department and the provincial government have proper leadership.

As mentioned by Hon Maringa, this provincial government understands the critical role of the Department of Agriculture in the Provincial Administration, hence the two high schools and the two colleges are being supported to make sure that we build capacity for agriculture in our province. It has already been mentioned that both MECs for Agriculture and Education are busy working to ensure that the two colleges are transferred to the Department of Higher Education to make sure that they get better attention, which is the work of this provincial administration.

Hon Helm, to show that this administration does not regard the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as a small department; the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, together with LEDET, are two departments that we gave serious responsibility to make sure that they drive the economic activities of this province. We understand that the Department of Agriculture is a massive and labour-intensive type of economy, and as a result, it will absorb many people in our province, and we accept that it should be able to do that.

There is an issue that was raised about the administration. We can confirm that we are definitely focusing on appointing strategic people within the departments. I think that honourable Members are aware that the department has an acting HOD. As we speak, the Premier is at work to make sure that the process of appointing the Head of Department and an accounting officer is concluded in due course. We should be doing that soon.

Another matter that I think we have listened to is the issue of the catalytic projects such as Lebowaqomo Abattoir, Makgoba Estate, and Zebediela Citrus. Hon Moss mentioned that continuation of support on these projects is a waste of state resources while he was on the podium and I would like to invite him to look at the Constitution of the Republic and look at the preamble that says that we must be able accept the injustices of the past and be able to capacitate those that have opportunities that they did not have before; as a result we continue to support, we are not saying that this must continue.

Hon Helm was very passionate about the dysfunctionalities of the CPAs. We agree with her. However, we cannot just fold and stop supporting them because they are dysfunctional, we should continue to support them; hence the department has put aside a certain amount of money to make sure that they function like the previous Lebowaqomo Abattoir, Makgoba Estate, Zebediela Citrus, so that they can perform and produce food for everybody.

I must indicate that a master plan has been concluded for Zebediela Citrus, because it is very close to the Premier and the MEC. We are busy trying to get a strategic partner who will be able to invest so that Zebediela Citrus will continue to be a functional institution. There are allegations that were made by some on the podium that we seem not to care about black farmers, and I must indicate that there is what is called the farmer support policy, which is a Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, in short, CASP.

It is a programme that is specifically meant to support black or smallholder farmers, who should be able to. In this budget that we are presenting here, we have reinforced fifty smallholder farmers to become commercial farmers. So, this is the intention of the department, and we also have a plan to support about 12 700 subsistence farmers so that they can be able to do their work, and that is a slight increment [Inaudible]. Those who are confused, we are saying that it is a target of 12 700, so don't get confused, it's 12000; if it is confusing for you, just say that it is more than 12 000, it should be able to assist if you do it like that.

I want to conclude by addressing the issue of the burning of a hostel, as it comes across as negligence or that this department is negligent. It is just a simple accident; it is everywhere. A heater was left unattended, and the hostel caught fire, but we want you to note that there were no injuries. We are saying that it was just an accident, and we will repair it. It is an accident that can even occur in your own house due to some of these electrical appliances. It is not necessarily because the department did not plan carefully or did not fully support the two colleges. The two colleges are key to producing students who will contribute to the farming community. As the government, we are prepared to support the two colleges and the two high schools that you have visited.

I want to conclude by saying that we appreciate the inputs and the guidance that you have provided. We have heard you on the issue of consequence management, and we should be able to indicate where there is poor performance when the MEC issues a report. We are going to ensure that the department spends every cent that is allocated. We are not going to overcommit, and we are not going to overspend.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC, for the response. We now proceed to the next item on the Order Paper, which is 7.1.2. The consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on the Department of Health.

It's over to you, committee chairperson, Dr Chuene Malebana.

DR MALEBANA

Hon Speaker, the Premier of our Province; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the majority party; Leader of the Opposition; Chair of Chairs and your Deputy, as well as the chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members; Secretary of the Legislature and Guests.

Hon Speaker, I rise to present the Annual Performance Plan and the Budget of the Department of Health for consideration and approval by this august House.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Can we get a seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move as made by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now refer to the Speakers' List. The person who is opening the debate from the Speakers' List is Hon Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana.

[APPLAUSE]

You must know that Hon Maringa has set the standard.

MR NKONYANA

There is nothing here, Speaker. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Re leboga sethla sa dikoma.

Hon Speaker; the Speakership, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive, Chair of Chairs and his Deputy, ga re lwe. The Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the whippers, Hon Faith Sehopela and Hon Percy Ramohale; members of the Portfolio Committee on Health led by the honourable chairperson, Dr Malebana; all the honourable Members and guests in the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, we join the broader masses of our country in mourning the passing of the former Deputy President of the country and Hon Bella's father-in-law, David Dabede Mabuza. We further mourn the passing of a young cadre who leads the Youth League in Gauteng, Comrade Tholithemba Ngwenya, who was a PEC member of the ANC Youth League in Gauteng.

Madam Speaker, the provision of healthcare services is a constitutional mandate, and as the Freedom Charter says, "Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all." We are very fortunate that the Department of Health, which is inherited from the Premier, led by the MEC for Health, understands that mandate very well. It is on that note that the Portfolio Committee on Health has continued to give both collaboration and all means available, so that progress can be delivered by the department.

The committee welcomes and appreciates the budget and the annual performance plan presented by the ANC deployed MEC for Health, Hon Masesi Mashego. The committee noted that the department is committed to ensuring that the people of Lepelle-Nkumpi and the surrounding areas experience an improved livelihood. The life expectancy has indeed been improved by this department. They have reduced the antenatal mortality rate, while curbing the risks of adult illnesses, as Hon Maseko would famously say, "Re a lwala, re a fokola, re swerwe ke malwetši". The department is indeed making a positive stride in that regard.

Hon Speaker, the ANC Manifesto is made practical here. The committee supports other priorities set out in the Budget Speech made by the MEC, such as enhancing primary healthcare for NHI preparation, reduction of maternal and child mortality rate, combating HIV, reducing the pile of diseases like TB and conducting positive programmes to help those that are smoking to quit, just like I did.

We will ensure that public funds are well spent during this year by conducting the oversight role. We also encourage the honourable MEC to spend the money in a manner that will meet the expectations of the people and not wait too long. We have observed that the department has difficulty in record-keeping of assets, used for movable and immovable assets. The department should improve record keeping, because if an asset register is not kept, it then implies that assets will be lost and remain unaccounted for. The committee further noted that the department has allocated medicines to hospitals and clinics.

The department should ensure that there is stock and proper management of the stock. In times like these, shortages of medicine will be a thing of the past. This allocation includes services like forensic services, orthotics and prosthetic services. We have noted with concern that the budget for forensic services is higher, with an amount of R52 million, while orthotics and prosthetic services is allocated an amount of R10 million. The department will clarify the difference in these allocations in a different report, which will be submitted to the committee.

Madam Speaker, the work done by the committee in collaboration with the department is based on the positive outcomes and the zeal to improve where there are shortcomings. The opposition is even bored because there is nothing to oppose. Madam Speaker, the test of progress is not on whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is on whether we provide enough to those who have little to nothing.

We are driven by the desire to serve the most vulnerable masses of our people. Healthcare must reach a pensioner in Mosodi, Masisi Villages in Vhembe, and a young scholar in Malebitsa. In fact, Madam Speaker, from Musina to Moutse, from Bela Bela to Hoedspruit, all the citizens in Limpopo must receive healthcare benefits. Therefore, it is that spirit that we support the adoption of the 2025/26 APP and Budget, with recommendations set out in the committee report.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, the debate was opened. We now proceed to call Hon Andre Moss.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of this House and guests.

Hon Speaker, this department is entrusted with the lives of over six million people, yet many clinics are collapsing, emergency services are slow, and public hospitals remain understaffed and overburdened. Numerous EMS buses are in a state of disrepair, with a void of water, furniture, and sanitation facilities. Nevertheless, the department anticipates an 85% response rate. People are losing their lives due to the delayed arrival of ambulances. Enhancing EMS stations ought not to be regarded as a plan but as an essential priority.

Hon Speaker, we see a cut of merely R28 million in machinery and equipment, despite growing patient backlogs. Last year, the target was to complete twenty capital projects, but only five projects were completed this year, which is a drop from 100% to 4,7%. This is a collapse in performance whilst the department wants us to believe that NHI will be a success. The department continues to have critical positions that remain unfilled, particularly for specialist doctors and nurses, which puts people's lives at risk.

Hon Speaker, the department claims that it aims to improve quality primary healthcare, ready clinics for NHI rollout, and push for more facilities towards achieving and sustaining ideal clinic status, yet in the same breath, it concedes that the increased budget still falls short of addressing the actual demands of the health system. This is a contradiction that directly undermines the department's ability to meet its own strategic goals and deliver on its promises.

Hon Speaker, the introduction of mental disorders treatment indicates that a primary healthcare level is a step in the right direction. However, it rings hollow in the context of severe shortness of psychiatric nurses, mental health professionals, and counselling services across the province. Mental health challenges are escalating rapidly in rural Limpopo, especially amongst the youth, where depression, substance abuse, and suicide are on the rise. Yet the department still lacks a comprehensive, dedicated intervention strategy to address the growing crisis.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Moss. Over to you, Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and all protocol observed. Speaker, how is the committee supposed to sign off, approve, or approve APPs and budgets when it has to ask more questions than it can get answers? Committee meetings with the Department of Health have almost become a sport or a game of roulette for a guessing game, truth or dare, and trivial pursuit combined. It is a frustrating and testing game show with little else.

The committee has the mandate to ensure that APPs and budgets are being used to promote socioeconomic development and to operationalise these activities towards the achievement of its intended priorities, but while we get the priorities, the lack of planning or reporting by the department leaves the committee unsure of the department's ability to ensure such delivery of these priorities. When the department reduces tracking of specific indicators from 68 to 39, you must understand that red flags are raised.

District Health Services and programmes should reduce APPs from 36 to 27. Programme 4: Provincial Hospital Services from 12 to 2, Central Hospitals Programme in Programme 5 from 9 to 1. We are advised that the indicators were standardised throughout the provinces through engagements within the National Department of Health. This, of course, makes it easy to check, and we are already engaging. The budget showed a 5,8% increase from the previous financial year, with an increase of

2,8% in conditional grant. These are for HIV/Aids, National Treasury Services Grant, revitalisation of health services grant, and community outreach services.

However, the committee had to request that the department indicate what the key performance indicators attached to these grants were. And how will the progress be monitored? We had to further request as to what percentage of the grant was allocated in the past financial year, and if there are any rollovers. The lack of information from the department regarding the spending of grants is not acceptable; such requests should be made.

The department reported that the increase in the budget did not adequately address the health services requirement, and this would impact negatively on its achievements to deliver a strategic goal. More importantly, the department predicted a gap in funding of maintenance facilities and equipment, medicines, including vaccines, blood and laboratory services, security services and health technology equipment. Given the appalling state of many of our clinics and hospitals, this is an alarming statement.

Equipment, medicines, vaccines, and health technology equipment could be the difference between life and death for our citizens. We have had abductions and rapes at our clinics, but security services will have insufficient funding. While we understand that the pressures of health are huge and there are many priorities, surely, the facilities, equipment, medicines, and vaccines must be a key priority. Failure to deliver in these areas could easily exacerbate the pressure that the department is already facing regarding medico-legal claims, information which was not in the report, and is already costing the department millions.

One of the key indicators under the district health services is to reduce the number of deliveries in 10–14-year-olds to 375 deliveries in a facility, what an alarming indicator. I am not sure how the department will manage that, unless you can stop children from getting pregnant, then you cannot have control over such a situation. The committee needs to be updated with plans and meet with the Department of Education, Transport and Community Safety, SAPS, and Social Development.

The scourge on our children must be stopped. Overall, the committee has submitted 12 recommendations. All of those requests were for information and reports, some with very strict timelines. Without vital information, we cannot effectively monitor and evaluate the Department of Health as we are mandated to do. However, we must, because many of the issues are a matter of life and death. We also need information on the expired contract with digital, which costs R1 million per day. Has this contract been renewed? At what budget? And from where?

While the report of the committee on the department covers the issues well, unless we get detailed... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Time is up.

MS WILSON

... relevant information, accepting the budget is challenging, and cannot be done. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The time was up. Thank you so much, honourable Members. The next Member to debate is Hon Matome Jacob Lebogo. He has written a letter informing me that he is unable to stand for long due to the injury that he had. He has requested to debate from where he is seated, and I have allowed him to do so. Hon Lebogo, over to you.

MR LEBOGO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. You are not a doctor, and you will not even be one. [LAUGHTER].

Re dumedisha Tonakgokgolo, Ngwako ka moka le baetapele ba EFF. Ke bolela legatong la EFF. Re rata go laetša manyami a rena go kgoro, ka ge e sa thlohleletše boitshepo. Re kgopela gore Molekgotlaphethiši a bonagale, ge le hweditše nako le ye le bone Tonakgolo a le hlalose tše ka mokgwa wo a bego a dira ka gona mengwageng ye e fetilego, ge abe ale Molekgotlaphethiši ka kgorong yeo, ka lebaka la gore go bohlokwa gore Molekgotlaphethiši a bonagale setšhabeng, le balwetši ba kgone go fela ba boledišana le yena.

We also demand that the acting allowances from different positions, where people have been acting for years, be paid in full, and that payment must be backdated to include everyone who has acted in the department. The EFF calls for the employment and absorption of unemployed doctors and nurses who have been idling at home, whilst our communities are being subjected to long queues in hospitals and clinics.

Hon Speaker, we need to know the view of the department, particularly with regard to drug rehabilitation centres which are mushrooming in our communities. We need a clear programme which includes health protocols in dealing with those who are abusing drugs and managing the facilities to avoid what happened in Gauteng and other places like Esidimeni. Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that budgets are allocated on an annual basis, and yet there is nothing to show for it, especially on infrastructure projects.

Can the MEC update the completion of incomplete facilities, such as Lebowakgomo EMS, which has a dispute with the Department of Public Works, the ICU, and the new general ward at Letaba Hospital, St Rita's ICU, and the high care unit, including clarity on the abandoned Zone 1 Seshego Clinic? The construction and operation of these facilities have been moving at a snail's pace with no tangible progress recorded.

Can the department furnish this House with reasons as to why they are behind in terms of dealing with previous indicators? The reduction of target indicators from 36 in the year 2024/25 to 26 in the year 2025/26 is unacceptable and regrettable, as it is a step backward in service delivery. It defeats logic that instead of increasing the indicators, the department, for some awkward reasons, deemed it fit to decrease the indicators to the detriment of service delivery.

Hon Speaker, can the MEC update this House on the number of clinics that have achieved ideal clinics in the past financial year? And how many are still to achieve it in the current financial year? How many clinics operate 24/7? Women give birth at the gates of clinics while being told by the nurses that they are closed, instead of getting help.

Hon Speaker, the department predicted a gap in the funding of maintenance of facilities, medicine, including vaccines, blood and laboratory services, security services, and health technologies and this has a negative impact on the services to be provided. There is an acknowledgement that the budget allocation in the department, for the indicators as mentioned, is not enough to address service delivery. Furthermore, the EFF is also concerned about how the department was recovering its debts, especially from the Road Accident Fund and established medical aids, because those resources can help to improve services for poor people.

It is clear that the department does not have a clear debt recovery strategy, resulting in a loss that cannot be accounted for. Hon Speaker, we are disturbed that the target indicators on primary healthcare subprogrammes were reduced from 5 to 2 in the year under review. The department has embarked on a massive campaign to reduce targets, which is an unforgivable sabotage against service delivery. Can the department confirm to this House whether they have a tool to monitor the targets of the patient-experience of care survey rate?

Hon Speaker, the continued shortage of specialist nurses at various PHC facilities remains a concern as this has a direct impact on service delivery. Can the department update this House on the plans to reduce the high rate of loss to follow up and improve the HIV/AIDS treatment outcomes? And how far is the plan to integrate the whole healthcare system in the province? You have reported that EMS response time targets range from 65 to 85% in the current year. You need to clarify whether the current EMS resources are sufficient to meet the ambulance response time against the targeted response time.

Hon Speaker, the EFF has observed the appalling state of EMS stations with dilapidating infrastructure, inadequate white base furniture, water challenges in some EMS facilities, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, where workers are subjected to inhumane conditions. We are also concerned about the low expenditure on machinery and equipment for these programmes. We need to get answers on a huge number of machines that were purchased and have never been used, and what is going to happen to those machines?

Plans to register 200 new nursing students for the current financial year are noted. However, we urge the department to introduce more advanced nursing modules so that we can have more intakes of nurses to close the gap of those who are leaving the system. We need to support more home-based care teams and training, and also train more advanced EMS personnel. The long queues and slow pace of help in our hospitals, Hon Speaker, require that the department... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

One minute left.

MR LEBOGO

...requires that the department must start giving a meal to people who go to hospitals to wait for the whole day, without having money to buy a meal or to go back home. Hon Speaker, our hospitals have large unused land, and we submit that the land must be used in collaboration with agriculture, to utilise people who have experience in backyard farming to produce food for hospitals, as we will be insourcing services.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Unfortunately, you cannot see the timer from where you are seated. We now proceed to allow Hon Malebana to close the debate. The chairperson of the committee, Dr Chuene William Malebana, please take the podium. [APPLAUSE].

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for delaying the watch a bit. Hon Premier and Members of the Executive Council, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip of the majority party, Chairperson of Committees and the Deputy, Leader of the Opposition, chairpersons of portfolio committees and standing committees, honourable Members of the House, invited guests, the leadership of Limpopo Legislature and the people of Limpopo, thobela.

Hon Speaker, I rise to give an input about Vote 07, Department of Health that the committee is presenting for approval. Hon Premier, the splurge to improve the expectancy of Limpopo, through progressive health interventions, is a step in the right direction, as it was said in the Premier's State of the Province Address Speech. However, we must acknowledge that the healthcare system in our province is still plagued by the legacy of apartheid in a number of ways. Those ways are related to a pool of healthcare workers who are available in the province.

Some of the problems faced by the department are the shortage of medical personnel, inadequate and insufficient infrastructure, and unequal distribution of resources. The severely disadvantaged district, if I can say so, is the Sekhukhune District. We have made a move as the portfolio committee, without the tools, by the way, but by just looking with our eyes. The district cannot be compared to other districts on the issues of health, particularly infrastructure. However, the MEC has reaffirmed this goal that was set by the Premier, emphasising the need to provide quality healthcare, increase life expectancy, and uphold dignity by using a number of ways.

The Department of Health has been allocated an amount of R26,1 billion for the financial year 2025/26. This represents a decrease of 5.8% from the previous year. As a portfolio, we will examine these funds in terms of how they are used. The department's priorities, as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan, are commendable, but we must ensure that they align with the needs of the people, whom we call the working class, in my orientation.

The department has prioritised several key deliverables for the 2025/26 financial year, and, amongst others, is enhancing primary healthcare, quality for NHI preparation, reducing child and maternal mortality, combating HIV/AIDS, reducing the burden of disease from TB, tackling the burden of disease from non-communicable diseases and improving access to EMS, health infrastructure improvement and accessibility.

Honourable MEC, we are also saying that it is important to lobby the Premier and ensure that the nursing and EMS college gets the attention of the provincial government, and that must be prioritised, because it has the potential to alleviate the shortage of critical personnel that we require. As we acknowledge the department's efforts, we also note several concerns, and we have accepted the explanation of the department with regard to the consolidation of these indicators.

What we will do is to make sure that they get the same results, as you have heard that several Members have a problem with decreasing the indicators from 68 to 39. The department must provide a detailed breakdown of the allocation of the budget for all subprogrammes, but in particular, programme 8. There are a number of matters that we need to deal with, starting with the key performance indicators attached to conditional grant and progress monitoring, which we could not deal with on a quarterly basis previously.

The emphasis on debt recovery is very important. The agreement is that the department will change gears with regard to the principal debtors that owe the department a huge amount of money, and among them is RAF. Plans to prepare clinics for the rollout of NHI, strategy for effective maintenance, sustainability of machinery and equipment, programme on patient care experience survey is what the department used today and the portfolio committee wants to be familiar with, so that we use the same standard to measure from time to time to check if the department is doing the right thing or if the tool is assisting us to achieve what are meant to achieve.

We would also like the department to have recruitment plans, after we have understood the stance in terms of finance and the baseline on how we start with regard to recruitment. We are saying that for this particular year, we need all vacant positions that are there to be monitored through the department's plan, which tells us how they are going to do it. Those that are funded for this year must ensure that people are employed.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, may I say something about the collapse of the health system or the healthcare department, as it was alluded to by Hon Moss. With the experience that we have with the employees of the health department, we know that they will not allow it to collapse. They will not. We are calling on the department to make sure that they do their bit to augment them. We don't even think that the department will collapse, but we need the leadership of the department to make sure that the warning that was served earlier does not come to pass. It is very important that we do that.

Hon Speaker, I want to say that we support the department's Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the financial year. However, we urge the department to address our concerns and provide the necessary report. We move that the report be adopted as the report of the honourable House and that the budget of Vote 07, Department of Health, be passed.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Dr William Chuene Malebana. Re a leboga. We will allow the MEC to respond to the debate. Hon Dieketseng Mashego, the MEC for the Department of Health in Limpopo, it's over to you.

BACKGROUND

Malibongwe! Malibongwe!

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; MECs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; all honourable Members present, and guests in the gallery.

Hon Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity on behalf of the Department of Health, to thank you for affording us this platform to respond to the contributions made by honourable Members during the debate.

Let me begin by reiterating, particularly for the members of the portfolio committee, the matter regarding the reduced indicators. As previously explained, the Limpopo Department of Health does not arbitrarily decide to reduce indicators. This is a nationally coordinated activity.

The reduction is due to the fact that Programmes 2, 4, and 5 previously reported on the same indicators, resulting in duplication. The indicators have not been completely removed. If Members consult our APP, they will note that the indicators remain; they are simply no longer repeated under each programme.

Hon Premier, Hon Speaker and honourable Members, on the matter of nursing colleges in the province, we are actively working to improve infrastructure across all districts. As it stands, we currently have 150 nursing students in training. This is part of our broader effort to increase capacity, given that many of our existing healthcare workers are approaching retirement. Succession planning is therefore essential.

Regarding the EMS College, I can confirm that it is operational and conducting basic training. We are finalising the appointment of a principal who will commence duties on 01 August 2025. This is a key step to ensuring full functionality of the college.

With respect to ambulance response times raised by Hon Moss, the department has launched the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAT) system, which is already operational. This system enables us to monitor ambulance locations and dispatch the nearest available unit to any reported incident. We again extend an invitation to the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Dr Malebane, to witness the system in operation.

On the status of ideal clinics, we are currently at 60,7%, which amounts to 289 out of 479 facilities. This is an encouraging sign as we prepare for NHI implementation. We will continue improving this figure.

Hon Wilson mentioned issues regarding our responsiveness to the portfolio committee. I must respectfully refute this claim. The department attends all meetings, responds to questions, and submits required reports. We regard the committee's oversight as integral to service delivery.

We have also reported our challenges with SETA in regard to health technology spending. We are working to resolve these issues and ensure effective procurement of essential equipment.

The issue of teenage pregnancies, especially among the 10–14 age group, is deeply concerning. This cannot be addressed by Departments of Health and Education alone. We urge all honourable Members to return to their communities and engage our youth. Promoting abstinence and family planning is a shared responsibility.

Hon Lebogo, on the visibility of the MEC; Mokone ga ke tsebe o bolela ka eng, I want to assure this House that the Department of Health does not rest. We are visible and active in our facilities every day, including weekends. If there are concerns with visibility, perhaps it is a matter of visual clarity, something we can assist with through our cataract programme.

With regard to the Seshego Zone 1 Clinic, the facility was closed by the Department of Labour due to structural concerns. However, services were moved to the Gateway Clinic to ensure continued access for residents.

The matter of RAF and medical aid debt recovery has been raised in the portfolio committee, and engagements are ongoing to ensure recovery and reinvestment into services.

On EMS staffing, while we do have staff which we have resolved through our Lakota Ambulance Services, we acknowledge that ambulance coverage is still insufficient. Crews are not always matched one-to-one with vehicles. We have corrected previous logistical issues; crew members now leave keys onsite so that vehicles remain in service even when a crew member is on leave.

On patient care satisfaction, our current tool shows an 86% satisfaction rate. We monitor availability of medicines and patient waiting times closely. I visited Polokwane Clinic unannounced after concerns were raised, and I can confirm that all essential medicines were available.

We urge the public to report accurately so we can act effectively and not be misled. As a department, we are committed to improving patient waiting times, particularly in hospitals. Through the Bophelo Pele campaign, we are strengthening confidence in clinics to reduce pressure on hospitals.

Our ethos are clear. You cannot serve the people if you do not love them. Ka nako ye e hlomphegago le ka lerato, Staff must prioritise service over comfort. Serving patients

with respect, timeliness, and compassion is non-negotiable. Our patients ke mokgwa wa rena, Hon Premier.

Lastly, on the matter of the budget breakdown, we assure the House that this will be provided. We have committed to monthly tracking and monitoring of expenditure to ensure optimal use of every cent allocated to the department for the benefit of the people of Limpopo.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

The MECs must always know that the response time is three minutes. I just allowed you to talk, but in future, you need to know that you are always allocated 3 minutes to respond.

Thank you so much, honourable Members. Can we now proceed while the MEC is sitting down there. Honourable Members order! We are proceeding to consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury Committee Chairperson

Hon Pheedi Maseko Solomon, you may take the podium.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier; Executive Council; Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; and our people in the gallery.

Hon Speaker, I stand before this House to present the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Provincial Treasury for consideration and adoption.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury Committee. Any seconder to the report? Hon Nkonyana Abednigo.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana stand to second the move by Hon Pheedi.

THE SPEAKER

Siyabonga or siyathokoza, I don't know which one is correct. Ha khensa swinene. Now I can safely say we shall go to the Speakers' List. In terms of the Speakers' List, Hon Matjomane Germinor Delly, is the one who is opening the debate. Hon Delly Matjomane your 10 minutes start now.

MS MATJOMANE

Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Premier of the Province, Dr Phophi Ramathupa; Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the provincial Legislature, our guests in the gallery, leaders of the various opposition parties present in this House today. Ngiyanibingelela, lotjhani. Nivukile?

Hon Speaker, in its ongoing quest for excellence, the Department of Provincial Treasury finds itself at a pivotal moment, one that requires decisive leadership, strategic foresight, and an unrelenting commitment to the effective management and accountability of public finances. The challenges facing the province of Limpopo today call for more than just recognition; they demand practical and innovative solutions. It is only through a shared provincial commitment that we can achieve resilient governance and sustainable growth.

Hon Speaker, the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan (APP) of the Limpopo Provincial Treasury presents not only the strategic direction for the financial year ahead, but also a framework through which to address immediate provincial challenges.

We are entering an era where resource efficiency, prudent budgeting, and fiscal accountability are not just aspirations but imperatives. This APP is designed to deal directly with these priorities. While our long-term objectives are articulated in the Strategic Plan, this APP focuses on practical and measurable interventions. Among our core priorities are the following:

- Strengthening financial oversight and discipline across departments, public entities, and municipalities;
- Ensuring alignment with national frameworks, including the Medium-Term Development Plan (2025–2030); and
- Driving economic growth and sustainability through effective governance and budget management.

Hon Speaker, a particularly pressing matter has been the financial performance of municipalities. As this House is aware, the excessive reliance on consultants for the preparation of financial statements has become a matter of serious concern. The Provincial Treasury has resolved to intensify its support to municipalities in this regard. We are committed to:

- Building internal municipal capacity;
- Reducing dependency on external consultants; and
- Ensuring that proper financial management competencies are developed and maintained.

Madam Speaker, the Treasury will also enhance internal controls, particularly in areas such as ICT infrastructure and performance management systems, to improve operational efficiency across the provincial administration.

Furthermore, the APP aims to improve audit outcomes, with the goal of achieving unqualified audit opinions across departments and entities. This will serve as a strong indicator of sound internal controls and reliable financial reporting.

Hon Speaker, over the past five years, the province collected approximately R8,8 billion in own revenue, averaging R1,7 billion annually. Revenue collection increased from R1,4 billion in 2019/20 to R2,2 billion in 2023/24, which positively contributed to the Provincial Revenue Fund and enhanced service delivery through the equitable share.

Departments such as Health, LEDET, and Transport have demonstrated strong revenue-generating capabilities. However, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (DPWRI) has not performed optimally, particularly with respect to collecting housing rental fees. The Provincial Treasury is committed to supporting DPWRI in implementing a turnaround strategy to correct this.

Hon Speaker, Limpopo's economy has shown resilience. Despite a contraction of 6.1,7% in 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it rebounded with a growth rate of 5,5% in 2021, driven by strong performances in the mining and export sectors.

While this recovery is commendable, the overreliance on mining underscores the need to diversify the provincial economy. Sectors such as transport, electricity, agriculture, manufacturing, and construction must be mobilised to address the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

The District Development Model (DDM), adopted by the province, seeks to integrate service delivery by implementing a single district development plan per district, guided by the principle of One District, One Plan, One Budget. This model calls for coordinated planning among national, provincial, and local government, in collaboration with business, labour, and communities.

The role of the Provincial Budget Management Unit in this context is vital. It must ensure that all departmental and entity Budgets are aligned to national and provincial priorities and are responsive to the development needs of each district.

Hon Speaker, infrastructure delivery and expenditure is monitored closely, in accordance with enabling legislation and oversight frameworks. This is to ensure value for money and alignment with strategic objectives.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I wish to affirm that the 2025/26 APP and Budget of the Department of Provincial Treasury are a clear expression of our commitment to transparency, efficiency, and inclusive economic development.

I hereby request this honourable House to consider and adopt the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Provincial Treasury.

Thank you. Ngyiyabonga

THE SPEAKER

Siyabonga mama. I need to be guided from the DA. I don't see Hon Smalle yet. Are you taking over Hon Wilson?

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Hon Smalle underwent some quite serious surgery over the weekend, so I will stand in on his behalf.

Hon Speaker, as the Democratic Alliance, we agree with the MEC when he stated in his Provincial Treasury Budget Speech that a government's budget allocation without the supporting machinery and oversight mechanisms contradicts the very essence of fiscal discipline.

We also agree with his assertion that the Provincial Treasury carries a profound responsibility, one that sits at the heart of good governance. We support the Provincial Treasury's and the MEC's commitment to strengthening financial governance and ensuring that every cent from the provincial purse delivers measurable value.

Hon Speaker, we know all too well what happened in this province when Provincial Treasury collapsed and failed in its responsibilities.

As the Democratic Alliance, we understand the importance of a strong, capacitated, and ethical Treasury, and we will continue to support and protect it from predators, both inside and outside of our provincial administration.

Hon Speaker, we note that the Honourable MEC, in delivering the Provincial Treasury's Budget, lamented the country's constrained financial position and acknowledged that our economy is not growing at the pace required to address our socio-economic challenges. The National Development Plan envisioned an economy growing at five percent per annum as the engine for job creation, poverty reduction, and the creation of a more equal society by 2030.

What the Honourable MEC failed to acknowledge is that our stagnating economic growth both, nationally and provincially, is a direct result of a toxic mix of energy shortages, collapsing infrastructure, entrenched corruption, self-imposed regulatory red tape, outdated ideological policy choices, and the ANC's persistent refusal to reform.

Nonetheless, we support the MEC's stated commitment to implementing provincial revenue enhancement strategies, undertaking spending reviews to identify inefficiencies, reduce waste, eliminate duplication, and close fiscal leakages, and ensuring the rigorous monitoring of budget implementation so that funds are used as intended.

Hon Speaker, a serious impediment to economic growth and job creation is the ongoing collapse of municipal governance and service delivery. We note the Provincial Treasury's ongoing commitment to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own finances and audit outcomes, and to put them on a path towards financial sustainability. Yet despite this, we have not seen any significant improvement in municipal audit outcomes or in their financial health.

As the DA, we are concerned at the number of external consultants still employed to assist municipalities. We question whether any meaningful skills transfer is actually happening. At the same time, municipal infrastructure and service delivery across our province continue to deteriorate. We will continue to monitor the efficacy of Provincial Treasury's interventions.

Hon Speaker, another impediment to economic growth is the state of our own entities. This House and the Provincial Executive have collectively signalled a clear policy shift that our SOEs must become self-sustaining, and that we can no longer continue to bail them out. We call upon Provincial Treasury to ensure that self-sustainable models for our SOEs are developed and urgently so.

Hon Speaker, whilst we welcome the establishment of the Provincial Disaster Contingency Reserve Fund, which hopefully will improve our responsiveness to disasters. We caution as the DA that we need to ensure that funds disbursed are accounted for and that oversight is exercised.

Finally, Hon Speaker, we note that the key focus of the Provincial Treasury's Budget remains to strengthen the Provincial Treasury itself and to improve its strategies to support and monitor provincial departments, municipalities, and public entities. While we as the Democratic Alliance will continue to support the Provincial Treasury in carrying out its duties, we must be clear. It is the ANC that bears responsibility for collapsing Provincial Treasury in the first place.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. We are expecting Hon Ledwaba, unfortunately, she is not taking the Debate. We are moving to request Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury Hon Pheedi Maseko Solomon, the floor is yours to come and close the Debate.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Hon Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker of this Legislature, Hon Tebogo Grace Portia Mamorabela, as well as the Premier of our Province, Hon Dr Phophi Ramathuba, the honourable Executive Members, as well as honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, not forgetting the Chief Whip, together with the Deputy Chief Whip, as well as the Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, leaders of various opposition parties in here.

Hon Speaker, allow me to take the House for a while back about this department, and not forgetting the MEC for this very important Department of Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoi. May I also commend the Provincial Treasury for the previous years.

Hon Speaker, the department received an unqualified audit opinion without findings, which is also referred to as a clean audit, for six consecutive years from 2016/17 to 2021/22 and in 2022/23 regressed to an unqualified audit opinion. However, in 2023/24,

the Provincial Treasury reclaimed the clean audit opinion. This is one of the departments, amongst others, that has always been putting provincial government on the map in terms of their dedication and commitment, hence the achievement of clean audits.

Hon Speaker, I raise this to assure honourable Members here that, as the ANC-led government, the allegations of maladministration mentioned by one of our Members in this House do not tally with what I am saying, and maybe to clear the confusion of another honourable Member who said that we are here just to confuse them further. I don't know if the clean audit can really confuse anyone.

Hon Speaker, the first hearing of the Budget was presented in March, and due to unforeseen circumstances, such as the GNU and other factors beyond our control as the province, it was then deferred.

Today's Sitting is taking place a few days after the Honourable MEC responsible for Provincial Treasury re-tabled the departmental budget. The department has five Programmes which are as follows:

- Administration;
- Sustainable Resource Management;
- Assets, Liabilities, and Supply Chain Management;
- Financial Governance; and
- and Shared Internal Audit Services.

Hon Speaker, the Department's Budget for the 2025/26 Financial Year has increased from R478 million to R512.8 million.

The main share of the Budget is allocated to Administration, with 43 percent or R220.1 million of the main Budget, which is equivalent to the allocation in the 2024/25 Financial Year. The Programme that received the least allocation is Assets, Liabilities, and Supply Chain Management with 11% or R58.3 million, which is 11% more than the previous year's allocation. The Sustainable Resource Management Programme received 18% or R93.1 million of the main Budget, which is 1% more than the allocation of the 2024/25 Financial Year of R80.8 million.

The Financial Governance Programme received 17% or R81.1 million of the main Budget, which decreased by 1% from the R81.3 million of the previous financial year. The Shared Internal Audit Services Programme received 12% or R60 million of the main Budget, which was equivalent to the allocation in the previous year by percentage. The allocation for Administration has seen an increase of 6%, from R207.8 million in 2024/25 to R220.2 million in 2025/26 Financial Year.

The purpose of the Administration Programme is to manage, monitor, and implement corporate management services. Compensation of employees has increased from R123.9 million in 2024/25 to R183.4 million in 2025/26 Financial Year. This is due to reprioritisation of certain vacant posts on the organisational structure, as we always ask the department to make sure that all critical posts are refilled.

There is an increase in Goods and Services from R76.1 million in 2024/25 to R77.2 million in 2025/26 Financial Year. The Budget will fund contractual obligations of the department, which include lease of office buildings, audit fees, telephones, security services, and government vehicle running costs. A Transfer and Subsidy Sub-Budget has increased from R1.3 million in 2024/25 to R2.5 million in 2025/26 Financial Year.

The allocated funds will be used for payment of vehicle licences, rates and taxes, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants Thuthuka training project, as well as a leave graduate. CAPEX increased from R6.5 million in 2024/25 to R7.1 million in 2025/26 Financial Year, catering for the procurement of working tools.

Hon Speaker, do not be surprised by the figures because we are dealing with figures. We don't talk much; we only talk figures.

Hon Speaker, the Budget for Sustainable Resource Management has increased from R80.8 million in 2024/25 to R93.2 million in 2025/26 Financial Year. The purpose of this Programme is to promote sustainable resource management services to the provincial departments and public entities. On compensation of employees, the budget was increased from R62.1 million in 2024/25 to R76.2 million in 2025/26.

As said above, the vacant posts must also be refilled. The Goods and Services Budget increased from R15.2 million in 2024/25 to R17.7 million in 2025/26 Financial Year. The allocation will mainly cater for municipal support programmes, printing of budget books, as well as travel and subsistence allowance.

I hope in this case, Hon Wilson, will also learn that the department cares to the level where it goes to the municipalities and offers assistance, not only verbal assistance or complaints but even financially.

Hon Speaker, the Budget for Assets, Liabilities, and Supply Chain Management increased from R49.6 million in 2024/25 to R58.3 million in 2025/26. The purpose of this Programme is to oversee the management of assets, liabilities, and supply chain management in provincial departments and public entities.

It exactly covers as was said before that the entities also need to be catered for, and it shows exactly what we are doing.

Compensation of Employees has increased from R44.8 million in 2024/25 to R51.2 million in 2025/26 Financial Year for filling vacant positions within the branch. The Goods and Services Budget received an increase of R7.1 million in 2025/26 from R4.9 million allocated in 2024/25 Financial Year.

The funds are earmarked to pay for provincial bank charges and face value documents, amongst others, as well as travel and subsistence for officials when supporting the institutions.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, I can say that as the department, we just want to conclude by saying it is not about how much you have, it's about how you use the money in order to sustain clean audits.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee Considered and Adopted the re-tableting of the Provincial Budget, and on behalf of the committee, allow me to request the House to also Consider and Adopt this as a true reflection of the Budget allocated to the department.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for your closing Debate. Now we shall now call upon MEC of Provincial Treasury Hon Ntate Kgabo Mahoai to respond to the Debate as made by Members.

THE MEC OF PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Honourable MECs, honourable Members of the Legislature, the Chief Whip of the House and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy, all the Members of the Legislature including Members of this Committee and the Chairperson in particular.

Thank you very much for this opportunity. In the interest of time, but very cognisant of the fact that there were issues raised in the Member statement which the Hon Leader of Government Business adequately responded to, it would be remiss of me if I missed this opportunity to set the record straight.

The average payment compliance rate for this province for 2024/25 is 99.8 %. Those who do statistics will say any figure about can be converted into 100 percent. It is not true that this is not good, because if you look at it, the 0.2 percent difference is as a result of instances where late payments are caused by the very same people who need to be paid, where sometimes they change banking details without informing the user departments, so it cannot be attributed to this province not complying. The compliance rate indeed, as the Leader of Government Business said, is 100 percent.

We can claim that victory. As for women-owned businesses, indeed it is low. We acknowledge that, and we said we will make sure that it is being attended to. Suffice to say, all the honourable Members, including Hon Wilson, are acknowledging the fact that we are actually doing what is necessary.

I must refute the claim that the ANC is the problem when it comes to that because we cannot be seen as separate from the ANC. We are given this mandate by the ANC and it is the ANC that is ensuring that we do our work. Therefore, it may not be true that it is an impediment.

The growth problem of our country, as we all should know, is a result of globalised economic factors. The factors that lead to growth across the world are mostly beyond the control of emerging economies such as ours. It cannot be attributed to the ANC or the so-called “toxic” factors that were said.

We will take lessons from the debate itself, from what was said, and will improve on that basis, but we can assure you that we will still sustain the clean audit. The audit process

is underway now and not only Provincial Treasury, but more departments may be coming to the clean audit side, and those who are in unqualified will still maintain that.

We thank honourable Members for supporting this Budget Vote and continuing to be robust in your oversight. We will always follow the adage that says, just follow good practices and you'll get somewhere. We will remain the custodians of good financial governance on the basis of your support and robust oversight.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoi. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the Members and the MEC for the Debate on Provincial Treasury.

We are now moving to the last Debate which is 7.1.4. Honourable Members order. I know we've been sitting for too long now but we're going to the last Debate.

7.1.4 Consideration and Adoption of the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure: Committee Chairperson: Vho Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Greetings to you, to the Premier, the Chief Whip and the entire Whippary, Chairperson of Chairs, Chairpersons of Committees and all honourable Members present.

I rise to present the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Public Works, Road and Infrastructure for Consideration and Adoption by the House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Netshifhefhe. You can switch off the mic and sit down where you are. Can we get a seconder? Vho Nempumbuluni.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

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

THE SPEAKER

Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Road and Infrastructure. Item no 7.1.4.2.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

I again rise to present the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and the Budget for Road Agency Limpopo. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Now you can switch off and get to your seat. Thank you. Can we get a seconder? Hon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to support the presentation made by Hon Netshifhefhe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The person who is opening the Debate is Hon Phokane Maudu Johannes. You are opening the Debate. The Debate is a joint Debate of both the Department of Public Works, Roads, Infrastructure and RAL. They are Debated together. Thank you.

MR PHOKANE

The Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; The Deputy Speaker, Mme Tebogo Mamoropela; the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; The MECs present here, the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, the Chairpersons of Committees, the Whippary, Leaders of Opposition Parties, as well as my fellow honourable Members present here.

Hon Speaker, it is still in our hands to combat the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. This is the glorious call that we must all heed as we commemorate Nelson Mandela Month and prepare to observe and celebrate Nelson Mandela Day on the 18th of July. This is a moment and an opportunity for all of us to recognise our individual and collective responsibility and power to make an indelible mark and imprint on the lives of our people. It is the African National Congress efforts to ensure that our people receive quality and reliable services is predicated on Mandela's legacy and values of kindness, compassion, social justice and inclusion.

The triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment are man-made and therefore they can be overcome and defeated by a collective positive energy to build the South Africa that Nelson Mandela envisioned.

Madam Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Mandela Month. We are reminded that just last month we commemorated the Youth Month and the 79th anniversary of the Youth Day, June 16th. This was done to commemorate and celebrate the bravery and fearlessness of the 1976 students against the armed oppression of the apartheid security forces.

The celebrations reminded us of the stark harsh realities that it is impossible to ignore, that the youth of today face a crisis of staggering unemployment unimaginable to the youth of 1976, their predecessors. The official unemployment rate stood at 32.9% in the

first quarter of 2025 with the expanded unemployment rate being at 48.6%. This means that many South Africans are still trapped in a circle of unfulfilled dreams, despair and despondency.

Madam Speaker, the ANC promotes this situation and commits itself to double its efforts to reverse this trajectory. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is poised to play a meaningful role to turn back this tide. Through various programmes such as road Infrastructure Development, the department can promote enhanced inclusive and faster economic growth leading to youth employment.

We welcome the projection by the department to create over 7 312 work opportunities targeting the youth, women and people living with disability. This surpasses the target job opportunities that was set in the 2024/25 Financial Year with almost 3 906 job opportunities. Another component that can enhance job creation empowerment is through SMME support which should be biased to these vulnerable groups.

In this regard, we welcome the commitment by the department to ensure that at least no less than 45 SMMEs are to be contracted in its infrastructure development projects. We believe that with over 3 billion set aside for road infrastructure development, it is not being over ambitious or overzealous of us to reiterate calls for 30% set aside for the vulnerable groups, meaning the youth, the women and people living with disability. In addition to this, we call on the department to continue these efforts to ensure that all approved invoices are settled within 30 days.

Hon Speaker, this will ensure financial sustainability and liquidity of these SMMEs, leading to an improved quality of life for many people, majority of whom will be youth and women. The ANC, however, is concerned about the reduction in the Budget set aside for the Road Agency Limpopo to improve the provincial roads network. A meagre 958 million that has been set aside for transfer to RAL to improve provincial road networks is a drop in the ocean, considering the kilometres of gravel roads in the province that still need to be improved or upgraded from gravel to tar.

The Budget allocated to RAL is meant for construction of tar-surfaced roads only, as has been its original core mandate. Will the department take full responsibility for the maintenance of the provincial road networks, including gravel roads, grading, patching and rehabilitation?

The committee will forever remain seized with ensuring that the work done remains of high quality by both the department and RAL. The ANC supports and encourages the department to further prioritise companies owned by the youth, women and the disabled when enlisting beneficiaries for the National Contractor Development Programme.

Although we welcome the provision for the 86 beneficiaries targeted for this Financial Year 2025/26, we believe that these numbers will be too little and might need to be increased substantially in the forthcoming financial year. As a committee, we shall remain vigilant in the regular demands and reports pertaining to the implementation of this National Contractor Development Programme. The importance of this programme cannot be overemphasised and any sign of failure or ineptitude on its implementation will not be accepted by the committee.

Madam Speaker, the Expanded Public Works Programme is another programme that plays a crucial role in creating such needed job opportunities and ensures sustainable livelihoods for our people, especially the youth and the women. To date, over 36 public bodies are participating in this programme. We welcome the efforts by government entities to support this programme and call for the increase of the Budget for this Programme, currently sitting at 91 million in order to increase the intake.

The ANC calls upon the private sector to participate in these youth empowerment programmes and create more job opportunities for the youth, women and the disabled. This is in addition to various skills development empowerment programmes that the private sector is offering to our people. It is our firm belief that through public-private partnership, we can increase the intake of many young people and expose them to the much-needed work experience.

We must build on the sound relationship that exists between the Department of Public Works and various mining companies in the province. In this context, we note and acknowledge the partnerships between the department and RAL, as well as Northern Platinum Mining Company, Phalaborwa Mining Company and De Beers Mining Company. These relationships are mostly premised on road construction and maintenance.

We therefore call upon the parties to explore other areas of collaboration, including EPWP within the context of social labour plans that exist between the private sector, government and various host communities to benefit the people. The Committee on Public Works and Road Infrastructure will assist with the responsibility for overseeing the proper and effective implementation of this Programme. That includes ensuring that the annual target of 1 532 employment opportunities as planned for this Financial Year is achieved.

The ANC welcomes the appointment of RAL Board of Directors and believes that the new Board of Directors of RAL, under the able stewardship of Mr Moses Tseli, will nurture these relations and take them to greater heights. This board should sustain the invaluable collaborations and partnerships with the private sector, successfully re-established by the MEC for Public Works. At the heart of this collaboration should be a visible and enabling environment that fosters mutual trust between the parties.

It is our belief that through these natural relations with the private sector, RAL will be able to fulfil the responsibility of providing a very accessible, affordable, safe and reliable road network throughout the province, which are vital for socio-economic development in Limpopo. The ANC recognises and appreciates the efforts and the work of the South African National Road Agency, having accepted 16 roads for maintenance in our province. It is our hope that in the implementation of this project, local companies, owned and controlled by the youth, women and people with disabilities, will receive preference.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We now proceed to the next honourable Member, Hon Velile Jack.

MR JACK

Hon Speaker, the distance I walk takes my minutes. Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive and the Leadership of the Opposition Parties, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, I'm very much worried about the slow pace of retrieving the Public Works houses that are illegally occupied, by even some Members of the department. As MKP, we are calling upon the department to speed up the process of retrieving those houses, because some of those houses were e-marked for Military Veterans who have no place to stay.

Honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, I would like to applaud you for the creation of job opportunities. Let us hope that that job creation was not necessarily meant for you to campaign for the conferences. Prove us wrong, continue to with recruitment especially for young people, and make sure that they are absorb by system.

You are doing a wonderful job, stick to it, be principled. It shouldn't that John Mpe defeated you from the regional conference and you go back. Proceed as a matter of principle, Honourable MEC.

Honourable MEC, my leader, I always engage you on Dekgerekgere. Can you expand Dekgerekgere project, let all the regions and sub-regions, including the villages, benefit from Dekgerekgere project and you must tell people that this is not a permanent solution. It is a temporary measure because we can't reach all areas at the same time when it comes to tar roads. So it must be clearly articulated that while others are given tar roads at the particular time, others will be given Dekgerekgere. So Dekgerekgere are not a solution to the problem. It's just a plan B.

Hon Basikopo Makamu is a problem next to me.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Makamu, you are being unfair to Hon Velile. I'm told you are his problem. Can we now request Hon Helm Marie to the podium?

MS HELM

Hon Speaker, the Premier in absentia, all our MECs, honourable Members, distinguished guests, this is the first budget that is truly a product of the Seventh Administration. Therefore, we can expect that the promises will be fulfilled during this financial year.

While it is proper to congratulate the MEC for Public Works, Roads and infrastructure on the Dekgerekgere Wednesday service delivery initiative project. It is important to get the details of this Programme. How much work was done by each cost centre from the

start of the financial year and what opportunities it has created in the areas where it has been implemented. It is equally important to have the programme for the rest of the financial year so as to inform communities timeously of the work that will be done in the different areas.

It is an important programme, and we need the support of all our communities. The same hopefulness must be taken with the Stakeholder Tuesday initiative. As we know, community unrest can hamper service delivery.

We need information about what was done where and the programme for the financial year. This programme indeed build confidence and strengthen relationships, but also if all in this House, all of us, have all the information, then together we can prevent stoppages of projects.

Road Agency Limpopo still is indeed a source of great concern. During the last Portfolio Committee meeting, Honourable MEC confirmed that the RAL Act will be repealed. It is unclear how almost a billion Rand can be allocated to an agency when the very Act that brought that agency into existence is due to be repealed. But maybe the MEC can just give us clarity on that and when the legislative framework will be put in place to adequately describe the current role of RAL.

It remains to be seen if the appointment of the new board of directors will bring any real change to RAL and save it from the failure it has become. Two hundred and twenty-three million of the 958 million that was allocated to RAL is allocated to Administration. It is assumed that RAL employed qualified engineers and technical people to fulfil its mandate in the past.

What happened to those employees after Honourable MEC stripped RAL of all its activities except the upgrade from gravel to tar of 31 kilometres? If they're still employed by RAL, what are they doing every day? Further, RAL completed 1.7 kilometres, of which we are very thankful, of the seven kilometres D1170 road between the N11 and the D198, that is in Groblersdal. According to information, potholes are already forming on the stretch of road that was done by RAL. It is clear that there are serious quality problems at RAL.

There seems to be a big discrepancy between the cost per kilometre, which worked out to about 24 million Rand, and the quality of the road and the work that was done. Honourable MEC made mention of public-private partnerships and collaborations with other departments, and this is really a step in the right direction. But these efforts should be increased and intensified to speed up infrastructure development that will benefit the people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, stabilising the department's infrastructure directorate to ensure that they fulfil their mandate to implement infrastructure on behalf of all departments, including education and health, is a positive step. The question is, the APP makes it clear that there are no planned targets for the Department of Public Work, Roads and Infrastructure in the 2025/26 Financial Year. We need to know whether there are employees specifically employed to deal with the health infrastructure and what they are going to do during the financial year.

The earmarking of 100 million Rand funding for the procurement of more yellow fleet and I know it's not enough money if we really want to make a big impact but we are grateful for the 100 million, and other related machinery for the 2025/26 Financial Year, will build internal capacity and hopefully reduce the dependency on contractors that very often fail to complete work on time, fail to stay within cost, and do not do good quality work.

This Financial Year is an opportunity to turn around the fortunes of this department and unlock its potential to provide improved infrastructure and facilitate and encourage economic growth, and opportunities desperately needed by our people in the province. We're looking forward to working with the MEC.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We'll now allow Hon Matome Jacob Leboho to speak from where he's sitting.

MR LEBOGO

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, madume ke ao, ke lebeletše '30 km brigade batallion' ye e tlišišitšwego ke mmušo wa ANC; ka gore ngwageng wo wa ditšhelete ba tlo kgona go dira ditsela tša botelele bja dikilomitara tše 30 fela profense ka bophara. E nyamiša kudu, setšhaba se swanetšego go tseba gore ga e kgahliše. Nakong ye ntšhi re bontšhintšwe gore ditaba tše di lego ka gare ga leano la kgoro, di feleletša di sa tšweletše dipelo tše ka mokgwa wo ba hlalositšego ka gona. Sa maswabi ke gore, lenaneo la go swana le Lenaneo 4 la Mananeokgoparara a Ditsela le fokoditše tekanyetšo ya lona ka 9,66% ge re e bapetša le ya mengwaga ya go feta.

Phokotšo ye ya tekanyetšo e bontšha gabotse gore mo Limpopo taba ya tšhalelomorago ya go lokiša ditsela e tlile go šalela ka maatla. Le a tseba gore Limpopo bjalo ka profense, go na le tšhalelomorago ya go lekana botelele bja dikilomitara tše 13 000 ya ditsela, tše di swanetšego gore di lokišwe. Gape, e re bontšha gore tšhalelomorago ya ditsela tše tša mobu, ka thušo ya mašelang ye re e swerego gona bjale e tlile go tšea mengwaga ya go feta ye 100, goba ya go feta ya ANC gore re kgone go ba le ditsela tše e le go gore batho ba tla ikgantšha ka tšona.

EFF e laetša mo gore, go na le dithoto tša go feta 1 600 tše di utswitšwego, tše e le go gore di thupilwe kudu ke batho ba ANC. Re re, Molekgotlaphethiši ga a eme ka maoto a ye go tšea thoto ya mmušo. Re nyaka go bona Molekgotlaphethiši a tsena le maphodisa gomme batho ba swarwa. Re nyaka go bona dithoto tše di tsentšha letseno le le tla lefela gore mafelelong go be le ditsela tše botse mo Limpopo. Ke ka fao re rego, Molekgotlaphethiši ema ka maoto o dire batho ba Limpopo ba ikhantšhe. Mmušo o lobile. Batho ba iphile thoto ya setšhaba.

Re bontšha gape mo gore kgoro e swanetše e netefatše gore, le ge motho a kile a ba ka mo go Ngwako wo, goba a ile a ba kua go Palamente, Cape Town, ga a swarwe ge e ba a o utswitše thoto ya mmušo. Ba be ba buše le tšhelete ya mmušo ya go lefela di-rates mo mebasepaleng. Re bontšha gape gore, go lokiša le go mpshafatša ditsela e

swanetše e phele e le taba ya pele ka mo go kgoro, ka gore ge di tsela di lokišwa go ka se sa ba le dikotsi tše nthši tša dikoloi. Gape, e tla fokotša le taba ya go tleima tšhelete mo go sego molaong, ye e diragalago ka mo go kgoro. Re kgopetše gape go kgoro gore e šomišane le batho ba Road Accident Fund gore go se ke gwa ba le batho ba go tleima gabedi, ka gore ba lobiša mmušo ka ge tšhelete e etšwa sekhwameng se tee.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that this department does not monitor the progressive completion of construction projects. This matter ends up affecting the performance of the department because it is only later in the year when they realise that people did not perform their projects in terms of completing that on time; and so forth. It affects the value for money, and we only get sub-standard work. How does the department justify the fact that the Administration Programme was allocated 11% whilst EPWP received the smallest share of 2% of the overall budget? We demand massive employment of youth and other qualifying persons as part of the process to insource services in the department.

This massive employment must not be infested by ANC-aligned cadres. It must be ordinary people who are dying of hunger here in Limpopo. There is a need to establish the Limpopo government [inaudible] company to save costs and be aggressive in providing infrastructure projects. Our people need permanent, sustainable jobs which will restore their dignity and change their livelihoods, not the promised 1 522 short-term employment and income relief jobs. We need permanent solutions.

More training and skills development opportunities must be created as part of efforts to alleviate poverty, reduce unemployment and provide skills development opportunities to our people. The EFF is concerned that the department does not assess whether road upgrades are improving connectivity, safety and economic access in rural and unreserved areas in line with the department's objective of delivering sustainable infrastructure. There must be clear indicators of how EPWP beneficiaries are being recruited, not concealed as a process of other reasons. The EPWP job opportunities must be spread equally or evenly across all five districts of our province for the benefit of deserving persons, not only ANC-aligned people.

Hon Speaker, can we get a report from the department on progress on reducing vacancy rates to 10% resolving audit findings and strengthening internal control systems to improve audit outcomes? We also need evidence of completed service delivery agreements and IPID's project completeness and readiness for tender designs, ensuring the delivery of infrastructure projects and making sure that everything is within the allocated period. Can the department take this House into confidence that they are addressing the community empowerment and participation, especially in projects with high public interest and ensure strategies are implemented to reduce conflict and project delays. We need to see Welisizwe bridge initiatives in villages of Limpopo, accompanied by skills transfer at the centre of the whole programme.

The department must reclaim its position as per mandate, and the Hon Premier must ensure that all infrastructure projects are transferred back to the department; inclusive of personnel of those people who have been employed by other departments so that they can focus on the core mandate of providing services, not infrastructure. We need more innovative models such as piloting the fly edge to be used which will bear minimal costs in terms of service delivery. The cost centres, Hon Speaker, must be equipped

with enough yellow fleet to ensure prompt response to queries and service provisions; to make sure that our roads are conducive and safe, and will also minimise the time delays of fixing potholes and so forth.

The people of Limpopo cannot afford to wait anymore. They need services. The people of Marowe, Blood River, Mamotintane, Sekhukhune and all over are waiting for the roads. We call upon the MEC to ensure that the people get roads, and the only solution so far is to get back the properties and have partnerships, lease them to make sure that people pay and we have money to make roads. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now allow the chair of the committee to close the debate. Hon Netshifhefhe Khathutshelo John, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and RAL.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker for the opportunity. Greetings once more to the Chief Whip and all honourable Members. Madam Speaker, we hardly welcome the Annual Performance Plan and the Budget for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the Road Agency Limpopo. We are of the firm conviction that through these instruments, the department and its agency will deliver quality infrastructure to our people. We urge the department to ensure that its efforts complement the broader endeavour to confront the crisis of unemployment, inequality and poverty that bedevils our people.

The future of our people is on both actions. Not empty rhetoric. These social ills that confront our people, especially the most vulnerable being the youth, women and the disabled; extend beyond economics. They threaten the country's social fabric and future stability. Many incidents of project disruption, construction mafias, and other acts of distortion are unjustifiable, though they are brought by desperation and deprivation experienced by our people. In this regard, we single out the Botshabelo library in the Sekhukhune district, which was delayed for a long time due to disruptions.

Encouragingly, the project is nearing completion. This library will offer the wealth of knowledge that our people are yearning for. The ANC urges the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to strengthen their stakeholder engagements for utilising various creative initiatives, including the 'Stakeholder Tuesdays' and ensure that at all material times when they conceptualise service delivery projects, they engage in extensive consultations with ordinary and affected communities. This will ensure that our programme reflects the will of the people and mitigates service delivery disruptions that often plague our projects, often due to a lack of consultation.

We have witnessed other creative initiatives by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, providing services to our people, especially road infrastructure that is working. One of these is the 'Dikgerekgere Wednesdays' that yielded positive results which we expect it to be strengthened. As the ANC, we support this initiative and call on all the Members of the august House, the leadership of the Municipality in our province, the private sector and the broader community to join us in this regard.

Through this intervention over 55,000 kilometres of roads were bladed, 132 km of gravel roads were re-gravelled and black top patching of 519,715 square metres was achieved. This was also accompanied by the procurement of additional yellow fleet. All these initiatives helped to ensure that our roads of 14 000 km that are unpaved are gravelled. These roads serve as access roads connecting communities to basic services and goods, and to areas of economic activities such as farms and small towns. We urge the department to build on these achievements and do more. It is in our hands. Our province is the gateway to Southern Africa and Africa. We must remain steadfast in the provision of quality road infrastructure to connect the region and the continent and ultimately stimulate economic growth and integration, and create the much-needed jobs to grow our economy.

Madam Speaker, the ANC welcomes the appointment of the Road Agency Limpopo board of directors and the establishment of these committees namely: the planning and contracts committee, human resources, the remuneration committee, the social and ethics committee and the nomination committee. It is our strong belief that the board and its committees will adhere to sound cooperative governance and discharge their responsibilities without fear, favour or prejudice. We call on the board to finalise the establishment of its audit and risk committees and fill all vacant senior management posts, including the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer.

The ANC advocates for a developmental, ethical and capable state that is led by a capable, effective, efficient, strong and skilled workforce. We hope that whilst filling those vacancies, the board will ensure that it appoints people who promote accountability and transparency, fight and combat corruption and uphold the rule of law, adherence to and display of all these qualities and trade, is at the core of good corporate governance. The establishment of these committees should be accompanied by the strengthening of internal capacity within the department and the RAL, especially regarding internal control and asset management. The internal control unit is critical to; coordinate, implement, monitor and report on external and internal audits, Scopa resolutions, unauthorised fruitless and wasteful expenditure as well as matters pertaining to financial misconduct.

The ANC calls on the department to finalise its assets register. We need to employ more EPWP data warriors to support all our districts, about 36 call centres and 13 mechanical workshops during asset verification and stock accounting. Madam Speaker, we applaud the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for successfully concluding the memorandum of understanding with seven TVET colleges in the province, namely: Lephalale, Mopane, Vhembe, Capricorn, Letaba, Sekhukhune and Waterberg.

Through this, the department will avail its mechanical building and maintenance workshops for students requiring experiential training in engineering, buildings and artisan works. These are the students who will qualify for employment in many of our call centres and mechanical workshops after the completion of their studies. We also welcome the signing of the memorandum of understanding with Lepelle Nkumpi, Polokwane and Makhuduthamaga municipalities for the maintenance of several 'D' roads. Also, worthy of praise is the partnership agreement with [Inaudible] mining for the construction and maintenance of D745 and D3672 roads and the SARPFC properties of the construction or maintenance of D908, D536 and D970 roads.

We call on other private sector entities, including farmers, to partner with us to improve our road infrastructure in this regard. The ANC extends its appreciation for the partnership between RAL and ZZ2 to maintain the D1801[inaudible] and D2674 Selo to enable transportation of high-value fruits like tomatoes and avocados. We hope the engagement with the farmers in the Letsitele valley for the improvement of road P43/30 will yield better results.

We welcome progress made to construct new houses at the parliamentary village. We hope that this project will be executed with precision and without any interference. Additionally, we welcome the implementation of energy-efficient programmes at the national key points. This will enhance energy availability at this important point and ensure service delivery continuity.

Madam Speaker, these and other infrastructure projects that were announced by the MEC in his budget speech are meant to improve the quality of life of our people. We urge the department and RAL to remain focused to ensure full implementation of their APPs and ensure that there are no funds that are returned to the National Treasury due to poor spending. The ANC is convinced that with the adoption of the turnaround strategy the Limpopo infrastructure maintenance strategy, the department will reverse past failures and position itself as the institution of choice in the delivery and management of infrastructure programmes. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The chair has closed the debate, we shall now call upon the Honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Tony Rachoene to respond to the debate by honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje; the Honourable Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; the Deputy Speaker, Tebogo Portia Mamorobela; the honourable Members of this Legislature, including Dr Malebana and Dr Che Selane; chairpersons and Members of the portfolio committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; colleagues in the Executive, ke re kgotsong.

THE BACKGROUND

A e ateng.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mohl Jack Lulamile, ke be ke nyaka go mo gopotša gore tše tša dikhomferense a di tlogele ka gore ga senke a ba le khomferense kua MKP gomme, a kgone tše tša 'family entity' le dilo tša 'mayibuye.' A tlo gele tše tša ANC ka gore go na le temokrasi. E bile a ka se e kwešiše ka gore ga se nke a e ba le khomferense.

Distinguished guests, I rise to respond for the report of the portfolio committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure presented today; for consideration and adoption with

respect to the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan for both the department and its entity, Road Agency Limpopo. Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to the Honourable Chairperson, Hon Khathu Netshifhefhe and the Members of the portfolio committee for their continued oversight, critical engagements and valuable recommendations that guide us in refining our policy implementation, service delivery focus and alignment with the strategic priorities of the Seventh Administration.

The 2025/26 financial year marks a critical point in our developmental trajectory. We are implementing our plans in the context of a province that remains under significant infrastructure strain, particularly in the rural and previously disadvantaged areas. The department is taking seriously the portfolio committee's findings and concerns raised during today's sitting. In particular, the emphasis is on the pace and quality of road maintenance and as well as how we are dealing with the properties of the department. We acknowledge that these are not merely administrative issues. They have real consequences for the people of Limpopo who depend daily on safe, reliable and accessible roads and infrastructure as well as access to general infrastructure delivery.

The 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget have been crafted with care to ensure that every rand is spent where it is most needed and where it can yield the greatest returns for communities. Intensive road maintenance and rehabilitation completion of storm infrastructure projects, as we all know, the challenges of overcommitment and experience in the past acceleration of EPWP work opportunities for youth and women; and enhancing the capacity of district offices for localised service delivery from our 36 cost centres. I am pleased to confirm that the 2025/26 APPs are aligned with the Limpopo Development Plan, the economic reconstruction and recovery plan and the cabinet's directive on infrastructure-led economic growth and job creation.

The Department of Dikgerekgere and Road Agency Limpopo jointly oversee the upgrading of the 31 new road projects, and also push for the finalisation of the 28 projects of the provincial roads that are currently running, with at least 40% of this work reserved for labour-intensive methods. This not only addresses infrastructure needs but also serves our goals of job creation and enterprise development. This is a vision of the overall massive job creation by the department where we have already appointed more than 350 people on a permanent basis in a space of 8 months. About 95 posts have been advertised and to be filled before the end of September and 178 more post are to be advertised in the beginning of September and also to be filled by the end of December this year. These are not just figures but an intervention to change the lives of our people across the province. The RAAL strategic plan for 2025-2030 is now in implementation. It brings a sharper focus on engineering quality assurance, project management and contractor performance monitoring.

Hon Speaker, allow me to emphasise on governance and accountability. We are taking seriously, the committee's recommendation on consequence management and procurement transparency. Steps are already underway to strengthen internal audit capacity and to support forensic investigations where irregularities have been detected. I also want to commit today that we will keep the portfolio committee updated on the outcomes of these investigations.

On community engagements and stakeholder collaboration, we have already talked about our Stakeholder Tuesdays engagement session, Dikgerekgere Wednesday,

Vhuyisa Thundu ya Muvhuso and Operation Tsoga Mošomi. We further managed to restore confidence in the private sector, mines in particular. My honourable Members on the left wanted an update on Dikgerekgere, and an update is as follows: we bloated 55 000 of the planned 44,000 km, we have re-gravelled 132 kilometres of the 45 kilometres planned. We have actually overachieved, Hon Chairperson, Netshifhefhe has already touched on the 519 square meters of pothole patching. On Operation Thiba Mekoti, here we have also exceeded 322 000 km. On Welisiszwe we have completed four bridges in Waterberg, and we will soon be going to start with the construction of the remaining 11 bridges. In further reshaping of RAL, we kick-started the process of repealing the RAL Act, which allows us to put in place a proper monitoring mechanism and ensure that there is full accountability. We want to reverse a situation where the entity acts as an independent body.

On yellow fleet, Hon Lebogo, be rest assured we have started procuring the yellow fleet and indeed this financial year we are buying an additional fleet amounting to R100 million. Honourable Members, it is not enough to build roads and structures, we must ensure that what we build is wanted, useful and sustainable. Our infrastructure must reflect not only compliance with national norms but also the lived priorities of communities. In closing, Hon Speaker, the department accept the report of the portfolio committee and recommits itself to full implementation of the APPs and the performance targets set out in that APP.

We take serious the responsibility placed on us to translate budgets into delivery and plans into results. Let us remind ourselves that infrastructure is not simply about roads and buildings, it is about enabling dignity, access, mobility and economic opportunities. It is about building a province that works for all as we also appreciate the guidance and oversight provided in this House and look forward to your continued support as we continue in this financial year with determination and resolve. Pele ke fetša, tla ke leboge Whippyery as led by the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip. Ke re, ke a leboga. Kgotso ya Modimo e be le lena. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

8. RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. It's like you knew that at some point I would say, it's time up, and you finished before I could even consider that. Honourable Members, we are now at Item 08. It is the response to parliamentary questions. The following parliamentary questions for written reply have been responded to and the responses are published on the ATC dated Monday 07 July 2025: 8.1 Q 4,13,15,16,17,18, 33 ,43,44 and 45; 2025 for written reply by the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development. Item 8.2 Q 46 of 2025 for written reply by the MEC for Treasury. Item 8.3 Q 37, 38, 49, 50, 51 and 52 2025 for written reply by the MEC for Health. Item 8.4 Q 6, 13, and 42 2025 for written reply were responded to by the MEC for Social Development. They are published in the ATC as indicated.

We are now on Item 09, NCOP Business. Item 9.1, we will request that the Chief Whip come closer, as he will be dealing with both 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3. Item 9.1 is Motion for the Ratification of Conferral of Final Voting Mandate to the NCOP, Ho Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

On Tuesday 24 June 2025 when the House was not sitting the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety met to consider and adopt a report on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response Cooperation) Bill. The final mandate for this bill was due for tabling at the NCOP Select Committee on 01 July 2025. In line with the above Rule 236 was evoked in order to allow the Hon Speaker to confer a final mandate to permanent delegates and to vote in favour of the bill. I therefore move that this august House resolve to ratify this mandate as already conferred in terms of Rule 236. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the move? Hon Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Dr Makhurupetje. Nna, Ngk Selane ke ema go thekga se sengwe le se sengwe se bolelago ke Mohlomphegi Sefepikgolo sa mokgatlo wo o bušago ka go Lekgotlatheramelao. Ke a leboga.

9. NCOP BUSINESS**THE SPEAKER**

Re a leboga, Ngaka. Now we are on Item: 9.1 Motion for the Ratification of the Conferral of Final Voting Mandate to the NCOP Plenaries. Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makoma Makhurupetje.

**RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND
THE NCOP PLENARIES IN CAPE TOWN**

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 below-listed virtual NCOP Plenaries:

- To consider the following policy debate on Budget Vote 17 for Higher Education 01 July 2025: Hon N C Rakgoale, Hon G D Matjokane and Hon V W Maringa.

- To consider the following policy debate on Budget Vote 03, for Cooperative Governance 02 July 2025: Hon M C Sepuru, Hon K G Netshifhefhe and Hon M A Matjomane.
- To consider the following budget debate on Budget Vote 05 for Home Affairs and policy debate on Budget Vote 40 for Transport, 03 July 2025: Hon S M Mathe, Hon K Lebea, Hon D A Nenguda.

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.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can I get a seconder from the House? Hon Sebopela, you are recognised.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sebopela for seconding the motion we now proceed to Item:

9.3 Motion for the Appointment of Special Delegates to attend NCOP Plenaries.

Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker.

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE NCOP PLENARIES IN CAPE TOWN

- The NCOP Plenaries that we are going to appoint special delegates for the following dates; 08, 09, 10 and 15 July 2025.
- The NCOP has scheduled plenaries to deal with policy debates for budget votes. Provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these hybrid plenaries. In terms of Rule 226(1) I, therefore, propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend the NCOP Plenaries virtually. Policy debate on Budget Vote 15 for Education, Policy Debate on Budget Vote 29 for Agriculture.
- 08 July 2025 at 14:00: Hon N C Rakgoale, Hon D A Nenguda. Policy Debate on Budget Vote 10 for Electricity and Energy, Policy Debate on Budget Vote 33, Human Settlements.

- 09 July 2025 at 14:00, Hon M A Mokaba and Hon M C Sepuru. Policy debate on Budget Vote 42 for Land Reform and Rural Development, Policy Debate on Budget Vote 42 for Water and Sanitation.
- 10 July 2025 at 14:00: Hon V W Maringa, Hon M C Sepuru, Policy Debate on Budget Vote 02 for Parliament, Policy Debate on Budget Vote 37.
- 15 July 2025 at 14:00, Hon F P Mdaka, Hon M C Mohale, Hon D A Nenguda, I so move Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can I get a seconder? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makhurupetje. I rise to second the Chief Whip. I thank you.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. We are on Item 10, announcements. Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hasani Peter Ngobeni, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, the Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. The Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Whippery; the Leader of Government Business, Hon Rodgers Basikopo Makamu and honourable Members, greetings to you. Hon Ledwaba, se o se dirilego ba re ke, go jela molato mpeng. It reminded me of an African adage that, 'eat when the meal is ready, speak when the time is right.' I am sure you will understand. I rise to make the following announcements that:

- The next Sitting of the Legislature will be on 10 July 2025, here in Lebowakgomo Legislative chamber at 10:00,
- There will be a Speakers' Forum on 11 July 2025 at Bolivia Lodge at 10:00, and lastly
- Lunch will be served at the committee's boardroom. The food is ready, Hon Ledwaba. [LAUGHTER]

11. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Ngobeni, for the announcements. In terms of the Speaker's Forum, there are specific committees and chairpersons that have been invited. We hope

they will be reminded accordingly so that they are able to attend that. Without a waste of time, we are now at Item 11. The House stands adjourned to Thursday, 10 July 2025, at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. The House stands adjourned. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 10 JULY 2025
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, honourable Members. I would like to take this opportunity to greet all of you. Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama and the entire Whippers; all the MECs present today; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo; all other opposition parties and other honourable Members; everyone in the gallery; our guests from departments; we greet you all.

I must inform honourable Members that it is an honour and a privilege that I hereby acknowledge the new Member of the UAT, Hon Matsobane Jump Sebothoma, whom we have just sworn in earlier today. Hon Sebothoma replaces Hon Maila, who has resigned as a Member of the Legislature. Let us welcome Hon Sebothoma in the House. [APPLAUSE]

He is not here alone; he is accompanied by the leadership of his party. Let's acknowledge their presence in the House. Mr Baloyi, who is the Secretary-General of the UAT, along with the delegation from the national and provincial office, is present. [APPLAUSE]

We warmly welcome you as you join us in witnessing the inaugural meeting. Hon Sebothoma, today, during the speeches, we usually give an opportunity to a person who is debating for the first time. This is called an inaugural speech. We hope that part of the debates you participate in today will serve as your inaugural speech to the House, and we warmly welcome you once more.

We are now starting with the Sitting as scheduled for today, 10 July 2025, and I am happy that we started on time. We will make sure that we continue to always be on time. There have been some weaknesses, and we should not repeat those mistakes.

On that note, honourable Members, we are proceeding to item 2: Motions without Notice, in terms of House Rule 145. I have a number of them. Before we proceed, honourable Members, we have printed the new Rule Book. All of us, as promised, before we leave today, are going to receive our new Rule Books. However, we must also make sure that the soft copy we currently have remains in use; you are allowed to continue using it. Are there any motions?

Hon Champ Sepuru, you are recognised.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY FOR ATTAINING LEVEL 2 ACCREDITATION (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to present the motion without notice regarding Polokwane Municipality attaining Level 2 accreditation.

Hon Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that today, 10 July 2025, the Polokwane Municipality embarks on a colossal programme of building low-cost houses for its residents.

About a year ago, a memorandum of agreement was signed with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), granting the Polokwane Municipality a Level 2 accreditation implementation protocol. Today, the Minister of Human Settlements in the Republic, Hon Thembisile Simelane, is in Polokwane for the commencement of a gigantic rollout programme that will provide housing for our people. The event will be held today at 11:00.

Through Level 2 accreditation, the Polokwane Municipality has been entrusted with the enormous responsibility of implementing and managing its own low-cost housing infrastructure programmes. This, we believe, will help the government expedite the delivery of low-cost housing and meet the unending demand for shelter by our people.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Sepuru.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Next, motion without notice. I can see other Members are not here in the House, but Members who have motions can still raise them. Hon Marx, you are on the list.

You must raise your hand so that I am able to see you. You are on the floor; you may proceed.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE OVER VANDALISM AT PIETERSBURG
CONCENTRATION CAMP**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on a motion without notice to express and explore the deep displeasure at the vandalism that occurred at one of our most memorable sites in Polokwane, the Pietersburg Concentration Camp, which was vandalised over the past two to three weeks.

What makes this particularly disheartening is that both the department and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) had allocated budgets to revamp the concentration camp to a commendable state. All that hard work is now seemingly undermined by this vandalism.

Hon Speaker, we therefore implore the Polokwane Municipality, as well as the relevant department, to take all necessary steps to protect our heritage sites; especially sites such as the Pietersburg Concentration Camp and others of historical significance.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. I stand to second the motion as submitted by Hon Marx. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there any other motions? Hon Lebea, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**COMMENDING THE TREMENDOUS WORK DONE BY THE DEDICATED
MEMBERS OF SAPS IN THIS PROVINCE**
(Motion without Notice)

I, Kedibone Lebea of the African National Congress, rise to move a motion without notice that this House notes the tremendous work that is done by the dedicated members of the South African Police Service in this province.

Hon Speaker, we shall not tire of coming into this august House and inundating honourable Members with the exceptional work that SAPS continues to do to eliminate crime from our society.

A few days ago, we witnessed the arrest of a 40-year-old male from Sebor Village at GaMashashane, who was arrested for killing his 87-year-old mother. We commend the police for the swift arrest of the suspect in this barbaric act of cannibalism, where an elderly woman became a victim of gender-based violence at the hands of her own son.

The police's crime-fighting efforts in this province are hard to ignore, and we continue to observe a series of occurrences where SAPS is making significant breakthroughs. This past Saturday, the police arrested a 38-year-old suspect who was found in possession of a stolen Toyota Corolla on the N1 South, outside Polokwane.

About two weeks ago, the police in Musina also arrested a 44-year-old male who was trying to smuggle a Hyundai H1 minibus into Zimbabwe. In another incident on 23 June 2025, the police apprehended a 28-year-old male suspect who was caught driving a white Toyota Corolla Cross, stolen from Pretoria, heading north. About a year ago, this same suspect was caught driving a stolen Toyota Hilux GD6.

He was granted bail for that case and was due to appear in court on 25 June 2025. Hon Speaker, all these breakthroughs point to a capable police force that is waging a ferocious war against crime and working to create safer communities for our people.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Lebea. Is there any seconder? Hon Matjomane, you are recognised.

MS MATJOMANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, are there any further motions without notice? If not, we'll proceed directly to item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any Notices of Motions in terms of House Rule 146? Should I read the list? I thought honourable Members would raise their hands. Hon Malebana Chuene, you are on the list.

DR MALEBANA

Hon Speaker, thank you. I want this House to know that I'm giving a Members' Statements, not a Notice of Motion. Must I sit down?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, I was wrong; I apologise. It means there are no notices of motion today. Thank you so much. We are now moving on to the Members' Statements.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

I will allow Members to raise their hands. I have already identified you, Hon Malebana. Let me give you the opportunity to start.

DR MALEBANA

**RESURGENCE OF CONCERNS AROUND THE DIGITALISATION OF PATIENT
FILES IN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS**

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress. We are alarmed by the resurgence, or renewed concern surrounding the digitalisation programme of patient files in hospitals and clinics, which have resurfaced across different channels in recent times.

It is the African National Congress's conviction that the MEC for Health in this province must address this esteemed Legislature and set the record straight, in the interest of transparency and accountability.

Our suspicion is that there may be rudimentary elements who believe that the department is running this programme in a clandestine manner. To this end, the government has made momentous progress in building a resilient and capable state, one characterised by openness, answerability and the hallmarks of accountability and transparency.

As a portfolio committee, we held various engagements with the department. We have accepted the department's explanation that everything regarding the transaction was done in line with the service level agreement.

We want to believe that reports suggesting this transaction is littered with graft and corruption are not based on facts or truth. Hence, we are calling upon the MEC, Hon Dieketseng Mashego, to provide further clarity and put these rumours to rest.

I thank you. Ke a leboga, Dr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Dr Malebana. We have a number of doctors in this House, and Chuene Malebana is one of them; an honourable Member who is also a doctor. Re a leboga, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health.

We will now proceed to the EFF, if they have a Members' Statement. Hon Ledwaba, you are recognised.

MS LEDWABA

THE EFF'S CONCERN OVER THE RISE OF ROAD FATALITIES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the rising incidents of road fatalities in Limpopo. During Easter 2025, in a historic turn of events, Limpopo province recorded zero road fatalities. However, there is now a regression, instead of the government strengthening the strategies that were applied during the Easter holidays.

Just this month alone, more than ten people have already died on our roads due to car accidents. Road crashes continue to claim lives, and in some instances, passengers sustain serious injuries that leave them permanently disabled. Road accidents have dire consequences for families and society at large, as children are often left behind, and in some cases, the children themselves become victims of these fatalities.

There is an urgent need for heightened road safety awareness as part of efforts to reduce road fatalities. The 30% strategy by the Department of Transport and Community Safety to reduce road fatalities must be fast-tracked and quickly implemented to minimise road accidents. We know that departments have a weakness in setting targets which they ultimately fail to achieve. They just set targets for malicious compliance; simply to look good.

We call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to strive towards achieving that strategy, because doing so will ensure that our people are safe on our roads.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed to the DA. Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker.

CONCERN OVER ILLEGAL WATER CONNECTIONS IN HOUSEHOLDS IN HOMU, GIYANI

(Members' Statement)

Yesterday, on request, I conducted an oversight visit to the Homu 14 Village in Giyani. Our Hon Premier launched her Water Fridays (#HiNWaMati Fridays) campaign there in

August last year. It was a wonderful idea, and we were excited about it. However, due to a myriad of constraints, it has tragically been unable to continue.

My concern, Speaker, is the R308 million project that was intended to install reservoirs, bulk water lines, and household taps for the people of Homu. It is nowhere near completion. Indeed, the pipeline, manholes, and valves are in place. Taps have been installed at the houses, and the reservoirs are also in place. However, the majority of households still do not receive water.

Sadly, it became very evident, and we have the photographs, that the residents have now resorted to illegal water connections, tapping into the main line and running water to their homes illegally.

Hon Premier, we went to the house where you showcased the water supply coming in, and indeed, there is water at that house. However, there were people collecting drums of water from that premises, about 80 drums lined up in total, loaded into quarts and then taken and sold to residents in the area by water couriers.

I suspect, Premier, that you were seriously misled by information on the project, or someone is trying to embarrass you.

The people were excited and delighted at the prospect of getting water at last, so were we, but they are now in despair. A few may get water once a week, and then it is gone.

I believe this matter needs further investigation, and honest answers should be given to us in this House, and to the people who are suffering and upset on the ground.

I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I request all honourable Members, once you finish speaking, please make sure you switch off the mic. Even when you come to the front, so that we can proceed without hindrance.

When I acknowledged the leadership of the UAT, who are introducing their new Member, I may not have acknowledged all other political parties. I can see you in the gallery. The MK leadership is here; we acknowledge you. The ANC is also here; we acknowledge you.

EFF Members, if they are in the gallery, are warmly welcomed. I am not sure if the DA is here, but we must acknowledge all political parties represented in our Sitting. You are warmly welcome.

We also take this opportunity to welcome the Premier. We know that you have other responsibilities, but we are always honoured to have you with us. When you have an opportunity, you never miss the Sitting; and for that, we appreciate you, Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba. Re a leboga.

We are still on item 4: Members' Statements. I hope MECs are taking note, so they may respond to the observations made by Members at a later stage.

We now proceed to the EFF. Hon Molapo, you are on the list. May we give you an opportunity to speak?

[Inaudible]

MR BALOYI

Thank you very much, Speaker. Greetings to honourable Members, MECs, and my leader, Hon Mapoulo.

CONCERN OVER UNOCCUPIED MUNICIPAL RENTAL HOUSES AND RDPs
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disturbed by the number of unoccupied municipal rental and RDP houses in Polokwane Municipality. While our people are desperately in need of housing, we are troubled by the extremely low occupancy rate in Ga-Rena Village Phase 2 and Ladanna, opposite Ga-Rena Village Phase 1.

The delay in placing deserving people in these houses is unacceptable and insensitive to the service delivery needs of our people. This low occupancy rate represents a setback in the provision of service delivery to the citizens of Polokwane and South Africa as a whole. Instead of delivering services to the people, the municipality is suppressing and withholding them.

These units are often vulnerable to vandalism and invasion, with windows and doors being broken, and internal fittings damaged by thugs who are not deserving to occupy those houses. In some cases, where houses remain incomplete, residents have to complete the construction themselves, at their own expense, after years of waiting. Many beneficiaries have waited for years for the allocation of RDP houses, leading to serious frustration.

The lack of security around occupied houses further makes them vulnerable to crime and vandalism.

We call upon CoGHSTA and the Polokwane Municipality to urgently address the failure to achieve 100% occupancy rate. If this is not resolved, the EFF will direct our people to occupy those houses anytime from now.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members! Hon Chair of Chairs, please, can we have order. Can we proceed to the DA? Hon Marx, you are recognised.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CALL UPON MEC KEKANA TO INTERVENE ON GOVERNANCE AND
LEADERSHIP CRISIS WITHIN BATLHABINE CPA**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, on 29 April this year, I wrote to both MEC Kekana and the HOD of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, requesting intervention in the governance and leadership crisis within the Batlhabine CPA (Communal Property Association) by initiating the election of a new executive. This followed stakeholder engagement between members of the Batlhabine CPA, as well as the DA in Tzaneen, during which community members expressed deep concern at the CPA leadership's failure to convene fresh elections.

To date, I have not even received the courtesy of an acknowledgement of receipt of my letter. The CPA's refusal to comply with its constitution by initiating new elections has effectively denied the community its democratic right to choose new leadership. This failure has bred tension, mistrust, and a collapse in confidence in the association's ability to govern the community's property fairly and transparently.

The Batlhabine restitution claim led to the return of several productive farms in the renowned Letsitele Valley to approximately 876 beneficiaries. It is unacceptable that individuals in positions of power can entrench themselves in structures meant to benefit land restitution beneficiaries and historically disadvantaged communities. It is equally vital that productive farmland remains productive, and that jobs are not lost because of government failures.

It is incumbent upon MEC Kekana and the department to intervene. We need a clear and unequivocal answer from the MEC, confirming that decisive action will be taken to address the governance and leadership crisis within the Batlhabine CPA, and that urgent steps will be taken to ensure that free and fair elections of a new executive committee for the CPA take place.

Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there any other Members' Statements? That was the last one.

Thank you so much. We have dealt with item 4. I will now allow MECs who wish to respond and reflect on the Members' Statements. Can I see the hands of the MECs who wish to respond, so that I can acknowledge you?

The MEC for Health, the MEC for Transport, the MEC for LEDET, and the MEC for Education. Let's proceed in that order, starting with the MEC for Health.

Hon Dieketseng Mashego; you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier.
[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You are reminded that the response should not be more than three minutes.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thanks very much, Speaker. Greetings to you, Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; MECs; honourable Members; and all guests in the gallery.

I rise today to set the record straight on a matter that has unfortunately gained traction through deliberate distortion and sensationalism on social media and in public discourse.

It has been falsely claimed that the Limpopo Department of Health, under the watch of my predecessor, and now under the stewardship of the current administration, paid a staggering R408 million solely for warehouse rental over a two-year period. Some have gone as far as to suggest that this alleged figure could have bought a warehouse and enough ambulances for the entire province.

Let me state categorically and without hesitation: these claims are entirely false, misleading, and malicious.

The department has not paid R408 million for the rental of any storage facility. The amount being irresponsibly circulated is not only grossly exaggerated, but it is also falsely attributed to a single line item that does not reflect the full scope of the work undertaken.

Honourable Members, the facts are as follows:

In 2019, the department advertised a tender for scanning, archiving, and off-site storage of patient records — a long-overdue initiative in response to well-documented concerns from oversight bodies, including the Public Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission in South Africa. In March 2020, following a transparent and competitive procurement process, the tender was awarded to Veritas Digital.

This contract is rate-based, not a lump sum, which means the department only pays for work that is done, verified and delivered. Not imagined figures invented for political point-scoring.

The scope of work includes the collection of inactive medical records from 457 clinics and 41 hospitals, the scanning and digitalisation of millions of patient files, some dating back to the establishment of our hospitals, and secure off-site storage with full retrieval functionality. This enables compliance with legal and medico-legal frameworks, while freeing up clinical space in facilities that were previously overwhelmed by chaotic filing rooms.

This intervention was not about warehousing. It was about modernising our health system. It was about efficiency, security, continuity of care, and patient safety.

As we speak, digitised files can now be retrieved within seconds to defend against medico-legal claims, and storage risks have been reduced. Let me indicate that to reduce such a transformative and strategic intervention to the false notion of “warehouse rental” is not just misrepresentation, it is an insult to the professionals working tirelessly to build a 21st-century health system for Limpopo.

We welcome the oversight. We welcome the scrutiny. What we reject unequivocally is the weaponisation of misinformation for political gain. Our people deserve the truth, not theatrics; accountability, not cheap populism.

As the Limpopo Department of Health, we remain fully committed to good governance, fiscal prudence, and quality service delivery. We will not be deterred by deliberate attempts to distract or discredit us. We will continue to act in the best interest of the people of Limpopo.

As the Limpopo Provincial Government, ka nnete dilo di tšhentšhitše, ke ka fao batho ba thothomelago. that's why people are shaking in their boots. We want to thank our Hon Premier for leading this province and for ensuring that every Member of the Executive acts within their department and ensures that service delivery reaches the people.

We thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC. MECs, just a reminder that you have three minutes. The MEC for Health was lucky because the timer was not on, but it is on now.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

I xikombankarhi xa xihlawuhlawu lexi. Hon Speaker, honourable Members, Hon Premier in the House, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning.

I rise to respond to the statement made by the Member of the EFF regarding road fatalities. Let me begin by welcoming the statement and assuring the House that we are equally saddened by the tragic accidents occurring daily. It must be noted that the majority of these incidents are the result of human error.

Why do I say this? On all our roads, whether gravel or tarred, there are road signs that some drivers decide to ignore. Some drive recklessly, overtaking where they are not supposed to, and speeding is one of the leading causes of these fatalities.

On Tuesday, 08 July 2025, a male driver was arrested. He was driving at a speed of 177 km/h in a speed zone of 120 km/h. Hence, why I'm standing here, I want to tell you that the issue of road safety is not about a particular department, it's about human behaviour, and as the MEC, I can't be inside every car to tell that particular person not to speed, not to drive recklessly, or not to overtake.

So, because of this, it is the responsibility of all of us to make sure that we arrive at our destination safe and alive. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa, Muchaviseki Susan Mathye; MEC for Transport and Community Safety ku va mi kotile ku hi hlayisela nkarhi. Hi khensile swinene. We are now calling upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Matibe Tshitereke.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

I am standing in on behalf of MEC Makamu. We take note of the statement received from the EFF regarding delays in occupancy of houses by beneficiaries. However, we must indicate that delays in occupancy do not warrant illegal occupation, as you put it.

Usually, delays in occupancy occur because we need to ensure that the rightful beneficiaries of those houses are identified. Otherwise, houses are built and end up being occupied by illegal occupants instead of the legitimate owners.

I had hoped that the Member of the EFF would also acknowledge the grading of Polokwane Municipality, rather than focusing on negative issues. Nonetheless, we will, working together with the Polokwane Municipality, investigate and ensure that those houses are properly occupied.

If you go and occupy houses illegally, we are going to arrest you.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

May I make one last announcement?

When you are done speaking, please switch off the mic, whether at the podium or where you are sitting. Our system is a bit challenged today. Thank you so much.

We now call upon the MEC for Agriculture, Hon Nakedi Kekana, to respond.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; all honourable Members present in the House, thank you for the opportunity to respond.

From my side, I believe only one question was directed at me, raised by Hon Marx, regarding the Batlhabine CPA (Communal Property Associations), and its failure to convene elections.

We want to put it categorically that the CPA is a juristic person established in terms of the CPA Act of 1996. It is important to note that the Act was amended in 2018, enabling us to address the issues raised by Hon Marx more effectively. We will also work together

with the Department of Land and Rural Development, as the custodian of the CPAs, to ensure proper monitoring and oversight of their operations.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. That was the last MEC to respond. Hon Premier, would you like to say something? You are recognised

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip, and all the Whippers; leaders of opposition parties; and all Members of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, in the absence of the Leader of Government Business, let me express appreciation to MEC Matibe for responding. However, there is an issue with the water supply in Homu Village which, if left unaddressed, would be unfair, particularly since the matter has been raised directly and the Premier has been mentioned, with claims that she was misled.

Hon Wilson, you are quite right that the water project in Homu Village has not been completed, even when we launched the #HiNwaMati Friday campaign. I was not misled by the Mopani District Municipality, which is the water authority, together with the DWS (Department of Water and Sanitation) and our own CoGHSTA. They had indicated that we are going to receive water in Homu, except for the new section, where Construction North is finalising the bulk line so that it gets connected and the recirculation is done.

Just yesterday, the community was complaining because there was a water pipe burst, which temporarily disrupted the team that is currently working on the project. Fortunately, they have been able to attend to it. I must indicate: water is a serious matter, and that is why we have elevated it to the Premier's office so that we can have that war room. If you remember, we started the Premier's war room with Polokwane Municipality, and today you can go to Seshego. When last did you have the communities up in arms saying they are not getting water at all?

In some areas where we were having difficulties with water supply, residents are now receiving it. We are still far from resolving all our water challenges, but we can't undermine the efforts of our municipalities or claim they are misleading us. What I can reassure you is that it is very difficult to mislead the Premier, because she is on the ground and personally verifies the facts.

Regarding the house you are referring to, you correctly indicated that there is an illegal connection. While we are still working on reticulating that section, which remains outstanding, the communities themselves are making illegal connections. That makes it impossible for those who are supposed to receive water daily to do so. So, you already have the answer.

The problem is not that the Mopani District is not doing its work or that I'm being misled. The problem is that you, as responsible leaders of our Legislature and our Seventh Administration, see illegal connections but never challenge them. Why should it be left solely to the Mayor, the MEC, or the Premier to deal with illegal connections? It's our collective responsibility.

Moreover, when you find an illegal connection, my question is: what did you do about the individuals or groups responsible for those illegal connections? Did you call MEC Manana Susan to ensure the Provincial Commissioner sends the police to arrest them? No, and that is disappointing to me. I'm saying to you: when an illegal connection makes it impossible for us to deliver water, the first step is to call the police so that those responsible can be arrested and our people can receive water. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Premier. The Premier was closing the response by the Executive Council. We now proceed to item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

I'm supposed to have one statement from a Member of the Executive. Is it ready? Hon Matibe, you have the floor.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Executive; honourable Members of this august House. Ndi matsheloni.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF RAYMOND SELEPE AND KHOLOFELO MATSEBATLELA

(Executive Statement)

I'm presenting this Executive Statement on behalf of MEC Makamu. Let me start by expressing our heartfelt condolences, on behalf of the provincial government led by Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to the families of Raymond Selepe and Kholofelo Matsebatlela following their untimely demise while undergoing initiation. The two initiates lost their lives in separate initiation schools in the province since the commencement of the 2025 winter initiation season.

Raymond Selepe, who suffered from epilepsy, and hailed from Dennilton in the Sekhukhune District, experienced severe complications on Sunday, 06 July 2025. He was rushed to Philadelphia Hospital but sadly passed away later that day. The second tragedy occurred in the Mopani District, where 12-year-old Kholofelo Matsebatlela was the victim of an accidental fire that broke out at the initiation school in Maake Village, outside Tzaneen, last week. Despite receiving treatment in hospitals in both Mopani and Gauteng, he regrettably succumbed to his injuries on Monday, 08 July 2025.

As government, we are committed to honouring and preserving this rich, sacred tradition and customary practice of our forebears. However, this cannot come at the expense of

innocent lives. The Premier has directed the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) to lead a formal investigation, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to provide a comprehensive report on both incidents.

Limpopo has always held a good record of registering zero or few casualties during the winter initiation season. In preparation for the 2025 season, the department received 569 applications for winter and summer initiation schools. Of these, the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee, under the leadership of Hosi S G Chauke, approved 529 applications; comprising 322 males and 207 females.

Regrettably, 40 applicants were declined due to noncompliance with section 26 of the Customary Initiation Act No. 2 of 2021. Key reasons for rejection included pending litigation or court judgments, land jurisdiction disputes, leadership conflicts, incomplete documentation, and traditional surgeons or caregivers with criminal records. We remain firm in enforcing the law to protect the integrity of this age-old sacred practice.

For generations, this rite of passage has shaped the identity, values, and responsibilities of our youth. It marks their transition into adulthood; not a journey to peril, but one of growth. When conducted correctly, it instils discipline, respect, and social consciousness, offering young people guidance in a world grappling with social ills such as crime and substance abuse.

We reaffirm our commitment, Hon Premier, to preserving the dignity of this tradition while ensuring safety and compliance. We call on all our teams of monitors, caregivers, traditional surgeons, and initiation school principals to remain vigilant and ensure that any further loss of life is averted.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. We know, in terms of the Rules, we will now allow political parties to comment on the Executive Statement. I'm going to call upon parties; I hope they are ready to make a reflection on the Members' Statements.

The lastborn is new, but there's nothing wrong if you want to say something. If you were listening to the Members' Statements, you can make a comment. You are the first one on the list, UAT. There is no problem if you are not ready today.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable Members, khanimambo. I'm here to represent the UAT. Whatever was presented, I have no comment at this stage. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Ga le laolegi Maloko a a hlomphegago, nke le homoleng.

No, you're out of order, honourable Members. The Member had an opportunity to speak to us. At least now we know how his voice sounds. Thank you, honourable Member.

We now proceed to the MK party. Hon Velile, you are recognised.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Just to concur with the Premier: colleagues, let us not make debates about the plight of our people. If you see a wrong activity, report it immediately, so it can be attended to, and then you can debate it afterwards.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we now allow the DA?

MS WILSON

Speaker, I'm sorry. I'm trying to find out where we are on the Order Paper. [INTERJECTION]

DR SELANE

Order, Hon Speaker!

THE SPEAKER

No, before you raise a point of order. Honourable Members, Hon Matibe has delivered an Executive Statement on behalf of the MEC for CoGHSTA on matters relating to the initiation schools. The comments you are making now falls within your party's reflections on the Executive Member Statement.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. I was got a bit lost there, as this matter is obviously not on the agenda as it stands. On behalf of the DA, and I believe this House is in agreement, any life lost is an important life, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or what the circumstances are. There are families in mourning. It is a cultural practice that takes place and must be respected. I thank you for the statement in that regard. I think this is not the first time we've experienced such incidents. This is a tragic accident; a fire that broke out. An accident always remains an accident. I certainly don't believe it was intentional. Sadly, lives were lost.

With regard to initiation schools, we accept and respect the culture. We know what the procedures are. It is a matter that affects all of us, as the Premier said, because these are community issues. We must all be vigilant and informed about legal and illegal schools, and how they practise these traditions. We appreciate the Member's

Statement. I don't think this is a matter for debate, nor should it be. Lives have been lost.

We extend our condolences to those affected. This is a situation that, in every season, must be closely monitored, and where possible, the loss of lives must be prevented at all costs.

I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Now we'll allow the EFF.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

A ke go leboge Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ke leboge Tonanagolo le Balekgotlaphethiši bao be lego gona, Bašomimmogo le batho ba gešo bao ba dutšego Bodulabaeng.

Go kweša bohloko ka nnete gore re lahlegelwe ke ba bangwe ba bana ba rena, bao ba šalago setšo sa Ma-Afrika morago. Re tla swanela ke gore re itekole bjalo ka mmušo, re šomišane le go kgopela maaparankwe gore ba segelane tsebe le mmušo ge o babitša gore batle ba rerišane ka taba tša maphelo. Ka gore yalo, re dira boipiletšo go dikgoro tša mmušo ka moka tšeo di lego ka tlase ga taolo ya lena Tonagolo, gore di leke go kgonthišiša gore bohloko bjo bo diregilego bo seke bja swana le se se diragago kua Kapa Bohlabela.

Ga gešo mo ke goletšego gona le mo go ilego Ntate Mathabatha go tloga go bolokegile kudu. [LAUGHTER]

Naa le segiša le ke eng jwale? Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ba a ntshega.

Ke noba ke kgahlega kudu ka lebaka la gore... ntšhireletše hle. Ke kgopela fela gore re tšee temana ye bjalo ka temana ye bohlokwa, ka lebaka la gore gona le baetapela ba babedi, e lego bo Stan ba babedi gona kua. Mohlomphegi go boletšwe maaka ka yo mongwe. Ga re tsebe.

Ka gore yalo rere Tonagolo, ka boikokobetšo, gee le gore gona le Komiti yeo e emetšego ditaba tša lebollo, re kgopela gore o e eme nokeng, re kgonthišiše gore re letša melodi le mapatata, ra ya dikgorong tša ga borena go yo amogela bana ba rena ka ge ba boile ba bolokegile. Ka gore yalo rere, re a leboga. Ke ka lebaka la eng le sa bethe matsogo?

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mapoulo.

The EFF has spoken. The leader of the EFF, Hon Mapoulo, re a leboga. In closing, we will allow the ANC. Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We hope and wish that you will authorise an oversight visit to some of the initiation schools in this province. In response to the Executive Statement as made by the MEC, hopefully on behalf of the MEC of CoGHSTA, as the African National Congress in this august House, we are sending messages of condolences to the bereaved families, and we wish them comfort during this time.

Initiation school, as a customary right, is meant to be a passage into manhood that should not result in the death of initiates. The affected families have sent their children through this process, hoping they would return home like everyone else. In Limpopo, the ANC- led government has always maintained an unblemished safety record for initiation programmes, yet this undesirable state of affairs is now being experienced.

We encourage government to take the necessary steps to intervene in these operations in the interest of the safety of the children. We thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Chief Whip, I will authorise oversight visits, but I must caution that if you are not sure, ka lebaka la gore ba bangwe ba ka ya kua ba thabile efela ba se boe, rakwa bare bašetše. Sefepikgolo, ketla gofa tumelelo efela ere ke go lemoše gore o seye tekolong ge ele gore ga o tshepe ditaba tša gago, ka lebaka la gore o ka no se boe.

That is just a caution. Thank you so much. We have concluded item 5, the Executive Statements, in line with Rule 200. We will now proceed to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS, AND PAPERS

6.1. Tabling of the following Annual and Oversight Reports for the financial year ending 2023/24 by the MEC for CoGHSTA, including:

- Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality;
- Tzaneen Municipality;
- Vhembe District Municipality, and
- Thulamela Municipality.

You have the floor, MEC Matibe – representing Hon Makamu.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

I hereby table the following Municipal Annual and Oversight Reports for the financial year ending 2023/24.

Section 121 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) provides that municipalities must submit their annual oversight reports to the relevant Provincial Legislature. In line with this provision, I table the Annual and Oversight Reports of the

following municipalities for the financial year ending 2023/24 for consideration by this honourable House.

- Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality;
- Tzaneen Municipality;
- Vhembe District Municipality; and
- Thulamela Local Municipality.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC. The 2023/24 Annual and Oversight Reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and to report back to the House. We now proceed to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Second Reading Debate: Approval of Budget Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025]

7.1.1 Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture

Committee chair, Hon Simon Mathe, you are recognised. My apologies, it is Hon Mdaka. Since the chairperson is not present, who will be presenting on his behalf? Should we skip this item for now?

Hon Monama, will you present on his behalf? Thank you so much. Do assist us.

Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Gannye Rodgers Monama, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and all Members of this august House. On behalf of the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, I present the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Monama, Deputy Chief Whip, for standing in while the chairperson, Hon Mdaka, was temporarily unavailable. They've assisted you. Now I will call for a seconder for the reports. Hon Mdaka, what you can do is to second the report.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Manana, Dokodela Xipikara Makhurupetje. Ndzi yima ku ta seketela leswi nga boxiwa hi Xandla Ximokonkulu. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Mabotja, you are opening the debate.

MR MABOTJA

Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; all Whips of committees; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; Members of the Executive Council; chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members; staff and guests. Thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni. Lotjhani. Good morning.

We gather here this morning, just four days after General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, the Provincial Commissioner of SAPS in KwaZulu-Natal, shook the country awake. On a cold Sunday afternoon, in front of cameras and microphones, he did something few in uniform dare to do. His words sparked a national dialogue; in living rooms, barbershops and taxi ranks.

Hon Speaker, let me be clear. The ANC has noted this moment and made it clear that we stand with the people. We are confident that the President of the Republic will respond, not only positively but also decisively — guided by the Constitution, the voice of the nation, and the needs of the hour.

Let me begin with something many won't admit aloud: culture has been treated as a side project in our national discourse. However, I rise here today not only to challenge that assumption, I rise to affirm that the department is giving sport, arts and culture legal standing in the house of development.

As an attorney, I've been trained to rely on evidence, and the evidence is clear: the department is not only drafting documents but also investing in discipline and direction.

- Programme 1: Administration receives R249,4 million, ensuring governance, HR systems, audit performance, and IT infrastructure remain strong.
- Programme 2: Cultural Affairs receives R95,7 million, under which sports development falls.
- Programme 3: Library and Archive Services, together with the Shared Capital Infrastructure Budget, is allocated R263,7 million.
- Programme 4: Sports and Recreation receive R268,2 million.

Hon Speaker, we honour the late Deputy President David Mabuza, a man of quiet strength, whose absence reminds us that leadership is not about noise or how loud an anarchic one can be, but about impact. To Hon Bela Mabuza and the rest of the Mabuza family, receive our heartfelt condolences.

Now let's deal with the issue that embarrassed all of us: Team Limpopo's withdrawal from the national sports championships. To be frank, the incident violated more than

public trust, it compromised the constitutional rights of the children to access developmental sports. However, what sets this department apart is how it responded. It acknowledged the lapse; it initiated reforms, and took operational steps towards recovery.

We now welcome the establishment of high-performance centres, the deployment of 100 schools' hub coordinators, and over 1 500 schools brought into structured school sports. This is a clear example of how principles of administrative law — accountability, responsiveness and transparency — are put into action.

To SAFA, let me speak as an officer of the court and a representative of the Republic: you are not beyond scrutiny. Your actions affect livelihoods, national morale, public trust, and we refuse to keep quiet. It is time to act lawfully, efficiently and in the public interest — or step aside for leadership that will.

Hon Premier, let us talk about Lekompo, a proudly rural genre now echoing across townships and clubs alike. This is not just an art form, it is an economic expression, cultural rebellion, and creative proof that Limpopo sets trends. The law recognises intellectual property, but our systems must go beyond the law. We must nurture, promote and protect genres like Lekompo through funding, access platforms for exposure, and industry infrastructure that doesn't require artists to leave the province just to make it.

We support the 40% of the completion of the provincial theatre, the revival of heritage sites like Dzata, Tjate and Schoemansdal, and the launch of the Creative Industry Awards; not for celebrities, but for the servants of the stage, page and performance.

Hon Speaker, libraries are the most democratised learning spaces we have. No application forms, no tuition; just access. We applaud the department for free Wi-Fi in 111 libraries, construction in Makhuva, Bungeni and Moutse West, mobile library services and digitalisation projects. In our most undersourced communities, libraries remain the last line of equity.

In all languages, we remind ourselves that section 6 of the Constitution doesn't just permit multilingualism, it obligates the government to promote and respect language rights. The department is complying with the review of the Limpopo Language Act, committed to South African Sign Language, and expanding mother tongue educational tools.

We further commend MEC Jerry Maseko for pioneering the morning walk programme. Physical discipline and personal health are not private luxuries; they are public virtues for leaders. May all honourable Members accept this challenge to be fit for purpose and ready to serve.

This department has achieved a clean audit, and from a governance standpoint, that is a high bar. However, let us be clear: good governance must be consistent. It must survive political change, audit cycles, and budget seasons. As a lawyer, I can tell you for free: systems that are not stress-tested fail. We urge the department to keep it clean, keep it accountable, and keep it people-focused.

I close with a quote from former Chief Justice, Pius Langa, who said, “Transformation is not a passive movement; it is a deliberate act of justice.” This Budget is that deliberate act. We are not voting for figures, we are voting for the dancer who still rehearses on gravel, the athlete who trains by faith, the artist who believes in their talent even when no one else does.

Hon Premier, the Office of the Solicitor-General appears overburdened, slow, and poorly coordinated, leading to legal and financial risk exposure for the department, missed opportunities to recover state funds, and reputational risk through poorly managed litigation. It is fundamental that the department consider building internal capacity so that it can rise to the occasion.

We are voting to transform; and this is why we should not hesitate.

Finally, to all those attending the Seshego July, denim and white edition, this coming Saturday in Seshego: I wish you nothing but joy, style, and responsible fun. To the organisers, may the event be a success that uplifts our creative economy and reminds us why Limpopo leads. Ke a leboga. Ndi a livhua. Ndza khensa. Ngiyathokoza. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Hon Mabotja. We now call upon Hon Velile Jack to take the podium.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker. There’s a bit of a fresh air since Hon Basikopo Makamu is not here. [LAUGHTER]

Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Premier in her absence; all leaders in governance; my leader, Cde John Ngobeni; and the Leader of the Opposition, Cde Makgabo.

I am not going to be long, as you always give me three minutes.

There is one problem that affects our sporting codes, Hon Maseko: the so-called federations are not accessible to the sporting codes. As a result, people turn to individuals for assistance, and that’s why we approach you. Can you convene the sports federations and review their statuses and their work towards the people? It is very key, because people don’t know where to report, and yet sports federations are blocking the door.

Secondly, increase the budget allocation to support arts and culture initiatives by the Limpopo Heritage Resources Agency (LIHRA), Limpopo Provincial Language Council (LPLC) and the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council (LACC). They only have one heritage practitioner. They do not have enough money to host International Language Day. The LACC does not have enough capacity and financial resources to meet industry needs.

Recognise and promote emerging genres like Xigaza xa Ma2k (XXM2K). Without local support, they cannot effectively promote our culture. Provide more opportunities for

talent discovery and development through events. We are faced with a creative generation that is proud of its talents; they just need awakening and guidance.

Prioritise sports in schools and ensure that allocated funds are used exactly for that in Collins Chabane Municipality. We have schools in Malamulele Southwest and Central that are not conducting sports activities, yet funds have been allocated. We would like to know where that money is.

Lastly, honourable MEC, we can't allow our people who represent us in sports to sleep in corridors while they are representing the province in sporting codes.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, you kept your time. We appreciate that, Hon Jack. We move to Hon Marx. Your five minutes will start soon.

ADV MARX

From the outset, I must express my deep dissatisfaction with the manner in which Members of this House receive their agendas for Legislature meetings. We only received the draft agenda at around 15:00 yesterday, and the final agenda was sent only at 19:00 last night. That's less than 24 hours before the Sitting.

Hon Speaker, as the most senior legislative body in this House, I must ask you to please speak to the Chair of Chairs and your team to ensure that we receive our agenda timeously, so that we can prepare properly. Hon Speaker, be that as it may, due to the limited time afforded to me, I will confine my debate today to one programme within the department, Programme 4: Sports and Recreation.

The entire department's Budget stands at R877 million. That's not even R1 billion. While R877 million may sound like a lot, when put in perspective, and you compare it with the Department of Education's, Budget of R43 billion, it's actually a very small amount.

Therefore, this department, in comparison, is on the short end of this province's Budget. Furthermore, of the R877 million allocated, R111 million is allocated to sport, which is about 12% of the total departmental Budget. Of that R111 million, an overwhelming R94 million, approximately 85%, is allocated to school sport.

Unfortunately, although this seems like a good budget as far as school sport are concerned (85%), it's precisely here that the cracks are visible. Despite the allocation, the funds do not appear to reach their intended beneficiaries; our children. In April 2025, the Premier committed to a full investigation into the mishandling of our children at a National School Athletics Championship in Bloemfontein.

Unfortunately, by 27 May, no report had surfaced, and I stood in this House to deliver a Member's Statement asking where the report was. Although the MEC commendably confirmed that the investigation report is pending, we are now approaching four months since the incident, and our children are still without answers. I must ask: can it really be

so difficult to conclude this investigation? Are we perhaps dealing with something bigger — a systematic failure or, worse, a cover-up? Children were left sleeping on buses without food and without their provincial attire.

This is not merely an administrative blunder; it's a betrayal of trust. If you consider 85% of the Budget was allocated to school sports and yet this is the result, one cannot help but question whether the problem lies not with funding, but with implementation.

There are sufficient funds available, but they are not effectively used by our officials. In fact, given possible overlaps with the Department of Education, the impression arises that money exists, but it's simply not being used to benefit our children. We cannot allow this to continue, and it's time for this House to demand the answers our children and their parents deserve.

Although we, as the DA, support this Budget, we will continue to put pressure on the department to ensure that these funds are used for our most important beneficiaries; our children, our youth, and our future.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I accept the criticism regarding the timing of the agenda. We are in the hands of the Programming Committee. The Programming Committee met very late last night, and we must ensure that parties represented on the Committee help us in holding the Programming meetings on time. We cannot issue the Order Paper until it has been endorsed by the Programming Committee.

Hence, I just want to indicate that all parties, we hope, brief their members properly when things are not proceeding as expected. It is as though the Speaker wishes to issue the agenda at such a late hour. We are guided by the Programming Committee. I wanted to clarify that, and I'm happy that the Chairperson of the Programming Committee, the Deputy Speaker, is here and will be able to talk to the parties to address this matter.

Can we now proceed to Hon Letsoalo? Is she here? Hon Molemela, are you representing the EFF? Thank you so much.

MR MAGOLO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

I am Hon Magolo, representing Hon Molemela. Greetings to the Hon Speaker; the Leader of the Opposition, Commissar Mapoulo; Members of the Economic Freedom Fighters; fellow honourable Members in the House; and the MECs present.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has proven over the years that it lacks the tenacity to comply with its own targets and commitments. The department has targeted a minimum of 40% preferential procurement spend for women, 30% for

youth, and 7% for people with disability, yet it has failed to fully comply with these targets in the previous financial year.

How do we trust that they will comply with the targets set for the period under review when they have broken this trust before? Trust in government is crucial for a well-functioning democracy and society. Hon Speaker, can we get a progress report on the construction of the provincial theatre, which has been on the pipeline for such a long time? The target of 166 job opportunities to be created through arts, culture, and heritage programmes reflects lazy thinking. This department has the potential to create more than 500 jobs in a single financial year by leveraging available opportunities within the arts and culture sector.

Can we also get a progress report on the practical completion of five new libraries located in Mulamula, Botshabelo, Vleifontein, Sekhukhune, and Tshaulu? The people of Limpopo need increasing physical access to library services, particularly in underserved communities. What is the strategy in public engagement to target 250 000 people accessing libraries across the province? We must also see libraries being built in rural villages to enhance easy access. Half of the time, you just talk, but you lack strategies that will translate into tangible results on the ground.

Hon Speaker, the budget for the Sports and Recreation programme has marginally decreased by 0,11% for the 2025/26 financial year to R111,0 million. This shows serious short-sightedness and the inability to prioritise critical programmes of the department in allocating budgets. Sports and recreation are crucial for individual and community wellbeing, offering numerous physical, mental, and social benefits.

How many provincial sport associations and other affiliated organisations have you assisted in the previous financial year to effectively promote the development of sport? How many capacity-building programmes did this department implement in the previous financial year to enhance the skills and expertise of sport practitioners, administrators, and athletes, and what were the targets for the previous year under review?

The withdrawal of Team Limpopo from participating in the final stages of the 2025 National School Sports Championships, held at the Free State Stadium from 02 to 07 April 2025, left us with more questions than answers. Our sporting teams cannot be disadvantaged and denied opportunities to participate in crucial games after so much preparation and planning. It is completely unacceptable.

Furthermore, Team Limpopo participated under unpleasant conditions at the South African Sports Association for the Physically Disabled National Championship in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, which took place from 28 March to 01 April 2025. Why are our people subjected to this kind of inhuman treatment? Can we get an explanation for this, honourable MEC? Why does this department continue to display gross incompetence in planning, coordination, and logistical support for provincial teams attending national competitions? The level of incompetence in the department is shocking. Something drastic needs to be done to turn the situation around.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Magolo. We will now allow the chairperson of the committee, Hon Mdaka, to close the debate.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I was out before, and definitely, there was nothing sinister. It normally happens, of course, before a game starts, and one has to prepare oneself before going to play.

But at the same time, you also have a substitute who can stand in for you when you are out. I want to thank Hon Monama for playing the game correctly. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and the entire Speakership; Chief Whip, and members of the Whippers; and Members of the Executive Council, who are always in our midst. The last time we were here in this Sitting, I mean in this legislature, we always saw them here all the time. In the past, it was not like that. You can testify.

Some of you are Members of this Legislature, and the Hon Premier is in absentia, but I think she is around. Our colleagues in the gallery, including our chairpersons of portfolio committees, I greet you this morning. Goeiemôre. Thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi mats Sheloni. Lotjhani.

Madam Speaker, the Annual Performance Plan for the 2025/26 financial year of the department outlines the strategic priorities and planned outcomes of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in alignment with the national and professional development goals.

One will not be over-exaggerating to say that sport and the creative industry are major contributors to the growth and social development of any nation. The wellness of any nation is found in sport. A sporting nation is a healthy nation.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, guided by the National Development Plan, aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality in our province through sport and recreation. The APP of the department is in line with the Limpopo Development Plan, which emphasises the critical role that sport, arts and culture play in promoting wellness and social cohesion, together with major benefits accrued to the education, health, and social sectors. One always says that sport, or the Department of Sport, is many departments in one.

The Budget might not be enough. The just over R800 million that was given is not enough to make sure that we do everything that we are supposed to do, including what the honourable Member from the other side, the MKP, was asking for. We need more money.

We want the Budget for sport to go beyond R1 billion. With the little over R800 million that we have, it is not enough to deal with all existing programmes, administration, and everything that is supposed to be done. We therefore want to see a situation where money is pumped more into sport, because when the department is active and can reach everyone on the ground, the other departments will have fewer problems.

We won't be having a lot of our people going into the hospitals. We will not be having a lot of people with social problems, because everyone will be healthy in mind and also

physically. We can testify that the department had a very successful Provincial African Day celebration event at Thohoyandou Town Hall in Thulamela Municipality.

These are some of the major activities that we are seeing happening on the ground. The celebration was marked by a recreational walk, cultural parade, and performances by local choirs, alongside government services offered to the community. I cannot go into each and every programme that the department is doing, because then I will be wasting your time.

Already half of my time is gone. However, I can elaborate a bit about what happened in Nkowankowa together with the Beka Ntsan'wisi Foundation, where our department provided those materials that we are talking about, and where even countries such as Ghana, Japan, USA, France, Mozambique, and others participated in the tournament that was held in Nkowankowa.

These are some of the issues that we would like to see the department pump more money into, to make sure that, indeed, the elderly are taken care of. The portfolio committee will be visiting some of the libraries that the honourable Member from my left (EFF) was asking for a report on. In actual fact, we are always getting a report every time we meet as a portfolio committee.

We are exactly aware of what is going on. I think we can invite you, honourable Member, to join us as part of the oversight committee to go and see for yourselves, because the department has always been reporting in terms of what is going on in that regard. We are glad that the Mulamula Library is now operating after the challenges that were created by our own people on the ground, where they wanted the project to be this side and not that side, and then they came up with other measures to try and stop the department from implementing the project.

At least now, something is happening; the library is operational. Our hope is that these communities will take advantage of this opportunity and utilise the library optimally to the betterment of their people. It is better to be inside the library studying than to be inside a beer hall drinking.

We call upon all our young people to go in numbers to this library as opposed to frequenting taverns and thereby ruining their lives.

In conclusion, former President Nelson Mandela once said, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire; it has the power to unite the people in a way that little else does." In fulfilling Tatana Nelson Mandela's desire for an inclusive society — a society that is accessible and open to all, a society that protects and cares for children — we say: happy Mandela Month. Let us all emulate Tatana Nelson Mandela in doing good for others. Let us be selfless in our approach, guided by this integrity and humility.

Let us work towards the unity of our people in our province through sport and recreation. We can do it. Our festivals should reflect the demographics of our province. All should participate, black and white. Racism and tribalism have no place in our society, nor does sexism. It should be abhorred by all of us.

Lastly, we call upon all of you once more to do something for others during Mandela Month. At least there must be something that you have done for others and not just be focused on your own issues, being greedy in your approach in everything that you do every day.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, allow me to move that the APP and Budget for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture be adopted by this honourable House as the resolution of this august House.

Thank you. Inkomu. Ndaa.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile Mutshamaxitulu wa Komiti, Muchaviseki Mdaka. We shall now call upon the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Funani Jerry Maseko, to respond to debates made by honourable Members. Hon Maseko, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Legislature; and our opposition. Good morning.

Madam Speaker, I'm not well. Ke rile ke a itšhidulla mesong, ka itšhidulla kudu, moya ola o ntswarišitše mpshikela. I just insisted that I must come here and physically and personally respond, because I know that the department and the portfolio committee continue to engage robustly in their portfolio committee meetings. Only those who are not attending the portfolio committee meetings will come here and raise issues that we have already dispensed.

Let me indicate, chair, that I issued an apology to the whole country regarding the saga that happened in Bloemfontein. The Premier also, in the previous Legislature Sitting, indicated our commitment to give the investigation an opportunity to execute its mandate and finalise the investigation. As I'm speaking, on Monday, 14 July 2025, we will be getting a briefing.

By 15 July 2025, I believe the report will be ready, and I will communicate that with Hon Marx in particular, because he has raised a number of questions with regard to that matter. I think thereafter we will be able to respond to the Legislature in terms of all the questions that were raised by Hon Marx. We are in touch with him.

We briefed him in terms of the developments, and I want to reiterate that we are still saying sorry for what happened. Let me assure this House, that after that incident we have agreed as a department that at any level of national championships in the country, we need to send the highest delegation. The HOD, I, and the Director of Sport should be physically there, just to make sure that there is oversight in terms of how we respond to such a challenge.

As I'm speaking, I've already requested the Chief Whip — ke be ke kgopetše Sefepikgolo gore atle a ntumelele ke sepele ke ye Durban — and we have the Winter

Games that will be starting tomorrow. That is part of the intervention mechanism, so that we go there and check what is actually happening.

Secondly, I want to agree with Hon Mabotja regarding the state of SAFA. There is no private sector that is going to invest money in SAFA under such a situation. I think at my level, I've raised it with some of the leadership of SAFA personally, indicating that they have to get their house in order because this is going to kill football. However, we cannot intervene as the government because it's an independent body in terms of regulation.

Ours is to request that they deal with their internal challenges so that we don't kill football in the country. Ga go hlokege ka lebaka la gore ga a gona.

In conclusion, let me assure Hon Jack that we have embarked on a district visit. Then there's no need, Hon Speaker.

We are doing everything in our power to coordinate all the federations in the province through district visits to make sure that they become relevant and they communicate information to various federations across the length and breadth of the province. As I'm speaking, yesterday and today, Mamelodi Sundowns is here and, together with the MEC for Education, we received them by conducting a trial for under-19. We are using our school sport structures to communicate such information. Wherever we are, let's make sure that we mobilise those structures so that they benefit from the programmes of government.

Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. I still want to plead with all honourable Members to watch your time on the screen, so you are able to see how much time you have left. We are proceeding to 7.1.2.

7.1.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs.

Chairperson of the committee, over to you.

MR SEPURU

Hon Speaker, I move for the consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of CoGHSTA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The committees that are following; you are allowed to present from where you are seated in the interest of time. Is there any seconder? Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. You know, the title of “Dr” speaks a lot. That’s why I called you Dr. ke eme fa go thekga Modulasetulo wa CoGHSTA. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Dr Selane, for supporting the motion. We will now refer to the Speakers’ List. Hon Machete will be opening the debate. Hon Machete, in accordance with the standing arrangements, you may present your input from your seat. You are now allowed to proceed.

MR MACHETE

Thanks very much. Let me take this opportunity to greet in the following order: greetings to you, Dr Makhurupetje, Hon Speaker; Dr Ramathuba, Premier in absentia; Chief Whip; Members of the Whippers; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the august House; ladies and gentlemen; comrades and friends.

I am honoured to be afforded this opportunity to address this august House as we consider and adopt the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Portfolio Committee on the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. We are gathered here today while we are still mourning the passing of one of our stalwarts, who passed on 03 June 2025.

Cde David Dabede Mabuza, a former Deputy President of the country and former Premier of Mpumalanga province, served this country with loyalty, humility, reliability, and hard work. These are qualities that some of us should emulate to ensure that we provide services to our people.

At a particular stage, Cde D. D. was nominated for the position of Deputy President of the ANC for the second term, which would have positioned him very well for the role of Deputy President of the country for a second term. In his humility and loyalty to the National Democratic Revolution, Cde D. D. declined the nomination — something that some of us would not even dream of doing. His legacy, that of preaching and practising unity when almost everyone was preaching and practising division, will not and cannot be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, it is us, the ruling party in this province, the African National Congress, through our manifesto — a public declaration of the commitments we made to the people of this province — who entered a contract with them to provide quality basic services. It is through the Department of CoGHSTA that the people of Limpopo are entitled to better houses, municipalities that are functional and efficient, and traditional leadership jurisdictions that operate with sound governance.

Guided by section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, as amended, the Legislature must ensure that all organs of state in the province are held accountable and that oversight is maintained over the Executive Authority. Hence, we present this Annual Performance Plan and Budget Report today. Oversight and monitoring of the Department of CoGHSTA’s performance is a constitutional obligation of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA.

We are also guided by section 26 and 27 of the Public Finance Management Act to ensure accountability in this and other departments. At its meeting, the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA received a briefing by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. The aim of the briefing was to afford the portfolio committee an opportunity to scrutinise the Annual Performance Plan and Budget and establish whether they comply with the statutory and policy requirements.

The Annual Performance Plan outlines the department's strategic objectives and goals to be implemented in the 2025/26 financial year. The Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of CoGHSTA were found to be in compliance with the required statutes and policies.

On the Budget, the department is allocated a total of R2,573,445 million, which is an increase from R2,556,913 million in the previous financial year; a 0,64% increase.

- Programme 1: Administration is allocated R449,960 million, down from R454,369 million in the previous financial year; a 0,98% decrease.
- Programme 2: Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement is allocated R1,259,018 million, up from R1,241,66 million in the previous financial year; a 1,11% increase.
- Programme 3: Cooperative Governance is allocated R333,570 million, up from R325,391 million in the previous financial year; a 2,5% increase.
- Programme 4: Traditional Institutional Development is allocated R518,097 million, down from R519,987 million in the previous financial year; a 0,2% decrease.

We are hopeful that the increase in programme 2, Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement, will bring the long-overdue relief to our people in Marapong Community Residential Units, Altoostyd Temporary Accommodation and Vingerkraal Temporary Accommodation in the Waterberg District, Talana Community Residential Units in the Mopane District, Burgersfort Community Residential Units in the Sekhukhune District, and the Tshikota and Vanetia Mine Community Residential Units.

We cannot fail Cde David Dabede Mabuza. We owe it to him and those he has joined; the likes of Cde Oliver Reginald Tambo, Cde Walter Sisulu, Cde Chris Hani, Cde Nelson Mandela, to name just a few. Our people need basic services, and the portfolio committee will continue to play an oversight role to ensure that this is done.

With the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan, the 2025/26 Budget we will succeed. With the assistance of this august House, we believe this is going to happen.

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Machete. You saved us a lot of time. We really appreciate it. Hon Wilson, you are the one to follow.

MS WILSON

Hon Speaker, we note with appreciation the departmental Budget of R2,573 billion, reflecting an increase of 0,64%, which benefits programmes 2 and 3. It is regrettable, however, that the Human Settlements programme, with a budget of R1,295 billion, achieved only 59% of its target in the fourth quarter.

Marapong, Altoostyd, Talana, and Tshikota continue to face ongoing challenges, now persisting for over a decade, robbing our poor citizens of the dignity of formal subsidised homes. Particularly concerning at Marapong and Altoostyd was the blatant attempt to mislead the committee on the real state of developments there. Clearly, neither project will be completed any time soon, neither within the initial proposed timelines nor the initial budgets, and the rush now to save face will result in very shoddy workmanship.

Contingent liabilities in the Traditional Institutional Development programme from litigation against the department by traditional leaders and councils must be a red flag. Preventative measures must be put in place to mitigate such expenses.

Hon Speaker, there is a Japanese legend that says, "If you get on the wrong train, get off at the nearest station. The longer it takes you to get off, the more expensive your trip is going to be." Our municipalities are at the point where the return trip is now becoming unaffordable. Fifteen municipalities have unfunded budgets, yet Municipal Managers and CFOs approve luxury vehicles and drivers for Mayors and Speakers. Some vehicles may be under the threshold, but how does one justify such expenditure when municipalities do not have funds to provide basic services to residents?

How do we justify a salary of R800 000 per year for a Mayor's driver, as in the case of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, while there are pending criminal cases against municipal officials for sewage pollution? How do we justify municipalities holding strategic planning breakaways at luxury resorts outside their municipal boundaries, with the go-to justification that if these sessions are held locally, councillors and officials will go home?

Surely, Honourable MEC, self-constraint and discipline by cadres and officials must be practised to curb such ridiculous expenses and prioritise service delivery. This practice must stop.

Hon Speaker, not one municipality in this province has a fully functional wastewater treatment facility, nor one that is without water challenges. The horrific tales are countless, and we have shared them in this House regularly.

Just this week, we highlighted the challenge in Polokwane, where it has now been confirmed that E. coli levels in the Sand and Blood Rivers are nearly 1 000 times the acceptable limit of 400 CFU per 100 millilitres.

In Bela Bela, residents of Leseding and Mandela Village have been complaining about murky tap water for ten months. Independent tests have also found their water to contain E. coli. Just two days ago, I raised concerns about Musina in Vhembe. Some communities are not even that fortunate. In Giyani, Ward 16, residents, have been without water since the dawn of democracy, relying only on sour water.

Hon Speaker, it is clear that the primary cause of governance failures in Limpopo is the deployment of cadres to senior administrative positions, often without qualifications or the relevant experience to do the job. This has not only politicised the administrative function in municipalities but has also led to undue interference in procurement processes to benefit a few, wasteful spending, financial ruin, and a collapse in service delivery.

Currently, two municipal managers are on suspension for alleged corruption. Unions are calling for the head of the Vhembe Municipal Manager, while the mess in Fetakgomo-Tubatse is chaotic due to interference aimed at blocking the reinstatement of proper municipal administration. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You can proceed Hon Mathye, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hope I have your discretion to either sit or take the podium, as the circumstances may require. I wish to establish if Hon Wilson is prepared to take a question.

MS WILSON

Hon Speaker, I have only a few seconds to go; I don't have time to take a question.

Three Limpopo municipalities are losing their equitable share and conditional grant due to nonpayment for water, amounting collectively to almost half a million rand to Lepelle Northern Water. It is time to rein in municipalities, without fear of cadre retaliation, using the legal instruments at your disposal.

Failing to do so will result in a wholesale collapse of municipal services, with dire consequences to follow. You have been warned.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We now call upon Hon Lawrence Mapoulo to lead his debate. Your seven minutes starts now.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, let me acknowledge the presence of my fellow fighters; MECs present; and the Premier in absentia. We hope she will continue attending our Sittings and that she has not followed the example of her predecessor.

Hon Speaker, the department must provide this House with investigation reports from the SIU and the Public Protector on the following matters: Tubatse Land, VBS, Bacolod, Talane, and Marapong. These are all “milking cows” for the honourable MEC.

Did the department recover the R33 million that was paid to a service provider in advance, before any work was done? I think the MEC failed to respond to this when standing in for the MEC of LEDET.

Either he must repay this R33 million to the taxpayers, or he must be arrested. This MEC has collapsed everything.

Regarding municipalities, we do not wish to speak further at this time. We will not allow the department to conceal corruption or sweep under the carpet long outstanding matters. The perpetrators must be arrested, charged, and jailed for what they have done to the people of this province.

In Mohodi and in Fatima, people live without water, without electricity, and in incomplete RDP houses without toilets. They are forced to relieve themselves in empty plastic bags and throw them in areas where their livestock graze.

Three years ago, the Public Protector released a report finding that Vhembe District Municipality and Musina Municipality were guilty of maladministration, yet the MEC has remained silent. Hon Speaker, can we get progress reports on litigation arising from the Kgotla Commission? Again, the MEC remains silent on this.

How many officials in the department are facing consequence management, especially concerning all the projects I have mentioned? If the MEC fails, he must be held liable for these costs.

We further request that the department provide the House with a breakdown of houses built as well as those rectified. Too much money is wasted on consultants; funds that should be used to deliver services to our people. Consultants continue to dictate when to deliver services to our people, and municipalities remain dependent on them.

Does the department have a plan to assist municipalities to reduce their dependence on consultants for annual financial statements? It is an everyday issue. Municipalities have no plans to curb this exploitation, and consultants continue to milk them dry.

The relocation of the Sekhukhune offices to Jane Furse has been outstanding since before COVID-19. When will this relocation happen? Does the department have a turnaround plan to assist municipalities with financial sustainability, capacity, reporting, and accountability, as raised by the Auditor-General?

R5,452 million relating to the Sekhukhune District Municipality has been under investigation, yet to date no report has been provided. This, too, has been swept under the carpet. The EFF will continue to demand this report and others hidden by the MEC.

We cannot tire of saying: this department is not led well. Unless the Hon Premier intervenes by removing this MEC, our people will remain in darkness. Call it

hallucination if you wish or dismiss the EFF's voice thinking we are standing alone. But at the polls, the result will be zero for you.

For the last ten years, this MEC has presided over Marapong, which has been under construction for more than a decade and still remains unfinished. Undermine the EFF's words, you will kiss your seats goodbye.

The seats you occupy today will be your last. You will never see them again, due to the failures of this MEC. There are still two other departments we will expose and their MECs too will never see the light again.

Come the next elections, there will be new red in this House. You know this is the truth, whether you like it or not; the EFF is the government in waiting.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mapoulo. We now proceed to the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Hon Sepuru Mmakgabo Champ, to close the debate.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Premier in absentia; honourable MECs; chairpersons of Portfolio and Standing Committees; honourable Members of the House; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is indeed a great pleasure to stand before this august House on the occasion of considering and adopting the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of CoGHSTA.

Hon Speaker, Hon Velile Jack will continue to sigh with relief thanks to Hon Makamu, who provided him with a house as a Military Veteran. He will continue enjoying that privilege, as he is a beneficiary.

Hon Mapoulo, you know nothing. You were dreaming that the African National Congress would lose seats; and that is only a pipe dream. You have raised issues already discussed in the portfolio committee meeting. Instead of waiting for the chairperson to represent you, you want to gallop ahead of the revolution.

Hon Speaker, whilst we celebrate the fact that Hon Stan Mathabatha has led by example, we are saddened to report that two of our initiates have departed this life.

Hon Matibe, in his Executive Statement, spoke thoroughly on this matter. Hon Premier, Dr Ramathuba, released a statement saying: "When we received news of this tragic death, we were overcome by grief and compassion. It is heartbreaking that such promising young lives have been cut short. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the departed. This is not how we wanted to gather as families during such difficult times of mourning."

The Premier called on all to exercise utmost vigilance, adding that any incident resulting in such fatalities must be thoroughly investigated to determine the underlying causes. As the portfolio committee, we say a formal investigation must be commissioned and intervention measures must be taken to avoid such occurrences in the future.

Hon Speaker, the provision of sustainable housing enables communities to thrive, build social bonds and cohesion, and raise children safely and comfortably.

In this regard, we welcome the initiatives undertaken by the department to deliver various typologies of quality human settlements. However, as the portfolio committee, we bemoan the wanton disregard for the right to secure and stable rental tenure for low-income beneficiaries of the Marapong community residential units, individuals who are unable to enter the formal private rental and social housing market. This negates the ethos of the Freedom Charter, which states that there shall be housing, security and comfort.

We are not sure when the project will be completed, as the department continues to shift completion dates. As the Seventh Administration, we were told of completion in April 2025, then June 2025; we are now in July and are still unsure when the project will be completed. This is its 10th year, and even my favourite club, Kaizer Chiefs, has ended its trophy drought in the 10th year.

We can only hope and pray that this project will be completed in this financial year. The department must expedite the completion of unfinished houses in all areas. The department must commit to working directly with the Lephalale local community regarding the housing list, and the portfolio committee requests that the department provide the waiting list and a timeframe for project completion.

Madam Speaker, our people need basic services, and the portfolio committee will continue playing an oversight role to ensure this is done, despite the opposition's attempts to exploit our oversight to score political points.

The success and achievement of all programmes of the department hinge on the following:

- timely appointment of contractors, though we are not sure whether contractors have been appointed for the 2025/26 financial year;
- active monitoring of contractors by project managers on site, and ensuring project managers do not provide wrong information about the situation on the ground;
- early detection of problematic service providers and immediate intervention;
- strict adherence to deadlines by contractors;
- declaration of water as a priority of all priorities; and
- acceleration of water provision, starting with communities that share water with animals.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTSA for closing the debate. We will now request Hon Matibe Tshitereke to respond on behalf of the MEC for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. Hon Matibe, over to you.

THE MEC FOR LEDET [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR COGHSTA]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise, noting and respecting the protocols already established.

Let me begin by indicating that we appreciate the valuable inputs received from the portfolio committee and the continued counsel that we have always received from this House. We particularly appreciate Hon Machete's thorough articulation of all the budget allocations, from Programme 1 through to Programme 4, and we are grateful for the support extended to the department's programmes.

The issue that Members have consistently raised, and to which we must respond, is the matter of Marapong. We had committed, in this very House, to completing the Marapong project by June 2025. Unfortunately, there have been some disturbances and project stoppages, which have impacted progress. However, let me reiterate our firm commitment: we remain on course to finalise the project within this financial year. We agree that the matter of Marapong must ultimately be brought to finality.

On the issue of litigation and contingent liabilities, as raised by Hon Wilson, we must indicate that approximately 90% of the department's current litigation and contingent liabilities are the result of traditional leadership disputes. In many instances, internal disputes within traditional authorities are the cause of these liabilities. We really wish that these matters will be resolved as urgently as possible, so that we do not continue experiencing challenges in relation to the contingent liabilities.

Regarding unfunded budgets, we wish to inform this House that CoGHSTA, in partnership with Provincial Treasury, is actively supporting the affected municipalities in the development of Financial Recovery Plans. As soon as a municipality has an unfunded budget, plans must be put in place, especially the Financial Recovery Plans, so that we are able to deal with it.

On the question of water quality and water treatment plants, I can confirm that the province is working collaboratively with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), and CoGHSTA itself.

Together, we are helping municipalities to develop and implement corrective action plans to address water-related concerns.

Regarding the Marapong R33 million that was paid upfront, let me categorically state that the amount has already been recovered. Should further details be required, we are prepared to furnish the recovery report to the relevant portfolio committees during upcoming engagements.

Hon Speaker, there is indeed a need for a turnaround strategy to ensure that municipalities are performing. This is a point well taken, and the department is

committed to providing the necessary support. A comprehensive report will be made available to the portfolio committee in due course.

As I conclude, Hon Mapoulo, let me caution against efforts to divide us. The old strategy of divide and rule, once used by the apartheid state, must not find expression in our current democratic environment. We reject such tactics. We are working together as a united team and a collective.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matibe Tshitereke. We are moving to the next item.

7.1.3 Consideration and Adoption of the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety.

We call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Lebea, to table the report

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

I further rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

I so move, Hon Speaker

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Any seconder? Hon Mmetle, you are recognised.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I hereby support the motion as presented by Hon Lebea for the adoption of the Annual Performance Plan and Budget.

Thank you

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mmetle. We will now call upon the chair again to deal with 7.1.3.2. Hon Lebea, over to you.

MS LEBEA

Thank you again, Hon Speaker. I rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of Gateway Airport Authority Limited, to be adopted as a report of this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Any seconder? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makhurupetje. I rise to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety.

THE SPEAKER

I really appreciate, Hon Manthata-Mahasela. We are now going to refer to the Speakers' List.

In terms of our Speakers' List, we are going to debate items 7.1.3.1 and 7.1.3.2 together as a single debate. This means we are debating the APP and Budget for the Department of Transport and Community Safety together with the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Gateway Airport Authority Limited. It is one debate.

Hon Rodgers Monama, the Deputy Chief Whip of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, will be opening the debate.

DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Premier in absentia, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members of this august House; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Mmanoko Mokgonyane; Members of the Whippers; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Makgabo Mapoulo; Secretary to the Legislature, and staff members; accounting officers present; and all invited guests. Good morning.

Madam Speaker, our former President, Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela, once said, "Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated, true, and passionate about what they do."

It is noteworthy that the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety met with the department and GAAL on 03 July 2025 for a briefing on the Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Budget for the planned deliverables and financial allocation. The briefing also covered the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report, which clearly articulated the achievements and challenges in attaining departmental objectives and targets as outlined in the approved APP and Budget.

Madam Speaker, all APPs and Budgets presented in this august House reflect a brighter picture of an ANC-led province firmly set on a developmental trajectory, characterised by steady infrastructure investment, the building of cohesive, sustainable and caring

communities, with improved access to essential social amenities. These are the precursors for a sustainable livelihood. Since 1994, the ANC-led government has made substantial progress, while acknowledging that more still needs to be done.

We are emphatic that APPs are not merely expressions of desired deliverables but contracting documents between departments and their respective portfolio committees. Hence, we will be robust in ensuring that we move from expression to practical action, which will have an impactful contribution to the livelihood of our people. The 2025/26 APPs and Budgets must assist us to respond programmatically so that we do not incur unwanted expenditure but rather deliver tangible projects and programmes with clear-cut value for money. The ANC commitment to clean, accountable, and good governance must manifest in how we implement these plans to transform the socio-economic conditions of our people.

Madam Speaker, we raise these matters with the conviction that the 2025/26 APPs of the Department of Transport and Community Safety and GAAL must offer concrete interventions to roll back the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. These APPs must not be defined by hope alone, but by practical evidence of the ANC-led government at work and in action.

One of the key priorities is the completion and unblocking of the Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility and Taxi Rank. This must be urgently addressed, and we believe it requires collaborative efforts to meet the overwhelming needs of our people.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to honourable MEC Violet Mathye for her stewardship of the department and for leading the revenue enhancement drive, which saw the department generating the highest revenue among all provincial departments during the reporting period.

However, the performance of GAAL was, frankly, unforgivably cringeworthy; an embarrassment that induced feelings of acute awkwardness. GAAL failed to meet all its targets and experienced chronic underexpenditure. This state of inertia must not recur. We must act decisively to prevent accountability failures and enforce consequence management. It cannot be business as usual for GAAL.

The Board of Directors, as the accounting authority, must fulfil their fiduciary responsibilities. They must engineer a turnaround strategy and implement comprehensive and credible plans to revive the airport, once the pride of our province, and ensure it operates sustainably. The financial sustainability turnaround plan must prioritise viability, liquidity, and solvency.

As a provincial legislature, we must also sharpen our oversight tools to ensure the firm neutralisation of the misuse of public funds.

Hon Speaker, having considered the 2025/26 APP and Budget for the Department of Transport and Community Safety, the portfolio committee accepts the reports and recommends them to this august House for consideration and adoption.

I so move accordingly.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Monama, thank you so much. We will now proceed to Hon Helm.

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker; the Premier in absentia; the MECs present and those not in attendance; honourable Members; and all our guests.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2025/26 Budget for the Department of Transport and Community Safety and GAAL.

Let me begin by applauding the 40 learners enrolled in the Motor Mechanical Learnership programme. We hope this initiative will assist those learners in finding meaningful employment. It is also encouraging to hear that new bus contracts have been awarded in previously underserved areas. However, we urge the department to consult thoroughly in these areas. These buses are now displacing other transport operators, which may lead to renewed transport-related violence if not managed carefully.

On the issue of rail services, there is an urgency for the department to engage with PRASA to enhance the railway line from Phalaborwa to Maputo. Currently, mine trucks are destroying our roads, and taxpayers bear the cost of this damage while mines reap all the profits. The result is predictable; a likely increase in motor vehicle accidents. The department is well-positioned to assist the communities adjacent to these roads by enforcing road rules, as many truck drivers act in a lawless and dangerous manner.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) is deeply concerned about the R153 million once again allocated to GAAL, money we believe is being wasted.

Since its establishment in 1995, GAAL has been unable to sustain itself, remaining dependent on government support to this day. Over the past eight years, more than R617 million has been allocated to GAAL. It is time to close the tap.

If GAAL has failed to generate profit in 30 years, it is unlikely that anything will change now. If the department is truly serious about driving economic growth and creating jobs, how can it justify throwing another R153 million at an entity that has consistently underperformed?

The DA also warns against further investments in the PRM Mphephu and Siyandani Airports, especially when we still do not have a sustainable model to make the Polokwane International Airport profitable.

We are, however, hopeful that the investment in technology and tools of trade for our traffic officials will yield positive results. We have seen evidence of their hard work in the reduction of road accidents, and we commend them.

During oversight visits to various police stations, the DA observed that Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and community safety forums were active and well-structured. Documents such as minutes of meetings and attendance registers were in place, and members were actively participating in community activities.

The same can be said of farm and town watch groups. These private citizens make meaningful contributions to rural safety, and we express gratitude to those who give their time and energy to improve safety where they live. We must all support community safety structures in our own areas.

However, gender-based violence remains a major area of concern. The Thohoyandou police station is one of the most alarming crime hotspots, not only in Limpopo, but in South Africa. It features 13 times on the national top 30 police station list for serious crime.

More concerning is that Thohoyandou ranks prominently in 17 serious crime categories, including sexual offences. It is number one in the country for rape and other sexual offences. As a province, we are failing dismally to prevent and combat rape.

In fact, four police stations in Limpopo are listed among South Africa's top 30 for reported serious crimes. This is completely unacceptable.

It is illogical to waste R153 million on an entity like GAAL, which delivers very little, while failing to address the massive onslaught against women and children. This misalignment of priorities makes no sense.

We must do better. We acknowledge that the department is trying to make a difference. Let us all commit to doing what is best for the people of Limpopo.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I will now call upon Hon Baloyi Dunani to take the podium.

MR BALOYI

Ndzi khensile, Manana Dokodela Xipikara. Ndzi xeweta Vachaviseki hinkwavo, ku katsa tiMEC na Holobyenkulu, hambi leswi va nga riki kona. Ndzi tlhela ndzi xeweta na murhangeri wa mina, Commissar Mapoulo.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned that resolutions are made merely for malicious compliance, because nothing is done to resolve the prominent issues agreed upon between the committee and the department.

How many responsible officials has the department held accountable in the past five financial years for audit findings that resulted in fruitless, wasteful, and irregular expenditure?

The wastage of taxpayer money continues under the watchful eye of the ANC-led government, because no action is taken against officials who are found to be on the wrong side of the law. We all know why this is happening, since some of you here are the very ones sending them.

It is public knowledge that consequence management in the current administration is non-existent, hence there are no cautions or accountability for poor performance.

Just this month alone, more than ten people have died due to road fatalities in Limpopo. This is gravely concerning. Something drastic must be done.

Yes, we heard the honourable MEC saying there's nothing she can do because she cannot be inside the cars. However, you must get a report on whether those accidents happened because of driver error, or because of the condition of the roads.

Can we receive a progress report from the department on its commitment to achieve a 30% reduction in road fatalities and crashes?

Furthermore, can we receive a breakdown of the appointment of new members to Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and Safety Forums across all five districts of the province?

How many K53 projects have been completed and where? Is it not the responsibility of the department to ensure that traffic services are accessible to the people of South Africa, particularly in Limpopo?

Hon Speaker, like all other departments in this province, this department has employees who are doing business with government yet fail to comply with the requirement to disclose financial interests.

Again, they won't comply, because some of you here are sending them to do it. Can this House assure us that corrective measures are being taken to remedy this situation?

How far is the department in resolving the land availability challenge at the Mampakuil Weighbridge? The slow pace in attending to this matter continues to derail service delivery in a province already struggling with backlogs.

Hon Speaker, the sporadic taxi violence in the transport industry continues to damage the image of this province. How many times have we seen officials and politicians take sides, instead of playing the neutral role of mediator?

Has the department finalised the appointment of new subsidised bus service contracts as per its own commitment? The majority of our people depend on public transport to go to and from work daily, and in doing so, to grow the economy of this province.

Hon Speaker, the troubled GAAL should work towards diversifying its energy supply to ensure that airport operations continue with minimal disruption. The entity must strengthen safety and security, including the installation of a perimeter fence.

Has the Board of Directors developed a turnaround strategy that aligns with the Annual Performance Plan (APP)? GAAL must adhere to its maintenance plan and comply fully with all requirements set by SACAA.

Has the department engaged with local and international carriers to initiate or expand air services to and from Limpopo throughout this financial year?

This tendency to delay the implementation of important programmes in this department is a serious injustice to the people of Limpopo and our service delivery efforts.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Kedibone Lebea, will be closing the debate. Over to you, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The minutes that you are appreciating, are actually being left for the chairperson.

Let me also rise in accordance with the protocol that has already been established and get straight to the business of the day.

Fyodor Dostoevsky taught us:

"Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lies comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him or around him and so loses all respect for himself and for others."

Moreover, Hon Baloyi, Karl Marx taught us to disdain lies when he said: "Tell no lies and claim no easy victory."

This debate is dedicated to a congressman, a revolutionary par excellence, a real soldier of uMkhonto weSizwe, the spear of the nation, the armed wing of the Congress movement, born on 10 July 1956 in Mamelodi, east of Pretoria.

He left the country to join the ANC military wing in exile in October 1976, after the student demonstrations. He received his military training in Angola and Mozambique and returned to South Africa in 1977 on a mission to help students commemorate the 1976 demonstrations. En route to Soweto, unfortunately, his group was accosted by the police, and a gunfight ensued.

Two civilians were killed, and he was captured along with Mondli Motloun, who was beaten to the point of severe brain damage. The third member of the group, George Mahlangu, managed to escape the then-apartheid regime. On the unfortunate Friday of 06 April 1979, he walked 52 defiant steps to the gallows because of his belief, his resilience, and his insistence that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, and that

South Africans are not free until the masses of the people are liberated from the shackles of unemployment, poverty, inequality, and economic bondage.

His final words are reported to be: "Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue to fight. My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. A luta continua."

His statue was unveiled in Mamelodi for all generations to acknowledge this great son of the soil. This is no other than Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu.

Hon Speaker, back to the business of the day. We met with the department and the entity GAAL, and by extension, the South African Police Service (SAPS). I must say, Hon Monama has covered us well when he addressed many of the issues raised in that meeting, both the positives and the areas of concern.

As a portfolio committee, with effective oversight and without fear of contradiction, we shall continue to monitor the department under the stewardship of honourable MEC Manana Susana Violet Mathye.

One may ask: why? Let me share, in these few minutes allocated to us. The department achieved zero fatalities on the N1 during the Easter period. That is a good story to tell.

This was due to collaborative efforts between provincial traffic officers, municipal officers, the RTMC, and the guidance and visible leadership of our Legislature officials and the Executive Council.

This reminds me of the Latin phrase: "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" — "Who will guard the guards themselves?" Who will guard the motorists?

Safety is a choice we make, and unfortunately, one that the MEC or officials cannot enforce alone.

The appointment of 147 officers is another effort to create jobs and reduce road fatalities. The recently awarded bus contract will assist rural communities by enabling them to benefit from subsidies, reducing fares significantly, and delivering on the Freedom Charter's call that "There shall be work and security."

Our oversight also extends to the entity Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL), a thorn in the side of others. However, as a portfolio committee, we should assess whether it was supposed to be a 3D entity.

Most Members seated here do not fly from Gateway Airport. We drive down the N1 to fly from OR Tambo. If all of us began to use the airport here, we could assist in making it viable.

Honourable MEC for Sport, when you welcome provincial stars, you go to O R Tambo International Airport, but we have an airport right here. Hence, from now on, when we collect our stars, they must connect from OR Tambo to Gateway and be welcomed here in Limpopo. This would boost revenue.

GAAL told us a good story. Unfortunately, the honourable Member was not present in that meeting. They have interns in finance, IT, and marketing, brought in through MOUs that cost the government nothing. There are nine new employees to assist with capacity constraints in the entity, and the introduction of the new airline will assist in attracting reasonable and affordable prices for passengers.

Hon Speaker, as we conclude, Hon Mabotja touched on the national catastrophe of crime. Allow me to spotlight our own “Mama Action”, Provincial Commissioner Lt. Gen. Thembi Radebe.

Let me speak of a legendary team, tagged “Team No Sleep,” led by Colonel Sotlo Richard Boshoma, commander of the Provincial Investigation Unit and Provincial Tracking Team. This team transformed law enforcement in this province through sheer determination, tactical brilliance, and unwavering commitment to justice.

In 2016, when Limpopo was plagued by a wave of cash-in-transit (CIT) robberies, the provincial management turned to the Colonel’s team for solutions. The results were nothing short of remarkable. This team dismantled sophisticated CIT robbery networks, pavement robbery gangs, ATM bombing operations, and car hijacking syndicates. The statistics speaks volumes.

Their achievements are remarkable:

- In a single year, 335 CIT suspects arrested, 308 firearms recovered (70 high-powered rifles), 310 stolen vehicles retrieved, and combined criminal sentences of criminals convicted through their investigations exceeded over 1 000 years of imprisonment.

They attributed to solving Limpopo’s most notorious cases. This is law enforcement at its best.

Hon Speaker, under the leadership of MEC Manana Violet Susana Mathye, the department is rising to the task. We, as the portfolio committee, will continue to exercise robust oversight.

In conclusion, regarding the proposed initiatives that are planned for GAAL, we will definitely be playing our oversight role to check if they are able to do what they have promised us and the people of Limpopo — to ensure that GAAL finds its way back into the Limpopo skies and beyond.

I therefore request this august House to consider and adopt the Budget of the Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity, GAAL.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Ten minutes on the dot. Thanks, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, Hon Lebea.

We shall now allow the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Manana Violet Susana Violet Mathye, to come and make a reflection on the debate by honourable Members. Manana Violet Susana Violet Mathye nkarhi i wa n'wina.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Inkomu, Manana Xipikara, na ku vula marito ya ku khensa ka Muchaviseki Monama na Honourable Chairperson.

The chairperson has said a mouthful, which makes my job easier. Let me take this opportunity to thank the portfolio committee for their robust engagement, which pushes the department to do everything possible to ensure that all the planned projects are completed.

To Hon Helm and Hon Baloyi: on GAAL, you were presented with strategic plans. GAAL is stabilising. We have advertised for the appointment of a new Board, and those with aviation-related skills are welcome to apply, so that together we can turn GAAL around.

On Siyandani, the land is under a land claim. When an area is under land claim, no activity can take place there. Anyone saying otherwise is not telling the truth. They are misleading the public.

Regarding Mphephu, we are not saying it will be operational tomorrow. We have advertised for consultations to assist us on how best to revitalise our old airports.

On road safety: our 24/7 strategy proved effective during the Easter period. We are determined to keep implementing it to protect the people of Limpopo province.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa Manana Mathye a mi nga xi voni xikombankarhi, ha swi twisisa. We shall now proceed to the next item.

7.1.4. Consideration and Adoption of the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Education.

Chairperson of the portfolio committee, over to you.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Education, I present, for consideration and adoption by the House, the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Education.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Any seconder? Mr Nkonyane, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and greetings to Hon Champ.

I rise to second the proposal as moved by Hon Rakgoale. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Order, honourable Members. Order, please.

On the Speakers' List, Hon Hasani Peter Ngoben, hi vona va sungula njhekanjhekisano eka Ndzawulo ya Dyondzo. A va ti va ta hi pfulela.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Your new Member is already calling orders. I don't understand where the UAT people buy their suits, because even the previous Member was wearing something funny.

Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetja, and of course, allow me to align myself with the protocols that are already established. Hon Monama, I will check the words, because when I was still in the Youth League, there was a fellow who used to tell us that the situation here is "cantankerous".

The situation is "cantankerous," and when I checked, the word was not there. I hope and believe this one does exist.

It is with great honour, privilege and a sense of responsibility that I stand here this morning not only as a voice of the children of Limpopo, but as a defender of their rights to dignity, safety, and quality education.

I specifically take this posture because I know, as much as you do, that these children are not only our future, but our present responsibility. Therefore, we must do all that is humanly possible and necessary to provide an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching; an environment that is credible.

I'm immediately reminded of the extraordinary words by the esteemed member of Mapungubwe, Isitwalandwe, Nobel Peace Laureate, Dalibunga Nelson Rolihlanhla Mandela, when he said: "We judge a nation by how it treats its children."

These children must in the foreseeable future help answer the questions:

- Firstly, what needs to be done to eradicate, once and for all, pit latrines as the only available sanitation in some schools?
- Secondly, what are strategic and community-driven programmes required to help mitigate drug abuse in schools?
- Thirdly, how do we move with agility in accelerating infrastructural development?

These and many other questions require collective wisdom and critical thinking, for they are not easy to answer.

You can't resolve them merely by throwing billions of rands at them, but you can resolve them by planning correctly. It requires transparent and time-bound plans to replace pit latrines with safe and dignified ablution blocks, and to rehabilitate crumbling classrooms. I will deal with these matters in greater detail later.

The Department of Education's allocation for the 2025/26 financial year amounts to R42,529 billion. At the risk of sounding too academic, I will not traverse all the seven programmes in the department. I will, however, focus mainly on programme 6, Infrastructure Development.

This programme, Hon Speaker, is allocated R1,692 billion of the total Budget. It is my considered view, and that of the portfolio committee, that infrastructure development has the sharp propensity to extricate our children from undignified pit latrines, crumbling classrooms, and water infrastructure that yields little or no water. Through this budget, the department must go some length in investing in water and sanitation systems, connectivity for digital learning, and the maintenance of buildings that have long passed their usable life.

Hon Speaker, specifically in this regard, allow me to speak about a few observations we made during the Back-to-School campaign we undertook earlier this year. When we were at Setotlwane Special School in Capricorn District, we learned firsthand the appalling conditions under which teaching and learning takes place. Hostels are overcrowded, mobile classes are dilapidated, and so on.

Of importance to note is the fact that for far too long, this school for the deaf and the blind has always been housed by Hwiti Secondary School. Certainly, something must be done to correct the situation.

There is a school in Sekhukhune South District, Mongolwane Secondary School. This school is in the dusty village called Legotong, under Lepella Circuit. Just like Setotlwane, the school has no adequate classrooms, ablution facilities, or offices. Regardless of its location and appalling infrastructure, what makes this school so excellent is its leadership.

The men and women in this school, under Principal Maubane, are hard at work, hence the 100% pass rate in the 2024 matric results. It is the wish of the committee that these types of inspiring stories must inform how the department prioritises schools for infrastructure development. Awi, MEC, ba ngwatheleng hlogo ya tšiyé le bona.

While we acknowledge the above-stated challenges, we wish to take this moment to commend the department under the esteemed leadership of Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya for the good progress they continue to register in completing schools such as Matsibe Secondary, Suswe Primary in the Waterberg District, Reboni Secondary School, Seboeng Primary School, and Dikgalaopeng Primary in the Sekhukhune District.

Furthermore, there are many other projects across the province that are nearing completion. Continue the good work, you and your team, honourable MEC, in making sure that you deliver these key services to our people in the province.

I'm quite certain that everyone seated in this august House will agree with me, without dissent, that the ANC-led government, under the enabling and action-driven leadership of Dr Phophi "Singo" Ramathuba, will succeed in delivering services to the people of Limpopo.

Allow me, Hon Speaker, to request this august House to consider and adopt this Annual Performance Plan and Budget.

I so move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Ngobeni. Indeed, you managed your time. I don't see Hon Smalle here. Who's taking over? Hon Wilson, over to you. Thank you.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am reading on behalf of Hon Smalle, who is recovering in bed after surgery.

Hon Speaker, like many speakers before me, we are continuously reminded of the spirit and values of Nelson Mandela, who dedicated his life to the pursuit of equality, justice, and peace.

His unwavering commitment to human rights, community development and social justice remains a guiding light for us all. As we celebrate Mandela Month, we are reminded of his belief that each of us has the power to effect change in our communities, regardless of how small these actions may seem. Yet, at times, we do have to be the voice of the voiceless.

With this in mind, we should take notice of the fact that the Department of Education in this province is the cornerstone of our society and bears a great responsibility as it lays the foundation for about 1,5 million learners and employs about 55 000 people.

As one evaluates the performance of the department and its APP, it is important to remind the department of its core mandate: to provide quality education in a conducive environment. The department's allocation for the 2025/26 financial year is R42,5 billion, with R32,5 billion allocated for Compensation of Employees.

This huge commitment to paying personnel leaves limited resources to provide a quality learning experience. During the last year, the department underspent its Budget by R722 million and could not complete 155 of its infrastructure projects. This is concerning, considering the ever-increasing pressure for classrooms and other infrastructure every year.

In an under-resourced province like Limpopo, we cannot afford to leave funds unspent. While it is our hope that the allocation of R52,5 million for the Maths, Science and Technology (MST) grant will continue to improve performance in these subjects, we equally hope we do not have a repeat of the R18 million that was underspent on the MST grant previously. The Public Ordinary School Education programme is allocated R35 billion.

The allocation for the National School Nutrition programme must ensure that schools deliver food on time, receive appropriate quality food products, and that consequences are enforced for suppliers who fail to meet these standards.

It is crucial to realise the ten output indicators which address the fundamentals for effective teaching through: the supply of teachers to meet the demand, teacher development to ensure subject knowledge and methodology are up to standard, and the timely provision of learner-teacher support material. Anything less will be a failure on your part, honourable MEC.

Not enough is being done to ensure that we maintain a conducive learning environment within our public special schools. The vacancies in special schools, neglect of infrastructure, and delays in resourcing these schools have been a challenge over the years and are characterised by the 26 special school buses still not delivered.

The R775 million should be efficiently used to improve conditions and learning outcomes in special schools. We should be as proactive in reacting to their needs as we are with public ordinary schools.

The current situation with regard to the COE is one that needs urgent attention to avoid problems further down the line. The savings over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) are meant for vacant funded posts, as per the new organisational structure, which will be filled in the next two financial years.

A report indicated that if we consider the headcount on the calculation, which is based on a full notch per head, there are no savings annually over the MTEF, given that each post has an expenditure for all 12 months. What is the plan to deal with the situation without compromising the quality of learning in our schools?

The allocation of R990 million for early childhood development, along with the intention of the department to attract more learners into formal Grade R schools, as well as enrolling Grade R practitioners with tertiary institutions to increase the number of qualified practitioners, is commendable. These efforts need to be intensified to improve the standard of ECD in Limpopo.

Overall, I think that we are seeing an improvement in education and certainly a better response to educational needs, but a lot still needs to be done.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Wilson. Hon Samuel Walter Molapo, you may take the podium. Your seven minutes start now.

MR MOLAPO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Leader of the Official Opposition, Commissar Mapoulo; the Whip of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Commissar Kgothatso in her absence; the members of the EFF across the province and the people of Limpopo.

Madam Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters stands to reject the 2025/26 Education Budget Vote of this corrupt ANC-led government of Limpopo. The rejection of this anti-black-poor budget is premised on the fact that the R42,5 billion Budget fails to prioritise the following seven critical areas in our basic education system:

- School infrastructure development, more especially the infrastructure of our two public special schools, namely, Setotlwane and Rebone special schools;
- The establishment of ECD centres in all wards in our province;
- The eradication of pit toilets;
- The digital connectivity in our rural schools;
- Safe and reliable scholar transport;
- A healthy and reliable feeding scheme; and
- The filling of the 2 447 critical vacant positions in this department.

The Economic Freedom Fighters cannot support a Budget, which is a mere tick-box exercise that would not address the serious challenges faced by our education system.

The Department of Basic Education in Limpopo has consistently failed to spend the conditional grant given to it, in particular the Maths, Science and Technology grant, which is meant to help children improve in critical subjects such as Maths, Science and Technology. The Budget must be rejected, because it fails to address safety in our public schools. The public schools continue to be crime scenes where the safety of both our teachers and learners is not guaranteed. Many schools still struggle with water infrastructure and sanitation. This Budget Vote does not deal with that matter.

The Budget fails to address the existential crisis of overcrowding in all our schools in the province. The teacher-learner ratio has reached crisis level. We would like to take this opportunity, as the Economic Freedom Fighters, to urge the MEC of Education to procure and deliver temporary mobile classrooms to all needy schools before 2026. The EFF is not going to allow a situation where parents and learners are turned back next year January on the basis that there are no spaces in our schools.

This Budget fails to prioritise the capacity building of teachers and the infrastructure development in the ECD centres.. It is disappointing that only 160 000 kids are enrolled in our registered EDC centres. This means that many of our children in the province are excluded from early childhood development. The EFF demands that all ECD practitioners in Limpopo be appointed on a permanent basis so they can enjoy all the benefits that the other teachers are enjoying. Benefits such as housing allowance and medical aid.

It is unacceptable that, in this digital world, almost all black schools in this province lack connectivity, and the MEC of the ANC-led government has not dedicated enough resources to make sure that our schools are connected. This disadvantages our children from competing globally.

The state of public special schools in our province is bad and dehumanising. This situation is a clear indication that the African National Congress government is paying lip service when it comes to building an inclusive education and training system, as per what the Education White Paper says. On 15 January 2025, I, together with my colleagues in the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, conducted an oversight visit to Setotlwane Special School, which is situated in Mankweng. The school admitted about 254 learners, obviously with severe and profound intellectual disability.

During our oversight visit we found that the school had no water. They only had access to water for the past two years. For the learners in that school to drink and bath, they must buy water. Toilets were not functioning, and the temporary mobile classes that are there are dilapidated. The principal and teachers were under severe stress. I know it is a joke on this side (right) of the House. Some of those kids cannot see. The kids are blind. It was so painful to be given a demonstration on how they use the toilets; when the toilets are blocked, they must use their hands to check whether there are water or faeces in the toilet. Our kids are subjected to that nonsense. I know, Madam Speaker, that this side (right) of the House will continue to make jokes about our kids.

The Budget must be rejected for being silent on plans to address the problems faced in Setotlwane and Rebone Special Schools. The R37 million that is allocated to learners with severe and profound intellectual disability is an insult to the people of Limpopo. The Budget must be rejected for allocating a lot of money for independent schools while our public schools lack infrastructure.

The Economic Freedom Fighters stand here to urge the MEC for Education...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Molapo, please take your seat, there is a hand.

MR MOLAPO

I thought they were just howling. They can raise the order.

THE SPEAKER

Please sit down for now, honourable Member. Firstly, I requested you to apologise to the House, that you have used the word, 'nonsense', which is unparliamentary in terms of the Rules.

MR MOLAPO

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will rephrase. There is no sense in what they are doing. Let's move on.

MR MARINGA

Can Hon Molapo withdraw the word “nonsense”; not rephrase it. but withdraw it and replace it with a more appropriate term.

MR MOLAPO

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for not ruling on that point of order that makes no sense.

THE SPEAKER.

Please withdraw, do not rephrase.

MR MOLAPO

There is no sense in what they are doing. Is that what you want? I deleted it; that is proper. Madam Speaker, the feeding scheme; scholar transport; and school furniture tenders are a fertile ground for corruption in this department. The department is forever in and out of court, wasting taxpayers' money defending indefensible cases. If it is not a dispute regarding a feeding scheme, it is a poor woman who is seeking justice for her child who might have fallen into a pit toilet, or it is a local businessperson...[INTREJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Your time has expired.

MR MOLAPO

In conclusion, I want to take this opportunity to respond to the Premier of this province on her remark that our people must be arrested for drinking water. We are not going to do that as the EFF. We are not going to call the police to arrest our people for drinking water. There is nothing called an illegal connection. There is an unauthorised connection. Our people will connect themselves to the system and drink water.

We are not going to dehumanise our people. We are not going to criminalise our people for drinking water. We reject that with contempt. The MEC for Health must know that the EFF is not going to rest on the allegations that are making rounds in the media, that during the Premier of this province's reign as the MEC for Health, there was R400 million that was squandered. We are going to raise that until the end.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

The time for debating the Budget Vote for Health will come. If you missed it, hard luck. Today, we are debating Education. Thank you so much. Let's proceed and allow Hon

Nkakareng Christian Rakgoale, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, to respond.

MS RAKGOALE

It is so unfortunate that, whilst you are watched by all the people of Limpopo, Hon Molapo, you chose to encourage lawlessness.

Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, in absentia; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; and honourable Members, greetings to you all.

Hon Wilson, I am sure when you were reading, you could hear the calmness of Hon Smalle in that speech. I think that is how we should address issues. I trust you have learned something.

Madam Speaker, last night I went through my archives and found a notebook that I used to write important things in during my youth in politics. I learned that today, 10 July 1960, was the day when the African National Congress was effectively banned in South Africa as a result of the government's response to anti-apartheid protests.

This came after a significant moment known as the Sharpeville Massacre, which occurred on 21 March 1960. During that time, there were protests against the pass laws, and the police opened fire on a crowd, killing 69 people and injuring many others. Since then, July 10 has not been recognised as a major date in the African National Congress's history, yet it serves as a poignant reminder of the struggle faced by our biggest liberation movement in their fight for freedom and equality. A freedom that, together with Hon Mapoulo, we continue to enjoy today.

This piece of information is important to us all, in order to avoid mistakes such as the one Floyd and others in this House are making. It is a constant reminder that education is not preparation for life; education is life itself, as said by John Dewey.

Hon Monama, you must help me to get a word that would describe a person who goes to a portfolio committee meeting, adopts the report, and then comes to the House and rejects it. I am still looking for that word.

The Department of Education reported that the overall conditional grant spending at the end of quarter four of the 2025/26 financial year was R3,6 billion or 97,90% of the total adjusted allocation of R3,4 billion. It was found that the underspending of conditional grant was attributed to:

- non-conclusion of procurement of coding and robotics kits for Maths, Science and Technology (MST) grants;
- insufficient budget allocation for Compensation of Employees;
- challenges in the National School Nutrition programme;
- high attrition;
- late submission of invoices for school furniture and mobile classrooms;
- delays in the appointment of chemical service providers for Early Childhood Development grants;

- late appointments of casual labourers and data capturers of EPWP incentive grants;
- delayed appointments of learner support agents; and
- frequent resignation of HIV/AIDS Life Skills grant staff.

Honourable MEC, underspending in the Education Department can pose several significant dangers and challenges that can adversely affect the quality of education in the whole ecosystem. To mitigate these challenges, the committee recommended that the Department of Education establish effective financial planning, a transparent reporting process, and a robust monitoring and evaluation system.

On Early Childhood Development, the committee, having considered and scrutinised the department's 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan, recommends that the department should ensure that targets outlined in the APPs are achieved on time. The committee further recommends that the department set proper strategic objectives to improve its audit outcomes and achieve the goals in their five-year plan.

It must be noted that Members, voters and the leadership of both government and the ANC in Limpopo take the education of the children seriously. Therefore, education shall, at all costs, be given priority. The ANC believes that the state must not be the sole provider of education at any level. It is a societal matter; therefore, parents and communities must be the primary custodians of the education system. The state, parents, communities and employees should assume joint responsibility for the education of our children.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the ANC, I will be failing in my objective assessment of the performance of the Department of Education if I do not acknowledge the inroads made in delivering quality education to our learners. It is through education that individuals acquire skills that make them employable and able to access opportunities to improve their lives. Producing quality learners requires a quality learning environment. We need quality schools with adequate infrastructure, enough classrooms, suitably qualified educators, sanitation, electricity, water and sporting facilities. The 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan affords us the opportunity to holistically assess the department's capacity to deliver on its mandate.

On Independent Schools, the programme was allocated R175,5 million of the total Budget, which will enable the department to support independent schools in accordance with the South African Schools Act. Admittedly, there are several schools in this province which have always stood out as shining examples of excellence with their commendable results. These, however, are exceptions rather than the rule. This raises the question: what went wrong? There are many causes, such as a lack of infrastructure and unsatisfactory provision of learning and teaching materials. Let me focus on the quality of the teachers. Many of our teachers have not been adequately reskilled and inducted to cope with the curriculum revisions which culminated recently in CAPS.

Given the uncertainty relating to foreign teachers' qualifications at Highlands Secondary School in Burgersfort, the committee recommends that the department, in monitoring and assessing the eligibility of independent schools, must ensure that Highlands School is visited to check for negligence detected at the school.

With regard to school transport, provision is still not adequate and problematic. We still believe that the learner transport fund can be well managed within the Department of Education. We are happy that the two departments have eventually seen the need to bring this project back to the department. We expect to see the programme being fast-tracked, especially in needy schools. There is a major blow in the very school mentioned by Hon Ngobeni regarding transport. A nearby school that was closed due to declining learner numbers has forced learners to travel through the bush to access Molwetsi Secondary School in Mogaladi, Sekhukhune.

Many learners walk long distances to school in order to access education. The failure by the Department of Education and the Department of Transport to provide safe transport violates learners' rights to education, as enshrined in section 29 of the Constitution. The committee calls on the MEC to assess schools in the province where learners are required to traverse the bush to access education.

Safety in our schools remains a concern. Teachers and learners are victimised and killed within school premises in broad daylight because security measures are weak. As a committee, we recommend that discipline for both learners and educators be reinforced. Respect for authority and for the profession must be reintroduced. We must bring back the culture of accountability throughout the system, at the educator and management levels.

The current security personnel in schools are merely gatekeepers, without firearms. We have noticed that even the well-constructed schools in our communities are subject to burglaries because of weak security. We therefore urge the MEC to consider this and find ways of addressing it.

In conclusion, it is the role of the state in every country to ensure that education is provided under conditions conducive to effective teaching and learning. The department must continue lobbying and encouraging learners to take up teaching as a career of choice. Bursaries are available to finance this nationwide, through the Funza Lushaka bursary scheme.

Lastly, the committee, having considered the 2025/26 APP Report for the Department of Education, recommends that the House accept the report and require the department to comply with the committee's recommendations as indicated above.

Hon Speaker, I therefore move, on behalf of the committee, that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. Also, this House must recognise that, according to the EFF through the mouth of Hon Molapo, there should be no learning and teaching this financial year.

I so move accordingly.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

MR MOLAPO

Order. Order!

THE SPEAKER

You should raise a hand, and I will acknowledge you. Let's hear.

MR MOLAPO

Thank you very much. I don't think it is parliamentary that a person could stand here and lie about another Member. The Member who just left the podium is not stating facts correctly. She is not quoting our speech properly. I call upon you, Madam Speaker, to request her to withdraw those lies. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Let me make a ruling. I suggest we get the recording of the proceedings. Hon Molapo, you will do it in writing to the Speaker and indicate which parts of the speech you feel were misrepresented. We will get the response and will then report back to the House. Thank you so much.

Can we now allow the MEC of Education, Hon Mavhungu Maureen Lerule-Ramakhanya, to respond to the debate?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Deputy Speaker; colleagues; honourable MECs; chair of the portfolio committee and its members; Hon Chief Whip and the Whippers; and all Members in this august House. Thank you so much for the support to the Department of Education.

I want to make it clear that the Department of Education is home to 1,8 million learners in this province. Our educator basket is 51 752, with 200 posts on an ad hoc basis. Our ECD learners currently recorded are 138 226, and our target is 184 000 by the end of the financial year. Those who prepare speeches for honourable Members should do the correct research.

It is with humility that I take the podium to thank this House for passing the Budget. It included provision for winter enrichment classes. As I speak, we are on the final week of those classes. Our learners — the children, your children and your great-grandchildren — have braved the cold winter to attend. All subjects were taught because we had a plan, and you approved our budget. We had both walk-in and sleepover centres across the province. We visited the centres, and the children were ready.

With regard to the infrastructure, I know we all talked about Setotolwane. The plan is there, and progress is being made. It is under our implementing agent in the Department of Public Works. We have provided 80 desks, three mobile classrooms, paid the electricity bill, bought mattresses, and addressed other urgent issues. We have also ensured that water and sanitation are provided in our schools. In addition, we have signed an MOU with the South African Police Service to start talks on safety for our learners and educators.

We want to say, 2025 is a year of academic excellence, teacher development and the implementation of the BELA Act. Training has already started in all five districts. We understand that the ideology of other institutions leads them to use words like crisis, disappointing and demand. However, because we are the Department of Education, we will take them positively and address them under the capable ANC-led government. We will continue to change the lives of our learners.

We want to thank the chair, the committee and the House for passing the Budget. Education is a societal matter, and every child is a national asset.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, in terms of the orders of the day, we are now on item 8. Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

8. TRIBUTE BY POLITICAL PARTIES TO THE LATE DAVID DABEDE MABUZA, THE FORMER DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I just want to be clarified. I have looked at the Speakers' List, and I am confused. Unless you can clarify it for me, particularly with the item that follows. I am seeing something written, "Jump" here. I am not sure what is happening. I just want clarity. I am confused.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, you are out of order. You did not listen to my opening remarks. If you did not listen to my opening remarks, then let me call you to order. I formally welcomed Hon Sebothoma as a new Member who was sworn in this morning, representing the UAT. His name is Jump.

Hon Sebothoma, at least today you know you have a friend. Your friend is Hon Mathe, because you share the name, Matsobane. Don't be surprised when he is worried; that is because he thought I was calling him. Bjale ga a kwešiše gore bjale ka gore yena ga se a fetola sefane e bile ga ana le leina le ba re go ke Jump, bjalo go diragala eng. Se se diragalago ke gore, o na le bitso ka mo. The surname is Sebothoma, and the names are Matsobane Jump.

Can we now proceed to the tribute by political parties to the late David Dabede Mabuza, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, who sadly passed on 03 July 2025.

The President of South Africa, Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, has accorded him a State Funeral Category 02, which will take place on Saturday, 12 July 2025, in Mpumalanga. We are now going to allow the political parties to pay tribute to him, because he was our former Deputy President. That is also why he is receiving a State Funeral, which is conducted by soldiers, not by the police.

We know there will be Members who will be going to the funeral. We wish you all the best. Travel safely. We felt that not all of us would be able to attend. Therefore, as Limpopo, we can honour him through this snap debate. Thank you, Chief Whip, the Whippery and the Programming Committee for thinking of one of our own, the former Deputy President.

On that note, we will go to the Speakers' List. We will allow our new Member, who is going to give his inaugural speech today, to start. Hon Sebothoma Matsobane Jump. Thank you so much.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

I am happy that I have got my name sake here. Unfortunately, he is not Jump; maybe he is Sit. I am Jump. Thank you very much.

Getting to the bottom of the matter here, Hon Speaker, from the UAT, we would like to celebrate the life of Cde D D Mabuza, who is the former Deputy President of South Africa and the former Premier of Mpumalanga. He made a significant contribution to the country, particularly in education and infrastructure development.

To note some of the achievements he made in education; he did a lot to eradicate farm schools and replace them with state-of-the-art boarding schools in Mpumalanga. He was also involved in education advocacy. As a former educator himself, Mabuza remained passionate about education, establishing the D D Mabuza Foundation to support educational initiatives and uplift vulnerable groups.

He was also influential in infrastructure development, where he implemented major projects in Mpumalanga during his tenure as Premier. He was also instrumental on service delivery and troubleshooting in hot spots as the Deputy President.

We also, as the UAT, want to recognise the role that he played by promoting social cohesion initiatives including being a patron of the Moral Regeneration Movement. He also played a very important leadership role, which the UAT would like to recognise as well. He served as the Leader of Government Business in Parliament.

On land reform, he urged the government to fast-track land reform and coordinated programmes to accelerate agricultural support. Cde D D Mabuza was a man of great stature. Unlike some of the Members of this House who like to turn themselves into 'Mini Mugabes,' Hon D D Mabuza went out without aspiring to become the President. Kanimambo.

THE SPEAKER

Kanimambo. Re a leboga, Mohl Matsobane. This was his inaugural speech. We thank you so much. We know that we will be with you in debates on other matters from next week onwards. The MKP has left. Hon Wilson, you may take the podium.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. Death, particularly a sudden and unprepared-for death, is deeply traumatic. With all passing, particularly the sudden ones, there are consequences; not for the person who has passed but for the living, those who are left behind. Those who have passed are on a new path and find themselves on a new journey. We have not experienced it, but I am sure it must be an amazing one.

However, for those who are left behind; the families, the friends, the colleagues, they suddenly find themselves in a limbo. Life feels like it has suddenly stopped in its tracks. There is a huge amount of despair, an overwhelming sense of grief and loss, and the future of sudden uncertainty.

Cde D D Mabuza and his wife were congregants at the Methodist Church in Mbombela, where my mother worships. We have seen them there often. Ms Mabuza may rest assured that Cde D D is indeed on a new and wonderful path and journey of renewal.

Our hearts go out to her and the family, their many friends and of course the hundreds of colleagues, many of whom sit on these benches, who will be distraught, hurting and suffering from a deep sense of loss. Along with them, there is a whole country that was shocked and shaken by the loss of a long-serving servant of the people.

In death, I say this on behalf of his family: our lives go on without you, but nothing is the same. We have to hide our heartache when someone speaks your name. Sad are the hearts that love you. Silent are the tears that fall. Living here without you is the hardest part of all. You did so many things for us. Your heart was kind and true. When we needed someone, we could always count on you. The special years will not return when we are all together, but with love in our hearts, you will walk with us forever.

We express our deepest condolences to the Mabuza family, the friends and colleagues of the Mabuza family and South Africa as a whole. I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. A very moving tribute. We will now allow the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislature, representing the EFF, Hon Mapoulo, to take the podium.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; my colleagues in the House, in the absence of the Premier; and my fellow fighters.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is saddened and devastated by the untimely passing of the former Deputy President of South Africa, Hon Dabede Mabuza. This country will forever be indebted to him for his contribution to South Africa's liberation and development. We sincerely extend our sympathies to his wife, children, extended family and comrades in the African National Congress, as well as the people of South Africa at large.

David Mabuza was not just a politician, he was a community builder who valued education, and he had a deep desire to see a black child emancipated through

education. His passion for the education of black children was his biggest legacy throughout his political life. Remember, this is the man who joined the liberation struggle in the 1980s, when it was not fashionable. His home in particular, was a home of freedom fighters. Those who were crossing the borders without passports and visas knew that they would reach a place called Mabuza's house.

He built schools in Mpumalanga and contributed to the conceptualisation and ultimate establishment of the University of Mpumalanga. He shared his meals with indigent people and students and sponsored many learners to attend school. In his early political life, Mabuza was part of a generation that fought tirelessly for black liberation. He never sought to display opulence and assisted all who knocked at his door. Mabuza, a teacher by profession, contributed meaningfully and immensely as an educator and later as a political organiser. He was a prolific soccer player. For those who did not know, he was an activist who changed the lives of many people both as a teacher through his activism and later as the Premier of Mpumalanga.

During his days as MEC for Education, he would go out and kick the gates of white schools to force the admission of black children. That was 'The Cat' for you. His leadership qualities were evident early in his life, during his days in AZASO and SADTU, as well as his broader role in mass mobilisation efforts. Mabuza's grassroots activism and his national prominence are recorded in the history books of the South African political landscape and will eternally stand out as his legacy. Though Mabuza only served one term in office and never ascended to the Presidency, he never placed personal ambition above the duties of his office. Many in this House would have placed their personal ambitions above their calling of selflessly serving our people. Leadership is about putting the interests of the people before our own. He wanted unity at all costs and disbanded the factional 'Premier League' of Ace and Supra, if you all recall.

David Mabuza was not a selfish leader; he was a true revolutionary whose political philosophy and activism penetrated through the hearts of the poorest of the poor. When he fell out of favour with his party, he did not see political challenges as reason to destabilise the country. He instead bowed out of public office with grace and a clear sense of duty to the Republic, not like others we see in other provinces. As the EFF we honour David Mabuza for being part of the generation of black South Africans who stood up in the face of a violent regime.

The David Mabuza legacy extends far beyond the titles he held. Known for his humility and quiet strength, he navigated South Africa's complex political terrain with a focus on service rather than personal gain. His decision to step away from public office in 2023, despite his prominence, underscored his commitment to stability and unity. His nickname, 'The Cat', hinted at his ability to survive political storms, like myself, including internal ANC factionalism. He was detained under the state of emergency several times and tortured. He died with one ear not hearing well due to torture by John Walters, a brutal apartheid special branch officer in Nelspruit, like those at John Voster Square in Johannesburg.

In 2015, he survived an alleged poisoning attempt, an incident that highlighted the risks he faced as a leader. Yet, he remained steadfast, focusing on education, health care and economic upliftment in Mpumalanga and beyond. May the spirit of David Dabede Mabuza rest in revolutionary peace. Lala ngoxolo, Dabede. I am speaking of a man I

had interactions with. I am speaking of a man with whom I was in the trenches. I don't speak of a friend of a "Buza". I am speaking of a friend who carried an AK-47. I am speaking of a friend who fought for this land without any ambitions to become rich. However, the majority of you here, are present so that you can go and line your purses.

David Mabuza, lala ngoxolo qabane! Lala ngoxolo solder!

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, so much. The tribute was really deep. We could see where your heart lies. Let's allow Hon Monama Gannye Rodgers to close the debate on the tributes.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Hon Nkakareng, the word that you were looking for is 'narcissist'. [LAUGHTER] It is the person you were describing.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela (in absentia); honourable Members of the Executive Council; chairperson of the portfolio committee; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs — cantankerous is a bad-tempered person, if you did not know.

Fellow Members of this august House; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essop Mokgonyana; Members of the Whippery; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Laurence Mapoulo; ladies and gentlemen, greetings to you.

We are here, as the African National Congress, to eulogise and lionise one of the exceptionally outstanding and remarkable leaders of our glorious movement, the African National Congress.

I stand here before you, on behalf of the African National Congress, with a profound sense of sadness and deepest sympathy at the unpalatable news of the passing of one of our own — truly an impeccable human being of individual excellence; the late former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and former Premier of Mpumalanga province, Hon David Dabede Mabuza — whose priceless soul has entered the Almighty God's abode. Mabuza is remembered as a dominant politician, a committed and humble cadre who dedicated his life to the service of the people of South Africa.

The former Deputy President was born in Phola Trust, in Mpumalanga province, on 25 August 1960. Yet another great African heart ceases to beat on 03 July 2025. His mortal remains will be buried on Saturday, 12 July 2025. We have lost a patriot, a freedom fighter and a leader who served with humility and conviction. Sadly, we see that many people who have made our world better, in big and small ways, vanish before we are ready to let them go. We say so because Cde D D Mabuza was a unique rarity and a fine specimen of human eloquence who touched and inspired the majority of us. His unparalleled leadership qualities gave him unassailable credibility and unimpeachable integrity.

It was indeed befitting for the ANC government to have such an exceptionally outstanding leader — quiet, dynamic, versatile and virtuous — in our midst. This is

indeed a sad moment for South Africa and the African Continent at large, as a giant and a stalwart of the liberation struggle has fallen. He was ranked among those outstanding revolutionary figures whose leadership values and courage remain unmatched.

During his tenure as the Deputy President, he was tasked with the responsibility of being the Leader of Government Business, leading Parliament's efforts to fast-track land reform and coordinate government programmes. We also want to seize this opportunity and extend our profound sense of unparalleled gratitude to the judicious leadership of His Excellency, the President, Matamela Ramaphosa, for offering him an Official Category 2 Funeral.

Whilst he lived, his humility, his self-effacing ways, his constant humour, his loyalty to principle, his avoidance of the self-serving, his refusal to be defeated, and the certainty he carried of the inevitability of the realisation of hope brought light and joy to all our nights of despair. As a public representative, Cde David Mabiza showed us, by his exemplary leadership, that we need no higher-sounding title to discharge our responsibilities faithfully and to serve the people of South Africa.

In him we have lost an iconic legend who epitomised integrity and dedication in his public life. His impeccable service to the people will be remembered by generations to come. Great leaders and icons, like all human beings, live and die. However, what distinguishes them from the rest of us is the immortality of their ideas, their teachings and the imprint of their footprints. His life has inspired many, especially those who were looking for his leadership and guidance. Surely, those who were close to him have learned great lessons from his life, which underpin the basic tenets of humility and honesty.

This world needs people like him; principled and selfless. We also want to thank all the political parties for commiserating with us, the African National Congress, as we mourn and pay homage in remembrance of this gallant son of our continent. He was a person of his convictions. We have lost a true patriot who selflessly dedicated his entire life to our country in every sphere of life. He taught us dignity in the face of adversity, loyalty in tough times, and perseverance so that determined goals are met. He showed us the bulk boundless depth of patriotism and that self-sacrifice is not an outdated concept or cliché, but the building block of an extraordinary life in this world.

In our hour of sorrow and grief, our nation can be proud of producing such a leader of impeccable character who have left such an extraordinary legacy. A combatant for life. A patriot to the end.

Robala ka kgotso, mogale wa bagale. Robala ka kgotso Mshengu. Siyabonga. Siyakhensa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ga di lebogwe. Re re, a moya wa moetapele wa rena, Motlatša Mopresitente wa pele, Mabuza o robale ka kgotso. As all Members have debated, we were talking about his legacy. We were talking about the good things that we can learn from him. Indeed, let's take the legacy of Mr Mabuza forward, so that together we can build South Africa into a better one that we believe can be the future of our children and grandchildren.

The debate is now concluded. It is time for announcements. Deputy Speaker, you may take the podium.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Let me greet the Premier in absentia; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip, and the whole Whippers; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; and the chairpersons of committees.

The next Sitting of the Legislature is scheduled for 15 July 2025. The official funeral of the late former Deputy President, David Dabede Mabuza will be held on 12 July 2025 in Hazyview. Members who wish to attend the funeral can contact the Office of the Secretary for logistic arrangements. The Office will surely make every effort to accommodate those Members who wish to attend. You can also confirm on the WhatsApp group of the Legislature.

The Speakers' Forum is taking place tomorrow at Bolivia Lodge at 09:00. Several committees and MECs are invited, and we are expecting all those Members to attend.

Lunch is served in the Committee's Boardroom. Thank you very much.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. We have now come to the end of our Sitting. We are now at item 10, and the announcements have already been made. As we adjourn this Sitting today, we will reconvene here in the Lebowakgomo Legislature Chamber on Tuesday, 15 July 2025, at exactly 10:00.

It has already been indicated that we encourage Members to come in numbers, as we will be debating the remaining four departments, including the Legislature. Following the debate, we will proceed to pass the Budget. We plead that Members to make time for this important Sitting. We are aware of the commitments of other parties, but we still plead that those who are able to attend to be part of that session, as the Budget must be passed on that day.

On that note, the Sitting stands adjourned until we reconvene on the 15th next week. Thank you so much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY 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. Good morning, honourable Members.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MR VELILE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I have decided to withdraw that motion, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile. We shall now call upon Hon Magolo Abraham. 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 House Rule 199? We shall now call upon Hon Sepuru Mmakgabo Champ.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**CONCERN ABOUT INITIATES WHO HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO GEORGE
MASEBE HOSPITAL IN MOGALAKWENA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)**

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House to raise a concern about more than 20 initiates who have been admitted to George Masebe Hospital in the

Mogalakwena Local Municipality. This happened while we have just received in this House reports about the 2025 Initiation Programme was well underway in this province.

Hon Speaker, we are aware that initiation schools involve secrecy and customary rites. However, we are adamant that government must intervene to spare innocent lives of the initiates where there are signs of disturbing issues. It is therefore important that both the Departments of Health and Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs should make concerted efforts to intervene in these operations and save lives.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable Members, just remember that all the time after you have spoken to switch off your microphone. I shall now call upon Hon Molapo. I see he is not in the House. We shall call upon Hon Ledwaba Mapula.

MS LEDWABA

Ke kgopela le nkgaleleng batho ba shem, nkgaleleng batho ba. Ke tšhišinyo ntle le tsebišo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Aowa! Ke setatamente ka leloko, Mme Mmapula.

MS LEDWABA

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Nako ya eng? Go lokile, ke tla tšwela pele.

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House note ...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mapula, we are on Members' Statement, not Motions without Notice. If you do not have a Members' Statement it is not a problem, Hon Ledwaba. Ge ele gore ga gona setatamente ka leloko re ka fetela pele, Mohlomphegi Ledwaba, ga gona bothatha. We are now going to call upon Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

Fifteen municipalities in Limpopo now have unfunded Budgets and are technically bankrupt, exacerbating the situation of these severely cash-strapped municipalities. The entire province is on the brink of a technical recession, due to abysmal economic performances for the last two quarters.

The Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, has now withheld the equitable share and grant payments from the Vhembe District Municipality, Sekhukhune District Municipality and Letaba Local Municipality for not paying Lepelle Northern Water, leaving them with no money to deliver services or infrastructure.

They face imminent bankruptcy, and media reports this weekend indicate that Letaba Local Municipality's funds have dried up, putting employees' salaries at risk. The MEC for CoGHSTA is constitutionally obligated to intervene when it becomes clear that municipalities are unable to fulfil their mandates, and it is clear that they cannot. Limpopo is in a crisis.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. I think we are now done with Members' Statements. We shall now go to the next item.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

I shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Sebataolo Ernest Rachoene.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goreng o nyaka gore ke bolele ke le kua, mola ke apere thai gabotse bjale?

WORDS OF APPRECIATION TO THE PREMIER FOR THE COMPLETION OF ALL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (Executive Statement)

Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, I rise in this august House to commend the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba for living up to her word and commitment of ensuring that all incomplete infrastructure projects are unlocked.

It was in this august House where the Hon Premier expressed concern about incomplete projects. Just last week Wednesday, we witnessed the Hon Premier's visit to the Greater Letaba Local Municipality on a fact-finding mission.

To us, this was not just a fact-finding mission, but an effort to bring a solution to our people in that particular local municipality. Stalled and white elephant infrastructure projects are causing serious inconvenience to residents and impeding local economic activities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the presence of the deployees of the ANC of the Seventh Administration on the ground is a direct response to a community concern raised about prolonged delays, poor contractor performance and a lack of communication around service delivery timelines.

It is unacceptable that vital access roads in and around Morebeng, critical for connecting people to schools, clinics and markets, remain incomplete while the community is continuing to suffer the consequences.

I must also indicate that it is the visit that coincides with Mandela Month, which is the birthday month of our first democratically elected President Tata Nelson Mandela. This stalwart and many others fought for the liberation of all South Africans, particularly those that are from underserviced areas.

Government is not these communities any favours by rendering basic services, but it is their democratic right to get such basic services as embraced in our Constitution. It is my strong conviction that service recovery is the commitment to bounce back when things go wrong, learning lessons to improve and strive to serve again.

Serving others is really assured of total success. Life evolves, needs change, expectation rise and from time to time we fail. This is in the nature of service and in the nature of life. Don't stop doing good. Don't give up. Keep on learning and keep on serving.

The former statesman Tata Nelson Mandela once said, "It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership".

As the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we will make sure that we put a special radar on our entity Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) to see to it that the completion of roads D15, D3150 and D3232 is fully implemented.

Part of my oversight role is also to ensure that infrastructure projects are finished on time and within allocated budgets. We will indeed, ensure that there is consequence management meted against officials that might be found to be doing wrong because every public cent spent must be accounted for.

Road's infrastructure is not a luxury; it is a basic enabler of dignity, access and development. Our communities deserve better, and our Hon Premier did not mince her words in imploring us to ensure that we unlock all in that stalled project in Morebeng.

Ke a leboga. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Rachoene, the MEC for "Dikgerekgere". We shall now call upon the response from the Executive. I see that the Leader of Government Business is ready, Hon Makamu.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the Speaker, Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje; our Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council and the House at large.

Hon Speaker, I am here to respond to two Members' Statements. The first one is a Members' Statement by Hon Wilson which I think has confused issues on the fact that the Minister of Finance is said to have withheld certain equitable shares to certain municipalities.

In the Members' Statement, the honourable Member is referring to Vhembe District Municipality. I think that is a total lie and I think the honourable Member having been elected to this House, in future she should be able to get fine. She has got all the rights to get the facts right from the department when she wants to make a Members' Statement.

Vhembe District Municipality did not suffer any withholding of funds. This intervention is not even on the basis of unfunded Budgets. It is about water service authority which had debts with the Lepelle Northern Water Board.

We had already started to intervene long before in October last year, not this year. We had already had payment arrangements. I see you howling and next time I will not allow you to do so. What we did with Vhembe is that the payment arrangements were signed and a letter which was said to be from the Minister we were able to do that.

There is no single cent in Vhembe which was withheld. These are the facts that we are giving you. We have already done what we said is our constitutional responsibility to intervene. We have already intervened, not this year, but last year.

The challenges which are there, we are dealing with them. It is in Sekhukhune and Letaba, we have resolved them even under the leadership of our Premier. We were able to resolve that issue. I take this as grandstanding in the Chamber where there are no challenges and people want to create them. The issue of unfunded budgets has nothing to do with withholding of funds.

The second Members' Statement is coming from the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon Sepuru, about the two initiation schools in the Waterberg District. The Rasodi and Rahlakgane initiation schools. This is as a result of our routine checks which we were doing as the department.

We have found just a mere two initiates who seemed not to be progressing very well. It is the collaboration between the MEC for CoGHSTA and the MEC for Health that we dispatched a team from the nurses to go to the mountains to do the proper verifications and out of that, we found about 21 initiates who were not progressing well.

It was just to the Hon Premier who is a medical doctor by profession, what do you call a situation where a patient comes to the hospital, gets treated and goes back? Is that called admission? Then she corrected me that it is not an admission but called outpatient treatment. So, that is what exactly happened.

From all the 21 initiates, none of the initiates slept in the hospital. The 05 came on the first day, they were treated and went back to the mountain. The remaining 16 initiates were also treated and went back to the initiation schools, but we should acknowledge

and accept the guidance from the honourable chair that we should be able to make sure that our surgeons are people who are experienced in that.

This is because some of this work was mainly because of the quality of the work done and that we take it, honourable chair. We are going to make sure that as we proceed because the numbers of 21 initiates are not necessarily numbers, it is lives of the people, and we can't underestimate working with that. That is what we can be able to confirm.

We can also say the collaboration between the Departments of Health and CoGHSTA is yielding results because in our own internal arrangements we were able to deal with the matters. We would be able to improve on that.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much MEC, Hon Makamu. Are there any Executive Members who want to answer? There is none. Hon Premier, do you want to answer anything? You are fine. Thank you very much. He has answered everything ...[INTERJECTION]

DR SELANE

Hon Speaker!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Selane, is that an order?

DR SELANE

Hon Speaker, I rise here as Dr Che Selane, not only as a doctor, but as a person who is well experienced in terms of culture, who has gone to the initiation school in 1994. I want to inform you that what the honourable MEC was presenting is on the right track. He shows that he is well experienced also. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you for that information, Dr Selane which is about the Leader of Government Business.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS, AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports, and papers? There are none. Honourable Members, as we do not have tablings of committee reports, other reports, and papers, without a waste of time we are now going to the next item.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 We are now going to the Second Reading Debate: Approval of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025]

I shall now call upon the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to come and do the consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, Hon Phokane Johannes ...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chair, I suggest that, because there was a Members' Statement by the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, to find out if political parties can have an opportunity to comment on it. Let's give them an opportunity. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay, thank you for that. Let's start with the MK Party. Hon Velile, you are noticed.

MR JACK

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. We have no comment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's go to the UAT party.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. From the UAT, we have got no comment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's go to the DA.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. There is none.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let's here from the EFF.

MS LEDWABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We have no comment. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. As the ANC we have a comment. We welcome these developments, Hon Speaker. These are quite commendable, and we really welcome the Hon Premier's concrete interventions in trying to unlock all the blockages towards infrastructure investment.

We also think that this matter will be steadily resolved so that our people around Sekgosese, Morebeng, GaRaphahlela and many others can have access to driveable roads, but we are also in agreement with the view that road infrastructure as an economic enabler will draw our people closer to economic opportunities and will reduce travel time between these communities.

We will be watching closely as the whippers and as the African National Congress that the department will do justice to these communities as it has done to countless others throughout the province.

I will also make a comment that the honourable MEC must also tighten contract management in the department to ensure that all the unscrupulous service providers are held accountable and are not given work in future because they are failing our communities. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chief Whip. We shall now go back to the Orders of the Day.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 We are now going to the Second Reading Debate: Approval of Budget Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025]

Let's now go to the consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon Phokane Johannes, the floor is yours.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker who happen to be the Chair of the session for affording me this opportunity. Greetings to yourself Deputy Speaker; our Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; our Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council; whippers as led by the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs as well as the Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairpersons of the portfolio committees; leaders of the opposition parties present here; our honourable Members of this Legislature and our guests.

On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I present the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Office of the Premier for consideration and adoption by the House. So, I move accordingly. Thanks, Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson. Is there any seconder to the report? I will prefer the whippery to second this report.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Bongani Nkonyana Abednigo, stand here to second the adoption as moved by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nkonyana. We shall now call upon Hon Nempumbuluni Thambeleni Colbert, to come and open the debate. Vho n̄wala zwo khakheaho, zwithu zwanga a zwi khou vhoneala zwavhudi.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela Tebogo Portia; our Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip of the Legislature and the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; the whippery; the opposition; honourable Members, receive revolutionary greetings from the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration.

The presentation of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan signals the transition from the Sixth to the Seventh term of Administration. The APP is therefore tailored as an honest and transparent directive solely based on the aims and the objectives of the Seventh Administration into the future.

The Limpopo Legislature is constitutionally mandated to play oversight over the Executive as per Section 1142 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. In the APP, the Office of the Premier indicated that the Office embarked on a strategic review exercise for the Seventh Administration. The focus in the 2026/30 after the strategic planning cycle are the following:

- Inclusive growth and job creation;
- Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living; and
- A capable, ethical and developmental state.

The Auditor-General of South Africa performs certain audit procedures on the performance information to provide reasonable assurance in the form of an audit conclusion in the province and municipalities. The audit conclusion on the performance against the predetermined objectives has been included.

The Office of the Premier plays an important role and responsibility in the provincial administration through consultation, oversight, intervention to the departments and entities. The 2024 clean audits which was on the Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury, Limpopo Legislature and Sport, Arts and Culture. We want to congratulate the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in attaining its clean audit opinion for the first time after it received unqualified audit opinions for the past five audit years.

However, we have also noted an improvement in the Department of Health from a qualified audit opinion, which gets allocated much of the Budget of the province which was an improvement from unqualified audit opinion, to clean audit. We call upon other departments to follow suit.

The committee engaged extensively with the Office of the Premier on several operational and governance matters. Noteworthy amongst these are the challenges in public entities:

- High municipal vacancy rates;
- Unfunded municipal Budgets;
- Infrastructure backlogs;
- The status of the Rivoni Special School project;
- Clean audit performance;
- Improvement initiatives;
- Water licencing constraints;
- Land audits;
- Skills development strategies;
- Illegal migration impact on job opportunities;
- Industrialisation initiatives; and
- Infrastructure plans such as a high-speed train between Limpopo and Gauteng as you know that the Premier of this province has already mentioned.

The committee further noted Limpopo demographic trends which revealed a population increase of 6,57 million people as per the Census 2022 with a useful demographic profile requiring urgent investment in education, employment opportunities as well as service delivery infrastructure.

The provincial economy remains heavily dependent on mining, agriculture and tourism while finance and manufacturing sectors displayed employment growth, agriculture and mining which are the province's economic pillars experienced declines over the past five years.

Economic growth projection for 2025 remained moderate at 1,5% to 1,6% which is still below the 2% target set in the Limpopo Development Plan. The agricultural sector, in particular, suffered a significant 30,5% decline due to the adverse drought conditions.

The 2025 – 2030 Strategic Plan and the 2025/26 APP articulate clearly redefined targets and outcomes aimed at improving governance, professionalising the public sector, enhancing service delivery capacity. These programmes specified annual targets, quarterly performance milestones and indicators consistent with provincial and national development objectives.

The programme on Administration has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing administrative support to the Premier, the Executive Council and the Director-General in fulfilling their legislative responsibilities of oversight function in good cooperative governance in the province from the departments to municipalities.

Hon Speaker, for the year under review, the Office of the Premier has enlisted 13 output indicators that are going to be performed differently with some being performed in certain quarters and some annually. Some of the targets are measured in percentages while some are measured in numbers.

Institutional Development and Support Programme has been established to ensure that the provincial administration has the capacity to deliver on its mandate in supporting the departments. It ensures that policies processes system that enable the provincial administration to delivery services are in place.

The key responsibility of the Office of the Premier is to coordinate to ensure that provincial resources in terms of human capital, minerals food security supply and supportive systems are integrated with the ideology of constant economic growth.

Health welfare of the people of Limpopo, it is through this programme that the Office of the Premier should, amongst others, monitor and evaluate the departments on their performance with regard to their audit outcomes, the vacancy rate of the department, the implementation of cooperative governance of the information communication and the technology policy framework, the number of departments on resolving labour relations cases within prescribed time frames.

It is also important that the Portfolio Committee on Administration plays oversight on this responsibility and hold the Executive to account for this financial year under review. Office of the Premier has 14 output indicators for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of the provincial administration as part of building a capable developmental and ethical state.

The provincial administration has the responsibility of ensuring that the province has appropriate structures starting with right personnel who are effective in carrying out their responsibilities and are ethical to do what is right in line with the regulations of the public service.

There are some of the output indicators that are going to be measured quarterly and annually such as departments that will be monitored on the implementation of service delivery plans, the number of targets and stakeholder groups engaged in information.

For this financial year under review, the Office of the Premier has nine output indicators which are varied to the quarters which is meant to contribute towards improving the socio-economic landscape of the Limpopo province. The Portfolio Committee on Administration recommends the following:

- That the Office of the Premier prioritised the management of departmental vacancy rate across the provincial government and urgently reduce its own internal vacancy rate to improve service delivery.
- The detailed and comprehensive action plans be developed and monitored to address internal control deficiencies affecting financial management, performance reporting and legal compliance with implementation progress reported quarterly to the committee.

- That the completion of stalled infrastructure projects such as Rivoni Special School be vigorously monitored to ensure the delivery within the stipulated times and budget.
- That the Office of the Premier ensures improved coordination of the Limpopo Development Plan-2025 – 2030 with clear reporting mechanisms to fast track development impact and socio-economic progress.

Hon Speaker, having considered the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Office of the Premier, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration recommends that the House approves the Annual Performance Plan and Budget as presented.

The committee further submits this detailed report for adoption by the House. I, therefore, move that this report be adopted as the report of this House.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nempumbuluni. Honourable Members, you must watch your time on the screen. It is very important. I have my time. You wasted your time by doing the whole greetings of everybody. I have got my time here. I have given you an extra one minute and thirty seconds, and that is true. I am just saying, all the Members that are coming to debate, please watch your screen so that we work together. We shall now call upon Hon Wilson Evelyn.

MS WILSON

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Attending the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration meetings is always enlightening.

While we may not always agree on policy or strategy, it is refreshing to engage a department and a Premier who provide the facts plainly, without politicking or concealment, unlike what we see in other portfolios. We commend you and your team, Hon Premier.

That said, Hon Speaker, the Premier remains the final accounting officer for Limpopo province. As head of the Executive, she carries the ultimate responsibility for good governance, performance and delivery.

The Premier has made bold commitments in her SOPA addresses. Had those been realised, Limpopo would be in a far better position today. But those promises depend on sound management and clear priorities across departments, municipalities, and the MECs and this is precisely where Limpopo is failing not due to the Premier or this department, but because of systemic breakdowns in critical institutions.

We currently have 15 municipalities with unfunded Budgets. Who is expected to fund infrastructure maintenance and service delivery in these municipalities? Are their Section 71 reports accurate? Have their Budgets even been passed?

Recently, the Minister of Finance did withhold equitable share and grant allocations for Vhembe, Sekhukhune, and Letaba due to non-payment to Lepelle Northern Water which is what I said in my Members' Statement, and I have got a copy for the letter from the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Cogta.

This raises serious questions. Why did it take national intervention? What was CoGHSTA doing? Why was no corrective action taken earlier? Why is this thing taking a year, Hon Makamu? We call for urgent access to all Section 71 reports. If they are found to be misleading, accountability must follow.

We hope the Premier is now taking charge of this crisis, engaging municipalities and holding strategic meetings with the MEC for Treasury. The media reports that Letaba Local Municipality is effectively bankrupt and may not be able to pay salaries. If this is true, the consequences will be severe.

Meanwhile, Limpopo is sliding into a technical recession, following two consecutive quarters of economic contraction. This will erode hope, investment, and public confidence, while deepening poverty and unemployment. And it is the people of this province, already living without basic services, who will bear the cost.

Yet, we see Municipal Speakers holding planning sessions at luxury resorts, outside their jurisdictions, with full accommodation, catering, and transport costs while their municipalities face fiscal collapse. This is indefensible. Service delivery must take priority over luxury gatherings.

Skills audits must be enforced across all municipalities. Jobs for friends, has hollowed out capacity, and many people in leadership positions simply do not have the competence or qualifications to do the work required.

Our water and sanitation systems are dysfunctional and failing. Despite reporting these matters time and time again, they do not seem to be improving. Mowkop reservoir is just one example, still empty as I speak, one year later.

LEDET is in crisis, and LEDA is once again being bailed out just like the GNT. Despite their mandate to drive growth, they deliver little and cost us heavily. We must ask, what are these inflated salaries buying us?

In the Department of Health, the situation is equally concerning. Oversight visits by the portfolio committee continue to expose more problems than progress. The gap between policy and performance is growing.

Hon Speaker, I could go on, department by department, but the core message is clear: Limpopo is in crisis. We do trust you, Hon Premier and we trust that you will act decisively. The issues are real, the impact severe, and the time for action is now. We are in your hands as a province, Hon Premier.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. We shall now call upon Hon Mapoulo Lawrence and he is not here. I shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Phokane Maudu Johannes to the floor.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Deputy Speaker, greetings to you as the Chair of this session, Hon Premier, Hon Speaker and all protocol is observed. I am trying to save my time here.

Madam Speaker, the Office of the Premier derives its mandate primarily from the Constitution, the Public Service Act of 1994 and its regulations, the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 and its regulations as well as national and provincial policy directives and the overall mandate of government.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the most important provisions are as follows:

- The Premier has Executive policy legislative, intergovernmental and ceremonial functions and responsibilities as defined in the Chapter 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
- The Premier who is the political head of the provincial government is responsible for the implementation of Chapter 3 of the Constitution. Section 41(1) defines the relationships and principles underlying cooperation between the various spheres of government.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we report that Office of the Premier has been able to ensure that they review the Limpopo Development Plan and as they crafted the APP, recognition was taken on the issue which was raised on the Limpopo Development Plan as well as the National Development Plan.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Premier has been allocated R554 million for the 2025/26 financial year. Considering the programmes that the office has, the Budget allocation is what is in the departmental plan. The scope of the operations of the Office of the Premier is divided into three programmes which are: Administration, Institutional Development Support, and Planning, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The overall aim of the department is to ensure that all departments are empowered to deliver and compelling impactable service to the people out there. As an overall overseer of other departments of the province, the Office of the Premier does not work and exist in isolation, but it has the responsibility to serve as leadership, coordination, motivation and support to other provincial departments.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the programmes as I alluded to above are as follows:

Administration Programme, which has received an allocation of R163 million which will enable the Office to perform and fulfil its legislative oversight functions. The Office made a commitment last year when tabling its 2024/25 financial year Budget that in their journey to modernise the provision for public services they will extend the running of the electronic system which will be launched in all departments.

We are also pleased that the Office of the Premier is going to have the following measures starting from this 2025/26 financial year: Monitoring the implementation of the pillars of national framework towards the professionalisation of the public sector which demonstrates the seriousness of the Office in its endeavour of building a capable, ethical and professional state.

The Office of the Premier has also introduced a target in order to monitor the issue of women equity at senior management level as well as employment equity for people living with disability. We really applaud these endeavours as captured in the APPs.

Working hand in hand with the aligned goals and objectives of the Seventh Administration, the Office of the Premier reaffirms its commitments towards its core business. That is a coordinated government agenda. On this programme, Hon Deputy Speaker, it is the programme of Governance and Policy.

This programme has received an allocation of R121 million which has been set aside for the 2025/26 financial year to support the execution of its functions. The programme enables the Office of the Premier to implement its mandate of planning as well as monitoring and evaluation.

The Office of the Premier is expected to craft its strengthening policy to achieve an integrated approach towards sustainable growth and development. We appreciate that the Office of the Premier has introduced integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation from work action plan as a target that is going to be measured from this financial year.

Hon Speaker, the other programme of Institutional Development is the base and cornerstone of government support, hence it has been allocated an amount of R270 million. Amongst its departments it is headed by qualified and capable heads of department.

Though this has not been an easy task with the Departments of Health, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development and Social Development, the Office of the Premier wants to give assurance to this House that the process will be finalised very soon since adverts have been closed. The position of the Head of Department for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has since been filled.

The Office of the Premier has finalised, and it is going to monitor the implementation, consequence management framework from this 2025/26 financial year. This also is the indication of the seriousness with which the Office of the Premier takes guidance from the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration.

In this provincial government, the Office has allocated a significant role to the information and communication technology initiatives. This year alone, the Office will invest over R80 million in critical areas such as email security, digital signatures, electronic content management and disaster recovery. These investments are essential as we prepare our government for the Fourth Industrial Revolutions, ensuring readiness for a rapidly evolving, digital landscape.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, we are thrilled as the portfolio committee to mention to this House that the Office of the Premier has been able to achieve a clean audit in the 2024/25

financial year and in the last quarter of that year, it has been able to spend its Budget with no issues, as they were in the previous financial year.

The portfolio committee met and engaged the Office of the Premier on the 2025/26 APP and Budget, allow me on behalf of the committee to request the House to consider and adopt the APP and Budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much Hon Phokane, the chairperson. Let me now call upon the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba for a response. Hon Premier, the floor is yours. Today I am giving all the MECs at least 4 minutes for responding.

THE PREMIER

Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Speaker, Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Chair of Chairs, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable leaders of the opposition parties and fellow honourable Members ...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

My apology Hon Premier. The Chief Whip is raising his hand. Maybe he wants to do some intervention on your minutes, I don't know.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. We have got rules in this House and if we are to change the rules they must be suspended and they must be moved and be seconded. The three minutes rule is a rule of this House and whether you are the Executive or presenter you are given that three minutes to respond. Therefore, the three minutes must prevail in the circumstances. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Chief Whip, can we at least second that four minutes that you are moving on?

THE CHIEF WHIP

No, you can't do that, Hon Deputy Speaker. There is no motion for that. Allow the Premier to respond in those three minutes please and let's continue with the programme.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay. Hon Premier, I have tried. You will have to answer within three minutes.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the chairperson of our portfolio committee, Hon Johannes Phokane, and all members of the portfolio committee for the constructive recommendations and the discussions.

As we navigate the complexity of governance amidst a challenge of socio-economic landscape, the commitment to accountability and service provisions underscored in this report serves as a guiding light for our administration.

Hon Speaker, we recognise the challenges that are highlighted in the committee response, especially looking at the municipalities. I must indicate as honourable MEC Makamu earlier on has tried to clarify: local government is everybody's business, and the Office of the Premier has prioritised.

Therefore, municipality challenges are not new to us, we know them. Let me just give some few explanations as to what is currently happening. We know that Treasury has got monthly meetings through section 71 reports and all those unfunded Budgets we have a mandatory financial recovery plan that has been approved by our two departments.

We also have from the Office of the Premier and PIGF which meets quarterly. We also have got the MINIMAC convened by both honourable MECs. When it comes to the current three municipalities that Hon Wilson has been raising, let me indicate and emphasise what MEC Makamu has indicated.

As early as last year we received a letter from the Minister of Water and Sanitation and also the Minister of Electricity worried about the debt. We convened a team led by the two MECs to continuously support these municipalities. That is why now you are only talking about these three municipalities which equally is not true.

Vhembe District Municipality has developed their plan on the repayment plan for the debt, and it was approved by the Lepelle Northern Water and Vhembe has no cent that has been withdrawn. I must indicate to you that Greater Letaba Local Municipality is not a water authority municipality.

It was wrong for Lepelle Northern Water to bill Greater Letaba Local Municipality while Mopani District Municipality was saying, we are the ones who are the water authority, give us that bill, we will pay, but Lepelle Northern Water kept on saying that, until we had to intervene.

We had a meeting with them last week on Friday. We gave them an instruction as Lepelle Northern Water, we even requested the intervention of the Minister of Water and as we speak, Treasury has written them a letter by the way because they were wrong to withhold. That was financial sanction for the Greater Letaba Local Municipality.

It was wrong and we must indicate that the letter has been written, we must forward it from the National Treasury. MEC, Hon Mahoi, you should forward that letter to Hon Wilson so that she can see after our intervention that there is no money that is going to be taken away from Greater Letaba.

The Minister of Finance, Hon Enoch Godongwana has confirmed that they have received the report and the commitment from Sekhukhune on how they are going to pay. In Limpopo we will not be having that crisis. What is important is that we must continue to help our municipalities so that they can pay their debts because it is important for them to pay their debts.

Therefore, equally, our departments must also pay their municipalities. Equally, our state-owned entities must pay our municipalities. Equally, honourable Members who are sitting here must also pay their own dues to the municipalities so that our municipalities must not be struggling.

Lastly, on the issue of Rivoni Special School, I need to indicate that Rivoni Special School is one of the priorities that the backlog infrastructure the Premier has taken a responsibility working with the MEC. We had challenges because IDT is an implementing agent, and the contractor had their own financial challenges and needed business rescue.

In summary, the contractor is currently on site. They have promised me that by the end of the third quarter it will be finalised but knowing me and the MEC, we don't take their story. We will be monitoring and after monitoring we will then be able to communicate to this House as to when is that school going to be completed.

Otherwise, I want to appreciate. I have a lot to respond to, but just to indicate to honourable members in the committee. Thank you very much. The leadership of our chairperson is much appreciated because through him, he is able to guide us. If you look at the HODs, by the end of this week, HODs would have been appointed as we have made that commitment.

In terms of the skills audit that you are asking if our HODs are qualified. That is why I am proud to stand here, Hon Chair of Chairs and say, one of our HODs, Dr Rathumbu, is now called Dr Rathumbu. He has passed his PHD with Wits University within the Faculty of Commerce. Go and read his study, it is much more relevant looking at the challenges of African trade while we are not able to win when it comes to that.

You can go and read. Gase a kopa o tloga a tšweletše from Wits University, Hon Selane. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier. We shall now go to the next item.

7.1.2 Consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

We shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Simon Mathe, for the consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier of our province, Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here, Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip and all the honourable Members in the House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am not going to be devastating but I'm going to be straight to the point. I am going to jump other points. I hereby table the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Social Development in Limpopo for consideration and adoption by the House. I hope in that process I did not jump the honourable MEC. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Simon Mathe, the chairperson. Is there any seconder for the report? Hon Vella Kupa Mabuza, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Mathe. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mabuza. Let me call upon the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama Gannye Rodgers to come and open the debate.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela who is presiding the session today; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Andrew Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hasani Ngobeni; chairperson of the portfolio committee; honourable Members of this august House; Chief Whip, Hon Mmanoko Mokgonyana and members of the whippers; the Secretary and other staff members; accounting officers and other invited guests.

Madam Speaker, President Reginald Oliver Tambo, the former longest serving President of the glorious movement, the African National Congress once said, "We did not tear ourselves apart because of lack of progress at times. We were always ready to accept our mistakes and correct them. Even in bleak moments, we were never in doubt regarding the winning of freedom. We have never been in doubt that the people's cause shall triumph".

Indeed, as the disciplined members of the African National Congress who are people with indomitable spirit, we are the children of great warrior men and women who have never retreated. We are unconquerable and we remain victorious in the battle of pushing back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment.

Cognisance should be noted that the Portfolio Committee on Social Development met with the department on 01 July 2025 for the briefing on the APP and Budget for the

planned deliverables and resource allocations. They further briefed us on the fourth quarter for the 2024/25 financial year which explicitly articulated the achievement challenges in attaining the objectives and packets as outlined in the approved APPs.

We are very anabatic that the APPs are not just expressions of the desired deliverables by contracting documents with the respective portfolio committee, hence, we are going to be more robust, ensuring that we move from expressions to practical actions which will be impactable, deliverable to the livelihood of our people.

The ANC's resolve of good governance is mandatory, and these APPs must find expression on how we translate the funded plans into practical actions, transforming the socioeconomic landscape of our province.

Madam Speaker, Social Development, as mandated, focusses mainly on key sector priorities like transform development, social welfare, gender-based violence, drugs and substance abuse, social production of children and comprehensive social security for older and people with disability.

The department provides bulk of its services in partnership with NPOs and community stakeholders. The department remains central and critically important for social cohesion and stability in society.

The most vulnerable members of the society, the poor, the abandoned children, victims of gender-based violence, victims of substance abuse and many more looked upon the department for care and support.

Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee applauded the judicious stewardship of our MEC, Hon Radzilani in bringing concrete measures of rolling back the quagmire of triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality and ensuring that she dealt with systematic deficiencies to suffocate any condition that may give rise for accountability failures and maleficence.

It is in that context that we made them passionately clear, honourable MEC that we prioritise the following pertinent issues:

- The inability of the department to absorb all the graduates who completed their studies through the departmental bursary.
- Filing of funded posts, including senior management. The department has been operating without a Head of Department since April 2023 which I think, Hon Premier, will ensure that is being filled.
- Implementing all the forensic investigation reports on the NPOs which are hellbent in syphoning public funds through unscrupulous means.
- Intervention of water per district governance lapses and in servitude in their failure to assist our double trodden communities.
- Provision of tools of training for social workers so that they don't have an excuse as to why they can't service our people.

What also we are saying is that the department has regressed from unqualified to qualified audit opinion. We wanted to put a rider on a regular, Hon Premier that the department has been qualified on the basis of the responsibility which is not theirs.

That is the outcry that is coming because the implementing agency, which is the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, is the one which is implementing those projects, but when it comes to consequence management and qualifications, it goes to the department because they are the ones who are giving them.

This is a matter that has to be relooked at, Hon Mahoai, because how can I be held accountable whereas the person who is doing all these things is not held accountable and there is no way if it has to be the accounting officer of Public Works and the CFO let it be. That is the observation on the portfolio committee.

Hon Speaker, after a very meticulous consideration of the 2025/26 financial year APP and Budget for the Department of Social Development, the portfolio committee accepts the report. The portfolio committee therefore duly recommends to this august House for consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 financial year Annual Performance Plan and Budget.

I move accordingly. The challenge that this department has is that it is formidable, but not insurmountable.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. I shall now call upon Hon Marx.

ADV MARX

Hon, Speaker, I rise today deeply concerned by the contents of the 2025/26 financial year Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Social Development. The documents before us paint a troubling picture, one not of progress, but of persistent dysfunction, poor planning, and hollow promises.

Despite the carefully crafted language of these reports, we must not be misled. What we are dealing with is not a planning problem, it is rather a problem of implementation, accountability, and leadership.

The department has previously withdrawn its 2023/24 Annual Report, citing dissatisfaction with audit outcomes. Let us not sugar-coat this, this is a regression from an unqualified audit opinion to a qualified audit opinion.

This is not merely a technicality, it is a damning indictment of financial management, and yet, the very same department now asks us to approve a Budget and an APP that remains in all material aspects unchanged. No revised strategy, no new approach, just copy and paste, and hope for the best.

The challenges raised are not new. They are not even recent. Year after year, we are told about:

- Vacant senior posts;
- NPOs collapsing;

- Increasing food insecurity in Limpopo, now affecting thousands of households to name only a few.

How can a department claim to empower the vulnerable, when it cannot even manage to register NPOs timeously or ensure basic tools of trade like computers and vehicles? We, as Members of the Legislature, also do our oversights and we are being approached by vulnerable residents who are desperately looking for support from the department.

However, when these lists of vulnerable persons are furnished to the MEC, we do not get any feedback as to how they were assisted, if they were assisted at all. This does not only reflect negatively on the MEC and the department, but puts all of us, as Members of this Legislature in a bad light, as if we do not care.

The department claims that funding to NPOs is based on capacity and services rendered. However, I asked:

- What real support is given to help build that capacity?
- Where are the standard operating procedures?
- Where are the fair timelines?

We have seen how our vulnerable residents were treated at the Vuthlari Old Age and Disability Centre. The centre has recently been exposed for the horrid conditions that older persons and people living with disability were subjected to.

During her oversight visit, the MEC, Hon Radzilani, emphasised the government's responsibility to rescue people who are put under deplorable conditions and to protect their human rights. However, in her answer to the written questions posed by the Democratic Alliance to her, it is evident that the MEC failed to protect these vulnerable residents and admitted that no criminal charges were instituted against those accused of abusing our vulnerable residents.

In fact, the MEC merely raises her shoulders and says sorry, criminal charges could not be lodged as we, as the department, did not know of the existence of the centre. It is really an excuse not lodging a criminal charge to those responsible.

It therefore means, as far as the MEC is concerned, that no accountability will take place and those accused of abusing our vulnerable residents will get away without being held accountable.

Hon Speaker, I respectfully submit that where vulnerable people are abused or mistreated, and where they cannot protect themselves, there is an ethical duty on the MEC for Social Development to stand up for them. The time for excuses has passed. The people of Limpopo deserve better.

The Democratic Alliance is committed to protecting those vulnerable members of our society and will continue to monitor the implementation of this Annual Performance Plan.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Marx. I shall now call upon Hon Magolo. Hon Ledwaba, you are coming on behalf of Hon Magolo. You are recognised. Thank you very much.

MS LEDWABA

Ke a leboga, Deputy Speaker.

Hon Speaker, it is disappointing that this department regressed from unqualified audit opinion to qualified audit opinion. The laziness and lack of political will to improve the outcome audit is glaring and there for everyone to see.

Furthermore, the EFF is also concerned about the inability of this department to absorb all graduates who completed their studies starting from 2013 academic year due to budgetary constraints.

The department has invested so much money on social workers only to dump them once they graduate. There are so many social workers out there who are unemployed and majority of them end up taking jobs in other provinces.

The picture that we are getting here is that this province does not have a shortage of social workers and yet we know that our people need social services on a daily basis. We are also worried about inadequate budget allocations to various NPOs that provide social services which compromises their effectiveness and the quality of services provided.

There is no way that this department will fulfil its mandate when it cannot deal with the smallest of things such as budget allocations to NPOs. The laziness to think outside the box by its department has dire consequences to service delivery in this province and unfortunate it is the poorest of the poor who are on the receiving end.

Hon Speaker, we find it difficult to understand why food insecure households in Limpopo increased from 5,5% in 2019 to 6,9%. This simply means that there are many poor households in Limpopo who had inadequate access to food during the period since 2013 to date.

The department must also clarify and address the drastic reduction in food provision at the centres from 16,500 to 3,800 ensure continuity of support to affected individuals through alternative models.

Can we get an update on Phasha-Selatole One-Stop Centre on land rezoning application which was since made on behalf of Limpopo government to rezone the expropriated land?

Hon Speaker, it is disturbing that office accommodation remains a great challenge in the department, particularly at the district and sub-district level. Everything with this government is a challenge. They have run out of ideas to govern this province. They are tired.

Furthermore, the tools of trade in the department remain a great concern, in particular transport, computers and office furniture at district and sub-district level. How do you run the department such as Social Development without basic tools of trade and expect better outcomes? That is why you have regressed from unqualified audit opinion to qualified audit opinion.

The political and administrative leadership at the highest level of the department are lazy people, lacking the necessary vision and proper strategies to turn things around. Can you outline the strategies the department has on gender-based violence and femicide because indeed, these two issues continue to pose a serious challenge to communities.

Can we get an update on how you are dealing with the complaint concerning appointment of security companies in the department? The allegations that security companies get irregularly appointed in this department is quite a serious one.

Your department was directed to furnish the committee with progress reports within 14 working days including updates regarding the investigation into the appointment of security companies...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Ledwaba, there is an order from Hon Nkonyana.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Can the Speaker determine if it is parliamentary for Hon Ledwaba to say to us “oa mphaphela”.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I think it is an ungracious error on her part. I think what she said is unparliamentary and she must accordingly and dully withdraw.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

There are some words that I have missed. Mohlomphegi Ledwaba, re kgopela le gomiše mantšu a, “ba a ntelela”, gase ka kwa gabotse, “ba a mphaphela”

MS LEDWABA

Hon Speaker, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ge bana ba bolela sela le sela ka nna lea Homola, efela ge nna ke ikarabela lere ke gomiše mantšu aka. E kaba ke yona Melao ye e lebanego le nna fela naa? Mola bona ba šaletše morago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay, Hon Ledwaba, if they are saying words that are unparliamentary, you must raise it. Le swanetše le emiše letsogo gore re kgone go ba kgalema goya ka Melao, jwale re kgopela o gomiše mantšu, ka Lebaka la gore nako e a sepela. Ke a leboga.

MS LEDWABA

Ke tla kgopela tshwarelo nakong ye e tlogo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Aowa Mma Ledwaba, le gomiša mantšu gonajwale eseng nakong ye e tlogo, ga gona nakong ye e tlogo ka mo Tulong. We don't work with the word, "next time" here.

MS LEDWABA

Dilo tše di diregago kamo ga se tšona, ga ke gomiše mantšu aka, ke tla gomiša ge ke kgotsofetše.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mohlomphegi Ledwaba, ke kgopela o bule segodišantšu o bolele.

MS LEDWABA

Go lokile ke a gomiša.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, you may conclude, you have got one minute twenty-eight seconds left. Thank you.

MS LEDWABA

Akere ke nyaka gona go fetša. The failure to comply with a lawful directive in this regard is an offense.

Why is the department not prioritising the appointment of individuals in senior management positions to improve leadership stability and accountability?

Hon Speaker, we are also disappointed that the department is not accelerating the implementation of ICT infrastructure to ensure that all offices have reliable internet access to support digital transformation and service delivery.

Can we get a sober and solid justification for the declining targets for foster care services to ensure they align with the actual needs of vulnerable children in the province. We demand answers because it is our job to hold you accountable.

Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Hon Ledwaba. I shall now call upon the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mathe Matsobane Simon, to come and debate. Before Hon Mathe comes, let's hear what the Deputy Chief Whip wants to say.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

On a point of privilege, we wanted to submit as the whippery that sometimes it is unfair to this honourable House whereby a person, who is not a member of the committee, where issues are discussed by the portfolio committee, comes and says things that have been clarified and comes and debates on those matters they are raising like Selatole and others, have been addressed.

So, that is our humble submission that it will be unfair for those people who are debating in those respective committees. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Chief Whip. That is not the first time we raised that. It has been raised several times. Let's hope that in the next Sitting they won't do that. We will just not allow a person who is not a member of the committee to come and debate. Thank you. Hon Mathe, you may take the podium.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Premier of the Limpopo province, Dr Constance Ramathuba; Chief Whip, Hon Mmanoko Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; Chair of Chairs, Hon Andrew Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hasani Peter Ngoben; Members of the Executive Council present here today; and all Members of this august House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, before I start with my prepared presentation, I want to make sure that I make the work of Hon Radzilani very easy today so that she is not going to take three minutes in responding to what has been presented here.

I acknowledge that learning is a lifelong process. In this House we are able to learn new things. We are no longer getting devastated; it is a new process. Hon Speaker, I am "devasting" simply because one of my very objective Members of the position, Hon Marx, today he stood before this public podium and raised issues which I believe that when we are in the portfolio committee, he was always the first one to move for the adoption of such issues.

The first one that Hon Marx has raised in terms of the adoption of the Budget, you were the first to move and you were seconded by Hon Shai. The second one on the withdrawal of the report by the department where the portfolio had to approve that request, Hon Marx you were the first one to move for the approval and you were seconded by Hon Nenguda.

Hon Marx, today I am also shocked not only shocked but “devasting” because out of all the positive inputs that you have made in the meetings of the portfolio committee, I want to emphasise that all positive inputs, that is why I am saying that one of the objective members of the opposition.

All the positive inputs that you have made in our portfolio committee meetings, I didn’t know that today you will take a very different posture. I am not sure as to whether is that politicking or grandstanding, or maybe you are taking this posture because you are under supervision, I am not sure.

Hon Radzilani, you are not going to deal with this one that are “devasting” because any, I am still at an introduction ...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is that an order, Hon Sebopela?

MS SEBOPELA

Hon Speaker, I want to raise on a point of correction to Hon Mathe that it is not called “devasting”, but it is called “devastating”.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You may continue, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

I understand, Hon Sebopela. In actual fact you are correcting somebody because from where I seated, I can see that learning is a lifelong process. Every day we learn new things like devastating.

Honourable Members, as much as we are trying to be “devasting”, as much as English is not my mother-tongue, but I know how to correctly use it. Any appointment of a service provider that has never been declared irregular by the Auditor-General of South Africa, it means it is a regular and legitimate appointment.

Now somebody, who cannot differentiate between devastating and whatever, comes here and wants to be a super AG. Can this be possible, Deputy Chief Whip, I am shocked and flabbergasted that today she can come here and raise issues of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development while she has never ever attended a single meeting.

To make matters worse, we want that Office of the Speaker to still arrange induction for her. You are new. When I was sworn in here you were not there. You come here on the basis of the death of another person. Lehu la gagwe le go phedisitše. So, don’t come here and try to be funny. New ones must relax and learn theropes and start to devastate us latter.

The Department of Social Development plays a pivotal role in ensuring that all citizens have access to essential services that are fundamental to their wellbeing. At the heart of its mandate is the commitment to providing healthcare, basic needs, social security and social assistance to all those in need.

The department is a very crucial department as it works to ensure that citizens have access to basic needs such as sufficient food. These fundamental necessities are essential for human survival and lacking these can lead to poverty, malnutrition and a range of social ills. By providing support in these areas, the department helps to reduce poverty.

The Limpopo Development Plan for 2025 – 2030 has three priorities. If you know English, you can still read it faster. Lena le gola mahala.

- Economic Growth and Job Creation, this priority entails that driving inclusive growth and job creation through economic transformation and international cooperation. This priority advocates for increased employment opportunities and promotes economic development.
- Poverty Reduction speaks on reducing poverty through accelerated social change and improved quality of life in Limpopo citizens. This will enhance social welfare and promote human development.
- A capable, Ethical and Developmental State, this priority will strengthen crime prevention and ensures we have the safer communities. It also supports investing in human capital to build a capable and developmental state.

The ANC has always been an advocate for economic and social development, as it alluded to in its 2024 manifesto where it outlined six of its priorities that speak to transforming the economy and creating jobs.

As the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, we are pleased that the department promises to enhance accountability through regular reporting to the portfolio committee, which they are doing, which will assist the committee in facilitating better oversight, which we are also doing.

The province faces significant challenges with the high unemployment rates, particularly amongst the youth and women. In its attempt to creating employment opportunities the department works with NPOs and CBOs. These NPOs assist in eradicating poverty and creating employment opportunities in communities.

When we discussed these issues, some of your people that seat in this committee come and discuss and debate something different. When we speak of social development we cannot be talking about expropriation of land. These are the things that confront us every day in that portfolio committee and Hon Marx is my witness.

Eish! That time is gone. Anyway, we are moving accordingly for the adoption of the Budget and the APPs we are adopting. We are addressing these ones. I am not going to take your questions because it is going to be irrelevant ...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mohlomphegi Ledwaba, ke potšišo goba ke kgalemo, efela bolela.

MS LEDWABA

Ga se potšišo, ke be ke kgopela gore re seke ra tlwaelana gampe, ka lebaka la gore ga gona thakana yaka kamo, ebile go ka sebe bose ge re tlwaelana. Re be re šoma le bo Mme Lydia, ake tsebe go bona ba sa mohlomphe, ke kgopela gore lenna ba seke ba ntlwaela gampe.

MR MATHE

Then go to a kitchen. Ke tla araba Motlatša Mospira, le ge ele gore ga se a sweanelwa ke karabo yaka. She does not deserve my response because I am not going to dignify irrelevant comments. That is English, then go to ABET.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chairperson. In simple terms, Hon Ledwaba is asking for respect, honourable Members. I shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development, Hon Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, to come and do the response.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip and the entire whippers; chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mathe; and our sincere condolences to the Mathe family for the loss of your loved one; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; all honourable Members; a very blessed afternoon.

Hon Chair, members of the portfolio committee as they have indicated, they have managed to try and clarify a number of issues, especially for the benefit of other members of the portfolio committee and those who are not part of the portfolio committee.

One thing that we appreciate as Social Development, Hon Deputy Speaker, is that even in this august House we do have our clients. You will understand what we deal with as the Department of Social Development, hence, from time to time we exercise our patience so that we accommodate all of them regardless of the fact that they are honourable Members representing members of the public.

I want to concur with Hon Monama, that in terms of the achievement for the targets that we set for ourselves, it is true that there are targets that we didn't manage to achieve on the basis that we were operating as the department with the staff complement seated at 48%, but standing here I can indicate to this august House that we are hard at work.

We want to appreciate the leadership of our Hon Premier and other Members of the Executive Council for making it a point that they approve more than 152 posts, those that are funded Hon Deputy Speaker. We also want to encourage honourable Members that when Provincial Treasury allocates Budgets we are also afforded an opportunity as

all individual departments to come and indicate on how we are going to spend the funds allocated to the department.

When it comes to the funded vacant positions, we have explained ourselves in this House, there is no way that we can wake up tomorrow without the Budget and make sure that we absorb all the social workers who are out there.

According to our plan, we have already started to appoint a number of them, and we are confident that in each and every financial year we will make it a point that we give support to those social workers because when they are part of the department, they make our work very easy.

It also go to the tools of trade, it is something that we have already articulated thoroughly before the portfolio committee on how best we are going to respond to that. Hon Deputy Speaker, the issue of Phasha-Selatole has been a thorny issue, we want to assure this House that the matter has been attended to and as I am talking to you right now the land planner is in the process of preparing applications for temporary occupation.

This is because we can't just wake up and start to occupy the building. There are certain processes that must be appreciated or honoured by the department, but very soon those offices will be utilised by the department.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, I think we must set the record straight, especially when it comes to our partnership with the NPOs. You don't just wake up and start to say you are going to open a criminal case for a certain NPO that is operating in the province. Remember, those vulnerable people as much as we have the obligation to protect them, they don't just wake up and take themselves to those NPOs.

There are family members involved. There are processes that must be followed. For Hon Marx to say we fail to open criminal cases, if you go and read our responses, especially on areas where you pose questions, we have answered you.

If you are not satisfied, I think you will have to rewrite other questions unlike coming here and start to raise things that might send a message that as the department we don't care. We care very much about our people.

The department is on firm course to meet the annual target of assisting 12 000 vulnerable individuals through our Social Relief Programme. Despite numerous challenges posed by high incidents of disaster and trauma across our communities we continue to respond adequately, and we are on course to meet our targets in this regard.

The department remains committed to providing essential services to people living with disability and older persons by ensuring the availability of suitable residential facilities. This vulnerable group continues to seek refuge within government care. It is our responsibility to ensure that these facilities are maintained in an excellent condition.

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. We shall now call upon, Hon Midiavhathu Tshivhase, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism for the consideration and adoption of the report.

MR TSHIVHASE

Ndau ya Nduna! Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Muila mutshila wa mbudzi, Singo la masingo; Members of the Executive Council and Members of the Legislature.

I move for the consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Limpopo Legislature.

So, I move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Thovhele Vho Tshivhase. Is there any seconder for the report? Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Hon Speaker, I, Che Selane, stand here to support Hon Tshivhase, 2Ten Sibasa. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Dr Selane. I shall now call upon Hon Dikeledi Mmetle-Ramohlola.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you very much for the opportunity. Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela, who is the Presiding Officer here today; and the Premier of our province, singo la masingo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; the Leader of Government Business, Hon Basikopo Makamu; and the esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rogers Monama; and members of the whippers, the Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Mokone; the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hasani Ngoben; and all chairpersons of portfolio committees; honourable Members and guests in the gallery, good afternoon.

We are gathered here today as honourable Members of the august House, in a month, pertinently and correctly dubbed Mandela Month –a month of service to humanity. The same humanity that we saw in the unifier, Cde David Dabede Mabuza. The former Deputy President of the country, who crisscrossed the whole country, building houses for our people. We saw much of his work when he handed over fully furnished houses in Mankweng, Seshego and other parts of the province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, indeed, he epitomised the spirit of humanity. Just like the recipient of the Order of Mapungubwe, the Nobel Peace Laureate, the father of the nation, Nelson

Rolihlahla Mandela, who once said, “I like friends who have independent minds, because they tend to make you see problems from all angles.”

As the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism, we have a singular responsibility of being that friend who is independent to help build this institution to what it should be for decades to come. Our constructive criticism is not predicted on seeking one’s glory or tearing down the good work being done, but to build. Our engagement at the committee level comes from the love we have for the institution.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are driven by the desire to be the agents for progressive change. The change we are referring to is not only embedded in many speeches we make, but also in how we run our administration. In the previous administration, the Legislature had only three programmes, but now we have four programmes, and they will enable the institution to be more effective and focused.

As the population grows in the province, we also need to make room for the institution to fulfil its core mandates. Hon Deputy Speaker, in the Seventh Parliament, the rousing vision for Limpopo Legislature is ‘a capable and representative Legislature that aspires to unite and improve the lives of the people of Limpopo’, like Cde D D Mabuza. It is indeed crucial to ensure that the people of Limpopo are more united towards a common goal to ensure that lives are changed for the better. We note that in the Seventh Administration, much emphasis is on the support of the work done by Members through committees.

Like Programme 1, on Governance and Leadership, this programme should enable the honourable Members to perform their responsibilities with less hindrance. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Budget that has been allocated will heighten the oversight work that is done by the Legislature towards ensuring proper governance and service delivery, which our people yearn for in this Seventh Administration. If we continue on this path, our people will time and again give us more mandates to lead this province. For the Legislature to be relevant and do what it must do, or to be seen doing what it must do, it is when it goes where people are and listens to them and holds the Executive accountable.

We note the plans on the Annual Performance Plan of taking the Legislature to the People, which finds its expression in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. As the Legislature brings into fruition what Mandela said, when he said, “A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives will go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamed of.”

Going to communities which are less privilege and hearing from them about their challenges will assist the provincial administration in improving services to the people, and to be in tandem with its people. Hon Deputy Speaker, we also note the planned three sectoral parliaments for this financial year where one of them has already taken place. They will go a long way in engaging citizens of Limpopo about Limpopo that they want to see and experience. It will be important to prioritise the youth, as it has been women and children who continue to bear the brunt of the most societal challenges. The Legislature, as an oversight body that is entrusted with the enormous responsibility of ensuring that our democracy works post-election, we dare not fail in that responsibility. The people must speak, and we should listen and proceed to implement

our people's aspirations. We will continue to play oversight on the Limpopo Legislature as it seeks to achieve the programmes and plans it has in this parliament.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Legislature must not imagine itself isolated with matters of national importance, but also with provincial impact. A budget on Parliamentary Services has been set aside to assist Members in their engagement with the National Council of Provinces, and the committee understands that there is only one state that is led by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa. In the recent past, we have seen many important Bills being passed. Among others are the Bela Act, the Expropriation Bill and many other important Bills. While there could be a legal dispute in the Legislature about the above-mentioned Bills, we are pleased that proper consultations with our people in the law-making process were followed.

The work done by the committee cannot be understated. From the preparations needed when preparing for the oversight to public participation, the decision made by the government should be informed, legitimate and aligned with the needs of the people. This will go a long way in empowering our citizens in the province, and they must have trust in the government. Hon Deputy Speaker, as I conclude, I would like to quoting a world-renowned prolific writer, Alice Walker, who said, "Look closely at the present you are constructing; if it looks like the future you are dreaming."

In the words of Cde D D Mabuza, always be reminded that we are called upon to organise, mobilise our society and listen to the urgent plight of the people with the sole intention of providing lasting solutions to their circumstances. We are here as the Legislature to provide a lasting solution to our people, as envisioned by the former Deputy President, D D Mabuza – the pedagogue of people and the unifier. Hon Deputy Speaker, as the ANC, we support the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for consideration and adoption by this august House. I move accordingly.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mmetle-Ramohlola. I shall now call all upon Hon Hermanus Frans Marx.

ADV MARX

Hon Speaker, hopefully, with this debate, we will regain a little bit of that objectivity and not be accused of being under supervision. Hon Speaker, the Annual Performance Plan claims to be responsive to the Limpopo Legislature's constitutional obligations; however, in practice, the issue is normally not about the quality of annual planning, but rather the consistent failure to properly implement those plans. Although the Premier is the face of this province, the Speaker is the face of this Legislature.

Hon Speaker, I need to commend you on the discipline that you maintain in this august House. Comparing the discipline in this Legislature with Parliament and other legislatures and other municipal councils, it is evident that you run this House with an iron fist. However, with that being said, there is always a but.

When it comes to the administration, the administration is seemingly playing you like a yo-yo. For example, the core function of the Legislature is to promulgate legislation to better the lives of our residents in Limpopo. Yet I submitted a Private Members' Bill for certification as far back as November last year. Nine months later, the most basic first step of certification has still not been completed. During engagement with the oversight committee, you acknowledged problems in the administration, and you undertook to attend to them, yet despite writing to me on 1 July 2025, no progress has been made.

Two full weeks have passed since your letter, and the certification of a simple draft of the Private Members Bill remains outstanding, having been outstanding for nine months. Meanwhile, other serious concerns continue to mount. As the Democratic Alliance, we are deeply troubled by media reports regarding the alleged irregularities in the appointment of the Secretary of the provincial Legislature. However, we welcome the investigation initiated in the reported purchase of two luxury vehicles valued at R6,5 million. We must ask why the investigation report has not been finalised after more than two months.

This matter is both urgent and necessary in light of rising public anger. It is frankly unconscionable that such extravagant spending is seemingly taking place while our country is struggling to maintain basic fiscal stability. There is a serious dysfunction at the heart of this institution.

We note reports that several officials are currently on suspension, but the rationale, process followed, and planned action steps have not been fully communicated to this Legislature. These administrative failings are further laid bare in the APP document itself, which was riddled with spelling mistakes, formatting, and typographical errors. It is an embarrassment for this institution.

Hon Speaker, these are not isolated issues. They reflect a growing pattern of poor governance, lack of accountability, and a disregard for legislative integrity. You cannot plead ignorance. You have been directly and regularly engaged on this issue. This is simply unacceptable and reflects negatively on you as the Hon Speaker.

And, I must add, Hon Dr Speaker, this House is immensely proud of you and your achievements. Do not let the failures of the administration cause us to lose confidence and trust in you. If these concerns are not addressed decisively and transparently, this House may soon be forced to reconsider its confidence in your leadership.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Marx. I shall now call upon Hon Molapo. He is not in the House. I shall then call upon the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Midiavhathu Kennedy Tshivhase.

MR TSHIVHASE

Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief; Chair of Chairs;

and Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members; Leader of Government Business. Ndi a vha resha.

Hon Marx you were raising issues which are not in our APP, and we call them Mabarebare. Do you know Mabarebare? Hearsay.

It's just like when you go to the river and listen to the sounds that the frogs make. Allow me to join committee members and welcome the presentation of the Budget as presented by the Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje. During her Budget Speech, she presented an allocation of R671 660 million as the Budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Legislature is an autonomous institution and an agent for transformation that strives to defend, strengthen, deepen, and maintain democracy. These are the principles that are guided by the Constitution, which is the foundation of a democratic South Africa. It is therefore imperative that the provincial Legislature pass inclusive and forward-thinking laws and policies that not only uphold constitutional values but also actively enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

Equally important, we must ensure citizens' meaningful and effective participation in the law-making process. Our oversights, debates, and engagement should be able to translate into a meaningful democracy that makes positive, tangible changes in the lives of our people. The Legislature should therefore be a transparent, consultative, and accountable institution.

During the presentation of the APP, the Legislature indicated that they plan to procure 11 vehicles, which will include two eight-seaters and nine other vehicles to replace the current fleet that has exceeded 150,000 kilometres. They emphasised that there is a challenge with the Budget and that they will have to wait for the Budget Adjustments. The committee is of the view that the Legislature indicates in a report the number of vehicles that have reached 150 000 kilometres, how and when they are going to be disposed of.

The Legislature must also indicate in the report how much money is expected to be recouped. This might help in mitigating the challenge of lack of budget to acquire new vehicles. In terms of the key indicators under Public Participation and Petitions, the Legislature's plan is to achieve 100%.

We have also noticed that on parliamentary outreach programmes, sectoral parliaments, and educational workshops, the targets will be achieved up to the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. While the engagement with stakeholders as key indicators is planned for the second and third quarters. This is an indication that the institution is committed to ensuring that citizens of this province will be exposed to and understand fully the service that the Legislature provides. The committee will conduct its oversight role to ensure that the indicators as approved in the APP, are achieved as planned.

We noted that the institution is in the process of addressing understaffing. It was reported that there is a progress report to address this challenge, which will follow the

Sector Oversight Model (SOM). A total of eight posts have been filled, interviews for six positions have been concluded, and three are attached to committees.

It was also reported that the organisational structure has been reviewed, which incorporates assistant committee coordinators. We believe that these posts will be filled without prejudice, and expertise will be considered. We will effectively conduct an oversight role regarding the filling of the vacant posts.

During the presentation of the APP, we noted that there were consultations with stakeholders on the change of the Vision and Mission of the Legislature, including the implications. This reviewed Vision was part of the broad strategic planning session held in November 2024, with inputs from different divisions, and there are no challenges. The Legislature must clarify whether suggestions made by honourable Members that included non-sexist and non-racial elements are included in a new Vision and Mission.

With regards to library service, we believe that the Legislature will move with the times in terms of digitisation of documents in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We believe that library service should be able to move with the times and ensure that e-books are also available in the library of the Legislature. Hon Deputy Speaker, we are concerned about the facilitation of Bills from provincial departments.

Most Bills facilitated were from the NCOP. We are rightfully concerned because the provincial administration itself should be able to facilitate the proposal of Bills in response to the legislative needs of this province. We should be able to review provincial Bills to ensure that they are on par with the economic, political, and social developments of Limpopo province.

Also, when Bills from the NCOP are received by the Legislature, they must find a way to be distributed to constituency offices for ease of accessibility by stakeholders and members of the public. In conclusion, we have noticed that the Legislature in the previous years received an unqualified audit opinion. We encourage that the same momentum should be maintained, receive an unqualified audit opinion without material misstatements. Hon Speaker, the committee supports the adoption of the Budget with the recommendations made during the engagement of the Annual Performance Plan and Budget.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa Muhulisei Vho Tshivhase. Let me call upon the Hon Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, the Speaker, to come and respond.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity. Allow me to greet you as the Presiding Officer of the day, Deputy Speaker Tebogo Mamorobela; the Hon Premier of the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, who is with us today; all Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; Chair of Chairs,

Hon Mokone; and Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngoben; the chairperson of the Oversight Mechanism and the entire committee. I'm greeting you and all honourable Members. I take this opportunity to say... Aa, ndi khou losha Vho Midiavhathu, chairperson of the committee.

I think I don't have to say much. The committee has said a mouthful. They've debated in line with what the APP says. They've raised their concerns, as they say, but I must just remind the august House that maybe I should read what the role of the committee is.

According to Section 4(1) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, Act 10 of 2009, read with Rule 57 of the Rules and Orders, "an Oversight Mechanism Committee must maintain oversight on the financial management of the Legislature, considering instruction issued by the executive authority in terms of Section 37, 5, 60, and 66 of the Act, considering the Annual Report and performing any other functions specified in this Act or the rules by the Legislature." And I can assure you; the committee is doing exactly what it's supposed to do, and we appreciate the work of the committee. I will not say much.

We'll take all your inputs, including the amendments to the Mission of the Legislature, and we'll correct the mistakes that we have seen. Honourable Members, we have a problem. The staff of the Legislature lobbies you to do wrong things because they are not doing their job. Stop it. So please don't be lobbied by the officials because they do wrong things, because they want to achieve certain things, and they say we have got political backup.

We are pleading with you. For the Oversight Mechanism Committee to be able to do its work, we need you as Members. A committee coordinator is not your friend; you are the chairperson of the committee. You must take responsibility as the chairperson. And if you have issues, you must raise them with the Chairperson of Chairpersons. So, avoid interfacing with staff because that is what is causing us problems.

Hon Max, we have heard you. We'll deal with the Private Members' Bill issue. The issue of the Mabarebare, the chairperson has indicated that the committee is seized with that matter.

So, let's allow the Oversight Mechanism Committee to deal with the matter accordingly.

Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker of the Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I shall now call upon the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, Hon Mapula Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Premier, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Leader of

Opposition, MECs present here, honourable Members, good afternoon. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget be adopted as a report of this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokaba. Is there a seconder? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The report is ours; we therefore second the tabling of the report as moved by the honourable chair of the committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, whippery. You may continue, honourable chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of LEDA be adopted as a report of this House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokaba. Is there a seconder? Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale, you are recognised.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I, Nkakareng Rakgoale, second the presentation of the report as made by honourable chair of LEDET. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Rakgoale. You may continue, honourable chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you once more, Deputy Speaker. I rise again to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of LTA be adopted as a report of this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chairperson. Is there a seconder? Hon Pheedi, you are recognised.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Maseka Pheedi, rise to second the presentation made by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Pheedi. You may continue, honourable chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise again to move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of Limpopo Gambling Board be adopted as a report of this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mokaba. Is there a seconder? Hon Shai, you are recognised.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mpho Sonnyboy Shai, second the tabling of the 2025/26 APP and Budget of LGB. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Shai. I shall now call upon Hon Maringa Bongani Wesley to open the debate.

MR MARINGA

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me ride on the protocol already established. I want to start with a quotation from Nelson Mandela, the former President of the ruling party and the country, when he said, "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made. It can be overcome and eradicated by actions of human beings."

These immortal words by our beloved Tata Mandela remind us that true leadership is measured by its commitment to uplifting the lives of the most vulnerable. As we approach Mandela Day, we are called to reflect on his vision about society and the development of the country and society at large. Today, we debate the Annual Performance Plans of LEDET, LEDA, LTA and LGB, our progressive entities in the state, which are tasked with the responsibility of uplifting the province in terms of economic development.

Under ANC's government and its leadership, these entities or institutions have made strides in driving the economy of this province to the level that it is at today. We

acknowledge the shortcomings that are there in respect to the challenges that some of these entities are facing.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) stands as a very strong entity that government is looking up to, to grow the economy of the province and create as many jobs as we can possibly do. With a Budget of over R1,144 billion attached to the institutions, we have set a very ambitious target in terms of job creation for the current financial year. We have also made commitments in terms of revitalisation of the industries that we have as an entity here in the province.

One amongst key of those institutions that we need to pay attention to is the issue of putting together action and putting together progress in respect of Musina-Makhado SEZ, despite all the challenges that we have always been seeing there. We commend LEDA for its focus on empowering previously disadvantaged groups. About 40% of their procurement is dedicated to women-owned businesses.

And about 30% thereof is also earmarked for youth-owned enterprises to develop the economy of the province and empower young people in terms of job creation. The efforts align with the ANC's broader agenda of inclusive youth growth. Similarly, the Limpopo Gambling Board has demonstrated excellence in governance with all its achievements in terms of clean audit and generating over R340 million in revenue and supporting over 3,000 families through employment in that space.

However, the LGB is facing challenges in terms of illegal participation and illegal entities that exist in terms of the gambling that is happening in the province. We call for the South African Police Service to also assist the entity in dismantling all these established entities that are running their illegal businesses in respect of gambling.

The Limpopo Tourism Agency has also shown remarkable progress. However, the continued challenge of the LTA in respect of the audit is an issue that we want this entity to address. At some point, we need to grow to a point where we speak about all these entities receiving proper unqualified audits as opposed to the current situations that we are experiencing there. The other call that we are making as we adopt this Budget is infrastructure development, and that relates to how we must grow the province regarding the issue of tourism.

Tourism requires infrastructure development. It also requires infrastructure with respect to the roads and also with respect to conferencing facilities. If we can achieve that as we intend to do so, we are going to grow the province and make it a number one destination for all international tourists, and then they will all be coming to Limpopo.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the commitment of the ANC-led government in respect of embracing culture has always been observed through our commitment in relation to the festivals that we participate in, that is, your Marula and your Mapungubwe cultural festivals. We need to continue to embrace these two activities as they relate and speak to how we relate to ourselves in terms of our culture in the province. Hon Speaker, the current situation that we have seen in respect of the other entities of the state and the shortcomings and failures and the future of our New Era Life, which stands in the balance.

We still make a very clear call that the government must intervene to assist that entity so that we can continue to service our communities in respect of your insurance space, which we have always been participating in. Hon Speaker, Madiba taught us that action without vision is only passing time and vision without action is merely daydreaming. Our vision for Limpopo is clear: a province where investment thrives, jobs are sustainable, and no communities are left behind.

And to achieve this, we are making the following recommendations. The department must continue to support all the boards that we have established in respect of our SEZs, both the Musina-Makhado and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse, to get to a point where they function effectively. We are also recommending that the board must continue to brief the department in respect of development in the SEZs in terms of the financial expenditures and progress and development on at least a monthly basis, so as we get to a point where we establish a fully-fledged system that is running effectively in Musina-Makhado.

A progress report on this investigation should also be submitted so that we are able to check how far we have moved. We also recommend that we fast-track the confirmation of all processes in respect of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. And then we also commit that the LGB must at least enhance its funding in terms of compliance with the processes of job creation of jobs.

Hon Speaker, let me also make a small contribution regarding the transport situation that we have in respect of the (Great North Transport) GNT. I beg my pardon in respect of the complication as opposed to the contribution. The situation that we have been experiencing in the province regarding the situation of the GNT is also one entity that we will not leave behind.

We must make a clarion call for the government to make an intervention and put together systems that are going to assist that entity to rise and come back to life, so that we can service our people with respect to transport facilities that are valuable, as that entity has always been the most reliable means of transport for our people in the province, considering the space where it is operating in; and the number of constituencies that we've always been serving through the same entity.

Hon Speaker, all our entities that are there in Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ must align their procurement with the province's 7% target for disabled-owned enterprises and ensure that no one is excluded. We have observed that a majority of people who are living with disability are not participating heavily in terms of your procurement processes in the economy.

Hon Speaker, as we approach Mandela Day, let us commit to his ideals by holding ourselves accountable to the people we serve. The ANC-led government has laid a foundation for growth, but work is far from over. Let us honour Tata Mandela not with empty platitudes, but with relentless action to build a Limpopo that works for all of us.

Thank you very much. Ndo livhuwa

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maringa Wesley. I shall now call upon Hon Velile Jack.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and Hon Speaker, Hon Premier of the province, and all honourable Members and the leader of the MK party, Cde John Ngobeni.

Honourable MEC, let me applaud you for the decision you took against the Board of GNT. That was a good step in the right direction. GNT is a serious problem, MEC. Those buses that need to be repaired must not wait for the new buses to come. They must start repairing those buses. Our people need a mode of transport, more especially in the rural areas. And the Musina-Makhado SEZ is a problem. That investigation must come as soon as tomorrow.

We must be told what happened to the R600 million because you only see a dumping site there compared to the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. You can see there is a development taking place there, different from Musina-Makhado. Those rubbles and old yellow fleet that look like dikgerekgere, they must tell us where they got that fleet. Because they just got dumped there. They are old, and there's nothing; there's no operation that takes place there. So, we do need that report, MEC.

And MEC, we must promote our people in the industrial parks here in Seshego. There is a lady who has occupied the warehouse. She's producing material for hospitals and offices. Even furniture for the Parliamentary Village houses that are coming. We must give support to those people, MEC.

We must not just dump them there. They continue paying rent, whereas they do not make any money. And in the hospitals, they need that material. We must support them. We should be leading by example, and thanks, Hon Maringa, you bought the table last. I think I'm going to follow you. The last 15 minutes, I'm giving it to Hon Basikopo Makamu to finish my speech.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile. Unfortunately, Hon Basikopo Makamu is not on the Speakers' List. We shall now call upon Hon Jacobus Frederic Smalle. Hon Wilson, you are standing in for him. Thank you very much.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Smalle is still incapacitated after surgery. So, I will read on his behalf. Hon Speaker, in his Budget Speech, MEC Matibe speaks of taking bold steps with determination and purpose towards a more prosperous Limpopo and proclaims that LEDET's draft Budget has been crafted to drive economic activity, create jobs and promote inclusive development. Hon Speaker, as the Democratic Alliance in Limpopo, we can find no reason in this draft Budget to support MEC Matibe's confidence. And we cannot in all conscience support this Budget Vote.

Here is why. There is a strong possibility that when the statistics are released for the second quarter of this year, Limpopo will find itself officially in a recession. Our economy contracted in quarter one, and all indications are that it will do so again in quarter two.

Between quarter four, 2024 and quarter one, 2025, we lost 55,000 jobs. Our expanded unemployment rate now stands at close to 50%. Hon Speaker, LEDET itself acknowledges in a strategic plan and draft Annual Report that Limpopo's growth rate is far below the required rate to address our challenges. The fact is, LEDET and its public entities have failed to grow the provincial economy and improve the quality of life for the people of Limpopo. Facing a growing fiscal and unemployment crisis, alongside failing government capacity, it can no longer be business as usual, Hon Speaker.

We must confront some uncomfortable truths. The Limpopo Economic Development Agency is supposedly at the centre of LEDET's and our province's economic development effort. Slightly more than R2,2 billion allocated to LEDET is allocated to LEDA.

Of that, 70% of LEDA's Budget is set to be consumed by GNT and the Musina-Makhado SEZ. Yet both are sucking the fiscus dry, are in a state of crisis, showing no developmental return, are plagued by unresolved governance failures, and are hardly operational, functional, or coherent. At its peak, GNT operated a fleet of 540 buses, served over 200 groups, transported more than 36 million passengers per annum, and covered roughly 36 million kilometres.

Today, it faces collapse, with currently only 23 operational buses. Its turnaround attempts are in tatters. The MEC, Hon Matibe, proposes to divert funds to set aside to purchase new buses to cover operational expenditure. We cannot continue to spend more and get less in return. As the DA, we believe that we need a full review of the subsidised bus transport system in Limpopo, including GNT. Hon Speaker, it has now been almost a decade since the divisive and controversial Musina-Makhado SEZ was proclaimed.

Yet, despite at least R150 million already spent on infrastructure, there is still no tangible infrastructure or job creation progress. We reiterate our call for an independent forensic audit into the affairs of the Musina-Makhado SEZ. Hon Speaker, another LEDA entity, New Era Insurance, is facing an existential operational and licensing crisis, with its licence suspended by the South African Reserve Bank's Prudential Authority.

Hon Speaker, as the DA, we must question the efficacy of LEDA as Limpopo's economic development vehicle. We ask: What real value, assurance and fiduciary responsibilities do we get from a board costing more than R65 million per annum? And ultimately, LEDET must account. Hon Speaker, due to the presence of the GNU's apex priorities, this draft Budget fails to drive inclusive growth and job creation, contribute to decreasing poverty and the high cost of living, or assist in stopping the rot and inefficiencies and developing a capable and ethical developmental state.

We cannot support this Budget Vote.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. We shall now call upon Hon Mogoane Kgothatso. She is not in the House. Hon Ledwaba is not standing in for her either. We shall now go to the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon Mapula Annah Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, and all protocol observed, good afternoon once more. As we approach Mandela Day, we are called once again to reflect on the enduring legacy of Tata Nelson Mandela, a legacy rooted in justice, service, and the unwavering belief in a better tomorrow.

Madiba taught us that it is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it. Today, as custodians of oversight and development, we gather in this House not just to critique and approve plans, but to honour that legacy through action by ensuring that the policies and Budget of LEDET and its entities translate into real opportunities for the people of Limpopo. Hon Speaker, I would like to thank members of the committee for their robust and thoughtful debate in this House today.

Importantly, I thank them for their wavering commitment to the work of the committee and as we close our deliberations on the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of LEDET and its entities, LEDA, LTA and the LGB I rise with clarity and conviction. This debate affirms the strength of our democratic institutions. Oversight is not a box-ticking exercise. It is a cornerstone of accountability. And as a chairperson of the portfolio committee, I can assure this House that the committee exercises its full mandate to scrutinise, question, and push these entities to do better for the people of Limpopo.

Hon Deputy Speaker, some areas require urgent improvement in expenditure for execution. The underperformance in agro-processing targets must be addressed. The LTA's 2% procurement for persons with disability must rise to the 7% departmental standard. And the LGB, while performing admirably, needs a Budget that matches its enforcement responsibilities. But these concerns are not ignored. They are documented in our recommendations. They are met with action plans, not apathy. Hon Speaker, the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is entrusted with a mandate that is both agent and ambitious.

To stimulate inclusive economic growth and build a competitive environment for investment in Limpopo, to fulfil these bold projects, such as the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park, were launched to attract large-scale investments and drive industrialisation. Honourable Members, while we recognise the vision behind Musina-Makhado SEZ, the committee is deeply concerned by the lack of visible progress despite substantial year-on-year expenditure on infrastructure. Budget after Budget has been allocated, yet the people of Limpopo have seen very little to show for the resources poured into this project.

It is therefore not only fair, but it is necessary to ask whether the Musina-Makhado SEZ was properly conceptualised, whether the feasibility studies were realistic, and whether the project remains viable under current economic conditions. This is a matter that demands urgent attention from both the Executive and the oversight structure of this

House. In contrast, the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park is showing commendable momentum.

The committee notes progress on critical infrastructure such as the bulk perimeter fencing, electricity, and ICT infrastructure. This is how industrial zones should function strategically, well-coordinated and visibly aligned to job creation and local economic development. We encourage LEDA to continue leveraging the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ as a model of good practice and a scale investment platform.

Hon Speaker, one issue that weighs heavily on the committee is the situation of New Era Life. The withdrawal of its insurance licence by the prudential authority is a serious development, driven by the entity's failure to maintain the required capital at adequate levels. However, the committee agrees with the department that New Era Life can still play a strategic role in fostering financial inclusion, especially for low-income and rural communities in Limpopo.

To this end, we make a strong and urgent call to the provincial government to recapitalise New Era Life and to do so without delay. This will ensure the entity meets the compliance requirements of the provincial authority ahead of the September deadline, while the search for a suitable strategic investor continues. Failure to act now could result in the permanent loss of a provincial asset that holds potential to democratise access to financial services.

Equally, we must highlight the promise of Limpopo Connexion, an entity with the potential to bridge the digital divide and unlock economic opportunities in even the most remote villages. Limpopo Connexion has already laid over 140 kilometres of fibre backbone, connecting towns from Bela-Bela to Musina via Polokwane. The core network infrastructure exists.

What is needed now is a credible strategic partner to scale its operations and ensure long-term financial sustainability. The committee knows that Limpopo Connexion is currently in the process of evaluating potential investors. We therefore urge the government to exercise patience and strategic discipline, allowing this process to be finalised thoroughly and in line with public interest.

The future of broadband access in Limpopo, particularly in rural and underserved areas, depends on getting this right. The committee that I lead never hastened to critique, feared to critique when it deserved. But the committee's criticism is always grounded in fairness and its endeavour to sharpen, not discard, the instruments of governance.

I stand here today not only as the chairperson of the committee but as the representative of the people of Limpopo deployed by our glorious movement, the African National Congress. Let me remind the House that our communities are not interested in political point scoring. They want results, jobs, infrastructure, growth and accountability.

Let us adopt this report with that in mind. And let us reaffirm our commitment to build a Limpopo that works for all urban and rural youth and elderly, businesses and workers. I therefore move that this House adopts the Annual Performance Plans and Budgets of LEDET, LEDA, LTA and the LGB as official reports of this House.

Hon Speaker, these subsidiaries, Musina-Makhado SEZ, Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, New Era Life and Limpopo Connexion, represent the cornerstone of Limpopo's economic development strategy. When they succeed, our people benefit. But when they falter, it is the youth, the unemployed and the vulnerable who bear the cost. That is why the portfolio committee will continue to apply pressure where needed, celebrate progress and ensure that public funds yield public value.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Annah Mokaba. I shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe to come and respond.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the honourable Speaker and the honourable Premier. I'm standing on established protocol, as three minutes can run very fast. Let me start by appreciating the engagement that we received from the portfolio committee as led by Hon Mokaba and indicate that all the inputs that were given by those who were debating the APP and the Budget are greatly appreciated. We must indicate, Hon Maringa, that indeed the issue of illegal gambling is one of the key challenges.

The gambling board is one of the entities that can bring money into the fiscus. And for us to continue receiving that money that will assist in service delivery, we must protect that environment. And we are working very well with SAPS in terms of ensuring that we deal with the issue of illegal gambling.

We also appreciate the issues around LTA in terms of dealing with the businesses of people with disability, as well as young people and women-owned businesses. We appreciate the input from Hon Jack, and we really appreciate that he has left some minutes for Hon Makamu. Hon Smalle was part of the meeting we engaged in and debated, and he approved the report.

We are surprised. We need that term, Hon Monama, of somebody who debates in the portfolio committee, accepts, and then when they come here, they reject the report. We understand why they can't support GNT, because GNT does not serve their constituency.

We will continue to support GNT and make it possible, because it supports our people, vulnerable people on the ground. We also understand why they don't support Musina-Makhado SEZ. That is why we also know that there are NGOs that are opposing it.

We are going to industrialise using Musina-Makhado SEZ and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park, so that our people can get jobs. We really want to thank the committee, chairperson. We take note of the inputs that you have given. We are going to implement them.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC, Hon Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe. We shall now call upon the Hon Chief Whip for the Motion for the Suspension of the House Rule 173. Or, the Deputy Chief Whip, is coming in.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

8. MOTION FOR THE SUSPENSION OF HOUSE RULE 173

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to present a motion for the supplementing and suspension of rules. House Rule 173 provides that, “unless otherwise provided in these rules, no more than one stage of a Bill may be taken on the same sitting day, i objecting to a further stage is made by four more members.”

It has therefore become necessary to invoke the provision of House Rule 5 to suspend the provision of House Rule 173, to allow the House to finalise the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025] before the end of this financial year. I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama. I shall now call for a seconder, Hon Nkonyana from the whippery.

MR NKONYANA

Thanks very much, honourable Deputy Speaker. Madam Speaker, I, Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana, stand to second the motion as presented by the Deputy Chief Whip. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, whippery. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury to come and read a motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025], Hon Mahoai.

9. MOTION FOR THE THIRD READING OF THE LIMPOPO APPROPRIATION BILL, 2025 [B04-2025]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Deputy Speaker, now that the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025] has gone through all the necessary stages of the legislative process as prescribed by this honourable House, I hereby move that the Bill be read for the third time in accordance with the provisions of House Rule 170.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. I shall now call for a seconder. Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Ke a leboga Hon Deputy Speaker, I am not part of the whippery, but I stand here to support the motion as raised by the MEC, Hon Mahoai. Nndaa.

10. THIRD READING OF THE LIMPOPO APPROPRIATION BILL, 2025 [B04-2025]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa Dokotela Vho Selane. We shall now go to the Third Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2025 [B04-2025]. We shall now adopt the Schedule by Schedule of the Bill. Those who agree will say "Yay" and those who disagree will say "Nay". Schedule 1, definitions?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Schedule 2, Appropriation of money?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Schedule 3, amounts listed as specifically and exclusively appropriated?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Schedule 4, conditions for appropriations?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Schedule 5, authorisation of expenditure?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Schedule 6, spending before commencement of the Appropriation Act for 2026/27 financial year?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Schedule 7, Short Title?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now adopt vote by vote. Those who agree will say "Yay". Those who disagree will say "Nay". Vote 1, Office of the Premier?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 2, Limpopo Legislature?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 3, Department of Education?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 4, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 5, Department of Provincial Treasury?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 6, Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 7, Department of Health?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 8, Department of Transport and Community Safety?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 9, Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 10, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 11, Department of CoGHSTA?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Vote 12, Department of Social Development?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the short title.

THE SECRETARY

This Act is the Limpopo Appropriation Act, 2025.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Secretary. Now we shall call upon the Hon Speaker for the motion of reconstitution of committees and their members.

THE SPEAKER

11. MOTION FOR RECONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS

Deputy Speaker, thank you so much for the opportunity you have given me. After we have been approached by other political parties, specifically the UAT and the EFF, as the Chair of the Rules Committee, in consultation with the Chief Whip and all whippers, we have agreed to the request that has been made, that therefore, Hon Deputy Speaker, I hereby move that this House adopts the reconstitution list of committees and their members as per the request of the Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation (UAT) to accommodate their new Members who were sworn in recently. The changes are only replacing those that were there and including the new ones. That is the only change on the committees.

I therefore move that this august House adopts the reconstitution list of committees and their members as the committees of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

I move accordingly.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Is there any seconder? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. We support the motion as proposed by the Hon Speaker. Thank you very much,

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Nkonyana from the whippery. Honourable Members, we shall now go to NCOP business. We are going to call upon the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and adoption of the report of the portfolio committee, the Hon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. My greetings as well to the Premier and the Executive, the Office of the Chief Whip, the Chair of Chairs, and honourable Members. Hon Deputy Speaker, I stand before this House to present the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 [B15-2025], for consideration and adoption.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Pheedi. I shall now call for a seconder. Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. As the whippery, we second the presentation of the report as presented by the honourable chair of the committee.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, whippery. We shall now call upon Hon Kupa Constance.

MS KUPA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and greetings to your good selves, greetings to the Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; greetings also to our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; our MECs; honourable Members; and my special greetings to the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, Hon Pheedi. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Division of Revenue Bill's [B15-2025] mandate is to promote transparency by ensuring that all allocations are reflected in the Budgets of the receiving governments.

It also facilitates accountability, requiring reporting on the expenditure of conditional grant allocations. Section 214(1) of the Constitution of South Africa calls for an Act of Parliament to provide for the following:

- The equitable division of revenue raised nationally amongst the national, provincial, and local spheres of government.
- The determination of each province's equitable share of the provincial share of that revenue and other allocations to provinces, local governments, or municipalities from the national government's share of that revenue and any conditions on which those allocations may be made.
- To provide for the equitable division of revenue raised nationally amongst the national, provincial, and local spheres of government for the 2025/26 financial year.
- The determination of each province's equitable share allocations to provinces, local governments, and municipalities from the national government's equitable share.
- The responsibility of all three spheres of government pursuant to such divisions and allocations, and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The committee noted that the overall equitable share allocation for local government in Limpopo province has increased by R423 million from R13,5 billion in the 2024/25 financial year to R13,975 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.

The committee further noted that the overall allocation to district municipalities included conditional grant allocations that were earmarked for municipalities. The allocation to district municipalities was done as follows:

- Mopani District Municipality received R3,154 billion,
- Vhembe District Municipality received R3,451 billion,
- Capricorn District Municipality received R3,103 billion,
- Waterberg District Municipality received R1,501 billion, and
- Sekhukhune District Municipality, the mighty one, received R2,764 billion.

The committee acknowledges the contents of the Bill and agrees that a final mandate should be conferred to the NCOP delegates to vote in favour of the Bill. The committee further requested National Treasury to engage all the relevant economic cluster members of the Cabinet to sit down with social partners in national economic development and the labour council to find solutions to the troubling question of the persistent flat growth of the national economy. Be aware that the increased equitable share from R13,5 billion in the 2024/25 financial year to R13,9 billion in the 2025/26 financial year is commendable.

However, the increases are directly offset or cancelled out by increases in bulk water and electricity prices and consumer inflation. Continuing to add to the allocation for the Municipal Disaster Recovery Grant, the reconstruction and rehabilitation of at least critical municipal infrastructure damaged by floods prior to finalisation of processes towards official declaration of a particular area as a disaster area. Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, allow me to request the honourable House to consider and adopt the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 [B15-2025] as a Bill of this House.

Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Kupa. We shall now call upon Hon Jacobus Smalle. Are you standing in for him? Okay, we are passing on that. Now, I shall call upon Hon Ledwaba Mapula Johanna. Okay, she's saying she's not ready. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. All protocol observed. Hon Deputy Speaker, let me take our members back to say the Division of Revenue Bill outlines how the revenue raised by the national government should be allocated to different spheres of government.

It also serves to translate the constitutional principle of equitable division of revenue into a practical framework for the year under review, as Hon Kupa has alluded to before. Hon Speaker, Section 7(1) of the Money Bills and Related Matters, 2009 (Act No. 9 of 2009) calls for the introduction of the Division of Revenue Bill at the same time as the Appropriation Bill.

In line with the above-mentioned legislative prescripts, the 2025 Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 [B15-2025], was accordingly referred to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature for consideration and conferral of mandates to the National Council of Provinces and to report back to the House for the conferral of the final mandate to the NCOP. Once again, Hon Speaker, the provincial allocation according to the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 [B15- 2025] for the current financial year is 2025/26, Limpopo province received an overall allocation of R86,3 billion.

This represents a difference of R4,9 billion, increased from R81,4 billion in the 2024/25 to R86,3 billion, as I said before. This R86,3 billion consists of R74 billion from the Provincial equitable share and R12 billion from the conditional grant, and as a result, the provincial equitable share has increased from R69,6 billion in 2024 to R74 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.

In summary, Hon Deputy Speaker, the conditional grant increased from R11,7 billion in 2024/25 to R12,3 billion in 2025. The transfers to provinces account for 96% of Provincial Revenue in the 2025 financial year. The Provincial equitable share grows at an average annual growth rate of 4,5%, whilst conditional grant have grown by 3,3%. The increases to provinces were a result of additions for the 2025 Public Service Wage

Agreement, additions for the Presidential Employment Initiative, as well as the budget facility for the infrastructure allocation.

An amount of R1,5 billion has been allocated to the Education Infrastructure Grant funded through the Budget Facility Infrastructure (BFI). Hon Deputy Speaker, the National Treasury Service Grant was allocated R581,7 million, while the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant was allocated R2 billion, and the Public Transport Operational Grant received R481,3 million.

And once again, Hon Deputy Speaker, the Agricultural Grants allocations were R242,8 million for the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Grant and again, R83,5 million allocated to the Ilima-Letsema Project Grant and R14,2 million allocated to the Land Care Programme Grant.

Once more, Hon Speaker, the caring government has also furthermore welcomed the Basic Education Grant by giving it R295,9 million allocated for Early Childhood Development and R29,5 million for Life Skills Education. The R37,8 million for learners with a profound intellectual disability, as well as the R52,5 million on Maths, Science, and Technology. Once more, Hon Deputy Speaker, the National School Nutrition Programme was allocated R1,4 billion.

The Health Grant allocation was R2,5 billion for the District Health Programme and R622,3 million allocated to the Health Facility Revitalisation Grant, and R378,8 million is allocated to the Human Resource and Training Grant.

An amount of R53,7 million is allocated to the National Health Insurance Grant. Hon Deputy Speaker, it tells you that the government of the ANC is not just promising, it also delivers through giving resources to the provinces. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Human Settlement Grant allocations were R925,1 million.

The Human Settlement Development Grant is at R181,1 million rands and allocated to informal settlements upgrading partnerships. Hon Speaker, the Public Works and Infrastructure Grant was allocated R75,3 million for the Expanded Public Works Programme and Integrated Grant to the province, and the Arts and Culture Grant was allocated R161,4 million. For the Community Library Services Grant, it is at R68,8 million, and it is also for mass participation in sports.

Hon Speaker, the committee has also made this recommendation that, in respect of the free basic services package, there must be a review of the basis of R610 per month for South African households with an income of less than two old age pensioners per month. And again, Hon Speaker, to engage Statistics South Africa to consistently make available updated data required for the determination of local government allocations.

There is also a recommendation on review of the official position that the District Development Model, a catalytic project, be funded by municipalities or municipal revenue, which is non-existent anyway at the present moment. Therefore, the recommendation further says the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury recommends to the House to confer a final mandate to the NCOP delegates to vote in favour of the Bill to pass into law. Once again, Hon Speaker, allow me, on behalf of the

Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, to request the House to consider and adopt the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 [B15-2025] into law.

Kgotso ga ebe leleni.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Pheedi.

12. NCOP BUSINESS

We shall now call upon, I guess, this time it will be the Deputy Chief Whip, for the motion of conferral of the final voting mandate.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

MOTION FOR CONFERRAL OF THE FINAL VOTING MANDATE

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise for the motion for the conferral of the final mandate to the NCOP permanent delegates. Hon Speaker, now that the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury has tabled the report on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 [B15-2025] and the House adopted the report with its recommendations, I therefore move that this House give the authority to the NCOP permanent delegates to vote in favour of the Bill and to pass it into law in terms of Rule 234(4).

I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. I shall now call upon the seconder. Hon Mohale, you are recognised.

MS MOHALE

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mohale. I shall now call again the Deputy Chief Whip for the motion for the appointment of special delegates.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

MOTION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND NCOP HYBRID PLENARIES

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker. Motion for the designation of special delegates to attend NCOP hybrid plenaries, scheduled for the 16, 17, 22, 24, and 30

July 2025. Hon Speaker, the NCOP has scheduled plenaries to deal with policy debates for Budget Votes.

Provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these hybrid plenaries in terms of Rule 226(1). I therefore propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend the NCOP plenaries virtually. Firstly, policy debate on Budget Vote 19 for Social Development and policy debate on Budget Vote 13 for Public Works and Infrastructure on 16 July 2025 at 14h00. Hon S M Mathe and Hon K G Netshifhefhe.

Secondly, the policy debate on Budget Vote 28 for the Police. Policy debate on Budget 24 for the Independent Police Investigative Directorate. Policy debate on Budget Vote 21 for Civilian Secretary for the Police Service. Policy debate on Budget Vote 31 for Employment and Labour, on 17 July at 14h00. Hon K Lebea, Hon Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana and Hon M C Mohale.

Thirdly, a policy debate on Budget Vote 18 for Health. Policy debate on Budget Vote 13 for Tourism, on 22 July 2025 at 14h00. Hon Dr C W D Malebane and Hon M A Mokaba.

Fourthly, policy debate on Budget Vote 89 for the Trade, Industry and Competition. Policy debate on Budget Vote 86 for Small Business Development, on 24 July 2025 at 14h00. Hon M A Mokaba, Hon V W Maringa and Hon G Mnisi.

Fifthly, plenaries to consider the Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B16 -2025], provisional on 30 July 2025, 09h00. Hon M S Pheedi, Hon G D Matjomane and Hon C B D Selane.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chief Whip. I shall now call on for a seconder. Hon Sebopela, you are recognised.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sebopela. I shall now call upon the Deputy Chair of Chairs for announcements.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurpetje; Hon Premier of our province; Leader of Government Business; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip, and

the Deputy Chief Whip; and the forever gambolling and exuberant whippery; Chair of Chairs; and honourable Members and members of the public in the gallery. The announcements are as follows:

- The next Sitting of the Legislature is scheduled for 22 July 2025 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.
- Two, that the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker will be visiting Yingisani Special School, which was adopted by the Speakership last year on Mandela Day.
- The visit will take place on 18 July 2025 in Letaba, Mopani District Municipality at 11h00.
- Members who would like to join the speakership on this day must indicate their availability, especially those Members who reside in the Mopani District.
- Lastly, you are all invited for lunch at the Committees Boardroom.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Hon Ngobeni, the Deputy Chair of Chairs.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 22 July 2025, at 10H00.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 22 JULY 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity to observe a moment of silent prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you so much. Good morning honourable Members. This is a special day that we came here to look at the most important reports - the Scopa reports. We must acknowledge and recognise the presence of the Premier in absentia; Leader of Government Business; honourable MECs that are here; let me acknowledge the Deputy Speaker, Ms Portia Tebogo Grace Mamorobela; let me acknowledge the presence of the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monyama; Deputy Chair of Chairs, because the Chair of Chairs has apologised today, and the leaders of the opposition parties that are here, feel acknowledged honourable Members - all of you; let me acknowledge the HODs that are here, I can see them, including the Auditor-General, she is here because, today, we are debating the Scopa reports.

But as well, let me acknowledge all other people that are in the gallery including those that following us on social media. Good morning, everybody.

Today is 22 July 2025 and we are convening here in our normal Sitting of the Legislature. We shall now proceed in line with the Order Paper as articulated.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

We are now on item 2. May we please check if there are motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145. I notice Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Dr Speaker and a blessed morning to you.

**THE UNFORTUNATE DEATH OF A SIX-YEAR-OLD CHILD WHO WAS HIT BY A
STRAY BULLET IN THE HEAD
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion that this House notes the sad incident, Hon Speaker, that happened in Seshego at a place popularly known as Juju Valley, where a six-year-old child unfortunately lost his life after being hit by a stray bullet.

The reports indicated that the innocent child was playing at the neighbour's house when he was fatally shot by a stray bullet on the head and collapsed. He was rushed to hospital and declared dead on arrival.

Dr Speaker, this worrisome state of affairs calls for civil society organs to join hands with police and comb the possible perpetrators of this hideous crime. It cannot be allowed, Dr Speaker, that children can shamelessly be shot at while playing in their streets.

We will engage with the leadership of the South African Police Services in this province to ensure that there is full investigation to this matter.

I move accordingly, Dr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, mosepediši wa mošomo, Mospikara Ngaka Makhurupetje. Ke ema go thekga se se boletšego ke Mma Lebea, le go romela mantšu a tlhobošo ka lapeng. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The motion has been seconded. We must take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. We did acknowledge you, Premier, and we are happy that you are here when the Scopa reports are being debated. We have already acknowledged even the presence of the Auditor-General, she is here. Thank you so much.

We will now get other motions without notice. I recognise Hon Ledwaba. Let me clarify myself. I can see that Hon Molapo was supposed to give a motion without notice. You were supposed to do a Members' Statements. Where are you? Are you on the motion without notice? Okay. Over to you.

MS LEDWABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE EFF AFTER RETAINING WARD 13, POLOKWANE

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that,

- The EFF retained Ward 13 in Seshego in Polokwane by winning the by-elections by 966 votes. This reaffirms the people's unwavering confidence in the leadership of the organisation.

- The victory is a testament to the trust that the community places in the EFF to champion their struggles and deliver genuine changes on the ground. We have campaigned hard and invested a lot of resources to retain the ward that we took from the African National Congress in 2016.
- The EFF defeated both the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party (SACP) combined together, signalling that we are a force to be reckoned with.
- Polokwane is facing service delivery issues including shortage of water, waste management, poor infrastructure and illegal electricity connections amongst others.
- As our next step, the EFF will work hard to win all the wards in Polokwane to correct the wrongs of the ANC and fast-track service delivery to the people.
- Finally, we thank the people of Polokwane, Ward 13 for a swift victory and we will continue to robustly adjudicate for service delivery to the people. Thank you.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder?

MR MAGOLO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Magolo Abraham, rise to second the motion as read. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now move to the next motion without notice. Okay, let's first get Hon Monama.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks, Hon Speaker and honourable Members of this august House. I rise to object the motion because the motion was supposed to be substantive in terms of congratulating the EFF partly for winning the by-elections. However, she also puts some service delivery issues. In itself, it renders the motion moot, and it will not stand as per the rules and other standing orders of this House. Thanks very much, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. There is a move for objection. Is there any seconder to the objection? I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby rise to second the objection.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathe. Hon Ledwaba, your motion has been objected.. It falls off. We will now proceed unless if you want us to divide the House. If not, the motion falls off. Can we now move to the next motion without notice. I recognise the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and good morning to all honourable Members in this House.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

(Motion without Notice)

I hereby on behalf of the African National Congress to move without notice that this House:

- Congratulate the Premier of the province for concluding the appointments of three Heads of Departments. Hon Speaker, the appointment of the Heads of Departments of Agriculture and Land Reform, Social Development and Education brings about the requisite stability that is needed to run an efficient provincial government.
- We hope that these appointments will have to move the provincial administration in the right direction and it will assist in our developmental agenda.
- We have also been made aware that the vacancy for the position for the Head of Department in the Department of Health will also be filled in due course.
- Our wish is that candidates who have filled these critical positions should comprehend and be able to appreciate the clearing of service challenges that face our people at this juncture. It's a very clean motion, Hon Speaker.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mmetle.

MS MMETLE

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I, Hon Mmetle, hereby support the move as presented by Hon Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Congratulations, Premier. Well done. The House is congratulating you for the good work. Indeed, dilo di tšhentšitše. Re a leboga. Is there any other motion without notice? In the absence of any other motion without notice, we will now move to item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

We will now proceed to the Members' Statements. Is there any Members' Statements? I recognise Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker.

THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF A FIRE DURING WINTER SEASON IN LIMPOPO (Members' Statements)

Winter in Limpopo brings with its risks, dangers and devastations caused by fire when dry wind and warm conditions create perfect environment for wild runaway fires. High fire season in Limpopo normally runs from July to October. We are forced to approach pick season in August and September. As the DA, we ask if this province is prepared or not? Are our mitigation measures in place to prevent and reduce the risks and impacts such as fire breaks? Are we prepared? Have we built the capacity to respond effectively when fire breaks out? Or, are our fire brigades equipped and all ready? Is there enough water for fire hydrants? Are we ready to launch coordinated and collaborative responses between our two spheres of government and other public and private sector role-players?

Do we have the means for recovery? Speaker, we know too well what happens when we are not prepared. On 23 September, about 14 homes and a guesthouse were destroyed while 34 additional structures were damaged in Phalaborwa due to fire that started on municipal land. A promised declaration of disaster was never materialised. On the same months, Mabalengwe Nature Reserve wildfire destroyed the entire reserve and some 50 homes. Last year, we had a devastating Waterberg fire which led to the death of farmer and wildlife and the destruction of large tracks of grazing land and vegetation.

Phalaborwa was again struck this year when Eden Shopping Centre went up in flames which affected hundreds of jobs. Hon Speaker, various role-players are involved from our Department of Agriculture and Land Reform and fire protection associations which include private sector role-players including our farmers working on fire, our municipal fire brigade and disaster management unit at both provincial and local levels.

Hon Speaker, what we all ask is about the assurance. Can the provincial Executive give us that assurance that Limpopo provincial government has put in place effective measures to mitigate fire risks this season, the capacity, resources and network to respond when a fire breaks out and the means and system in place to ensure recovery?

It is the vulnerable people within society who face the greatest devastation and it is the most impossible task of trying to recover. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Wilson. Is there any other Members' Statements? I recognise Hon Magolo.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE UBRUPT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF EPWP VOLUNTEERS BY POLOKWANE MAYOR (Members' Statements)

The EFF condemns the thuggish and biased appointment done by the Mayor, Mr John Mpe. The EFF in Limpopo strongly condemns the appalling conduct of Mayor, Mr John Mpe during Mandela Day commemoration in Ward 8 Extension 44, Polokwane. The mayor unceremoniously announced the appointment of all people who attended that Mandela Day commemoration event into the EPWP..

These are the ANC volunteers while some of them are relatives and friends to the mayor and his cronies. It is a form of corruption to employ people based on favours. These thuggish and mafia-style of hiring people is problematic and extremely dangerous. The EFF is not opposed to any employment of people. If ANC can see, EFF is the only political party in the country which advocates for the insourcing and permanent appointment of people.

We are opposed to this anarchistic, nepotistic and biased appointment of people because of their proximity to political leadership. Mayor Mpe just appointed people without due consideration of Human Resources processes as if we are in a banana republic. This populist announcement and grandstanding must be rejected by society. It sets a very bad precedence going forward. Mayor Mpe made this announcement in desperation to bribe poor people with jobs.

He must be exposed for what he is. He is the man who is hellbent on taking advantage of the socioeconomic conditions of our people for political expedience.

The irony is that he performed his stunts immediately after being humiliated by the Economic Freedom Fighters in Ward 13 by-elections and now he wants to use jobs as an instrument to gain popularity. His actions are not befitting for a principled, moral and ethical leader. Mayor Mpe is a serious disgrace to the people of Polokwane and we only hope that by next year, our people will correct this blind loyalty to the African National Congress which appoints rogue leaders like him.

The fact is that Mayor Mpe is the worst Mayor of Polokwane since the dawn of democracy. He thrives on excessive abuse of power to remain in power. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I think in future we need to ensure that our debates are relevant to the Legislature because if you bring a debate, especially on a person who will not have an opportunity to respond for him or herself, it becomes unfair. Although we will allow the MEC for CoGHSTA to respond, we think that putting the character of a person in this Legislature is not acceptable. I just allowed you only for today. You must know that in future we will not allow this kind of situation to happen because it's not in line with the rules.

Honourable Members, I'm now going to allow Members of the Executive Council to respond on the two Members' Statements that have been made. Hon Mathe, you are recognised. Wait a bit, honourable MEC. Hon Mathe wants to say something.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We would like to be clarified on the basis of your comment. What then becomes the standing over that unholy and everything that starts with 'un' and 'anti'? What becomes the status of that because it will effectively mean that it needs to be retracted and deleted on all our recordings because it is anything that starts with 'anti', 'un' and 'ir-'. You will google and understand it.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I have decided to make that comment, but I know that my legal team is going to look into this matter. I will give you feedback in the next meeting so that we can be able to ensure that this matter doesn't repeat itself. Thank you so much.

Can we allow another Executive Members to respond if there is anything to respond to. I recognise the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much and greetings to you, Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Premier; Members of the Executive Council and all Members of the Legislature. I want to give comments and respond to the Members' Statement made by Hon Wilson about the disaster in our province that there were some burning of houses in Phalaborwa including a lodge. I did not read it through newspaper, Hon Wilson. I physically went there, personally. I met the affected families and checked their status and I worked with all stakeholders in that community and support them.

The call you are making here was about the declaration of disaster in that area. We tried to follow all due processes. You will understand that a disaster will be declared when you followed all the due processes. In that regard, it did not meet the requirements. We did support them and it was not only that incident. You would have noticed that just two weeks after that Phalaborwa incident, Mabalingwe Nature Reserve in Bela Bela was also on fire. We went there but we did not hear anything about people. We met people and the management.

The challenge here is about the preparations which you are calling upon. We have got our own fire brigades in the province which we are making them to work as cells in order

to work together so that they can support each other. The challenge we picked there was that there was fire breakings within the farms where they were not necessarily doing their part which they were supposed to do in most areas. Even now as we speak, a farm burnt on Friday in Ephraim Mogale. We were busy trying to support them in that area.

We acknowledged that this is a season to deal with disaster more especially fires and as a province, we are readying ourselves with all our teams to make sure that we come on board. Hon Speaker, I know you have made a ruling on the issues of people bringing things which they saw on social media. Hon Speaker, I think that we should be able to make our colleagues, (in fact all of us) to know that when we see a clip on social media, we must not bring it here before we can do thorough investigation.

Wait until the staff is appointed and then come and say that there are people who have been appointed. For you to come here and make this Legislature to abandon its business and look on social media things that you choose to take a particular clip without bringing complete clip, I think it's unfair to us. It's an abuse to this honourable House and we should avoid it so that by the time you see those people's appointment letters, then you can bring the matter and say, people have been appointed unfairly or unduly so.

Hon Speaker, I supported the move that you have made and we would be able to awake if there will be anything to be responding to. For now, I don't think, as CoGHSTA, we have got anything to do with social media work. We have got a lot to deal with other than social media things. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon MEC. I think your response suffices. Then, our legal team will go and make investigation on that Members' Statement. We will be able to give report back to the House once the investigation has been done.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Honourable Members, without any waste of time, we will now move to Executive Members' Statements. We have Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, the MEC for Education who will give the Executive Statement.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Ndi matsheloni. Thank you, Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; colleagues; honourable MECs; Chief Whip of the majority party, Mr Mokgonyana and the Whippers; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Education; Members of the portfolio committee, honourable Members of the House.

COMMITMENT BY THE ANC ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2025 WINTER ENRICHMENT CLASSES (Executive Statement)

We want to bring the Members' Statements on behalf of the learners that attended the 2025 Winter Enrichment Classes. As we emerged the youth Month, it's time to honour the courage and potential of our young people. We reaffirm our commitment of transforming their promise into progress. Today, Hon Speaker, I'm pleased to present the 2025 Winter Enrichment Classes; our tangible response to that commitment. This flagship interventions spanning the bridge between the Youth Month and the Mandela Month delivered a targeted academic support to Grade 12 learners across all our 10 districts of Limpopo in ensuring that their winter recess became a season of growth.

In implementing the Winter Enrichment Classes, Hon Speaker, we operationalise the ANC national conference resolution that says. "Education must be a societal mission that dismantles apartheid legacy and accelerate radical socio-economic transformation". The investment by the department was around R410 walk-in centres and 10 residential camps for all winter schools. By removing barriers through nutritional support, transport subsidies and targeted content delivery weekly, it actively dismantles spatial and economic inequalities.

This is not merely an academic intervention; it is a redistributive justice in action in ensuring that rural learners and progressed youth access the same opportunities as their urban counterparts. That's why winter schools were in all our 10 districts. It was launched on 23 June 2025. The Winter Enrichment Classes operated until 11 July 2025 with an estimated average of 95% attendance. This is a testament to learners' dedication and our communities' faith in education. Residential camps prioritised top performance, progressed learners and learners from remote areas embodied the Mandela vision – every child is our child.

Gateway subjects receive intensive support to close gaps identified in mid-year exams. The zero disruption, Hon Speaker, in our winter schools and structured daily timetables ensued seamless learning. Multi-year monitoring covered 400 centres reflect a call for accountable and people-centred governance. The Winter Enrichment Classes directly advance the notion that 2025 must be a decisive year for skilling our learners linking education to economic empowerment and eradicating historical inequalities.

By targeting gateway subjects which is our Mathematics, Physical Science and Technology, we have aligned with the directives to build a pipeline of skilled graduates for stern careers, technical vocation and entrepreneurship. This is how we convert academic support into future economic agencies preparing learners not only for exams but for meaningful participation in the Limpopo industrialisation and innovation ecosystems. This initiative, Hon Speaker, has equipped our Grade 12 cohorts for the preparatory exams for Term 3 and the 2025 National Senior Certificate finals.

By directing and supporting the resolutions to improve matric pass rates and quality significantly, we opened the programme in Youth Month, investing into tomorrow's leaders. We closed it into Mandela's Month guided by his internal truth, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The 2025 Winter Enrichment Classes are a weapon forged in collaboration between communities, schools and government. Hon Speaker, you will remember that parents had to come in to place in their learners to different centres.

The people's needs must define our programme by turning winter classes into a window of opportunities. We honour both the fearless young people and learners that came out into the Youth Month to attend their enrichment classes and the wisdom of the Mandela Month. The future of our province is being written in today's classrooms. We started by believing in our youth and we finish by equipping our learners to change the world and in-service to the future and the vision of a transformed South Africa.

Hon Speaker and Hon Premier, we want to say to the Department of Education that thank you so much also to the august House, because you adopted the budget to make all of this possible. Ndi khou livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Ndi zwone Muhulisei, ro livhuwa ngamaanda Vho MEC for the Executive Members' Statement. I'm going to allow political parties to make comments on the Executive Members' Statements by the MEC. I can see that Hon Moss has just left. I will allow DA to make any comments. Do you have any comments on the statement? There is none. The EFF do you have any comments? There is none. The ANC do you have any comments? Okay, I recognise Hon Rakgoale.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. In order to save time, let me ride on the protocol that have already been established. On behalf of the African National Congress, we want to take this opportunity, firstly, to appreciate honourable MEC for ensuring that Winter Enrichment Classes are arranged. You will agree with me, especially those that are in this House, with the exception of Hon Mabotja and Hon Nkonyana, that, historically, we use to call them winter schools. We are seeing them now as called Winter Enrichment Classes. During the winter school, it was not every child especially from the poor family that won't be able to access. But now, as we termed them Winter Enrichment Classes, we see each and every child that have got interest who is able to access all these classes.

Thank you, Hon MEC, for ensuring that the barriers of poverty and inequalities are broken so that each and every child in the province is able to access this Winter Enrichment Classes. We want to thank you for ensuring that we are not going to drop down as the province and these are efforts that are also giving us hope that as a province, we will continue to rise high. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. That was the final speaker from the political parties. Honourable MEC, they are thanking you for the good work done. We appreciate the good work that you are doing for the people of the province.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

We now move to the tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers. There is none. They are legacy reports. Instead of each MEC responding, we would have the Leader of Government Business responding on behalf of them.

But as well, we think there is one transversal but unfortunately, Premier, this is yours. On the transversal, we will expect Premier to be the one who respond on it and the last one as well on the NTT. The MECs and Leader of Government Business will do that. So, I'm not going to waste any time on that. Do we agree that this is how we are going to follow? Thank you so much. We will now proceed and thank the chair for the good work done. You know, within a year, you are submitting reports; well done. It means in this term we are not going to have any backlogs.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1: Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Over to you, committee chair. You will have to come and sit here. It's better when you are sitting here. You move one by one.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Dr Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Ms Mamorobela; Hon Premier; Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Deputy Chair of Chairs; our opposition parties; Members from the ruling party; AG; guests in the gallery and all people of this province watching from different social media. We want to appreciate this moment to present the Scopa reports. Firstly, we want to present for consideration and adoption the reports of Scopa from the Auditor-General's financial statements and performance information on Vote 01: Office of the Premier for the 2022/23 financial year . We are submitting to this House, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance information for Vote 01: Office of the Premier, for the financial year ending 31 March 2023. Is there any seconder? Let me see from this side. I recognise Hon Nempumbuluni.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I stand to second the presentation made by the chairperson of Scopa.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, honourable chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The second report from the Auditor-General on financial statements and performance information is on Vote 03: Department of Education for the 2022/23 financial year. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? I recognise Hon Mnisi.

MS MNISI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson of Scopa. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, honourable chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report from the Auditor-General for the financial statements and performance audit of Vote 04: Department of Agriculture and Land Reform for the 2022/23 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

Chair, are you moving for the adoption?

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I thought at that at the beginning of my motion I said for consideration and adoption. But, thank you for reminding me to do that in each and every vote. So, we move Chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mabuza.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Bella Kupa-Mabuza, rise to second and adopt the report that was presented by the honourable chairperson of Scopa. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, honourable chair.

MS MOKOELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance information for Vote 05: Provincial Treasury on the 2022/23 financial year. I so we moved, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I rise, Hon Speaker, to second the presentation as made by the chairperson of Scopa on the report from the Auditor-General for financial statements and performance information for Vote 05: Provincial Treasury. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, honourable Chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance information for Vote 06: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for the 2022/23 financial year. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Sebopela.

MS SEBOPELA

Ke a leboga, Ngaka Mospikara. Ke ema go thekga le go tlaleletša polelo ye e fetšago go bolelwa ke modulasetulo wa Scopa.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report from the Auditor-General for the financial statements and performance information for Vote 07: Department of Health for the 2022/23 financial year. I so we move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Manthata-Mahasela.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the presentation made by the honourable chair. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKOELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report from the Auditor-General for the financial statements and performance information of Vote 08: Department of Transport and Community Safety for the 2022/23 financial year. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I rise to second the presentation as tabled by the chairperson of Scopa and also the secretary of the Scopa in the country. Thank you very much, Dr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report from the Auditor-General's financial statements on the performance and information for Vote 09: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the 2022/23 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Matjomane.

M MATJOMANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson of Scopa. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance information for Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the 2022/23 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members. I recognised Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Dokodela Xipikara. Ndzi yima ku ta seketela leswi boxiweke hi Mutshamaxitulu wa Komiti ya Photifoliyo ya Scopa, Esther Mokoale. Ku va Xiviko xa lembeximali leri heleke hi ti 31 Nyenyankulu 2023 xa Ndzawulo ya Mintlangu, Vutshila na Ndhavuko xi amukeriwa hi Yindlu. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene, Tatana Mdaka. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance information of Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA for the 2022/23 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Members. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Shai.

MR SHAI

Thank very much, Dr Speaker. I rise to second the report from the Auditor-General's financial statements for Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The last one. It is the report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance information of Vote 12: Department of Social Development for the financial year ending 31 March 2023. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

We can now release you back to your seat. Is there any seconder? We can now release you until you return at a later stage LEDA. Is there any seconder to the report of the Department of Social Development? I recognise Hon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Ke eme mo go tla go thekga polelo ye e adilego ke modulasetlo wa Scopa gore, e fetišwe ke Ngwako wo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Over to you, Hon Nempumbuluni Thembeleni Colbert. He is opening the debate. O a re kolota, o re kolota khekhe. He owes us a cake. Happy belated birthday. Please be reminded. In your Speakers' List, your time is articulated. Let's stick to the time. Thank you.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Hon Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip of the majority party; Chair of Chairs; leader of the opposition; Leader of Government Business; honourable Members; good morning. The committee commended the appreciation to the executive authority, the accounting officer and all officials in the Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury, Sport, Arts and Culture for obtaining a clean audit for the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

Both departments are good example to other departments and must avoid lowering the bar. The committee noted with concern that LEDET had regressed from a clean audit to a qualified audit outcome. The committee encourages other departments to improve on their audit outcomes and set it as a target. The committee recommends that the Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury, Sport, Arts and Culture share the information on best practices and how to obtain a clean audit opinion with public entities and other departments.

The committee noted that there are other employees who perform work out of their official work of the employment. The departments that are affected by employees who are receiving remuneration out of public service must be brought to book and the consequence management must be applied without fear or favour. The executive authority and the accounting officers should avoid cover up by just issuing verbal warnings and final warnings for compliance.

Dr Speaker, failing to plan is planning to fail. The committee noted and considered evidence that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have materially underspent the Budget by R40 million which is 5,7% from the budget allocated of R741 million on the Agricultural Farmers Support and Development Programme. The department underspent on the same programme on prior year to the amount of R121 million which is 15,8% from the budget allocation of R805,2 million. The committee observed with concern and considered evidence that the Department of Transport and Community Safety materially underspent the allocated appropriated budget by R48,3 million or 1,9% from the total budget allocation of R2,5 billion.

It is important for the department to ensure that funds allocated for service delivery are spent maximally to the satisfaction of voters so that our people sing the song of joy 'Tsho be shango ndi matakadza' when the conditions of life change. During the hearing, the committee received the considered evidence that CoGHSTA materially underspent the budget by R59 million on the informal settlement upgrading partnership grant as disclosed in note 58 in the financial statements.

The departments must ensure that conditional grants allocated are spent for what they were budgeted for to avoid funds being returned to the Treasury or transferred to other provinces that seems to be spending better than Limpopo province.

During this period, it is important to provide services to the people by following the prescripts of the PFMA. The committee recommended that the executive authority of the Department of Agriculture, Transport and Community Safety and CoGHSTA must take appropriate actions against their accounting officers for underspending appropriated budget by R161,2 million, R48,3 million and R59 million from the total budget allocations, respectively. The committee further recommends that the accounting officer from the Department of Transport and Community Safety must take appropriate actions against senior managers and officials responsible for underspending appropriated budget by R48,3 million from the total budget allocation of R2,5 billion.

In conclusion, the committee further recommend that that accounting officers must put in place measures to prevent the recurrence of this anomaly. Finally, but not last, while Scopa appreciates and commend the Premier for appointing HODs, amongst them the HOD of Agriculture, Dr Speaker, the committee seconded the adoption of the reports with an understanding that there will be an improvement on the implementation of all recommendations. Let it be. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa, Vho Nempumbuluni. Even your time management is fine, you still have 3 minutes 54 seconds. Thank you so much. I don't see Hon Smalle. Hon Wilson, are you taking over? Please come to the fore.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I'm reading on behalf of Hon Smalle. Hon Speaker, the term 'governance' refers to the process of decision-making and the processes on which decisions are implemented or not implemented. Good governance creates a stable, prosperous and a just society while bad governance leads to instability, poverty and social division. All the values that inform good from bad governance, values and principles such as accountability, transparency, the rule of law and effectiveness and efficiency amongst others are all enshrined in our Constitution and legislative order.

If the spirit and transcripts in our Constitution and legislative order were adhered to in the manner in which we are governed, we should be in a state of relatively good governance. We should be 30 years since the establishment of our constitutional democracy being a stable and growing, prosperous and just society here in Limpopo, but we are not. Hon Speaker, as the Democratic Alliance, we must stress concern of the timing and relevance of considering and adopting Scopa's report and the recommendations of the 2022/23 financial year now well into the 2024/25 cycle especially, as the report for the 2022/23 year or up for adoption the same week.

Last year, May was an election year, but that does not excuse the Legislature's failure to prioritise these critical oversight functions. The time and political will should have been found. If we are serious about restoring good governance in Limpopo, we must urgently shift from a culture of reckless governance with impunity to one of consequence, disciplined and accountability from which this report is before us or not.

A culture of gross impunity continues to exist if one reads this report. Hon Speaker, the 2022/23 Scopa report of our provincial departments revealed a systematic breakdown in financial governance across most departments. Recurring audit findings, failure to implement resolutions, ineffective consequence management and weak internal control define our audit landscape.

The departments such as Public Works, Health, Treasury, and the Office of the Premier regressed in their audit outcomes. Most others remain stagnant year after year and unable or unwilling to address the root causes of disfunction. A chronic failure to implement the resolutions of Scopa adopted by this House some dated back as far as 2014 remains a hallmark for this government. Despite Scopa directives, departments continues to disregard the law and oversight which further weakens the public accountability.

The scale of financial misconduct is staggering. Half of them recorded irregular expenditure of R816 million, CoGHSTA R546 million cumulatively and Social Development R36 million cumulatively. Disciplinary processes are routinely neglected and procurement irregularities continue without consequence. Scopa also notes widespread failures in financial reporting, performance measurement, revenue collection, and debt recovery.

Service delivery, targets, particularly in infrastructure and social services are routinely missed. Hon Speaker, many of the resolutions set out in the departmental Scopa reports before us for adoption direct action to the responsive Executing Authority that is to the respective MECs and the Premier. As the DA, we support this departmental Scopa reports for the financial year ending 2022/23 with recommendations. But, I understand, we will hold the respective MECs and the provincial Executive as a whole accountable for their implementations. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed to Hon Sebopela Seanego Tumelo to come and participate in the debate. The Whippery is in charge.

MS SEBOPELA

Dr Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; the whip on research and the whip on constituency; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Leader of Government Business; honourable Members, greetings. Revenue collection is significant for effective governance and public service delivery. It ensures that government institutions have financial means to cover operational costs and to invest meaningfully in a long-term development and infrastructure without a reliable and efficient revenue collection system and essential service system become compromised.

The funds collected must be managed responsibly and transparently to support the implementation of goals and objectives that are set out in the APPs and the approved budgets. While government does not operate to make a profit, it has a constitutional and moral obligation to raise sufficient revenue to meet the needs of its people. Every rand that is collected directly contributes to community resolving, improving quality of

life and promoting inclusive socioeconomic development. Therefore, strengthening revenue collection is not just a financial necessity, it is a developmental imperative.

It is through this revenue that government can honour its mandate to deliver services, to promote equity and to advance the public goods. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has heard and considered evidence that an impairment of R421 million was recorded relating to an accrued departmental revenue due to ineffective debt collection practices over the fines and tax revenue by the Department of Transport and Community Safety. The committee recommends that the executive authority must take an appropriate action against the accounting officer for failing to put in place an effective debt collection system for fines and tax revenue.

In addition, the committee recommends that the executive authority must establish a robust system for a debt collection system for these fines and tax revenue and plan accurately so that the recurrence of these similar issues is prevented in the future. Such a plan must be submitted to the House to enable the committee to execute its oversight role. The committee also received a report that appropriate processes were not implemented to provide the identification, collection and recording of revenue as required by the Treasury Regulation 721 by the Department of Health.

The committee also further received and considered evidence that the AG was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence that effective and appropriate steps were taken to collect money that was due as required also by section 38(1)(c)(i) of the PFMA. Reasonable steps were not taken by the Department of Health to recover debts before writing them off as required by Treasury Regulations. The department must ensure that bad debts that are prevalent in their books are not written off without the knowledge or the approval of the Provincial Treasury as this action is against the Treasury Regulations.

In relation to the interests charged on the debts, the department must also adhere to the PFMA in executing spending and account on the public funds. The committee recommends that the MEC as the Executing Authority must take appropriate action on the accounting officer for also failing to take effective and appropriate action on the accounting officer for also failing to take effective and appropriate steps to collect all the monies that is due to the department.

The committee also noted with a concern that all reported achievements of key service delivery indicators are less than the planned targets. We also have noted with concern that management did not correct all the material misstatements reported, infrastructure operations, Expanded Public Work Programme and road infrastructure findings. The committee was really concerned that the department did not take action against officials who failed to implement achievements of planned targets.

As such, the committee recommends that there must be a proper action that is taken in this regard against the accounting officers who are failing to provide sufficient audit evidence to the AG on the achievement of all planned targets. In respect of CoGHSTA, the committee noted and considered evidence that the department made an impairment provision of R15,9 million in 2022/23 financial year and in 2021/22 financial year as it was R15,7 million.

In respect of doubtful receivables, the committee strongly recommends that the executive authority hold the accounting officer fully accountable for the failures to recover funds from doubtful receivables which has resulted in a significant impairment of R15, 9 million. Decisive action must be taken, MEC, to address this serious lapse in financial management. With regard to the Department of Education, they could not prevent an irregular expenditure of R1,5 billion. The amount was disclosed on page 188 of the annual report.

Irregular expenditure was caused by not following supply chain management policies. The committee recommends that the executing authority must take appropriate action against the accounting officer for failing to take effective appropriate steps to prevent irregular expenditure as required by section 38 of the PFMA. The committee wishes to extend its appreciation to the executing authority, accounting officer and all officials from the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for obtaining a clean audit for the year ending 31 March 2024.

We recommend that the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism must share their best practices with other departments and entities so that they can improve on their audit opinions. The committee wishes to extend its gratitude to the executive authority.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, as part of our oversight mandate, we will continue to ensure that the department fully implements all recommendations made by the committee as chaired by Hon Mokoele.

We will further make sure that progress is reported back to this House and in doing so, we will be reaffirming our commitment to the accountability and continuous improvement of service delivery. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Sebopela, for saving your time. You still have two minutes left. Thank you so much. I recognise Hon Magolo from EFF.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the leader of the opposition in absentia; Hon Commissar Mapoulo and the Member of the Economic Freedom Fighters; greetings to the MECs in the House, including MEC Hon Makamu; greetings to honourable Members in the gallery. It's not a payday today, I'm referring to the 'gallery'. Hon Speaker, the EFF is not excited with the fact that the Office of the Premier and Treasury got clean audits during the year under review. In fact, we are disappointed that although these two departments celebrate what they think is an achievement, departments under their watch continue to struggle to obtain clean audits, and, for that, we are not happy.

The Office of the Premier and Treasury are coordinating departments and therefore they have the responsibility of making sure that departments obtain clean audits just like them. The truth is that the Office of the Premier and Treasury do not have a workable and strategic support structure for the departments since recurring failures in audit

outcomes. They have absconded from their responsibilities to consultant who continues to make millions of rands for doing nothing as the results are not forthcoming.

The departments pay millions of rands, yet they continue to obtain negative audit outcomes. The EFF had always advocated for the abolition of tenders including the utilisation of consultants to achieve good audit outcomes. The state must develop its own internal capacity to be able to perform its own functions and not rely on consultants. A broken, lazy and weak state will depend more on consultants, because it has not developed this capacity to perform its own functions.

These consultants are friends of these officials and politicians alike. It is an unholy relationship based on corruption and flaunting of supply chain processes. We regret the fact that there is no consequence management after these gross failures. Just like in the water tanking, consultancies will never end under the ANC government because it benefits officials and the politicians. Hon Speaker, the EFF notes the water mafias who are sabotaging water infrastructures. Officials and politicians are sabotaging financial, resources and records of the department so that consultants can continue to get work amassing millions of rands with no results. That is the reason as to why government departments continue to . . .

MR SHAI

Thanks very much, Speaker. Since Mr Magolo reads as if he is bored. Can we ask if he can take a question so that we keep him awake?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Magolo, are you ready to take a question?

MR MAGOLO

I will decide that at the end. Let me just finish so that I'm not interrupted and being told that time is up.

THE SPEAKER

Please, sit down. I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. That is a procedure. It's not for him to tell us when to respond. It's just whether if he can take a question. Say 'Yes' or 'No' because I don't know what is he doing there, whether he is sabotaging there or not.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe is correct. Hon Magolo, are you ready to take a question or not?

MR MAGOLO

No, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Dr Speaker, I want to raise an order on Mr Magolo, especially when he is referring ANC as corrupt. Probably, we must clarify that ANC is not a government. ANC is the leader of government and in government, there are, of course, Members of the ANC, Members of EFF and Members of DA. It cannot be that every time when Hon Magolo or other Members stand there, once they talk, they always say ANC members are corrupt, especially in government.

So, I want to raise order to Hon Magolo, to really abstain from calling ANC Members as corrupt unless otherwise if he has got a substantive proof relevant to the fact that he is raising to the fact he issued then we will understand. But, sitting where we are, I don't think it is totally correct for him to say ANC members in government are corrupt because ANC is the leader of government— ANC is not the government. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, Hon Magolo.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I took note of the concern raised by the honourable Member. Honourable speakers did come here and said that ANC-led government did this and that. So, when there are negative things, we must also...can't we suppose to say ANC-led government did this and that. Let me proceed to finish, Hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I was saying that, water mafias are sabotaging the water infrastructure and officials and politicians are also sabotaging financial records and resources of the department so that consultants continue to get work, amassing millions of rands with no results.

That is the reason why government departments continue to perform badly at the centre of these underperforming sabotages. Such is the level of conniving and corruption we have come to witness now. This is the state capture of another kind. We have had state capture during the former President Zuma's era and now we have state capture of its different kind under the current President Cyril Ramaphosa. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Magolo for saving my time. You still have one minute 30 seconds. We will now allow Hon Mokoele Mosibudi Esther, the chairperson of the committee to come and close the debate.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, as you have established protocol, we will just go straight to the issues. Before that I just want to indicate that this issue was raised in the House for several times that if somebody who was not part of the committee comes and present it, it creates a problem because what you present does not represent what you have adopted in those reports. The 2022/23 reports do not speak to what he said and, in our reports, there is no way where we talk about consultants and other issues. We are just saying please, look at that particular issue going forward.

Thank you very much. As Scopa, we are representing the 2022/23 reports after public hearings with different departments and public entities. Scopa provides an oversight role by strengthening accountability, transparency and integrity of the government and public entities. We are doing that together with the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury which play a role of support to all departments. Hon Speaker, the OTP and the PT are central as coordinating bodies for provincial governance, providing strategic leadership and oversight to ensure that departments and public entities align to provincial priorities.

The Provincial Treasury is responsible for financial oversight, resource allocations and ensuring fiscal discipline across the department and the public entities. One of the mandates of the PT is to promote fiscal discipline and transparency. It is during this process that the PT offers support and monitors the implementation of House resolutions for all departments and public entities. Hon Speaker, we want to comment both institutions on their roles in ensuring that provincial departments and public entities are provided with the necessary capacity to execute their respective roles.

We are, however, concerned about the lack of consequence management that cuts across all departments and entities. Together, the OTP the PT form a central pillar of governance in ensuring that departments and public entities operate effectively and align with provincial goals. As Scopa, we are not impressed by both institutions for failing to implement the transversal resolutions for 2021/22 financial year. We will conduct in the Seventh Administration continuous monitoring for both the OTP and the TP on the implementation of transversal issue resolutions for those financial years, on monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of House resolutions by the OTP and the Provincial Treasury.

Monitoring of House resolutions is critical to ensure public accountability in the province. The Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury have a mandate to ensure that all provincial departments and entities implement House resolutions to improve provincial governance and financial management of public funds. As Scopa, we are concerned that this issue of resolutions is often overlooked by most of the departments.

As we have the responsibility to track and monitor the implementation of House resolutions. We have noted progress of some of the departments with regard to the implementation of the resolutions from the 2014/15 financial year up to 2021/22 financial year. The resolutions passed from 2014/15 financial year up to 2021/22 financial year were 932 of which 624 were from the departments and 308 were from the public entities. From that total, only 688 were fully resolved and we have got 244 that are still not resolved. What is even worrying is that both OTP and PT did not implement their own

House resolutions with OTP still has 10 resolutions and PT still having 13 resolutions to be implemented.

However, Hon Speaker, we want to emphasise that all departments and public entities should implement all the House resolutions within the stipulated time. We believe that OTP and TP should live by example.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mokoele, your time is up.

MS MOKOELE

I was still having some four minutes, Hon Speaker. This thing is off, but it was about four minutes and some seconds. You see, you are going to give me those 30 seconds. This can only be achieved if both institutions can play their mandated roles in monitoring and implementing House resolutions, respecting of the audit findings and the Auditor-General. Hon Speaker, AGSA is a Chapter Nine Institution that is mandated as a supreme audit institution of South Africa to strengthen our democracy by enabling oversight, accountability, and governance in the public sector through auditing, thereby building public confidence.

Scopa relies mainly on the AGSA reports to hold the Executive accountable for the adequate spending of the public purse. It is therefore critical that all the provincial departments respect this important stakeholder in the oversight and the public accountability process. We urge departments and the public entities to conduct their roles with the AGSA in a professional and prescribed way to avoid unnecessary delays in the process of reporting.

The implementation of House resolutions can improve the provincial governance. We saw a number of clean audits attained by departments and the public entities slightly dropping from four to three in 2021/22 financial year and 2022/23 financial year with only LEDET obtaining a clean audit and LTA and LGB having clean audits. According to AGSA, on the outcomes of the 2023 financial year, OTP and PT regressed from a clean audit to an unqualified audit and we are appealing to the two institutions to improve so that they lead by example. According to the AGSA, this is because of the slow response to implement recommendations for sustainable outcomes.

Amongst other issues, the cost for regression or decline in the financial statements is because of noncompliance with the resolutions which is a thorn, because I think that this is deliberate because all regulations are there to guide officials. Another issue is consequence management whereby officials do not take the issue of their responsibility seriously, knowing that they will only get a final written warning. That must stop. We must take the necessary action, considering the procedural and substantive fairness every time. There is lack of internal control inadequate oversight and a lack of internal audits.

With regard to other issues like irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure, they are robbing the people of Limpopo of a lot of services and we are appealing to say, let's ensure that we do things in the right way. As we conclude, Hon Speaker, we want to

submit to this House that the committee recommends that the executive authorities must brief both Scopa and the portfolio committees of all the departments on a quarterly basis with effect from 31 August 2025 until all resolutions are fully implemented.

We further recommend that all from resolutions, Scopa will have the progress on all resolutions on a quarterly basis. All the departments must submit to Scopa on a quarterly basis on the progress of the resolutions. We so move for the adoption of the report. Thank you, Speaker

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chair of Scopa. It was a real debate for 2022/23 financial year. Honourable Members, I received a note that instead of Leader of Government Business responding, we would rather allow all debates to proceed because the next debate is on transversal issues and the last debate is on state-owned agencies. We would rather allow all the debates to conclude and the Premier will come and respond after all debates have been made.

The minor thing that I want to say from my side is that you will remember that as Presiding Officers, we are four. It's myself, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs. We have now agreed that it's not going to be automatic that the Speaker chairs the Sitting all the time. We will allow other Presiding Officers to take over. Now I have got an emergency. The Deputy Chair of Chairs is going to take over from now on to chair the Sitting. I apologise that I'm leaving the Sitting earlier than it was supposed to be until it's concluded.

Thank you so much. I will now allow the Deputy Chair of Chairs to come and take over from Item 7.2. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon MEC for Public Works. Don't worry, I will not do as I promised you outside which is to call the Sergeant-at-Arms to you. Thank you very much, Premier, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip and Members of the Whippery. Let me proceed to item 7.2 and invite the chair of Scopa to deal with the item for consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa).

MS MOKOELE

Thank you very much, Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs. We stand here as Scopa to present for consideration and adoption of the following reports from the Auditor-General on the transversal issues on Vote 01: Office of the Premier and Vote 05: Provincial Treasury for the financial year 2022/23. So we move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, the chairperson of Scopa. I now call for any seconder. I recognise Hon Nempumbuluni.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Ndo livhuwa Mudzalatshidulo. Afha ne afha ndo takutshela u tikedza likumedzwa lo netshedzwaho nga mudzalatshidulo wa Scopa kha ino Nndu i thonifheaho. Ndo livhuwa.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Nde ndee. I will now refer to the Speakers' List. The first honourable Member to open the debate is Hon Machete Phetole Percy.

MR MACHETE

Thanks very much, Speaker. Let me greet Madam Speaker; Hon Premier; Hon Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip of the majority party; Chair of Chairs; I of the opposition parties; Leader of Government Business; honourable Members; comrades and friends. In honouring the great leader and the international icon, the first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa, I would like to remind the people that on this month; on 20 July 1985, other great leaders like Calata, Mhlauli, and Mkonto were buried in Cradock.

It is a month on which a state of emergency was instituted following the burial of the said freedom fighters. While celebrating this important month, we must ensure that freedom they fought for is not in vain. We must try as Members of this august House to ensure that services are provided and good governance is maintained. Flowing from that premise, I would want to say the following: that each generation, based on the obscurity discovers its nation, defends it or betrays it.

I would want to believe that we have discovered our mission as this administration and part of it would be to provide good governance and the provision of quality service to our people. At all times, we need to ensure that, that gets done, because failure to do that would then lead to not achieving what we have said we should be able to fulfil. On the contrary, if it happens then, it would mean that much more still needs to be done so that we are able to live up to that.

There are issues that departments are unable to resolve which is in most cases causes the Auditor-General of South Africa to arrive on undesirable audit opinion. Those issues are irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. These are matters which every department must focus on including material impairment and contingent liabilities. The committee noted with concern that during the 2021/22 financial year, the majority of departments and public entities incurred huge irregular expenditures and those irregular expenditures were in some cumulative.

This expenditure is undesirable, and the accounting officers must explore avenues to mitigate in line with the PFMA. Therefore, the committee recommended that the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must assist all departments and public entities in regularising and clearing irregular expenditures. Another issue of concern is the incurring of fruitless and wasteful expenditures by departments and public entities. These expenditures are incurred because of late payments to service providers and other related issues.

The late payments to the service providers are detrimental to their growth and creation of employment opportunities. The departments must ensure that these anomalies are avoided and develop a plan on how to process payments without delays. The committee recommends that the Executing Authority ensure that accounting officers and Accounting Authority must put plans in place to avoid this anomaly. The committee noted during the hearing that other departments in the 2021/22 period still had old and unauthorised expenditures in their books.

Perhaps you should be able to say that, that the accounting officers and Accounting Authorities must develop a plan to reduce or eliminate these expenditures. The executive authority must execute consequence management to accounting officers concerning the recurrence of unauthorised expenditures. The committee noted during the hearing that the majority of departments and public entities were defendants in numerous claims from service providers and members of the public.

The ultimate outcomes of these matters could not be determined, and no provision of any liabilities was made in the financial statements. The committee recommended that the Executing Authority must ensure that the accounting officers and Accounting Authority must reduce and make provision for any contingent liabilities in their financial year. The department must ensure that contingent liabilities are provided for and also reported in line with the Public Financial Management Act.

The committee noted with concern that the performance of public entities is not contributing to the growth of the economy whereby job creation is also impacted negatively and that will work against to what we have established as government in relation to the provision of jobs—what we normally call job plans. These public entities are the core of economic development in the province and are supposed to assist government to provide quality jobs and establish viable businesses.

They are established to have a direct impact on growth and development. The committee has noted with concern that public entities such as Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) and Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) continue to receive funding from the fiscus against the House resolutions passed by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in 2021/22 financial year. Therefore, the committee recommended that the Executing Authorities must ensure that the two entities namely: Gateway Airport Authority Limited and the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, are not funded from the fiscus in line with House Rule 05 recommended by Scopa and adopted by the House in the 2021/22 financial year report to this House.

Furthermore, the committee recommended that both the Gateway Airport Authority Limited and Limpopo Economic Development Agency must on a quarterly basis submit satisfactory and sustainable reports to Scopa for the committee to assess it for further funding. On the last points and that some of you referred to it as, 'in conclusion', the last point is that we encourage the departments to implement all recommendations as per the committee reports 2021/22 financial year, and we support the adoption of the report. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Machete. Hon Smalle is not in. Over to you, Hon Wilson. Just a moment,[INTERJECTION] Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised..

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

On a point of privilege, Chair. In one of the recommendations, if it is not clarified in this august House, because the budget has already been presented and adopted to inject financial health in some of the institutions that they are mentioning; we know that there is a motion or a resolution by this House that they are given a particular period for injecting money in those entities. I think it is outdated the resolution that he has presenting. That's my submission, Chair. Otherwise, we would be saying that it must be implemented immediately, ,and doing so will be against the very same resolution that we have taken as a House. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. You may proceed, Hon Helm.

MS WILSON

I'm Hon Wilson. Thank you, Acting Speaker. I'm reading on behalf of Hon Smalle. Acting Speaker, the Scopa transversal report from the 2022/23 financial year lays bare a systematic failure of governance within Limpopo provincial administration. At the centre of its failure were the institutions are mandated to uphold and enforce good governance across departments, the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury. As transversal departments, these institutions are responsible for providing oversight, setting governance standards, driving improvements in audit outcomes and ensuring consequence management.

However, the report confirmed that they have failed in these core responsibilities. Most departments remain stuck in circles of recurring audit findings with little to no progress year after year. The inability by the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury to coordinate responses, enforce compliance or provide targeted support has contributed to this stagnation. The collapse of consequence management is particularly alarming. Forensic investigation reports remain unimplemented and disciplinary processes are either absent or grossly inadequate.

In many cases officials found guilty of serious misconduct that face nothing more than a written warning. Law enforcement referrals whether to the state attorneys, SAPS or SIU languished unresolved. The department lacks political capacity or political will to pursue them effectively. Financial misconduct is widespread and unresolved. Irregular, fruitless and unauthorised expenditure is not only persistent, but in many instances cumulative pointing to chronic failures is first financial discipline.

Despite Scopa's ongoing directives, the departments have failed to regulate or clear historical expenditure. This is compounded by the failure to pay (Yes, sometimes we get tired, even myself.) service providers within the required 30-day period leading to unavoidable fruitless expenditure that undermines service delivery. Basic financial management functions have also deteriorated. Departments are submitting sub-standards financial statements not aligned with the prescribed frameworks as its

registers are incomplete. Contingent liabilities are not disclosed properly, and critical posts remain vacant crippling operational effectiveness.

The lack of skilled qualified personnel in finance and compliance roles is a direct reflection of poor recruitment and oversight at the provincial level. Furthermore, there is ongoing noncompliance with ethics and public service regulations. Officials continue to conduct remunerative work outside public service often without approval and in contravention of the law. Equally troubling is the disregard for resolutions adopted by this House. Some departments in the public entities including LEDA and GAAL continue to receive funding despite explicit resolutions prohibiting it. While the report makes sound and necessary recommendations, the pattern of repetition from previous years is killing.

Without political will, enforcement and accountability, the same issue will appear again next year. The transversal departments have not only failed to lead, but they have failed to act. Hon Speaker, Scopa plays a crucial role as the last line of oversight, but it cannot substitute for executive action. If we are to restore institutional credibility, public trust and fiscal discipline in Limpopo, the recommendations of this report must be implemented urgently, consistently and without fear or favour. The people of Limpopo deserve better than institutional paralysis and perpetual impunity.

They deserve clean government, competent leadership and ethical public administration. Hon Speaker, in supporting the adoption of the transversal report and its recommendations for 2022/23 financial year, we want to make it clear as the DA that we will hold you, Madam Premier and your MEC for Treasury answerable and accountable for the implementation of these reports. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. I now take the opportunity and invite Hon Matjomane Makua Asnad.

MS MATJOMANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier, Hunadi ga Sekhukhune; Hon Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip of the majority party; Chair of Chairs; leaders of the Opposition parties; Leader of Government Business; honourable Members; kgotsong bana leineng la Jeso Krete. Allow me to commend the people who joined other South Africans in celebrating the Mandela Day which passed four days back. It is well-known that 18 July is Mandela Day.

However, the whole month of July is regarded as Mandela Month. This month gives us courage to the society as a whole to work hard for the betterment of the lives of the society. Those who are legislators must ensure that all laws that are passed are in line with democracy that the society launched for. July is the month which has various national and international events which also encouraged the government to take action.

Hon Speaker, we commend the seven departments on the achievement of the planned targets in the previous years of 2016 - 2023 financial year. However, only two departments were able to achieve new clean audit outcomes during the 2022/23 financial

year. These departments are the Legislature and LEDET. The Office of the Premier managed to achieve a clean audit outcome in the financial years 2020- 2022 and Treasury achieved in the financial year 2017-2022. In the financial year 2022/23 it regressed from achieving a clean audit outcome to an unqualified audit opinion. The committee is concerned that the Department of Education and Health have constantly achieve audit opinions through the financial years.

The Department of Health only achieved an unqualified audit opinion with material misstatements in 2019/20 financial year. This creates an impression that Treasury was not providing assistance to ensure that these two departments improved on the implementation of the recommendations by the Auditor-General of South Africa and the recommendations by the Scopa in previous years. During the consideration of the reports from various departments, the committee recommends that the Office of the Premier and Treasury must ensure that all departments must improve on their audit outcomes.

The targets must be achieved consistently towards a clean audit. Where there is a deviation, the accounting authority must institute consequence management on the accounting officers and Chief Financial Officers. Hon Speaker, it is important that all departments comply with the Public Finance Management Act section 38(1)(d) in terms of recording the movable and immovable assets. During the presentation by various departments, the committees noticed that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure could not account comprehensively on the state-owned assets.

It raised serious concerns as this could result in the loss of some assets due to improper recording and there will be no accountability. Therefore, the committee recommends that the executing authority must ensure that the accounting officers train their staff in assets management in line with section 38(1)(d) of the PFMA. The asset register must be kept safely and continuously be audited. The accounting officer must ensure that new assets acquired or buildings are recorded and those that are disposed off are also recorded. This mechanism if put in place will help the department to avoid the recurrence of this anomaly.

The committee was also concerned about the state of infrastructure in the province. The incomplete infrastructure at Lemana College resulted in material irregularity of R3,4 million and at Maphutha Malatji seconding on that infrastructure which was not in line with the project progress. We were further concerned about Thohoyandou Taxi Modal Facility which is still on hold and effectively abandoned. It was reported that the project adjourned some years ago. The Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure must clarify the role played on the implementation of incomplete infrastructure projects and the dilapidated government premises.

The Office of the Premier and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure must provide to the House a report on how monitoring and implementation plans were being executed. As I conclude, Madam Speaker, the forensic investigation report with recommendations of Maphutha Malatji Hospital must also be submitted to the House to enable the committee to perform its oversight. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Asnad, and thank you for saving us some time. Hon Mapoulo is not here. Are you taking the debate? Okay, thank you very much. Mr Mapoulo light, you can take the podium.

MR MAGOLO

Ke a leboga, Mospikara wa motšwa o swere. Ke eme legatong la Mapoulo as you indicated. While the Limpopo Gambling Board obtained a clean audit during the period under review, this cannot be said about other entities. The legacy of the legendary Ntate Serobi Maja lives on implying that he laid a solid foundation in this entity as they continue to do well. He remains the best public servant that this province has ever produced and continues to share his expertise. The EFF is concerned and disappointed that entities like RAL and GAAL continue to collapse and crumble under the watchful eye of the ANC government.

These entities continue to milk the provincial fiscus dry when they are supposed to be raising revenue for financial sustainability. We expect state-owned entities to raise their own revenue, grow the economy, and create jobs for our people. In a normal situation, the state-owned entities should be used as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation. But as it stands, we are talking of entities that have literally collapsed with no hope of being resurrected. They are characterised by all sorts of governance and administrative challenges which seems never to end.

The best advice we can give them if they care to listen is to go to LGB and humbly request sharing of best practice unless if their pride doesn't allow them to do so. Hon Speaker,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I recognise Hon Selane.

DR SELANE

Ke a go leboga, Mospikara wa letšatši. Ke nyaka go bontšha Mohlomphegi Magolo gore, ditaba tše a di boelago ka Ntate Serobi Maja ke ditaba tša makala a mmušo. Go ya ka letlakala la tshepedišo e a bontšha gore gona bjale re bolela ka Matlotlo a Profense. Makala a mmušo a tla kamorago. I am not sure as to whether is he aware that he is reading a wrong statement on a wrong item. That is why I want to raise an order on him to reserve what Serobi Maja of the Limpopo Gambling Board did for the next item. For now, he must speak about issues relating to Provincial Treasury for the financial year. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Selane. I think the honourable Member is at liberty to traverse how he wishes to do that on behalf of his party. Please, allow him to proceed with his debate.

MR MAGOLO

Ke a leboga, Mospikara wa sebakanyana. Tla ke tšwelepele ka go bala, gore re kgone go feleletša ka gore re hlompha nako. The best advice we can give them...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thanks very much, Acting Speaker, in the absence of the elected Speaker. Speaker, it is not in my nature to question the authority, but it is within my rights to advice the authority. It cannot be correct that Hon Magolo is allowed to debate on a matter that has never been tabled in this House. It cannot be correct and I understand that your authority needs to be respected, but my right to question that authority especially when the authority is wrong, it cannot be limited in this regard.

So, he is double extremely out of everything. It should also be placed on record that this Sitting and this Legislature acknowledge the role played by Ntate Maja in this province as a government servant in all his capacities in which he served the government. I don't know how to call it. I don't know when people are trying to sabotage the good name of Ntate Serobi Maja and that needs to be. Iketle. Wena dula moo go fihla o ahlama.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Sit down. Thank you very much, Hon Mathe. I think your point is sufficient. I'm correctly advised in terms of the point you are making. However, allow the speaker to proceed with his debate. I wouldn't have anticipated from where I'm sitting that the speaker gone that far to debate in the manner that he is debating. I think for the order and the decorum of the House, allow me to direct in the manner that I'm doing it. Proceed Hon Magolo. Sorry, he is proceeding, sit down. The speaker started his debates, sit down Hon Mathe.

MR MAGOLO

Ke a leboga, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is unfortunate and regrettable that the Limpopo Development Agency has not yet implemented all House resolutions from 2014/15 and 2021. Bear in mind, the Speaker had made a ruling. Can't we just respect so that we finish and then... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Just a moment. Thank you very much, honourable Members. You would recall that in this House, we have experience of Members debating wrong speeches and the honourable Member is not immune. I just wanted to protect you. Perhaps I must check if he has got the right speech and if not, he will be debating on a matter that we are still going to deal with. I just wanted to highlight him because it seems it is in the nature of the EFF Members to debate wrong speeches.

So, in that light, just check if you do not have (You still have for minutes) the correct and relevant speech for the debate and if not, I think you will come later when we deal with the matters that you are raising. I think the honourable Members were correct. I was just firm because I felt that Members were just a bit disruptive. I think on that note, you can check the speech or sit down.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker, indeed you made a ruling, and you have since retracted or corrected it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable Members. I think the honourable Member appreciate that the speech he has is not the correct one, therefore he will come at the right time and thank you very much, Members, for your guidance. And to that extent, let me take this opportunity and invite the chair of Scopa to close the debate.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I just want to remind the House that this report is the report for 2022/23 financial year. In some cases, we may find that some issues have new developments. Please bear with us so that we give the picture of what transpired during that particular financial year. We are on transversal issues. The issues from all the departments and entities that are usually common and have to be dealt with by the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury.

Hon Speaker, the House has passed resolutions on transversal matters in the 2021/22 financial year and those resolutions were mainly on the annual financial statements. Remember, during the presentation, it was indicated that these are submitted without following the right framework. This was brought to the attention of the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury. Another matter is on the RWOPS which is the remunerative work outside the public service, unwanted expenditure, consequence management and the funding of 3-D public entities and in particular, LEDA and GAAL.

Hon Speaker, most of these resolutions were not resolved. The Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury play a pivotal role in supporting departments and public entities by providing strategic leadership, financial oversight, and technical assistance. The OTP ensures policy alignment and accountability as a whole and Provincial Treasury enforces physical discipline for effective financial management. On the AFS, the departments and public entities continue to prepare financial statements that do not comply with the prescribed financial reporting standards.

It is the role of the PT to ensure that departments receive adequate financial management and training to prepare this AFS that are in line with the financial reporting standards. On RWOPS, there are officials who are conducting business with the state. It's a matter that as Scopa we strongly condemn. The accounting officers in the departments failed to take action against responsible officials and recover money from officials who earn it irregularly.

Hon Speaker, Scopa will continuously monitor these matters to ensure that the state money is recovered. On unwanted and unauthorised expenditure, there is a balance of R20,1 million irregular expenditure and the fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R14,038 billion which is a very serious challenge that the OTP and PT must ensure that this is resolved. We have indicated that irregular expenditure is in the main, because of noncompliance and if we can have internal control that complies with regulations, I am telling you, Premier, this province and all departments and public entities in this province will get clean audits. It's just a matter of compliance.

Hon Speaker, Scopa noted that there are some departments that did not incur any fruitless and wasteful expenditure. This is a sign that they are working towards clean audits and they are working towards resolving issues that we have raised. One of such departments is the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. In 2022/23 financial year they have not incurred any irregular or wasteful expenditure. The resolution requested that OTP and TP must assist all departments in recovering money on fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

I want to paraphrase what the AGSA said, Ms Tsakani Maluleka, who said it is very difficult to recover money once it is lost. The best thing is to prevent the loss of money. Hon Speaker, Scopa still wants to emphasise to OTP and PT that they have got this responsibility to prevent unwanted expenditure through workshops, training, and capacitating departments and filling critical posts that we believe that once they are filled, they will improve the capacity of the department.

With regard to the recovery of money, we have witnessed that departments like Agriculture have conducted their internal investigation where close to 70% of the money lost was recovered. The Department of Social Development as well where officials were erroneously paid performance bonuses and they were able to repay it back. These are some of the examples that indicate that indeed, where there is a will there is always a way. It is possible honourable Members to deal with these issues of unauthorised expenditure, fruitless expenditure and wasteful expenditure and irregular expenditure.

Consequence management cannot be overemphasised, indeed, it must be implemented so that we are able to correct the wrongs that were done by these officials. Sometimes they just repeat the same offences knowing that nothing is going to happen to them, they are only going to get a final written warning which will be there in their files for six months and after six months they do that again. The committee recommends that the Executive must ensure that entities like GAAL and LEDA are not funded from the fiscus in line with House resolution 05 recommended by Scopa and adopted by the House in the 2021/22 financial year..

Remember, these resolutions can only be rescinded by this House if it is to be rescinded. The committee further recommended that both GAAL and LEDA must report on a quarterly basis submit satisfactory sustainable reports to Scopa for the committee to assess it for further funding. We further recommend that OTP and PT must also provide a quarterly progress report to Scopa for the implementation of the developed sustainable strategies.

Hon Speaker, the committee has observed with concern during the public hearing that the rates of funded posts (Remember this is during the financial year 2022/23) in most departments and entities were very high and that is in violation of Public Service Regulation 65 read with Employment Management Circular 38 of 2020 as issued by the Department of Public Service and Administration. We therefore recommend that the executive authorities must identify funded vacant posts and ensure that accounting officers and accounting authority advertise and fill all funded positions as a matter of urgency.

We further recommend that the executive authority must brief Scopa and portfolio committees on the progress on a quarterly basis. As we conclude, Hon Speaker, we want to quote the chairperson for Provincial Treasury, Hon Maseka Pheedi when he said, "The true measure of success will not be found on the audit opinions, but in striving communities across our provinces." This means that the audit outcomes as much as they are important to get cents and rand correct, but if service delivery issues are not taken into consideration, it will not have a positive impact. We therefore move that this report be adopted. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, honourable chairperson of Scopa. I don't know if you want to sit down and then stand up again. You can then proceed. Consistent with the guidance that this House got from the Speakership that the Premier will only respond to the debates at the tail-end of the debates. You can proceed with the consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts from 7.3.1 until 7.3.5. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We present for consideration and adoption the following reports of Scopa. The report from the Auditor-General on the financial statement of performance information of Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) for the 2022/23 financial year. We therefore move, Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Leswafo.

MR MATLOU

Ndza khensa Xipikara xa nkarhi. Ndzi yima ku ta seketela leswi boxiweke hi Mutshamaxitulu wa Scopa. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Inkomu. Ndza khensa. Proceed, honourable chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. The second report by the Auditor-General on the financial statements and audit on Limpopo Tourism Agency for the 2022/23 financial year. We so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you so much, chairperson of Scopa. Is there any seconder? I recognise the whippery.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of Chairs. I, Bongani Nkonyana, stand to second the adoption as moved by the honourable chair of Scopa. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Chair, you may proceed.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, chair. The next report is the report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance audit of the Limpopo Gambling Board for the 2022/23 financial year.. We submit, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, the chairperson of Scopa, Hon Mokoele. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you, Chair after being quoted. It will be wrong not to second the presentation made by Hon Mokoele. Thank you so much. I second the tabling.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable chair, o ka re o dirile phošo. Proceed, honourable chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The reports from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance audit of Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) for the 2022/23 financial year. We so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Mokoele. I know that whippers are seconds. I recognise Hon Nkonyana.

MR NKONYANA

As a witness, Chair. I, Bongani Nkonyana, stand to second the tabling as moved by the honourable chair of Scopa. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable chair, proceed.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Chair. The report from the Auditor-General on the financial statements and performance audit on Road Agency Limpopo for the financial year ending 31 March 2023. We so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much. I recognise Hon Mnisi.

MS MNISI

Ndza khensa Mukhomela Xipikara, ndzi yima ku ta seketela ku amukeriwa ka xiviko eka Yindlu leyikulu ya Milawu ya Limpopo. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hi kombela mi hi timela mic. Inkomu ndza khensa Muchaviseki Mnisi. I will now take this opportunity and refer to the Speakers' List, the first honourable Member to open the debate is Hon Thabo Mabotja. Hon Thabo Mabotja, the floor is yours. [APPLAUSE]

MR MABOTJA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you once again Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Deputy Chief Whip; the entire whippery; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members; guests and staff of the Limpopo Legislature and most importantly, the young people of Limpopo, led by Hon Sebopela, I greet you all. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, this debate on Scopa report for 2022/23 financial year, is not only about our future, but it is about whether the entities we funded with public money to build opportunities for our people or are simply enriching a few elites of executives with big salaries. A clean audit means nothing if young graduates are still unemployed, if township businesses still struggle for funding and if our roads and services remain broken. We are here to say public funds must work for the next generation, for their dreams, businesses and most importantly their future.

We must give credit where it's due, the Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB) and Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) achieved clean audits, proving that ethical leadership and accountability are possible in line with the King IV principles. LTA's Explore Limpopo campaign or programme has increased tourism in Mapungubwe, Magoebaskloof, and

Tzaneen, to name but a few. These are areas where young tour operators and entrepreneurs are starting to thrive. LGB's revenue discipline ensures that gambling levies fund social programme, some of which do benefit young people.

However, the truth is; clean audits don't feed hungry minds, as they say, hunger is an enemy of logic. We want to see scholarships, incubators, and youth-owned businesses being supported and funded. We want tourism growth to translate into internships and real jobs.

Honourable Members, while we celebrate some entities; LEDA, RAL and GAAL are failing to show real impact. LEDA wasted R103 million on irregular expenditure, this money could have launched 100 youth-owned startups or funded agro-processing initiatives. RAL mismanaged R1,3 billion, which is enough to rebuild and tar roads that connect rural youth to urban markets and schools. GAAL spent R50 million in irregular funds, cumulative from 2010/11 financial year, while Polokwane International Airport remains underutilised. Thus, failing to create meaningful jobs in logistics and tourism.

Moreover, when public entities fail, young people pay the heavy price with unemployment and lost opportunities. Hon Premier, LEDA is a 3D entity, which means, it should be generating its own revenue and not wait for the government handouts, yet, executives earn R53 million collectively, with a CEO earning R4,18 million while youth-owned enterprises' support remains minimal, yet the high-earning executives still expect a bailout from the government. This can't be business as usual. We will not pay the executives for sitting in boardrooms, while young entrepreneurs struggle to find funding. LEDA's pay must be tied to revenue creation, job creation, innovation, and nothing less.

Hon Speaker, we need entities that think like startups not old bureaucracies, entities need to use Blue Ocean Strategies. LEDA could create new value chains like agro-processing hubs, township enterprises, incubators, and tech-driven platforms. In using the balanced scorecards, we can measure real outcomes of how many jobs were created and how many youth-owned businesses were supported. We don't need entities that are afraid of disruption, we need entities that cause disruption for a positive change and that is the revolution we aspire to see in our lifetime.

New Era and LEDA subsidiary is meant to serve Limpopo, yet it is headquartered outside Limpopo despite Scopa Sixth Administration's resolution, young people are asking us why New Era is not here working with their cooperatives, funeral parlours and stokvels and to some extent, they are asking us why New Era is not administering our pension funds. They are saying that if New Era cannot relocate and deliver services to Limpopo communities, its mandate must be questioned and reviewed.

Hon Premier, Polokwane International Airport remains underutilised due to no usage of flight services in the province. The airport is mostly used by business travellers, in order to increase usage, the government officials, including us Members of the Legislature, we should be encouraged to use flight services when travelling out of the province. More effort needs to be made on one destination marketing of the province, to attract more tourists. The airport needs to attract other airlines to reduce the cost of flights, create more routes and increase connectivity.

Although, there is room to increase passenger movement, the airport will not be profitable on passengers only. The airport needs to establish cargo operations to move fresh produce, minerals that the province is rich in, and this requires collaboration from all stakeholders to attract airport users. A Public Private Partnership (triple P) can attract airlines, cargo, and tourism operators, create jobs in logistics, aviation and hospitality. Lanseria airport's success story proves that this model works. GAAL must wake up and innovate. Polokwane International Airport can be more than just a runway; it can be a job creation hub.

Hon Premier, your cabinet is fairly young, dynamic and inspiring. We call on you to make our boards; especially the soon-to-be appointed GAAL Board to be just as dynamic by bringing young professionals, skilled leaders and innovators. [APPLAUSE] We need boards that reflect both the wisdom of experience and the creativity of the next generation. This is how we will build the modern, sustainable Limpopo economy. The Steinhof's scandal teaches us that when boards fail to ask questions, the entire company collapses. Therefore, we cannot let our entities become the next cautionary tale, audit committees must be active, executives must be held accountable, we need leadership that is as honest as it is bold.

Hon Speaker, it breaks my heart to say this, but it seems as if we are watching the slow death of excellence in our public service and entities. Talented and dedicated managers who give their all for the people, are being destroyed or pushed out far too early. If this continues, how will we ever convince experienced and qualified professionals to join the public service of tomorrow. Let me be crystal clear, I am not talking about corruption because corruption is theft and must be rooted out. However, this is the world of difference between corruption and innovation, yet, in our current climate even the boldest, most forward-thinking initiatives are treated with suspicion, not celebration.

Therefore, we must create a public service that encourages creativity, rewards initiative and embraces transformation, not one that crushes the very people who dare to build something better. Honourable Members, we must adopt this Scopa report for the 2022/23 financial year as a commitment to young people's future, demand turnaround plans that prioritise youth-owned businesses, startups and job creation. Tier the executive's pace to results; revenue generated, jobs created, and innovation delivered. Ensure New Era Life relocates and works directly with the Limpopo communities. Push GAAL to innovate and open door for tourism trade and new industries.

In conclusion, this debate is for the young minds of Limpopo, the entrepreneurs, graduates, employed and unemployed, the innovators and the hustlers. We must challenge every entity to stop chasing pay cheques and start chasing progress. I call on all honourable Members to adopt the 2022/23 Scopa report and hold every board accountable for building the future of our people, they so deserve. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much. I will now invite Hon Wilson. Hon Wilson, it is your turn.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Acting Speaker. The 2022/23 Scopa report on public entities in Limpopo, reveals a stark contrast between isolated excellence and widespread governance failure. While the Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB) achieved a clean audit outcome, most other entities including the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) and Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) remain in stagnation, non-compliance and recurring financial mismanagement. The LGB stands out as a model of sound governance, demonstrating that clean administration, financial discipline, and adherence to legislative frameworks are possible within the provincial context.

However, the situation in entities such as LEDA and GAAL is deeply concerning, both remain with stuck qualified audit opinions and matters of emphasis for multiple consecutive years, despite repeated Scopa resolutions, some dating as far back as 2014. There has been little or no progress in correcting all the findings or restoring financial credibility. This persistent non-compliance reflects not just operational weaknesses but a failure of leadership, board oversight and the executive accountability.

In addition, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditures remain endemic. LEDA incurred over R21 million in new irregular expenditure during the year under review, with the group cumulative total of over R103 million and fruitless and wasteful expenditures exceeded R12 million. GAAL has recorded more than R50 million in cumulative irregular expenditure and R9 million in fruitless expenditure. These figures reflect a widespread failure to adhere to procurement legislation, ineffective contract management and a disregard for public funds.

Perhaps, more troubling is the absence of consequence management, investigations are often not conducted, disciplinary processes are delayed or entirely omitted and officials who are implicated in serious financial misconduct, remain in their positions without sanction. This culture of impunity undermines public trust, entrenches maladministration, and defeats the constitutional promise of accountable governance.

Furthermore, the financial control environment within these entities has also deteriorated, basic financial discipline such as revenue collection, asset management and the timely submission of quality financial statements have collapsed in some instances. For example, GAAL submitted inaccurate cashflow statements and misstated facts and grant funding, raising serious concerns about the integrity of its financial reporting process. Despite clear recommendations from Scopa for the submission of turnaround strategies, enforcement of PFMA compliance and quarterly reporting, implementation remains weak.

Therefore, this reflects a broader oversight failure, where Scopa's resolutions are treated as optional rather than as findings. These findings reveal a systematic crisis, while the success of LGB shows what is possible, the ongoing failures of LEDA and GAAL cannot be ignored. The executive authority responsible for these entities, must act decisively to enforce accountability, replace non-performing leadership, and implement Scopa's resolutions without delay.

As the DA, we question the continued existence of LEDA and most of its subsidiaries including GNT and MMSEZ. We call for an urgent review. The recent announcement of changes to the board of many leaders' subsidiaries amounts to nothing more than

rearranging the dentures on the proverbial titanic, it still sunk. The people of Limpopo deserve institutions that serve the public interest with transparency, efficiency and integrity.

In conclusion, Scopa will continue to perform its oversight role, but we call on this House and the Executive to ensure that the findings lead to action and not simple repetition. The time for consequence-free governance is over, we will hold you, Madam Premier, and your Executive to account. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Wilson. Hon Magolo, are you still stepping in? You can just go straight to the conclusion; I think you have dealt with most of the issues. Are you stepping in?

MR MAGOLO

I was at 70% of my debate, but for the sake of clarity, I will just quickly go through it again.

BACKGROUND

[Inaudible]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

My apologies, Hon Magolo, you can take your seat. I have skipped an honourable Member. In the meantime, revise that conclusion. Hon Manthata-Mahasela, the floor is yours. [APPLAUSE]

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker of the day; Hon Speaker, Dr. Grace Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Singo Ja Masingo, Phophi mutshena. Hon Deputy Speaker, Mamorobela Portia; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; and his Deputy, Hon Monama; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone; and Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni, who is the acting Speaker of the day; Leader of Opposition Party; Auditor-General, who is here with us; Hon MECs; Leader of Government Business, MEC Basikopo Makamu; staff; our guests in the gallery and honourable Members, I greet you. Good day.

Hon Speaker, the establishment of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) is primarily aimed at fulfilling public objectives that the private sector might not adequately address. They are meant to provide essential services, fostering economic development, ensuring national security and promoting social equity. Therefore, our state-owned enterprises, must play a significant role in driving economic growth and development in the Limpopo province. The Freedom Charter states that; there shall be work and security.

In addition, these state-owned entities must come in handy on behalf of the government where private entities cannot set its foot. They can invest in infrastructure, provide

access to finance, and promote industrialisation to help the government in terms of creating quality jobs. Small businesses seek, the intervention of public entities like LEDA to kickstart and grow to become medium enterprises.

These public entities must generate revenue for the government, which can be used to fund public services and reduce the needs for taxation, if they are profitable. The committee applauded the Limpopo Gambling Board executing authority, the accounting authority, the Chief Executive Officer and all the officials for obtaining a clean audit opinion. It should not be the last time this example is set. This achievement must be continuous so that other entities can follow suit. The committee will continue to conduct its oversight role to ensure that there is no deviation along the way.

Hon Speaker, the committee observed during the hearing and considered evidence that Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) did not implement all the House resolutions from 2014/15- 2020/21 financial years. The committee further noted with serious concern that LEDA has been stagnant in the qualified audit opinion with matters of emphasis since 2020/21 financial years to date. This raised further concerns that the management of LEDA was not diligently performing its duty as required. The committee recommended that the executing authority, must table progress report in the House on the implementation of all House resolutions from 2014/15-2021/22 financial years.

Furthermore, the committee recommended that, the executing authority must develop an implementable turnaround plan to address all the issues which cause the entity to be qualified, by 31 July 2025. We noted with concern that the entity did not receive an unqualified audit opinion with no matter of emphasis, which is a clean audit as guided by the Auditor General's report. This anomaly poses a serious challenge that the public entity might regress further if there is no consequence management on the part of the LEDA management. The committee recommended that the executinauthority must table a progress report in the House every quarter on the implementation of all the House resolutions with effect from 31 August 2025.

Furthermore, the committee recommended that the executing authority must brief both Scopa and the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on quarterly basis until all resolutions are fully implemented. We are reporting in the House that the committee noted that GAAL has been stagnant with a qualified audit opinion with matters of emphasis since 2021/22 financial year to date. Therefore, appropriate measures must be developed to address challenges that engulf these public entities.

This public entity is supposed to act as a catalyst for trade, tourism and job creation. The entity must be able to facilitate connectivity, enabling businesses to access the market, promote investments and tourism. The committee recommended that the executive authority must be able to progress, report on the turnaround strategy in the House and submit a report to both Scopa and the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety not later than 30 July 2025.

The other challenge regarding LEDA is its inability to address irregular expenditure. The committee had and considered the evidence that the AG was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that disciplinary steps were taken against officials, who had incurred irregular expenditure of R21,6 million for the entity as required by section

51(1)(e)(iii) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). It is the view of the committee that the management of LEDA is oblivious to executing their duties. The public entity must tighten its internal control measures.

The committee further recommended that the executing authority must take appropriate actions against the accounting authority for failing to perform investigations on irregular expenditure and must put measures in place to prevent the recurrence of this anomaly. The committee recommends that the executing authority must take appropriate action against the accounting authority for failing to take effective and efficient steps, to prevent irregular expenditure as required by section 51(1)(b)(ii) of the PFMA.

There's this man called, Elbert Hubbard, who said, "The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today." Ke a leboga. Therefore, we support the adoption of committee reports with recommendations. Ke a leboga. inkomu. Thank you. ndza khensa. ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Manthata-Mahasela. I will now invite Hon Magolo to the podium.

MR MAGOLO

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Hon Speaker, while the Limpopo Gambling Board obtained a clean audit opinion during the period under review, this cannot be said about the other entities. The legacy of the legendary Serobi Maja lives on, implying that he laid a solid foundation in this entity as it continues to do well. He remains the best public servant that this province has ever produced, and he continues to share his expertise. The EFF is concerned and disappointed that entities like RAL and GAAL continue to collapse and crumble under the watchful eye of the ANC government.

These entities continue to milk provincial fiscals dry when they are supposed to be raising revenue for financial sustainability. We expect state-owned entities to raise own revenue, grow the economy, and create jobs for our people in the province. In a normal situation, the state-owned entities should be used as catalysts for economic growth and job creation, but as it stands, we are talking of entities that have literally collapsed with no hope of being resurrected. They are characterised by all sorts of governance and administrative challenges which seem to never end. The best advice, we can give them if they care to listen, is to go to LGB and humbly request sharing of best practices unless if their pride does not allow them to do so.

Hon Speaker, it is unfortunate and regrettable that Limpopo Development Agency has not yet implemented all the House resolutions from as far back as 2014/15- 2020/21 financial years. Bear in mind that LEDET itself has also not yet fully implemented House resolutions, to think that LEDA will fully implement House resolutions when LEDET fail to comply, it is a complete fallacy. It is unthinkable to suggest that way. LEDET should lead its entities by example, push and motivate them to do better in the best interests of the people of Limpopo.

Moreover, almost 80% of LEDET's budget is allocated to LEDA, yet the province continues to struggle in developing the economy and creating jobs. The government is supposed to be creating jobs, but instead it is shedding jobs, leaving households food insecure and struggling. The government must stop the senseless bailouts of these entities because there is no return on investment.

In conclusion, during 2025/26 financial year, the MEC for Finance tabled the budget in which he continue to bail out these ailing entities. An additional R200 million has been allocated to Great North Transport, furthermore, R152 million is proposed for Gateway Airport Authority Limited, nearly a billion is earmarked for Road Agency Limpopo (RAL), for how long will the government continue to bail out these entities because clearly, they are beyond repair. This is flushing money down the drain and a waste of taxpayers' money. I thank you. Ndo livhuwa.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, you could not wait to unpack that speech, hence you presented it before the suitable time. Thank you very much, honourable Member. I will now invite Hon Mokoele, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to close the debate. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We take this opportunity to present the report on the entities which are meant to support the government to accelerate the economic growth and development, create employment opportunities and give our people services to improve their living conditions. However, there are three issues that we want to point out that cause paralysis to these very important entities: Noncompliance, lack of consequence management, and a lack of internal controls.

For the period under review, the public entity struggled to achieve their objectives of empowering our people in terms of job creation and growing the economy. They also struggled to implement the House resolutions. RAL failed to even meet 50%, it performed at 32% of the resolutions that were presented, and it shows that if they were to improve, with this situation, it is not going to be possible because these resolutions guide the entities to come up with measures for improvement. Therefore, if you do not implement them, you will remain stagnant. We have indicated that, on a quarterly basis, we are going to check the progress of the implementation of these resolutions. We are starting next week, and I hope that you are ready to appear before Scopa, pertaining to the progress of the House resolutions.

The other issue is on the irregular expenditures; we have indicated that the province incurred huge amounts of money, mainly as a result of non-compliance with supply chain management and it was indicated that RAL incurred R1,3 billion of irregular expenditure which was incurred in excess of the approved Budget in contravention with section 53(4) of the PFMA, also incurred because of the irregular appointment of the service provider. The AGSs indicated that RAL was not utilising resources economically as required by Section 57(b) of the PFMA. The same goes for LEDA; R103 million is too much for the group, and GAAL as well, figures of irregular expenditure have been indicated.

Generally, the irregular expenditure is caused by noncompliance with the SCM. The AGSA once indicated that if you can't get credits and debits right, it is unforgivable. These are some of the things that we can just comply with and get them right. The AGSA also raised that there were no disciplinary actions taken against the officials who were implicated. Noncompliance is also linked to the lack of capacity, where strategic positions remain vacant for the longest time, and this weakens the capacity of government and public entities.

Furthermore, the committee has noted with concern that the irregular expenditure from GAAL was as a result of the payments which were made before the services were rendered and that is in contravention with the Treasury Regulations 31.1.2, paying in advance is a very serious offence, Hon Premier. This shows how serious the issues are, and the urgent intervention is needed to salvage the public entities.

Moreover, there are huge amounts of fruitless and wasteful expenditure. We found that again RAL was not complying with the resolutions regarding the wasteful expenditure, and that was because of procurement management and internal control deficiencies. Furthermore, contracts were awarded to bidders based on the evaluation adjudication criteria that differed from those stipulated in the original invitation for bidding as required by the Treasury Regulations 16.6.3 (a)(b).

Additionally, some of the contracts were awarded to contractors that did not qualify in accordance with section 18(1) of the CIDB Act and regulations 17 and 25(7)(a). Some of the contracts were extended or modified without approval as required by section 44 of the PFMA and Treasury Regulations 8.2.1 and 8.2.2. What is disturbing regarding RAL is that similar noncompliance was reported in the prior financial year. This means that the officials are deliberately violating the laws. This calls for a serious action by the executing authority. Some of these are just examples, we are just giving examples, but they are happening throughout the entities and some even in the departments. This is not limited to RAL, many of our departments are doing this injustice as indicated.

LEDA should be the main driver of the economic development in the province, but it is unable to sustain itself, because of the challenges that are within itself and its subsidiaries. Great North Transport, for example, it is supposed to provide safe and reliable transportation for our people, but it is dismally failing to deliver.

Hon Speaker, we want to emphasise that we can't continue to fund salaries of the top management, because what these entities receive goes to the salaries. Hence, we have a concern that they are unable to make a profit because the salaries consume all the funds. Indeed, we say, it is time that what you earn must be related to what you do. They earn a lot of money while workers' benefits are not paid, I am giving an example with Great North Transport. The pension money for those workers has been consumed by the salaries, their benefits like medical aids are not paid. So, we must zoom into that and ensure that we take decisive actions so that the people of Limpopo can benefit from the GNT.

Regarding New Era, indeed, it must come back to the province to serve its people, and it will be easily managed. We were reliably informed during the presentation by the chairperson of the portfolio committee that it was deregistered. That is now double

trouble, it means that we need to ensure that we double our efforts regarding New Era. Scopa recommends that New Era be relocated to the province for easy management and services to the people.

In conclusion, we want to congratulate LEDET, Limpopo Gambling Board, Limpopo Tourism Agency for receiving clean audit opinions during the 2022/23 financial year. We recommend that the executing authority must brief Scopa and the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety; Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and LEDET on quarterly basis with effect from 31 August 2025. We must also mention that we are encouraged, Hon Premier, by the assessment by the Provincial Treasury that as they interact and support different departments, they are confident that indeed, the Seventh Administration is going to improve, and they are on the right track.

Lastly, I want to thank team Scopa for coming up with this progressive report and we want to move that it be adopted. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, the chairperson of Scopa. I will now take this opportunity and invite the Premier of the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba to respond to the debate. You have 20 minutes for your response.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Deputy Chief Whip; the entire whippers; Members of the Executive Council, you can see, Hon Speaker, that we do comply, we are a full house. There is no single apology, which is the first sign to indicate that we respect this House. Honourable Members who are here; the chairpersons of different portfolio committees, because before Scopa can come in, the chairpersons of the different committees who are dealing with the current situations, are the ones who are very important when it comes to the issue of Scopa and of course, the chairperson and all the members of Scopa. The Members of the Opposition Parties, the absence rate from these parties is worrisome, especially on the day when we are dealing with very critical matters of the taxpayers. Scopa holds us accountable; our voters voted for us to show accountability as the Executive.

Last week, when we were debating the Member's Statement about the Traditional Council, I heard every political party commenting which was good and we appreciate that. However, today when the Executive Member's statement was presented, dealing with the societal matter, the issue of education. We only had the chairperson of the portfolio committee, giving input on behalf of the African National Congress. It is worrisome to us as the Executive Council when the House does not take education seriously.

Hon Speaker, as the chairperson of Scopa has already indicated, the committee deals with history. It looks at what we have done wrongly in the past and not what is currently happening. Therefore, when we debate, it is also important to look at that fact because other Members will think that the report reflects on the current situation. I was listening when you were talking about the Department of Agriculture, a grant which was not spent. Yes, it is true that in that particular year, we did not spend the R40 million.

However, we have already implemented quite a lot, and there is improvement. As a result, chairpersons of different portfolio committees, must also be given the credit. When we don't spend, we meet with these chairpersons quarterly and they hold us accountable. Thus, when you look at the current situation, the expenditure has improved to the overall of 98,7% and that is the result of the work that has been done, in the past we did not do well.

Hon Magolo, I hear, you sound like someone who is still in the municipality while we are here at the Legislature. During the Members' statement presentation, you took us back when you called for the Executive Mayor to come and account in a House that he does not sit in. You ask us to debate about something else, while we are debating the Scopa report, and I am told that the AG is with us, special greetings to them. You want us to debate about water tankers, and when you look at our annual financial statement, it does not feature anywhere because we do not even have water. We are not a water service authority. MEC Makamu does not even have a single water truck. There will be times when you will be allowed to debate these issues, but the fact of the matter is that, here we are dealing with what we have been allocated as a budget that we need to look at.

Perhaps, we need to talk to the leadership in the organisation, we might have to take you back to the municipalities, where you will be relevant. I am saying this honourable Members because, he continues to accuse us of using private consultants to prepare our annual financial statements and my question is, which department is utilising private consultants? I know, we have this challenge within our municipalities, but we are working very hard to find a way to resolve these issues together with MEC Makamu and MEC Mahoi and some of our municipalities are already showing progress on this matter.

However, you are taking us back as if it is our department, but all our departments have their own Chief Financial Officers. They are the ones that prepare these annual financial statements, we are doing them in-house. We have not invited any consultant to deal with our annual financial statements. [APPLAUSE]. You continue to make that mistake, we are not celebrating the fact that Treasury and the Office of the Premier received clean audit opinions, there was a time when Treasury and the Office of the Premier regressed during the year under review.

Now, we are agreeing that we regressed, but we looked into the management report and the findings and then realised that; there was one or two supply chain issues which we were able to resolve, and we are now back to the clean audit. Why do we say there is no way the Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier cannot get the clean audit, the biggest challenge is that, how do you now as Hon Nempumbuluni said begin asl the Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier oversee all these other departments to get clean audits, if they themselves fail to get a clean audit opinion.

The Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier must walk the talk. We can never forgive the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury for not getting the clean audit opinions. How will they call the Department of Education, Health, and these other big departments to account if they themselves fail to deliver. These departments will question them and as a result will fail to account. They will be asking about the assets that Health has vis-à-vis the assets that Provincial Treasury has.

Therefore, we must ensure that these two departments walk the talk. In addition, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture has joined as well. I can tell you that all these departments will get that clean audit which we want, because of our audit turnaround strategy that we have developed as the provincial government, we are following it up and ensuring that it is implemented.

In terms of the unresolved issues, we must indicate that the Office of the Premier, out of the 29, 25 have been resolved and we are left with 4 that are transversal, hence we are debating these transversal issues which include among others, contingent liability and irregular expenditure, especially in 3D entities.

The biggest culprit within LEDA is GNT, which is why you see the actions and the steps that we have taken to deal with the irregular expenditure from LEDA. We are also looking at the litigation strategy that we have come up with, Health being the largest culprit and how do we resolve all these issues without going through the courts. We know Hon Mabotja in his other responsibility they advertise themselves and asked people if they have visited a hospital or a clinic lately and they know that when you go to the hospital or clinic you might not be satisfied, then they would ask if you were assisted or not from there, they build up a case.

Therefore, we need to deal with that, and we are working with the National Government, we are also working with the SIU. As a province, we have just given SIU cases to work on all these lawyers because they did find cases in one area, where a person lives with a disability as a result of an accident, and who felt that he was not treated well by the Department of Health. We have paid millions in the Eastern Cape, and those millions were supposed to build a ramp and give him an assistive device. He still goes back to the same government and the same Department of Health for future medical treatment.

There is no ramp that has been built, the lawyer ran away with all the money. We need to really bring in SIU, to be able to deal with those issues. We are working hard in terms of dealing with revenue collections. You will note that, our province is rural and as a result, poverty and unemployment are high. Services that are supposed to be paid ordinarily like healthcare services, is going to be difficult to pay such services, it won't be easy because most of our people are unemployed. However, we have put up a system in place, we made sure that those who have the ability to pay, they pay hence the Department of Health is able to get to the target.

If you look at our Department of Transport which honourable Members have been raising their concerns on, there has been a serious improvement. There was a year wherein we went down, where post offices were closed. If you remember well, we were paying through the Post Office, but the department has responded by ensuring that we have an online payment system and we have picked up. We collected 99% compared to what we did in that particular year under review, we were not doing well, but now we are marketing our online system.

We are also saying to honourable Members that besides the department's efforts to open 5 more offices, we also need to start being patriotic and love our province. Next time, I am going to stand by the parking lot and check your registration numbers, if it says GP, we must come and talk about you here, because how do you expect us to

collect our revenue? With the MECs, it is only those cars that they hire at Avis whereby they would have GP registrations, but all their cars are registered in Limpopo. It is a problem if you registered your car outside Limpopo and you are an honourable Member; your voters must know that you do not love your province. You pay that disc every year, but you are not paying in our province, and I can see that honourable Members are not happy, but that is the fact, and we must be proud and reside in our province because this is our province.

Honourable Members are raising issues of RWOPS, we extended and talked about RWOPS because there is remuneration work outside and inside public service where in members of the public servants have companies that they do contracts in other provinces and do kamina kawena. We have now amended that, and Treasury has assisted us. It was difficult for you as the MEC for Health or of Agriculture to pick up your employees who are doing business in other provinces, but now that there is a central database which picks you up as soon as you have a PERSAL and we can follow them up.

You can't work in Limpopo Social Development, open an NPO in another province, collect from the other province and then get your friends from other provinces to run this NPO for you. These are things that were happening amongst the public servants, and now the system has been improved. We are going to work well to ensure that we do not see that happening and recurring.

Hon Wilson, this is the perfect time to debate these matters, it is the time. When we are saying with the Seventh Administration working with Scopa, we appreciate this time. We cannot even question this timing, it is the correct timing, and we appreciate that. Hence, we are all here. Perhaps, at your own time, there could be only one person here but to show that this is the correct time, the House is full.

Our findings are not stagnant, there is improvement, when you look at the paragraphs that have been given over the years compared to what is happening now. Yes, we do acknowledge that Departments like CoGHSTA, Transport and Community Safety and other departments that we work closely with need to improve to a clean audit.

In terms of infrastructure, we are progressing well, when this report happen, some of them like Maphutha Malatji, they have been stagnant. Today, we have handed over the building to the people of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Lemana College, we have an update on that, during that review, we had a challenge whereby there was a construction mafia that came in and unfortunately the contractor ran away. When the contractor came back, we now have the new development because the community wants a TVET college and our former Minister of Higher Education and Training committed herself. We will now carry on with the current minister to ensure that Lemana becomes a TVET college.

Regarding Thohoyandou, we have given it to IDT, the last time when we had a meeting with them, they said by August, the contractor will be on site, so that we finalise. Yes, we agree that in our 3D entities, we only have the Limpopo Gambling Board and the Limpopo Tourism Agency that received clean audit opinions. We need to progress even in other entities like LEDA, as a result of the directive from Scopa, we have established an interministerial committee led by the Hon Premier and MECs who are relevant,

Treasury, LEDET and Transport are part of this committee. We have already held a meeting, and we are waiting for Scopa to summon us so that we can give this update. We will present the progress that we have made so far, because the most important thing was for us to deal with the administration and the management of these 3D entities because the challenge and the problem lies there. We agree with you, Hon Mabotja, we need innovation, we need people who will not think outside the box but kick the box and be innovative. These entities must be self-sustainable, create jobs for the people of Limpopo.

Let me conclude by saying that the Premier has signed the memorandum of agreement and performance with all the MECs and they will be assessed based on all these issues, that you are raising here hence I come to commit them. In return, they are also expected to sign those agreements with their HODs. They cannot come to me and say this is Administration, they should be able to hold their HODs accountable when they are not performing. They must hold their CFOs, Heads of Supply Chain Management and Heads of infrastructure accountable. We have just appointed HODs, and we are celebrating.

The message that I have given to the MECs is that all these HODs must be assessed quarterly, because there is no automatic renewal of a contract after 12 months and no contract is guaranteed for 5 years. You are appointed for 12 months from today. When you perform, we will extend the contract by another 4 years, if you fail to perform within a year, I am not going to extend your contract automatically.

However, if the MEC has not done their part, because it is the MEC that must help me by managing their people every day, if the MEC does not hold the HOD accountable. That is why the chair of the panel is the MEC and not the Premier. We will ensure that we do not renew or extend the MEC and the HOD's contracts, that is simple and straightforward. [APPLAUSE] I can see Hon Mabotja, is exercising so that he might be covered.

Once again, let me thank you, chairperson of Scopa and the members of Scopa, I know you have not been sleeping., You have been at the Parliamentary Village to ensure that in Limpopo, we build a province that we can be proud of and that other provinces will copy from us so that we can build a better life for all our people. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Premier, for such a detailed response to the debates. I think, it is important for me to highlight that the allocation of 20 minutes was in terms of Rule 106(2)(a)(b) in terms of responses to the debates. The 3 minutes is only allocated for motions. Let me proceed to item 8.

8. RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

The following questions have been responded to and are published in the ATC dated 21 July 2025 and that is your questions 13 and 56-2025]: For written reply by the MEC for Transport and Community Safety. Now, I want to take this opportunity and invite the

Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela to present the announcements.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Presiding Officer, Hon Ngobeni. Let me greet the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Deputy Chief Whip and the entire whippery. Let me also greet the Members of the Executive; Members of Legislature and all our guests.

- The Sitting of the Legislature is scheduled for 24 July 2025, this Thursday;
- The Speakership will be visiting Terane Multi-Purpose Centre and Botlokwa Special School at Botlokwa under Machaka Traditional Council, as part of celebrating Mandela Month. We all know that during the Mandela Month, we must all have programmes. The visit shall be conducted to the above-stated facilities on 25 July 2025, we will leave at 8:30 in the morning. Members are invited to join the Speakership on the day;
- MPLs who would like to take part in the soccer game between Team Legislature and Councillors in Molemolle Local Municipality must enlist their names with Protocol for logistical purposes. Honourable Members, there are two teams that are going to participate, the elderly team and the team for the young ones and the middle 40s. Regarding the elderly ones, the Speaker will select from the Members of the Legislature, but please do register your names, all these activities will be happening on Friday, honourable Members. We need the fit ones like Hon Jerry Maseko, Hon Thabo Mabotja, Dr Selane and Hon Nkonyana, you are the team of Legislature
- Lastly, we are all invited to the lunch at the Committees Main Boardroom. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 24 July 2025 at 10:00 here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYER/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We may all be seated. Good morning, honourable Members. Today is a real good morning; we have a surprise for you.

Honourable Members, I take this opportunity to greet all of us. Firstly, the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba is absent today. She has delegated an MEC to respond on her behalf. We must acknowledge the Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu, who is leading the delegation. He also has other responsibilities, so he will advise us on who will respond on behalf of the Executive as he attends to those duties. We appreciate that he started the day with us.

We acknowledge all the MECs present today. Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela, you are acknowledged. Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni, you are acknowledged. The Chief Whip himself is here and well dressed for today, Hon Mokgonyana, you are acknowledged. We also acknowledge the Whippery; all Members of the Legislature; and leaders of opposition parties. You are warmly welcomed.

Due to other commitments, the Secretary is represented by the Chief Operating Officer, Ms Kgomo, who is leading the front delegation. You are warmly welcomed, Ms Kgomo.

I must also acknowledge the departments present today. We have the Director-General of the province; we appreciate your presence. I know you have vested interest in the matters of Scopa, ensuring that Limpopo moves to a higher trajectory, where we become a better-off province and spend provincial money effectively so that our people receive what they deserve.

We further acknowledge other departments that are here, as well as the Auditor-General; your presence is warmly welcomed. To the people in the gallery, you are warmly welcomed, and we also welcome those following us on social media platforms.

Today belongs to the chairperson of Scopa and her committee, Hon Esther Mokoale. We know this is your day. On that note, Hon Mokoale, you and your committee are acknowledged. You have done the hard work that we may not have been able to achieve in the previous terms. You met deadlines, and for that, we commend the good work you continue to do.

Thank you so much. Let us proceed to Motions without Notice in terms of House Rule 145.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

I'd like to check if there are any motions. I know some parties have motions prepared, while others do not. We have a motion from the ANC. Hon Champ Sepuru, the platform is yours.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje.

THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this august House notes the decisive and progressive interventions that the provincial government has crafted to provide financial assistance to the Institution of Traditional Leadership in this province. In its ordinary Sitting of 04 July 2025, the Executive Council of the Limpopo provincial government led by Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, undertook a comprehensive review of the financial assistance provided for inauguration and funeral ceremonies of senior traditional leaders. This has never been done since the 2009/10 financial year, leaving a gap of 15 years in between.

This once off grant is meant to reinforce the importance of honouring the cultural practices and contributions of traditional leadership in this province. Traditional leadership remains the bane upon which the ANC government is laden. It remains one of the key strategic institutions that has helped this country's transformative agenda. The government is committed to maintain its existence. We welcome this move as the ANC in this House, as it bodes well with the preservation of our African culture and traditions, which were nearly eroded by the arrival of the hated system of colonialism on the continent.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I, Hon Mmetle, hereby support the motion as proposed by Hon Sepuru.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much.

3. NOTICES OF MOTION

We do not have any Notices of Motion. We will now proceed to the Members' Statements.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebea Kedibone, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. A blessed morning to you.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON THE NELSON MANDELA DRIVE IN POLOKWANE DURING PEAK HOURS (Members' Statement)

We wish to present, in this august House, the issue of traffic congestion on Nelson Mandela Drive. As the ANC in this august House, we bring to the attention of the MEC of Transport and Community Safety in our province, Hon Susani Violet Mathye, that the daily traffic congestion during peak hours on Nelson Mandela Drive in Polokwane, needs to be addressed urgently.

We commend and welcome the development aimed at accommodating infrastructure for the Bus Rapid Transit system, Leeto la Polokwane. However, we request that the department urgently deploy additional manpower to manage traffic flow along that stretch of road. It is disheartening to witness the frustration that confront our people daily as they commute between home and work during peak hours. We know the patience that most of our drivers have.

Therefore, we call on the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to engage with counterparts in the Polokwane Local Municipality and to assist with the integration of thousands of people recently added to their workforce.

I thank you, Hon Speaker

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Lebea.

I just want to remind you, honourable Members, where we are in terms of the Order Paper. We dealt with Motions without Notice, which was item 2 under Rule 145. I jumped item 3, Notices of Motion in line with Rule 146. From where I was sitting, there was none, unless I missed it by mistake. Hence, I jumped immediately to item 4, Members' Statements. Hon Lebea was reading under item 4, which is the Member's Statement in line with Rule 199. This is for record purposes.

If we are in agreement with the Order Paper and where we are, I will now allow Hon Wilson to take the podium.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think MEC Makamu knew that this was coming.
[LAUGHTER]

DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY EXPOSING 28 TENDERS LINKED TO HIGH LEVEL MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN THE POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

The DA is concerned, but not surprised, by the document circulating widely on social media which allegedly exposes a list of 28 tenders totalling over R724 million, linked to high-level municipal officials in the Polokwane Municipality. The spreadsheet outlines the big numbers and contract values, most of which appear to have been awarded during the 2022/23 financial year. The document suggests serious impropriety involving the Executive Mayor, John Mpe, and the Municipal Manager. According to the document, a number of tenders were awarded to foreign-owned companies, while others allegedly involved entities with links to the Executive Mayor, the Municipal Mayor, his partner, and close associates.

Where there is smoke, there is often fire. We therefore call for the appointment of an independent and transparent investigative body to investigate this matter without delay. Furthermore, MEC, we hope that you will ensure that the findings are compiled in a detailed report, which must be made public to ensure full transparency and accountability, particularly where public funds are involved.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

In the previous meeting, we have indicated that we need to find a way of following the House Rules in terms of how we deal with matters involving members who are not part of this august House. However, we know that we cannot deal with matters that need to be addressed elsewhere and not in this House. I hope the MEC will respond to this Member's Statement, but not on the Executive Mayor per se, because the Executive Mayor is not part of us. He will not be given an opportunity to respond for himself. Therefore, if there are matters, the DA can write formally to the MEC on issues affecting the municipality and the community. Obviously, the MEC will do justice to it.

In the next Sitting, we will outline both Motions and Members' Statements, so that we know what we do under each. As the Rules Committee, we are working on that matter.

Thank you so much. We will now allow the Executive to respond to the two Members' Statements that have been presented. Hon Susani Violet Mathye, the MEC responsible for Transport and Community Safety, the podium is yours. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Let me greet everyone who is in the House and stand on the protocol that has already been established. I am here to respond to the statement made by Hon Lebea, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety. However, before I respond to the statement, let me first appreciate the efforts she took in identifying the problem that is there along Mandela Drive; while others will just go and observe, then keep quiet. So, I appreciate your efforts, Hon Lebea.

As the department, we have already engaged with the municipality to deal with the congestion at Mandela Drive. During our engagement, we agreed on the following: firstly, the municipality must identify all the alternative routes for motorists and mark the identified routes with proper signage to guide the motorists; secondly, to open both lanes during peak hours, which means during peak hours they would have to stop with the maintenance and allow the two lanes to operate; and lastly, increase point duty officers. Here, we are going to supply them with duty officers to help in directing the motorists while using Mandela Drive during peak hours.

Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. We will now allow the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu, to respond to the Members' Statement by the DA.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to colleagues, MECs, and the entire House. I think I will rely on your guidance, Hon Speaker, as the matter is definitely of concern to everyone. I can confirm, Hon Speaker, that as we speak, I have already written to the Executive Mayor of Polokwane because those are faceless allegations. A comprehensive report must be given, then we will be able to take it from there. We want to point out that the allegations are so wide, and the fact remains that they are faceless. There is nobody who is taking responsibility for it. I tried to follow the numbers, I am not an investigator, but I wanted to convince myself whether there is something to worry about. We will be able to come back to the House and respond once we have facts from the Executive Mayor.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. We have indicated that we have the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA in this House. There are matters that should go through the committee. We are saying to all Members that when you present Members' Statements, remember that you belong to portfolio committees, and you must raise issues through those committees.

However, this platform is also yours. We will only provide guidance on how we need to remain within the House Rules, so that we are not found wanting; where a member who does not sit in this House might take us to court, saying, "I am told the Legislature was

discussing me in my absence.” That can be litigious, and we might face difficulties as the Legislature in handling such matters.

Thank you so much, we now proceed to the next item on the Order Paper.

5. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

There are no reports submitted for tabling.

THE SPEAKER

We will move directly to Orders of the Day. Honourable MEC, you are formally recused. Please just give me a note indicating who will be standing on behalf of yourself and the Premier.

We will follow the same route of allowing the debates to proceed, and towards the end, the person delegated by the Premier will respond to all the debates at once. So, we hope the person you are giving us from the Executive will respond, because the Premier has very serious commitments and could not be here today. Unfortunately, the Leader of Government Business has also been called to another meeting. We were trying to lock him in here, but it was not possible. We are officially releasing him. Just give me the name of the person who will respond on behalf of the Executive.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Account (Scopa)

Without wasting time, we will call upon the chairperson of the committee to inform us which reports she wishes the Legislature to consider and adopt.

Over to you, Hon Esther Mokoale, chairperson of the portfolio committee.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members from the opposition parties; honourable Members from the ruling party; the Whippery; Auditor-General of South Africa; our officials who are present; our guests in the gallery; all residents of the province, and those watching via various media platforms. Good morning.

As Scopa, we stand here to present the following reports for consideration and adoption:

The first report is on the findings of the Auditor-General regarding the financial statements and performance information of Vote 01: The Office of the Premier, for the financial year ending 31 March 2024. We move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

[NO AUDIO]

THE SPEAKER

My left-hand side is also allowed to second. Can we proceed, chairperson?

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 03: The Department of Education, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MNISI

Thanks, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the report as moved by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mokoelé, you may proceed.

MS MOKOELE

We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 04: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, for 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS WILSON

Let me assist you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report moved by Hon Mokoelé.
[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Wilson. You may proceed, chairperson.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 05: The Provincial Treasury, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATABOGE

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the honourable chairperson. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You may proceed, chairperson.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 06: The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

DR SELANE

Thank you, Dr, the descendant of Dzugudini and Masalanabo. I stand here to second the chairperson of Scopa, Hon Mokoelé, when she moved for the consideration of her report. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ke a leboga, Ngaka Selane. Thank you so much. Let's proceed, Hon Mokoelé.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 07: The Department of Health, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of Scopa, Hon Esther Mokoelé. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Manthata-Mahasela. You may proceed, chairperson.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 09: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Nempumbuluni, you are recognised.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. Ndi khou takutshela u tikedza likumedzwa lo n̄tshedzwaho nga mudzulatshidulo wa Scopa. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. You may proceed, chairperson.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My apologies, I skipped Vote 08, which is listed under item 7.1.7. I will go back to it now. We present, for consideration and adoption, the report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 08: The Department of Transport and Community Safety, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, is there any seconder? Hon Lebea, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to support the report as presented by the chairperson of Scopa on Vote 08, the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. There seems to be a confusion, chairperson; which item did you skip?

MS MOKOELE

I had skipped Vote 08, and I've gone back to it. It is the one that has just been seconded. May I continue?

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 10: The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEBOPELA

Ndza khensa Xipikara, I stand to second the adoption of the report as presented by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Sebopela. You can proceed, chairperson.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The last report for consideration and adoption, is that of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Vote 11: The Department of CoGHSTA, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. I must indicate to the House that there is one vote that is not included here; that is the Vote for the Department of Social Development. The Social Development Annual Report was withdrawn due to outstanding issues with the AG. They are still finalising those matters, and as a result could not appear before Scopa. Therefore, there is no presentation of the report.

Secondly, you should not be surprised that the Legislature is not part of this report. Due to the FMPPLA, we do not operate under the same legislation as other departments that use the PFMA. As a result, the Legislature's report does not appear here.

BACKGROUND

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

The report was not seconded. Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mospikara wa gešo, yo mobotse. Ke thekga tšohle tšeo di boletšego ke modulasetulo, ka lebaka la gore ke ditaba tše dibotse kudu

THE SPEAKER

Ke tšona tšeo molobedu wa gešo, molobedu moloba thaba. Re a leboga. We will now proceed to the Speakers' List. The person opening the debate is Hon Nempumbuluni.

Hon Nempumbuluni Thambeleni Colbert, you may take the podium.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Premier in absentia; Hon Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip of the majority party; Leader of the Opposition; Leader of Government Business; honourable Members, good morning.

On 20 July 1956, a freedom fighter, a struggle activist, and an operative of the ANC military wing, uMkhonto weSizwe, was born in Mamelodi, Pretoria — and that is Solomon Mahlangu. Solomon Mahlangu was brutally executed on 06 April 1979 in Pretoria Central Prison by the apartheid regime. His last words were: "My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them."

The dawning of democracy in South Africa on 27 April 1994 signalled and witnessed the beginning of the fruits of freedom. However, the underspending of budgets by departments is not the fruits of freedom. Similarly, the mismanagement of funds, unfinished projects by some service providers, and the failure to fully utilise grants, are indeed not the fruits of freedom. In fact, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, in addressing Parliament, described the underspending of budgets by departments as an act of treason and betrayal of the people of South Africa. [APPLAUSE]

During the engagement with the Department of Education, we heard and considered evidence that the department did not recognise immovable, tangible capital assets in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Modified Cash Standards for capital assets. The AG identified completed and in-use assets that were incorrectly classified as Work in Progress. We noted that immovable, tangible capital assets disclosed in Note 40 to the financial statements were understated by R1,7 million, while the Work in Progress was overstated by the same amount in Note 40.2 of the financial statements. As a result, we recommend that the executing authority institute consequence management against the accounting officer for understating immovable assets by R1,7 million.

The committee noted and considered evidence that performance of the programme funded by the Letsema and Comprehensive Agricultural Support programme, was not evaluated as required by section 12(5) of the Division of the Revenue Act. This programme is important and is meant to assist emerging farmers in the production of food to feed the nation. If not properly evaluated, it might result in unwanted expenditure. The accounting officer must ensure that grants meant for this programme are properly managed. The committee recommended that the executing authority take appropriate action against the accounting officer for failing to evaluate the Letsema and Comprehensive Agriculture Support programme as required by Section 12(5) of DORA. Furthermore, the committee recommended that the executing authority put measures in place to prevent the recurrence of this anomaly.

We noted and considered evidence that the Department of Health was involved in multiple lawsuits during the previous financial years. The ultimate outcome of these matters cannot presently be determined, and no provision for any resulting liability has been made in the financial statements. The committee recommended that the executing authority review all contingent liabilities and take steps to reduce them. Furthermore, the committee recommended that the executing authority make provision for any liability that may be encountered by the department.

The report of the Public Service Commission revealed that there were employees who performed work outside of their official employment. This type of action by officials is irregular in nature and tantamount to double-dipping. Departments affected by employees receiving remuneration outside of public service must ensure that consequence management is instituted against them.

Whilst we appreciate the Dikgerekgere programme, which is assisting here in Limpopo, the committee observed during its engagement with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, that some legacy projects were abandoned by service providers in the province. Some of the projects were visited by the National Council of Provinces in September 2023. The department must ensure that these projects are completed. The committee recommended that the executing authority, in collaboration with the State Attorney and departmental legal services, ensure that appropriate action is taken against the service providers who abandoned the legacy projects. Furthermore, the executing authority must put measures in place to prevent the recurrence of this anomaly.

As members of Scopa, who are playing their role in oversight and holding the Executive accountable without fear or favour, we must also work without being compromised and defocused. I therefore unconditionally support the adoption of the reports presented in this House, with all the recommendations by Scopa. Mulalo Afurika Tshipembe. God bless you all. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Aa! Ro livhuwa nga maanda. Namusi ro guda u amba nga Tshivenda fhando. Thank you so much. We will now proceed to the next speaker. Hon Wilson, the podium is yours.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I will be reading on behalf of Hon Smalle today.

Hon Speaker, earlier this week when we considered the 2023 Scopa report, we as the DA reminded this House that good governance fosters stability, prosperity, and justice, whilst bad governance breeds instability, poverty, and division. There are values which distinguish good from bad governance: accountability, transparency, responsibility, oversight, the rule of law, and effectiveness are not abstract ideals, but constitutional imperatives enshrined in our democratic order. If these values had been, and were consistently, upheld in Limpopo, we should, 30 years into our democracy, be a province marked by stability and growing prosperity. Unfortunately, we are not.

If we are truly committed to restoring good governance in Limpopo, we must break from a culture of reckless impunity and shift decisively to one of consequence, discipline, and accountability. Yet, Hon Speaker, the 2024 Scopa reports before us today demonstrate that we remain far from this goal. A culture of impunity persists. A comparison between the 2023 and 2024 reports reveals clear and continuing systemic failure to act on audit findings, to implement consequence management, and to improve financial governance. Year after year, the same audit findings recur with minimal remedial action and no clear evidence of disciplinary outcomes. Disturbingly, there is little indication that either the Provincial Treasury or the Office of the Premier is effectively driving improvements across departments.

We continue to see irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditures: R9 million in irregular expenditure for LEDET; R586 million in irregular and R115 million in fruitless expenditure in CoGHSTA alone; and ongoing lapses in contract and performance management, particularly with respect to LEDA and MMSEZ. As with the 2023 report, departments continue to ignore Scopa's resolutions adopted by this House, highlighting a dangerous disregard for compliance and consequence management.

We are also seeing audit regressions and a lack of progress towards clean audits. Departments such as LEDET, Transport and CoGHSTA have either stagnated at unqualified opinions with findings or regressed from previously better positions. While we welcome the clean audit received by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, this did not prevent the recent debacle with Limpopo school athletes, who were forced to withdraw from the South African championships due to departmental bungling.

The report points to weak planning, underperformance, and underspending. The Department of Transport and Community Safety underspent by R48 million, and CoGHSTA failed to spend R59 million earmarked for upgrading informal settlements. Institutional accountability is absent. There is scant evidence of disciplinary processes or the recovery of funds from implicated officials, despite the provisions of the PFMA and Treasury Regulations. Audit action plans remain ineffective or unimplemented.

The DA is particularly concerned by the chronic governance failures tolerated by LEDET and LEDA in entities such as GNT and the MMSEZ. This systemic collapse is evident in CoGHSTA, with historical audit issues, ballooning irregular expenditure, housing corruption investigations, and mounting litigation risks. These are deeply concerning. These reports paint a picture of systemic fiscal mismanagement and institutional decay in Limpopo. The time has come for this House to consider targeted oversight and enquiries into failing departments like CoGHSTA and LEDET. The alternative is that they should be flagged for direct intervention by the National Treasury.

As the DA, we do support the adoption of the Scopa report and its recommendations, but we must be prepared to hold the Hon Premier and respective MECs accountable for their implementation.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Everyone is managing their time well. The Whippery, Ms Tumelo Seanego Sebopela, the floor is yours. [APPLAUSE]

MS SEBOPELA

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Greetings to the Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Chief Whip, and the Whippery; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Leader of Government Business; Members of the Executive Council; and honourable Members of this House. Ke a le dumedisha.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has observed several irregularities within the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. During its engagement with the department, the committee was informed that no appropriate measures were taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R800 million in the 2023/24 financial year, as outlined in Note 31 of the Annual Financial Statements. This failure is a direct contravention of section 38 of the PFMA and the Treasury Regulations.

A significant portion of this irregular expenditure stemmed from household contracts in which bidders failed to meet minimum qualifying criteria yet were not disqualified. Furthermore, the committee noted from the AG that no sufficient audit evidence was provided to confirm that disciplinary steps were taken against officials responsible for this irregular expenditure. This is largely due to the failure to conduct investigations into the irregularities.

Moreover, the committee noted that certain quotations were not awarded in an economical or cost-effective manner. The prices of goods and services were found to be unreasonable, again contravening section 38 of the PFMA. Serious concerns were raised regarding inconsistencies in the evaluation of tenders. Specifically, it was found that tenders which did not meet the minimum functionality threshold were not disqualified.

In some cases, tenders that did meet the functionality threshold were not evaluated further, as required by Regulation 57. Certain bids were also awarded based on pre-qualification criteria that differed from those initially advertised, violating Regulations 41 and 42. The findings, which relate primarily to routine maintenance projects, reflect serious procedural and compliance failures in the department's procurement processes.

As a result, the committee strongly recommend that the Executive take decisive and corrective action against the accounting officers for:

- Failing to prevent irregular expenditure;
- Failing to institute disciplinary measures against responsible officials; and
- Awarding quotations in a non-economical and ineffective manner.

The committee stresses that the irregular expenditure poses a risk to service delivery and public trust. It undermines the principle of value for money, erodes accountability, and diverts scarce public resources away from developmental priorities.

With regard to revenue collection concerns in the Departments of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and Health, the committee considered evidence showing that

appropriate systems for the identification, collection, recording and reconciliation of revenue were not implemented. Additionally, measures were not taken to collect moneys due to the state, contrary to section 38 of the PFMA.

The committee emphasises that departments are responsible for revenue collection and must uphold this function with integrity and efficiency, as these funds are critical for enabling government to deliver essential services. Weak revenue management not only affects cash flow but also compromises a department's ability to meet its constitutional obligations.

We further recommended that executing authorities continue to take corrective action against accounting officers who fail to implement adequate revenue management systems. Departments must develop proper internal control and monitoring plans to strengthen revenue performance and compliance.

With regard to asset management and disposal in the Department of Health, the committee noted findings by the Auditor-General that the Department of Health failed to assess whether any educational training institutions required computer equipment prior to disposal, as required by the applicable regulations. Furthermore, the committee found that the department lacked proper systems to safeguard and maintain assets, in violation of section 38 of the PFMA.

Consequently, the committee recommends that the executive authority act against the accounting officer for failing to verify whether assets disposed of could have been reused by educational institutions, and for failing to implement adequate controls for asset safeguarding and maintenance.

With regard to general oversight and consequence management, the committee must report to this House that in most of the reports represented, there was a clear failure by officials to carry out the duties they were entrusted with. Despite these failures, accounting officers did not institute any consequence management, and the overall attitude appeared indifferent and lacking in accountability.

The committee reiterates that failure to act against noncompliance emboldens further misconduct and weakens the constitutional integrity of departments. Accountability must be enforced consistently and transparently.

With regard to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism, the committee noted that the department did not adhere to the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework and associated regulations during its bid evaluations. As a result, irregular expenditure amounting to R9 million was incurred, as disclosed in Note 26 of the department's Annual Financial Statements. This irregular expenditure could have been avoided had due procurement processes been followed.

The committee recommends that appropriate action be taken and that measures be implemented to regularise the irregular expenditure in accordance with applicable financial prescripts.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the committee underscores the importance of sound financial management, strict adherence to procurement laws, and robust consequence

management. Irregular expenditure is not a mere technicality; it is a direct threat to service delivery. Departments must act proactively and decisively to prevent and respond to financial mismanagement.

The committee remains committed to ensuring that these matters are addressed and that accountability is upheld across all departments and public institutions.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sebopela. The EFF is not present. We will skip them and call upon the chair of the committee to close the debate.

MS MOKOELE

Nna ga le mphaphathele motsogo, ke le lemogile. [APPLAUSE] [LAUGHTER] Hon Speaker, thank you very much. We proceed under the protocol established this morning.

Hon Speaker, we return to emphasise the critical role that the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must play in improving service delivery and finance management. On Tuesday, we presented a report outlining the resolutions and implementation status across all departments at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. The situation remains unchanged. You may note that some issues have not improved, particularly as no presentation was made to the House during the past two financial years. Many of these issues are recurring. As it stands, 244 resolutions remain unresolved, while 688 have been fully resolved.

Hon Speaker, our reports are generated from the findings of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), derived from sampled programmes. We depend on both the Office of the Premier (OTP) and the Provincial Treasury (PT) as key accountability drivers across departments. When the findings of the AG do not cover a particular programme, the Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier must intervene to ensure that issues, whether raised by the AG or not, are addressed across all programmes. These institutions must play their oversight role on critical matters, even if such matters were not flagged by the AGSA.

These two institutions are not just technical advisors; they are guardians of performance and financial discipline. When departments and public entities fail to act on audit findings or repeat the same errors, we must question whether these oversight enablers are fulfilling their role effectively, and whether consequences are being enforced at all levels.

We met with the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury during the public hearings held on 28 March 2025, and we wish to reiterate some of the matters raised during that engagement. Firstly, the Office of the Premier must implement the findings of all concluded forensic investigations conducted in the province. Visible action is required in this regard. Secondly, the Office of the Premier must lead efforts to reduce litigation across all departments. Thirdly, the Provincial Treasury must strengthen its Irregular

Expenditure Committee to assist in assessing and condoning irregular expenditure in line with the Irregular Expenditure Framework.

Regarding fruitless and wasteful expenditure, we acknowledge that some departments are recovering money from responsible officials. However, we want to see the progress at our quarterly meetings. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure represents a huge loss of funds intended for service delivery. That is money going down the drain and must be recovered. For example, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development lost R1,9 million paid to a service provider for services that was never rendered. The department is now entangled in legal proceedings with the service provider, incurring further costs for legal advisors and court processes; resulting in additional financial loss.

The Office of the Premier must lead other departments and public entities in enforcing consequence management. It must also monitor the remuneration and spending of board members across all public entities. The Provincial Treasury must put systems in place to continuously monitor the underspending of budgets and conditional grant.

The Department of Education, for example, incurred material irregularities by paying R21,8 million to SARS in penalties and interest due to its failure to withhold income tax on leave gratuities, for employees retiring between August 2009 and August 2015. This error stemmed from the use of an incorrect code. During the hearing, we heard that the official responsible was charged, despite not having received instructions to use the new code. Such issues must not be repeated.

We also request that the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury assist the Department of Education in resolving matters emanating from section 100(1)(b), which are reflected in its records. Some of these records cannot be traced, as the officials involved in the intervention were not even from this province. The Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must carry out a robust monitoring and evaluation role and empower Scopa to enhance the Provincial Government's financial performance.

We stand for compliance with the PFMA, Treasury Regulations, and all other regulations. We stand for good governance; for service delivery through the achievement of planned targets; and for job creation. These goals can only be achieved if we work together. Monitoring, evaluation and the implementation of House resolutions are not optional; they are imperative. Once adopted by this House, resolutions must be implemented. If you are not implementing, it means that you are undermining this august House.

Respecting the audit outcomes and audit findings of the Auditor-General of South Africa, as mandated by the Constitution, is also very critical. All departments and public entities must respect the AGSA's audit findings. Disregarding these findings is not only disrespectful to the AGSA, but also to the Constitution itself.

The AGSA consistently highlights key issues such as irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, poor annual financial statements, weak supply chain management, and non-compliance with regulations. These are the root causes of negative outcomes. If addressed, as indicated on Tuesday, we have the potential to improve our audit results.

Our message is clear: support departments, monitor House resolutions, respect audit findings, and enforce implementation. These are the pillars of accountable governance. The Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury must be the driving force behind compliance, integrity, and performance in the Limpopo administration. Scopa remains the watchdog, and we will continue to demand that these matters be addressed.

In conclusion, Scopa recommends that all executing authorities table progress reports to the House on a quarterly basis, starting from 31 August 2025. We further recommend that all executing authorities brief Scopa and the relevant portfolio committees quarterly until all resolutions are fully implemented.

We therefore move for the adoption of the report.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Chair, I suggest that you do not go back to your seat so that you can proceed with the next item while you are still here, and the response will come later when all the debates are done. We will now proceed, in terms of the Order Paper, to item 7.2.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa).

Committee chair, Ms Esther Mokoele, over to you.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We present, for consideration and adoption, the following reports of Scopa: The Report of the Auditor-General on Transversal Issues for Vote 01: Office of the Premier and Vote 05: Provincial Treasury, for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there a seconder? Hon Mohale, you are recognised.

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I second the report as presented by the chairperson of Scopa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now go to the Speakers' List. Hon Machete will be opening the debate. Hon Phetole Percy Machete is allowed to debate from where he is seated due to the special treatment we have to offer him. You are welcome, Hon Machete.

MR MACHETE

Thank you very much. Let me take this opportunity to greet your good self, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Ramathuba, in absentia; Hon Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip of the majority party; Chair of Chairs; Leader of the Opposition; Leader of Government Business; honourable Members; comrades and friends.

I want to take this opportunity to engage on the matter as proposed by the chair and your good self, Hon Speaker. The debate will also try to be simplistic, to cover those who may not be able to understand the technical aspects of the administrators. We will try this in the course of the presentation.

The committee considered the transversal report by the province and noted the following positive trends: a reduction in all unwanted expenditure from 31 July 2023 to 31 December 2024. We will have to clarify what “expenditure” means for purposes of understanding; it is money spent, in simple terms.

Unauthorised expenditure has been reduced by R5,539 million. Irregular expenditure has been reduced by a net amount of R5,478 billion, from R18,684 billion to R13,205 billion. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure has been reduced by R125,940 million.

It is also important to provide an understanding of what irregular expenditure is. From where we are, irregular expenditure refers to spending or expenses that do not comply with relevant laws, regulations and policies. Unauthorised expenditure occurs when government departments or institutions spend more than the allocated budget. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure refers to spending that could have been avoided had reasonable care been taken.

We thought it important not to become too sophisticated in describing these concepts, for the benefit of viewers at home. However, we noted that not all matters raised were resolved. The committee recommended that both the Office of Premier and the Provincial Treasury assist all provincial departments and public entities in regularising and clearing irregular expenditure, recovering all fruitless and wasteful expenditure, as well as authorising unauthorised expenditure.

The committee further recommended that the executing authorities of both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must report to the portfolio committee on Provincial Treasury and Public Administration every quarter, starting from 01 April 2024. We must also provide an understanding of what the Office of the Premier is: it is the government department that provides leadership and support in the provincial administration. The Provincial Treasury is the department responsible for the financial affairs of the province. This is very important for others to understand.

The committee noted with concern that departments were facing challenges in preparing Annual Financial Statements. This function is mainly performed by the Provincial Treasury, which provides financial management and training to all departments, particularly on any changes. The training provided was not in line with what the committee recommended.

In this regard, the committee recommended that both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury conduct financial training and courses for all Chief Financial Officers and personnel in the financial sections of the Limpopo Provincial Administration. We

should also provide an understanding of what an Annual Financial Statement is: it is an overview of the financial performance of a department.

Although the reports by Treasury provided details indicating an improvement in the general performance of the provincial government, there is no indication that departments and public entities are preparing Annual Financial Statements in line with the reporting framework. Matters raised by the Auditor-General of South Africa were not fully resolved by departments.

The committee further recommended that both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury ensure that financial statements submitted for auditing by all departments and entities in the Limpopo Provincial Administration are prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework. At a particular time, we will be able to distinguish between what constitutes a provincial administration and what constitutes a provincial government.

The committee noted that the Provincial Treasury developed a revised 2025 Clean Audit Support and Improvement Strategy, approved by EXCO on 30 November 2024 through EXCO Decision 33 of 2024/25. The Provincial Treasury must put in place measures to assist departments in achieving an unqualified audit without material misstatements. An audit is a general examination. A material misstatement refers to errors or inaccuracies in financial statements.

Hon Speaker, the committee noted that our public entities were not performing satisfactorily. At some point, they were draining public funds and not showing signs of improvement towards contributing to economic growth. Great North Transport had serious challenges that threatened the livelihood of its pensioners. It was reported that a decision to liquidate the pension fund of GNT was taken in 2017.

Out of 1 163 members of the fund, 996 claims have been processed, 376 members' files were transferred to the FedGroup's Unclaimed Fund Division. Two hundred and nine files were processed, 13 members were identified and advised to submit claims to the fund, and 167 files remain unprocessed. An actuary has been appointed to investigate the matter further. The HOD of LEDET has opened a case with the South African Police Service in Polokwane, as recommended in the initial BDO investigation report. The House may refer to Annexure 7: Liquidation of the GNT Pension Fund.

The committee recommended that the executing authorities of both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must ensure that all employees and dependents of Great North Transport receive their pensions in full. They must brief the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on a quarterly basis, with effect from 01 April 2024.

The committee noted a report developed by the Provincial Treasury on board recruitment and remuneration policies, which were approved by the Executive Council and signed by the HOD of Provincial Treasury on 06 June 2024. The committee further noted that the policies were not implemented in full by some entities.

The committee recommended that the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must ensure that policies and procedures are developed for the uniform appointment,

remuneration, and performance of boards of directors in public entities, and that these policies are implemented in full.

I therefore take this opportunity to support the adoption of the transversal reports with recommendations by Scopa.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We are very impressed, Hon Machete. Even though you do not see the time, you still work within your time. Well done. Thank you. Unlike those who got an opportunity, they miss the time while looking at the timer there. We will now proceed to Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. Again, I am debating on behalf of Hon Smalle.

Speaker, it is insightful that we consider two Scopa Transversal Reports, across two financial years, in the same week. It allows us to track trends, but regrettably, this is not a good story to tell. The 2024 report paints a darker, more urgent picture than last year's. The core problems (the lack of consequence management, poor audit outcomes, institutional incapacity, and the disregard and lack of political will to give effect to Scopa resolutions and reform) are not only persisting, but worsening.

The report before us confirms a pattern of systemic stagnation; indeed, a hardening against reform. It reflects a deepening disregard for Scopa's authority, with Treasury and the Office of the Premier having made no meaningful progress on audit outcomes or financial oversight since the last report. It is deeply concerning that the report must again highlight the widespread failure to implement Scopa resolutions adopted by this House. This reinforces the perception that Scopa is not taken seriously, and worse, that the authority of this House is being wilfully ignored by both the provincial administration and its Executive.

The report further exposes the near-total absence of consequence management. Forensic reports are routinely ignored, and disciplinary action is rarely taken, or wholly misaligned with the seriousness of the offence. Worryingly, Treasury is failing in its duty to monitor, enforce, or even assess quarterly progress on resolutions. This undermines its PFMA-mandated oversight function. You have your hands full, MEC of Treasury.

Despite this House's 2021/22 resolution to stop funding GAAL and LEDA, both continue to receive allocations. It is a sad day when Scopa must repeat this instruction. It points to a total breakdown in executive compliance and a clear political unwillingness to dismantle failing entities. Entities like LEDA and GNT have become fiscal black holes, draining resources without delivering value. Keep in mind that this is public funds that we are using. LEDA, in particular, continues to be flagged for chronic governance failures.

It is even more disturbing that Scopa must now recommend that all employees and dependants of Great North Transport be paid their pensions in full; something that

should never have required intervention from this committee in the first place. This is not merely a technical lapse; it is a governance crisis.

Without your political will, Madam Premier in absentia, and that of your Executive; without capacitating Treasury, enforcing discipline, and urgently reforming administration — particularly in CoGHSTA and LEDET — these failures will continue unchecked. The only intervention that may remain, if there is no provincial intervention, is to ask for national intervention. We are already seeing action being taken by the Minister of Finance on some of our municipalities.

Speaker, Scopa is the last line of oversight, but it cannot substitute for decisive executive action. If we are to restore institutional credibility, public trust, and fiscal discipline in Limpopo, the recommendations of this report must be implemented urgently, consistently, and without fear or favour.

The people of Limpopo deserve better than institutional paralysis and impunity. They deserve clean governance, competent leadership, and ethical public administration. In supporting the adoption of this Transversal Report and its recommendations, we, as the DA, make it clear: we will hold you, Madam Premier, and your MECs accountable for their implementation. There can be no regression.

I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, the DA, Hon Wilson. We are happy that you are supporting, even the recommendations of the report. We will now go to Hon Matjomane Makua Asnad. [APPLAUSE]

For those who do not know, Hon Asnad Motjomane is a chaplain — Ke moruti. E sego mma moruti. Ke moruti. She has earned that title.

MS MATJOMANE

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Chair of Chairs; Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Chief Whip of the majority party; Leader of Government Business; Leader of the Opposition; Members of the Provincial Legislature; guests; and staff, good morning. Kgotsong magagešu. Ke a le dumediša ka a leina la Kriste Jesu.

The committee heard and considered evidence that there were still officials who continued to conduct business with the state in contravention of section 30 of the Public Service Act, 1994, which prohibits unprofessional and unethical conduct and behaviour among Public Service Employees. This weakens the control systems of the Limpopo Provincial Administration. The committee recommended that the executing authorities of both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must ensure that all the accounting officers take appropriate action against officials and recover all money that was earned irregularly.

The committee noted that departments investigated cases of officials who were alleged to have conducted business with the state and took appropriate action against them.

The following is a summary of cases received as of 28 February 2025. The committee also noted that the number of employees alleged to be involved was 44. The investigations were concluded, and 28 employees were found to have transgressed. The departments were able to institute consequence management. One employee was cleared, and 15 employees' cases are reported to be in progress. The departments that were affected were the Limpopo Provincial Treasury, Health, and Education.

The committee recommended that both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must ensure that all accounting officers and accounting authorities put in place measures that prohibit any government employee from conducting business with the state, in line with the relevant section of the Public Administration Management Act.

During engagements with departments, the committee noted that some of the departments and public entities, in particular the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, could not properly account for movable and immovable capital assets, as required by section 38(1)(d) of the PFMA. The committee emphasised this matter because it has recurred from previous financial years, and the department must ensure that the assets of the state are secured and recorded.

The committee recommended that the executing authorities must ensure that accounting officers and accounting authorities train their staff in asset management, in line with section 38(1)(d) of the PMFA. The committee further recommended that the executing authorities must ensure that accounting officers and accounting authorities put mechanisms in place to avoid a recurrence of this anomaly.

The committee has observed with concern, during public hearings, that the rate of funded vacant positions in various departments and entities was very high, in violation of Public Service Regulation 65, read with Employment Management: Circular 38 of 2020, as issued by the Department of Public Service and Administration. The situation has caused the departments and public entities not to perform at their maximum level.

The committee recommended that the executing authorities must identify all funded vacant positions and ensure that the accounting officers and accounting authorities advertise and fill all funded vacant positions as a matter of urgency, in line with Public Service Regulation 65, read with Employment Management: Circular 38 of 2020, as issued by the Department of Public Service and Administration.

In conclusion, the committee further recommends that the Executive Authorities must put mechanisms in place to avoid a recurrence of this anomaly. The committee supports the adoption of the reports with all recommendations.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I will always refer to you as my chaplain; until others see you on the platform, they will realise why I am calling you that. Thank you, Chaplain Asnad Matjomane. We are calling for others who are in the field to avail themselves, so that we can know what other chaplains we have in the Legislature.

We will now proceed to the next speaker. Unfortunately, the EFF is not here. We will now call upon the chair, Hon Mokoelé, to close the debate. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKOELE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and thank you for the hands.

Hon Speaker, on transversal issues, some of them were raised in the 2023/24 report and are still repeated in the 2024/25 report, and it has also been outlined by the other honourable Members as they were debating. We are only going to mention them for emphasis. We believe that what the committee has resolved has been indicated and is very clear.

The first issue is the vacancy rate in the province, which is very high. We want to say, we applaud the Premier for appointing the accounting officers in Vote 03: Education, Vote 04: Agriculture and Rural Development, and Vote 12: Social Development. We believe that the appointment of these officials will make a difference in terms of enabling the departments to achieve the required or desired audits. We also noted that in the Department of Education, there were appointments of Circuit Managers where there were vacancies. We are still calling for the department to acknowledge that these are not the only important vacancies. There are many vacancies across all departments, and if they can be filled, we believe it will improve the capacity of our departments.

On RWOP, I think it was very clear that as Scopa, we are saying, action must be taken to ensure that the money is brought back, and consequence management is instituted.

The other issue is on inter-departmental projects. In this case, we will give an example of Sport and Education. We have observed over the years a gap was created where there was no accountability; no official was responsible for what was happening. We are saying, with the intervention of the Premier, we have seen that she has already started. Let's strengthen that and close those gaps.

Another inter-departmental issue that also needs to be tightened is with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and all departments, as the implementing agencies. Working together with the Department of Public Works, we will accelerate and enhance the speedy completion of the projects that we are undertaking, whether it be a school, a library or any other infrastructure. Let us work together and ensure that we complete the projects within the stipulated time.

Another issue in the Office of the Premier and the Department of Treasury is the widespread non-compliance with regulations across all departments. If we cannot address this, we must forget about clean audits, because this is the basis of clean audits. It is the foundation of good governance, followed by consequence management. It can never be overemphasised.

What we raise as a concern is when a department transfers an official who has committed an irregularity to another department and says, "We have written to that department to take consequence management." It is not possible. Already, the case is weakened. I cannot arrive in a department where I am seconded or employed and start with hearings. Where are you going to get evidence?

This is something that we need to check, Hon Mohoai. You know the case. You had an official from your department. You were supposed to take action, and you did not. We are not sure if Public Works has taken that action. LEDA as well; you have an official who moved from LEDA to LEDET, with irregular cases that were observed there.

The Provincial Treasury must strengthen the capacity of the financial section with regard to the Annual Financial Statements. Proper information must be provided.

On litigations, we have noted with concern the number of litigations within all the provincial departments. Scopa recommends that the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must compile and keep a register of all litigations, and a register of all cases that are with the law enforcement agencies, such as the SIU, Hawks, and Police, with the case numbers. This enables departments to clear all backlogs in terms of cases.

We also raise a concern with the State Attorney, who seems not to have the capacity. There are a lot of cases, and there are backlogs. This impacts consequence management. Most departments are unable to proceed with consequence management because the cases are still with the State Attorney. We want to see progress in resolving cases, because departments are experiencing a backlog. The Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury must assist in this regard.

There is an issue of late payment of service providers such as Eskom, Telkom and municipalities. The departments have raised the issue that the province runs with a billing system that is not aligned with these entities. They pay after the entities have issued their bills, and that results in a lot of wasteful expenditure due to interest. I know in the hearing you gave a different explanation. We are saying, let that be arrested. Whatever responsibility is bestowed, it must be resolved.

I want to explain, and maybe, Hon Speaker, if you can just give me one extra minute, or I can just steal it because I know I may not be given.

On the 2021/22 resolution on the 3D entities, I want to put it in the correct perspective so that it is understood and implemented as such. Resolution 5 says we are not going to fund LEDA and GAAL because they are 3D entities and are supposed to generate their own revenue.

Please listen carefully: LEDA and GAAL are institutions that are very important in developing the province and in job creation. We are saying, as Scopa, we stand by the resolution. The resolution further states that every quarter, LEDA, through LEDET, must come and present before Scopa for assessment of their performance. In simple terms, every quarter they must come and present and we will assess progress. If there is progress, we will continue, because we will be seeing movement towards addressing that particular issue.

We must work hard to ensure that we restore the dignity, the main objective, and the vision of the Limpopo Government when it established, in particular, LEDA to drive economic development of the province.

We therefore recommend to the House that we be given an opportunity, or given days quarterly, to ensure that we discharge this responsibility. Previously, we were not having quarterly meetings, and there was a resolution that LEDET must come and report. Where will they report if Scopa is not given the days to perform that function?

On top of that, we also need quarterly meetings to trace the implementation of House resolutions. On that, Hon Deputy Speaker, we request that we be considered when you are doing the programme for the Legislature, so that we fast-track this and bring effectiveness to this institution.

We therefore move for this report to be adopted.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You were able to use 10 minutes on the dot. I did not have to give you additional minutes. Well done. I thought that you are going to sit here so that you could proceed. We are doing it the same way; as we jumped item 7.1.11, we are now jumping item 7.2.2.

We will now go straight to item 7.3

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Scopa Reports of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) for the 2023/24 financial year.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The protocol is still observed. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Scopa Reports of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) for the 2023/24 financial year. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I am looking for someone whom I did not point out. Hon Shai, you are recognised.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Speaker. I rise to second the consideration and adoption of the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information on LEDA for the financial year 2023/24. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you chair

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are presenting, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) for the financial year 2023/24. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MUHLOPE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Muhlope, thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Limpopo Gambling Board for the financial year 2023/24.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Tshivhase, you are recognised.

MR TSHIVHASE

Vhodokotela Mulangadzulo, ndi khou takutshela u tikedza jikumedzwa lo dzinginywaho nga mudzulatshidulo wa Scopa. Nndaa!

THE SPEAKER

Aa! Nndende! Ro livhuwa. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Ro livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information on Gateway Airport Authority Limited for the financial year 2023/24. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

I have seen that Hon Mdaka was raising his hand. He told me why he could not come on time. Today, he was collecting his passport. Over to you, Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana, Dokodela Xipikara ku va mi ndzi nyikile xinkadyana lexi. Ndzi yimile ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi Hubyankulu, vona, Muchaviseki Esther Mokoole. Leswaku leswi va swi boxeke swi seketeriwa hi Yindlu leyi yo xiximeka swonghasi.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene. Thank you. Over to you, chair.

MS MOKOELE

Ha khensa Muchaviseki Xipikara. We present, for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information of Roads Agency Limpopo for the financial year 2023/24. We so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I thought Hon Marx would raise his hand. I really wish that you had raised your hand, or our new Member from UAT. Please, one of you, help us to finalise this one. It is the last one. Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Because I am feeling very good today, I'll rise to second the motion. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You know, there is a reason that there is peace in the House; it is because there are two people who are not here: Hon Makamu and Hon Mathe. They really make us have peace in the House. We appreciate that Hon Wilson is in peace today. Thank you so much.

We now move to the Speakers' List. The person who is opening the debate is the one and soon to become an advocate, Hon Thabo Mabotja. Not long from now, we will be calling him Advocate. We will not be having Advocate Marx alone. The advocates will be increasing in the House. Thank you.

MR MABOTJA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Just to correct you; I am fine. I don't want to be an Advocate; I am an Attorney.

Greetings Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Mamorobela; Members of the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip and the entire Whippers; Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Ms Mokoole; Members of this House; the Director-General; the representative from the Auditor-General; staff of the Legislature; distinguished guests; and viewers at home.

I rise before you today with both humility and determination to table for consideration and adoption, the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on five critical

provincial entities; namely, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), the Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA), the Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB), Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL) and the Road Agency Limpopo (RAL).

Honourable Members, Peter Drucker reminds us that “culture eats strategy for breakfast,” which simply means that organisational culture is far more powerful than strategy when determining success. No matter how brilliant or well-designed the strategy may be, if the culture of the organisation does not support it, the strategy is bound to fail. It is up to us to determine which struggle we want to wage. If we are willing to change the culture, our strategy may bear fruit; otherwise, it will not yield results.

These reports are not just technical audits; they are instruments of accountability, integrity and governance. They tell us, with clarity and precision, where we are excelling and where we are failing.

I see these reports as evidence that must guide corrective action, as well as strategic scorecards revealing the performance gaps and opportunities that can make or break our province's economic and social development.

The report on LEDA is sobering. For four consecutive years, LEDA has been trapped in a qualified audit opinion, with persistent matters of emphasis. Hon Matibe, this is not just poor performance; it is a structural and leadership failure that undermines LEDA's core mandate of stimulating economic development.

LEDA has incurred R74 million in irregular expenditure and R17 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure. These are not mere accounting figures; they represent businesses that were not supported and jobs that were not created. This is a failure of leadership.

The subsidiary, New Era Life; we are going to speak about it until it comes back home. New Era Life must account for R171 million in revenue lost due to inadequate records. This is not just unacceptable; it is a betrayal of the principles of transparency and accountability that govern public entities.

LEDA's situation reflects a SWOT analysis in crisis. Moreover, LEDA's decision to operate New Era offices from Sandton in Gauteng while serving Limpopo communities is strategically flawed and symbolically out of touch. We must start a new era and bring New Era back home; closer to the people it's meant to serve.

A turnaround strategy aligned with Kotter's Eight-Step Change Model is non-negotiable. LEDA must realign its strategy, leadership and operational culture to deliver results.

Amid these challenges, we must celebrate success where it shines. Both LGB and LTA have achieved clean audit outcomes. This achievement is not accidental; it is the result of visionary leadership, robust governance, and a culture of accountability.

Clean audits are not the destination; they are launchpads. We must challenge LGB and LTA to move from compliance to value creation, using the Balanced Scorecard Framework. These entities should align financial performance and customer

satisfaction, process excellence, and internal capacity building. They must innovate, mentor other entities, and scale their impact.

Tourism, under LTA's stewardship, remains one of Limpopo's greatest economic levers. By applying Porter's Diamond Model, LTA can strengthen Limpopo's global tourism competitiveness. A Blue Ocean Strategy can open new markets, turning Limpopo into a destination of choice; not just locally, but internationally. We must dream bigger, and LTA has shown us that this can be done.

The report on GAAL, Hon Mathye, is an urgent wake-up call. GAAL has recorded a deficit of R10,6 billion, with liabilities exceeding assets by R16,9 billion. This is not sustainable. If GAAL were a private sector company, it would already be under business rescue. We cannot continue on this trajectory.

From a strategic lens, GAAL's problem lies in a broken value proposition. It lacks a diversified revenue stream, operational efficiency, and financial discipline. GAAL's competitive position is weak, its bargaining power is limited, and its current strategy is ineffective.

To save GAAL, we need a turnaround strategy rooted in cost optimisation, revenue diversification and strategic partnerships. This is not just a financial imperative; it is an economic necessity. Limpopo's ability to attract trade, tourism, and investment depends on having a financially functional and viable airport authority. We cannot afford for GAAL to be anything less than a driver of economic connectivity.

Hon Speaker and MEC Rachoene, it is imperative that I make this submission here and now: the great work in turning around the department by the executing authorities is visible to those who wish to see it. The great work done by the Dikgerekgere programme is massive and commendable, and it must be supported. [APPLAUSE]

However, the RAL report is equally troubling, honourable MEC. With R2,15 billion in irregular expenditure, noncompliance with procurement processes, and the underspending of R90 million on the Provincial Road Management grant, RAL has failed to deliver on its most basic mandate; to maintain the infrastructure that underpins our economy.

Infrastructure is not just about roads; it is about economic opportunity, safety, and the dignity of our people. When roads are neglected, farmers cannot move produce, businesses face high logistical costs, and ordinary citizens suffer.

For eight consecutive years, RAL has failed to achieve a clean audit outcome, signalling deep-rooted governance challenges. Through the lens of PESTEL Analysis, RAL must navigate political expectations, economic constraints, social needs, technological advancements, environmental impacts and legal obligations. Yet, year after year, it has fallen short. This cannot continue.

Honourable Members, let us never forget that every rand wasted is a life opportunity denied. It is the child who walks to school on a dangerous road because funds for repairs were mismanaged.

I stress that the Public Finance Management Act is not optional; it is a legal framework designed to protect public funds and ensure accountability.

In conclusion, I want us to imagine a Limpopo where LEDA drives inclusive growth; where GAAL is a thriving aviation hub; where RAL's roads connect every corner of our province; and where LGB and LTA continue to set gold standards for governance.

This is not a dream; it is achievable, if we act with courage and urgency.

I so move. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mabotja. We now proceed to Hon Wilson. O bolela tše dibotse, a fetša a re, eupša. Order in the House!

Ms WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Just to clarify; I actually quite like it when Hon Makamu and Hon Mathe are in the House, because it makes the House exciting, and I like nothing more than a good fight.

However, let us get back to the debate. I feel good today because my children are getting married this weekend. Thank you so much.

Speaker, the report before us represents the last of the Scopa reports to be considered and adopted by this House. At the start of the Scopa debates, we, as the DA, pointed out that good governance fosters stability, prosperity, and justice; while bad governance, and we say it again, breeds instability, poverty, and division.

The principles that separate the two; accountability, transparency, responsibility, oversight, the rule of law, and effectiveness, amongst many others, are not optional ideas. They are constitutional imperatives, enshrined in our Constitution and the laws that govern how we ought to govern. If these values were truly upheld, Limpopo, 30 years into democracy, would not only be stable; it would be just and increasingly prosperous.

Yet, we are not.

What is contained in the Scopa reports on Limpopo's entities is a story of what happens when governance fails. LEDA's audit outcomes reflect ongoing systemic governance failures, including:

- Failure to address historical audit findings;
- Inadequate internal controls and poor record-keeping;
- Non-implementation of Scopa recommendations and audit action plans;
- Ongoing litigation and contingent liabilities not properly disclosed;
- Irregular expenditure and non-compliance with the PFMA; and
- A complete absence of consequence management for financial misconduct.

LEDA represents the epicentre of fiscal indiscipline in Limpopo. Despite repeated findings and resolutions, the entity remains in a state of administrative decay, with no visible efforts at reform. Scopa's repeated resolutions to withhold funding have gone unheeded, exposing a failure of executive accountability and a disregard for the legislative authority of this House.

As the DA, we have consistently agitated for action on GNT. It was our efforts that led to the suspension of the CEO and CFO, and we were instrumental in Scopa's call for a full enquiry into GNT.

Likewise, we have been at the forefront of questioning the viability and sustainability of the MMSEZ; not to mention the malfeasance that has already occurred. It was shocking, yet also reassuring, to hear the Chairperson of the LEDET Portfolio Committee say during the recent Budget debates; and I paraphrase:

"The committee is concerned at the lack of progress with regard to the MMSEZ. We must ask: was the MMSEZ properly conceptualised; were its feasibility studies realistic; and does the project remain viable under current economic conditions? The matter requires urgent attention from the Executive and oversight structures in this House."

We support her sentiments. However, Hon Speaker, more is needed. The efficacy and continued existence of LEDA itself must now be scrutinised.

GAAL's disclaimer represents the worst possible audit outcome. GAAL remains a nonperforming liability to the province. The disclaimer points to a collapse in basic financial governance. The continued funding of GAAL, despite prior Scopa recommendations to halt transfers, illustrates Executive disregard for fiscal prudence and legislative oversight.

RAL's audit trajectory shows no improvement, despite being a core infrastructure delivery agency. The continued issues of procurement failures and contract mismanagement point to serious governance and service delivery failures, with little sign of remedial action by its shareholder; the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Beyond the damaging policies rooted in outdated Cold War ideologies; the work of the Auditor-General and Scopa lays bare the collapse and rot in governance across Limpopo. Our people experience it daily; in collapsing infrastructure, failing services, and rising poverty and unemployment.

We support the Scopa reports and their recommendations, and we will hold this Executive to account for their implementation.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You have used five minutes on the dot. Thank you so much. We now request our honourable Member, Ms Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, to come forward and proceed with the debate.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makoma Makurupetje; Hon Premier (in absentia); Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Mamorobela Tebogo Portia; Chief Whip of the majority party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana, and the Whippery, Hon Chair of Chairs, who is absent today; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobenj; Leader of the Opposition (not in the House at present); Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; honourable Members, the Auditor-General; and our guests in the gallery; I greet you.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members of the department, as Scopa, our role is to ensure that the public purse is used efficiently and effectively. Today, we want to encourage you to prioritise transparency, accountability and value for money in your use of public funds.

The committee resolved in the financial year 2019/20, based on the audit outcomes of the 2017/18 financial year, that the 3D public entities; in particular GAAL and LEDA; should be phased out from the provincial fiscus and no longer receive funding from the state. This resolution was to be effected over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework beginning in the 2020/21 financial year.

The committee received a written submission from both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury requesting an extension of the two public entities to continue receiving funding until the 2029/30 financial year. Based on this submission, the committee recommended that the 3D public entities; namely (GAAL) and (LEDA), including its subsidiaries; be funded until the 2024/25 financial year.

The committee noted that LEDA was allocated R834,6 million, including R170 million to fund business operations such as SMME development, training, and trade investment. The allocation also included:

- R103,3 million to GNT to procure buses as part of the turnaround strategy;
- R143,8 million to the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Hub for capital projects and operational costs; and
- R360 million to the Musina-Makhado SEZ for capital projects, with an additional R53,5 million for operational costs.

It must be noted that the R360 million allocated to MMSEZ was recalled in the Adjustment Budget due to implementation challenges.

Further reporting that:

- The balance of R206,6 million from the R310 million agreed for GNT bus procurement has been provided for in 2025/26;
- R160,1 million has been allocated to fund MMSEZ capital projects and operational costs in 2025/26;
- R210,6 million has been allocated to the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Hub for 2025/26; and
- The R360 million capital budget surrendered by the MMSEZ will also be made available in 2025/26.

Hon Speaker, the committee noted that the province allocated a total of R227 million in 2024/25, as agreed by the House. Of this amount:

- R53,0 million is for operational costs; and
- R74,0 million is for implementation of the GAAL Service Delivery Improvement Plan.

In the outer two years, only funds for the GAAL Service Delivery Improvement Plan were provided. It must be noted that GAAL was instructed to surrender R37,6 million of its 2024/25 allocation due to implementation challenges. This amount has been reallocated in the 2025/26 Budget.

Therefore, the committee recommended that both GAAL and LEDA must, on an annual basis, submit satisfactory and sustainability reports to qualify for further funding.

Hon Speaker, the committee further noted that the 3D Entities Technical Committee was established to provide oversight on the implementation of financial sustainability plans by the 3D entities. This technical committee convenes on a quarterly basis to consider the entities' progress reports.

Through the self-sustainability progress reports submitted by LEDA and GAAL, the committee noted that neither entity will be self-sustainable in 2025/26. Accordingly, there will be a need to allocate:

- R207 million to LEDA to fund non-business operations; and
- R55 million to GAAL to fund operational costs in 2025/26.

The committee reiterated its recommendation that both GAAL and LEDA must, on an annual basis, submit satisfactory and sustainable reports to qualify for continued funding.

In conclusion, honourable Members, let us strive to be responsible stewards of the public purse and use our resources to improve the lives of those we serve. On that note, honourable Members and Hon Speaker, I encourage the House to adopt the reports as presented, with recommendations.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Thank you for managing our time; we really appreciate it. You can see that the chair is gaining a lot of minutes from you all. Do not worry; even if you finish your ten minutes, you will still use Hon Mapoulo's time, who is not here, and the minutes saved by others. Honourable chair, you can come forward and close the debate. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. All protocols remain observed.

We are on our last report on entities, Hon Speaker. We are saying that our public entities remain the drivers of the economy within our province. However, as we present today, you cannot confidently say that they are making the difference as expected.

Both the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury should put systems in place to assist LEDA and GAAL in establishing measures to generate revenue and become self-sustainable. We are talking about these two 3D entities because they are supposed to be making profit, but they are wholly dependent on the fiscus of the government.

On LEDA, the resolution is very clear. We recommend and reaffirm Resolution 5 the 2021/22 financial year; that LEDA and GAAL should no longer be funded from the fiscus, in line with that resolution. We further recommend that both GAAL and LEDA must, on a quarterly basis, submit satisfactory and sustainable reports for assessment and consideration for further funding.

Additionally, the committee recommends that the OTP must provide a quarterly progress report to Scopa on the implementation of the developed sustainability strategies. Together, as part of the oversight and accounting ecosystem, we will be able to assess if there is progress. We believe that, with the intervention from the Premier and the MEC, there will be progress; until we get LEDA and GAAL right.

We will continue to hold the Office of the Premier, the Provincial Treasury, and the MEC for LEDET accountable for the sake of the people of Limpopo with regard to LEDA and GAAL.

On the matter of overpayments of directors' fees, the committee has noted with concern that LEDA incurred overpayments, amounting to R667,000 to directors, resulting in irregular expenditure. The committee recommends that the executing authority must take appropriate action against the accounting authority for incurring this overpayment.

Furthermore, the committee recommends that the executing authority investigate how the entity incurred such overpayments. We further recommend that the executing authority ensure the recovery of the R667,000 from the responsible directors. Measures must also be put in place to prevent such occurrences in the future.

With regard to Great North Transport, we welcome the decision to suspend top officials to allow investigations to take place. We hope that this investigation will be concluded within the three months as envisaged. GNT remains an important asset for the province, as it should provide reliable and safe public transport to the working class.

We regret the company's inability to pay workers' benefits. However, we applaud the intervention by both the MEC and LEDA in restoring the medical benefits of workers.

Scopa further recommends that the investigation into this issue be done as a matter of urgency, to avoid a recurrence of what happened with the unpaid pension funds of workers.

On GAAL, it has already been indicated that the committee has heard and considered evidence that the entity incurred a deficit of R10 billion for the financial year ending 31

March 2024. Furthermore, the committee has considered evidence that the current liabilities exceeded current assets by R16 billion.

These events and conditions, along with other matters outlined in Note 32, indicate that a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue operating as a going concern. We therefore recommend that the executing authority take appropriate action against the accounting authority for allowing this to happen and put measures in place that it does not recur.

We cannot overemphasise the issue of New Era Insurance COC Ltd; it must come back home and benefit the people of Limpopo. The committee recommends that the executing authority take practical steps to relocate the offices of New Era to the province.

The committee further recommends that the executing authority brief both Scopa and the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and the Department of LEDET on a quarterly basis, with effect from 31 August 2025, until all resolutions are resolved.

As we conclude, we believe that the matters raised in these reports will serve as important lessons which will assist us to achieve good governance.

I am sure, Hon Speaker, that you know I am a teacher; and as a teacher, I teach, assess, give feedback, and monitor. What this means is that when you are given a task, a teacher will come and correct and highlight all the mistakes you have made. We will also give you an opportunity to make corrections.

The only challenge arises when you fail to make corrections. So, we dare not fail corrections, because all our mistakes have been highlighted. What we must do now is correct and improve our audit outcomes.

We also want to congratulate the Office of the Premier; Provincial Treasury; Department of Sport, Arts and Culture; Limpopo Tourism Agency and Limpopo Gambling Board for achieving clean audits in the 2023/24 financial year.

LEDET has regressed. Let us remember that in 2022/23, both OTP and Treasury were on qualified audit outcomes; they are now unqualified. We do not want a "yo-yo" situation where this year you are up, next year you are down, the following year you are up again. We call for consistency and further improvement.

We have made a lot of progress in the 2022/23 financial year. We must never reverse that. With three departments and two entities achieving clean audits, we look forward to further improvement. We believe we have the capacity to do that.

To Team Scopa; we thank you for your hard work in compiling this report. We know it may not be perfect, but we have done our best, and we believe that going forward, we will be doing better than this.

To all the departments; please improve. We must remain in an improving mood until we get this province right.

We so move.

Thank you, Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chair. The House must be reminded that while the MEC, Mr Elias Kgabo Mahoai, will be responding on behalf of the Executive Council (EXCO), the procedure is that the full reports are signed off by the Speaker to the Premier and sent to the relevant departments.

Each department will receive a full report detailing the matters that affect it. You shouldn't think that you won't get it. I have already, signed off on the reports that we debated on Tuesday, and these reports will also be signed off.

The full report, signed off by the chair of Scopa, will indicate the resolutions per department.

Over to Hon Elias Kgabo Mahoai to respond on behalf of the Premier of the province and all the departments. Thank you.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of various portfolio committees; honourable Members in your different ranks and grades; honourable chair of Scopa.

On behalf of the Leader of Government Business and the Premier, I am not going to take long. The last remark by the Speaker has, actually, saved me.

What I can confirm today is that the two financial years covered by the reports that have been given here reflect the substantial work Scopa has done. That work has reached a point where we, the Executive organ of state, are in a position to deal with every matter that has been raised.

Those recommendations have now become House resolutions, and they will be signed off by the Speaker. This process gives effect to section 114(2) of the Constitution, which mandates that the Provincial Legislature must establish mechanisms to ensure the accountability of the Executive organ of state and maintain oversight over its activities; including the implementation of legislation and the actions of any provincial organ of state.

Without further ado, we will give effect to this constitutional provision. We will ensure that we do what we have been directed to do, in terms of the empowering legislation, which is the Constitution, and we will report at the frequency stipulated in the recommendations.

I therefore submit, Hon Speaker, that we have heard, we will convey, we will act, and we will ensure that we respect the Constitution and the law insofar as these matters are concerned.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mahoi. As we've already said, the full reports will be signed off to the Premier, and the Premier will disseminate them to all departments.

We will refer that shortly, so that each department knows: when the chair of Scopa says you must report back on a quarterly basis, you will know exactly what matters you are expected to address.

8. MOTION FOR RECESS

We shall now go to item 8, which pertains to the motion to be presented by the Chief Whip regarding recess. In terms of the Rules, "recess" refers to a period determined by resolution of the House during which there are no plenary meetings. "Plenary" refers to the Sittings of the Legislature.

Over to you, Chief Whip. The Whippery is here. Ms Sebopela, I apologise.

MS SEBOPELA

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, as the Whip on Parliamentary Affairs and Programming, I wish to announce that, after consultation with the Programming Committee, it was resolved that when this House rises today, it will go into recess and reconvene on Tuesday, 12 August 2025, at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

This was the good news I was telling you about earlier. Is there a seconder to the good news? Hon Mabotja? Hon Marx? Anyone from this side (left) can stand up. Hon Marx, you are recognised.

MR MARX

I'll second the motion, Hon Speaker.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

There is another announcement, which might not make others happy, as some committees have requested to sit. Scopa has requested to sit, and the Standing

Committee on Petitions has also requested to sit. Unfortunately, between now and the 12th only those committees whose requests have been approved will be permitted to convene.

The Chair of Chairs has scheduled a meeting for the 30th. If any committee's request was not approved by now, it means they will have to wait until the 12th, when the work of the Legislature resumes.

On that note, I wish you all the best. Let us relax a bit. It is unfortunate that when you serve as the chairperson of Scopa, you will never have a holiday. I was telling the Deputy Chair of Chairs that when I was a member of Scopa, I used to grumble all the time when they said Scopa opens in January, while all other Members only return on 28 February.

We appreciate the good work done by Scopa. Well done. We are now up to date as the Legislature with the work of Scopa. We have cleared the backlog from the Sixth Administration and are now on track. Keep up the good work. We really appreciate it.

On that note, I will hand over to the Presiding Officer. Deputy Speaker, please proceed with the announcements.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Dr Speaker.

Greetings to the Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip, and the Whippery. Your volume is lower compared to Hon Mokgonyana. Let me greet the Members of the Executive and all honourable Members.

Honourable Members, you are reminded about the Mandela Month activities taking place tomorrow in Botlokwa. Those who have submitted their names to be part of the team, should note that your coach is the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs. I think they are not happy that you are part of that "coach" arrangement.

Honourable Members, tomorrow we will have three activities:

- A fun walk;
- A handing over ceremony at one of the centres; and
- A soccer match between the MPLs and Councillors.

We must not forget that our activities will start at 8:30.

The IT division will be at Parliamentary Village today and again on Saturday, 26 July, from 08:00 until 14:00, to assist honourable Members with their tablets and SIM cards. Starting this afternoon, the IT team will visit Members' residences at Parliamentary Village.

There was a glitch affecting iPads and phone SIM cards, which has now been resolved. The team will install the new SIM cards, which have undergone SIM swaps and are ready for use.

If you are not available on Friday, please note that Saturday remains available for the IT team to assist you.

Lastly, honourable Members, you are all invited for lunch, in the Committee Boardroom.

Thank you very much.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

The Chair of Chairs is not here. He told me that he is the coach tomorrow. He expects us to win. If we come back beaten by the Molemole councillors, it will not be well received.

We want to express our appreciation to the MECs that will be joining us:

- MEC Maseko has promised to come and participate in the walk and soccer match.
- MEC Radzilani will be present with the elderly, because this falls within her department.
- MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya will join us, because the school we are visiting falls under her portfolio.

The municipality has already done a lot in preparation for our visit. When they heard that we would be coming there, they've taken over a lot of responsibilities as hosts and are doing this jointly as their Mandela Day programme. That is why you have seen the joint poster and joint statement.

Members who are available are most welcome to attend. Gosasa ga gona Mospikara wa go bofa tukwana. We are all casual.

On that note, honourable Members, we now come to the end of the Orders of the Day and our proceedings.

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 12 August 2025, at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. The House stands adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

Good morning, honourable Members. We shall now have the opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you so much. We must thank the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. You can see, Limpopo Legislature is now revamping indeed. Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Tonakgolo. Ga re betheleng Molekgotlaphethiši wa Mešomo ya Setšhaba matsogo. [APPLAUSE] My office was flooding last week; we hope that it will also be fixed.

Good morning, Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; honourable MECs present today; the Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; the Deputy Chief Whip; you know, the Deputy Chair of Chairs just told me, not to be surprised by his English. He has just arrived from the US. His English is no longer coming from Wits. Let me greet the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo; and the other leaders of other political parties who are here, the likes of DA, UAT, MK Party, Freedom Front Plus. All honourable Members, Good morning. We greet even those that are following us on the social media. We must greet HODs present here today, as well as those that are in the gallery.

You are warmly welcome to the Sitting of today. We are here after some two weeks' recess, and I know that you didn't have much time. Next time the Programming Committee will consider prolonging when they decide on recess, whether we need two weeks or a month. That must be considered by the Programming Committee.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Honourable Members, we shall now move directly to item 2. In terms of motions without notice, according to House Rule 145, I've got a few here. However, I don't see some Members who are supposed to be giving us motions without notice. Hon Lebogo, you are recognised. I am expecting Members to raise their hands. Hon Lebogo, if you are ready, you can proceed.

MR LEBOGO

Thanks very much, and greetings, Hon Speaker, and to the House.

CONDOLENCES TO THE KUNUTU FAMILY
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF in Limpopo to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF and the people of Polokwane in particular, and Seshego, mourns the passing away of community activist, businessman, champion of township development, Mr Vincent Kunutu, who passed away after a short illness.
- Mr Kunutu was a community activist who confronted crime, fought against drug abuse and substance abuse.
- He dedicated his life to the upliftment of his community. He was widely respected for his dedication to community development, crime prevention, and youth empowerment across Polokwane, Seshego, Moletjie and surrounding areas.
- As the former chairperson of Seshego Community Against Crime and Gangsterism, he was at the forefront of service delivery protests, anti-drug campaigns, and initiatives aimed at improving township life.
- Upon receiving the sad news of his death, tributes poured in from government, political leaders, media, and residents.
- This is testimony of his influence and contribution towards community development in Polokwane.
- Mr Kunutu put his life on the line, playing the role of community activist when it was not fashionable to do so, or when there was nothing to get in return.
- He was an advocate against gender-based violence and corruption within the justice system.
- In honour of Mr Kunutu, we call upon our communities to stand against failure to provide services, failure to create jobs, failure to create youth development, failure to give people a better life, failure to give Africans economic freedom which they deserve.
- He fought against failure by the government to limit the high rates of electricity and water tariffs.
- Let us unite South Africans, in particular the people of Polokwane, in honour of Mr Kunutu to join the picket lines and make sure that we fight for what the citizens deserve.
- The people of Polokwane lost a soldier who dedicated his life when it was not fashionable. And we say to the Kunutu family, his family, and the friends and the people of Seshego, condolences to you.
- The EFF stands with you and will continue with the journey of fighting against crime, corruption, lack of services, and make sure that our streets are cleared of drugs.

Salute.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Lebogo. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Molapo, over to you.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks Madam Speaker and greetings to everyone. I rise to second the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We'll now move to Hon Shai.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FOUR WOMEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN A BUS CRASH ON THE R81 NEXT TO GA-SEKGOPO
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to send a message of condolences to the families of the four women who lost their lives in a bus crash on the R81 next to Ga-Sekgopo. The deceased met their ultimate deaths on their way to Moria on Saturday evening.

We commend the MEC for Transport and Community Safety in the province, Hon Violent Mathye, for visiting the patients who sustained injuries in hospital. We also want to use this occasion to make a clarion call and urge all motorists to exercise caution on the roads and ensure that their vehicles are always roadworthy before undertaking their journeys.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims as they traverse this period of bereavement.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Bongani Nkonyana.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, I, Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana, the son of the late Mbuti Nkonyana, stand to second the motion as moved by Hon Shai. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Nkonyana. Honourable Member, do you have a motion? Hon Jack, you can now go ahead.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good morning to everybody.

**REQUEST BY THE BLOUBERG COMMUNITY FOR THE MUNICIPALITY TO
CLEAN AND MAINTAIN THE CEMETERY**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe to move without notice that the House notes that:

- For over four years, the community has been requesting for the cleaning and maintenance of the cemetery as well as securing it with a decent fence – that is the community of Blouberg.
- The community never received assistance from the Blouberg Local Municipality.
- As the black people who respect graveyard sites, believe there should be dignity in the cemetery as it connects us with our loved ones.
- They need access to great equipment for site maintenance as the site is in a very bad state. Let us restore the dignity of our people.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Jack. Is there any seconder to the motion? In the absence of any seconder, the motion falls off. We are proceeding to Hon Mohale.

MS MOHALE

Hon Speaker, and greetings to yourself and to the Members of the Legislature.

**THE SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS EVENT WHICH WAS HELD
IN THE GREATER TZANEEN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC for this House to note:

- The successful Women's Day celebrations event which was held in the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality this past weekend.
- The 2025 Women's Day celebrations were held under the theme: "Building Resilient Economies in resonance of the struggles faced by the majority of our women in the country".

- Women's Day continues to be one of the milestones of our events calendar as it counts amongst the turning points of our country's fight against apartheid and subjugation.
- Today, some 69 years ago, more than 20,000 women took to the streets against the apartheid government, the people of South Africa still look at this occasion with pride as a cornerstone of the liberation struggle.
- This past weekend's occasion was also a demonstration of how people of this province support this government and its programmes.
- During his address of the occasion, His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Africa, Hon Ramaphosa, reminded South Africans about the milestones that this government has attained towards the creation of an equal and nonsexist society.
- We owe a great deal of gratitude to the thousands of women who took part in the 1956 demonstrations, who dismantled patriarchy and paved a way for the multitudes of women of today who are occupying top positions in big conglomerates which were traditionally led by men.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mohale. Is there any seconder? Hon Faith Sebopele, over to you.

MS SEBOPELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as passed by Hon Mohale.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I think we are done with motions without notice. I will now move to item 3. Are there notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? Hon Smalle, over to you.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE TO CONDUCT OVERSIGHT OVER PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE ORGANS OF STATE (Notice of Motion)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance in terms of Rule 146 to introduce the following motion that the Limpopo Provincial Legislature is mandated by the Constitution to conduct oversight on all provincial executive organs of state. Section 41(a)(b) of the PFMA provides that the accounting officers for the departments must keep full proper records of the financial affairs of the department in accordance with any prescribed norms and standards and must prepare their financial statements for each of those financial years.

Section 41(c) further states that those financial statements must be submitted within two months after the end of the financial year. Section 41(d) therefore requires the accounting officers to submit within five months to the end of the financial year to the relevant treasury and in case of the department also the executive authority responsible for that department all of the annual reports, financial statements as well as the AG reports on those issues. Section 651(a) of the PFMA obliges the executive authority responsible for the department to table in the Provincial Legislature these reports.

Rule 205(1) of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature of these rules provide that the provisions of the PFMA apply in respect of reporting and responsibilities of these provincial organs of state as well as Rule 205 read together with 205(4) requires that the leader of governance business on behalf of these MECs introduce these APPs and Rule 205(9) provides that the committee reports must be submitted within a period of 90 days.

Section 65(2) of the PFMA read together with Rule 205(1) provides that if an executive authority fails to table the annual reports and the financial statements of the departments together with the audit report on those statements in the relevant legislature within six months after the end of the financial year to which those statements relate, the executive authority must table a written explanation in this House for the reasons as to why they were not tabled.

Today and on Thursday we will table such reports in this House and the Democratic Alliance has noted with great concern that the following reports under the Office of the Premier, the Departments of Education, Agriculture, Health, Public Works, Roads Agency Limpopo and as well as the Legislature were not compliant.

I, therefore, move that the following resolutions be taken by this House that the following office-bearers table written explanations in the Legislature setting out reasons why those were not timelessly tabled and this will include the Office of the Premier, the chairperson of the Public Service Administration, MECs for Education, Agriculture, Health, Public Works, chairperson of the Roads Agency Limpopo and Hon Speaker your office as well and that the Hon Speaker furnish us with the AG report, a copy of the notice of motion and the resolution to this issue as a special report of delay.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, I am looking at the rules and I don't see whether your motion qualifies to be a motion because according to Rule 146(1) it says "when giving the notice of a motion, a Member must read it loud and deliver at a table a signed copy of the notice."

You don't have to read the whole because it must be allowed. You are giving a notice that you want Members to come and debate but, in your motion, already, you are giving resolutions, which the motion has never been debated anyway. My advise is that write to the Secretariat, would look into it legally and would be able to advise you accordingly, but we are just worried that when we look in terms of the rules it looks like it's offline.

MR SMALLE

I take note of your recommendations Hon Speaker and therefore I will then withdraw the parts of the resolution and then submit to your office. Thank you.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Smalle. We shall now proceed in that order to item 4. Are the statements by Members in line with Rule 199. I have two honourable Members who wish to do Members' Statements here. Hon Mogoane, over to you.

MS MOGOANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good morning. Allow me to greet the Leader of the Official Opposition and fellow Members.

THEFT OF MR SIMON THOBEJANE'S IDENTITY DOCUMENT AND ITS USE AT THE LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF is shocked by the revelations that the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality's official stole the identity document of Mr Simon Thobejane to syphon money from the municipality's coffers. Mr Thobejane alluded to the fact that his identity has been used since 2018 as a ghost worker earning R20,000 per month and a salary being paid to an unknown municipal official.

This means officials have pocketed over R1,5 million since 2018. Mr Thobejane noticed this when the system kept on declining him for the R350,00 social grant saying he was working for the government. He opened a case of identity theft at the Lebowakgomo police station where it was revealed that he is being used as a ghost worker at the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.

He also notified the municipality, and the matter was referred to the Risk Department. We call upon the Hawks and the SIU to finalise their investigations on this matter and corrupt officials must be arrested. We further call on all law enforcement authorities to investigate all municipalities for corruption on ghost workers. This problem could be deeper than we all think.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

MS MOGOANE

I'm reading my statement now.

THUGGISH AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR BY MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF condemns in strongest terms the thuggish and the criminal behaviour of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality during the council sitting of 30 July 2025. On this day, the municipality unleashed bouncers on our councillors for merely holding them accountable by demanding answers on service delivery issues as part of their constitutional mandate.

It is also alarming that the infrastructure project would be discussed in committees, but the committee members are not allowed to conduct oversight. Sesengwe gape, Mohlomphegi Mospikara ke gore, gona le ditekisi tšeo di bitšwago dipolasa kua Makhuduthamaga, moo e lego gore Masepala o phela o di tšea ka bofora bja gore beng ba tšona, ga bana mangwalo a tumelelo; mola tša bao ba tswalanago le maloko a mokgatlo o o bušago di sa bofše.

Under false pretence that they do not have permit, only taxis that are owned by members that are aligned to the ruling party are not impounded, Hon Speaker, and our community members are expected to pay R5 000 to get their taxis back, while the municipality does not have by-laws to protect them or forces them to do that. Batho ba ba diplasana ba tšwela pele go dira dikgopelo tša mangwalo a tumelelo efela Masepala ga o amogele dikgopelo tša bona, even, when they meet the minimum requirements. We strongly condemn the abuse of power by the municipality in favour of the politically connected individuals and relatives. One of our councillors on that day suffered a hand fracture when bouncers were banging them against the wall. About 10 municipal officials also suffered as they inhaled the pepper spray by the same bouncers. We strongly condemn the coward conduct of the municipality for refusing to be held accountable. The people of Makhuduthamaga deserve better and they need services as in yesterday and we will continue to expose the selfish Mayor of Makhuduthamaga for who she is.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mogoane thank you so much, those were the only two Members' Statements. I will now allow the Member Executive to respond. Honourable MEC for CoGHSTA, over to you

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to yourself, Hon Dr Makhurupetje, the Premier, Members of the Executive Council and honourable Members of this House.

Let me start by appreciating the first Members' Statement made by Hon Mogoane. Indeed, if this House can be objective at that level, we can go far. Any criminal activity observed anywhere, such as in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, must be referred to

the law enforcement agencies established by government. I can assure honourable Members, and Hon Mogoane in particular, that the matter will be followed up. In fact, the matter has already received attention as we have seen it circulating on social media, and communication has already been made with the municipality.

Hon Speaker, the second statement raised relates to Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. Let me indicate that it is not our will to see bouncers present in municipal council chambers. However, we should equally agree that disruptions within our councils, where decisions are to be taken, cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

When there are disruptions in councils, mechanisms must be put in place to restore order. I believe the Speaker of that municipality was attempting to restore order in the council chamber by appointing an official to do so. Whether that person was perceived to be a police officer or a bouncer, the intention was to restore order. Even here in this House, we have a Sergeant-at-Arms. If they intervene, some may choose to describe them as bouncers, even though they are not.

Hon Speaker, on the matter of taxis being impounded, let me emphasise that the law must be applied equally and consistently. There can be no suggestion that members of the ANC or the ruling party are favoured. If operators do not have the required permits, their taxis must be impounded and the prescribed fines paid. The law cannot discriminate between the EFF, the ANC, or any other grouping.

We should commend the municipality for bringing order in Makhuduthamaga. I want to place it on record that I support their action, and I will continue to support municipalities that enforce law and order at all costs. If there are illegal taxis, they must be impounded before they lead to taxi violence in our communities. That is the responsibility we all share, and it is what we must continue to do.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mogoane, can we now proceed in terms of the Orders of the Day? Honourable Members, order please. Can we come back to the House? That was just a commercial break by Hon Mogoane.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We must thank the MEC for responding. We were supposed to have an Executive Statement, but the honourable Executive Member is not around. We'll have to postpone it to next time when she's here. We'll now proceed..

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

We'll now proceed to Item 6: Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers, 6.1, is the tabling of the addendum of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan of the Department of COGHSTA. Honourable MEC, over to you.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. In compliance with provision of Section 27(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, Act No. 1 of 1999 as amended by Act No. 29 of 1999, as well as Chapter 5 of the Treasury Regulations, I, Basikopo Makamu, MEC for CoGHSTA, hereby table before this House, an addendum to the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan for the Department of COGHSTA for consideration and noting by the Legislature. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Honourable MEC for CoGHSTA, Tatana Makamu, Hi khensile swinene. The addendum of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

We now move directly to Item 7 on the Orders of the Day.

7.1 Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee of Public Administration. The committee chairperson is Hon Johannes Choris Phokane.

Over to you honourable Member.

MR PHOKANE

Greetings to the Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makoma Makhurupetja, the Hon Premier, the Members of the Executive Council present here, the Chief Whip and the entirety of the Whippany, the Deputy Chair of Chairs, the Leader of Opposition Party, honourable Members present.

Hon Speaker, I move for the consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration

7.1.1 2024/25 Amended Annual Performance Plan, Office of the Premier. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Nempumbuluni, over to you.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Hon Dr Speaker. I stand here to support and second the motion presented by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable chair, over to you.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Speaker. I once more move for the consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration.

7.2.1 2023/24 Annual Report of Office of the Premier.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Over to Hon Dr Selane.

DR SELANE

Ke a leboga, Hon Dr Speaker. The Whippery is not whipping well. Be that as it may, I want to second the move by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, Hon Phokane. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Dr Selane. Chairperson, over to you.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Speaker, I once more move for the consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration.

7.3.1 2024/25 first quarter report of Office of the Premier. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Is there any seconder? Over to Hon Mnisi.

MS MNISI

Thanks, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Grace Makurupetje. I stand to support the submission for consideration and adoption by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khense swinene Manana Mnisi. Hi vuya ka n'wina Mutshamaxitulu.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I once more move for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 second quarter report of Office of the Premier. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I rise to second the move as made by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable chair. Over to Hon Phokane.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I move for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 third quarter report of Office of the Premier. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Hon Phokane. Now you can go and sit down while I'm looking for a seconder for the report. Ah, someone coming from U.S., fresh from U.S., Hon Bela Kupa Mabuza.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move as presented by the chairperson, Hon Phokane.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. You can now go and sit down. I'm now going to refer to the Speakers' List. Fourth Quarter. Oh, sorry. I thought you are done. You can proceed.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I move for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 fourth quarter report of Office of the Premier. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

I was ahead of you. Is there any seconder? Hon Pheedi Solomon, you may proceed.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, honourable Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I rise to second the presentation made by the honourable chair on the 2024/25 fourth quarter report for Office of the Premier. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga moruti Pheedi, kgotso ga e ate tshwarelo e beilwe. Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List.

The first person who's opening the Debate is Hon Netshifhefhe Khathutshelo John. Honourable Members will realise now, because of the number of debates, we have added minutes. The Programming Committee was so considerate that they've given you more minutes. Instead of 10 minutes, you've got 14 minutes because of the number of the debates here. You can now proceed. Your 14 minutes starts now.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Greetings to you, Madam Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Hon Premier, the Chief Whip, and all Members of the House.

Hon Speaker, the committees of this House are explicitly obliged to act in the best interest of the public in exercising their work, as instructed by Section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, read with Rule 81 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, through the Office of the Premier, is responsible for monitoring, making enquiries, and providing recommendations on departmental budgets, strategic plans, restructuring and rationalisation, amongst others. In this way, the Office of the Premier is held accountable to ensure that departments spend the voted amounts responsibly.

The 2024/25 financial year Annual Performance Plan outlines what transpired during the Sixth Administration, while paving the way forward for the Seventh Administration. Both the 2023/24 Annual Reports and the 2023/24 amended Annual Performance Plan reflect the performance targets of the Office of the Premier, as aligned to the Medium-Term Strategic Framework 2019–2024.

Madam Speaker, during the financial year under review, the audit outcomes of the provincial departments indicated a regression. Some departments moved from clean audits to unqualified audit opinions, while public entities maintained their audit outcome status. As a result, the Office of the Premier assured the Committee that an audit action plan would address the recurring findings of the Auditor-General of South Africa, which were evident in the poor audit outcomes of some departments.

The Office also finalised and adopted the Provincial Collaborative Support Framework. The purpose of the framework is to outline the responsibilities, procedures and activities of key role players responsible for collaboratively supporting departments, so that they remain capable of executing their mandates within the governance parameters provided by legislation and policy.

The Office of the Premier itself received a clean audit opinion for the 2023/24 financial year. This demonstrates that the Limpopo Provincial Administration remains committed to implementing the Medium-Term Development Plan and the National Development Plan, with the aim of eliminating poverty and reducing inequality by 2030.

In serving our people with dignity, the provincial government, led by the Office of the Premier, will focus on accelerating socio-economic development, building a capable and ethical public service, and implementing the integrated social security system towards the eradication of poverty.

The provincial government has aligned itself with the National Development Plan by developing the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2020–2025. This serves as an overarching plan to coordinate the contributions of all sectors in the province — public and private — towards achieving the objectives and targets set out in the NDP Vision 2030.

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) is aligned with the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework priorities, guiding government spheres, civil society, business and organised labour to plan jointly and implement integrated socio-economic service delivery in line with the principles of the District Development Model.

The vision of the LDP is to create a socio-economic environment beneficial to all citizens, irrespective of race, creed, gender or age. It aims to create a future where villages, townships and smart cities co-exist in harmony. The plan is centred on economic recovery, social development and accelerated transformation, enabling the province to address poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Furthermore, the LDP provides a framework for developmental strategic plans, annual performance plans and municipal integrated development plans, together with sector contributions from the private sector, civil society and organised labour, towards achieving provincial economic growth and social development objectives.

Hon Speaker, the committee therefore recommends that the Office of the Premier:

- Monitor the implementation of the audit action plan and retain the clean audit achieved in 2022/23.
- Continue to implement all internal and external audit recommendations.
- Ensure compliance in the monitoring of the implementation of the equity policy and preferential procurement.
- Monitor and ensure that spatial planning responds to the immediate needs of communities, particularly where residential developments lack adequate services such as water, electricity and access to schools.
- Intensify monitoring of the Integrated Infrastructure Development Plan and job creation through infrastructure projects.

- Improve road maintenance and assist in increasing funding for the construction of new roads to connect more villages and stimulate economic initiatives and growth.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration has considered and adopted the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan, the 2023/24 Annual Report, and the 2024/25 quarterly reports.

On behalf of the committee, I urge this House to consider and adopt the report as presented.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We really appreciate he saved our time. He only used the nine minutes of the 14 minutes, which is really commendable. Hon Wilson is not here; therefore, Hon Smalle is going to debate on her behalf. Hon Smalle Jacobus Frederick, the floor is yours.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, what a mockery this is — seeking the consideration and adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Report and the 2024/25 quarterly reports of the Office of the Premier, when we are already deep into the 2025/26 financial year. This is not mere administrative incompetence.

It is a breach of the PFMA, a violation of our Constitution, and an affront to the mandate of this House to ensure effective, transparent and accountable government. It amounts to wilful shielding of underperformance and chronic institutional dysfunction. Accountability delayed is accountability denied, and accountability denied is nothing less than oversight sabotage.

Quarterly reports are not bureaucratic paperwork. They are this Legislature's early warning system. They allow us to track performance and spending in real time, to act before crises deepen.

When these reports arrive months late, the damage is already done. Overspending cannot be recovered. Underspending cannot be redirected. Service delivery failures cannot be fixed in time to help the communities suffering the consequences.

Yet, here we are — considering outdated annual and quarterly reports for 2023/24 and 2024/25, when just weeks ago we finalised the APP Budgets for 2025/26, and some committees are already finalising their first quarterly reports for the current financial year. This reduces oversight to a rear-view mirror exercise — debating yesterday's problems while today's spiral out of control. It is nonsensical, irrational, reckless and outright dangerous.

Hon Speaker, the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier is not a celebration of progress. It is a confession of persistent failure. Yes, the Premier boasts of clean audits, but an unqualified audit is not a measure of prosperity.

It is the bare minimum of compliance. It means nothing when our people still sit in the dark, without water, without jobs and without hope, while much of the provincial and municipal administration — for which the Hon Premier must take ultimate responsibility — remains dysfunctional and near collapse.

Behind the glossy language, the report admits to systemic weaknesses we have warned about for years: a 25% vacancy rate across departments, most unfunded; fewer nurses, fewer teachers, fewer engineers and fewer frontline officials where they are needed most.

Irregular expenditure still runs into hundreds of millions of rands — money wasted without consequence. Chronic supply chain failures and poor contract management stall projects, inflate costs and pile up court cases. Our economy is stuck in first gear, floundering below the national average, with no credible diversification plan.

Instead, we gamble on so-called catalytic projects like the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, already mired in litigation, non-compliance and scandal — with no fallback plan.

The report itself admits to a constant migration of skilled youth to other provinces. Youth unemployment sits above 40%, with a third of our young people not in education, employment or training. This is a province bleeding talent.

South Africa's network industries — freight, rail, ports and digital infrastructure — are in collapse. Limpopo's connections should be leading in the fifth industrial revolution, yet we struggle to get past the third. Rail freight volumes have plummeted from 226 million tonnes in 2017/18 to just 152 million in 2023/24.

Agriculture cannot get produce to ports without crippling delays. Without mining connections, goods must be hauled through Mozambique because our own terminals cannot meet demand. The result? Fifty-five thousand jobs lost in the last quarter alone.

These industries are the backbone of a modern economy. Without urgent reform, investment in infrastructure and strong bilateral agreements, even the proclamation of two SEZs will not lift Limpopo out of stagnation. Meanwhile, schools, clinics and roads remain unfinished.

Health posts for doctors and nurses go unfilled. Children still learn in classrooms without safe sanitation or drinking water. Repeat findings from the Auditor-General, with no corrective follow-through, reveal an administration more focused on ticking compliance boxes than on delivering real change.

Hon Speaker, this paints the picture of a provincial government operationally hollowed out through chronic vacancies and unfunded posts, economically stagnant, over-reliant on politically convenient projects with poor delivery records, and financially non-compliant with high irregular expenditure and poor contract oversight.

Weak on impact, obsessed with process and paperwork rather than measurable improvements in people's lives. This dysfunction is not accidental.

As the DA, we say clearly: the continued deployment of cadres in inherently corrupt and corrosive practices has hollowed our institutions, weakened state capacity and left organs of state vulnerable to instability and factional manipulation — including this House itself.

We demand that the late tabling of APPs, quarterly reports and annual reports be formally investigated in an open, transparent and public process, with accountability and consequences, to ensure this deliberate erosion of oversight never happens again.

Hon Speaker, Limpopo has not failed because it cannot do better. It has failed because this government refuses to do better. It is trapped in a corrupt, crony-infested web from which it cannot, and will not, escape.

The people of Limpopo deserve honesty. This government is incapable of fixing what is broken. It is time for us to fix it.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Smalle. At least you are left with one minute out of the nine. So we'll now go to Hon Mapoulo Makgabo Mosetlana.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, you know, the reason why you are a doctor? Today I received 11 minutes and thank you very much. Hon Premier and the Leader of Business, Ntate Basikopo Makamu; and other MECs; my colleagues from the red berets, including the Chief Whip, Mme Mogoane; the Progressive Alliance up there, thank you very much. Next time you'll get a seconder don't worry.

Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje, will never join the choir that expresses its appreciation to the executing authority, the accounting officer, and all officials of the Hon Premier for obtaining a clean audit during the year under review.

We refuse to join the choir because while it is a good thing that the Office of the Premier has obtained a clean audit, and we say congratulations for that, we are not jealous, but the department, municipalities, entities continue to suffocate and collapse under your watch. The EFF is disappointed that the Office of the Premier has drastically failed to share information of the best practises and how to obtain a clean audit opinion with entities and departments.

It is no use to shine alone, ma'am, while your department and municipalities and SOEs continue to collapse under your watch. Go swana le Mme yo hlapago tšatši ka tšatši, a lokela le dintšhi, a apara dikwaikwai le tšohle tša go modira gore abe yo mobotse mola bana ba le ditšhila. Some state-owned enterprises in Limpopo have faced significant

challenges, including financial difficulties and operational failures, which have led to perception of collapse, perception of collapse and near collapse.

GNT, a government-owned company, is just a prime example, and I think the number of bailouts that have been received, it must come to a halt. I think it's enough. Hon Premier, you have been having a heart of a woman, but now I need to loan you my heart so that you can be able to deal with that situation. Even if I can loan you for two minutes, I know you're going to do justice.

SOEs have developmental mandates, at the same time, need to remain commercially viable to ensure that they can sustain themselves without having to rely on government guarantees. However, SOEs are in serious financial difficulties, facing liquidity challenges, which have halted operations, prevented them from paying their debts and obligations as they fall through.

Both problems stem from slow and ineffective implementation of turnaround plans. Ailing SOEs place further pressure on government by needing bailouts and through potential failure of obligation because of guarantees. The ANC-led administration continues to bail out failing state-owned entities, and yet they want us to celebrate the clean audit of your office.

I can't speak of the airport every day. My heart bleeds, especially with the kind of leadership administratively that's leading that airport. The sooner you make changes, the better to save that important asset for the province.

This department selflessly continue to bask in the glory of a clean audit, while other departments and municipalities continue limping in the struggle to perform. State-owned entities face the prospect of closing shop due to underperformance, maladministration, and corruption.

Hon Speaker, under normal circumstances, state-owned entities should be able to generate their own revenue, grow the economy, and create jobs for our people, and not suck money from treasury, and it is currently the case.

Despite the clean audit, pre-occupancy and service provider challenges led to post-movement of ICC project competitions, impacting strategic timelines. Infrastructure projects were delayed due to service provider constraints, which could be easily avoided by your office if they pay attention to details. Furthermore, the province faces an infrastructure backlog, impacting 124,000 households.

There's no conscience to deliberate an agent plan by the government to provide service to the people as per the mandate of the Constitution.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed that water in the province regressed from 71,3% to 69,1%. Furthermore, electricity in the province regressed from 97,2% to 96,4%, and we can't forget about talking about Eskom, which is currently milking our people.

Forget about the Polokwane Local Municipality with electricity. Our people are suffocating. This regression signifies the lack of political will to provide services to the

people, and so we should not be surprised when departments which look upon your office regresses.

How will the department improve on the audit outcome and perform when your office continues to be a bad example on matters of governance and administration? Can your office explain to this august House why the implementation of external audit recommendation reached 83% against a target of 98%?

Non-compliance within the office concerning employment equity for people with disabilities is disturbing. Other departments are doing better in this regard as compared to your office, Hon Premier, which could be you must be leading by an example. The failure of these departments and entities reflects the collapse of both leadership and governance in this administration to steer the ship to the right direction.

You don't have to be afraid to replace MECs who are not delivering. You must be able, and then also because it's the month of August. Ke nagana gore otlala thwala motho wa masadi boemong bja Molekgotlaphethiši wa go tšwafa, wa monna. O ka noba o le kgauswi le yena, o kano lebela wa kgetha mosadi wa go šoma, gomme tšohle tše ke di boelago di tla direga boka legadima. Ga ke le lweše efela ke nako ya gore basadi ba thabe. Mbokodo! Ge le ka se bethe matsogo, gora gore lena le le lehufa.

THE SPEAKER

Re kwele gore ge ele gore gona le monna yo a sa fego mosadi tšhelete mo kgwedding ye ya Phato, o mathateng; efela rena ba re rutilwe gore mosadi o ratwa ka lerato la mmakgonthe. Thank you so much, Hon Mapoulo for saving us time, you save us 2 minutes and 30 second, thank you so much. We'll now allow the chairperson of the committee, Hon Phokane Maudu Johannes, to come and close the debate.

MR PHOKANE

Ntumelele ke le tamiše Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke seke ka ikgata mehlala ka lebaka la gore ke gomile fa peleng, ka tamiša. Hon Speaker, the legislature is constitutionally mandated to play oversight over the executive.

As per section 114(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. As mandated by this august House, this Limpopo Legislature, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, has been hard at work ensuring that it plays its oversight role on the Office of the Hon Premier. And it behoves me, to indicate that also the Premier has consistently appeared before the committee, thereby enabling the committee to execute its duties and functions as bestowed upon it by the legislature.

The main function of the Office of the Premier is to provide strategic leadership, coordination, support to the Premier and the Provincial Executive Council. This includes coordinating provincial policies, legislation, and administration, as well as overseeing service delivery and monitoring performance.

This function, as highlighted above, is carried out through three programmes instituted within the Office of the Premier, namely Administration, Institutional Development and Support, as well as Governance and Policy.

The performance of each programme is measured against plan outputs as contained in the Annual Performance Plan. Hon Speaker, on 18 March 2024, the Office of the Premier briefed the Committee of Public Administration on the amendment of the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan and Budget.

The committee, through subsequent meetings of robust and frank engagements with the Office of the Premier in relation to the amendment of the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan and Budget, concurred to the submission. The amendment was done in terms of available government frameworks and developed guidelines.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee has also looked into the 2023/24 Annual Report in its endeavour to hold the Office of the Premier accountable. It is worth highlighting that the Office of the Premier has seen an improvement in its audit outcome in the financial year 2023/24, as it managed to clinch a clean audit outcome, which is an improvement from an unqualified audit outcome in the preceding year.

It's something worth celebrating, Hon Speaker, because we expect the Office of the Premier to lead by example. With this clean audit outcome, it will be able to persuade other departments, as well as municipalities, to do likewise. The 2023/24 financial year Annual Report depicted a mixed bag of achievements and failures.

For instance, in the same financial year, there has been an improvement in the matric pass rate as compared to the previous years. The province was able to achieve a 79,5% pass rate. The provincial government was also able to record an improvement in respect of the number of ECD practitioners who were trained.

There were around 100 000 practitioners who were trained, and this led to a high number of children participating in the ECD Programmes. It should be brought to the attention of this august House that the provincial government has managed to ensure that they maintain a partial vacancy rate of less than 10%. Besides the achievements highlighted above, it remains critical that the Office of the Premier take note of the challenges that remain perennial in the province.

The financial year under review recorded a worrying decline in respect of socio-economic infrastructure. This pertains to access of water, as has been indicated, as well as access to electricity, which has seen a decline. This calls for the Office of the Premier to address this critical problem of water access in the province and also ensure that benefit from the Special Economic Zone is expedited.

This House must note that the Office of the Premier has consistently come up with programmes in order to attend to those matters as mentioned, much more with the issues of water access. In furtherance of our function of oversight as a committee of the Legislature, we receive quarterly reports from the Office of the Premier, wherein they are able to account in terms of their performance against their planned output per quarter. The quarterly report of the Office of the Premier provides an analysis of its performance against the key performance indicators and policy priorities as set out in the Annual Performance Plans, as well as the expenditure of the allocated Budget.

In all the four quarters of 2024/25 financial year, the Office of the Premier has consistently performed quite well, with the achievement of almost all the targets that were set in almost all the three programmes. There has been quite an exciting performance across all the quarters in respect of preferential procurement spent on women and youth, except for quarter one. That unfortunate absence of a report on saving quarter one is attributed to non-provision of such data by the Provincial Treasury.

The achievement of this output augurs well for the economic affirmation of sectors of society that are blatantly disregarded and are exposed to the business truths of life. It is indeed a welcome relief that the Office of the Premier did not fit to ensure that procurement is also meant to uplift both the women and the youth, which are affected by poverty. The 2023/24 financial year Annual Report depicted. All the quarters there has been an excellent performance with regard to the payment of invoices within 30 days.

This is a welcome achievement because it assists in terms of ensuring that the small businesses are afforded an opportunity to survive, and this cut across all the four quarters in terms of its achievement.

Further analysis of all the quarters in the 2024/25 financial year depicts the Office of the Premier saving money to implement all the internal audit recommendations. Safe to say they couldn't manage to get 100% in terms of the external audit recommendation.

There has been inconsistent failure, of course, in the achievement of the preferential procurement spent on people living with disability.

This is a matter that the Office of the Premier need to look into and come up with strategies to ensure that they are able to address it so that people living with disability are attended to. In addition to that, quarter four has seen the finalisation and achievement of a developed in purpose public sector plan which will go a long way in the professionalisation of the public sector.

A sector skills plan entails that a sector will definitely have a plan pertaining to skill development and thus provisioning the different departments with expertise.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Premier has got the responsibility to ensure that CoGHSTA, Health and Education are capacitated in terms of ensuring that they are able to draft their own service delivery development plans, which has been a consistent problem in the departments.

It is contingent on the office of the Premier to turn the fortunes of the province around in relation to the problem of access to water and employment, which hit the youth hard and the issue of housing and sanitation challenges by ensuring that the following recommendations are considered for implementation.

Hon Speaker, and I should say, that the Office of the Premier should continue with its rigorous monitoring of the implementation of equity policies and preferential procurement. That also the Office of the Premier should continue monitoring ensuring that special pay in response to the immediate needs of the people, especially where essential developments are not provided with adequate basic services such as water,

electricity and access to schools. The Office of the Premier should also, as a recommendation, ensure that there is sufficient monitoring and support for the SEZs as has been conceptualised in the province.

The Office of the Premier should also ensure that there is an improved road maintenance and assistance in the increment of funding with regard to these infrastructure development projects.

Hon Speaker, allow me on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to request the House to consider and adopt the report as presented.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. You gave us an additional 02:30 seconds. Hon Premier, may we please allow the next debate to proceed, so that you will respond at the end, so that you don't respond now and come to respond again. I thought the chairperson of the committee was going to seat here so that he can now proceed with the next item.

7.4 Consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration: Committee chairperson, over to you.

Committee chairperson, the floor is yours.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Allow me to move for the consideration and adoption of the report on section 196(4)(e) and 196(6) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Pheedi, you are recognised.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I second the presentation made by the chairperson. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Speaker, I, once more, submit to the House to consider and adopt the report on financial misconduct for the 2023/24 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, from Mankweng cluster, rise to support the report as presented by Hon Phokane. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Mankweng cluster is accurate. We used to have Mankweng cluster forming a quorum in the Legislature, bjale ga e sa le palo ya go lekanela, re swanetše re nyake ba bangwe. Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Speaker, I, once more, move for the consideration and adoption of the report on the financial disclosure framework overview for the 2023/24 financial year.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Ndo livhuwa. Ndo takutshela u tikedza likumedzwa sa zwe la netshedziswa zwone nga mudzulatshidulo wa komiti.

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa nga maanda, mudzulatshidulo. Thank you, chairperson, you can proceed.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I move for the consideration and adoption of the report on the qualification on senior management services in the public service. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Nempumbuluni, you are recognised.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo. Ndo takuwa u tikedza likumedzwa lo ambiwaho nga mudzulatshidulo wa Komiti ya Ndaulo ya Muvhuso.

THE SPEAKER

Na riṅe ro livhuwa nga maanda. Over to you, chairperson.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Speaker, I move for the consideration and adoption of the report on the inspections of the Limpopo Department of Social Development. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, chairperson. Is there any seconder to the report? Ke tla be ka šupa ba bangwe ka gore, ga ke bone matsogo. Hon Rakgoale, you are recognised.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the consideration of the report as made by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re leboga kudu. Over to you, chairperson.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Speaker, I move for the consideration and adoption of the report on service delivery inspections conducted at selected service delivery sites of the Department of Employment and Labour in Limpopo province. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Bela Kupa Mabuza, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Re a leboga, Mospikara. Ke eme mo gore ke kgonthišiše gore taba tše modulasetulo a di bolelago ke tšona, re a di thekga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Over to you, chairperson.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I still move for the consideration and adoption of the Report on the Service Delivery Inspections of the Department of Home Affairs in Praktiseer office.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mnisi, you are recognised.

MS MNISI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I stand to second the presented report by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile, Manana Mnisi. Over to you, chairperson.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Lastly, I present for consideration and adoption of the oversight visits report to Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the report? Even the Members on the left-hand side have got the right to second. Over to you, Dr Che Selane.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Dr Speaker. The voice which was inconsistent with the decorum of this House is absent now, but my intention to stand here is to second the move raised by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, Hon Phokane. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Dr Selane, for seconding the report. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Mosibudi Esther Mokoele, she is the one who is opening the debates.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My name is Mosibudi. Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip in absentia and the Whippery; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Leader of the Opposition; members of the opposition and members of the ruling party; good morning.

We convene today during the Women's Month, and after we have celebrated a very successful Woman's Day where we were celebrating brave women like Lilian Ngoyi, Charlotte Maxeke, and Sophie de Bruyn and many more women who stood up with one voice and said enough is enough. As we continue to celebrate, we want to say halala basadi halala!

Hon Speaker, section 196 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides a robust framework for the oversight and performance monitoring of the Public Administration through the Public Service Commission (PSC).

This constitutional mandate is critical for fostering transparency, accountability and effective governance in public service, specifically section 196(4)(b) outlines the PSCs responsibility to report its activities, findings, recommendations, advisory functions to the Legislature ensuring continuous monitoring and evaluation.

Additionally, section 196(6) mandates that the PSC submit a detailed annual report to the provincial Legislature capturing its yearly assessments and progress. This report covers the PCS activities which include unannounced and announced visits to various institutions in the province. They were presented to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration thoroughly so.

The findings and the recommendations discussed year in are important and implementing corrective measures in the public administration, they will equally serve as a guideline to correct the wrong doings that are happening in our departments. The PSC interaction with the provincial Legislature and the National Assembly underscore its commitment to transparency and accountability.

The engagement serves as a platform for the PSC to report on the departmental performance scrutinise executive action and ensure that public services adhere to ethical and operational standards. The PSCs oversight extend to the monitoring and functionality of the department as led by the executive authority offering recommendations and following up on the implementation and address its inefficiencies.

Regular dialogue between the PSC and the Legislature promotes a culture of continuous improvement in governance, reinforcing PSC's role as an independent body that provides unbiased oversight on public administration. The report on financial misconduct provides a statistical analysis of finalised cases within the department and within the Limpopo province during the 2023/24 financial year.

The departments were required to submit details of their finalised financial misconduct cases electronically via a designed link provided by the PSC. These submissions included information on the nature of the charges in alignment with the Treasury regulations and the PFMA.

Departments were also required to provide additional details such as the name of the officials, rank, salary levels and gender of those officials in each case. Of the 11 departments within the province, the Office of the Premier included, 05 submitted reports indicating finalised cases of the financial misconduct while 06 departments submitted zero returns as a confirmation that no such cases were finalised during the reporting period.

The PSC subsequently consolidated this data into a comprehensive database reflecting the nature of the finalised cases, the disciplinary actions imposed and observed trends regarding the recovery of the state funds lost as a result of financial misconduct. We recommend that the remaining departments must also comply with the submissions of the reports indicating their finalised cases of their financial misconduct.

On the financial disclosure, the PSC recorded a commendable compliance of 100% in the submissions of financial disclosure forms by the SMS members across all the 11

Limpopo government departments by the due date of 31 May 2024. A total of 443 financial disclosures were submitted and verified.

It must also be reported that the 32 SMS members failed to disclose certain registrable financial interest. This nondisclosure predominantly involved uncleared company directorship, ownership of vehicles and immovable properties. These omissions compromise the integrity of the disclosure system and exposes the department to conflict-of-interest risks.

All 93 SMS members were identified as having potential conflict of interest. These cases were predominantly related to company ownership where companies associated with SMS members were found to be registered with the National Treasury central supply database indicating a potential to conduct business with department entities in future.

The verification process further revealed that 04 SMS members held personal loans exceeding R1 million collectively amounting to R10,03 million. Additionally, 14 SMS members owned immovable properties with accumulative market values surpassing R102,02 million. These high value financial interests necessitated targeted financial risks management intervention to mitigate the risk of the financial vulnerability influential officials' duties.

The 38 SMS members were identified as participating in remunerative work collectively earning R8,5 million from external engagements. The acceptance of such remunerative work without formal authorisation contravenes established regulations and undermines the impartiality of the public service.

Furthermore, 05 SMS members received gifts and hospitality items exceeding the regulated threshold of R500 with a combined value of R130,720. The departments were directed to verify whether approvals were obtained for accepting these gifts and whether contravention of regulation 13(a) or age occurred.

All provincial departments in Limpopo participated in the enquiry for qualifications on senior management services. The total number of SMS members in Limpopo was 448 as of September 2023. It toned down now to 435 due to the routine staff movement which includes appointments to different departments, resignations retirement and so on and so on.

The verification process involves the statistical analysis of qualified data submitted by the department against the prescribed qualifications. Of the 435 which constitute 97% were qualified for their posts in terms of the prescribed qualifications and those are from the four Departments of Agriculture, CoGHSTA, Social Development and Public Works who achieved 100% compliance with the qualification requirements.

The other seven departments had one or two or more members who are not qualified, and we are indicating that no remedial actions were taken, or formal corrective action were reported by the department with unqualified members. We are recommending that the remaining departments with unqualified officials must come up with remedial intervention strategies to ensure that these SMS officials are at the expected qualifications.

The Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act 97 of 1998) also requires the employer to continuously empower workers through available means. The PSC reports are designed to promote accountability and to prevent unethical practices aligning with the constitutional mandate for a fair transparent and accountable public service environment.

It is also vital and important that departments proactively implement what the PSC is recommending avoiding recurrence of the same matters and to foster positive improvement. Hon Speaker, we, therefore, request that the House consider and adopt the report as presented.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now allow Hon Jacobus Frederik Smalle to represent on behalf of Hon Evelyn Rayne Wilson.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

What the eyes see cannot be unseen. This phrase, used by the South African Council of Churches in their unburdening report on state capture, perfectly describes our recent oversight visits to the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ).

We saw hundreds of millions of rands spent or committed, yet nothing tangible to show for it. The only apparent beneficiaries are those on the MMSEZ payroll board members, senior officials and, as always, a parade of consultants, service providers, and serial tenderpreneurs.

The MMSEZ was intended as Limpopo's flagship development, driving industrialisation and attracting investment through the SEZ model, but after more than a decade of stagnation, institutional decay, and rising unemployment, we face a choice to continue on the path of decline or embrace bold, credible reforms.

The DA's top priority is economic growth and job creation built on trust, credibility, transparency, and accountability in managing public resources. Yet this government turned a blind eye when a bloated R100 million-per-year organogram was implemented before SEZ status was achieved at either site. Meanwhile, operational staff drove Maseratis without any questions from the executive.

In 2023, when the then MEC for LEDET flagged procedural irregularities, there was no investigation, no forensic or lifestyle audits. Instead, cadres were redeployed before facing scrutiny. Nearly a decade after designation, the project remains stalled mired in irregularities, governance failures, and legal disputes with nothing on site but someone else's white rocks.

Our visit, combined with a report from the then MMSEZ board chairperson Dr NF Mphephu to the LEDET committee, prompted the DA to call for an independent forensic

audit into all operational and infrastructure expenditure by LEDA and MMSEZ (Pty) Ltd during Limpopo's Sixth Administration.

Dr Mphephu's progress report revealed a pattern of failure, shifting timelines, incapacity, and maladministration. Since then, Dr Mphephu has been removed and replaced by the chairperson of the collapsed Great North Transport hardly an appointment to inspire confidence.

Key concerns prompting our audit call include:

- The MMSEZ board admitted R579 million in contracts were awarded and R155 million spent, yet only one project internal roads reached partial implementation before being halted for litigation and non-compliance with SEZ standards.
- Roads were built above ground without the required rights, breaching planning laws and requiring costly corrections.
- Repeat use of the same service providers, including attempts by the previous board with three members still serving to inflate consulting fees by up to 300%.
- Tshiamiso Trading, which abandoned a disputed site, was reappointed for sewer works.
- Contractors abandoned sites citing non-payment and lodged claims against MMSEZ.
- A consulting firm was paid R21,7 million despite bidding R19,7 million, breaching PFMA limits on contract variation.
- Service level agreements materially differed from tender submissions, exceeding permissible adjustments.

The DA has called on the NCOP and National Parliament to investigate this maladministration, conducted with the Limpopo Executive's knowledge. We now call on the Premier to engage openly and act decisively. Limpopo, rated the second-worst economic performer and having lost 55 000 jobs in the last quarter, cannot afford further abuse of state resources for personal gain.

Hon Speaker, the Premier is the head of the provincial executive and ultimately responsible for proper, ethical, effective, and efficient governance. Through you, Hon Speaker and Hon Premier, you are not just a political figurehead, you are the chief custodian of constitutional governance at provincial level.

Failure to uphold the values in Chapter 10 of the Constitution, the basic principles governing public administration will lead to systemic corruption, fiscal mismanagement, service delivery collapse, and erosion of public trust. Limpopo knows this all too well.

Just in the last week, a forensic investigation was tabled in the Greater Letaba Local Municipality, where two staff members were found to have syphoned cash from the Department of Traffic and pocketed approximately R1,2 million. A council resolution stated that the Municipal Manager of Letaba had to lay criminal charges against these culprits by Friday last week.

It has yet to be done. The two employees were suspended at the time that the investigation started. One culprit resigned, the other was later reinstated. The lady who resigned is now employed in the Office of the Speaker of this House.

If the Municipal Manager is not prepared to lay charges against these culprits, will the Premier prepared to lay charges against these culprits or do the opposition once again needs to be the watchdog and lay charges against these culprits.

Thank you, Hon Speaker and my apology.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Smalle. We shall now allow Hon Makgabo Mosehlana Mapoulo to come and debate.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Members of the Executive Council; my colleagues and the Chief Whip of the majority party in waiting. Hon Speaker, I am saying the majority party in waiting.

Hon Speaker, it is disappointing and disturbing that of the 11 departments within the province, 05 submitted reports indicating finalised cases of financial misconduct, while 06 departments submitted nil returns, confirming that no such cases were finalised during the reporting. What is this if not arrogance and defiance by the departments in complying with the Public Service Commission directives?

Furthermore, despite Limpopo departments reporting only 10 finalised cases of financial misconduct during the 2023/24 financial year which is the lowest number in the past five years, the total monetary value involved reached a record high of R2,937,682,14. Aowa, ke kgona go bala dinomoro. Ga senna bale.

This is a shocking and unacceptable development which must never be tolerated by any government. Hon Speaker, the total amount recovered during the period under review was R162 515,47 representing only 6% of R2 million plus. It remained outstanding by the end of the financial year.

This clearly shows that the government is failing to hold officials accountable and that many of them do not see the need to pay back the money, hence they respond with arrogance instead of compliance. Some of the MPLs who served in this august House have left with the monies of this Legislature.

Others let their souls rest in peace; they owed this Legislature millions of rands without trace. Can we get a report of monies written off as unrecoverable losses to the state and why they were written off?

Hon Speaker, it was reported that 32 SMS members failed to disclose certain registrable financial interests. These nondisclosures predominantly involved undeclared company directorships, ownership of vehicles, and immovable property. This is a clear conflict of

interest by officials who continue to run companies without the knowledge of their employer as required.

Could it be that some of these officials are being fronted by politicians to run businesses on their behalf? We will soon uncover about malfeasance that may exist because as the EFF we have got our own intelligence.

Hon Speaker, only the Departments of Agriculture, CoGHSTA, Social Development, and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure achieved 100% compliance with qualification requirements. This time, I can just say thank you CoGHSTA, you adhered with the list of winners.

It is reported that seven departments had one or more SMS members who did not meet the minimum qualification requirements. This is as a result of nepotism of the policy of cadre deployment. You must hear and understand that we might not have a problem with cadre deployment, but the nepotism and taking people without skills is a challenge, but it is done by the ANC. Merits here are not used.

Loyalty to political bosses is what matters most than anything else. We need strategic leadership. This thing is going off; I don't see my time now. You have stolen my time. You see now, you have stolen it.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disturbed by persistent delays in adhering to the 30-day payment rule for service providers. Big companies and the SMMEs are collapsing in this province because of non-payment by government departments.

These delays result in a growing backlog of unpaid invoices, impacting service delivery and supplier trust. We are also concerned that departments often do not provide timely feedback on cases referred by the Public Service Commission through the National Anti-Corruption Hotline. Reporting delays, often exceeding the 40-day mandate, contributed to a backlog of unresolved cases.

Hon Speaker, the Musina-Makhado SEZ faces a leadership gap, as the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) remains vacant. An acting CEO has been appointed in the interim. A significant delay was experienced regarding the land allocation, which impeded the commencement of the infrastructure implementation. You must borrow cardinal number one of the EFF to speed up your issues.

Notably, work was halted due to contractual disputes and the capacity limitations. The realisation of successful implementation of MMSEZ is a farfetched dream which continues to diminish by day.

The situation of Musina-Makhado SEZ is extremely worrying in that infrastructure projects including bulk electricity supply, water provision, bulk sewage systems, and security fencing remain at design phase, with some designs undergoing review by the newly appointed engineer.

This project has been at the design stage for the past 10 years if not 11 years, with no significant shift and yet salaries are being paid to staff, engineers, money paid to

contractors and consultants. Remember that this was launched in July 2014, but still to date, we are still at design stage.

There is clearly no value for money. We have an impression that government was not prepared for the implementation of this project but created this project as a milking cow for conferences of the ANC. All they have is just wishful thinking which will never come to pass, especially, because of lack of political will.

To rub salt into the wound, the road construction contract was prematurely terminated due to slow progress and contractual disagreements. Furthermore, the constructed internal roads were found to be non-compliant with SEZ standards being above ground level, thereby requiring costly ramps and creating stormwater management complications.

Nothing seems to be working in this project. It is a complete disaster. It is another recorded white elephant since July 2014.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mapoulo. We will now allow the chairperson of the committee, Hon Phokane to come and close the debate.

MR PHOKANE

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Whippery, Chairperson of Committees and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, leaders of the opposition parties, as well as my fellow honourable Members, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, the Public Service Commission (PSC) was established in terms of section 196 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The mission of the PSC is to promote the constitutionally enshrined democratic principles and values of the public service by investigating the research and monitoring, evaluating, communicating and reporting on public administration.

As the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, we are also tasked to interact with the Public Service Commission on their reports and come to report to the Legislature. The portfolio committee has met with and got briefed by the PSC on a variety of issues the commission was mandated to deal with.

Between April and May 2022, the Public Service Commission conducted an engagement session on constitutional values and principles with the officials employed by the Limpopo Department of Social Development at junior and middle management levels.

During these sessions, officials raised several challenges related to their working conditions, which are lack of resources as well as inadequate office accommodation. These challenges were reported to have a direct and negative impact on the quality

of service delivery by the department which primarily the stakeholders included the poor vulnerable and the marginalised individuals and groups.

Arising from the concerns raised from these engagements, the PSC commissioner resolved to conduct service delivery inspections independently in terms of section 196(4)(f) of the Constitution during the 2022/23 financial year. The Limpopo provincial office team led by the provincially based commissioner visited all selected sites.

The team engaged social workers to gather first-hand information regarding office accommodation, available facility security and resources. These engagements were complimented by meeting with the district directors to contextualise the findings and challenges experienced by frontline social workers.

In some areas such as hospitals continue to observe COVID-19 protocol observations regarding accessibility, signage, business hours and the presence of civil officials commence are upon arrival at each service point. This includes the interactions with citizens and recording operational arrangements where possible.

The PSC observed the condition of facilities, the availability and adequacy of tools of trade and the safety of working environments. A report was prepared with findings and recommendations and presented to the Department of Social Development. The very same reports were also presented to the Limpopo Legislature via the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration.

Hon Speaker, the PSC observed that variance in facility standards regarding some district offices in Mookgophong, where the facility is well designed and modern in stark contrast with others where there is a serious lack of basic signages and accessibility. Offices such as Bela-Bela in the industrial area lack visibility and proper signage while signage at Botlokwa and Matlala tribal office was either hidden or non-existent.

On service delivery inspections, with regard to the Department of Labour, it must be noted that the PSC has taken note of numerous media reports highlighting poor service delivery at labour centres. In terms of these reports, the PSC conducted inspections at 07 of the 13 labour centres across the five districts of the Limpopo province.

Although not all these 13 labour centres were visited, the PSC is confident that the findings of this exercise offer broad applicable insights to relevant to other centres within Limpopo province and potentially to the national context. Prior to each inspection brave engagement were held with labour centre officials to gather preliminary overviews of the operational environment at each site.

Hon Speaker, the majority of the labour centres visited offer core departmental service, including public employment services, Unemployment Insurance Fund services, Compensation Fund services, and inspection and enforcement services. No significant issues were identified regarding PSC and CF services; however, a major concern arose in relation to the issue of UIF services.

It is further noted that most of the officials rely solely on computers and landlines leading to operations to being paralysed during loadshedding. Common constraints were also raised around the delayed ITC system, slow turnaround on procurement requests, lack

of photos apply in some areas, inadequate shelter for clients and long queues which are difficult to manage.

Regarding the visit at Praktiseer Home Affairs, the PSC has managed to conduct an unannounced inspection visit to that area. The primary aim of the inspection was fast-tracking the reasons behind a large number of citizens from around those areas travelling long distances to Lydenburg to access services from Home Affairs.

The investigation sought to understand the service backlogs, the extended queues, and public frustrations. According to the Department of Home Affairs, geographical standards, the maximum travel distances to Home Affairs services is set at 25 km in urban areas and 80 km in rural areas. The Praktiseer office is located within the community itself.

Hon Speaker, it should be noted that the inspection has found that this office remains difficult to locate due to lack of clear signage. The office is situated in a rented house within a complex on a private person property sharing a yard with a tavern and a carwash.

The tavern host regular overnight events which pose safety and occupational risk to the department. Additionally, operating hours were not visibly displayed nor there was a service delivery charter available for public reference. Queue management was also identified as one of the major problems caused by the failure to have a dedicated queue marshal.

While the Department of Home Affairs should engage with the Department of Public Works to secure a new dignified office to Praktiseer office, this facility should in the meantime include adequate fencing, parking, ablution facilities, reliable network connectivity, ramps and modern office infrastructure.

The Department of Home Affairs must engage with the State Information Technology Agency to resolve the persistent network challenge and ensure that system updates occur after office hours to minimise downtime.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration has also underscored the importance of prioritising the implementation of key industrial and mega projects at provincial level to stimulate economic growth and create much-needed employment opportunities.

In this regard, the committee resolved to conduct an oversight visit to Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. Accordingly, the committee conducted the visit on 30 April 2025 which covered both the north and the southern sides.

The primary objective of this visit was to assess the progress of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, monitor its alignment to the strategic and action plans, and ensure that state-owned entities and the responsible department fulfil their commitments towards achieving the intended development objectives.

Significant delays were experienced regarding land allocation of both sites which impeded the commencement of infrastructure implementation. Hon Speaker, it is said

to indicate that up to so far, the Department of Agriculture has since approved the land transfer to Musina Local Municipality, enabling the allocation of the MMSEZ.

On all infrastructure-related initiatives, only the internal role project advanced to construction phase. However, work was halted due to contractual disputes and capacity limitations. Other infrastructure projects including bulk electricity supply, water provision, bulk sewage systems and security fencing remained at design phase, with some designs undergoing review by a newly appointed engineer.

We applaud the work that has been done by the MEC who has been assigned to this task, and we are hopeful that it is going to be able to turn the situation around. The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone has significant potential to transform the economic landscape of Limpopo province, provided it is implemented with efficiency and align with approved plans.

Despite enduring operational infrastructure challenges, recent developments like the acquisition of land and the technical capacity strengthening, there is an indication of positive momentum. The committee recommends that:

- There should be regular progress reports on infrastructure project implementations.
- There should be updates on land allocation processes, contractual disputes investor retention strategies and ongoing litigations.
- There should be strengthening of technical capacity within the Musina-Makhado SEZ entity.
- There should a be clear communication of milestone achievements and challenges encountered ensuring transparency, governance and oversight.
- There should be collaborative efforts to address all regulatory legal obstacles hindering project implementation.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson for closing the debate. We will now call upon the Premier of the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to come and respond to the debates. You would have realised that we have given additional minutes for the Members, therefore, even for the Executive, it is not 3 minutes today, it is 5 minutes. We have added additional 2 minutes for the response. Thanks, Hon Premier. Over to you.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of Government Business; Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the Legislature; chairperson of my portfolio committee and other chairpersons; Leader of the Opposition.

Hon Speaker, let me start by indicating that we are debating these reports at a very difficult time. This is a month wherein women need to be honoured and celebrated.

However, since 01 August 2025 when we lunched Women's Month, I can tell you, in one District of Vhembe only, we have lost more than 10 women.

The similarity is that all of them are dying in the hands of their loved ones. Therefore, I want to call upon this House to look into this matter on a very serious note. This is because now, it has even expanded to ritual killings wherein a traditional healer was found with two heads in his possession trying to look for a buyer.

If, as this House, we don't take serious steps and work on eradicating this gender-based violence and femicide, we will be left with no future. Let me also remind honourable Members that what I undertook when I accepted my election as a Premier of this province, is that I would also focus on improving not only service delivery but also the overall governance.

My priority was to ensure that audit outcomes improve for the province, and all departments should at least have unqualified audit opinions while the ultimate goal is for them to achieve clean audits. This is because an audit opinion is the only way that we can currently utilise for us to be able to measure as to whether we are on the right track in terms of the clean audits or not in governance.

We are, therefore, appealing to honourable Members to just wait even for this year's announcement when the Auditor-General would have finally completed the work that they are doing. You are going to be surprised, Hon Smalle that indeed, we are on the right track towards clean governance.

We, therefore, would want to also indicate that, yes indeed, in terms of the external audit recommendations, out of the six, the Office of the Premier was able to implement all the five recommendations.

This other one which relates to the dryness club card, we are waiting for the forensic investigation from the Provincial Treasury. This is because it was an expenditure which was incurred without any supporting documents.

As soon as it is done, you are going to see that we would have completed all the implementations, but also, even in relation to the Greater Letaba Municipality, the mere fact that we have been able to have a forensic audit, shows that there is transparency with this government. There is accountability from this government.

Currently, the MEC has got that report and he is studying it. We will make sure that whoever is found wanting according to the report, there must be actions irrespective of who are you related to or connected to. If you have done any wrong things, under the Seventh Administration we will make sure that the law takes its course.

We are the ones who initiate these forensic investigations. We are also indicating that the Musina-Makhado SEZ is one of these catalytic projects that as the Seventh Administration we are committed towards making sure that it does what it was initially meant for. That is why currently, we are busy with the issue of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) which is a matter in court, and you know about that, Hon Smalle.

In terms of the construction of the bulk services, the roads and storm water, we have terminated the contract. Unfortunately, the matter is also in court, but we have encouraged them to find other dispute resolution mechanisms so that the work can resume.

On the north side, which is the side of the township, the work establishment has already begun. Reports that were needed since your visit as the portfolio committee has already been submitted as early as 30 June 2025 at Musina Local Municipality. They have indicated that before the end of August, the tribunal would have met and adjudicated on the matter.

When you look at the CEO, they are currently busy with the recruitment process. We have told them that they need to make sure that we get a qualified and well experienced individual who will make sure that this catalytic project, that the people of Limpopo are so waiting for, will be implemented.

We must also indicate that in terms of the issues of the GNT that you have raised, you have seen that the MEC is acting on the matter. The fact is that all who are responsible for the challenges, whether is the pension fund matter, were there been taken to account for. Some are even under the senior executive in the GNT, it is an open secret that they are on suspension and undergoing disciplinary processes.

We also didn't stop there, we wrote to the President and said we needed the SIU because the GNT is in ICU. As we speak, the SIU are currently busy with the GNT. We have done this without being pushed, without somebody holding a gun to our heads, because we know what it means when the GNT is nonfunctional.

We have told you that GNT is not only about its self-sustainability, but it is a mode of transport for ordinary workers who can't afford a transport that is not subsidised. In terms of reduction of cost of living for our people, the GNT is one of those vehicles which we are currently utilising to make sure that people utilise it, as the cost of living is high.

There have got a new board that has been able to pick up all these challenges that we are facing which previously they were not because things were happening as usual. The new board is the one that will be able to make diagnoses.

Currently, we are talking about 24 buses which are on the road. Even the new board, just watch the space, by the end of September there will be more than 250 buses on the road with the new leadership that we have. You will see that work happening.

The same goes for GAAL, it is equally having its own challenges of which we are working on. One thing that I must say, because my time is not enough and I know soon Hon Speaker will be telling me to sit down, I need to say that I want to appreciate the portfolio committees.

I want to appreciate Members of this Legislature under this Seventh Administration because I have seen you doing your own oversight visits. Some of the areas we can't reach as the MECs and the Premier, because of our busy schedules, but you are currently doing your work.

You are no longer sleeping on duty. You are doing the real oversight visits. Thank you for that. Continue to give us the reports and we will continue to do our work. At the end of the day, it is never about us, it is always about the people of this province that I want to believe both sides love so much. We want the best for them.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. The Seventh Administration never slept on duty. We can refer to another thing, but the Seventh Administration never slept on duty. They have been upfront. Thank you so much. We are happy that the Executive feels our presence there where we are. Let's continue to do the good work, honourable Members. We now move to the next item.

7.6. Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Education

Committee chairperson, Hon Christian Nkakareng Rakgoale, the floor is yours.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Without any waste of time, I hereby present the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Department of Education for consideration and adoption by this House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Rakgoale. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Shai, you are recognised.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the consideration and adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Department of Education. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Shai. Honourable chairperson, you may proceed.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I, therefore, present the 2024/25 first quarter report for the Department of Education for the consideration and adoption by this House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Moss, you are recognised.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Andre Moss, rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We appreciate Hon Moss for seconding the report. Honourable chair, you may proceed. Chairperson, you are on the platform.

MS RAKGOALE

I was waiting for the instruction, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 second quarter report for the Department of Education to be considered and adopted by this House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I rise to support the report as presented by Hon Rakgoale. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mokaba. Hon chairperson, you may proceed.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you so much, Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 third quarter report for the Department of Education for consideration and adoption by this House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable chairperson. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Bella Kupa, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Kupa. Honourable chairperson, you may proceed.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you. I hereby present the 2024/25 fourth quarter report for Department of Education to be considered and adopted by this House.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, chairperson. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mohale, you are recognised.

MS MOHALE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Rakgoale.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Lastly, I hereby present for consideration and adoption of the report on the 2025 Back-to-School Campaign. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Rakgoale. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mnisi, you are recognised.

MR MNISI

Ndza khensa Muchaviseki, Manana Xipikara, Dokodela Makoma Makhurupetje. Ndzi yima ku seketela xiviko lexi andlariweke hi Muchaviseki Rakgoale, eka xiviko xa Phfumba ro Vhakela Swikolo hi Sunguti. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa Manana Gloria Mnisi, ku va mi seketerile xiviko xa Mutshamaxitulu, Manana Christian Rakgoale. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. In terms of the Speakers' List, the first person to debate is Hon Maringa Vongani Wesly.

MR MARINGA

Hon Speaker, all protocol is observed.

Hon Speaker, I want to start today's debate by quoting an American author Dr Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Hon Speaker, the argument herein is that we are responsible for the state of education in our province. The best thing we can ever do is to deliver quality education for the young people to learn. To learn so that they can read more, so that they can explore the world, so that they can fit in and deliver our province into a competitive state in respect of economic development through education.

Hon Speaker, the month of August has a memorial significance. It is a very serious month in the livelihood and the history of the African National Congress which is the ruling party in South Africa today.

During the course of the years on 12 August 1943, that was the first day where the African National Congress admitted the membership of women in this country in its own organisation to be members of the African National Congress ever since that time.

To date, we boast ourselves as a province to be led by a very progressive Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and the same cabinet that she is leading is composed of very progressive and effective members, amongst them is women. This is how far from the ANC has pushed in this country.

Hon Speaker, allow me to present the fact that the Department of Education in Limpopo is led by a woman for that reason. The state in terms of the percentage that we have achieved in the previous years in respect of your matric examinations and performance was a particular progressive percentage that the province of Limpopo has never seen since the dawn of democracy. That department is led by a woman.

The fruits of what the ANC did in 1943 continues to present itself in the livelihood of our people. Hon Speaker, I think, we need to carry within ourselves the principles of how best we assist young people to do well in school.

Our government is putting up a lot of resources in our public schools to make the learning environment more conducive and more progressive, so that the process of teaching can be implemented without any disturbances, so that we can produce the necessary quality that the country needs.

Out of the 15 output indicators, our province has done well in respect of achievement because we are sitting at 14% out of our 15 output indicators. This is done under the leadership or the stewardship of the MEC whom I must completely emphasise that is a woman in that particular space in the province of Limpopo.

Let's have a discussion, Hon Speaker, about our public ordinary schools. Historically, our public ordinary schools have always suffered about the challenges of infrastructure development. We have always suffered about the issue of capacity development in terms of the teachers that are available in those schools. That was informed of the kind of the produce that we received from the apartheid regime in terms of the teaching mechanisms.

We will always draw a very strong reference and strong difference between what we have produced in terms of teachers in the democratic South Africa and what we have inherited in the past years out of what the apartheid system had produced in respect of teachers.

As it stands today, the government that is led by the African National Congress stands very boldly and very strongly to pride itself about the contribution regarding the capacity that exist in our public schools with regard to the teachers that are there who are providing the teaching services to our children at that level of the schools.

Hon Speaker, let me engage this august House on the state of our contribution as government to what we regard mostly as your private or independent schools in terms of the common language. It should be noted that in terms of the state at which we contribute as government, because what we believe here is that private schools are doing far much better than public schools.

A majority of us, including other Members of this august House, seems to have abandoned taking our children to these public schools and sends them to what we regard as independent schools.

The country and the province of Limpopo must know very well that our government as the province is funding and contributing heavily financially to these independent schools and their performance still accounts to the extent to which government is assisting them, intervening in terms of financial contributions to that space.

Therefore, as they shine, we take the shine as government here in Limpopo because we know our financial contributions to the performance and the development of those schools. This information or this message is one message we must spread very strongly so that people begin to see that even those schools are doing well on the basis of our contributions as government so that they can do well in that space.

Hon Speaker, on the issue of infrastructure development, I think I must engage the Premier in her presence here and the MEC for Education including the MEC for “Dikgerekgere”. One of the critical challenges that we are facing in this province that relates to infrastructure development is that at some point, our implementing agencies are, to a particular extent, not moving as fast as we wish and they are to a particular extent not delivering to the extent which we want.

This is exposing government to unnecessary criticisms about the state of infrastructure in these schools that we are looking after as government, whereas we are putting up budget aside so that these schools can be put together. I must emphasise, Hon Speaker that, we need to work twice as hard to also consider developing capacity.

Hon Speaker, government must work twice as hard. The MEC for “Dikgerekgere” must find a way to work twice as hard to develop capacity so that to a particular extent, instead of using these implementing agencies, we should to a particular extent since they are exposing us to danger and unnecessary criticisms.

We are able to deliver on ourselves and see to it that we build schools, see to it that the infrastructure that relates to sanitation is up to scratch, see to it that the infrastructure that also responds to the issue of electricity is also well taken care of. These can only be done far much better by our government more than any other person.

Hon Speaker, we have done well in respect of preparations to ensure that our communities remain safe in their schools. Our children are safe when they go to their schools, but we must also have to emphasise one point which is the withdrawal of community members.

The withdrawal of community members in the interest of them guarding the schools and also supporting the schools regarding safety is a growing concern for us as government. This is because the majority of the challenges that we face and experience in our communities at school level are activities of thuggery and at the particular core of it, it is community members as well who also have opted to withdraw themselves from support of the schools.

Our SGBs in their respective schools are not receiving sufficient support from members of the community. This is a growing challenge which is going to make life difficult for our pupils in that particular space of lower education or primary higher education.

We, therefore, need to find a way to call for the community's consciousness so that we do not have to spend more money on security measures, but rather spend more money on tools of trade at school level. This will assist our learners can learn faster and can also adjust much quicker to the current existing technology that is going to assist them to pass with flying colours.

It will also assist us to move beyond the current percentages that we have achieved in the previous academic year to a higher percentage. It will also help to move from the grades that we are at in terms of whose school is number one to another level and another grade so that we are able to shine and carry our province to the highest level in this country.

Hon Speaker, the challenge that we have experienced in our special schools, I think communities must, to a particular extent, stop speaking from an ill-informed position in terms of what are the exact material conditions on the ground. We know that people have been calling about what must happen in Rivoni school. We know that people have been making noise about what is the situation in Setotolwane school.

Today I can boldly stand here and confirm to you that what is reported is contrary to the existing material conditions in those schools. In fact, what we need to do, we must make a call for those who are looking after our children in those schools.

They must not just to be there as people who are employed to assist them and to look after them, but to also go further and play a very critical role in assisting and guiding these learners to be able to go to areas of engagement as and when they need to arise so that we can stop the noise about where these students are helping themselves, whereas the facilities are existing and are standing.

I am making a call to anyone here who may want to dispute this fact, please take your time, travel to Setotolwane, and when you come back you will be the first one to speak very proudly about what the government has done in those particular schools there, so that our people can know how best is our government in serving this population in this province of Limpopo.

The Back-to-School Campaign was a success. It has exposed us to quite a number of challenges that ordinary people will not be able to pick until you visited school after a school. One of the issues I have raised earlier is that, even if we have a challenge of infrastructure development but at the same time, we also have noted that there are a number of schools which are doing well even when they are under difficult conditions in terms of their infrastructure outlook.

I will give you a typical example of one school here in Vuwani. That school is a technical school. It is always producing 100% in terms of pass mark, but if you look at a teacher ratio there, they are less than 04 including the principal who is also teaching. Then you ask yourself what is happening to these other schools which are overloaded in terms of teachers? What is going on there, and what do we need to do?

I will tell you what the response will be for the answer to the question I am asking, and I am sharing with you. The answer will be what is the extent of community involvement in the livelihood of the school in the process of teaching and learning in those respective schools.

We have done very well, Hon Speaker, in the space of assisting students to reach schools, particularly in the farm areas and from areas where certain schools have been closed to be merged with another school. Limpopo has always outshined itself in terms of scholar transport.

We have been doing well. We remain proud and we don't talk about these things. The problem of not talking about the good that we do is that the worse that is not there is going to be generated. The first people to generate spirits that do not exist, will be amongst those who are sitting on my left here.

About situations that does not exist, starting by Hon Mapoulo, we must be proud to indicate that we are transporting our learners to schools, and we are doing well. We have never had challenges about the state of the transport that takes them there.

As government, we must make a call. The biggest call that we must make is a call for the private sector and call for community members to continue to engage themselves in donations of sanitary towels in their respective communities.

A girl child is denied an opportunity to attend school for a good period of about five to seven days a month on the bases of unavailability or shortage of sanitary towels that they must put together so that they are able to get to school. This one has got nothing to do with the African National Congress, much as members of the ANC are very proud about the contribution they have been making.

We are making a call to say all community members where we come from, we must make it our project to continue to buy sanitary towels and drop them at our high schools where we reside and where we live so that our young pupils don't miss teaching time and don't lose out on tests and don't lose out any other thing that happens at school because of the absence of sanitary towels.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude with these seconds that are left, we are making a call as the portfolio committee, that we need to consider a situation of a revolution that talks

about curriculum development so that our curriculum at the high school level can respond to the material space that we should find ourselves.

A typical example, we need to see to it that our high schools are also producing young people with certain level of skills that also speak to the mining belt that exists between Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts, what happens in Vhembe in terms of farming, what happens in Mopani in terms of farming. Khanimambo, 14 minutes was not enough.

Dankie, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Yes, 14 minutes was not enough, so next time. Thank you so much. We will proceed to Hon Moss. You are the next in line. Hon Andre Moss, you have got seven minutes to debate.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the opposition parties, Members of this House and guests.

Hon Speaker, the Back-to-School report is littered with the words like “not resolved” and “not fully resolved.” Those are not just words on paper, they are the reality for learners in Limpopo who are forced to study in overcrowded classrooms, without water, without furniture, and in unsafe, undignified conditions.

The department expects us to accept that the infrastructure progress report serves as proof of achievement. However, it is actually a shortcomings, postponements, and unfulfilled commitments with Limpopo’s students bearing the consequences.

The department asserts that it is tackling infrastructure issues, yet there are 953 schools requiring sanitation, 151 schools affected by storm damage, and 777 schools urgently needing renovation. The report further reveals that the majority of these school projects lack defined timelines with most spanning multiple years. This absence of clear deadlines undermines any sense of urgency or accountability and there is no assurance that this issue will be resolved anytime soon.

Hon Speaker, Phaswana Secondary School has no proper ablution facilities, and it is not resolved. Phaladingwe Technical High School has a R118,000 Eskom bill, it is next to a liquor outlet, no proper resolution and is not resolved.

This is a pattern across Capricorn, Sekhukhune, Vhembe, Waterberg and Mopani Districts. The problems are known, but the solutions are endlessly postponed. The crisis of pit latrines represents yet another issue. The report shows that 1 254 schools were assessed, 565 priority schools are still being verified, 64 schools are still using pit toilets because there is no other form of sanitation.

Target deadlines to eliminate pit toilets set for 2016, 2020, and even February 2023 have been missed repeatedly, but the current aim is to eliminate them this year by the Department of Basic Education.

Hon Speaker, let us talk about our most vulnerable children, those in special schools. The 26 special school buses that were promised have still not been delivered. These are not just vehicles, they are the difference between a child receiving an education or staying at home, excluded from society. The failure to deliver them is not just incompetence, but it is actually cruelty.

Hon Speaker, the Maths, Science and Technology grant, only 64% of it was spent. In a province where our learners are struggling in these subjects, this is not a minor oversight, but it is actually a betrayal. Robotic kits are gathering dust in procurement offices while our children are denied the tools to compete in the modern world.

While this happens, the department still cannot even fill critical vacancies, including the permanent appointment of an accounting officer. How do you expect to manage billions in public funds without the leadership in place to ensure oversight and delivery, and yet Hon Speaker, we still hear the same tired excuses:

- Contractors failed.
- Appointments were delayed.
- Invoices came late.
- We will fast track in the next financial year.

The truth is that there is no urgency, no real accountability. It is the daily destruction of our children's future.

Hon Speaker, the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Limpopo Department of Education is not a victory lap, it is a report card of repeated failures. For eight consecutive years, this department has received a qualified audit opinion. This means systematic problems are not being fixed.

This year alone, the department incurred R191 million in irregular expenditure, and the total irregular expenditures now stands at R3,34 billion. That is not just a number on a page, but that is money that could have gone to classrooms, textbooks, and safe toilets for our children. When processes are ignored, the integrity of the public funds is compromised. Accountability is not optional, it is the law.

Hon Speaker, on learner performance, the department celebrates a 79,54% National Senior Certificate pass rate, but the reality is in the detail. In Physical Science, only 14,4% of learners achieved a 60% or more, far short of the 18% target. In Mathematics, just 13,3% reached that same benchmark.

These are the subjects that determine whether our young people can enter the fields of engineering, medicine, or science. Without them, the economy's future workforce is weakened.

Inspections show that all 273 workplaces visited were not compliant with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993). This includes school kitchens feeding our children. While classrooms suffer, the department's inability to fill posts and finalise procurement is choking service delivery. Across multiple programmes, there is underspending because posts are vacant, and tenders are stuck.

Programme 05, which is Early Childhood Development underspent by R35 million. That is R35 million not invested in giving our youngest learners the best possible start. We cannot ignore governance failures either. The 47 Scopa resolutions remain unresolved, some going back nearly a decade.

The department used an incorrect allowance code for leave gratuity payments not being taxed, resulting in a R21,8 million in SARS penalties and interests. These are not minor oversights. These are repeated breaches of responsibility.

In conclusion, when you encounter “not resolved” in these reports, it is indicating that a child still lacks access to a safe toilet. It signifies that a student is still without a classroom. It signifies that learners are being deprived of sufficient teachers and resources. It implies that the future of our children is grim.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Andre Moss. We will now proceed to Hon Jacobus Smalle. Your 09 minutes starts now.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

The Back-to-School Campaign and departmental reports come at a time when the Minister of Basic Education has gazetted the draft learner admission regulations and the draft school capacity regulations for public comment. These two sets of regulations have been contentious both internally and externally.

Parents, schools and members of the public can now make submissions on these regulations that relate to key issues like school admissions and capacity. The publishing of these regulations marks a significant milestone where the DA believes that these regulations are both vital in the responsible and inclusive implementation of the Act to became law in September last year.

The gazetted regulations relate to key provisions in the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996) regarding capacity and admissions. These regulations were designed to ensure that the amendments introduced by the BELA Act, 2024 (Act 32 of 2024) were implemented in a manner that upholds learners’ rights, enhances school functionality, and maintains the careful balance of powers and functions between the school governing bodies and the government.

In terms of these capacity regulations, the highlight in the document is that public school classrooms be limited to one teacher per class of 40 learners. For Grade R, this should be one teacher for a class of 30 learners.

The committee's Back-to-School Campaign oversight report reveals just how far the department will be stretched and that it's not able to effectively manage infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance at our schools.

It is also clear that when these new regulations will be introduced, Limpopo will find itself in a difficult corner as a majority of our schools are overcrowded and that we as a province already sit with a Budget deficit of approximately R1,8 billion in terms of infrastructure maintenance backlogs and the infrastructure backlog is in excess of R20 billion.

Of the 28 schools visited across the province none, let me repeat, none of the outstanding matters has been resolved. All the committee resolutions are either not resolved or not fully resolved. This displays a lack of will and commitment to address the institutional challenges that continue to affect our education system.

Just this week, we had to face the conditions at Elim High School, 2000 learners are exposed to broken toilets, unhygienic facilities with rundown and overcrowded classrooms. This school has pleaded for more classrooms since 2007, that is nearly 18 years ago.

The 80 to 90 learners in the Grade 9 class, with broken chairs, broken ceilings, missing roofs. This school has 5 toilets for boys and 5 for girls. The only answer the department's spokesperson could give is that the school is part of the 48 schools in the infrastructure build plans.

Schools with serious challenges that are impediments to dignified learning for our learners have not received any attention and this cannot continue. Masoka Secondary School with priority 1 sanitation facility needs, OR Tambo Comprehensive School that has fire damage and lack of qualified educators to offer subjects as well as schools like Zava High School and Ongedacht Secondary School which have no water at all have serious challenges that make the learning environment uncondusive.

Hon Speaker, despite the absolute failure to resolve the committee's resolutions, it is encouraging that the department has indicated efforts to address some issues such as deploying 230 Learner Support Agents to high-burden schools, efforts to focus on substance abuse prevention, unwanted pregnancies, and reproductive health and attempts to address the progression of learners despite poor performance through training of SMTs, and ensuring remedial programmes are implemented.

The outstanding matters in this report need to be prioritised, monitored and resolved as soon as possible. Our learners deserve to receive a quality education, in a conducive environment that gives them the best opportunity to succeed.

We have a constitutional obligation to defend the 13,5 million learners attending school, more so the 1,5 million learners here in Limpopo where our children continuously face challenges around poverty, safety and the hardships of being unable to go to school in a conducive learning environment

While nearly R750 million was awarded to special needs schools, conditions at these schools have not improved and the rights of our special needs learners have been

violated. Year in year out, we hear about why the conditions have not changed at our schools such as Rivoni School for the Blind.

We continue to stand on platforms advocating for the less privileged, but if Rivoni School for the Blind is anything to go by, leadership should feel ashamed of the current situation, the places of accommodation and the surrounding, and it begs the question: Who is really being held accountable while our learners feel unsafe?

The 26 special needs school busses that were not delivered on time and only received in the following financial year would have brought a smile to those learners who struggle daily just to go to school and back.

The 3 009 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres are currently being supported by the department which is an increase of 43% from the previous financial year. With 162 354 learners enrolled and benefiting across our ECD centres it requires the department to mitigate against risks, and it should start strengthening ECD compliance, oversight and healthcare.

The R1,4 billion spent on infrastructure and maintenance is simply not enough to eradicate our dilapidated schools, build and maintain classrooms and provide new schools due to the migration of families to areas conducive for work. There is a need for this government to support a renewed financial model that speaks to the future of our learners and provide opportunity.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. I really appreciate your cooperation by leaving me with some few minutes. Hon Molapo Walter Samuel, you are the next speaker. Your 11 minutes starts now.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks, Madam Speaker. Greetings, to the Leader of Official Opposition, Commissar Mapoulo; whip of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Commissar Mogoane; members of the EFF and the people of Limpopo.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by outlining the failures and the shortcomings of the Limpopo Department of Basic Education under the corrupt ANC-led government and further characterise the problems and chaos that we got confronted with when we were doing oversight during the Back-to-School Campaign.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Basic Education in this province has failed to spend over a billion of rands that was allocated to it in the Budget for the 2023/24 financial year. In the Budget of the 2024/25 financial year, they also failed to spend over a billion rands. This is a disappointing situation, Madam Speaker.

Much of the underspending is on Programme 2, which is for Public Ordinary Schools. The R200 million was not spent in this regard while on Programme 3: Independent

Schools, the ANC-led government was able to spend. This is a clear indication that the ANC is able to cater for people who are rich and is failing to spend on people who are poor.

I heard you, Hon Maringa, being proud that you are able to support independent schools. It is good for you because you spend for the haves. We, as the EFF, want to urge this government to also spend for the have nots.

The Funza Lushaka Bursary scheme is nothing but a PR exercise. Why do you train teachers with taxpayers' money and fail to place them in schools after completion? Madam Speaker, in the 2023/24 financial year, the MEC failed to absorb, 33 bursary holders who completed after using the government's money.

Hon Speaker, there is a teacher shortage across our province. Many principals are in acting positions. Currently, there are 2 447 critical positions that are vacant, and the department is failing to fill those positions. The Department of Basic Education here in Limpopo has consistently failed to spend the conditional grant, particularly, the Maths, Science and Technology (MST) Grant.

For many years, the department has failed to address the safety in our public schools. Learner and teacher safety is not guaranteed. Hon Speaker, the Department of Basic Education here in Limpopo is failing to address water infrastructure and sanitation in our public schools.

Many of our rural schools are still using pit toilets. We have observed this when we were doing oversight during our Back-to-School Campaign. In schools such as Kgalatlou Technical School in Sekhukhune, the ablution facilities are not enough and there are no people to clean them. It is called a technical school but there is nothing technical there. Even the drawing equipment is not there, let alone a workshop.

During the oversight visit to Setotolwane Public Special School, it was a very disappointing situation to observe that learners did not have water for the past two years. We are talking about learners who are blind and some of them are actually having problems of teenage pregnancy.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Education here is also failing to address overcrowding in our schools. This residential problem of overcrowding has reached a crisis level. The Department of Basic Education here has failed to prioritise the capacitation of teachers in our ECD sector and infrastructure development in ECD centres.

The department is failing to address the lack of digital connectivity in our black schools. We must condemn in strongest terms possible the MEC for Education here who is continuing to fail to allocate enough money for internet connectivity and Wi-Fi connectivity in our rural schools. This must be done because it will help our children to compete globally with their peers.

Hon Speaker, we must reiterate our point that we made two weeks back here, that feeding scheme, scholar transport and school furniture tenders are nothing but a fertile

ground for corruption in this department. Hon Speaker, allow me, on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to advise the MEC on what must happen:

- The department must procure and deliver temporary mobile classrooms to all schools that are faced with overcrowding. This will make sure that our kids are not turning back next year when they go to schools on the basis that there are no spaces.
- The department must make sure that they publicise the names of all schools that are still using pit toilets, and those pit toilets must be eradicated within this financial year.
- There must be no school without a functioning borehole, like in Setotolwane Special School.
- The department must seriously deal with the issue of digital connectivity in this financial year. They must tell us how many schools are going to be connected.
- All schools must have a minimum of two general workers who are dedicated to cleaning our school ablution facilities. The situation that we experienced in those schools that we visited as far as ablution facilities is concerning and very disappointing, honourable MEC.
- All schools must be provided with at least one security guard during the day and also during the night. Wherever we went, we realised that there are no security guards at night, only during the day and it is only one.
- Hon Speaker, we want to also urge the MEC to make sure that the 2 447 vacancies are advertised before the end of September 2025 and before the end of this year all those positions must have been filled.
- We must restore the dignity of our vulnerable learners in all those public special schools, particularly, the Setotolwane Special School.
- The department must make sure that they establish ECD centres in every ward in the province. They must make sure that all those 56 earmarked nonviable schools are turned into ECD centres. All the government buildings that are abandoned must be renovated and turned into ECD centres.
- You must capacitate our ECD practitioners and employ them on permanent basis.

Madam Speaker, we want to make a call to the MEC, to make sure that they always have money aside to deal with schools that can be damaged during the period of this financial year. It is very disappointing that as we speak now there are schools that are still damaged and are not being repaired.

We take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to congratulate our learners who make us proud in 2024, and we encourage those that are in Matric this year to make sure that they also make us proud.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Walter Molapo for saving me 2 minutes and 20 seconds. I will now allow Hon Rakgoale, chairperson of the committee to close the debate.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you so much and greetings to yourself, Hon Speaker; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Deputy Chair of Chairs and the Premier in absentia; all MECs present here and honourable Members; good afternoon.

Hon Molapo, I was listening to you very attentively and you must now listen to me. I am not sure as to whether the congratulatory message of Matric results, you just woke up now and I don't understand what is happening. I don't have a problem with that.

You just woke up now in August, Hon Molapo a month before Matric learners you want to congratulate. I don't know as to whether you are congratulating the ones that are about to write, or you are congratulating those of last year.

Madam Speaker, I rise to address honourable Members during this important month of August as we continue celebrating Women's Month. The Portfolio Committee on Education would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the vital role that women play in shaping the future of our province through education.

Hon Mapoulo, you are the whip of the EFF, when we arrange the oversight visits, we then talk about three schools that we will visit. When we arrange three schools, tell your members to make sure that they visit the three schools so that they have the feel of what is happening in all those schools.

When we say we are going to go to four schools in Sekhukhune, can we all attend to those four schools. You don't attend one school and come back here and want to depend on the very same report that you produce, and you want to come and say this and that is not happening.

Women are not only learners and educators, but also leaders, mentors and role players who inspire and empower future generations. As it is procedural in carrying out its constitutional mandate, the Portfolio Committee on Education is succeeding in promoting gender equality, and empowering women and girls through education.

We believe that education is a powerful tool for transforming lives and communities and we are dedicated to ensuring that all learners regardless of gender have access to quality education that enables them to reach their full potential. Madam Speaker, it will be wrong for me not to mention that in most schools where principals are women, we are getting good results and that on its own it shows massive steps towards women empowerment.

In infrastructure development, the ANC-led government has invested significantly in education infrastructure including building new schools, upgrading existing ones and providing resources such as textbooks and technology. I think Hon Maringa has gone deeply in making sure that the MEC for "Dikgerekgere", the implementing agent, is really to a certain extent not doing good to the Department of Education.

I can't speak about other departments when it comes to infrastructure development, surely, I think Hon Maringa was able to stress on that matter to ensure that lets try to

assist the department, because as and when we conduct oversight, some of those appalling situations when we come back, it always boils back to your department.

Colleagues, as we strive to provide quality education for all, it is essential that our schools have the necessary infrastructure to support teaching and learning. The committee noted that progress has been made in infrastructure development and that 69 schools are still awaiting appropriate ablution facilities.

It was further being reported that the department prides itself on the delivery of 95 classrooms in the 2023/24 financial year. Furthermore, it was reported that the department is committing itself to building schools in growing towns that are identified as hotspots, to improve access to education in the 2024/25 financial year.

Investing in education infrastructure is essential for providing quality education and building a skilled and educated workforce. Let's continue working together to ensure that all our schools have the necessary infrastructure to support teaching and learning.

On Public Ordinary Schools, we are saying that they are the backbone of our education system, providing access to quality education for all learners. There was no target from this programme in the first quarter of the year under review. All targets are planned for the fourth quarter of the year under review.

In the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year, the department spent R8,148 011 billion or R25,9 of the Budget allocation of R314 348,70 billion. There were no material difference in the spending on this programme during the first quarter of both years.

Madam Speaker, the committee noted significant progress in this programme. Some notable achievements include appointment of educator assistance, infrastructure development and school construction which is scheduled to be completed between the last quarter of the 2023/24 financial year and in the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year.

Despite the progress made, Public Ordinary Schools in Limpopo will face challenges that need to be addressed such as:

- Upgrading and maintain school infrastructure.
- Providing a conducive learning environment.
- Providing ongoing professional development and resources to support teachers in delivering quality education.
- Ensuring that learners have access to quality education regardless of their background or socioeconomic status.

On Early Childhood Development Programme, allow me to borrow some words from Paulo Freire when he said, "Education is a revolutionary act." To harness the transformative power of education for sustainable development, we must ensure that every child has access to quality education.

This requires investing in education infrastructure, recruiting and training qualified teachers, providing learning materials and resources that are relevant, and also engaging in culturally responsive activities. The purpose of this programme is to provide

early childhood at Grade R and Pre-Grade R under White Paper which includes e-learning also.

The department spent R148,375 million or 19,5% of the allocated Budget of R760 467 million in the quarter under review. The spending in the 2023/24 financial year first quarter was R142 million or 21% of the Budget allocation. Of R676,953 million, there is a decline in Budget spending from 21% in 2023/24 to 19% in 2024/25 financial years.

Support services under school safety, the report indicated that the department make strive in supporting the much-needed essential report services. They include the school nutrition programme, scholar transport for qualifying learners and timely delivery of top-up textbooks and school furniture.

Further, the School Governing Body elections were successfully conducted ensuring democracy representation in the school governance. Support services and school safety remain a critical component of a healthy and driving education system. By prioritising these aspects, we can create an environment where learners feel safe supported and empowered to succeed.

On teenage pregnancy honourable MEC, we are saying there is a significant concern in Limpopo schools within the province, which is having one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in South Africa. According to the recent statistics, Limpopo reported 5 954 teenage pregnancies in 2022, with teenagers between 10 – 17 years old giving birth.

This issue affects not only learners, but also the education system as a whole. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, has put measures in place to educate learners about teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS together with the STIs and substance abuse.

The committee deliberated on the matter and urged the department to collaborate with the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development to fast track the process of assisting learners with programmes to prevent teenage pregnancies.

The 2025 Back-to-School Campaign report highlights the importance of strategic marketing, community engagements and support for learners, parents and educators. The oversight visits took place against the backdrop of Limpopo province having achieved an 85,1% in Grade 12 pass rate in the 2024 academic year, which was a 5,6% increase from the 2023 achievement of 79,5%. The average national rate was 87,3%. The province recorded a significance achievement to that effect.

On the findings, generally most challenges are similar. Those challenges include but are not limited to poor infrastructure in some schools, misaligned funding formulas for technical high school, shortage of educators, specifically for Mathematics and Physical Science.

Some schools are gradually facing out subjects like Accounting, which is a great concern to us as a committee. We have observed that the trend may be premised on the misconception that Accounting is a difficult subject for learners, that needs to be looked into, honourable MEC.

Guided by these observations, the committee felt that priority for some schools is shifting towards quantitative achievement as opposed to qualitative achievement. On School Functionality Modes of school principals, we have a good work relationship with the SMT and educators.

The committee recommended that the department must prioritise building a strong relationship in our schools to create a better future for our learners. When principals, SMT and educators work together, they can share ideas, expertise and resources leading to better outcomes of learners. We, therefore, recommend the following:

- That the Department of Education must address labour relations issues emerging at various affected schools as they affect learning and teaching.
- That the Department of Education must strengthen stakeholders' engagement to mobilise the broader society to participate in the school affairs of their learners.
- That the Portfolio Committee on Education must engage in public participations to rejuvenate the spirit of active citizenry towards improve education.
- That the department should provide the progress made in the implementation of resolutions on the Back-to-School Campaign made in the previous administrations.
- That the land in Metsitsashoot be expropriated, but I think on this one, honourable MEC we got the briefing, and I think we are happy with the progress, we will be monitoring the progress as the committee.
- That the department must develop a twelve-month turnaround strategy on the completion of Rivoni School for the Blind.

As I conclude, the committee, having considered the 2023/24 Annual Report, first, second, third and fourth quarter reports and the 2025 Back-to-School Campaign Report, the Portfolio Committee on Education recommends to the House to accept the report and that the Department of Education should comply with the recommendations of the committee as indicated above.

Hon Speaker, I therefore, move on behalf of the committee that this report be adopted as a report of this august House. I move accordingly.

Thank you. I gave you 2 minutes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Rakgoale, the chairperson of the committee. We will now allow the MEC for the Department of Education, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya to come and respond to the debates. You have 5 minutes to respond.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Ndi masiari to the Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; the Deputy Chairperson of Committees; Chief Whip; Whippery; chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee; colleagues; MECs and honourable Members of the House. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the portfolio committee for its guidance and support.

The issues raised in the debate are very progressive and show us support as a department. I want to apologise to Members who have been battered by their own opposing views, as they cannot see the good that is happening under the Seventh Administration. We are a government led by the Premier, and we are responding to the issues of Limpopo. So, thank you so much to the committee and those who are positive towards our work.

We urge researchers from different political parties to do their work. I have noted that researchers visit our Facebook pages and the website to look at the plans that we have put forward, for their Members to debate about those plans on public platforms, so that when we start implementing those plans, it looks like we are responding to the issues raised by them in the debate. I must bring this issue to the public's attention. Researchers need to do their work.

Insinuation or not, Hon Speaker, truth be told, because we thought that we would be here to get support, but we are being bashed for things that we are doing.

The Minister for the Department of Education came to Limpopo and acknowledged that we are addressing sanitary issues. Honourable chairperson and Hon Speaker, allow me to say that we are celebrating women in August, and I would also like to indicate that we are being guided by the Freedom Charter, which says, "The doors of learning and culture shall be open to all", and today, we are presenting the Story of Resilience. We also want to acknowledge that we have women who are excelling in physical sciences, and we want to pay tribute to all the women teachers this month.

Over 60% of educators who are winning in this province are women. The Department of Education maintenance programme has repaired 242 schools in 2022 alone, fixing roofs, windows, and sanitation. Over 12 state-of-the-art schools have been built since 2023, focusing on rural and township communities. Our focus school programme targets high-potential institutions to lead systematic change. Girls' advancement in STEM-focused schools: Girls now comprise merely 52% of learners, which is a radical shift from 40% in 2021. These are some of the issues, and we want to say to the committee, thank you so much for the guidance.

I can report that we are under the curriculum on one of the resolutions. We are emphasising the three-stream models being revived in all our schools, so that all our subjects can get equal opportunities, and we should be able to deal with that. We are happy that the committee has resolved to engage with stakeholders. Let's start with the BELA regulations that have been publicised, because our SGBs need to make comments to protect the advancement and education of our learners in the rural areas, so that those who are in comfortable positions do not make decisions on behalf of our rural schools.

We really want to thank the Members for having guided us, and I am sure that you will agree with me, Hon Speaker, that we have received congratulations for the 2024 Grade 12 class from Hon Molapo, because he has seen that we are doing well on our Matric results. Thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa ngamaanda Muhativho.

7.9 Consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development: Committee chairperson.

Batho ba gotšwa sekgoweng sa kgole kgole. Mohlomphegi Monama, ke a tseba gore le tšwa le yena, ga le sa bolela sekgowa sa Wits. Over to you, chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to your good selves, Dr Makhurupetje, the Premier, MECs present here, and the honourable Members. Hon Speaker, I am here to table the 2023/24 fourth quarter report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and adoption. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Is there any seconder? You are recognised, Hon Nkonyana.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We second the motion from America.
[LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to table the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Kupa. Is there any seconder? Over to you, Hon Sebopele.

MS SEBOPELA

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke ema mo go thekga pego ye e adilwego ke Modula Setulo wa Kgoro ya Temo.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga ba lekgotla la tša kgalemo. Over to you, Hon chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I am here to table the 2024/25 first quarter report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. Is there any to seconder? You are recognised, Hon Rakgoale.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the presentation as made by the chairperson. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Over to you, chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here to table the 2024/25 second quarter report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kupa. Is there any seconder for the report? You are recognised, Dr Che Selane.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I want to take this opportunity and second Hon Kupa, uDonga likaMavuso, uMshengu, uShabalala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Selane. Over to you, chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke ema mo go kgopela gore Pego ya Kotara ya Boraro, ya Kgoro ya Temo le Tlhabollo ya Dinagamagae, ya ngwaga wa 2023/24 wa mašeleng, e lebeledišišwe le go Amogelwa ke Ngwako.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kupa. Is there any seconder? Over to you, Hon Phokane.

MR PHOKANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I second the move made by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phokane. Over to you, chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Ke mang jwale?

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am here to table the 2024/25 fourth quarter report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson. Is there any seconder? You are recognised, Hon Helm Maria.

MS HELM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the 2024/25 fourth quarter report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here again to table the Report on the Oversight Visit to Mookgophong in Waterberg on 12 February 2025 for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Kupa. Is there any seconder? Muhulisei Vho-Tshivhase.

MR TSHIVHASE

Ndo takutshela u tikedza maambiwa o ambiwaho nga mudzulatshidulo.

THE SPEAKER

Khakhamela! Nde-ndee. Over to you, chairperson.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am here to table a Report on an Agricultural Study Tour, which took place at Majeje Citrus Farm in Phalaborwa and Maria Swele Cotton Farm at Matlerekeng village, where I am from, on 19 February 2025, for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Kupa. You are recognised, Hon Monama.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to support the presentation by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Deputy Chief Whip. We now move to the Speakers' List. The person who is opening the debate also comes from America, and he will speak good English, Hon Hasani Ngobeni.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; and Deputy Chief Whip, Rodgers Monama; we were talking properly on the summit level, in terms of the lexicons and the diction, you will realise that the English has been altered a bit as I proceed. Greetings to the Leader of Government Business, MEC, Rodgers Makamu; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members; and guests, good afternoon.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for allowing me to address this esteemed House on serious matters of strategic importance such as the rice, bread, mealie meal that fills the pot, the tantalising goat meat, the rich flavour of the Nguni meat, milk that nourishes, the citrus, the cotton wool that warms our homes, the honey and jam for our province and its people.

These are not mere commodities, Hon Speaker, but livelihoods for our province and a dependable source for the rural economy. This view is predicated on the knowledge that South Africa is a country of true agriculture. On one hand is subsistence farming, if you like, there are small-holder farmers, while there is commercial farming on the other hand. We appreciate the fact that the government has become an important tool to mitigate the gap that exists between the two.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development remains a toolbox in the hands of the people to better improve their lives through unrestricted access to land, for they do not regard land as merely geography, but as the heartbeat of their history and a canvas upon which they paint their future. Canvas means foundation in simple English. It is not just soil, it is the soul, it is life. It is not only central to ensuring food security but also vital in driving inclusive growth, job creation, and rural transformation.

Karl Marx eloquently articulated the significance of the basic survival needs of humans before any intellectual gymnastics when he said, "A man must eat before he can think". During the State of the Nation Address on 07 February 2025, His Excellency, President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, reminded us of our most urgent task when he said, "Grow our economy so that we can create jobs, reduce poverty and improve the lives of all South Africans".

This national imperative is adequately articulated in the manifesto of the African National Congress, the biggest organisation on earth, and was further embellished by our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, in her address to this august House on 27 February 2025, when she said, “inclusive job creation, poverty reduction and building a capable, ethical and developmental state”. Honourable Members, the Department of Agriculture is uniquely positioned to help us meet these goals. If we invest meaningfully in Farmer Support programmes, particularly and specifically for emerging farmers, we will not only strengthen food security, but we will also unlock new opportunities for employment and economic growth.

We commend the department for consistently and regularly achieving unqualified audit opinions. This is the semblance of good governance and ethical leadership. This is the semblance of a course; however, we urge the MEC and the administration to aim higher and pursue a clean audit in the next financial year. This can be achieved through robust internal controls, regular audits, and strict monitoring to prevent irregular expenditure and restatement of figures.

We note the following in the reflection of the 2023/24 Annual and first quarterly reports, as well as the quarterly reports for the 2024/25 financial year: The department spent 96% of its adjusted Budget in the fourth quarter of 2023, leaving 4% unspent.

While this performance is undeniably remarkable, we are particularly concerned about the underspending in the agricultural producer support and development programme, which is a key driver for job creation and economic inclusion. This must particularly serve as our pet peeves. Pet peeves are defined as things that are done even though they are not supposed to be done. Underspending must never be tolerated, even if it is only done by just 1%. One percent (1%) is one too much in terms of service delivery.

On 12 February 2025, the portfolio committee conducted oversight in Modimolle and Mookgophong in the Waterberg District, visiting farmers who are heavily affected by floods, namely, Tsela Trading, S L and Sons, and Bara Dipelo. These farmers suffered significant losses, including crops, broilers, storage dams, and feed. The department must move with agility in ensuring that these affected farmers get the support they need and deserve from the government that they love. In this regard, we would like to specifically implore the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Nakedi Kekana and her hardworking team, to waste no time in implementing disaster relief schemes to support these affected farmers. Oversight work must continue, as it brings the government closer to the communities that we serve.

In conclusion, the portfolio committee stands firm, not behind the department but beside it, towards achieving a clean audit, strengthening farmer support, implementing disaster relief, and conducting regular oversight. We have full confidence in the executive authority that is steering this department and believe that they can achieve even greater success in the next financial year.

I am certain that we all understand the importance of this department, as it relates to the livelihood of our province and its people. I wish to end by quoting one of the founders of Marxism, Frederick Engels, at the funeral of Karl Marx in 1883, when he said, “Man kind must first of all eat, drink, have shelter and clothing, before it can pursue politics, science, art, religion, etc”. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

I swa kahle Mlambya mi hi siyele timinete ta ntlhanu, ha khensa. We now call Hon Velile Cyril Jack. You have seven minutes, and your seven minutes starts now.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Greetings to all the Members in the House, our MECs, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees from America; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo; head of uMkhonto Wesizwe who is in the gallery, Cde John Ngobeni and my guest, Mr Thamaga Nthapeng Rabothata, the chairperson of Block-Spikers Volleyball Club in Seshego. He is mine and Hon Jerry Maseko's guest. Thank you.

Hon Speaker, I am not here as a Member of the opposition to oppose even the good. We must compliment where it is due, for the sake of our people, not our pockets. I am part of that committee, which is hard at work to ensure that the department accounts to the people of the province. What we do is not to ask questions for favours, but to make sure that we put emphasis on service delivery for our people.

We gather today to discuss the reports for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The foundational issues of poverty, unemployment, and inequality stem from the theft of land and mineral resources. Our people have long been made slaves and reduced to labourers; we need things to turn around now. The department must prioritise the provision of financial aid, research, support, and marketing to farmers.

While we acknowledge the department's efforts in trying to drive agricultural growth and rural development, we cannot ignore the challenges that have hindered progress in the previous financial years. Underspending and the department's inability to utilise allocated funds effectively raise questions about the budgeting and financial management. The root causes of the underspending have not been clarified, and this is a slap in the face of citizens who are eagerly waiting for the department's intervention, while the department sits on taxpayers' money.

Failing to meet targets for graduates' placement in programmes is a missed opportunity for skills development and future growth. We need them to be in charge and retain talent and skill in the agricultural sector, as it continues to play a significant role in job creation and food security. Hon "English Man" Ngobeni has touched on the issue of disaster relief funds, and we fully support him on that part. We need to support our farmers who are affected. I know that the committee that I am sitting in will report as to how far the department has gone in terms of that.

Lastly, the issue of Zebediela Citrus Farm is a serious challenge, and I will not mention it again. Ke hloba boroko. We need to be informed of the dates at which you will start working on the disaster that is there. You have been giving us big figures, like the ones that were given to the MEC for the Department of Education. Mr Molapo has given the MEC for Education beautiful names. Bare ke Mme Mabillion. I thank you, Chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Jack, for saving me two minutes. I appreciate it. We shall call upon Hon Andre Moss. Your seven minutes starts now.

ADV MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, distinguished Members of the Executive Council, Leaders of Opposition Parties, Members of this House, and guests.

Hon Speaker, the department can present clean-looking books, but when the AG points to material misstatements, poor quality insurance, weak internal controls, and recurring irregular expenditure, such as R62 million on fencing, R2,2 million on local content, noncompliance, and a staggering R75 million on a tomato paste installation, these are all flagged for irregular expenditure. Twenty-nine (29) projects are still incomplete, including the Norjax Tomato processing plant, and the so-called catalytic project, are left to rot on private land.

Hon Speaker, catalytic projects should be about creating jobs and growing our economy, but instead, they become monuments to the government's inability to plan, manage, and deliver. Some projects get attention and funding because of high-profile beneficiaries. Support to small-holder producers is inconsistent; some farmers receive double assistance, while others are left out completely. The fact is confirmed by the Auditor-General in previous years.

The target to place unemployed agriculture graduates in internships was missed entirely, because contracts expire and are not renewed. The province is overflowing with trained and jobless agricultural graduates; this is an insult. The department cannot claim to support youth development while allowing trained young people to sit at home while projects remain understaffed. What about the Nguni Cattle Land? We still have no clear account of where they are, who benefited, or whether the programme even exists anymore. If the department cannot manage its own livestock, how can it expect it to manage multimillion-rand projects?

There is underperformance in the foundation of agricultural growth in education and training. The Tompi Seleka Agricultural College remains in limbo in terms of their immigration to higher education. While only 50% of training programme targets were met, unemployed agricultural graduates watch from the sidelines as Acting Managers and staff shortages cripple service delivery. These failures are not isolated incidents; they reflect a systematic problem in planning, management, and accountability.

The department is reactive instead of being proactive. They are more concerned with reporting high percentages than delivering high-impact results. The 86% achievement rate means nothing if it is missing 14% which contains the farmers and rural communities that rely on most. The 98% expenditure rate means little if that spending fails to translate into tangible improvements on the ground. The AG has reportedly warned against weak internal controls, inconsistent projects, and poor data integrity, yet the same patterns continue quarter after quarter and year after year.

The pattern is the same in the oversight report regarding all the flood-affected farms in Mookgophong. No functional early warning systems, no insurance because premiums

are not affordable, no rapid response framework for agricultural disasters, no proactive infrastructure planning to make farms flood resilient. This is not just a failure to respond; it is also a failure to prepare, plan, and protect the food security of our province. The recommendations, such as contour ploughing, rain structures, draining systems, flood-resistant crops, and modern weather forecasting, are not new; they have been in policy documents. The problem is political will and execution.

Hon Speaker, farmers cannot wait for endless feasibility studies for years while their fields lie bare and their storerooms stand empty. Every day without action pushes them closer to bankruptcy, job losses, and food insecurity for our province. The floods of January 2025 were a natural disaster, but the economic disaster that followed was man-made by the government that reacts slowly, plans poorly, and fails to see that agriculture is not just another department portfolio; it is a livelihood of Limpopo's economy.

Hon Speaker, the same issues keep coming back across all the programmes, such as:

- Chronic delays in procurement and contractor performances,
- Underutilisation of available funds in some areas, while,
- Overspending in other areas without clear results
- Vacancies in various critical posts remain unfilled for months, even years
- The lack of proper monitoring and evaluation to track whether projects are delivering the intended benefits on the ground.

In conclusion, the department reports percentages, and our farmers face realities. A missed fencing target means that crop loss destroys livestock, a failed disease surveillance target means that the outbreak spreads further and faster, and an expired graduate placement means that another young person with a degree is sitting at home instead of contributing to food production and security.

Hon Speaker, Limpopo's agricultural potential is vast; we have the land, the skills, the climate, and the potential to become a food powerhouse, but potential alone will not feed our people or grow our economy. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Moss. We will now proceed to call Hono Helm Maria. Your nine minutes starts now.

MS HELM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity, the Premier in absentia; all our MCEs and those that are still present; honourable Members; our guests; I can see that we have a lot of guests today, you are most welcome.

Hon Speaker, it is very hard to believe that this House is expected to consider the quarterly reports and the annual reports for the 2024/25 financial year, when we are still in the 2025/26 financial year. Quarterly reports are not mere bureaucratic formalities; they are this Legislature's early warning systems so that we can track performance and spending in real time and act before a crisis deepens.

May I say that I am very privileged to be part of this committee and thank our chairperson because she is always active, and she makes it possible for us to do our work. Thank you, but in this instance, the horse has already bled, so I will focus on the oversight. The oversight visit to the Majeje Citrus Farm in Phalaborwa and Maria Swele Cotton Farm was not a sightseeing trip; it was an exercise in accountability. What we found was both inspiring and deeply frustrating. The pain of two farms, so to speak.

At Majeje, we saw what can be achieved in government, communities, and private partners pull in the same direction. A 40% community shareholding funded with merely R30 million of public money is producing export-quality grapefruit, not just grapefruit, export quality, creating jobs, and showing the progress of real transformation and growth. As we have seen in our reports, there is a scope for growth, and it is really happening. So, that's really positive.

After years of public investment, bottlenecks remain because of a lack of bureaucracy and failure to resolve basic service delivery issues with Eskom and other departments. We really need to focus on that so that we can prevent the obstacles that prevent these people from reaching their full potential. This is a real positive development if you look at the farming sector in Limpopo.

We saw something else at Maria Swele Cotton Farm. Resilience in the face of neglect. This woman-led cooperative in the women's sector produces quality cotton and seasonal work for 160 women in disadvantaged households, but it operates without irrigation, depending entirely on rainfall, has outdated equipment, and lacks proper storage facilities, workers are not being trained on modern farming methods, the farmers have no voice in price negotiations, and the cooperative remains locked out from the value chain, selling raw fibre instead of capturing value through processing.

Yet again, government support has been piecemeal. Inputs and small grounds, yes, but no sustainable plan to make the enterprise thoroughly competitive or profitable, and this is truly one project where we can make a difference. We cannot continue to pour into projects without removing the very obstacles that threaten their survival. We cannot celebrate job creation if those jobs are only seasonal, insecure, and vulnerable to collapse the moment the weather turns against us, and I want to support the previous speakers who spoke about this.

We really need to make our farmers resilient because we know that South Africa and Limpopo are prone to all sorts of insecurities, vulnerabilities, storms, floods, and droughts. We would like to propose the following to the department:

- To fix the electricity and water challenges at Majeje Citrus Farm. Because we can do something, we can assist these people to become profitable, because they have really shown that they can produce export-quality fruit; this is really a good achievement.
- Let's support them, help them expand their pack house. This is what they asked; they said Just help us expand the pack house.
- Get irrigation into Maria Swele Cotton Farm, so that they are not dependent on rainfall, and modernise its machinery.
- Assist them so that they are not constantly dependent on rainfall, so that they can grow, and they can create even better quality

- Include farm workers in training, don't keep skills locked away in boardrooms, because these farm workers must one day become farmers.
- Support the farmer's presentation and price negotiation and make their hand strong. The people in these communities deserve more than rubbing, cutting, and photo ops. They deserve projects that work, they deserve projects that are shared fairly, and jobs that last.

I would also like to say something about the flood-affected farms in Mookgophong. What we need is for farmers to have the equipment and the technology to know when these floods are coming. We have the technology, let's empower the farmers. We cannot rely on our department to keep running around, warning everybody to watch out because the floods are coming. We need to empower our farmers because they are very smart with smartphones. Let us assist them in getting that technology. We need a more responsive and responsible government.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work, and I would also like to agree that we stand next to the department, but we will be critical, and we will do our oversight under the leadership of our chairperson. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Helm. You can tell that this committee works as a collective; we really appreciate that. We now call upon Hon Malemela Dumisani to come and debate. You have eleven minutes, and your eleven minutes start now.

MR MALEMELA

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke rata go dumedisha Modulasetulo wa EFF, ke dumedise gape le Sefepi sa yona, e lego Kgothatso Mogoane, ke leboge le Maloko ka moka a Lekgotlatheramelao.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ga gona bohlatse bja go laetša gore kgoro ye e na le maikemišetšo a go šomiša mašeleng a mmušo ga botse. Batho ba Limpopo ba seke ba kgothetša gore seemo se sa ditšhelete tša kgoro se tla fetoga. Maemo a taolo ya mašeleng a phuhlame ka mo kgorong ye, ke ka fao ba palelwago ke go tšwelapele. Mohlomphegi Mospikara, o laeditše mo go pego ya Motlhakiši Pharephare gore ditšhelete tša Letšema ga se tša begwa ka go Leanotšhomo la Ngwaga ka Ngwaga.

Ke ka lebaka la eng ditšhelete di sa begwa? Batho ba Limpopo ba nyaka go tseba, ebile re tshwenyegile gape ka taba ya gore pego ya balemi potlana ga se ya alwa gabotse ka tsela ya goba le bohlatse ka mo gare ga Leanotšhomo la Ngwaga ka Ngwaga.

What is the amount for the irregular expenditure that was caused by the bridge in the five pillars of procurement? Apparently, the main contributors to this irregular expenditure were:

- Procurement of fencing, which amounted to R62 million,
- Local content for R2.2 million and
- Tomato parts installation for R72 million.

Tšhomišo ye ye mpe ya mašeleng, e laetša gore ga gona taolo ye kaone ya mašeleng kamo kgorong ye. Irregular expenditure has become a norm in the government, which has demonstrated incapacity since its inception.

Hon Speaker, it is regrettable and disappointing that the strategic development programme produced to support rural development has failed to convert budget into outcomes. The ANC has created a small Banana Republic in this province, where certain people are beyond reproach to an extent that they can just mess up and nothing will happen to them.

The procurement processes for siting, drilling, and testing of boreholes contributed to this noncompliance. The continuous violation of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (PFMA) is something that all of us should worry about, as it constitutes maladministration and poor governance. Did the department apply consequence management against the people who caused the delay in the finances of the project agreement with the Agricultural Research Council, as it was impacting negatively on the procurement of goods and services, meant for Kaonafatšo ya Dikgomo?

Hon Speaker, we have also noted with great disappointment the failure of the department to manage its catalytic projects. Catalytic projects have the potential to grow the economy, alleviate poverty, and create jobs for our people. The Norjax Tomato Processing Plant in Politsi, which is 15 kilometres from Tzaneen, and which was stalled for many years, is still an elephant in the room.

The department bought machinery from abroad with taxpayers' money, and nothing is happening on site. Can the MEC report to the House on the investigations conducted by the National Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on the mismanagement of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme Funds? Can the MEC also furnish the House with a report that indicates the number of farms that are leased, the lease period, and the activities that are being done on the farm? And further indicate if the farm has created jobs.

Re kgopela pego ya ditšhelete go batho bao ba filwego kabo ya ditšhelete tša go reka dikgomo tša Nguni. Molekgotlaphethiši, re kgopela pego ye e feleletšego. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, di kwagetše, Mohlomphegi Malemela. We will now proceed to allow Hon Constance Ramadimetja KUPA to close the debate.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier, in absentia; Hon Chief Whip; Hon Deputy Chief Whip; Deputy Chairperson of Committees; Whippers; honourable Members; Executive Members; and our guests in the gallery, re a le dumediša.

Hon Speaker, we need agriculture three times a day. That is a fact. Hon Speaker, I am privileged to be afforded this opportunity to address this august House. The agricultural sector was confronted by the disaster of floods during the previous rainy season, which

affected many farmers to some extent. This happened across the length and breadth of our province. Waterberg District is one of the districts that were visited during our oversight visits in order to assess the impact of the disaster that farmers have experienced. Amongst the farmers that were severely impacted by the floods are:

- Tsela Trading: The impact of the floods was severe, and they incurred losses on crops such as cotton, sorghum, and damage to infrastructure. The intervention of the department was done through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP),
- Radipelo Farmers, which also experienced a severe impact. Mules, Calves, Roads leading to the farm, and buildings were affected and
- S L and Sons was also severely impacted with a significant loss of livestock, broilers, sawdust, broiler feeds, and access roads to the farm.

We have cited these farmers, but the impact was not limited to them because the disaster had an impact across all the districts of our province.

Madam Speaker, there were recommendations from farmers on what is to be done for them to be assisted by the government. The report is with the officials of the department, and we hope that the MEC, Hon Nakedi Sibanda, will follow it up. Madam Speaker and honourable Members, we had a study tour with the delegation of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development from the North West Province on 19-20 February 2025.

The tour visited Majeje Citrus Farm in Mopani and Maria Swele Cotton at Matlerekeng Village in Sekhukhune District. Our counterparts benchmarked our province to learn how we operate as a portfolio committee and to also gain knowledge about Citrus and cotton farming. Accordingly, they affirmed that they were able to learn good practices in relation to the whole study tour, and we really appreciate it. They have managed to create 110 jobs, which is applaudable, especially given the fact that the department has managed to assist them with R29 million.

Madam Speaker, the tour should remind us of the ways of the chairperson of Agriculture, Mr Mmetle Phosa, during the agricultural conference, when he indicated that our province is currently contributing more than 60% of South Africa's fruit, vegetables, maize meal, wheat, and cotton production. He further indicated that our province is contributing R2 million in annual turnover at the Johannesburg Fresh Market. Hon Speaker, the manifesto of the governing party, the African National Congress, is uncompromising on the creation of jobs. Every opportunity that seeks to open and create jobs is welcome.

We appreciate the hard work and the efforts of Mr Bafedile Mafologele, as his success was highlighted in the State of the Province Address, presented by the Hon Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, when she said, "It is during this period that Mr Bafedile Mafologela and his business partner embarked on a cattle farming venture, starting. Today, they manage over 3000 cattle, and they have expanded their irrigation from 15 to 300 hectares. SAMPADA is on track to become the largest black owned red meat producer in Limpopo, creating over 300 jobs".

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development shall produce more of Bafedile Mafologele. We will be able to create jobs as needed by our economy. Madam Speaker, did the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development manage to achieve 81,1% on all their programmes in the fourth quarter of 2023/24. We applaud them, especially given the fact that they achieved 77,4% in the previous quarter, which was an improvement. The improvement does not mean that they must relax; more work must be done to achieve the 100% target.

Madam Speaker, on Foot-and-mouth disease, the department targeted to conduct 74 vaccinations and only 43 were achieved, leaving a variation of 31 outstanding. It is concerning that some areas have shortfalls and underperformance. We urge the executive authority to navigate and closely monitor these kinds of backlogs, because this phenomenon will affect the attainment of a clean audit.

On higher education and training, the department targeted to produce 80 agriculture graduates, and a target of 76 was met. The courses are still pending for the remaining four, and they are expected to be completed in the next semester, which is understandable. Furthermore, the department did not manage to achieve 100% on the agricultural education and training strategy for all agricultural sector participants, to establish a knowledgeable, prosperous, and competitive sector. This is the programme that is responsible for the operation of the two agricultural colleges in the province, namely Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka.

The governing party is also anxious about the pace at which the two colleges are moving in relation to their migration into the Department of Higher Education and Training. We also urge the honourable MEC, Nakedi Sibanda Kekana, and her team to prioritise it. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development managed to collect revenue of R27 million in the 2023/24 financial year compared to R11,3 million in the 2022/23 financial year. This signifies the improvement, and the results are therefore welcomed and applauded. We urge the Executive Authority to keep it up.

Madam Speaker, we commend the department for achieving an unqualified audit once again in the 2023/24 financial year. We wish to state that our approach should change in the next financial year, so that we can move to a clean audit. The department has been stuck on this audit opinion, Hon Speaker. The MEC, Hon Nakedi Sibanda and her team are the ones that can assist us to achieve it, because they are running day-to-day programmes of the department.

Hon Speaker, priority should be given to internal controls and measures that can be applied to monitor and evaluate each programme timeously. The resolutions that were provided to track how each programme moves must assist the department in general. We trust in the leadership of the honourable MEC that the manifesto of our governing party shall be implemented at every opportunity.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker. Re be rere ke yona pego ya rena ya Kgoro ya Temo, re e ala pele ga baetapele gore ba kgone go e amogela le go e dira tharollo ya Ngwako. Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Re leboga le ba ba go tlatša mašata.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable chairperson of the committee.

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members. Hon Mapoulo and Hon Lebogo, you are going to kill my sister during August, and you will be accused because she is laughing her lungs out, and we don't know what she is laughing at. So, be careful of what you are doing. Can we now allow Hon Makamu to respond on behalf of the MEC of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Nakedi Kekana, as the Leader of Government Business?

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE]

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; the Executive Members; honourable Members; and the Leader of the Opposition. We will try to respond to the debate on behalf of the MEC, Nakedi Sibanda. I am responding on behalf of a woman who is leading the department to better heights during Women's Month.

Hon Ngobeni spoke very well about how we find ourselves in this country. We have two classes of farmers, namely, Subsistence and commercial farmers, and must support all these farmers, including subsistence farmers. Hon Helm Maria spoke about the study tour that was conducted at Majeje Citrus Farm very well, where there are about 400 hectares that need to be planted. She is speaking about exporting fresh citrus produce.

I am not sure whether the 30% tariff that was set by the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, is going to set us back, because that is exactly where we need to export our products to. Hon Helm and Hon Smalle, I do not know what informed the decision; maybe you have an answer as to what informed that decision. If this is something that we look into, like we did with the visits to Mookgophong and Marble Hall, we would then have a good story to tell one day.

I have heard several speakers talking about the disaster that has impacted all the farms that we have attended. I can confirm that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development may not have enough money to support, but that is why they are busy making applications to the Department of CoGHSTA for relief funds, as we are responsible for disaster management. Work has already been done. We have started giving seeds and fertilizers to Tsela Trading so that they can replant the crops that were damaged by the dam that was demolished. We have also done what the honourable chairperson has mentioned, which is assisting them with EPWP workers so that work can be done.

Hon Malemela spoke so well about the audit outcomes and tried to show how the department is failing to perform. Allow me to school you a bit. A department can get an audit that is adverse, with a disclaimer, qualified, unqualified and unqualified with opinions. The Department of Agriculture is sitting on an audit that is unqualified audit

with matters; what it means is that they have gone beyond the adverse, disclaimer, and qualified audit. They are just left with little work to be done for them to receive a clean audit, and I think that the department must be commended for the good work that they are doing. [APPLAUSE]

It would be unfair to the public for us to come here as Members and say things for the sake of saying them. Let me come to the issue of irregular expenditure. People need to be schooled on the fact that, when procurement is done without following the supply chain management process, consequence management should be done. I agree with the honourable Member on that, but to make it look like money has been lost is wrong. The fence and the irrigation system are there; it's just that the supply chain process was not followed, and the department has reduced the irregular expenditure from about R75 million to R4 million. We need to commend the department on that.

Another issue that I want to talk about is the issue of the beneficiaries of the Nguni Cattle Programme. I am of the view that Members would like to have that information. This is a public programme funded by public funds, and I think that people will get the list as requested by the Members. The National Department has appointed the SIU to investigate the issue of CASP across all nine provinces in the country, and Limpopo is no exception to that investigation. We are going to cooperate as the province and give all the necessary information when necessary. We will also deal with the issue of the Norjax Tomato Producing Plant that is in Tzaneen.

We would like to thank the Members for the guidance that they have given us. I am standing on behalf of the MEC, and I will be sharing the guidance that you have given. We are a department that gave Hon Mapoulo the breakfast that he had this morning, we are going to serve him lunch that was produced by us, and the supper that he is going to have tonight is also produced by us. We are a provincial department that is doing well. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene, Muchaviseki MEC. We are moving towards the conclusion of today's programme. We are now moving to item 08, which is the announcements. Over to you, Deputy Chairperson of Committees. Can you please give this to the Deputy Chairperson of Committees so that he can make announcements? We apologise for ambushing you, Chairperson.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to make the following announcements:

- Firstly, all Members are invited to a workshop on the Political Office-Bearers Pension Fund, PARMED (Parliamentary and Provincial Medical Aid Scheme), and SARS, which is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday 13 August 2025, 09:00 at Parliamentary Village.

MS MOGOANE

Ke sekgowa sa America.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ema ga nnyane.

- Two, the next Sitting is scheduled for 14 August 2025, which will be on Thursday at 10:00 here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chambers.
- Lastly, lunch will be served at the Committees Boardroom.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hi Khensile swinene. Tomorrow's workshop is for everyone at the same time. The programme will start with all of us listening to the presentations at the same time. Members will be allowed to engage in their own personal issues with regard to medical aids, SARS, and pension funds when the workshop is done. Members can individually engage with their issues after the workshop. I am raising this because I do not want Members to think that they will come as individuals and go; you will all attend the workshop at the same time, and please let us all be on time.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank all of you, honourable Members. We are also thankful for the good work that you are doing, because we are trying to cover the backlog of all the reports that are outstanding. Don't be surprised that our Sittings are taking longer than usual; it is because we are making sure that all the reports are presented and considered by the Legislature.

On that note, honourable Members. I take this opportunity to thank all of you and the guests. We have now come to the end of today's Sitting. The House is adjourned to Thursday, 14 August 2025, at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chambers. The House stands adjourned. Thank you.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 14 August 2025, at 10:00.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025
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]

Good morning, honourable Members. Let me take this opportunity to greet all honourable Members; all the MECs present: MEC Radzilani; MEC Mathye; and MEC Mahoai – I am told that today you are the Leader of Government Business. Greetings to the MEC for Health; MEC for Public Works; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama; Whip of the EFF, Hon Mogoane; Hon Smalle, the leader of the delegation today; the MK party; the UAT; the FF Plus; chairpersons of committees; and everybody, welcome to this gathering. The Whippery, Hon Christinah Mohale; Hon Faith Sebopela; and Hon Nkonyana, feel acknowledged.

Without any waste of time, honourable Members, we shall now proceed with the Sitting of the House. I greet those who are following us on social media, and those in the gallery; all our guests here today. Feel welcome and follow us. Limpopo is your voice. Use it.

We now proceed to item 2. Are there any Motions without Notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Sebopela, you are recognised.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and greetings to Members of this august House and colleagues.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO MS LESETJA MUKWEVHO ON LAUNCHING
ATRIUM BOUTIQUE HOTEL IN POLOKWANE**

(Motion without Notice)

Speaker, this Women's Month, we rise to celebrate Ms Lesetja Johanna Mukwevho, a proud majority owner of the Atrium Boutique Hotel in Polokwane, which was officially launched last week.

Majority ownership means control over decision-making, making profits, and strategic direction. This translates into more inclusive hiring, procurement and mentorship opportunities for women, helping to close gender economic gaps. The tourism and

hospitality sector in South Africa, particularly in the luxury and investment-heavy categories, is still largely dominated by men.

Ms Mukwevho stands to challenge these norms and sets an inspiring precedent by owning a world-class establishment. Her leadership sends a strong message to young women that they can lead, they can own, and they can innovate at the highest level; and that their rightful place is at the table of ownership and leadership. Madam Speaker, this journey reminds us that women's empowerment is not charity; it is smart economics. When women rise, families will rise, and communities shall rise too.

Hon Speaker, let this House record our most heartfelt congratulations to Ms Mukwevho. May her story inspire a new generation of women entrepreneurs, and may it ignite in all of us the will to break every remaining barrier to gender equality in our lifetime.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, is there any seconder to the motion? Even MECs are allowed to second these motions, it is not only the other Members. Hon Radzilani, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Members of this august House. I rise to second the motion as presented in this House by Hon Sehopela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC Radzilani, for seconding the motion, because the motion affects all of us; even from my left-hand side. I would have expected that we celebrate women during August. Thank you so much. Another motion without notice? Hon Abraham Magolo, you are recognised.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker, and greetings to Members.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO N'WA JIKA THE POET ON HER FOURTEENTH AWARD (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF congratulates the Xitsonga poet and storyteller, Hlayisani Antonette Shiburi, popularly known as N'wa Jika; the poet who was honoured with a fourteenth award at the African Honoree Authors Awards held at the Sandton Library early this month.

- The 35-year-old artist from Madobi Village was recognised for her ongoing contribution to African literature, culture, and indigenous storytelling.
- Hlayisani is renowned for powerful and emotive Xitsonga poetry, and she uses her voice to uplift, heal, and connect with audiences across the generations. Over the years, she has become a respected figure in Limpopo's cultural landscape, and she continues to fly the flag of Limpopo in South Africa. Hlayisani is also a praise poet, author, actress, motivational speaker, emcee, voiceover artist, and community builder.
- Outside the arts, she is a qualified electrician who has the potential to change the lives of people in their communities. In 2022, she launched Switirhela Kululama, a clothing brand, and founded N'wa Jika, the Poet NPC, to further her mission of empowerment and cultural preservation.
- The EFF is proud of this remarkable woman who continues to be a beacon of hope and the epitome of Black excellence.
- Her achievement necessitates the urgency to complete the construction of the Limpopo Theatre within its project timeframe, to create more opportunities for young people in the arts. Delays in completing the Limpopo Theatre will further compromise service delivery in the province that is already battling a serious backlog.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Magolo. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mogoane, you are recognised.

MS MOGOANE

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

THE SPEAKER

Hon Jack Velile, do you have any motion without notice? I see your name on the list.

MR JACK

Thanks, Hon Speaker, and good morning to the House. I hereby withdraw the motion, because the Premier has already touched on the impact of women on Tuesday. I therefore withdraw, Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. That is very progressive. Honourable Members, it is very true that if the motion that you wanted to raise has already been covered, you don't have to repeat

it, because the matter has been attended to. So, this is an excellent example, Hon Jack. We really appreciate that.

We are all learning amongst ourselves, and sharing experiences is very important. Honourable Members, is there any other motion? Because according to my list, the list is exhausted.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Then we move to Notices of Motion in terms of House Rule 146. There are none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements? I have two on the list. Hon Dunisani Baloyi, you are recognised.

MR BALOYI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Members of this august House. Greetings to the EFF caucus, led by a capable leader, Hon Mogoane.

BROKEN INFRASTRUCTURE AT ELIM SECONDARY SCHOOL (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, my statement is on the broken and dilapidated infrastructure at Elim Secondary School. It is shocking to learn that learners at Elim High School are forced to relieve themselves in broken toilets without doors, squeezed into overcrowded classrooms, and studying in unsafe conditions that have persisted for years.

The school, which serves more than 2,000 learners from grades 8 to 12, is the only high school in the area catering to both Xitsonga- and Tshivenda-speaking learners. It was established in 1983 at Elim Community Hall and relocated to the current site in 1989. It now has 14 permanent classrooms. Several prefabricated units were introduced years ago to ease overcrowding. However, some classes accommodate up to 82 learners, and people say that the mobile structures are unbearably hot in summer and freezing in winter. This is against the teachers-learners ratio policy of the department.

There is a block of seven classrooms in despair; with broken doors, broken ceilings, holes in the floor, and leaking roofs during the rainy season. Learners often ask a friend to stand as a guard while they relieve themselves. Hon Speaker, some buildings are falling apart. There are no lights. Some rooms have no ceilings, and others leak when it rains.

We are calling on the Department of Education to build a proper toilets and classrooms. The school applied for additional classrooms years ago, in 2007, but nothing has materialised. The EFF government will build a proper school, to restore the dignity of the African child.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The next one on the list is Hon Mogoane Kgothatso Mogaleadi.

MS MOGOANE

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF RDP HOUSES IN BLOUBERG AND FETAKGOMO-TUBATSE

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the RDP houses in Limpopo intended for approved and rightful beneficiaries are being occupied by individuals who are not the designated recipients. This situation arises due to various factors, including fraud, corruption, or beneficiaries choosing to rent out their properties.

More than 40 RDP beneficiaries in Alldays, under the Blouberg Local Municipality, whose houses were approved, do not stay in their houses. Beneficiaries like Precious Semono, Knox Tau, Joseph Seakamela, Isaac Sekgala, Caroline Mpja, Elizabeth Mahosi, Constance Mpe, Philemon Motsoa, Phineas Mathatha and many others in Alldays, Blouberg, do not stay in their houses.

Their houses have been fraudulently allocated to undeserving people. We have a full list at our disposal of all the beneficiaries whose houses were hijacked by fraudulent councillors. They are only owners on paper. Homes meant for these people are now being occupied by illegal beneficiaries, while those approved by the system are left homeless or stuck waiting for years.

This corruption is widespread across municipalities and is not exclusive to Blouberg. Many beneficiaries of RDP houses in Fetakgomo-Tubatse do not stay in the approved houses.

Some local councillors are deeply involved in shady dealings; giving RDP houses to girlfriends, relatives, and also selling them to foreign nationals, while the original rightful owners are left with nothing but their names on paper. This abuse of power by public officials is not just criminal; it is also a betrayal of trust and an attack on the most vulnerable families who rely on government housing support to live with dignity.

The illegal occupation of RDP houses erodes public trust in the programme and undermines its intended purpose of providing affordable housing to low-income individuals. Those forced to remain in informal settlements or inadequate housing are further marginalised and denied access to basic service delivery.

This situation is alarming and unacceptable. The sooner it's attended to, the better.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We may proceed; those were the two names I had on Members' Statements. If there are no other statements, can we allow the Executive to respond? I

think it is important that we note that people are not simply absent from Sittings; we receive apologies. We sometimes do not inform you, but we do receive apologies.

We received an apology from the Premier; MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya; MEC Kekana; MEC Matibe; MEC Maseko; and MEC Radzilani, will be with us until 11:20. She has submitted an apology requesting to be released due to other organisational responsibilities.

Hon Lebea, Hon Mmetle Dikeledi; Hon Manthanta-Mahasela; Hon Matjomane; and Hon Mamorobela T P, are all in Gambia attending the CPA Conference on behalf of this Legislature. You saw them shining and beautiful in the pictures. We also received apologies from Hon Ledwaba and Hon Mapoulo.

We received those apologies so that people must not say, why ba se gona and not inform each other of what is happening.

We encourage Members, as and when they're unable to attend, to send apologies through their Whips. The Office of the Chief Whip then compiles a list of all apologies on behalf of all of us. Because if you are absent, and you are not on the list of apologies, and also not on the register. it means you are not here. You will be surprised when we tell you that you will cease to be a Member of the Legislature.

When we count the number of meetings and sittings missed, in terms of the Rules, sometimes the Rules will have to apply.

We also received an apology from MEC Makamu, the Leader of Government Business. Today, the Leader of Government Business is Hon Mahoai, MEC for Provincial Treasury.

Thank you so much. I will allow Honourable MECs to respond to the Members' Statements. Hon Mahoai, I think you'll be taking all of them.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, honourable Members, we have taken note of the issues raised, and these matters shall be accordingly deferred to the relevant MECs for actual responses that will directly speak to the issues as raised. Suffice to say, it is these kinds of references that always help us to go back, verify, and respond appropriately.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Honourable MEC. Again, another observation I wish to raise is about bowing. If you bow to me, and I don't see you, don't mind. You are not bowing to me; you are bowing to the house.

Sometimes you find that you are bowing, either when you are getting out or coming in, and I don't see you. You still bow, because you are not necessarily bowing to the Speaker; you are bowing to the House.

You continue to do it, and I'm not deliberately ignoring you. It's simply because sometimes I'm looking at something and unable to see you. I'm just raising that matter.

Thank you so much. We'll now move to item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We have a standing Executive Member Statement. Hon Mathye, are you ready to deliver it now, or shall we defer it next time? A ndzi mi twi?

MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Next week, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I didn't want to make a mistake and skip you in error. Thank you so much.

We will now proceed to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS, AND PAPERS

Are there any tabling of committee reports, other reports, and papers?

6.1. Tabling of the 2025/26 Departmental/Public Entities First Quarter Performance Reports

Over to you, Leader of Government Business, Hon Mahoai.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Madam Speaker; fellow colleagues in the Executive Council; leadership of the opposition parties; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members; ladies and gentlemen.

I stand here on behalf of Hon Makamu to table the Departmental/Institutional 2025/26 First Quarter Performance Reports.

Hon Speaker, in terms of the provisions of section 40(1)(F) and section 5(1)(F) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999, read together with House Rule 205(6), departments are required to submit their quarterly reports to the provincial legislature for tabling on a date to be determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Programming Committee.

In line with the provisions of House Rule 205(7), I, on behalf of the Leader of Government Business and on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council as well as the Legislature, do hereby table the Departmental/Institutional 2025/26 First Quarter

Performance Reports for the following departments and public entities, 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: Limpopo Tourism Agency, Limpopo Gambling Board, Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA);
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity: Gateway Airport Authority Limited;
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity: Road Agency Limpopo;
- Department of CoGHSTA;
- Department of Social Development; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. The 2025/26 Departmental and Public Entities' First Quarter Performance Reports are referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and report back to the House.

Now, the committees, all of them, are welcome to go and sit and consider these reports accordingly.

We'll now proceed to item 6.2.

6.2. Tabling of the 2025/26 Limpopo Legislature First Quarter Report.

I will allow the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni, to table the report on behalf of the Legislature.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Rogers Monama; Members of the Whippers; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members and guests in the gallery, good morning.

Hon Speaker, in line with the provisions of section 54(1) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act of 2009, I, Ngobeni Hasani Peter, on behalf of the Hon Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, hereby table before this august House the 2025/26 First Quarter Performance Report of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, to be considered by the relevant committee of this august House.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Mlambya. Ha khensa. The 2025/26 Limpopo Legislature First Quarter Performance Report is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and to report back to the House. Thank you so much. We'll now proceed to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health

I'm not sure whether you'll come to the front or if you want to present where you are. Hon Chuene Malebana, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health. Over to you.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much; Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje, the Chief Whip of the Legislature and your office, Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council that are here, chairpersons of portfolio committees and standing committees, honourable Members, the people of Limpopo.

I'm rising to ask the honourable House to consider and approve the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Health. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Switch off your mic and sit down. You speak; you switch off your mic and sit until we tell you that you are done. Is there any seconder? Hon Rakgoale, you are recognised.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the presentation by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje, I rise to request that the House consider and approve the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Department of Health. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Can we get a seconder to the report? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana, son of the Mbuti, rise to second the presentation as tabled by the chairperson, Hon Dr Malebana. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Kodwana awenzi kuhle, Mhlonitjhwa Nkonyana; sizosazi nini isiSwati nesiNdebele senu?

MR NKONYANA

Ngiyathokoza Somlomo oHloniphekileko. Mina, Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana, ngisikimela ukusekela ukwethulwa kombiko kaMhlonitjhwa uMalebana. Ngiyathokoza.

THE SPEAKER

Siyathokoza. Sifuna ukulazi nalo ilimi lethweli. Thank you so much. It's our language as well. You must teach us. You see how nice it is; it flows naturally.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

I rise to urge the House to consider and adopt the 2024/25 First Quarter Reports for the Department of Health. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ke a leboga, Ngaka. Ke nna Sebataolo Tonny Rachoene, Phakana 'a Hlabirwa. Ke eme mo go tlaletša se se boletšwego ke, Ngk Malebana. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

I don't know how I forgot you, especially after you made a very nice mat for us. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje, I rise to propose that the House consider and approve the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report of the Department of Health.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Dokodela Xipikara. Mina hi mina Falaza Mdaka, ndzi yima ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi Muchaviseki, vona Dokodela Malebana. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene. Hi nga ya emahlweni, hikuva va seketerile xiviko xa n'wina Mutshamaxitulu. Mi nga ya emahlweni na leyi landzelaka.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I submit that the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report of the Department of Health be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I have seen the hand of Vho Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe; you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Nne ndo takuwa u khwathisa zwe zwa ambiwa nga Mudzulatshidulo wa Komiti ya Mutakalo uri ri zwi tangedze na u zwi khwathisedza. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Chairperson, please continue.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I move that the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report for the Department of Health be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I have seen a hand there, and it has been up. I will come back to you, Hon Mokaba. Let me allow my Hon Moruti Solomon Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Le nna tla ke tsee sebaka se ke go leboga, Ngk Mospikara Makoma Makhurupetje. Nna Maseko Pheedi, ke ema mo go thekga pego ye e adilwego ke Nkg Malebana, mo lehono. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ke a leboga Bahananwa. Le ka tswela pele, Modulasetulo.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Oversight Visit Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health

Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to request that the report on the urgent unannounced visit to Polokwane Hospital in the Capricorn District, which took place on 23 August 2024, be considered and approved by the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, we are on 7.3, which is the consideration and adoption of the following oversight visit reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health. The chairperson has already read 7.3.1, which is the report on the urgent unannounced site visit to Polokwane Hospital in the Capricorn District on 23 August 2024. Can we get a seconder? Hon Mokaba, you raised your hand earlier; you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

Tla ke go leboge, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Nna, Mapula Anna, leina la ka la ntwā ke, Prudence Ndamase, ka sereto ke Mogaleadi serokolo serapa sa go bea peu. Mogale gare ga basadi. Ke ema mo go tlatša se se boletšwego ke, Mohlomphegi Malebana. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ga ke tsebe go re naa ke šomiše sereto sa Sepedi goba ke šomiše leina la ntwā. Ke gakanegile. I will learn to use both. Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Ke a leboga, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to propose that the honourable House consider and approve the report on the site visits to healthcare facilities in Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Mopani Districts, which took place in September 2024.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chair. I have seen the hand of Hon Simon Mathe; you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much. You pronounced my name correctly. I, Simon, the great-grandson of Patricia Matthew from Wellington, New Zealand, rise to second, the report as presented by Hon Dr Malebana. I thank you. Direto tša segagabo lena, nna ga ke di tsebe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mathe, for supporting the report. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Dr Makhurupetje, I move that the report on the site visit to healthcare facilities in the Waterberg District, which took place in October 2024, be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there a seconder? Hon Thabo Mabotja, you are recognised.

MR MABOTJA

Ke a leboga, Nkg Mospikara. Le nna tše tša direto ga ke tloge ke ditseba gabotse. Ke swana le Mohlomphegi Mathe. O ka ba wa re, kalana ya rena e wetše ka kua USA. Ke rata go tlaleletša go amogelwa ga pego ka moo e adilwego ke Modulasetulo wa Komiti, Mohlomphegi, Ngk Malebana. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ba ga Kgoši Moloto ke Bahlaloga. Re ka tšwela pele.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I submit that the report on the site visit to healthcare facilities in the Vhembe District, which took place in September 2024, be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I have seen Hon Bela Kupa-Mabuza; you are recognised. Naye uzokhuluma ngelimi lakhe.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ga se nna Moswazi. Ke ngwetši ya Baswazi. Ke nna Moroka. Ke nna Hunadi 'a Monare. Ba re Moroka ga ana Borokana. Ke bina kolobe ya bjatladi. Ke ema mo ke ikgantšha ka Sepedi sa gešo, sa Leboa, sa mahlahla. Ke re, ke a dumela gore Modulasetulo ditaba tše o di bolelago, Palamente ye ya Limpopo e di thekge e be e kwane le tšona. E be sephetho sa bona. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Hunadi 'a Monare, re a leboga. We will now proceed. Chairperson, over to you.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I propose that the report on the unannounced visit to Mankweng Hospital in the Capricorn District, which took place on 11 April 2025, be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Dr Selane, we will give you an opportunity after this. I saw Hon Mnisi; I can see she has been raising her hand. You are recognised, Hon Minisi.

MS MNISI

Ndza khensa, Muchaviseki Xipikara xa Yindlu. Ndzi yima, ndzi ri Muchaviseki Mnisi Mvuleni, Mathonsi, Botlidaka. Ndzi yima ku ta seketela xiviko lexi boxiwa hi Dokodela Malebana. Ha swi seketela. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene, Muchaviseki. Hi nga ya emahlweni Mutshamaxitulu.

DR MALEBANA

Ke a leboga, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I propose that the report on the unannounced site visit to Seshego Hospital in the Capricorn District, which took place on 11 April 2025, be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Che Selane, you were raising your hand; you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Ke a leboga, Ngk Mospikara. Go bohlokwa gore ngaka ye nngwe e emelele e kgone go thekga ngaka ye nngwe, [DISEGO] le go le lemoša gore, rena re Bakone. Ke Mokone wa ntšhi dikgolo, bjale ke eme mo go tlaleletša tšhišinyo ye e dirilwego ke Ngaka Chuene Malebana. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I propose that the report on the site visit to Veritas Digital in Polokwane, Capricorn District, which took place on 16 April 2025, be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson. The report has been supported and we appreciate that.

DR MALEBANA

I am rising to urge the honourable House to consider and approve the report on the unannounced site visit to Pietersburg Hospital in the Capricorn District, which took place on 20 May 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

Hon Mdaka holds an Honorary Doctorate, and we acknowledge it in the Legislature.

MR MDAKA

Yes. I am very proud of being one of those who were expelled from school after June 1978 with a Grade 9. That's why I received that Honorary Doctorate, Master's degree, B Com, and a Diploma in Accounting. Thank you very much. It was all achieved through correspondence learning. Ndza khensa swinene. Go a kwala gore ke bolela ka English ya Amerika. Ke e thomile ke sa le phoraemari. Ke a leboga. Ndzi yima ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi Dokodela, Muchaviseki Malebana.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene. Honorary Doctorate, yi vula leswaku ku na leswi va swi khensaka swa kahle hikokwalaho na hina ha swi khensisa. Over to you, Chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to urge the honourable House to consider and approve the report on the oversight visit to the EMS College in the Capricorn District, which took place on 20 May 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER.

Let us proceed swiftly, honourable Members; the chairperson is tired. Hon Pheedi, you are recognised.

MR PHEEDI

Tla ke eme ka maoto, Mhlomphegi Ngk Mospikara, ke thekge pego ye e adilwego ke ngaka, mabapi le ketelo ye ba e hlalositšego. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Chairperson, over to you.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to request that the honourable House consider and approve the report on the unannounced oversight visit to Giyani Nursing College in the Mopani District, which took place on 22 May 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed to get a seconder to the report. Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the presentation made by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Chairperson, over to you.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to submit that the honourable House consider and approve the report on the unannounced sight visit to Basani Clinic in the Mopani District that happened on 22 May 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

May I have a seconder? Hon Mhloti Muhlophe, you are recognised.

MS MUHLOPHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mhloti Ethel Muhlophe, rise to second the report as presented by Dr Malebana.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to request that the report on the unannounced site visit to Hlaneki Clinic in the Mopani District, which took place on 22 May 2025, be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there a seconder? Hon Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Dr Makhurupetje, the Speaker of our Legislature. I rise to propose that the report on the unannounced site visit to Muhlava Clinic in the Mopani District, which took place on 23 May 2025, be considered and approved. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I have seen the hand of Hon Morris Mataboge; you are recognised.

MR MATABOGE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson, Dr Malebana. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to request that the honourable House approve the report on the unannounced site visit to Letaba Hospital in the Mopani District, which took place on 23 May 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable Members at the back, there were hands. Hon Phokane, you are recognised.

MR PHOKANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the submission made by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to submit the report on the unannounced visit to the Lebowakgomo EMS Station in the Capricorn District, which took place on 18 June 2025, for this House to consider and approve.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed to get a seconder. Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Manana Xipikara ku va mi ni nyikile nkarhi lowu na kambe. Ndzi yima ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi Muchaviseki Dokodela Malebana. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson.

DR MALEBANA

Hon Speaker, I rise to submit the report on the unannounced visit to Sekhukhune Nursing College, which took place on 18 June 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. May we have a seconder? I have seen the hand of Hon Christinah Mohale; Hon Mohale, you are recognised.

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I second the report as presented by Dr Malebana.

THE SPEAKER

We will now proceed to the Speakers' List. Hon Mabotja is opening the debate for us.

MR MABOTJA

Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, chairpersons of portfolio committees, and most importantly, the chairperson of this committee, Hon Malebana; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members; staff and guests. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, before we proceed with the matters before this House, let us pause, not in silence, but in recognition. The people of Limpopo; more specifically Polokwane and Seshego, have lost a warrior not in the safety of retirement, but in the heat of the

struggle.

Mr Vincent “Game Changer” Kunutu, chairperson of the Seshego Community Against Gangsterism and Crime (SCAGAC), is no more. He was a man who fought the drug trade syndicate, criminal cartels, and gender-based violence, not from behind a desk, but in the streets, clinics, courtrooms, and police stations. He built alliances between communities, hospitals, NGOs, police, and the judiciary because he understood something fundamental: safety is a public health issue.

On this Women’s Day, we lost him. This Saturday, 16 August 2025, his birthday, we will bury him. That is more than a tragedy; it is a damning reminder that crime and drugs are still winning in places where the state should lead. Honourable Members, if you do nothing today, take this thought home: “Our heroes are dying, but the problems they fought against are not.”

Hon Speaker, yes, we acknowledge the previous administration for laying the groundwork in primary health care expansion and EMS rollout. Yes, under the leadership of MEC Mashego, there is movement; less red tape, improved medicine supply, a renewed focus on recruiting scarce skills. We also note your #Office Must Fall programme. We hope it will go a long way in ensuring that our people get the quality health care service they deserve, as well as the a conducive working environment for our health care practitioners.

Hon Speaker, our youth are calling upon us to fully optimise our nursing colleges as well as the EMS colleges. As of now, both institutions are white elephants and are not compliant with CHE requirements. We make a humble plea to resuscitate them urgently, and if possible, partner with the University of Limpopo to assist in getting the necessary accreditations. We commend the University for receiving yet another accreditation from HPCSA for its endorsement of a new qualification in dental therapy. Let us be clear: momentum without speed is not enough. The house is on fire in some areas, and polite applause will not put it out.

Our unannounced oversight visits were not designed to embarrass, but to crystallise. We did see bright spots worth noting. Seshego Hospital has secured a reliable water supply through a municipal borehole and has a functional backup generator for load-shedding. We saw maternity wards run by dedicated professionals delivering over 300 babies a month despite resource constraints. We met doctors and nurses from Polokwane Hospital volunteering extra time to support the workload.

We also saw the beginnings of innovation, whereby an abandoned HIV clinic was earmarked for conversion into a resuscitation and emergency care area. We observed hospitals making strides in certain services despite serious staffing shortages and infrastructure limitations. These examples prove one thing: the problem is not a lack of will on the ground, but the lack of capacity and systemic support from higher up.

Hon Speaker, an issue close to my heart; medico-legal claims are bleeding the provincial health purse. Hon Mahoai will agree. The department carries a staggering bill in pending claims, much of it in obstetrical cases. The common denominator is that the State Attorney’s Office mishandles these cases. To be clear, they often do so through missed deadlines, weak preparation, and delayed settlements. We must also

admit that without well-kept records, timely statements, and trained witnesses, even the best senior counsel will fail.

Honourable Members, we must establish a dedicated, in-house medico-legal defence unit within the department, staffed with admitted and experienced attorneys, medical experts, and investigators who know the files, the facts, and the medicine; and reduce our reliance solely on the State Attorney. Our hospitals must be trained to treat documentation as part of patient care, because in court, that file can mean the difference between saving a budget and losing millions. Where we are liable, MEC, let's settle early, and where we are not, we must fight decisively to the bitter end.

We must also follow up on money owed to us. The Road Accident Fund (RAF) and Compensation Fund are real revenue streams, but they require active claiming. The Third Quarter Performance Report for 2024/25 states that the department recovered a total of R9,2 million from RAF as at that reporting period. Imagine if these claims were processed properly; we could buy every CTG machine, baby warmer, and ultrasound our maternity wards need, without begging the Provincial Treasury.

Hon Speaker, leadership matters. A department without a head of department is a ship without a captain. This vacancy is paralysing decision-making, delaying accountability, and slowing down reform. We need that post filled urgently; not with a placeholder, but with a leader who will confront both political and bureaucratic inertia head-on. The reports we table today are not advisory notes, but mandates. They capture the real conditions in our facilities, the progress we are making, and the urgent gaps that remain. If we adopt them, we must act with urgency: by filling posts, buying equipment and relevant health technology, continuously training staff, fixing records, and preparing for NHI; not as a distant dream, but as an imminent reality.

Honourable Members, in memory of Vincent Kunutu, "The Game Changer"; a man who fought with urgency and courage; I urge this House to adopt these reports with the same spirit. MEC Mashego, you have political will. This Legislature has oversight power. Our people have a need. The only question left is: will we match their urgency, or will we let the same problems outlive another hero?

I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We thank you so much. You were generous in saving us time, We will now move to Hon Moss Andre. He has seven minutes.

MR MOSS

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of this House; and guests, good morning.

During the previous quarters, the Vote 7 Department of Health's Second Quarter Performance Report and the Third Quarter Performance Report showed a TB Pre-XDR treatment success rate of only 50% in both quarters. The Second Quarter Report further indicated a maternal mortality rate of 115 per 100,000 live births, while the Third Quarter

Report recorded 114,5 per 100,000 live births. The set targets were missed in both quarters.

The Portfolio Committee on Health found the following during unannounced site visits: During the committee's visit to the EMS College on 20 May 2025, it was noted that the college remains a critical asset that is underutilised. The absence of formal student intake was concerning. The shortage of emergency medical care practitioners across districts necessitates operationalisation of the college.

The shortage of personnel for the EMS helicopter was also of great concern. During the visit to Basani Clinic in the Mopani District on 22 May 2025, the committee observed shortages of professional nurses, administrative clerks, and pharmacy assistants.

The analysis of the Fourth Quarter Report for 2024/25 and the report of the Portfolio Committee's Fourth Quarter Performance Report highlights persistent systemic problems in the department. These include underfilled key posts, weak infrastructure progress, emergency medical service capacity gaps, financial pressures, and uneven programme performance.

Under District Health Services; specifically in mother, child, woman's health, and nutrition; seven of the 16 targets were not achieved. While the department managed to reduce the maternal mortality in facilities, achieving 104,8 per 100,000 live births against a target of 150, it struggled to meet child mortality targets.

In immunisation services, the measles second dose for children under one year was performed at 80,5% against a target of 87%. The department struggled to meet this target throughout all quarters of the 2024/25 financial year. Across programmes, the same issue persists. Targets for payment of invoices within 30 days are not met.

Revenue collection of completeness of asset registration by the end of the fourth quarter remain problematic. For HIV and AIDS, all five targets were not achieved. It is attributed to inconsistent management across districts, patients defaulting, treatment interruptions, and loss to follow-up.

Child mortality for children under five years due to diarrhoea and severe acute malnutrition remains a challenge, particularly at district and regional hospitals.

Although the maternal mortality rate was reduced, 104,8 per 100,000 live births were still recorded. Available funds were underutilised in some areas, while others overspent without clear results. Infrastructure products were overachieved; 43 of the 20 targets were met, achieving 210% of the target.

While patients die waiting for care, the department continues to bleed money through medico-legal claims totalling R9,9 billion.

Tshilidzini Hospital alone accounts for R1,44 billion of the 1 603 claims. Of these, 480 are cerebral palsy cases; preventable tragedies in most instances, valued at R7,6 billion. This is not just a financial crisis; it is a moral indictment.

The AG (Auditor-General) found R1,39 billion in irregular expenditure, linked to grocery security and maintenance tenders where proper processes were ignored. This is not carelessness; it is a pattern of mismanagement and disregard for the law.

Even where progress is claimed, such as 42% of clinics achieving ideal clinic status, the truth is that the OSHC compliances stands at just 14% for clinics and 26% for hospitals.

This means most of our health facilities are not compliant with the very standards meant to guarantee patient safety.

The ANC government often speaks of the NHI as the future of health care. But how can you roll out NHI (National Health Insurance) when flagship hospitals cannot keep ventilators in working order, when MRI machines stand idle due to lack of staff, and when babies are stacked into overcrowded wards?

The unannounced site visit to Seshego Hospital has once again confirmed what the Freedom Front Plus has been warning about for years.

Our public health care system is crumbling, and the people of Limpopo are paying the price; with their dignity, their health, and in some cases, their lives.

On the day of the visit, patients were being shuffled around the hospital due to toilet spillage in the outpatient apartment. This is not just an inconvenience; it is a basic hygiene failure in a place where infection control should be of the highest priority.

The maternity ward tells an equally troubling story. Designed for 36 beds, it was cramped with up to 52 patients. Doctors meant to treat 15 high-risk mothers a day were forced to see 50, with some borrowed from Polokwane Hospital just to cope.

Equipment shortages are chronic. In the maternity ward alone, five additional CTG machines are needed, six more baby warmers are required, and the one transport incubator is broken beyond affordable repair. Data scopes, ultrasound machines, and suction machines, are all in short supply.

All while the crisis unfolds, the hospital operates with a 50% vacancy rate. Of the 763 approved posts, only 379 are filled.

The shortage of STPs is nothing short of a provincial emergency. In Mopani and Vhembe, not a single ECP. In Sekhukhune, only one. Waterberg, three. Polokwane, one.

Yet, we have an EMS College sitting idle while accident victims, heart attack patients, and rural communities go without advanced emergency care.

The shortage even threatens to ground the EMS helicopter; a lifeline in remote areas, because it cannot operate without the required qualified personnel.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Mathye is requesting to be excused, as there has been an accident on the R101. A van capsised, resulting in the death of one police officer and six prisoners. so the MEC is expected to leave now. We have released her to attend to that emergency. Thank you.

We'll now proceed to the next item on the Order Paper. Hon Evelyn Wilson; is she here? Who is taking over for her? Hon Marx, you are recognised.

ADV MARX

Hon Speaker, I've been asked by the Hon Wilson to stand in for her today. Therefore, through you, Speaker, to Hon Mathe, I will not be taking any questions today.

Speaker, it needs to be stated that the Limpopo Department of Health is vital to the people of this province in providing accessible, sustainable, and affordable quality health care services., and it takes a massive share of the budget. It therefore goes without saying that it cannot fail to ensure that we have a health system that works for the people of Limpopo.

The oversight provided by the Portfolio Committee on Health is crucial, and their input should be addressed timeously. We should not be complicit in diminishing the importance and effectiveness of the hard work we do in these committees by delaying the tabling of these reports in this House.

We cannot allow reports with serious challenges facing us, such as those from a provider department, to be debated two financial years later. It is not acceptable. The performance of the department in the 2023/24 financial year presented great challenges that need serious attention, especially since some of the issues are recurring and do not receive satisfactory consideration year on year.

The Auditor-General's report highlights some matters of great concern to the continued operation of the department, particularly the R9,9 billion in medico-legal claims that present significant uncertainties. The factors related to the root causes of the high rate of litigation against the department are: critical staff shortages in high-risk clinical areas, poor quality health care, lack of professionalism, poor communication and staff attitude, lack of equipment, failure to obtain informed consent, misdiagnosis, failure in conduct, basic investigation, and system errors. This astronomical figure needs to be reined in before it starts to collapse the health system in the province.

The irregular expenditure of R1,3 billion was also a cause for concern in the 2023/24 financial year, and it was particularly due to tender processes not being followed.

There were also significant findings with regard to the non-compliance with legislation, particularly with reference to the revenue management, which includes R107 million in patient fees written off, even though reasonable steps were not taken as required to recover debts before writing them off.

Asset management was also flagged, including the absence of proper control systems for safeguarding and maintaining assets.

Significant internal control deficiencies, strategic planning, and performance management were noted. Many of these areas, identified as non-compliant with legislation, were also repeat findings.

The department, in this period, should be commended for spending 99,9% of its budget. It also collected 105% of its target for revenue and exceeded its targets with regard to EPMS urban response in under 30 minutes, as well as medicine availability in the depot, hospitals, and clinics. These achievements reflect an improvement in performance compared to the 2022/23 financial year.

There were, however, failures to meet targets in very important key performance indicators. These include immunisation services; HIV and AIDS, with adults at 71,4% of the 90% target, and children at 32,9% of 90%; and patient experience of satisfaction care in regional hospitals and tertiary hospitals. The latter was largely due to cleanliness issues and long waiting times.

Speaker, expenditure across programmes continues to present some problems. In the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, the department overspent in Programme 3, Emergency Medical Services, at 37%. It also underspent in Programme 8, Health Facilities Management, at 12,9%.

Key performance indicator targets that were not met in the first quarter include:

- children under five years with severe acute malnutrition,
- case fertility rate,
- neonatal death- in- facility rate,
- immunisation services, with adults at 73,5% of the 95% target and children at 38,8% of the 95% target.

The department managed to pay suppliers within 30 days, reached its target for revenue collected, and exceeded its targets with regard to EMS rural and urban response in under 30 minutes.

The Fourth Quarter Report for the 2024/25 financial year showed uneven expenditure patterns, with both underspending and overspending throughout earlier quarters. Most programmes showed significant increased spending in the last quarter to approach 100% expenditure. For example, Programme 8, stood at 47,3% throughout the first three quarters, and then reached 99% by the end of quarter four.

The department failed to achieve three indicators in the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter, namely:

- payment of suppliers within 30 days
- completeness of the asset register, and
- revenue collected, with only R52,9 million collected against the target of R79,1 million.

It is clear that revenue collection needs to be strengthened in the department, because it seems there is significant room and potential to increase the revenue received beyond current targets if proper systems are implemented and reasonable steps to collect revenue are followed.

The overperformance in clinics that obtained an ideal clinic status; 60,7% against a target of 50%, is questionable, as it does not correlate with the conditions observed in the clinics during oversight visits. It is important to understand what exactly the funds are used for.

Speaker, oversight visits to facilities such as Veritas Digital and healthcare facilities across the province highlight some systemic failures within our healthcare system. The sheer magnitude of the challenges, coupled with the limited resources available to deliver quality healthcare to the people of Limpopo, is deeply concerning.

The unannounced visit to Sekhukhune Nursing College highlights some of the systemic failures and challenges we face. Although the college's operation did not meet the criteria to accommodate the 50 students due to infrastructure challenges, the college is also severely understaffed. This has resulted in personnel having to double-head, perform additional duties, and fill other positions.

The shortage of library material and equipment also threatens to affect the progress of students. Security concerns at the college also need to be addressed, with numerous and frequent burglaries occurring at the college and threatening student safety.

Likewise, the Lebowakgomo EMS Station also had challenges observed during an unannounced site visit.

Speaker, backlogs in staffing are creating havoc. Just this last week, we had to assist a patient who was sent from Polokwane Hospital for scans in May. Two months later, as the patient's condition was deteriorating, she still did not have the results. We were then advised that the backlog at Mankweng Hospital went back as far as January.

Speaker, how can this be possible? What other backlogs are jeopardising the wellbeing of our citizens? How is it possible that doctors, surgeons in particular, are spending more time assisting in private practices than in the public institutions that employ them? Who is protecting them, and why do they get preference over needy and desperate patients? It is shocking.

In conclusion, MEC, while there are efforts to improve on previous years, much more needs to be done. Far too many failures, challenges, and obstacles remain in our healthcare system. Our mission to provide accessible, sustainable, and affordable quality healthcare services is one which we cannot fail.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Let's proceed Who's debating on behalf of the Hon Lebogo? Hon Magolo, you are recognised.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Once again, greetings to the Members and the guests in the gallery. I'm here to debate on behalf of my fellow caucus member, Hon Jacob Lebogo.

Hon Speaker, when are all the clinics in Limpopo to obtain an ideal clinic status? All clinics in the province should acquire an ideal clinic status with good infrastructure, adequate staff, adequate medicine and supplies, good administrative processes, and sufficient bulk supplies. These clinics must be able to use applicable clinical policies, protocols, and guidelines, and harness partner and stakeholder support. An ideal clinic also collaborates with other government departments. Currently, only 401 out of 476 clinics have obtained the ideal clinic status.

Of the 500 clinics, only 220 operate 24 hours in our province. In some instances, clinics operate 24 hours and still turn people away. The department is still struggling with HIV/AIDS patient treatment and with the treatment success rate outcome for MDR-TB and pre-XDR-TB patients. This failure does not come as a shock, as the department is known for not being proactive on matters of service delivery. Can the department explain to this august House why they failed to meet the target on the patient experience of care satisfaction rate due to a lack of achievement in the following four priority areas, namely: access to care, patient waiting time, availability of medicine, and cleanliness.

Hon Speaker, this department is discredited by a shortage of EMS personnel as well. There is an inability to meet EMS response times due to various factors, including the closures of EMS colleges, inadequate EMS infrastructure building, and insufficient planned patient transport. The EMS is the most neglected service in this department. We have been raising this matter with the department for years, as the EFF, and yet nothing is happening.

Hon Speaker, the majority of the planned patient transport fleet is in tatters. They are old and experiencing frequent breakdowns, long turnaround times from merchants, as well as poor quality service from the merchants. They pose a danger to the lives of our people. Can we get the report on the SIU investigation on a law firm that allegedly defrauded the department? This matter cannot be swept under the carpet. The lack of complete financial disclosure by the department is to run away from transparency and accountability. As part of our oversight, we need to effectively oversee the budget, track spending patterns, and ensure that funds are used efficiently throughout the financial year.

Hon Speaker, did the department ensure that the kitchen at Matlala Hospital obtained a compliance certificate? If not, whose responsibility is it to ensure that? The department must speed up the process of procuring new kitchen equipment and PPE for staff in the kitchen at this hospital and also prioritise fumigation and pest control in the hospital wards. Can we get the progress report on the refurbishment of the burnt kitchen at St. Rita's Hospital? Has the project on the construction of the critical care ICU unit resumed?

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed that the long-standing laundry, renal, and critical care unit projects at Tshilidzini Hospital were not fully completed and operational. The department appoints rogue and incompetent contractors, only to take them to the courts when they fail to deliver. This is a complete waste of taxpayers' money and a delay for service delivery. This is the result of appointing contractors without profiling them.

Can the department furnish the august House with the outstanding security plan report for all healthcare facilities as previously requested following the GaChuene Clinic incident? The department must urgently install CCTV cameras at healthcare facilities to prevent incidents like the one at GaChuene Clinic from happening again.

Hon Speaker, we need a detailed list of the 43 capital infrastructure projects to be completed, including facility name, location, scope of work, date of completion, and the original budget versus the actual cost, which must also be submitted to the committee for the purpose of oversight. Did the department consider and prioritise the following projects: a long-term plan on the park homes at the Sekhukhune Nursing College, energy hybrid system assessment, mortuary at Elim Hospital, the Lebowakgomo EMS, stormwater drainage at the Muhlava Village Clinic, which affects the ambulance access during the rainy season? If not, who should do it? We also need a comprehensive report on how the R3,4 billion conditional grant was spent.

The report must detail the breakdown of spending per conditional grant. On the revenue generation by the department, we received a narrative from an old lady who is a pensioner at Matlala Hospital, who indicated that she was told to pay money that was owed by her deceased son, who was unemployed, before the hospital could release the corpse. We need an explanation there, MEC, as to whether this is the correct application of the policy.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Magolo, ka go re bolokela nako. We will now allow the chairperson of the committee, Hon Dr Malebana William, to come and close the debate. Ke ka lebaka la eng le ntshega ge ke mmitša William?

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, Dr Makhuruptje; Chief Whip; Hon Essob Mokgonyana and your office; Chairperson of Committees, Hon Thabo Mokone; MEC Mahoai and MEC Mashego; Leader of Official Opposition; chairpersons of portfolio committees and standing committees; honourable Members; and the people of Limpopo that are part of us on social media platforms. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, I rise to present the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Health, including the oversight report. I must say that the oversight report is part of the committee's consolidated report and is not a separate document from what we normally present.

As we all know, health care is a fundamental human right. It is important that, as leaders in our society, we ensure that we are responsible with regard to matters related to health. We must ensure that the people of Limpopo have access to quality, affordable, and comprehensive health care services.

In line with the priorities identified by the department, the report addresses the following areas:

- improving access to quality health care services;
- promoting effective corporate governance;
- advancing human resource management and development;
- ensuring sound financial management;
- combating communicable and non-communicable diseases;
- strengthening district health systems and hospital functionality;
- improving emergency medical services;
- developing tertiary services;
- facilitating infrastructure development and maintenance across all facilities; and
- supporting the training and development of health care professionals.

During our oversight visit to the clinics — at this point, about five — nursing colleges, EMS stations and the 12 hospitals across the province, we observed several challenges that need urgent attention from the department. All of these challenges are resolvable and can be addressed during our term.

Among the chronic, if not acute, issues are the staff shortage, particularly nurses and emergency medical services personnel. There is also inadequate infrastructure in some districts, including maintenance and upgrading of facilities.

As members of the portfolio committee have said, EMS stations, although functional, operate under very hard conditions that require departmental prioritisation. This includes inadequate equipment and personnel.

We also observed challenges at the nursing college and its campus, including insufficient resources and infrastructure.

A number of hospitals are in need or must be prioritised for infrastructure and equipment upgrades. With regard to clinics, common problems persist including a shortage of nurses, especially midwives. The Muhlava Clinic, in particular, has experienced difficulty operating on a 24-hour basis.

The Phahameng Clinic also faces challenges that the department is called to address, without mentioning all of them here. These include congestion and inadequate clinic infrastructure. I raise these as solvable issues, because we visited another clinic, not located in town, which serves as a positive example.

We must also say that the department must prioritise safety and security at clinics. This includes focused monitoring of compliance with the security measures in place at various facilities. We found that there are problems relating to compliance with the service level agreement.

Furthermore, we want the district to provide support to clinics. Our observation is there is no hands-on response when clinics have problems.

There are secondary issues that must also be mentioned, such as laundry services that lack adequate equipment, the bad state of nurses' accommodation, and water-related challenges, as observed at the clinic in Hlaneki.

We also call on the department to pay attention to the Mamaselela Clinic, which is affected by mining blast activities in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality.

As we visited 12 hospitals, I wish to briefly share an overall observation, noting that specific reporting has been compiled. I must inform the honourable House that the department has responded to the portfolio committee, and this committee will continue to engage with them.

There are changes that are happening, but common among all health facilities is a high vacancy rate for core and non-core staff, a shortage of specialists, a shortage of nurses, a high level of acting appointments in the positions of operational managers across a number of institutions. There is also a poor state of patient records. While the department is saying that it has provided PPE, during our visits we sometimes find that personnel in clinics do not have access to PPEs. It is important that this matter is taken care of.

We have observed that the EPWP is part of the health system. There's also an inability on the part of the hospital to prepare inactive files for scanning and archiving by Veritas Digital, due to the high shortage of administrative staff.

We further call on the department to prioritise water supply at Malamulele, St. Rita's and Kgapane Hospitals. There is also infrastructure that remains incomplete at Letaba, Tshilidzini, and St. Rita's Hospitals. The department must prioritise security matters at Hayani Hospital and attend to the report we presented regarding Matlala, St. Rita's, Kgapane, Hayani, and George Masebe Hospitals.

Mainly, there are concerns related to the poor state of doctors' and nurses' accommodation. We have an appointment with the department regarding the problems we observed at the nursing colleges and their campuses. The one in Waterberg is highly vandalised, staffing is inadequate, and it's not necessarily operational. The same can be said of EMS stations; which challenges what I have said earlier.

With regard to the specific quarterly report, performance issues persist. There are recurring matters, such as contingency liability due to medico-legal cases.

The department also needs assistance in getting adequate support from the Office of the State Attorney, as there are unresolved issues that must be addressed.

With regard to revenue collection, it's important that the department shifts gear, particularly in relation to RAF, medical aid claims and interdepartmental billing.

Although I have taken some time to present the challenges, and I have indicated that they can be resolved, there are also good things that the department is doing that must be acknowledged.

In the interest of time, I wish to highlight a clinic that serves as a good example and has shown that it is indeed possible to establish an ideal clinic. The Basani clinic stands out as an example of effective rural health care delivery.

Its standard must be taken to all clinics. It's a matter of leadership, from where we come from. However, I must say, Hon Moss, that the status of the health system in the county did not begin with the African National Congress. Its foundations can be traced back a long time, to a previous regime that was discriminatory, and which separated families, with mothers and fathers living in different areas. I don't have to go further than that.

I wish to state that the NHI seeks to respond to that legacy by ensuring that all people get the necessary medical care. The money allocated to the department is a lot. If we have a system that is integrated and equitable, it is indeed possible for all people to access health care services. We must acknowledge that point, honourable Members.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, on behalf of the portfolio committee, I move that the report be adopted as a report of this honourable House.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Dr Malebana, and all committee members who participated in this debate. We think it was substantial. I was nervous myself, but you managed to do what you were supposed to do. We shall now request the MEC to respond to the debate. Hon Mashego, the floor is yours. Molekgotlaphethiši wa Kgoro ya Maphelo.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thobela. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the Whippery, and all honourable Members who are present.

Firstly, Hon Speaker, let's appreciate the Portfolio Committee on Health for the work that they have been doing.

As we have noted, they have conducted visits to our facilities. Indeed, this shows that we are really working together to improve the Department of Health in the province. It is through these oversight reports that we, as the department, are able to intervene.

I would like to respond to a few questions I've noted during the debate.

Firstly, let us acknowledge that we do have challenges in some of our facilities. In certain cases, the challenges are not major but rather relate to how leadership within the facility conducts its day-to-day operations.

In response to this, we have launched the #Office Must Fall campaign, which calls on all senior managers not to remain confined to their offices. This is to ensure that we are present on the ground and able to intervene where there are challenges.

Hence, every senior manager is allocated a facility, which they'll visit at least once a month. This will enable us to hold them accountable for the challenges identified in those facilities, and to ensure that such matters are addressed as soon as possible. Through this approach, we are also addressing the issue of maintenance in our facilities.

While we agree that many of our facilities are old, we have a responsibility to maintain them; and we have a budget to do so. We presented to the portfolio committee a number of projects undertaken in the previous financial year to improve the state of our facilities, and we will continue with that work.

On the issue of the shortage of staff, it is noted, and we are working very hard to address it. Previously, Hon Speaker, we were not allowed to replace staff lost through attrition. We know that many of our health professionals are ageing, and there are retirements every month.

We are now addressing that gap. The Provincial Treasury has granted us permission to respond to attrition. Therefore, when staff leave, we are able to advertise and appoint new personnel; so that we do not face the same staffing gap as before.

That is why, if you look at our communication platforms, you will see that every quarter we publish advertisements, and we are making appointments to strengthen staffing in our facilities. This also enables us to sustain 24-hour service activations.

We believe that every community must have access to medical health care; 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The issue of the EMS College, Hon Moss, has presented a challenge. We had been waiting due to the absence of a principal. However, we are pleased to announce that we have finally appointed a principal, who will work with us to ensure that the college continues to operate and becomes fully functional.

The EMS College was operational, but it was not offering the full scope of training that was required. Now, with the principal in place, we'll be able to address staffing matters and ensure that we get the necessary accreditation to train our EMS personnel at the college.

On the issue of district health indicators, we acknowledge that we have not achieved all of them. As the Department of Health, we remain committed to reaching every indicator. However, the challenge we face, as reflected in our reports, is that many of the unmet indicators are not solely dependent on the department, but also on community participation.

Let me give an example from our work on HIV. We have a responsibility to ensure prevention; we buy condoms, we distribute them, and we conduct education to encourage their use. People collect condoms and listen to our educational efforts, but some still choose not to use them.

This remains a challenge. We are saying that we will not give up. We will continue to strengthen our education efforts, and we also call on honourable Members to assist us also to promoting the message of protected sex.

In addition, the issue of neonatal mortality is largely linked to late presentation. Ka segaborena, rena le go dumela gore ge ngwana a lwala, re swanetše go mo iša mola le mola pele re ka mo iša bookelong. We often decide that the hospital or clinic is the

last resort. When patients present at the facility, it is sometimes too late; and there's not much that our doctors can do for them.

Therefore, we are saying that we'll continue to strengthen health education, so that our people understand that the first place to go when experiencing health complications is the health facility.

On the issue of the Office of Health Standards Compliance, we continue to work towards full compliance. The progress being made is visible, with improvements noted each and every quarter.

The NHI, Hon Moss, it's not a dream of the African National Congress; it is going to be realised. It's going to happen. It is here, and we are working very hard to ensure that our facilities comply.

If you agree with me, you will have noted; during your visit to one of the hospitals and its maternity ward, that although we're supposed to admit 32 patients, we had 52.

This shows that, as the Department of Health, we do not turn away our patients. That is why we are doing our best to accommodate those women, so that they can give birth in our facilities, even with the little resources that we have.

Now, we are saying that with the NHI, we will have the necessary funds. Every South African will be covered, and we will be able to improve our hospitals. We will be able to provide our people with the care they deserve.

We are saying that it is high time we have equal health care for everyone; not just for a minority who are loaded and able to access private medical care. It would be selfish for our people to reject the NHI, when it is intended to benefit all South Africans. We are saying: we are all equal.

On the issue of irregular expenditure, we wish to state that we have noted it. According to the report, where supply chain process was not followed, consequence management will apply.

Regarding the surgical backlog, as Limpopo is a rural province, we acknowledge that we have limited specialists. However, we invite you to visit our Facebook page to view the good work being done across our districts.

Just this week alone, and I refer to statistics from Monday to Wednesday, in ophthalmology, we have already assisted 36 patients; in urogynaecology, 11; general surgery, 13; orthopaedics, 15; gynae-oncology, 7; and plastic surgery, 3.

This shows that, as Limpopo, we are not just complacent about the surgical backlog, but we are working to deal with it.

We have also just welcomed new specialists who attended their graduation ceremony. We now have a new paediatrician, a new psychiatrist, and other specialists who are adding to the total of 148 specialists currently in the province.

Hon Speaker, I will not take more time. As the Limpopo Department of Health, we will continue to improve access to health care in the province.

Re a leboga. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ga le dire gabotse, Molekgotlaphethiši o re botša ditaba. Ke be ke nagana gore le tla mo fa metsotso yela ke e bolokilego. Ke be ke nagana gore le bolokela Molekgotlaphethiši metsotso.

Thank you so much, honourable MEC and honourable Members. The debate was lively and nice. Honourable Members, we are proceeding. Mohlomphegi Mogoane, o tšwile tseleng. O bolela mola Mospikara a bolela. Akere lekwele gore ba boloka metsotso mola nna ke e bala. We will now move to item 7.4.

Before you come to the podium, chair, I just want to say something. I wish to indicate that when we get to item 7.5, I will vacate my seat, because today, as the Legislature, we are also accounting. So, in between, don't be surprised when Hon Mokone takes over the chairing.

When the process of Public Works is underway, I will vacate my seat and sit where those who account sit, so that I, too, can account. Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe will now present item 7.4.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

We must always remember that this committee submits two reports at the same time: the departmental report and RAL report. Therefore, the reports will be presented individually. Over to you, Hon Netshifhefhe.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Chief Whip of the majority party, Chair of Chairs, chairpersons of portfolio committees, and the august House: I rise to present the 2024/25 First Quarter Report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder, honourable Members? The chair of CoGHSTA, Hon Sepuru; you are recognised.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Dr Speaker. I rise to second the submission as made by the committee chair.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise again to table the 2024/25 First Quarter Report for Roads Agency Limpopo, for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

DR SELANE

Vho Khathutshelo, Vho Mbavhalela. Thank you, Dr Speaker. I rise to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Vho Khathutshelo. Ndaa.

THE SPEAKER

Khakhamela.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

A si ne Vho Thovhele, vha hone hafha. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise once more to present the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I see the hand of Hon Nempumbuluni; you are recognised.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Ndo livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndo ima hafha u tikedza likumedzwa lo nkedzwaho nga Mudzulatshidulo wa Komiti, Vho John Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report for Roads Agency Limpopo, for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mokoele, you are recognised.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My name is Esther Mokoale. I rise to second the chairperson on the report presented. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise again to present the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Modulasetulo o tlaba a re kwatela ge re sa thekge pego ya gagwe. I rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson, Hon Vho Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Vho Netshifhefhe, vhone vha a hulisea ngamaanda. Kha vha ye phanda.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Ndo livhua. I rise again to present the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report for Roads Agency Limpopo, for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mnisi, you are recognised.

MS MNISI

Ndza khensa, Muchaviseki. I Dumezulu nakambe. Ndzi yima ku ta seketela xiviko lexi nga andlariwa hi Mutshamaxitulu eka Yindlu leyi ya Mfumu wa Milawu. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene, Muchaviseki. Kha vha ye phanda Mudzulatshidulo.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise again to present the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, for consideration and adoption by the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Rakgoale, you are recognised.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson, Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report for Roads Agency Limpopo, for consideration and adoption by the House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder. Hon Shai, I haven't seen you. You are recognised, Hon Shai.

MR SHAI

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I second the presentation by the chairperson, Hon Netshifhefhe. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, chairperson.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Lastly, I table the Report on the Oversight Visit to Vhembe District, specifically Thulamela Local Municipality and Makhado Local Municipality in Limpopo province, conducted on 19 and 20 February 2025, for consideration and adoption by the House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Pheedi, you are recognised.

MR PHEEDI

Ke a leboga. Hon Speaker, don't be surprised when I raise my hand continuously. Good learners at school always raise their hands when questions are asked. Ke ema mo bjalo ka moagišane, go thekga go amogelwa le go lebedišišwa ga pego bjalo ka ge e adilwe ke Modulasetulo wa Komiti, Mohlomphegi Netshifhefhe.

THE SPEAKER

I missed it at some point that you were done tabling the Third Quarter Reports. It is fine; we have also seconded the Oversight Visit report to Thulamela Local Municipality and Makhado Local Municipality in Limpopo.

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. I know that Hon Mokone is ready to take the podium. While he prepares to do so, I will wait for him.

We will now allow Hon Phetole Percy Machete to open the debate. You have 14 minutes; Hon Machete.

MR MACHETE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Let me take this opportunity to observe the protocol that has already been established.

As we gather here today, during Women's Month, we take this opportunity to salute women of our country, in this House and elsewhere, for steadfastly championing the largely unresolved issues of women's emancipation. Therefore, it is important to note that, a revolution cannot triumph without the emancipation of women.

We know that the women in this House represent the hopes and aspirations of millions of other women across the length and the breadth of our strife-torn country. We salute you, conscious of the fact that you are propelled by a burning desire to make an indelible, or permanent, mark on the lives of many women out there.

As we celebrate Women's Month, we are reminded of the countless heroines of our struggle, which is a normal condition for all living creatures in the world; every day we struggle. We are reminded of the countless heroines of our struggle, both the living and the departed. Their names will forever remain on the Roll of Honour of our struggle.

In their honour and remembrance, the ANC is calling on all of us to intensify the struggle and defend the gains made for women's emancipation, development, and participation at all levels of government and society, in every sector of public life and every office.

A society is nothing else but the people collectively; and that is what we call society.

Madam Speaker, the ANC supports, and is at the forefront of, the struggle for our women to take leadership in society, including within the ANC itself, using the unique skills that they possess.

Together, in this House, we must campaign for the fall of the 'Pull Her Down Syndrome'. I want to give an explicit understanding of what I am referring to as 'her': it refers to a female person. There is no attachment to any name, that is the reference of 'her'.

The National Strategic Plan to end gender-based violence is anchored on several key pillars, one of which is women's economic emancipation, or economic power, which is Pillar Number Five. The ANC welcomes the many strides that the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), and by extension the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, have made during the period under review to realise this pillar of women's economic empowerment. A pillar is nothing else but a fundamental or essential part of something; and in this regard, reference is made to women: that they are very important in our society.

In this regard, the ANC welcomes the over 1 200 jobs that were created for women through various interventions by RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

It is also important to indicate that the empowerment of women is the only way to ensure the sustainable development of society. It is very important that, in all our endeavours, we need to take into consideration how we navigate the empowerment of women in the fields of economy, education, social development, and many other areas that are referred to as areas of specialisation.

In the future, RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will provide a breakdown of the number of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises that are women-owned and have been contracted for various works; the number of SMMEs that were paid within 30 days, that are women owned; and the number of young women employed at various infrastructure development projects by RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. This will help us to trace progress so that we can realise Pillar Number Five, as I have indicated above.

It is important to indicate that the ANC is not pleased with the failure by RAL to pay all the eligible suppliers within the stipulated 30 days. In this regard, RAL scored a meagre 85% during the last quarter of 2023/24 instead of 100%. This is non-compliance with the requirements of Treasury Regulations, and we hold a strong view that this is unacceptable.

The ANC has made a commitment to improve and instil good governance, deliver quality and basic services, eradicate corruption, and support SMMEs owned by women and other designated groups.

We therefore call on RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to deal with the excessive administrative procedures, multiple approval layers, slow compliance processes, poor forecasting or cash management, and unethical practices that bedevil financial management within our institution. All these leads to deliberate delays or misappropriation of funds.

We accept the fact that our suppliers and vendors also have a role to play in this regard. The ANC calls on the leadership of RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, to strengthen the relations with these important stakeholders; to address specific issues of missing or inaccurate documentation, including invoices and delivery receipts, which delay processing and payments.

Addressing all the above challenges will lead to compliance with the Treasury regulatory regime, and I will explain what Treasury regulatory regime means when I conclude.

The act of wilful or negligent failure to pay suppliers within 30 days is a breach of the Public Finance Management Act and Treasury Regulations and therefore constitutes financial misconduct in terms of section 83 of the Public Finance Management Act.

The ANC, therefore, calls on the Member of the Executive Council, in this regard, the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and other relevant authorities to investigate this misconduct and take disciplinary actions against the officials involved.

We make this call because continued late or non-payment of eligible invoices negatively impacts on the cashflow and liquidity of the affected SMMEs and contributes to their demise or unsustainability; adding to increased unemployment, widening poverty, and inequality.

We hasten to applaud RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for spending more than R20 million to pay SMMEs during the last quarter of the year. Whilst this is not enough, it is nevertheless appreciated.

The ANC has made a commitment to improve and instil good governance, deliver quality public and basic services, eradicate corruption, and support SMMEs owned by women and other designated groups. A designated group is simply a special category designed for a particular purpose by the government. Failure to comply with stated regulations when dealing with SMMEs renders this commitment tried.

The ANC is concerned that RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure could not secure any strategic partner for road construction during the period under review. The planned target of raising over R70 million for this purpose from strategic partners could not be achieved. This is in stark contrast with the ANC's 2024 election manifesto, which is committed to cultivating partnerships to support development and expansion of infrastructure.

An election manifesto is a document outlining policies, goals and vision of a political party. In this regard, we should be able to pride ourselves on being on the road to creating a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

Subsequently, we should speak to the issue of non-sexism as we relate to the issues of women in this Women's Month. Non-sexism is a philosophy or ideology that seeks to reject discrimination and promote inclusiveness of women in all the areas of life.

We need this sustainable economic development and job creation. We need this partnership to fill the gap in infrastructure, financing, and development, especially road infrastructure.

We are deeply and expectantly worried about the visible decline in private sector investment in infrastructure development, particularly in the mining towns where most of our otherwise partners operate. The ANC calls on the companies such as Exxaro, Marula Platinum, Anglo American, Northam Platinum, Samancor and other mining

houses and large-scale commercial farmers to come to the party and turn South Africa, and our province, into a construction site.

We encourage RAL and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to involve and strengthen confidence-boosting measures, as well as to address structural constraints and declining government investment in infrastructure development, often due to corruption and other malfeasance. Malfeasance refers to intentional wrongdoing; you just do things as you wish.

We believe that consequence management, in this regard, will apply, and we will be able to deal with matters at that level.

We make a clarion call on the private sector to play its role and support SMMEs, especially those owned by women in townships and rural areas. We call upon them to ensure that these vulnerable sectors of our society are included in the entire value chain through set-asides. These imperatives should permeate our ambitious infrastructure development programme.

Another point that the ANC wishes to put across is the issue of bridge construction. In this regard, RAL managed to build only one bridge during the last quarter of the year. It should be borne in mind that bridges are not merely crossings; they connect people...[INTERJECTION]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Please conclude, Hon Machete.

MR MACHETE

As I gravitate towards closure, I want to indicate that I hope I was able to represent the committee very well and, indeed, we appreciate their support in this regard.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Machete. We shall now call upon Hon Velile Cyril Jack.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Mr Thabo Mokone. That seat is occupied by a Dr, so we must not degrade it, let us keep the momentum.

Let me take this opportunity to greet everybody, especially the Chief Whip of the opposition and my leader, seated in the gallery, Cde John Ngobeni.

As the MKP, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate our women this month. Our women were marginalised for a very long period. Their march to the Union Buildings was not about pass laws, it was about all the oppressive laws.

The reason we have changed the celebration from Women's Day to Women's Month is because it took them a long time to prepare. For them to proceed with the march, they had to indulge in mass mobilisation of women, and those men who were in the beerhalls had to take time to do what we call a signature campaign, to see to it that the march became a success.

It was not only on 09 August 1956 that they just woke up from their houses and marched to the Union Buildings. It was a well-determined and prepared event.

As the MKP, we will not stand here and celebrate women who are implicated in corruption, both in government and the private sector. Women are supposed to be a pillar of strength in any family. For you to be a woman who is indulging in corruption, you are a disgrace to the MKP.

Today, we have gathered to discuss the quarterly reports of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Unfortunately, this department faces challenges, and its failure affects other departments too.

The utilisation of the Provincial Road Maintenance grants should cater for critical roads, such as the Punda Maria road to the Kruger National Park. It is the busiest road in the Thoyondou area, with terrible conditions that may cause many accidents and risk the lives of our people.

The D4 road to Elim is a duck-and-dive road, with numerous potholes. The R579 road to Sekhukhune has about 6 km of bad road as well. Our roads should be conducive to preserve lives. Projects must be completed on time, and backlogs fast-tracked.

In the future, the department should avoid praising the #Dikgerekgere programme to score political points, knowing very well that there is no budget for it.

The department's inability to meet infrastructure operation targets is concerning, as it directly impacts service delivery. The department must improve planning, stakeholder coordination, and contribute to audit-driven asset verification efforts.

The delays in projects such as the Botshabelo Library, Groblersbrug Bridge, and Mokopane Laboratory mean that communities are deprived of employment opportunities; and the communities suffer in the end.

It is important to note that EPWP is intended for experiential learning and skills development. The department should create in-house opportunities as an escape route for EPWP beneficiaries, as well as strengthen the recruitment planning by prioritising young people and people with disability.

Unemployment is the enemy that we must tackle. Therefore, let us prioritise infrastructure development, job creation, and skills development to make an impact on the lives of our citizens.

I thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Jack. We shall now call upon Hon Helm Maria.

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. All our MECs present here today; the Whippers; the opposition parties; honourable Members in the House; and our distinguished guests; we greet you.

Hon Speaker, on Women's Month, I would like to say that women have long been oppressed. If we have poor infrastructure, then we combine and compound that oppression, because women are then confined to the villages; they cannot move and cannot participate in the economy because the roads are bad. So, in light of that, I would like to say the following:

Hon Speaker, the 2023/24 quarterly reports were interrogated earlier in 2025 by the committee. It is unacceptable for the DA that this House is tasked to consider these reports so late in the year. Quarterly reports are not mere bureaucratic formalities; it is important that we understand this. They are the Legislature's early warning system.

Hence, committees work efficiently and effectively to contribute to these reports. The reason why this is so important is that we can track performance and spending in real time. It is not something that you look at afterwards; you look at it while you are going.

The mandate of the portfolio committee is clear; it is to support and hold the department accountable, but also to support. Our chairperson always reminds us of the mandate that we have, and that we must work and prepare well so that we can adhere to it.

We are glad to say that our MEC and his team regularly attended the portfolio committee meetings to answer our questions, and we appreciate that. Our support staff is efficient and supports the committee in a professional way, ensuring that we can hold the department accountable.

We must remember that accountability is much more than just the work of a committee. Even if our committees are working very well, accountability is only effective if we can timeously hold each other accountable. Therefore, it is a cycle; not a road. It is a cycle that we must go through.

When each part of the Legislature machine functions optimally, then accountability runs supremely. So, we must ask: what happened to these reports from the time the committee interrogated this department, and why is it only today that they are tabled?

Let us go to the oversight. The committee conducted oversight on two roads during the oversight visit to Vhembe District Municipality earlier this year, on 19 and 20 February.

I want to agree that the D4 road near Elim is not in good condition. I saw an ambulance driving on that road; I was holding my head and praying that the patients inside the ambulance would be safe, because of the bad road and the swerving of that ambulance over the road to duck and dive through all the potholes. That road is tremendously bad.

The R522 road from Vivo to Louis Trichardt in the Makhado Local Municipality is equally bad. The promise to the committee during our oversight visit was that the D4 road will be rebuilt, and it was said that it would happen very soon. As of today, that road is still a nightmare for motorists. The same goes for the R522 road.

The promise was that the contractor would begin on 01 April 2025. I personally conducted an oversight visit on 04 April 2025, and there was no contractor on site at that stage. I went back on 21 July 2025, and again, no contractor was on site.

RAL removed three large pieces of tar from that road, and now it is completely undrivable. Massive damage is done to vehicles, and it is due to these terrible conditions that vehicles drive on both sides of the road. This could cause serious accidents, especially at night.

I know this condition because I drive on that road at night. At one stage, I had to stop because oncoming vehicles were driving on both sides of the road, and I was not sure where I was supposed to go. It is really dangerous. I had to stop for a while to let the vehicles pass before I could continue.

Therefore, it is important to know what RAL is going to do, as the promise was that both roads would receive attention. We would like to receive feedback on the Schoemansdal Museum regarding the necessary repairs, and we also want to know how far the construction is at the Manemo College.

Hon Speaker, to create sustainable jobs, communities must participate in the economy. The department plays a critical role in enabling the communities to participate meaningfully in the economy. Without well-maintained roads, there will be no meaningful participation. One needs to deliver goods, sell products, fetch stock; and people must be able to come and purchase those products. Therefore, without proper roads, this cannot happen.

Ensuring that significant infrastructure development takes place could be a key economic driver for the people of this province and play a significant role in addressing the many socioeconomic challenges that our people face; such as unemployment, poverty, and lack of opportunities.

The relationship between the department and RAL is very important, and we need clarity on their responsibilities. Many of our road projects are abandoned, and we need to know who is going to take over where RAL has left off. There are too many of these roads that are in bad condition, and we do not know who to contact.

Lastly, I want to thank the committee, our chairperson, and our support staff for their hard work. It is truly a privilege to serve in this committee.

I thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Helm. We shall now call upon Hon Matome Jacob Lebogo.

MR BALOYI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am here on behalf of my colleague, Hon Jacob Lebogo.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the shortfall in achieving the full-time equivalent target (FTE) due to project stoppage. The workload of employees, both full-time and part-time workers, must be measured in terms of the standard full-time position. The FTE represents the number of full-time positions that an organisation's workforce effectively reflects, based on part-time work converted to the equivalent number of full-time workers.

The project stoppage by a road contractor must not be allowed to disrupt and compromise service delivery in this province. The department should enhance its risk assessment and mitigation strategy, including robust contingency planning, to prevent or minimise future disruptions.

Without monitoring, government projects are likely to experience decreased efficiency, increased costs, and potential failure to achieve the intended outcomes. This can lead to wasted resources, public dissatisfaction, and lack of accountability.

Hon Speaker, effective monitoring and evaluation are crucial in ensuring that projects stay on track, adapt to challenges, and deliver intended benefits. We call upon the department to implement stricter contractor guidelines, to perform monitoring, and to establish an early warning system to detect and address project delays in time.

Does the department include contingency and flexible mechanism targets in its planning, especially for proactiveness and the impact of rain on the roads? The department should have better preparation and respond to unpredictable weather-related damages.

The EFF is concerned about the significant backlog in blacktop paving signals and the need to advertise full-skill rehabilitation projects, rather than relying heavily on patching the roads. We are convinced that additional resources and fast-tracking the approval of rehabilitation projects will ensure long-term road quality and cost-effectiveness.

Did the department consider adopting performance-based contracts for road maintenance, where incentive contractors can maintain quality and reduce defects over a fixed period, thereby improving effectiveness and accountability?

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned: how can the department create 105 employment opportunities that were not planned? As much as job creation is a good thing, we need to ask where they got the budget to fund these 105 positions. Who are those people who were employed, and where did the recruitment process take place?

We believe and hope that these 105 positions were not given to volunteers of the ANC, chairpersons of the branches, secretaries, or some faction of people in the ANC. We believe that everyone in this province has a right to be given equal opportunities to apply and get the job; if they qualify. They should not be employed simply because they are related to some people in the ruling party.

The department must develop a skills development framework for those who are employed in road maintenance projects, to improve employability and enable career progression.

Furthermore, we call upon the department to use a Geographical Information System and road condition monitoring tools to better measure and report on the impact of road quality maintenance. This department must think outside the box in terms of tapping into MECC stem for more accurate data and to enable evidence-based decision making.

Furthermore, they must collaborate with the Provincial Disaster Management Team to create an integrated response framework for road infrastructure damage caused by natural events; ensuring quick mobilisation, resource allocation, and coordination.

RAL has, over the years, been embroiled in several scandals. It has been engulfed in irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures, along with concerns regarding the appointment of board members. We call upon the MEC to tap into his urgency and youthfulness to correct the wrongs in this department.

I thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Member. We shall now call upon Hon Netshifhefhe Khathutshelo John.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Chief Whip and Whippy, Members of this august House, Members of the Executive Council present, and our guests in the gallery.

The African National Congress, in its 2024 National and Provincial Elections Manifesto, committed itself and its public representatives to accountability. This commitment required that the necessary mechanisms be put in place to monitor and evaluate the implementation and achievement of our stated goals, which include poverty reduction, the reduction of inequality, and the decrease of unemployment.

The consideration and adoption of the reports under review today is one of the mechanisms and tools to undertake that important task. It provides an opportunity to introduce timely corrective measures to ensure accountability and the delivery of tangible, quality services to our people. In this context, therefore, the ANC appreciates the work that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and its entity, RAL, have done to realise their Medium-Term Strategic Framework priorities during the period under review.

Those priorities include capacitated institutions, decent jobs, sustainable roads, and building infrastructure. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure would not have made all its strides without capable and ethical leadership across all levels and directorates within its ranks.

The ANC therefore commends the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for achieving and sustaining a 10% vacancy rate within its staff

establishment. We also congratulate the department on the number of appointments made during the period under review.

The majority of those appointments were made in various cost centres, including mechanical and building workshops; all of which are at the coalface of service delivery. I should indicate, that cost centres are areas that had a serious backlog in terms of vacancy rates, and the department has since filled most of those vacancies. However, it remains a work in progress. I suppose that the MEC will also respond in this regard when he delivers his comments.

The ANC congratulates all appointees and hope that they will assist the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in realising its mandate of providing accessible, integrated and sustainable infrastructure for socioeconomic development.

We call upon the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to promote, monitor and adhere to its employment equity targets, and to ensure that youth, women and people living with disability are equitably represented across all levels of management, including within the Senior Management Service. This will ensure the sustainable growth of a vibrant public sector that is critical to national development, improved governance, and accelerated service delivery to our people.

The ANC promotes and supports a capable, developmental, and professional state that is based on Batho Pele principles. It is our hope that the department will sustain efforts to tackle corruption, improve accountability, and enforce consequence management for corrupt activities within its ranks.

This is at the centre of good governance — the defining line between our rise and our demise. It is the quality of our governance that will make the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure strong — not the beauty of our slogans, nor the size of our budget. We are confident that by investing in people, the department is contributing towards national efforts to meet the basic needs of our communities, such as education, healthcare, roads, housing and electricity.

We welcome the efforts by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to realise economic transformation and job creation in our lifetime. This is at the heart of the ANC's 2024 National and Provincial Election Manifesto, which directs all of us to put South Africa to work. This will be realised by creating work opportunities across all sectors, including small, medium and macro enterprises, as well as public and private sectors.

The ANC welcomes the strides that the department has made to create much-needed jobs, especially for the vulnerable sectors of our society, during the period under review.

It is our hope that, in the coming months and years, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will increase the number of SMMEs from 36 to match those participating in the National Contractor Development Programme. This programme complements other efforts to expand Black Industrialist Programmes and support historically disadvantaged individuals.

We call on the department to utilise the opportunity brought by the NCDP to build technical planning and project management capacity, in order to maintain all our public infrastructure.

Together with other interventions, such as public procurement policies and skills development programmes, the NCDP must provide support and guidance to SMMEs in township and rural economies, in order to bridge the gap and remove barriers to entry into the mainstream economy.

The ANC has set itself a target of expanding the Black Industrialist Programme to support over 2 000 companies. We urge the department to utilise the opportunity presented by this and other similar programmes to help realise this goal. We expect to see an improvement in the number of work opportunities created for youth, women and people living with disability.

The latter sector remains extremely underrepresented and benefits only marginally from our job creation interventions. The ANC is however concerned about the slow progress in road infrastructure provision. By the end of the fourth quarter, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure had achieved 75% in this area.

Accelerating road infrastructure provision is critical to driving growth and creating opportunities for our people. We call upon the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to remove current bottlenecks and constraints within the portfolio, in order to unlock the requisite energies to speed up the provision of road infrastructure.

Additionally, we call upon the private sector, especially mining companies and large-scale farmers, to partner with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and support road infrastructure development in areas of their operation, to create sustainable jobs and grow the economy.

The ANC cautions the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure that our people are tired of pronouncements that sound good in press releases but fail in practice. Our province is the gateway to the Southern African Development Community. We are therefore called upon to accelerate roads and other forms of transportation infrastructure to the region and the continent, to foster regional and continental integration and cooperation, with a focus on creating a conducive environment for the movement of goods and people.

The ANC attaches particular importance to the institution of traditional leadership. These repositories of knowledge, culture and wisdom among our people were historically marginalised and subjugated. We call on the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to ensure the completion of maintenance and construction work for all incomplete offices of traditional leaders; especially those of Masia, Mphaphuli, Rammbuda, Mdabula, Makhosi, Dikgakaneng and Dikgale.

This infrastructure will assist in the ongoing efforts to integrate these institutions and ensure that they take their rightful place in the democratic governance of rural development, social cohesion and nation-building.

We are aware that there are many detractors on our path to realising a better life for all. We call upon the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the MEC to live up to the values we champion: duty, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to the public good. In the wake of destruction and criticism, many would have chosen to despair and stand still. Yet you choose to press forward, to honour your commitments, and to uphold our obligations.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, the ANC commends the department and the MEC for their resilience, which is not only the ability to lead through hardship, but the courage to lead through it. I therefore urge this august House to consider and adopt the report as the report of this House.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hi khensile Muchaviseki Netshifhefhe. Hi ta teka nkarhi lowu hi vitana Holobywa wa swa mapatu, Muchaviseki Rachoene leswaku a ta hlamula.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thanks, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Acting Speaker, Hon Mokone; the chairperson of the portfolio committee; honourable Members of the portfolio committee; the Whippery; and all honourable Doctors and Members in this august House.

Allow me to thank the portfolio committee for its thorough consideration of the department's and RAL's quarterly reports. Oversight of this nature is essential to ensure that our work yields measurable benefits for the people of the province. I value the frankness with which have raised both recommendations and concerns. Mohlomongwe pele ke tšwelapele, tla ke thome ka Mohl Velile. Mohl Velile o a mmakatqa. Ka letšatši le lengwe o re dikgerekgere ke tšona, ka letšatši le o sa tsogago gabotse o re, ga se tšona.

Therefore, I ask that our progressive programme be allowed to continue without interference. This programme is implemented internally through our Roads and Infrastructure Management.

There is a budget for the #Dikgerekgere programme, Hon Velile, and we will also be procuring additional yellow fleet again this year. The report shows that we have made significant progress in several key areas, from the kilometres of road rehabilitation and maintenance through our #Dikgerekgere Wednesday service delivery initiative, to the creation of permanent job opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme, and the successful completion of key infrastructure projects. To augment the work of the #Dikgerekgere programme, we will be procuring additional yellow fleet to the value of R100 million.

To accelerate service delivery, we are also resuscitating our 36 cost centres. Honourable Members, 'Operation Tsoga Moshomi', unannounced visit to our cost centres, is in full swing and is assisting the department in ensuring that all staff members redouble their efforts in serving our communities.

The department is placing special focus on properties to address accruals. We have also launched 'Operation Vhuyisa Thundu ya Muvhuso' to decisively address individuals who have taken possession of government properties.

These outcomes speak to the commitment of our teams and partners on the ground. Our efforts to bring back RAL to its former glory, it is yielding positive results. In this financial year, we are implementing 21 new projects across the province, alongside many other service delivery interventions.

Furthermore, in response to the dire state of our roads, paving is already underway. This will be achieved through the implementation of maintenance programmes targeting 69 roads.

I heard one colleague raise the issue of the D4 road. Yes, the D4 road is among the 69 roads scheduled for rehabilitation in this financial year. It is important to indicate that work has already started in Malamulele, passed through Vuwani, and will now we proceed from Elim to the N1 intersection. That is the scope on the D4.

The department is acting decisively on matters of project delays. We have strengthened project management and introduce a closer site monitoring tool to detect and resolve bottlenecks earlier.

Regarding the honourable Member who spoke behalf of Hon Lebogo, that is, Hon Mogaleadi, he appears to lack accurate facts about the work being done in the department, particularly in the area of hiring people. The department cannot advertise vacancies without prior approval from the Treasury and the Office of the Premier.

The Member to my left seems to be living in his own world, but that is fine. In our efforts to strengthen capacity, the department has added more than 350 permanent posts, all appointed within a period of eight months. We will be welcoming another cohort of 95 newly appointed permanent staff in the next three weeks, and we will also be advertising another circular of more than 180 permanent posts before the end of September. These appointees will assume duty by January next year.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Please conclude, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As I have said, the target that I have set for the department is to employ 2 000 youth staff members permanently. This, again, is a direct response and contribution to one of the priorities of the ANC-led Seventh Administration, which is to create jobs. I have also acknowledged that the physical environment we operate in is challenging. A limited budget means that we must prioritise projects that have the highest economic and social impact, and we must extract maximum value from every rand spent.

This demand discipline, efficiency, and a willingness to adopt innovative approaches, including public-private partnerships where appropriate.

Thanks very much. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Order! Order, honourable Members. We shall now proceed to the next item.

7.5. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism

Consideration and Adoption of the 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature.

We call upon the chairperson of the Oversight Mechanism Committee to present the report.

MR TSHIVHASE

Hee, Nndaa. Hon Speaker, Hon Chair of Chairs, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, and Members of the House. Ndi masiari.

I rise to present, for consideration and adoption, the Fourth Quarter Report of the 2023/24 financial year of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Is there any seconder? Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Ndo livhuwa, Mudzulatshidulo. Ndo ima hafha u khwaṭhisedza muvhigo we wa ṅetshedzwa nga Mudzulatshidulo uri ri u sedzuluse na u u ṭanganedza. Ndi khou livhuwa.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ndo livhuwa ngamaanda. Consideration and Adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Report for the Limpopo Legislature

We shall now call upon the chair to present the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature. Hon Tshivhase, over to you.

MR TSHIVHASE

I rise to present the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Is there a seconder to the report? Hon Mataboge, you are recognised.

MR MATABOGE

Thank you very much, Presiding Officer, Hon Thabo Mokone. I stand to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee, Hon Tshivhase.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much.

Consideration and Adoption of the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

Over to you, committee chair.

MR TSHIVHASE

I rise to present the 2024/25 First Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Pheedi, you are recognised.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you, Acting Speaker. I rise to support the report as presented by Hon Tshivhase.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you.

Consideration and Adoption of the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

Over to you, honourable chair.

MR TSHIVHASE

I rise to present the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Is there a seconder to the report? Hon Faith Sebopela, you are recognised

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Presiding Officer. I hereby rise to second the Second Quarter Report of the 2024/25 financial year of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you.

Consideration and Adoption of the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

Over to you, honourable chair.

MR TSHIVHASE

Hon chair, I rise to present the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Gape mahlo a ka ga a sa bona. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndi khou livhuwa Mudzulatshidulo. Ndo imela u tikedza izwo zwo dodombedzwaho nga Thovhele Vho Midiavhathu Tshivhase. Nndaa.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you.

Consideration and Adoption of the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

Over to you, honourable chair.

MR TSHIVHASE

I rise to present the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Is there a seconder to the report? I can't see. Hon Shai, you are recognised

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Presiding Officer. I rise to second the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report of the Limpopo Legislature as presented by "210 Sibasa" Thovhele Vho Tshivhase. [INTERJECTION]

MS MOGOANE

On a point of order, Chair.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

You are recognised.

MS MOGOANE

Thank you, Chair. I wanted to raise a point of order because you are presiding over this House while chewing chappies. I don't think that's parliamentary, please!

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

How! Uh.

MS MOGOANE

You don't say 'Ay'. It is a rule; this is a Sitting.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable chair, are you done with your reports? [INTERJECTION]

MS MOGOANE

You must make a ruling on that. That is arrogancy you are displaying. If you are not fit to sit on that chair, you can go down, and the Speaker must take it. We are not going to allow that.

MR MOLAPO

Chair, can you make a ruling.

MS MOGOANE

You must make a ruling. That's what the procedure says. You must make a ruling. You can't ignore me as if I doesn't exist. I raised on a point of order. You must make a ruling. You were eating chappies. Just say you swallowed it, and then we can pass.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List.

MS MOGOANE

It's unprocedural. Don't reduce this House. What you are doing is unprocedural. Follow the rules. There is a point of order that has been raised. Deal with the order, Chair. That's the procedure.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I'm not eating chappies.

MS MOGOANE

You were eating it.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Where is it?

MS MOGOANE

We are still saying that; please make a ruling. What you are doing is not in order. This is not your house where you do as you please.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we now refer to the Speakers' List. I now call upon Hon Muhlope Mihloti Ethel.
[INTERJECTION]

MR MOLAPO

Don't undermine us. You are not going to move. Chair, you must rule on the point of order. You must rule, or you must vacate the position. Please, make a ruling. It's just a procedure.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I was advised for the sake of progress... I am speaking now.

[CROSSTALK] Can I speak. I am saying, for the sake of progress, I apologise. Let's continue. Hon Speaker, you are recognised.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I suggest that, because the Presiding Officer has apologised and he has taken out whatever he was chewing — although some of us didn't see it — those who did see it have raised it, and he has acknowledged and apologised. I think he has now complied with the rules. So, if that is the case, honourable Members, re a leboga. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Monama, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Chair, I think we fully agree with the assertion by Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje.

However, we also want to make an impartially clear to the House, honourable Members, that irrespective of political affiliation, we must respect the presidium and the decorum

of this House. There is nothing wrong in raising a point of order in this House; It is provided for in the Rules and Orders. That's my submission, Hon Presiding Officer.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Let's proceed, I will now call upon Hon Muhlope Mithloti Ethel. I'm sorry. We call upon Hon Mokoele Mosibudi Esther. [APPLAUSE]

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Chair of Chairs who is presiding now; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Deputy Chief Whip; Executive Members present here; and honourable Members of this august House.

Madam Speaker, it is important for us to keep reminding ourselves, and the public out there, that committees of the Legislature have a mandate bestowed upon them by section 114(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996, together with section 43 of FMPPLA and Rule 81(a)(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislature, to exercise oversight responsibilities over the Executive.

It is in line with these provisions that the Committee on Oversight Mechanism considered the quarterly reports of the Limpopo Legislature for the 2024/25 financial year. This financial year, in particular, the first quarter started on a rough patch for the Limpopo Legislature, as preparation for the Seventh Legislative Session were inadequate. This was due to an increase in representation; from 49 Members to 64.

The latter scenario meant that there had to be additional accommodation for Members — both in the Chamber and in the Parliamentary Village — additional vehicles, security upgrades, and salaries. The committee became alive to these challenges, as the Legislature was faced with responsibilities that were carried out by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. The committee was, however, pleased with the undertaking by the MEC of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Hon Rachoene (Phakana'a Hlabirwa'), for the department to avail resources and record tangible progress.

The Second Quarter Report for the 2024/25 financial year was tabled in this august House in terms of section 51 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act No. 10 of 2009. The report was subsequently referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee in terms of subsection 54(2) of the same legislation, for further consideration and report-back to the august House in terms of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, the Administration programme; whose purpose is to provide strategic leadership and overall administration to the Provincial Legislature, is comprised of the following subprogrammes: Office of the Speaker, Office of the Secretary, Financial Management, Corporate Services and Internal Audit and Safety. During the quarter under review, the Legislature had a planned annual target of 22 House Sittings. Ten Sittings were planned for the second quarter, of which eight were successfully held.

This was as a result of the election period, and representatives from different political parties were engaged in election campaigns that affected the Legislature programme. Madam Speaker, budget spending in the first quarter was also disrupted, mainly because it was an election season for both the provinces and national government. Some programmes could not be fully implemented owing to the elections, as political parties were engaged in campaigns to renew their mandates.

The committee is, however, pleased that 90% of programmes were fully implemented, as some of them did not rely on the availability of Members of the Provincial Legislature. The committee is pleased with the progress made in terms of the implementation of resolutions taken and further acknowledges that it is work in progress.

The committee has, however, noted the slow progress in the filling of vacant posts in the Legislature, as the organisational structure is unable to discharge its responsibilities to Members and staff with regard to those vacancies.

We further noted the inadequate dissemination of information regarding the availability of bursaries for further empowerment of Members and staff. The Legislature had planned to award 14 bursaries during the second quarter of the financial year. However, no applications for the bursaries were received, and as a result, the targets were not achieved; as awarding of bursaries depends on the applications received and approvals granted. In reviewing of the identified skills gap in the Legislature, it is critical that respective managers advise their subordinates to register for relevant courses or training and development where there are skills shortages.

For emphasis on these bursary issues, I believe the information is not being disseminated to the relevant people. We urge that the information be made available so that individuals are able to apply and continue to empower themselves.

On fleet management and logistics, the strategic objective of the subprogramme is to provide fleet and logistics services. The committee is pleased to announce that the Legislature has met its planned quarterly target of maintaining all 35 Legislature vehicles.

The Legislature has further managed to provide transport and logistical services to all events of the Legislature during the quarter under review.

On Communication Services and Information Technology: during the quarter under review, the Legislature, through its communication services, managed to publish one event, secure one TV slot and one radio slot, and participated in interviews.

On Members' Safety, the strategic objectives of the subprogramme is to provide safety, security and ceremonial services.

The performance targets for this programme are measured by the number of reports from the Sergeant-at-Arms, services rendered in the House, as well as the number of security reports. The target was one, and it was achieved.

Madam Speaker, law-making and public participation are our core mandates. The committee was a little concerned about the underachievement in the implementation of

targets for NCOP work. However, we noted that this was not out of our own making, as the work of the NCOP is not within the control of the Legislature.

Nonetheless, we impress upon those responsible to act diligently and fast-track the passing of legislation. The underachievement in committee meetings and the production of oversight reports is also a worrying factor. Measures must be developed to ensure the timeous tabling and referral of departmental reports to committees from the House, to avoid critical matters being overtaken by events. We hope that in subsequent quarters, this will be corrected and that there will be progress.

Madam Speaker, I therefore move that this report be adopted as a report of this august House.

I thank you Chair and the Speaker.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now call upon Hon Hermanus Frans Marx.

ADV MARX

Hon Speaker, the various committees of the Legislature are mandated by section 114 of the Constitution to ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province are Hon Speaker, there are people talking here. They are distracting me. It's Rule 89, Speaker. Will you please rule that they do not interrupt me, Speaker?

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, let's give him chance to present his report.

ADV MARX

Speaker, I continue on Rule 89(3)(d), which states that you may not distract the attention of any Member during proceedings.

[INTERJECTION]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can I ask that we allow him to continue with his presentation. Hon Marx, continue.

[INTERJECTION]

ADV MARX

It's a pleasure. Thank you, Speaker.

Hon Speaker, the Oversight Mechanism Committee, in particular, derives its mandate from the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act, as well as the Rules and Orders of this House, to oversee the Legislature's implementation of its

programmes as set out in its report. Sadly, when we receive these reports two financial years later, it materially affects our ability to conduct effective oversight over the Executive.

The PFMA, as well as our Rules, provide that the Executive Authority must table these reports in the Legislature within six months. If delayed, the Executive Authority must submit a written explanation to the Legislature setting out reasons. Although the Act and the Rules are clear, we have not seen any such written explanation from the Executive Authority.

When we turned to the Speaker with a notice of motion formulated in terms of the unambiguous provisions of the Act, you — as the Chairperson of this House — kicked for touch and referred the motion for a legal opinion.

Hon Speaker, with all due respect, there is no need for legal opinion. As the Speaker of the House, you are expected to know the Act and the Rules, and to follow them in this House; that is literally your job. Failure to table this report timeously is a direct insult to the good work done by various portfolio committees, who do everything possible to comply with the constitutional mandate to hold the Executive accountable.

Be that as it may, it is further evident from the Oversight Committee reports that all is not well in this Legislature.

In quarter four, the overall performance of the Legislature stood at only 68% against the set targets, representing an underperformance of 32%. Hon Speaker, while Rome is burning, Emperor Nero is fiddling. While the Legislature is faced with 32% underperformance, and committee reports are not tabled for almost two financial years, the Secretary to the Legislature is attending conferences outside the country.

Although the aim of Programme 1; Administration, is to provide strategic leadership and overall administration to the Legislature, we have seen very little progress in this regard. We have seen media reports of alleged maladministration in the Legislature, ranging from the appointment of the Secretary himself and the suspension of various officials, all the way to the procurement of two luxury vehicles for the Office of the Speaker, valued at a combined R6,5 million.

When we considered the strategic objectives of the Office of the Speaker, it is to provide political leadership and financial oversight to the Legislature.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, you may take your seat.

MR MATABOGE

[NO AUDIO] . . . we suggest that we stick to the Standing Rules and Orders of this House, Hon Chair.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I thought we were going to be civil to each other. As you said, honourable Members, when a speaker is on the podium, let's afford them time to speak. If you have issues, you will raise your hand.

If Members continue to disrupt the speaker; which I have appealed against, and Members accepted, let's do what we are supposed to do without referring to other things. I'm just emphasising that. Can we do that?

Hon Marx, you may continue.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker. When we consider the strategic objectives of the Office of the Speaker, it is to provide political leadership and financial oversight to the Legislature. It is blatantly evident that this is not currently happening under your leadership.

Although, as far back as May this year, the Office of the Speaker promised an investigation into the purchase of these luxury vehicles. Four months later we are yet to see any report in that regard. The Speaker of the Legislature authorised, and even benefit from, the purchase of those luxury vehicles. Under the current economic conditions, this shows a complete disconnect from the lived reality of ordinary South Africans. It is tone deaf, wasteful and morally indefensible.

However, it pleases me to be able to stand in this august House and at least have something positive to say about the Legislature. One programme: the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, has, in all material respects, overachieved. The number of petitions received was 37. a significant overachievement compared to a planned target of 24. That's a score of 150%.

Furthermore, although only three public hearings were planned, no fewer than 15 hearings were held – translating to a 500% overachievement. This shows that the Members of this Legislature who form part of the Petitions Committee, under the leadership of the chairperson, Hon S A Mataboge, are willing to do what is necessary to assist our people with the burning queries. From the number of petitions received, there were complaints against municipalities and departments.

It is evident that our residents place their hopes and reliance on this Legislature to help resolve burning issues in their communities. The Standing Committee on Petitions has many good stories to tell; too many to mention here today. However, as mentioned earlier, although the strategic objective of the Office of the Speaker is to provide leadership to this Legislature, there has been little to no such leadership observed.

The Democratic Alliance welcomes the unanimous decision of the standing committee to open criminal charges against Vhembe District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Fredah Nkondo, following her contemptuous action of failing to appear before the committee despite being summoned on three occasions.

Following this, instead of supporting the Petitions Committee by submitting its report to this House, the Speaker of the Legislature contacted the Mayor directly to obtain clarity on her refusal to appear before the committee. The Speaker then convened a meeting

with the Petitions Committee to obtain further clarity. During that meeting, the Speaker rightly confirmed her understanding that she does not have the authority to intervene in the powers and duties of the Standing Committee.

This firm stance taken by the Standing Committee on Petitions in holding Mayor T F Nkondo accountable, yielded results.

On 05 August 2025, the Mayor wrote to the chairperson of the committee and confirmed that the municipality and a petitioner had managed to settle a dispute. This settlement came after 10 years of waiting to be paid his overtime. Ten years! For an elderly man who had retired to wait 10 years! Our committee managed to arrange a settlement — or caused a settlement to be reached with Mr Matodzi. That shows what this Legislature can do for our people.

The ball is in your court, Hon Speaker. You have conceded on more than one occasion, both in the committee and even in this House, that there are significant problems in the administration of the Legislature. The late submission of committee reports not only reflect badly on the Speaker, but also on each Member of this House. As the Democratic Alliance, we demand that you raise your game and fight for the people of Limpopo. Going forward, we will closely monitor the performance of the administration of this Legislature to ensure effective and meaningful oversight to the benefit of our people.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now call upon Hon Molapo Walter Samuel.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks, Chair. Greetings to the Whip of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Commissar Mokgaleadi; Members of the EFF; and people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, I guess I'm addressing you while you are seated there, because you are the one who is going to respond. Today, we must take this opportunity to congratulate you, Dr Makhurpetje, and credit you for being able to conduct the affairs of this institution, and this House in particular, in a more professional and nonpartisan way. At least for the past eight months, it is true that it is never too late for one to redeem him- or herself.

On 08 August 2024, you unprovokedly took an irrational and emotionally detached decision to call upon bouncers to violently remove EFF Members from this Chamber. This must never repeat itself, Madam Speaker. In this House, we must be able to express ourselves democratically; in whichever way.

Hon Speaker, as a Legislature, we are mandated not only to make laws and exercise oversight over the Executive, but we are equally mandated to promote public participation in the affairs of this Legislature. We see no deliberate intention to promote such participation.

Members of the public are not being invited to the Sittings of the Legislature. You can see in the gallery; there are no members of the public, except employees of this institution. Members of the public are not invited to the committee meetings of the Legislature. As the EFF, we are making a call, here and now, that the Legislature committee meetings of the Legislature must, going forward, be held in communities, rural areas and townships, so that our people can have access to those meetings. Ga se batho ka moka ba ba nago le di-smatphone. We take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to urge you to take this Parliament, or this Legislature, to the people.

Our people are invited to this Sitting only once, during the opening of Parliament at the beginning of the year. We know that you do so merely so that our people can come and watch some Members parading themselves in designer clothes. Public participation continues to fail to organise relevant stakeholders from different sectors through public hearings, thereby denying stakeholders the opportunity to make meaningful inputs in the development of Bills.

Hon Speaker, the Sectoral Parliaments are not achieving their mandates due to poor coordination by the Oversight Mechanism Committee. Public hearings are not conducted across the length and breadth of our province, denying our people the opportunity to make inputs as we develop laws and hold the Executive to account.

As the EFF, we are disappointed that the overall performance of the Legislature during the 2024/25 financial year stood at 68%, constituting an underperformance of 32% against the set target.

The Office of the Secretary underperformed on policy review, where only three policies were reviewed against the set target of four. Policy review is very critical particularly when new political and administrative leadership takes over. We are further disappointed that changes in the top management structures of this institution are not properly communicated to us as the Oversight Mechanism Committee. Tše ka moka re di kwa ka hlokwa la tsela. Re dikwa mo tseleng. We are not being told on time, which affects our ability to account. It is unprecedented that so many senior officials can be suspended, and others resign, within a short period.

It has never happened in the history of this institution. Sooner or later, we suspect that we are going to be told that the Legislature has regressed from its two consecutive clean audits to something else. It will be a betrayal, if this were to happen under your leadership. Madam Speaker, making strategic and calculated changes in the organisation's top management is important, but it must be done through a structured approach. As the EFF, we are encouraging you to ensure that order is restored in this institution.

We have realised that when the Youth Parliament was held early this year, some employees tampered with the system to the extent that the Youth Parliament was disrupted. We urge you to take action against such employees, because they are sabotaging not only you, but the institution as a whole. We take this opportunity to apologise to the young people of Limpopo for that disruption and for the unprofessional manner in which this institution is being run.

As the EFF, we want to take this opportunity to urge you to fill all vacant. The current organisational structure is not in line with the Treasury funding framework, with almost 22 people serving in acting positions. We urge you not to be loyal to comrades, but to prioritise competency, skills and expertise; so that we don't regress as an institution. The filling of posts in this institution is highly questionable. Many people, particularly those that are working here, are no longer applying for positions because they know, for a fact, that the outcomes of interviews are predetermined.

We want to urge you, Hon Speaker, to restore confidence in your Office. It is quiet concerning that committees are requested to choose study tours relevant to the mandate of their portfolios, yet those study tours are not being funded. It is both confusing and concerning that, from time to time, we hear of ANC Members undertaking overseas trips. We must state very clearly, here and now, that the recent overseas trips taken by ANC Members were funded by state resources. We need answers as to why other Members are being excluded. We heard that even today, some are in Gambia; excluding Members from other political parties.

If these trips are for the ANC, they must be funded by the ANC; not from state resources.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Tshivhase Midiavhathu Kennedy. Nndaa.

MR TSHIVHASE

Hei, hu khou amba Nda u ya Devhula zwino, ni thetshesele. Hon Speaker, Chair of Chairs, honourable Members of the House, I rise on the already established protocol. Ndi a vha resha.

Hon Speaker, the people of Limpopo rightfully expect more from this institution, which exercises oversight over the Executive. Equally, they expect the same high standards from the committee tasked with overseeing the work of the Legislature itself. The Legislature must always lead by example as the custodian of policymaking in our province.

It is worth reiterating, though it's well-known, that section 4(3) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act, together with Rule 81(1)(b)(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, empowers the Oversight Mechanism Committee to perform its oversight role over the Provincial Legislature. The Provincial Legislature recorded notable progress in the third quarter with regard to the implementation of its legislative programmes. However, we remain concerned that in Programme 1 — specifically the subprogramme concerning the Office of the Speaker, which is responsible for providing strategic political leadership to the institution — performance fell short during the period under review.

While the committee acknowledges the challenges confronting your Office, we nonetheless urge you to ensure service delivery in line with the expectations of the Annual Performance Plan. Ndi ngazwo ndi tshi ri kha ri finye dzi khwaṭhe.

As David Beckham once remarked, “Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving.”

We commend the Office of the Secretary for successfully achieving all its targets during the quarter under review. This Office remains a key driver in ensuring administrative delivery of the Legislature’s mandate.

The overachievement in both fleet management and human resources warrants a thorough explanation. Increased travel and the filling of vacant posts carry significant financial implications for the institution. Regarding the awarding of bursaries, the underperformance is regrettable, given the existing skills gaps within the Legislature that must be addressed. We urge the Office of the Secretary, together with the relevant division, to actively encourage employees to utilise this opportunity and invest in their own empowerment.

The committee notes with concern the slow progress in completing the National Key Points infrastructure projects at both the Seat of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Village. Nonetheless, we are encouraged by the political support extended to Members in fulfilling their responsibilities to their constituencies.

Management services remain a matter of serious concern, as it forms the backbone of information management and record-keeping for the future. The thorough analysis of reports from government department and entities is critical, as it enables us to measure our own performance as legislators.

It is therefore imperative that greater support be directed towards the research department to enable its operatives to perform at their fullest potential. The complete lack of progress in the intended facilitation of legislation is a matter of serious concern. We call upon the Office of the Secretary to investigate the causes of this shortfall and take decisive corrective action. The processing of legislation is central to improving the lives of our people, and any failure in this regard amounts to complicity in denying them these benefits.

While the fourth quarter reflected commendable efforts, the institutional overall performance stood at 68%, indicating an underperformance of 32%. As a committee, we call upon both the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Secretary to prioritise the implementation of the outstanding targets in the coming financial year. We therefore recommend a restructuring of performance targets that fall outside the Legislature’s direct control, to ensure a more accurate reflection of our own strengths and weaknesses.

The Legislature should also provide the committee with quarterly updates on the filling of vacant positions, to maximise staff performance. Finally, to prevent avoidable underperformance, participation in Commonwealth Parliamentary Association events should be encouraged, as such engagements contribute positively towards the institutional goal of attaining a clean audit opinion.

Hon Speaker, while the Legislature has regressed from a clean audit to an unqualified audit opinion with matters of emphasis, the committee wishes to acknowledge and commend the hard work of our officials and the Office of the Speaker in striving to reverse this setback.

Hu pfi farani ngauralo. As Sam Levenston wisely said, “Don’t watch the clock; do what it does, keep going.” The Legislature must lead by example, or risk compromising its mandate to conduct effective oversight over the Provincial Executive.

I therefore move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House.

I thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hi khensile Ndabezitha. Khakhamela! We shall now call upon the Speaker of the Legislature, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje, to respond.

THE SPEAKER

You know, the Speaker ke mastand, a ke tsebe gore why le nyago mo fa five minutes because mastand must be given more time. Let me take this opportunity, Chair of Chairs, to thank you for giving me the opportunity, as the Presiding Officer, to greet the chair of the committee vhone Vhothovhele Tshivhase. Ro livhuwa ngamaanda na komiti yavho and all Members of the Legislature.

Chair, I will respond directly to Members as and when they raised their points. Firstly, let me take this opportunity to thank all committee members and the Oversight Mechanism Committee for doing their excellent job. Thank you so much.

I must now speak to what the honourable Members have raised. Hon Mokoele, thank you so much. You will recall that the year under review was an election year, and it was not a deliberate move that those targets were not achieved. It was because the Legislature had to close earlier to allow political parties to go and campaign. Normally, during an election year, we lose the first quarter. We lost the first quarter because it covered March, April and May — the election period — and we only came back in July.

Hence, there was no way we could reach and finalise those targets due to the new responsibilities before us. Secondly, on the budget issue, we are engaging with the Treasury. Thank you so much.

Regarding the budget for salaries, we are working on our baseline, and we are confident that we will reach our target within the MTEF period.

On bursaries, we are currently reviewing Members’ benefits to ensure that, when Members pursue further studies bursary holders receive the necessary support and resources to fulfil their academic obligations.

Hon Marx, there will be no way that the Speaker will refrain from a legal opinion when a submitted motion is interfering with administrative work. We must get a legal opinion to determine whether that motion qualifies as a motion; especially because you sit on the Oversight Mechanism Committee. If you have the opportunity within the committee to raise questions, why then submit a motion? That legal opinion will still be submitted.

As for the media reports; we came to the committee and offered a report, but you refused to accept it. I came with all the reports, and you said you didn't want them; you referred me back.

You wrote me a letter, and unfortunately, the matter you raised in that letter was sub judice. If suspended individuals are undergoing hearings, I can't give you a report while the process is still ongoing. The same applies when a matter is under investigation. We have a forensic audit underway. Until that forensic audit report is finalised, I would be interfering with the administration by releasing information prematurely.

We must read the Act clearly. I read this Act for you because some people still rely on the Northern Province Legislative Service Act No. 3 of 1997. That Act was nullified by the Constitutional Court on 11 August 2011 because it didn't comply with the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act of 2009.

That has given you powers; and when you read it, it is:

- Part 1 outlines the role of Oversight Mechanism Committee.
- Part 2 defines the role of the Executing Authority, which is the Speaker.
- Part 3 deals with Administration.

There is no way the Oversight Mechanism Committee can bypass the Executing Authority to interfere with administration. That is not acceptable. We must follow the rules and act according to the rules.

Secondly, what worries me is that when we came here, the Hawks were already in the Legislature. There are forensic audits underway. We have a fence outside that was erected; it doesn't comply, yet money was spent.

You can't have a system here where R8 million has been spent, and the system is not functional. Nothing has been achieved. There are people submitting invoices without contracts. Officials continue to pay money, and you told people that action should be taken. What are you saying as the Oversight Mechanism Committee?

There are many things happening that need to be corrected. There was a case opened in January 2023; and nothing happened. They didn't want to investigate what had happened.

Now that we have allowed the investigation to proceed, Members are being mobilised. Part of the investigation concerns individuals who were given positions irregularly; people who didn't qualify. One person was appointed in the finance section, but was later taken to the legal section irregularly, simply to justify a higher salary. These are the issues we are dealing with in this Legislature.

Now, because we are busy with the forensic audit, we have adopted new organisational structure.

In terms of the new organisational structure, its intention is to fully support committee work. Placement is currently underway. I get worried when a staff member from the Legislature comes to me and mentions an honourable Member by name, a re, wena ge ba ka re ba go tloša go komiti ye, ba go iša go ye nngwe, o gane o tle o mpotše, I will deal with that. Yes, they have been mobilised. I was chair of a committee for five years, and I don't remember a time when an official from the committee ever came to my office. I would simply wake up in the morning, and an official would arrive and announce that there had been changes; and that these are the new staff members I must begin working with.

You can only complain when there are problems, but you can't chase a staff member out of a committee meeting and say, 'I don't know you. Whose authority is that?' I am saying, honourable Members, let us know our limits. Let us read the Act.

What worries me more is that while we are on track to receive an unqualified audit opinion, there are individuals working with angry staff who have allegedly encouraged the Auditor-General to issue a disclaimer — based on matters that could not be audited in previous years. [INTERJECTION]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we allow the Hon Speaker to finish?

THE SPEAKER

. . . in this House, and some of the matters need to be clarified. But let me just close.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, you may take your seat. Hon Smalle, you may proceed.

MR SMALLE

Through you, Chair. When certain matters may be sub judice, I just want to caution the Speaker. I've been listening, and there are lot of things that were mentioned. I simply want to advise that when issues might be sub judice, wherever they are, the Speaker must exercise caution. I would not want to see the Speaker, or any of us, placed in a difficult position. While we may say what we wish here, for a fair process to proceed, I suggest we remain cautious on that term. That is all I wanted to say on that point of order.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Speaker, ema nyana, Speaker. I'm just saying that what you are raising is between the lines; it's advisory in nature. I'm simply saying this in terms of procedure, and I think you might want to find a way of addressing what you have said. Speaker, may I give you a minute to conclude.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I began by stating that the reports demanded by Members during debate; specifically, regarding the vehicle and the suspension of staff members, are currently under investigation, and are sub judice. The Administrator and the Secretary, as the Accounting Officer, must be given space to do their work so that the report intended for public release can be finalised and published everywhere.

Lastly, what worries me, and it was Hon Marx who reminded me, is the role of the Speaker in relation to petitions. When a petition is submitted, it is referred to the relevant committee by the Speaker. It is then the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Petitions Committee to read through and process that petition. Once the committee has completed its work and compiled a report, the Speaker must exercise due diligence before tabling it — to ensure that the process followed is correct and procedurally sound. It was not outside the Act that I requested a meeting. It was within the powers of the Speaker as provided for in the Act. I didn't want to refer the report back or decline it. Had I done so, it would have been within my mandate. When the Speaker has acted, the Petition Act is not the only applicable legislation; one must begin with the Constitution, which speaks to international relations and cooperative governance. When engaging with another sphere of government, there are measures that must be taken.

[NO AUDIO] . . . when a Member's committee doesn't meet its targets, and that Member later appears before the oversight committee, the Speaker is attacked. Yet the Speaker's role is to convene Sittings. If committee meetings are not held and reports are not submitted, the Sitting cannot proceed. That is not a failure on the part of the Speaker. When committees have not done their work, it affects the business of the Legislature.

So, I'm saying that we may need another orientation to ensure we understand how the institution operates. The Act I am referring to is this one that must be considered.

All of us must follow it, so that we do not interfere unnecessarily with administration or engage with matters that are sub judice.

Ndo livhuwa ngamaanda Vho Chairperson na committee yavho. Vha khou shuma zwavhudi. Rine sa Legislature ro thetshelesa all your advice and we will take it forward.

Thank you so much.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We will now go to item 8.

8. SNAP DEBATE ON WOMEN'S MONTH

Let me call on Hon Muhlophe Mitloti Ethel, to open the debate. Malibongwe!

ADV MARX

On a point of order, Speaker. I think it's time that the Speaker takes her seat again so that she can earn her money.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

That's not on at all, Hon Marx.

THE SPEAKER

We normally have Presiding Officers' meetings and we agree on who is going to facilitate the Sitting and at what point. So, the Presiding Officers' have agreed that Hon Mokone will proceed with the Sitting until the end. Thank you.

MS MUHLOPHE

Thank you very much, Hon Chair of Chairs who is presiding, honourable Members, distinguished guests, and the people of Limpopo; good afternoon.

Before I speak about history, policies and progress, allow me to begin with a story. Not far from here, in the heart of the rural Limpopo, there was a young girl named Ntshidiseng. She grew up in a small village walking kilometres each day to school, often on an empty stomach. Her parents were farm workers, earning little, but they told her that education is the key.

Even when the door is heavy, or even when the door is closed, it will eventually open. When she turned 16, tragedy struck; both her parents passed away. Her relatives said that she must leave school, get married and help raise the younger children, but Ntshidiseng refused. She woke before dawn to fetch water, worked in the fields, and still made it to class. Years later, Ntshidiseng became the first woman in her village to graduate from university.

Today, she runs a very successful agricultural cooperative, employing over 50 people, most of them women. Her story is not in the history books, and it may never make the headlines, but it is stories like hers that are the heartbeat of Women's Month: the everyday heroines who rise against all odds and who carry the hopes of families and the future of our province.

This month, we also celebrate the real heroines from our own Limpopo soil. Hon Speaker, one of our own; the Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, the then MEC for Health; has led tirelessly in improving healthcare services, particularly for poor rural communities, and stood firm during the COVID-19 crisis.

Mama Rebecca Malope, whose gospel music career has inspired Ntshidiseng, showed us that greatness is not determined by where you start, but by the courage to rise.

Women's Month is rooted in the historic march of 20 000 women to the Union Buildings on 09 August 1956. They stood against pass laws and the indignity of oppression. Led by Lilian Ngoyi, Sophia De Bruyn, Helen Josephs and Rahima Moosa, they sang the words: "Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo", which means "You strike a woman, you strike a rock."

Since the dawn of our democracy in 1994, we have made important strides as the ANC government. Our Constitution enshrines gender equality as a fundamental right. Women now hold 46% of seats in the National Assembly, with strong representation in the Provincial Legislatures, including our Limpopo Legislature. Limpopo women are leading in agriculture, education, tourism, health and entrepreneurship; but the challenges remain grave.

Hon Speaker, gender-based violence and femicide are a national crisis. Limpopo's areas of concern remain in Thohoyandou, which holds hotspot status. Rural women still face poverty and unemployment. The gender pay gap continues to limit women's economic independence. Cultural norms sometimes silence girls before they can even dream.

If we are to honour the women of 1956 and the women of Limpopo today, we must turn this celebration into concrete action. I will speak on the economic empowerment of women. We must expand funding, market access and land ownership for women-owned businesses.

- Safety and Justice: Ensure that survivors of GBV (gender-based violence) receive immediate and effective support, and that justice is swift.
- Skills Development: Prepare women for industries of the future; from AgriTech to renewable energy.
- Cultural Transformation: Break harmful norms and promote women's voices in leadership spaces.

The late Charlotte Maxeke once said, "This work is not for yourself. Kill the spirit of self and do not live above your people but with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you." In this Women's Month, let us rise together; lifting our sisters, daughters and mothers with us.

May Limpopo be known not only for its beauty and heritage, but also as a province where every woman is safe, every girl is educated, and every dream is possible. Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Muhlope Mhloti. We shall now call upon Hon Jack Velile. He is not available. Can we then call upon Hon Sebotoma Matsobane Jump.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the committees here, esteemed Members of this Legislature; Kgotso MaAfrica.

Today, we gather here to celebrate the Women's Month not just as a date on the calendar, but as a reminder of the courage, resilience and determination of women throughout our history and in our present day. The South Africa Women's Month pays

tribute to the remarkable women who, on 09 August 1956, took a stand against injustice. Over 20 000 women from all walks of life marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the oppressive pass laws of the apartheid regime.

Led by great leaders like Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia De Bruyn, they stood united, chanting: “Wathinta abafazi, wa thinta imbokodo”; meaning “You strike a woman, you strike a rock.” These women were not armed with weapons, but courage, unity and a dream of freedom. They proved that women are not only the backbone of our families, but also the pillars of our democracy.

Women’ Month is not only about remembering the past; it’s also about acknowledging the present power of women in every sphere of life. We see women like Thuli Madonsela, who fought for truth and justice as our former Public Protector. We see Castor Semenya, who runs with unmatched strength, challenging the world’s perception of gender and perseverance. We see Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe, who uses her influence to uplift communities and promote education and health.

We also see every mother, every sister and daughter who wakes up every day to provide, nurture and to lead; often without recognition. Women’s Month reminds us that the fight for equality is not over. Gender-based violence, unequal pay, and limited opportunities still hinder women’s potential.

However, if we take inspiration from the women of 1956, we know that no challenge is too great when we stand together. So today, I say to every woman here: you are strong, you are powerful, you are a rock that cannot be broken. To every man here: stand beside women, support them, and fight alongside them for a South Africa where equality is not just a dream, but a lived reality.

Let us honour Women’s Month not just with words, but with actions; actions that create a safer, fairer and more empowering future for the generations to come. Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo. Kxanimambo!

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Now we shall call upon Hon Andre Moss.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker; all protocols observed.

Hon Speaker, on this Women’ Day we are not only celebrating the achievements of women, but we are also remembering the courage and sacrifices that shaped our nation. It was not only the 20 000 women who, on 09 August 1956, marched to the Union Buildings to demand justice, dignity and freedom.

Let us think back even to the Voortrekkers. When the men hesitated, it was the women who stood firm. They declared that they would rather walk barefoot over the jagged peaks of the Drakensberg mountains than live under British rule.

Their bravery was not without cost. During the Anglo-Boer War, the suffering was imaginable. By the end of the war in 1902, the British Scorched Earth Policy had burned and destroyed over 30 000 farms. This led to the death of 4 177 adult women and 22 074 children under 16 years children in British concentration camps. Alongside them, approximately 20 000 Black South Africans also perished under that policy; victims of the same inhuman conditions, the same neglect, and the same cruelty.

Hon Speaker, these women were not merely victims of history; they were pillars of strength in the face of adversity. Their determination reminds us that women have always been at the forefront of our nation's struggles. They often carry the heaviest burden with the least recognition.

Today, as we honour the women of South Africa, let us commit ourselves to ensuring that never again will it be that any woman or South African faces such suffering.

Let their encourage inspire our fight for safety, equality and dignity for all. In South Africa today, women are not only disproportionately affected by poverty and unemployment; they also continue to live under the constant threat of violence. Our nation remains one of the most dangerous places in the world for women. Gender-based violence is not just a statistic; it's a daily reality for mothers, daughters and sisters across our communities.

Yet, government promises on combating GBV have too often been delayed, underfunded or buried in red tape. From January 2025 to March 2025, Thohoyandou held the top position nationally, with 85 reported sexual offences.

During this period, 20 women were murdered in our province, alongside 19 cases of attempted murder. A total of 519 women were assaulted with intent to cause serious bodily harm, and there were 812 incidents of common assault.

When a woman waits for months for a protection order, when rape cases lie unprocessed in evidence rooms, when shelters are underfunded and social workers are overloaded; then we must admit that we failed our women.

I thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Moss. We shall now call upon Hon Helm Maria. Mr Marx will debate on her behalf.

ADV MARX

Hon Presiding Officer, Chair of Chairs; on 09 August 1956, an estimated 20 000 women of all races travelled to what was then Pretoria to participate in the historic women's march of 1956. The day of protest was called for on a Thursday; the traditional day when Black domestic workers had a day off; with the aim of ensuring a larger gathering of women.

As the women arrived by train and other means, they walk to the Union Buildings; the centre of the South African government, in small groups of twos and threes, as large

gatherings were banned by the authorities of that time. They met at the building's gardens and amphitheatre.

They then stood for 30 minutes in silence before singing Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica, followed by a women's freedom song; which unfortunately, I'm unable to pronounce properly, but which I believe can be translated as: 'When you strike a woman, you strike a rock; you will be crushed.'

In Women's Month, we remember the bravery of the women of 1956 who marched to the Union Buildings. They stood united, demanding dignity, equality, and opportunity.

While much has been achieved since then, we know that many women in Limpopo still face daily struggles; such as higher unemployment rates than men, ongoing threats of gender-based violence, and barriers to accessing healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

These challenges are not the responsibility of one party or one department alone. They are a call to all of us in this House to work harder; and together. We must ensure that Women's Month is not just about celebration, but about measurable progress. That means strengthening economic empowerment programmes so that women-owned business can thrive.

Expanding GBV support services so that victims have access to justice and care in every district, improving rural access to healthcare and skills development; These are achievable goals if you prioritise them collectively and monitor their impact.

The women of Limpopo are strong, resourceful, and determined; but strength should not be a requirement for basic dignity and opportunity. Let this Women's Month be a reminder that we honour their contribution not only with words, but with actions; actions that leaves a legacy of empowerment for the next generation.

I therefore ask all honourable men in this House to rise and congratulate our women counterparts for standing strong, resourceful and determined. Please, come. I'm not going to stand alone; come. I have two minutes left; come. Stand up! I can stand the whole day. You don't respect our women?

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Marx. We shall now call upon Hon Mogaleadi Kgothatso Mogoane.

MS MOGOANE

Thank you, House Chair. Allow me to take this opportunity to greet the Hon Speaker, the caucus of the EFF, and all Members of the Legislature.

Hon Chair, the Economic Freedom Fighters commemorates Women's Month by paying tribute to courageous woman and freedom fighters like Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke, Lilian Ngoyi, Sophie De Bruyn, and many anti-apartheid activists who declared war against injustice in South Africa.

National Women's Day marks the historic march of 20 000 women to the Union Buildings against pass laws; a pivotal moment in the anti-apartheid struggle. The iconic freedom fighter Mama Madikizela-Mandela once told us that "a revolution without women is not a revolution at all."

Since its formation in 2013, the Economic Freedom Fighters has placed women at the centre of its struggle. The EFF has fought for insourcing of cleaners and security guards at universities like Unisa and at municipalities like Tswane, where most of the beneficiaries are women.

Today, we honour the legacy of women who fought against apartheid, while we are equally disturbed by the injustices faced by women in South Africa; particularly in Limpopo. True freedom cannot exist while women live in fear, poverty, and silence. Therefore, we challenge men to play their part in ending violence and providing economic support.

Hon Speaker, Black women continue to bear the brunt of injustices. They are forced into informal settlement and insecure jobs, while raising families in structural poverty.

Even 30 years into democracy, the women of South Africa; in particular, Limpopo, face deep challenges, despite the province's minerals wealth in areas such as Sekhukhune, Mkgalakwena, Lephalale, Musina and Phalaborwa. While this province is rich in minerals like chrome, platinum, diamond, phosphate and many others, multinational companies extract billions; yet communities remain trapped in poverty.

White monopoly capital continues to connive with rogue politicians, inflicting poverty and diseases on women in areas where mining operations exist. Women in areas like Ga-Kibi and Malebogo in Blouberg Municipality, Morebeng under Molemole Municipality, Ga-Shongwane in Lephalale, Ga-Mashanthane in Burgersfort, Muyexe in Giyani, and Tshaulu Village in Thulamela continue to walk long distances for water and firewood, while clinics are underfunded and schools overcrowded.

Hon Chair, women must be given opportunities to own farms and mines in Limpopo; shifting from labourers to economic owners. The majority of women in this province are domestic workers and farmworkers, instead of occupying strategic positions in society. This must come to an end. The province's agriculture and mining riches should provide jobs to local women and youth; not leave them as victims of the economic system.

Women must be fully supported to partake in the economic activities of the province; without being sabotaged or suppressed by men who envy their success. Furthermore, the provincial department must report annually on women's representation in leadership and budget for gender-specific challenges.

The EFF condemns the exploitation of domestic workers, petrol attendants, and farmworkers; mostly Black women who face beatings, harassment, and rape in silence, fearing job losses.

Hon Chair, women are raped at churches, schools, workplaces and social spaces by cowardly men who target the powerless and vulnerable. Under normal circumstances,

these are places where women should feel safe and protected. Sadly, they are being preyed upon by those who should be protecting them.

Just recently, in this month of August, a 33-year-old man from Munzhedzi Village in Makhado was arrested in connection with the gruesome killing of his partner and the rape of his 16-year-old daughter; a horrific case of gender-based violence.

The alarming increase of gender-based violence, femicide, and ritual murder cases; especially in the Vhembe District since the beginning of August 2025, is extremely worrying. The South African Police Service in Limpopo has reported over 10 horrific GBV and murder cases in just 10 days.

Seated here today, we are reminded of the gruesome case of Precious Magabane from Fetakgomo-Tubatse, who was brutally murdered in 2019. To our disappointment, here remains, that was stored in the Lebowakgomo government mortuary, have since vanished. Until today, the family has not been able to bury her remains, which has denied them closure.

It pains us that the family never got to bury her; and that closure has never. The situation is so bad that these incidents prompt urgent action and a multi-stakeholder approach to combat this alarming trend.

Unemployment hits women harder in South Africa, with more women jobless than men. The EFF envisions nationalising strategic sectors of the economy to benefit oppressed women and children.

Forward with women emancipation; forward!

Hon Chair, with one-minute left, we want to encourage all women of Limpopo; those sitting in rural villages, those being raped, and those who continue to report cases to the South African Police that does nothing; to remain steadfast.

We must remember the women who were killed on a farm in this province; whose bodies were fed to pigs, and up until today, their families have not received justice.

We want to give words of comfort and encouragement to the family of Precious Magabane, whose children still cannot point to her grave. Hon Speaker, as a survivor of gender-based violence, I was raped at the age of 13. I encourage all women to stand up and fight, like I did, to end up standing here today. I want to say to all of them: Black child, it is possible. You can still conquer this struggle that we are faced with.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Member. We shall now call upon Hon Mapula Anna Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Hon Acting Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members, distinguished guests, veterans and stalwarts of our liberation movement, and most importantly, the women of Limpopo and of South Africa. Dumelang go Nna, le go Tate le dumele.

We rise in this House during Women's Month to pay tribute, to account and to commit.

We pay tribute to all those who came before us; women who refused to accept their prescribed place on the margins of history and instead wrote themselves into the centre of our national story.

We account because the measure of democracy is not what is promised, but what is delivered; especially to those most historically excluded. We commit because the work of women's freedom is not a seasonal campaign. It is the permanent work of justice, nation-building, and economic transformation.

Seventy years after the Women's Charter of 1954; 69 years after the Freedom Charter; and 69 years after more than 20 000 courageous women marched to the Union Buildings on 09 August 1956; we gather to honour a lineage of bravery that runs like a river through our land.

That river carries the voices of Lilian Ngoyi, Rahima Moosa, Helen Joseph, Sophia De Bruyn, Albertina Sisulu, Charlotte Mannya Maxeke, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Ruth First, Florence Mkhize, Fatima Meer; and many others, named and unnamed.

Those who serve as everyday assistants in homes, workplaces, villages, and townships confronted the machinery of apartheid and the stubbornness of patriarchy. In that 1956 march, women shouted a freedom slogan whose refrain has become a national proverb: "Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo"; "You strike a woman, you strike a rock."

Those words were not bravado; they were testimony. They spoke of the granite strength forged by domestic workers who risked dismissal to join the march; by rural women who walked miles to clinics and carried the hopes of generations they might never meet.

By mothers who turned their kitchens into meetings rooms and safe houses. By students who layered their schooling with activism, and their activism with scholarship. By nurses, teachers, farmworkers, house workers, artists and healers who refused to accept that their labour was invisible and their lives disposable.

Yet, the people's anthem becomes a national irony when we repeat it without reform. It is not enough to praise the rock if we leave it abandoned under the rubble of inequality.

It is not enough to celebrate the march if the battle ground remains unchanged. The measure of our commemoration is not the poetry of our speeches, but the power of our policies and the integrity of their implementation.

In this House, we represent a province whose inheritance is both rich and demanding. Limpopo is a land of mineral abundance and agricultural promise; of youthful demographics and vibrant small businesses; of deep cultural reservoirs and resilient communities.

It is also a land where too many women remain trapped in the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality; made deadly by gender-based violence and femicide.

Made exhausting by unpaid care work; made unjust by unequal pay for equal work, and made frustrating by barriers to finance, markets, land technology and networks.

It is befitting, therefore, that we anchor this debate in the words of Tata Nelson Mandela, who warned us: "At the dawn of democracy, freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression."

Our endeavours must be about the liberation of women, emancipation of men, and the liberty of the child.

We repeat this not as a historical phrase, but as a constitutional imperative. The Bill of Rights commands substantive equality; not ornamental equality; transformation, not tokenism.

We also hear the admonition of Mama Charlotte Maxeke when she said, "This work is not for yourself. Kill that spirit of self and do not live above your people but with them."

In this simple, pleasing wisdom lies a leadership ethic for our time; a call for servant leadership, for proximity over pomp, and for accountability over applause. It is a summons to this Legislature and to every organ of state; do not live above the women of Limpopo. Live with them, listen to them, legislate for them, and deliver with them.

Honourable Members, today I structure my remarks around four pillars: memory, safety, dignity and opportunity.

On memory and mandate, honourable Members; our Women's Month must be more than ceremonial. Memory is not nostalgia; it is a mandate. The 1956 women's march was not a footnote to the struggle; it was a pivot. We claim a right to the city, to the workplace, to Parliament and to the future.

The Women's Charter of 1954 and the Women's Charter for Effective Equality of 1994 did not merely list grievances; they set a gender policy agenda whose urgency remains: Early Childhood Development, equal pay, reproductive health services, freedom from violence, recognition of unpaid labour, and access to land and housing.

These were not afterthoughts of the liberation movement; they were the scaffolding of our democratic society.

Let us reject commemorative amnesia that praises historical icons while silencing contemporary ones. There are house workers who manage businesses, households and community stokvels. The community healthcare workers who stretch their stipends into service, and farmworkers who navigate hostile terrain to claim both dignity and wages.

The women miner underground who makes history; shift by shift. The engineers, artisans, coders, academics, bus drivers and police officers who ignite our daughters' smiling imaginations. These are the living chapters of the story we celebrate.

On safety; ending GBV and femicide, Hon Speaker, we must speak plainly. GBV and femicide are a national emergency, a moral crisis, and a test of our democracy's seriousness. President Cyril Ramaphosa has called GBV "another pandemic"; an apt description for a crisis that is contentious through culture, lethal in effect, and preventable through decisive public action.

In too many homes, alcohol becomes exorbitant. In too many police stations, difference become impunity. In too many courtrooms, delays become denial. In too many communities silence become complicity.

We commend the national strategic plan on GBVF and its six pillars: accountability, prevention, justice, victim support, economic power and research. However, strategy without state capacity is sentiment. Our task in Limpopo is to drive the NSP into the marrow of provincial government. That means measurable budgets, not generic programmes; functional shelters, not press statements; and survivor centred policing, not re-traumatisation.

We need Strong specialised prosecution units and an ecosystem of services that make leaving an abusive situation a supported, realistic choice; not a leap into destitution. Concrete steps for our province include:

- Survivor centres as justice hubs;
- Expansion of Thuthuzela Care Centre in every district; and
- 24/7 access to medical care, psychological support, forensic examination, and immediate case management.

On rapid response and protection orders:

- Work with SAPS to set province-wide response standards for domestic violence calls; and
- Expand after hours availability for interim protection orders.

On real time accountability dashboards:

- Publish monthly GBV case tracking by district to ensure transparency and performance.

On prevention through norm change:

- Scale evidence-based programmes in schools and communities to shift harmful gender, norms and... [NO AUDIO]

...honourable Members and Hon Chair, thank you very much. I still say, "Wathinta abafazi,

THE BACKGROUND

. . . wathinta imbokodo."

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Malibongwe! Malibongwe! Thank you, Hon Mapula Mokaba. The Deputy Chair of Chairs, do you have any announcements?

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Chair of Chairs, and good afternoon. I rise to make the following announcements: The next Sitting is scheduled for Tuesday, 19 August 2025 at 10H00 here in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Lunch is served at the Committees Boardroom.

Thank you very much.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Members. The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 19 August 2025 at 10H00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

Thank you very much. Ndza khensa.

[THE HOUSE ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

We shall now have an opportunity for silent prayers and meditation. Thank you so much. We may now be seated. I greet you all, honourable Members, on this beautiful day.

I take this opportunity to greet the Premier in absentia; the Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; all MECs present here today; and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamrobela. We welcome you back from Gambia, and we know that you're still tired. The delegation you were with appears to be still tired; they are not here yet. We greet the Chairperson of Committees, Hon Mokone; the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Hon Hasani Ngobeni; the Deputy Chief Whip, we also greet you and the whippers; and all leaders of other political parties who are here today, as well as all honourable Members. Good morning.

We welcome all of you here and extend our greetings to all other political parties represented in the gallery; they must feel recognised, as well as all other guests who have joined us in the Sitting today. We must also greet our followers on the social media platforms. We greatly appreciate that they always follow the Sittings, as our Sittings remain a public platform. For them to follow us shows that indeed the Limpopo Legislature is their voice, and they must continue to use it as such. On that note, we are now moving forward.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS LEDWABA

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE EFF'S SUCCESSFUL SIYABONGA RALLY
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF's successful Siyabonga rally for a victory celebration on 16 August 2025, which took place behind Seshego Zone 1, dišopong. The EFF majority won by a resounding victory of 57,34%.
- This victory reaffirmed the people's unwavering support of the leadership of the organisation in this ward.

- The EFF remain humbled and grateful for the continued support of the people of ward 13 over the years. We are not taking this support for granted.
- It does not come as an obvious case, but a demonstration of the relationship and trust that the EFF built with the community of Seshego Ward 13 over the years.
- The EFF continues to champion community struggles and deliver genuine change on the ground. The relationship between the EFF and the community of Seshego Ward 13 is solid and well-grounded on loyalty and respect.
- The victory is even sweeter than honey because ward 13 is the home ward of the EFF president Julius Malema, who hails from Masakaneng Zone 1, Seshego.
- We further express appreciation for the people of ward 13 for having confidence in our newly elected ward councillor, Michael “Ntjeza” Ramaphoko. Councillor “Ntjeza” has a proven record of service delivery to the people of ward 13, as he was previously their ward councillor. It was for this reason that he became the EFF’s candidate of choice for ward 13.
- Hon Speaker, indeed, the future looks very bright.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Ledwaba. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Baloyi, you are recognised.

MR BALOYI

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Ledwaba. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I want to rise with an intention to object to the motion as presented by Hon Ledwaba. Why am I objecting to this motion, Hon Speaker? Point number one is that, this motion is repeating itself. It is not for the first time that Hon Ledwaba rise in this House and presents the very same motion; and I find it difficult, hence, I’m objecting to that motion. Otherwise, it can be a monthly thing. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana, the son of Mbudu Nkonyana, stand to second the objection as moved by, Hon Simon Mathe. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. In terms of the rules, once the motion has been objected to, it falls off, unless the initiator of the motion requests the division of the House.

MR BALOYI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think if you have listened to what she was reading together with the motion that she read previously, it's not the same. Hon Speaker, am I protected?

THE SPEAKER

Please sit down. Now we must follow the rules. The motion was read and seconded. There was an objection to the motion, and with the motivation. The objection was seconded. In terms of the rules, once a motion is objected to, it means the motion falls off; but in case the initiator of the motion is not happy, and wants us to divide the House, she must stand up and say so, so that we can divide the House.

Because motivating won't help now.

MS LEDWABA

Madam Speaker, let me use my mother tongue. Le telela gampe. Mohlomphegi Mospikara, e re ke šomiše leleme la letswele. Tšhišinyo ye ga e swane le ye ke e badilego peleng, ye e mabapi le Siyabonga Rally ye e diregilego ka la 16, ga e swane le yela ya pele.

THE SPEAKER

Whether it's a rally, whether it's a victory, whether it's a celebration, the fact is that the motion was objected to. Now what I want to hear is, do you want us to divide the House or not? If you don't want us to divide the House in terms of the rules, the motion falls off. We are now moving on.

Thank you so much, honourable Members. Is there any other motion without notice? The matter is closed. We are not going to go back there. Is there any other motion? The matter is closed. The motion has fallen off. Is there any other motion without notice?

In the absence of any further motion without notice, let's then move on. Is that an order? A member can raise a hand for an order. Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for affording us an opportunity. We want to raise an order because there seems to be a tendency to use unparliamentary language consistently. In this House, we are being told that “re a telela” and I’m not sure if that is parliamentary or what? And I want to be clarified in that regard because if that is the game that others want to play, they must ask next door; we are good at playing that game also.

But is “go telela” parliamentary? If not, she must withdraw because she seems to be very consistent about it. And if she can’t withdraw, no problem. We will return the favour. There is no problem. And we’ll forget ID numbers and start to “telela” too.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Ledwaba, there is a matter that is being raised that you have said “batho ba a telela”, which is unparliamentary. Are you able to withdraw that word?

MS LEDWABA

Hon Speaker, it seems as if it's only Ledwaba who speaks things that are not parliamentary. Maloba mo, le be le bolela gomme nna ke sa bolele goba ke sa ngangišane. Eupša, yena o boletše gore ke gola mahala, le gore nna lehu la motho yo mongwe le a mphidiša, gomme ga se o bolele selo ka seo. Le nyaka gore nna ke gomiše mantšu a gore le a ntelela, mola yena a boletše mantšu a mantshi ka tsela ye. Nka se gomiše mantšu a ka.

THE SPEAKER

Mme Ledwaba, ge e le gore go na le motho yo a boletšego ditaba tše di sa le kgotsofatšego, le swanetše gore le bolele gore mantšu a a boletšwego ga a le nkgotsofatše. Ka madimabe, lehono, ka lebaka la gore, le be le kgophišitše ke mantšu a a boletšwego peleng, o feleleditše o bolelea mantšu a a dirago gore lena le bonagale o ka re le na le molato; ; efela seo ga se maikemišetšo a rena.

Taba ye ga e mabapi le wena le Leloko le lengwe, e ama Ngwako ka moka. Bjale, re be re nyaka go kwešiša gore ge le re ba a telela, le bolela ka Balekgotlaphethiši le Ngwako ka moka naa? Mantšu a ga go a laetša lenyatšo go Ngwako wa Lekgotlatheramelao. Mola e se maikemišetšo a gago.

Ka boikokobetšo re be re kgopela gore o gomiše mantšu a gago, gore ge e le gore go na le yo mongwe yo a tlo bolelago mantšu a lenyatšo ka wena ka moso, re kgone go go thuša gore le bona ba gomiše mantšu ao. Re a kgopela ka boikokobetšo.

MS LEDWABA

Ke tla gomiša mantšu aka go laetša tlhompho go Maloko a Ngwako ka moka.
[MAGOFISI]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mma. Nakong e tlogo, ge le ekwa tše di sa le kgotsofatšego, le se ke la tšhaba go emiša letsogo gore le lena re kgone go le šireletša ka gore Ngwako o swanetše o go šireletše le wena.

Thank you so much.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements in terms of Rule 199? Hon Baloyi, are you still going to present a Members Statement? And I have also seen Hon Mogoane. I don't know who will speak on her behalf.

MR BALOYI

I will speak. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

THE EFF APPLAUDS THE HAWKS FOR THE ARREST OF THE FORMER AND CURRENT MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC OFFICERS (Members' Statement)

The EFF applauds the Hawks for the recent arrest of the former and current municipal traffic officers; both accused of involvement in alleged taxi permit fraud in Makhado municipality.

Mr Jan Zita, the former chief traffic officer from Bungeni, and Gushile William Mathonsi, a traffic officer from Waterval, were arrested by Hawks in a serious corruption investigation unit for taxi permit fraud. The arrest followed Hawks' investigation into an alleged offence committed between 2016 and 2018. Hence, we see the long arm of law in action.

The two officers are alleged to have solicited payment from a taxi operation, promising a fraudulent operating permit. The fraud on taxi permits is a testament to the fact that internal control measures do not exist within the traffic department to curb fraud in this municipality. We are convinced that the taxi permit fraud in municipalities is not an isolated problem of Makhado Municipality, but a large-scale problem existing in all municipalities in Limpopo.

The EFF calls upon all victims in all municipalities to approach the Hawks' Corruption Unit. Furthermore, we urge other taxi operators to follow proper channels, report suspicious activity, and not to be part of corruption by soliciting permits from traffic officers. The municipality should also do regular checks to ensure that such corruption is detected earlier, before it escalates into a bigger problem.

Finally, we call upon all municipalities in Limpopo to issue a taxi permit on time to avoid this taxi violence, involving fights over routes. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You can proceed to the next Members' Statement.

MR BALOYI

FRAUD AND CORRUPTION OF RDP HOUSES IN BOLOBEDU MUNICIPALITY
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, last week on Thursday, we tabled a statement on fraud and corruption in RDP houses in Blouberg Municipality. In the same statement, we indicated that fraud and corruption...

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

MR BALOYI

Hon Speaker, am I protected?

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members. Proceed, Hon Baloyi.

MR BALOYI

In the same statement, we indicated that fraud and corruption of RDP houses in municipalities is far deeper than meets the eye. In 2017, some people were removed from Marapong, Bantusak, and Paprika by CoGHSTA and Lephalale Municipality to Altostyd ward 13, where they were allocated shacks with the promise that they would build them RDP houses. The new list of people who should be occupying the RDP houses excludes initial beneficiaries.

The new lists are now constituted by new people who are relatives and girlfriends of the ANC councillor and other ANC politicians in Lephalale. Housing beneficiaries must not pay money to anyone claiming that they can add them to the housing waiting lists.

Housing fraud includes the following:

- Unlawful paying money or making any benefit of a councillor's official position in return for RDP housing service, standing on a rented council property or stands.
- Queue jumping. Council officials are soliciting money in return for rendering human settlement services.
- Forgery of a prospective beneficiary's signature or impersonating a beneficiary, as well as unlawful occupation of RDP houses.
- Sub-letting RDP houses, probably without permission.

- Unlawful paying or offering money to municipality staff in return for municipal land or RDP houses.

Residents are urged to report housing fraud and corruption. This includes all legal sales and occupation of RDP houses, illegal selling of municipality-owned land, or even officials asking for payment to add you, to the housing and database.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Baloyi, for the two Members' Statements you have read. I will now give an opportunity to the MECs. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Madam Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege. I just wanted to find out because, in terms of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, and you will confirm to that effect, a Member may give a notice of motion on behalf of an absent Member if he or she has been authorised in writing to do so by the absent Member or by the Whip of that Member's party.

I just wanted to establish facts as to whether we have an authorised written approval to this effect, that Hon Mogoane is not here, and she has delegated somebody to read a Members' Statement on her behalf.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Baloyi, do you have that letter of authority? If yes, provide it.

MR BALOYI

Hon Speaker, I have been authorised to come and read the Members' Statement by my whip, but I don't have that letter here with me.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, the fact that Hon Monama has referred us to the rules that we must all be aware of as and when you get authorised, and I'm worried that the EFF and the DA normally do that. So, can we ensure that in the future we follow the rules, because if we don't follow the rules, it will be a problem. But I'm worried that if I don't allow the MECs to respond to some of the issues raised, the issues will remain unresponded to. Therefore, I will plead with the House today, Hon Monama, just to say, can MECs respond to those issues? However, we are taking it on record that Hon Baloyi is aware that it was not in line with the rules; for him not to bring a letter from his party's whip to the Speaker's desk that you will be reading on her behalf. So, we are learning every day.

Thank you so much. Let me allow Honourable MECs who wish to respond to the issues raised. Hon Susani Violet Mathye, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thanks, Hon Speaker and the honourable House. Good morning. Let me first appreciate the statement as presented by Hon Baloyi and also welcome the arrest of the two officials from Makhado Municipality. What I'm against is painting all the municipalities with one black paint. Just because two were arrested in Makhado Municipality, it does not mean all municipalities in the province are corrupt. We don't agree with that.

I'm happy because this shows that the ANC-led government is at work and will leave no stone unturned to arrest whoever goes to work to steal. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. We will now allow Hon Makamu Rogers, MEC for CoGHSTA.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to colleagues, MECs and the entire House. I always enjoy coming to respond to Members' Statements, Hon Speaker, but today's Member Statement, I think, is confusing. It requires the honourable Member to do research.

He speaks about the Blouberg Municipality, then he speaks about Marapong, and he speaks about the shacks that were built. I'm just trying to figure out what exactly he wanted to speak about, and which matter I must respond to. I have the Marapong issue. If there is anything in Blouberg, I will request the Member to prepare the Members' Statement properly and submit it. We will respond to it. But on the issue of Marapong, he can go if he wants to leave this Sitting today and go to Marapong and see the TRU and the RDP houses that were just built there for the beneficiaries who were there even during the time we relocated them in 2016.

They are getting their houses; we might have delayed, but the right beneficiaries are getting their houses. As for the Blouberg, there is no head and a tail in what he was talking about, so he may want to go and verify the facts and come back to the Sitting, we will be able to respond to that. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa, Honourable MEC, for your response. Let's go to the next item.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in line with Rule 200? 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. Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. I now call upon the Hon chairperson of the committee, Hon Mapula Annah Mokoba.

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Good morning, honourable Members in the House, MECs present. Protocol is observed. Honourable Members, standing before you, I will present 24 reports, which are the quarterly reports of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, as well as six oversight reports and one variation. I will start with the first one. I hereby present the 2023/24 fourth quarter report of LEDET.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I take this opportunity to second the report as presented by Hon Mokaba. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You can continue chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, hereby present the 2023/24 fourth quarter report of LEDA.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder honourable Members? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA.

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka. Ndzi yimela ku seketela le xi leswi nga boxiwa hi Muchaviseki Mokaba. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mdaka. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

I rise to present the 2023/24 fourth quarter report of LTA.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Ke ema fa go thekga pego ye e adilwego ke Mohlomphegi Mapula Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Peedi. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. I hereby present the 2023/24 fourth quarter report of LGB.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Mokoele, you are recognised. You were raising your hand.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I want to support the tabling of the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokoele. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2023/24 Annual Report of LEDET.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I've seen Hon Sebopela. You were raising your hand.

MS SEBOPELA

Good morning, Speaker and the House. I hereby second the presentation of the report by the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sebopela. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2023/24 Annual Report of LEDA.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Even Members on my left are allowed to second. Hon Lebea, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the committee chairperson, Hon Mapula Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2023/24 Annual Report of LTA.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I rise to second the tabling of the Annual Report of LTA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Jack. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2023/24 Annual Report of LGB.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much.

7.2: Considering the Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

I now call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, hereby present the 2024/25 first quarter report of LEDET to be adopted as the report of this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Sepuru, you are recognised.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to second the submission as made by the committee chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, I hereby present the 2024/25 first quarter report of LEDA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mosepetša mošomo, Mospikara wa gešu. Ke ema go thekga tšeo di boletšego ke Modulasetulo.

THE SPEAKER

Ke Dzwa Dzweo Bolobedu. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 first quarter report of LTA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I've seen the hand of Hon Phokane.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I second the presentation of the LTA's 2024/25 first quarter report by the chairperson. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. You may continue, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 first quarter report of LGB. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I have seen the hand of Hon Mabotja.

MR MABOTJA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report for adoption as presented by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 second quarter report of LEDET.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the 2024/25 second quarter report of LEDET. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 second quarter report of LEDA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I've seen the hand of Hon Matjomane.

MS MATJOMANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 second quarter report of LTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I've seen the hand of Hon Christinah Mohale.

MS MOHALE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report as presented by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 second quarter report of LGB. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I've seen the hand of Hon Nempumbuluni. Thank you so much.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Ndo livhuwa Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndo takutshela u tikedza likumedzwa lo netshedzwaho nga mudzulatshidulo wa komiti. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 third quarter report of LEDET.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangadzulo, u fhiwa tshifhinga hetshi tsha uri ndi khwaṭhisedze zwe zwa ambiwa malugana na muvhigo nga mudzulatshidulo wa komiti. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa ngamaanda. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 third quarter report of LEDA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Marx, don't you think you can second one report?

ADV MARX

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I'm not a member of that committee, but since you are requesting me, I will second the report as presented by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 third quarter report of LTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR PHEEDI

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Ke ema mo go thekga pego ye e adilwego ke Modulasetulo mabapi le lona lekala le. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 third quarter report of LGB.
Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mathe you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report by the honourable chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, honourable chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, I rise to present the 2024/25 fourth quarter report of LEDET.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MUHLOPE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson, Hon Mokaba. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 fourth quarter report of LEDA.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Dokodela Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka. Ndzi yima ku seketela xiviko lexi boxiweke hi vona Muchaviseki Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene Muchaviseki Mdaka. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 fourth quarter report of LTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report as presented by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2024/25 fourth quarter report of LGB. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Sepuru you are recognised.

MR SEPURU

Ka Senthoma, ke a leboga gape. Ke ema fa ke re, ke la ka leo, ka se se boletšego ke Modulasetulo wa Komiti.

THE SPEAKER

Ke a leboga di kwagetše. We shall now move to 7.3, consideration and adoption of the following reports of the portfolio committee on Economic Development and Environment and Tourism. I now call upon the committee chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to table the report on the oversight visit to Lebogakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery on 06 November 2024. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the report for adoption as presented by the chairperson of the committee.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Over to you, chairperson

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to table the report on the oversight visit to Thohoyandou Industrial Park on 15 May 2025. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Is there any seconder? Hon Nempumbuluni, you are recognised.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Dr Makhurupetje, I stand here to second the presentation made by the combatant, Hon Mokaba.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the report on the oversight visit to Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Dr Malebana you are recognised.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the tabling of the oversight report to Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Dr Malebana. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the report on the oversight visit to Nkowankowa Industrial Park.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Naa gona le yo a thekgago pego ye? Sebaka ke sa gago Mohlomphegi Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Leswi i swa le kaya hikokwalaho ndzi yima ku seketela swinene, ku va va yi le ekaya eNkowankowa.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene. Over to you, chairperson.

MS MOKABA

I rise to present the report on the oversight visit to Seshego Industrial Park on 16 May 2025.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder honourable Members? Hon Nenguda you are recognised.

MR NENGUDA

Ndo livhuwa, Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndo imela u tikedza madzinginywa o swikiswaho nga Muhulisei. Ndo livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa ngamaanda.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, I rise to present the report on the oversight visit to Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ and mining input supplier park on the 22 May 2025.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Any seconder? Muhulisei Vhothovhele vhashu. Muhulisei Vho Tshivhase, you are recognised.

MR TSHIVHASE

Ndo livhuwa, Muhulisei Mulangadzulo. Ndo takutshela u tikedza zwo dzinginywaho nga mudzulatshidulo wa komiti.

THE SPEAKER

Ri khou livhuwa ngamaanda. Chairperson, you may take the podium.

MS MOKABA

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. Finally, this is the last one. I hereby present the Report on the Budget Variation from the Capital Grant of R309 million to R93 million to address pressing issues in the Great North Transport during the 2025/26 financial year. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable chairperson, indeed, you can sit down. Can we get a seconder? That was the last report. Is there any seconder? Hon Machete, are you willing to second?

MR MACHETE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby second the report on the Budget variation from the Capital Grant of R309 million to R93 million as presented by the chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much. People will pardon me; the reports are many, and it's important that we assist and give each other courage as we second, so that the chairperson doesn't get tired easily. Thank you so much. We are now moving to the Speakers' List.

In terms of the Speakers' List, the first person to debate is Hon Maringa Vongani Wesley. [APPLAUSE]

MR MARINGA

Hon Speaker, all protocols observed. Hon Speaker, as we gather in this august House during Women's Month, we are reminded of the enduring strength, resilience and leadership of the women who have shaped our nation.

UMama Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, uMama, Albertina Sisulu, Sophia De Bruyn and others. From the march to the Union Building in 1956, to the daily struggles of women in our communities today, we honour their courage, we honour their dedication, and we recommit ourselves to building a just society that presents opportunities to women of this country.

Hon Speaker, let us not forget that what they did was not only to fight against oppression but also to fight for economic inclusion and economic development, which must therefore be gender responsive. Women are not only participants in our economy, but they are its backbone, whether in agriculture, small business, education or public service; women continue to drive progress. It is our duty to ensure that every budget, every policy and every programme reflects their needs and amplifies their voices and protects their rights.

Hon Speaker, turning to the matters at hand, the Great North Transport at some point was at the brink of collapse based on some shortfalls of the then previous administration in respect of the board and the leadership thereof. The situation of GNT has resulted in

a situation where the portfolio committee had to engage very thoroughly in terms of providing financial intervention to the entity. This resulted in a deviation of R93 million to see to it that the institution is being brought back to life, and we've got buses that must service our people.

The GNT is not just a simple entity; it's a subject of transport that our communities are relying on daily. The government has the responsibility to intervene as and when the need arises. However, the R93 million which has been provided for the entity to survive cannot just go unnoticed, and it's going to be a subject of accountability on the part of the leadership of the day, of the entity.

We are making a call as the government, and we are assuring our communities that the GNT session that we have already revived, and we are trying to save as the government is going to serve them to the best of its capacity. Let me make a quotation, Hon Speaker. I'm going to quote the former President of the ANC and a former President of the country, Mr Thabo Mbeki, when he said, "You can't abandon people there and say go and find a job when you know they are not going to be able to find one and therefore starve to death." So, we have to address that matter, but we must do it systematically. It is for this reason that the government has committed extra funds to the GNT so that the situation the GNT has found itself in can be resolved.

Hon Speaker, while we are dealing with the case of economic development, we need to appreciate the capacity that exists in LEDA. One of the most critical components that exists in LEDA is the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU). The government has committed to assisting this province in developing its capacity economically to serve all its community members so that they find space to participate in the economy.

Now we are making a call for other institutions in government to make use and take advantage of the establishment of the PMU in LEDA so that where we have got shortfalls in capacity that relates to infrastructure development, that particular component of PMU in LEDA can intervene so that we can then restructure and also refurbish our infrastructure in the province which can add value in terms of economic development. All our entities, all our subsidiaries, such as LEDA, are dependent on how our communities are responding to them in terms of business engagement. We need to commend the LTA as the government for its process that relates to the funding and development of female-driven entities that are participating in tourism.

The government is also making a call to say, honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, for our process of tourism to thrive, we rely heavily on infrastructure in respect of the roads, so that our people can be transported very easily. At the same time, we also rely heavily on facilities that our tourists are going to be attracted to, so that they can continue to visit our province. Then we can continue to raise the flag very high for our province.

By doing that, we can then generate a certain level of economic development for the province so that we can thrive. In that issue, we also need to commend the LTA for the facilitation of the completion of the three key tourism infrastructure projects, including the upgrading of access roads to heritage sites. We cannot continue to talk about

heritage sites when it's also very difficult for us to reach, and we therefore commend the entity for working twice as hard to take our province to that space of engagement.

Hon Speaker, the aspect of infrastructure development has led the portfolio committee to pay attention to our industrial zones. The current refurbishment of the factory in Nkowankowa and the contribution of the department and government to the peppadew infrastructure that is happening there have confirmed a certain number of jobs, and it's also created a ground for the communities of Nkowankowa and the surrounding areas to be employed in that space of the peppadew industry that is happening there.

And this is a product of the work that we are doing as a government, to support that space so that we can grow the economy of the province. We remain very worried and very concerned about the state of the infrastructure in Thohoyandou Industrial Park. We are also very proud of the progress that we have made as a government in Seshego Industrial Park, where a number of factories have also been developed, and we continue to have tenants who are occupying that space, and they continue to employ our people. Our primary focus is to grow the economy of the province so that our people can be employed.

Hon Speaker, the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone is a worrisome institution that we are sitting with as government, and as we continue to prepare ourselves to do well for the province, we are making a clarion call that whatever investigation the government has already launched in respect of forensic to determine what has been happening with the monies that went missing there. I'm going to call them monies that went missing because if you make a turn in that area, you will not see anything that can symbolise an expenditure in terms of government money. The portfolio committee is very firm and very committed to say the forensic investigation cannot continue for longer.

At some point, we need to get the report, and we need to debate the reports and where needed, consequence management must be the order of the day. We have also allocated money for the current financial year for the entity. It is our commitment to continue to monitor the extent to which the leadership of the day, the new board and those who are leading there in terms of this MMSEZ can implement the particular entity and its positions so that our people can be employed.

It is the hope of our people in Limpopo, and it is the hope that investors can come and put a lot of resources so we can create as many jobs as we possibly wish to have as a province. Regarding the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, we are very confident, we are very happy, the progress is very convincing, the leadership there is doing what it has to do to assist in developing that particular area so that our people can then get employment, and this is what we are working hard to deliver. Let me quote Peter Drucker, who argues that "The ultimate resource in economic development is people. It is people, not capital or raw materials, that develop an economy." I'm raising this issue, Hon Speaker, since our community members have not necessarily been assisting the government with its efforts to develop special areas that have the potential to create jobs for them. I will take a bite, slightly Hon Speaker, on the issue of the Lebowakgomo Abattoir.

Our people themselves are the ones who are involved in vandalism of the very same infrastructure. At the same time, we ourselves as well as the government seem not to

be doing as much as we should be doing to see to it that the infrastructure and the actual work that must commence there. We'll have to start so that we can create job opportunities for our people.

The government must also note that the vandalism that we experience every day in the Lebowakgomo Abattoir must not just be interpreted in the context of criminal activities. We also need to try to think about this as a rebellion on the part of our communities, who see an infrastructure that to them has become a white elephant. We have a responsibility, Hon Speaker, to see to it that the dream of the Lebowakgomo Abattoir does not end on paper but becomes a very true reality of our people so that we can create job opportunities for them to be able to work.

We must build capacity in our communities and develop consciousness. We have a responsibility as a government to see to it that all the programmes that we put together that respond to economic participation and economic development are also building capacity within our people, so that we can see a situation where we create more job opportunities. The other aspect, Hon Speaker, which requires urgent attention from the government, is the current battle that is happening in our communities, which relates to sand mining and calls for an urgent intervention between the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy.

This is necessary in that we can develop policies that can guide and also lead a proper process that relates to this particular component of sand mining because it is setting communities against each other and what is going to happen at some point and we don't want a situation where government is dealing with what I would easily term interventional measures when communities are fighting amongst each other and fighting over issues of a nature of how their sand is being expropriated or how it's being sold.

Hon Speaker, the aspect of economic development also becomes relative and becomes subject to how to address the challenge of transport. The situation in GAAL has a serious bearing on how we transport our fresh produce to the international community, and this is a serious call that we need to intervene. The MEC for Transport and Community Safety and the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, at some point, including the portfolio committees, will need to develop a proper system that is going to assist us in building the airport to a particular capacity, where we are responsible, and we can provide the services of cargo.

If we can perform to that size, Hon Speaker, we are going to grow the economy of this province. You can just imagine what will happen in terms of job creation if GAAL can then indeed become an international airport. You can just do the calculations of the financial injections that will come as and when international flights are landing in Limpopo, as opposed to landing in Johannesburg and moving from Johannesburg to Namibia and other neighbouring countries.

We have got confidence as the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism that with the teamwork between all these committees and all these MECs we can raise the flag of the province of Limpopo and we can shine to a level where we will remain a talk of the day as a province and the ANC-led government can continue to lead society quite very well and broaden the scope where our people

can participate economically and who can develop growth. LEDA commits to the terms of financial capacity that relate to the development of SMMEs. We are making a clarion call for communities to be able to make such applications as and when a call for applications for interventional funding that relates to SMMEs development is made.

What we have observed, Hon Speaker, is that our community appears to be far away from the information that should otherwise benefit them in terms of economic development, particularly on the aspects of SMME and supplier development component, whereas the money is there. We are saying in this current financial year, our commitment is never to return any cent, our commitment is to spend every little cent that has been allocated to the component of economic development, so that our province can grow and our economy can be a shining star of the province and do well for the country. We want the whole country to look up to the far north, and the far north will be the province of Limpopo.

I see my time is out. Hon Speaker, thank you very much. Let me bow out. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Exactly 13 minutes and 59 seconds. Thank you so much. We will now proceed to allow Hon Velile Jack from the MK Party to come to the podium. Hon Velile Cyril Jack, you have seven minutes for the debate.

MR JACK

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the House and my colleague, Cde John Ngobeni. Hon Speaker, I will not say 'bayadelela'. They will interpret it when they are in their own places. No, I'll proceed, Hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, it's too much. Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to applaud the committee that I'm serving under, under the chairmanship of Hon Mapula Mokaba. This is one committee that makes entities account, starting with the MM SEZ.

We agreed that the previous administration should be accountable for the lost funds. In the industrial park in Tzaneen, we made the Executive Mayor for what we wanted, and we got a serious clarity in that meeting. Hence, things are beginning to move swiftly.

Our purpose is to give service delivery to the people, and that should be the nature of our work. As the portfolio committee, we continue to demand more accountability. Hon Speaker, Limpopo Economic Development, Environmental and Tourism is a driver for economic development and growth in the province, and instead of creating more jobs and opportunities, it is downgrading and failing our people. I'm saying this, Hon Speaker, because I'm serving in two committees.

I'm serving in LEDET and I'm serving at the Dikgerekgere. You can see the Dikgerekgere; they are fast-moving in terms of employment. We need to see that coming from LEDET, which has the capacity to do that.

Today, we analysed the reports of LEDET for the 2023/24 financial year as well as the 2024/25 financial year. The department is not making enough efforts to drive economic

development, and many areas are questionable. Limpopo Economic Development Agency is not reaching out to enough young people, people with disabilities and military veterans.

I must say, Hon Speaker, that as uMkhonto weSizwe, we always approach the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism when it comes to the issues of military veterans. We expect more support for SMMEs to target the most disadvantaged communities because that is where most poverty is. Our industrial parks require refurbishment and maintenance, particularly Thohoyandou Industrial Park, to attract more companies to list.

Once more, congratulations to the MEC for dealing with the board of GNT. Hence, it didn't take us long to adopt the report on the variation to support the GNT because it showed that the MEC was more concerned about the issues of service delivery. And I thank you for that, honourable MEC.

GNT's liquidation issue must be avoided in the future. We need quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the turnaround strategy. It should not just end in paper. It must be implemented fully. Great North Transport is very dear to our people. We owe them safe and affordable trips. With the new buses coming, we will be watching like a hawk. Maintenance and proper coordination must be prioritised. I'm requesting you, MEC, that when those buses come, at least allow me to have a drive around.

Musina-Makhado SEZ is a special case. As much as the department wants to continue investing in it, we believe that people must be arrested for the level of corruption in that project. The amount of money used does not correspond with what is on the ground. We would like to advise the Premier to be sure before she talks about projects like the MM SEZ in the SOPA. Let's avoid telling our people lies. Taxpayers' money must be accounted for. We call on the Hawks to exercise their duties. We fear that the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ might end up being like Musina-Makhado SEZ if we do not receive quarterly progress updates on the project. Our committee made the proposal that people must be arrested.

The national officials who were here saw it fit that the same team of administrators must open a case against those who were there previously, who misused the money. Suddenly, the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery are silent projects. We want economic development, we want to eradicate poverty, and those projects are meant to do exactly that.

We urge the department to prioritise transparency, accountability and effective implementation of its projects because we are watching everything must fall into place in this administration. Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. You have used exactly six minutes and 57 seconds. Thank you so much. You were within your seven minutes. We will now proceed to Hon Smalle, who's not here. I'm told Hon Marx will be debating on behalf of Hon Smalle, but I think we heard what was said earlier regarding Members standing for one another. So, we now

need Members to write officially to let us know formally, so that we can do a proper recording. Over to you.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Speaker, quarterly reports are not mere bureaucratic paperwork. They are this Legislature's early warning system that allows us to track performance and spending in real time to intervene before a crisis deepens and to ensure that the government's failures are corrected before they grow like a cancer. Annual Reports, in turn, provide a statutory and comprehensive account of performance over the full financial year. They are the final report card against strategic objectives, budgets and commitments made to the people of this province.

Hon Speaker, we are considering the 2023/24 fourth quarter reports, the 2023 Annual Reports and even quarterly reports for the 2024/25 year, while we are already well into the 2025/26 financial year. This is a failure on our part in the Legislature and a failure of government and oversight. It makes a mockery of the principles enshrined in our constitution, transparency, accountability and responsiveness.

It shows disregard for this House and worse for the people of Limpopo. We, as the Democratic Alliance, have already called for this travesty to be investigated. We must understand how this dysfunction has been allowed to persist, and we expect a full report back to this house.

Every Member here, regardless of political affiliation, should be deeply concerned. Hon Speaker, we do not make these points in a vacuum. We are painfully aware of the multiple crises confronting our country, and more so here in Limpopo.

Unemployment is entrenched, poverty deepens, and economic opportunities remain stifled. We desperately need growth and job creation. Over the past decade, Limpopo has increased economically.

Growth has averaged only 0,6% per annum, slower than our population growth. The per capita income has declined in real terms by some 7%, unemployment has nearly doubled, rising from 18,9% in 2015 to 35% today.

We have expanded unemployment now at 48%, meaning one in every two adults in the provincial labour force cannot find work. Poverty and inequality have worsened, leaving our people worse off socioeconomically than they were a decade ago. Hon Speaker, boosting growth and jobs is not just an economic priority. It is the foundation of reducing poverty, lowering the cost of living, and restoring dignity to our people. It will give us the fiscal space alongside ethical governments to build a capable and progressive state. And here lies the tragedy.

Limpopo's own Department of Economic Development (LEDET), and what should be its economic engine room, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, have failed to fulfil their mandates. Instead of driving provincial growth and employment, they have become liabilities. Hon Speaker, the failures of LEDA are clear. Great North Transport, which should provide reliable subsidised transport to sustain our economic sectors, is in a state of collapse and now requires bailouts to survive.

The Musina-Makhado SEZ, once touted as Limpopo's flagship economic catalyst, New Era Life Insurance, a subsidiary of LEDA, is under scrutiny by a prudential authority and is barred from taking on new business. Summary of rental performance collected under the year 2023/24 is only a mere 70%. A total of R352 billion was not collected over a period, which the vast majority will be written off. Despite these critical failures, we see no credible turnaround strategies, no accountability, and no consequence management. Instead, to function as a driver of development, LEDA and its subsidiaries have become financially unsustainable, budget-consuming bureaucracies.

The Annual Report of LEDA before us reflects persistent weaknesses, poor financial management, ineffective oversight of subsidiaries, and recurring audit qualifications. LEDA's position itself is a driver of development, but the evidence shows dependency on government transfers, coupled with persistent government failures. Speaker, LEDA's failures can be summarised as follows:

- Recurring audit findings;
- Poor procurement oversight; and
- Weak subsidiary control.

Hon Speaker, LEDA risks becoming a fiscal liability rather than a development asset. Limpopo cannot afford a development agency that consumes resources while producing bailouts, audit failures, and excuses.

As the Democratic Alliance, we state clearly that the time has come for LEDA to be put under review. We must ask what value, in terms of growth and jobs, LEDA deliver? Are its boards and executives fulfilling their fiduciary obligations? Hon Speaker, if LEDA cannot demonstrate value for money, then we must consider restructuring or even replacing it with a model that drives economic growth and job creation. This Legislature cannot allow LEDA to limp along indefinitely as a fiscal drain.

What Limpopo needs is not another year of unfulfilled promises, but a successive review of whether LEDA, in its current form, adds economic value. We should be asking, do we restructure LEDA, enforce strict turnaround timelines, or dismantle non-performing subsidiaries altogether? Without such bold measures, LEDA risks being nothing more than a bureaucratic holding company for failed entities, at the expense of growth, jobs, and hope for the people of Limpopo. Hon Speaker, Limpopo does not need a development agency in name only.

We need growth, jobs, and hope, not bailouts and excuses. LEDA must change or be changed. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Hermanus Frans Marx. You saved us, two minutes and 44 seconds; we appreciate that. We will now proceed to the next speaker. Is the EFF not here? Are you here, Hon Ledwaba?

MS LEDWABA

[SILENCE]

BACKGROUND

She is sleeping.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, order. Order in the House. Honourable Members. No, Members. Can we come back to the House, please? Honourable Members. No, I... No, honourable Members, can we have order, please? No, no, honourable Members.

Can we please have order? Hon Ledwaba, Hon Kgatatso Mogoana was supposed to debate. Are you going to debate on her behalf?

MS LEDWABA

No.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed and allow the honourable chairperson of the committee, Hon Mapula Mokaba Anna, to close the debate. Hon Nkonyana, is that an order?

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Taking precedence from rulings from the National Assembly, can the Hon Speaker advise if we are allowed to sleep in the House? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I won't rule on that matter now. Honourable chairperson, please proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE SPEAKER

No, you are taking the minutes of Hon Mokaba, and six seconds are gone. Can we allow Hon Mokaba to proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ere ke le tamiše gape, ke re kgotso ya Modimo ga e be le lena. Ke bolela ka kgotso ye e eteletšego pele ke kereke ye kgolo, ye e swerego ke yena Ngaka B E Lekganyane. Hon Speaker, I rise today in the spirit of August, the month in which we honour the women of our nation, not only for their historic courage, but for their present-day leadership in every sphere of our society.

As we commemorate Women's Month, we must remember that our policies, our budget, and our oversight must reflect the lived realities and aspirations of women, not just in words but in measurable outcomes. Let me begin with the words of South African author Sindiwe Magona, who wrote, "A nation that does not honour its women cannot claim to be whole." Today, we honour the women of Limpopo who are building businesses, leading institutions, raising families, and shaping the future of our province.

We honour them not only with our voices, but with our actions and by holding the Executive accountable. Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee has concluded its oversight of the entities under Vote 6, and I wish to commend the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, which is LEDA, the Limpopo Gambling Board, and the Limpopo Tourism Agency for their cooperation, transparency, and commitment to service delivery. The ANC welcomes the progress made in revitalising Limpopo's industrial park, particularly in Nkowankowa, Seshego, and Thulamela.

These hubs are no longer dormant relics of a bygone era. They are being transformed into engines of regional economic growth. The refurbishment of factory 251 in Nkowankowa, the near completion of Seshego Industrial Park, and the strategic repositioning of Thulamela Industrial Node are tangible signs of progress.

These developments are maintaining and creating new jobs, attracting investment, and restoring dignity to communities long excluded from the mainstream economy. We also welcome the R805 million budget allocated for SEZ infrastructure, as outlined in the LEDA APP report. This is a bold and necessary investment in the future of Limpopo's industrial capacity.

The ANC commends the department for prioritising catalytic infrastructure and for establishing a project management unit to oversee rollout. This is a recommendation we strongly support, and we will monitor its implementation closely. The committee expresses its appreciation for the entity's performance in 2024/25.

Limpopo has emerged as the leading province in domestic tourism, with over 9,3 million trips recorded, a staggering achievement that speaks to the effectiveness of campaigns like Tourism Thursday and the support of 100 SMMEs, many of which are women and youth owned. The ANC applauded the LTA's pivot towards domestic market conversion and its strategic use of cultural events like the Marula Festival to drive local economic activities. However, we must also express concern that the 28% vacancy rate at LTA is unacceptable and must be addressed with urgency.

The committee recommends the repositioning of staff and the capacitation of regional visitor centres. We support this recommendation and call on the entity to ensure that these centres are not only staffed but also equipped to deliver high-quality services. The

Limpopo Gambling Board has demonstrated commendable performance, achieving 100% of its quarterly targets and maintaining a clean audit.

The ANC appreciates the entity's proactive stance on illegal gambling, with 199 investigations, 88 arrests, and the destruction of 666 illegal machines. We also welcome the introduction of new indicators in the 2025/26 APP, including 100 responsible gambling campaigns and procurement targets aligned with transformation goals. However, we remain concerned about the rise of online and server-based gambling, which poses regulatory and social risks.

The committee recommends enhanced collaboration with SAPS and the NPA, and we support this. But we also call for the special budget allocation to strengthen digital enforcement and stakeholders' education. The current allocation of R72 million is not sufficient for the sector that is evolving rapidly and requires sophisticated oversight.

The ANC-led government department has shown strong leadership in aligning its strategic priorities with national and provincial development goals. The APP of 2025/26 reflects a clear commitment to industrialisation, inclusive procurement, environmental enforcement, and tourism growth. We commend the ANC-led government department for setting ambitious targets, including 8,000 liquor inspections, 100 business registrations, and the conservation of 5,000 hectares of biodiversity land.

We also appreciate the ANC-led government department's support of the oversight teams and its commitment to improving audit outcomes. The ANC welcomes the goals of achieving an unqualified audit and urges the ANC-led government department to strengthen internal control and data systems to ensure compliance. However, we must express concern about the slow conversion of SEZ investment pledges and government annual allocation into actual projects.

The report notes that LEDA facilitated zero investment in quarter four despite R120 billion in pledges. This is a critical gap. The ANC supports the recommendation to establish a deal conversion unit within LEDA and calls for quarterly reporting of progress.

We are also concerned about the performance of GNT, the provincial transport entity, the fourth quarter report shows declining passenger numbers and profitability, due in part to reduced bus availability. The APP outlined a turnaround strategy and the acquisition of 72 new buses, which we welcome, but we urge the ANC-led government department to ensure that this strategy is implemented with urgency and transparency. Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee has also reviewed the report of budget variation for GNT, and we wish to express our support for the ANC-led government department's decisions to approve the reallocation of funds towards a comprehensive turnaround strategy.

The acquisition of 72 new buses, the introduction of a fleet management system and the strengthening of internal control are critical steps towards restoring public confidence in GNT. These measures respond directly to the concerns raised in the fourth quarter performance report, and we commend the ANC-led government department for acting decisively. However, we must emphasise that budget variation must be matched by performance variation.

The ANC calls for quarterly reporting on the implementation of the turnaround plan with clear metrics on passenger volumes, revenue recovery and service reliability. GNT is not just a transport provider, it is a lifeline for workers, students and entrepreneurs. Its recovery must be swift, transparent and inclusive.

Madam Speaker, the ANC believes that the budget must reflect priorities. We therefore appreciate the allocation made to support the key policies. The R100 million allocated to Risima for housing finance is a step towards inclusive urban development.

The R281 billion investment pipeline identified in LEDA must be matched with robust project packaging and stakeholders' engagement. The procurement transformation targeted at 40% for women-owned, 30% youth-owned, 7% disability-owned, and 2% military veterans-owned must be enforced across all entities. These are not just numbers; they are instruments of justice. They are the means by which we build an economy that is not only growing but inclusive.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, let me return to the spirit of Women's Month. Let us remember the words of an American poet and author, Maya Angelou, who said, "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

Today, we stand up for women of Limpopo, not just in tribute but in action. We stand up for the entrepreneurs in Nkowankowa, the tour guides in Hoedspruit, the regulators in Limpopo and the factory workers in Seshego.

We stand up for the mothers who build the future, the daughters who dream boldly and the sisters who lead with courage. Let this debate not be the end but the beginning. Let it be the foundation of a Limpopo that is industrialised, inclusive and inspired by the women, the men who make it whole. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson of the committee, for closing the debate. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe, to respond to the observation made by the honourable Members.

Honourable MEC must remember that we have added two minutes. You have got five minutes to respond. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much. I was wondering if I would make it in three minutes because the department is big and there are many reports. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and greetings to Members of the Legislature.

Firstly, we appreciate the debate as presented by Hon Maringa. We really appreciate that the committee is robust with us. It's a very robust committee, this one. When you go to it, you know that the grilling will be too much. We really appreciate your support for the GNT variation on the Budget.

We must indicate to the Legislature that, as we speak now, out of 264 buses, currently we've got 218 buses that are running in the province. We are planning that by the end of August, we must have 264 out of 264 buses, so that our people in the province can be transported well. So, this variation is going to go a long way in assisting and ensuring that indeed GNT comes back to life.

We we are saying, GNT is going to rise again, and we are sure that the three-pronged strategy we have adopted as the department will address the issues of leasing buses, refurbishment, and of buying new buses. We also appreciate the report as presented by Hon Jack. We appreciate it when we bring new buses, we'll call the committee to be the first one to go and ride in the bus. However, we won't allow you to drive the bus. We can only allow you to be part of the passengers. We are working very hard to ensure that the Lebowa kgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery come to life.

We have noted vandalism. We are working well with Hon Violet Mathe on the issue of vandalism. On the issue of LEDA, we acknowledge that LEDA has challenges, and we have put a turnaround strategy in place to ensure that LEDA comes back to life.

The Musina-Makado SEZ, we have committed to the portfolio committee, and we must commit to this House that in the third quarter, infrastructure rollout should happen in Musina-Makhado SEZ so that our people can get employment opportunities. We are working very hard to ensure that the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ come to life. We have received a commitment that its designation will be done by the end of September.

When it is designated, we are going to put the board that will support that SEZ so that that SEZ can then start working. However work is already happening in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, and we are pleased with the work that is happening. We appreciate the support that the committee is giving us and the transparency and accountability that the committee wants us to provide.

We will ensure that all the reports that are needed, for example, in the GNT, are available, such as a report from actuarial scientists who need to check the pension fund of the GNT beneficiaries. That report is going to come out. They are still working on it.

When it comes out, we are going to pay pensions for the GNT staff. That has not been paid previously. Lastly, we must indicate that we are ready to come and report, as the committee requested us, on a quarterly basis. We will be reporting on GNT, SEZ and industrialisation. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Ri khou livhuwa ngamaanda, Hon Tshitereke, Baldwin Matibe, for responding to the debate within five minutes. You are still left with 20 seconds. Thank you so much. It was indeed a well-organised response.

Honourable Members, can we please proceed. I request that we have order so that we can proceed. We are at 7.4, Consideration and Adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture. I now call upon the committee chairperson, Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and the honourable House, greetings to all. I'm not going to waste time, because I know that I'm going to present a few reports. Hon Speaker, I rise to present the 2023/24 fourth quarter report, Department of Sports, Arts and Culture. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene. Can I please have a seconder? Hon Jack, you are recognised.

MR JACK

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I hereby support the report as presented by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to present the 2023/24 Annual Report for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Ngithokoza khulu Somlomo oHloniphekileko. Ibizo lami nginguBongani Nkonyana. Ngisikimela ukusekela ukwethulwa kombiko okwenziwe ngumHlonitjhwa uMdaka. Ngiyathokoza Somlomo.

THE SPEAKER

Siyathokoza mHlonitjhwa uNkonyana. Over to you, chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much. I'm a disciplined Member of this honourable House. I wait for instructions from the Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 first quarter report of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can I get the seconder? Hon Rachoene, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke a leboga Mospikara yo a hlomphegago, Ngaka Makhurupetje. Ke eme fa ke le Sebataolo Tonny Rachoene, Phakan'a Hlabirwa, go thekga se se boletšego ke Mohlomphegi, Mdaka. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga Phakan'a Hlabirwa. Re šomišana mmogo le Maloko a komiti bjalo ka Maloko a Lekgotlatheramelao, go sa kgathalege gore maemo a gago ke afe. Over to you, chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka. Nakambe, ndzi yimile ku hundzisa xiviko xa 2024/25 xa Ndzawulo ya Mintlangu, Vutshila na Ndhavuko, xiviko xa kotara ya vumbirhi.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR PHEEDI

Ke a leboga, Ngaka Mospikara. E re ke laetše Molekgotlaphethiši gore, le rena re na le bohwa. Ke nna Maseka, Makoboti, Matimetša'a Makoto, ke Mokgalaka moila pelo le leswafo. Ke thekga pego ye e adilwego ke Modulasetulo, Mohlomphegi Mdaka. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Mošate, re leboga kudu kudu Bahananwa. Over to you, chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise again to present to this honourable House for consideration and adoption the report of the 2024/25 third quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Simon, the great-grandson of Jerome and Catherine, stand up to second the report as presented. Tše tša Bahananwa, ga ke di tsebe nna. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Tša Bahananwa le Bahlaloga ga o di tsebe, moetapele. [LAUGHTER] Thank you so much. Over to you, chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, I rise again to present to this honourable House the 2024/25 fourth quarter report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Any seconder? Hon Mokoele, you are recognised.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the chairperson on the presentation of the fourth quarter report 2024/25. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable Members, we are now on 7.6, Consideration and Adoption of the reports of the Portfolio Committee of Sport, Arts and Culture. Over to you, committee chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Dokodela Xipikara. Ndzi yima ku hundzisa xiviko xa komiti leyi yi nga endzela Modimolle Library, Bela-bela Library na Vaalwater Library eXifundzenintsongo xa Waterberg. Ndza khensa Manana Xipikara.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Dr Che Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke eme mo go thekga se se boletšego ke, Ngaka Indiyoni Falaza Phillemon Mdaka. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Over to you, chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Hi swona, Manana Xipikara. Ndzi vitaniwa hi mavito ya ku tala ngopfu ya hundza na ntlhanu. Hi mina boti Indiyoni na MD. Ndzi yimela ku hundzisa xiviko xa komiti laha va nga endzela Makhuva Library, Giyani Public Library na Maphalle eXifundzenintsongo xa Mopani. Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara.

THE SPEAKER

Va fanele va swi twisisa leswaku hi n'wina xikorinkulu xa xipanu xa hina. Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Rakgoale, you are recognised.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. I, Nkakareng Rakgoale, stand to second the presentation by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sports Arts and Culture. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Christian Nkakareng Rakgoale, for the secondment. We now proceed over to you, chairperson.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka, ntukulu wa Simoyi Mdaka, yena Mavhavaza hi xiviri. Ndzi yimile laha ku hundzisa xiviko xa riyendzo ra vuangameri eka Mhlangano ya Kutiyisisa ku Landzeleriwa ka Milawu.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene, mi nga tshama ehansi. Is there any seconder? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Hi khensile swinene, Xipikara. Hi mina Bongani Nkonyana. Ndzi yima ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi mutshamaxitulu, Muchaviseki Mdaka.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khense swinene. We will now proceed to the Speakers' List, honourable Members. In terms of the Speakers' List, the honorable Member who is opening the debate is Hon Christinah Mankwana Mohale, she's opening the debate for us. We normally allow her to debate where she is sitting, over to you.

BACKGROUND

Malibongwe!

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke dumediša Mospikara wa rena, Nkg Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Members of the Executive Council; Chairperson of Chairpersons and Deputy Chair of Chairs, ga se wa dumemiša ke motho lehono; Deputy Chief Whip; members of the whippers and honourable Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture carries a crucial mandate; that is to increase participation and excellence in sport, arts, and cultural activities; to expand access to information through library services; to promote nation-building; social cohesion; shared national identity and to strengthen governance in the delivery of arts, culture and sports activities. In Limpopo the department is entrusted with the development and implementation of provincial policies and programmes that preserve heritage, foster creativity and promote recreation. The Annual Performance Plan reflects progress across key programmes. On the cultural affairs, the programme spent 98% of its allocated budget in 2023/24, and improvement from 95% in the 2022/23 financial year. On the library and archive services expenditure increased from 83% in 2022/23 to 95% in the 2023/24 financial year. Sport and recreation, the programme recorded full spending of its allocation, achieving 100% utilisation in 2023/24 compared to 98% in the previous year. These achievements highlight a steady improvement in the department's capacity to use resources effectively for the benefit of our communities

Hon Speaker, the department has been deliberate in advancing transformation. Targets were set for procurement from designated groups, that is 40% for women-owned companies, 30% youth-owned businesses, and 7% for persons with disabilities. Encouragingly, the department exceeded these goals, achieving 70,53% women-owned businesses, 54,50% youth-owned businesses 7,90% owned by persons with disabilities. This is a clear indication that government initiatives can empower historically marginalised groups when properly implemented.

Hon Speaker, skills development remains a cornerstone of growth. The department conducted training in areas such as: library management systems, digitisation, risk management, and imaging leadership. Campaigns on employee wellness and gender-based violence were successfully rolled out reaffirming the government commitment to a safe and empowered workforce. Libraries remain essential in shaping an informed and empowered citizenry. The Vaalwater Library in the Waterberg district provides fiction and nonfiction books, study guides for learners, and free, reliable Wi-Fi for the community. The Makhova Library in the Mopani District is equally effective with updated books and functional internet access.

However, Madam Speaker, we propose that libraries consider opening on Saturdays in order to accommodate learners who want to study during weekends and those citizens who cannot visit during the weekdays. Such facilities not only support education, but also create a space of connection and empowerment. We acknowledge that the department has addressed concerns regarding the appointment of staff without qualifications. The employment of qualified librarians demonstrates responsiveness and accountability, ensuring quality service delivery.

Hon Speaker, the former President Nelson Mandela reminded us that: "Education is the great engine of personal development." His words resonate as we reflect on the

progress of women in sport and culture. Despite historic barriers, South African women have excelled and led with resilience and innovation. In celebrating Women's Month, we honour trailblazers from Limpopo, such as Kgothatso Montjane, 2024 Wimbledon women's wheelchair doubles champion; Sho Madjozi, internationally acclaimed singer and songwriter, and Prudence Sekgodiso a South African middle-distance runner specialising in 800 meters and 1500 meters on the global stage. Their success embodies the power of sport, arts and culture as an instrument of gender equality, social change, and national pride.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee appreciates the department's achievements, particularly in empowering women, youth, and persons with disabilities while improving service delivery across programmes. As we adopt this report, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a society where arts and culture, sport are not privileges for a few but rights for all, advancing transformation, unity, and excellence in our province and beyond. Malibongwe! [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mohale for the debate. We will now proceed to the next speaker, Hon Velile Cyril Jack, the platform is yours.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Good morning to the House. Once more Speaker, allow me to acknowledge the good work done by the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture of course, Speaker, where it matters most, we will give advice on the outstanding matters that sport and culture must deal with. We are not here to criticise, we are here to work towards achieving the goals of service delivery. As we analyse the reports of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we are concerned about the lack of creativity and investment in the current generation's interests. Sport, arts, and culture are essential for the development of the youth, and it is alarming that we are not prioritising these areas. The performance of the department is commendable; however, there are areas that require deeper accountability and follow-up, particularly regarding long standing construction projects such as the Tshaulu and Mampane libraries.

Moreover, the EPWP appointment and the ongoing impact of community campaigns. We need more libraries like the Mulamula Library. We are raising this with sport, arts and culture, Hon Speaker, because we are in the Portfolio Committee of Public Works. We also put the responsibility of construction solely in their hands, working together in consultation with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I think amalgamated meetings are also needed between the two departments to fast-track where it is lacking, but if there is progress, we are happy. We are concerned that the current generation has found itself invested in this department, but our education system leaves no room for them to express their talents. Sports are not a priority in Collins Chabane Municipality. What happened to the money procured for that purpose?

This is not only limiting but also detrimental to people, but I'm not academically gifted. The [inaudible] like dance, singing, arts and sports competitions, which are essential for the development of young people. We need to prioritise them to identify their natural

talent, promote creativity and develop individuals from young people. The issue of singing, Honourable MEC, it's a very important thing, you see some of us can see today because of apartheid. Hence, we can't sing because they used to beat you if you couldn't sing, so we became scared of singing. As a result, now it shows that we can't sing. At least songs like "amanyobi nyobi", we know them. Those are very simple. It is a song it is not me, if you don't go to the tavern, it's your own problem.

The department should take a more proactive role in addressing GBV during Women's Month. I know Sport, arts and Culture has been indulging in educating people in terms of GBV. We are just intensifying Honourable MEC that we must put more efforts, and we must not look at it blindly that, it's only women that are being abused. Some of us are also being abused by our girlfriends by demanding money every month. I thank you. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Velile Jack. We will proceed to Hon Hermanus Frans Marx. Your 9 minutes start now.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We return to this House after a weekend that can only be described as disastrous for our national teams, the Proteas lost to Australia in cricket, the Springboks also went down against Australia, and our MMA champion Dricus du Plessis lost his UFC middleweight title.

Fortunately, Hon Speaker, as far as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo is concerned, we do at least have some good news to bring to this Legislature. The department achieved a commendable 98% overall expenditure in 2024/25 with progress in areas such as the completion of the Vleifontein and Botshabelo libraries. These are steps in the right direction. Library and archive services remain a crucial component of the department's mandate in Limpopo, tasked with assisting local authorities and providing Public Library services and delivering comprehensive archive services. Despite the abovementioned successes, unfortunately, a number of areas demand urgent[inaudible] as there is underperformance in the acquisition of library materials. Secondly, delays in the construction of the Mampane and Tshaulu libraries with Mampane still at 90% completion and Tshaulu only recently seeing a replacement contractor appointed and the site handover being completed.

However, although these two projects are not formally part of the report before us today, it is pleasing to mention that, from region committee oversight, I can attest to the fact that Mampane library is an impressive and beautiful building, which will allow the residents in that area to use it and educate themselves. Further good news is that, although it's still a form in the department side, the provincial feature has now reached 40% completion. Unfortunately, Hon Speaker, with all the good news, we cannot ignore the R6,2 million underspending on school sports and recreation. This is not just a number on a spreadsheet, it represents children left without equipment, clubs without support, and athletes without opportunities.

We have debated before on how such underspending directly affects our children. There is again, however, some progress to note this morning. I was informed by the MEC, that a long-outstanding report into what happened to our children and the national athletics championship in Bloemfontein earlier this year has finally reached his desk for consideration. I therefore trust that their respective MECs and their respective departments will implement these findings without fear or favour so that those children who were neglected may have closure and so that their peers do not face the same disappointment next year.

The committee has also identified another significant challenge; a lack of measurable impact assessment provided for league schools and academies. Without this, it's difficult to determine whether these interventions have made any tangible improvements. As the Democratic Alliance, we call for stronger impact measurement, counting the number of events or attendees is simply not enough. We must track whether the participation and performance are actually improving. A simple yet tangible measure would be to record the performance of our athletes at national and international events and convert that data into valuable statistics for enhancing the performance of our athletes.

Finally, on infrastructure, while progress is acknowledged, we insist on hard headlines for outstanding libraries and more specifically risk mitigation plan with a SANRAL to ensure that the theatre is completed by June 2027. Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance therefore insists on transparency and measurable outcomes with firm delivery commitments. I thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, I have 4 minutes left. Can I get that for credit on the next speech?

THE SPEAKER

Unfortunately, every Sitting has its own minutes, so if you save them, you lose them. It is not only you, I think all speakers have left their minutes. Hon Mohale did not even see how many minutes she has given us, 6 minutes. Thank you so much. We will now allow Hon Mapula Johanna Ledwaba to come to the podium.

MS LEDWABA

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke a dumediša mo go Kgweri ya Basadi, le ge basadi ba kwešwa bohloko ka dipolelo ke banna; eupša re re, ba sepele le Modimo. Hon Speaker, the department has the total unspent balance of R12,841 million, with sports and recreation contributing the largest portion of this unspent amount at R6,6 million during the period under review. Aowa. Ke lapišitše ke go loka.

THE SPEAKER

Mohlomphegi Ledwaba, le ka dula fase. Go na le motho yo a emišitšego letsogo, tla re mofeng sebaka, re kwe gore o reng. Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, I would love to establish with the Member if she can take two questions, only two.

THE SPEAKER

Mohlomphegi Ledwaba, le a dumela gore ba le botšiše potšišo?

MS LEDWABA

Ga ke dumele.

THE SPEAKER

Tšwelang pele ka polelo ya lena.

MS LEDWABA

Se se ra gore, kgoro ye ga e tšeele godimo, tša setšo, dipapadi le bokgabo mo profenseng ya ga bo rena. Go se šomiše tšhelete ye e le go ka go tekanyetšo ya ditšhelete ke bošaele bjo bo golo bjo bo amago ditirelo tša setšhaba. Tšhelete ye, ke ya setšhaba. E swanetše go šomela setšhaba. Bjalo le ra go reng ge le sa e šomiše? Go swanetše go direge eng ka gore letšwafa go šomiša ditšhelete go abela batho ditirelo le ge di le ka go tekanyetšo ya mašelang?

Hon Speaker, some service providers are fraudulently using persons with disabilities as a front to secure departmental contracts, access funding or gain opportunities intended to give genuine empowerment. This undermines transformation objectives and exploits vulnerable groups. Ke ka lebaka la eng batho ba šomiša bagolofadi go hwetša mešomo ya dikontraka mmušong? Sehlogo se se kaa? Ruri batho ba ka se tsene legodimong. Ba ba bjalo ba swanetše go begwa maphodiseng gomme ba swarwe. Gomme e be mohlala wa gore, mediro ya mohuta wo ga e na sekgoba mo setšhabeng.

Delays in filling EPWP job appointments at museum services compromise service delivery. What causes these delays MEC? Hon Speaker, dikgoba ka moka tša mešomo di swanetše di tlatšwe ka gore batho ba rena ba nyaka mešomo, ga golo baswa. Gomme, se se tla fokotša tlala le bosenyi profenseng ya rena. The other challenge is the lack of monitoring of results and impact, particularly for social cohesion, GBVF campaigns and national symbolism. Continued challenges in the construction of the provincial theatre such as; structural changes and external contracts, increases potential for additional delays and costs. Hon Speaker, ditlhohlo ka moka tše thietha ya profense e lebanego le tšona di swanetše go fedišwa ka pela gore di se ke tša ama ditirelo setšhabeng.

Significant underperformance is reported in the acquisition of library materials only 6,981 items were purchased against a quarter four target of 15,000 items. Ke ka lebaka la eng ditlabakelo tša bokgobapuku di sa rekwe ka moka tša felela go ya ka mokgwa wo go beakantšwego ka gona. Bothata bja lena bjo bogolo ke gore, le a beakanyan e fela, la se dire ka mokgwa wo le beakantšego ka gona. Le palelwa ke go phethagatša mananego ao a beakantšwego ke lena.

Hon Speaker, delays continue to plague the construction of two other libraries; Mampane and Tshaulu with one still at 90% completion and the other having only

recently seen a replacement contractor appointed on site and over. Batho ba rena ba nyaka ditireleo, lena le sa palelwa ke go feleletša go aga bokgobapuku. Taba ye ya go papelwa, o ka re ke ya lena, le e tlwaetše e bile ga lena dihlolong. Hon Speaker, department funding infrastructure projects lack control of contractor selection and project oversight, yet are held accountable during audits when issues occur. Se ke bothata gomme bo swanetše go phošollwa ka pela.

The department must develop and publish clear objectives criteria for the selection of schools and clubs that benefit from such donations of equipment and attire. Thus, ensuring provision of equitable distribution of such resources across all districts. Mmušo o swanetše go phagamiša le go thekga mananeo a dipapadi mo metsaneng ya ga bo rena ka ge dipapadi di aga setšhaba le go fa baswa menyetla ya go phadimiša ditaletne tša bona tše ba di filwego ke Modimo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Today, I'm getting enough minutes back 4 minutes 13 seconds back. Thank you so much. We'll now proceed to call upon the chairperson of the committee, Dr Falaza Mdaka. Honourable chair of the sports committee. Dr Philemon Falza Mdaka, please close the debate.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings once more to the Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje and the entire speakership; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana and the Members of the whippers; Members of the Executive Council; chairpersons of our hard-working portfolio committees, and all honourable Members of this august House, not forgetting our guests and colleagues in the gallery, ladies and gentlemen; Avuxeni. Inhlíkani kahlekahe, hi va vula. Hi na maxewetelo yo hambana loko ku ri nhlikani na loko ku ri na madyambu

Madam Speaker, allow me first and foremost, to pay tribute to all South African women, as we celebrate Women's Month in our beloved country, South Africa. We will never get tired of saying it. It is indeed a time where we need to show a lot of respect to our women. Women are and will always be the pillars of our communities. They are the anchors of our families - everywhere, and they are the backbone of our nation. Madam Speaker, I'm referring to the caring, loving, selfless and wise women who raise many of us if not all of us. We all come from a woman, and the women who contributed towards our freedom in South Africa.

It is against this background that women from all walks of life should be respected loved and protected. The issue of gender-based violence and femicide remains a critical issue that we must deal with as a country. It is not the issue of government alone, all men must stand up and say enough is enough. Gender-based violence must come to an end, at least there should be no violence, there should be no loss of life of a woman in the month of August..nfortunately, that is the opposite when we are even seeing this happening in our own villages where we stay. Things that could not happen in the past, because the villagers showed a lot of respect to our women. We were taught when we grew up that; if a woman is married and if that woman is younger than you, you need to respect that woman. Hi Xitsonga, hi ri n'wina loko hi kombisa ku hlonipha ka munhu

lontsongo kambe hi ri va kulu ka yena. Se na manana loko a tekiwile kambe a ri ntsongo ka wena u ri n'wina ku ri Ndlela yo kombisa ku hlonipha. The elderly must show respect to the little ones so that the little ones can also learn how to respect the elderly. If we don't respect each other we are going nowhere as a nation. We will lose our culture, and we'll lose everything. Therefore, we find that a lot of problems come into play. Khale a ku ri na leswi a swi nga endliweki va ku swa yila, hi leswo a wu nga ta vulavula na lavakulu hi ndlela ya ku rhandza a wu fane u kombisa nhlonipho hi mikarhi na mikarhi, it is never said that you must find a way of navigating to say, a wu nga ta vula eka lavakulu leswaku va hemba, a wu fane u kuma ndlela yo swi veka kahle hi ndlela yo hlonipha if you want to still show respect, if you don't agree with an elderly person.

Madam Speaker, however, as guided by the manifesto of the African National Congress, what is being done to make South Africa a better place to live in; including to deal with the very same issue of violence against women. We can never say it is enough until it is enough, until we see the end of this violence. We need everyone to come to the fore, in every street, in every community and villages. Our people are ready as we can see and are willing to fight for social transformation and economic development. The government alone can never be able to do it. It needs people, because the government is the people. The people shall govern. It's indicated the 1956 Freedom Charter, which we are actually celebrating 70th anniversary this year. We are seeing malls in our communities and other economic activities that were not there during apartheid. Why is this happening? The answer is simple, is because of the ANC government. It is because of the ANC economic policies.

Villagers are now buying power, to make our villages, through aspirant business people and businessmen and women, to start their own businesses and survive, which was unheard of in the past. This could not have happened if it was not because of the ANC-led government. Those who are saying the ANC-led government is doing nothing, they are not telling the truth. There is no truth in what they are saying, because if you want to see that there is change, just look around you. The mere fact that all of us are here is, because of what has happened and what the ANC has done for this country. Those men and women who fought for us led by our stalwarts, led by the women of 1956 and that is why we are all here in our country.

Rural arrears were regarded as a reserve for cheap bantu labour, for the master it was the urban areas and the mines. In the past, people were buying groceries from far and bringing them home after traveling long distances; now they shop next door. If it was not of the ANC, and its economic policies, as I said, this could not have happened. Through public and social employment programmes; industrialisation and support for small enterprises and corporates, jobs are created at a much faster pace.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the African National Congress, we would like to appreciate the efforts made by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to give opportunities to companies owned by women, youth, and persons with disability. This is not just a talk show, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture walked the talk. We as a community are a witness to that. Guided by the National Development Plan, the department aims to eliminate poverty and reduced inequality through sports, arts and culture. As the African National Congress, we congratulate the department for employing permanent librarians. We know you travel a very difficult path. Indeed we congratulate you. Library assistants and EPWP workers at Maphalle Library were also

appointed. We applaud the department for filling 434 posts out of 520 posts available. This is a positive move, in their endeavour to reduce the number of contract workers and increase the number of permanent staff in the sector.

However, we call upon the department that there's a need for you to prioritise areas that are there in the report, particularly Makhuvha village where there are issues around that library, including the issue of a lack of a proper bathroom and running water. I think we need to go back there and ensure that they have been visited by the committee, something will be done up to so far. The department must also intervene, if they have not done so already, as it was reported that, electrical wiring at Modimolle Library is on the floor and causes sparks during floods and that could lead to havoc and fire. Precautionary measures need to be followed to avoid causing injuries to the employees and the public.

Madam Speaker, we welcome the department's effort to commemorate and celebrate significant dates that bring people of different histories, beliefs, cultures and languages together. 02:22;47 This fast way to address social divisions and exclusions of the past. Here on 13 March, linguistic campaigns including promotion of South African Sign Language were hosted successfully as planned. We applaud you for that. In fostering constitutional [inaudible] in evaluating communities a total of 50 schools were reached to promote the national symbols among the youth. Hosting the Mapungubwe Arts Festival, will host programmes were held in our districts. However, there is a need to ensure wider participation by the minority groups like the Indians, Coloureds, and the White communities who are not that visible in these gatherings.

Madam Speaker, we take note of the 1,792 arts and literary practitioners who benefited from capacity building programme to ensure a sustained and creative cultural leaders. Here the department set the target by far from 1200 which was the initial plan to 1792. As if it was not enough, over 5000 artists were promoted and given an opportunity to perform in various events hosted by the department. Madam Speaker, the construction of the theatre is an issue that we can indeed proud ourselves of. During the fourth quarter report of 2024/25 financial year, the project success met its planned target for both fourth quarter and the 2024/25 APP work progress is now at 40% towards completion. Pre-oversight visit under Capricorn on 16 May reaffirmed this progress. We are made to understand that this completion is due by June 2027. We believe that the target will be met.

In conclusion, and I can see I am moving towards conclusion. One wants to emphasise that the African National Congress, the party that I belong to, the organisation that I will die in, the organisation that will bury me, has promoted policies and programmes to heal the divisions of the past and build a social cohesion in South Africa since it came into power. Promoting and protecting our languages and cultural heritage. Unfortunately, when the ANC speaks of nation-building, other parties divide the nation. When the ANC preaches peace, other parties preach hatred. Their focus us on attacking the ANC leaders, including the President of the country. They are teaching our little kids to attack leadership. If you do not attack, it means you do not know what you are doing. That is what has been taught in social media and everywhere. They have got a concerted programme to attack the leadership of this country. When you attack leadership, who will lead you? At the moment, it is only the ANC that is in leadership.

As I conclude, we salute the work done by the ANC government in our province. We salute the work by the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture as outlined in the Annual report and all the oversight visits planned in this august House. We know another clean audit is on the way. Finally, Hon Speaker, as the chairperson of the portfolio committee, I move that this report be adopted and all the other reports that were presented as the report of this august House. I move accordingly, Hon Madam Speaker. Ndza khensa, inkomu. Mi va na siku lerinene. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensa swinene Tatana Mdaka for closing the debate. We shall now without wasting time allow the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, MEC, Hon Jerry Maseko to respond to the debates. Hon Maseko, you have what 5 minutes.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Tla ke go leboge, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Let me ride on the protocol that has already being observed. Hon Speaker, I wanted the presence of Hon Velile Lulamile Jack so that I can respond to one critical issue that he raised. Unfortunately, he is not here. Spare me on that one.

Allow me to acknowledge the debate by the members of the committee, my chairperson has spoken. Ga botse, ke be ke swanetše gore ke re, ke laka leo. Ke dule fase. On a serious note, Hon Speaker, let me assure this House that ourselves together with the MEC of Public Works, we are in collaboration. We have tightened our SLA in terms of how our infrastructure projects should be implemented. We have constituted the technical team interdepartmentally to monitor progress. That is why there is progress in Tshaulu, that's why there is progress in GaMampane. There is also progress in provincial theatre, Hon Speaker. If they are challenges are able to quickly join hands and minds and make sure that we play the necessary oversight politically as the executing authorities.

Let me formally indicate that Hon Marx is correct, the long outstanding report of Bloemfontein has reached my desk. There is a process flow that we are following; the report is sent to the Premier's Office, the National Department, to the Minister, the MEC for Education, and the Legislature. We have met as a department to develop an implementation plan of the findings, and that process will unfold in the near future.

Hon Speaker, and the House, it is true that there are certain areas within the province which do not participate particularly in terms of benefiting with regard to equipment. As a department, after having identified that challenge, we developed a roadshow where we visited all the districts. Most of the districts in the province are not that much coordinated. Most of the community clubs and schools are participating in sports Hon Speaker. That's why you find that certain areas in the province benefit on the basis that, that is the conditional grant only clubs and schools that have affiliated to certain leagues qualify. You don't just give it to each and every club. We are very clear together with those districts and we are developing a programme of action to redress that challenge. Generally, with regard to the department we have developed a procurement plan, we have already send it to Treasury, and Treasury has started to advertise procurement processes. We hope to get the material for libraries because that is one of the

weaknesses that we used to have. We had a challenge with regard to our supply chain unit. We were having an acting director there, but for now we are we have appointed by 1 September. That director will be on duty and we think that will improve for the better.

The issue of accepting the minority group is a very serious challenge for the whole country. I know it is our responsibility to build social cohesion. However, we are putting in efforts and we know that the number of issues that have been raised by the portfolio committee will make sure that they are implemented as expected. Thank you very much again for the oversight that has been played by the portfolio committee; the robustness that they have displayed in our interactions, and I hope that together we'll build a better department going forward. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

8. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Honourable MEC for the response. Honourable Members in terms of the Order Paper, we are now on item 8: Response to Questions. The following questions have been responded to, and answers have been published on the ATC dated Monday, 18 August 2025. Item 8.1 is [Q 59;62 and 63-2025]: for written reply: MEC for Health. Item 8.2 [Q13;41;54 and 55]: for written reply; MEC for CoGHSTA. Honourable Members, we are now moving to the next item.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

I want to check with the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, are there announcements? Deputy Chair of Chairs, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to make the following announcements:

- The Sitting of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature is scheduled for 21 August 2025, Thursday, 10:00 here in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber; and
- Lunch is served at the Committee's Boardroom.

Thank you very much.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Deputy Chair of Chairs. Indeed, this has taken up towards the conclusion of the Sitting today. I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has participated. It has indeed been a very lively Sitting with the energy that we all had. We hope that we come back on Thursday again with the same energy. We must go and rejuvenate. The House is Adjourned to Thursday, 21 August 2025, at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. The House stands adjourned. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY 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. Good morning, honourable Members. Re rata Orlando Pirates. Pele ka Pirates pele! Sundowns le Pirates ke tšona, eupša Sundowns e se ke ya thopa dilliki ka moka. A e re šiele. E šiele Sekhukhune United FC le Polokwane City FC mo gae. We support all of them.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and honourable Members; I greet the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, in absentia; I greet all the MECs that are present here today; the Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana and your Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Monama and the entire Whippery; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone; and the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni; I also greet the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Mapoulo, wo mosehlana le mokgatlo wa gago; the DA party – we know that you have some challenges in the DA – as well as Hon Moss. We can see that you are in the Sitting; I also greet all honourable Members who are here today. Good morning. You look bright and beautiful.

I must also acknowledge all political parties that are sitting in the gallery as well as all our guests who are here, including all the HODs who are here; you are warmly welcome. Greetings to all staff members, especially my very important people, the parliamentary officers. Are you here? I like that! The parliamentary officers have become part of our office, as House Proceedings of the Legislature – you are part of the support to our Executive.

Those who are also following us on social media platforms, are welcome to this Sitting of the Legislature today on Thursday, 21 August 2025. We have apologies and I will mention a few. There is an apology from the Premier; an apology from the Deputy Speaker and an apology from the Secretary. He is back from Gambia. We all know that when you leave the office, there would be a backlog. He, therefore, has requested that we allow him to do some things in his office. He is around but could not attend this Sitting.

Therefore, people should not be surprised that they saw him, but he is not attending the Sitting. We give him space to finish some of the backlog in his office. The Chair of Chairs might also leave us early. He indicated that he should be allowed to leave. You are all welcome. Without wasting time, I will go directly to item 2.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings to the honourable Members of this House.

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF WILLIAM LELAKA (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House to present a motion of condolence on the passing of Sgt William Lelaka, who perished together with eight inmates on Thursday, 14 August 2025 along the R101 road between Mookgophong and Mokopane.

Sgt Lelaka, who was described as a dedicated and faithful police officer, met his untimely death together with eight inmates as he was transporting them to court in Mookgophong. Their police vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a truck. Our hearts and thoughts are with the family of the deceased officer and those inmates as they deal with this unprecedented tragedy. This calamity has claimed the life of a professional police officer who has exemplified the highest level of police service, and he was always committed to justice when discharging his duties. May their souls rest in peace!

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you, Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I stand to support the motion as proposed by Hon Mohale.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. It is encouraging in this Women's Month, that you can see, women are leading from the front. The next speaker for the next motion is Hon Ledwaba.

MS LEDWABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

RISING INCIDENTS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LIMPOPO (Motion without Notice)

I move on behalf of the EFF that this House notes that:

- The EFF is disturbed and outraged by the spate of gender-based violence, specifically the killing of women in Limpopo in recent times.
- This month alone saw more killings of women by their partners than any other month in the past five years.
- Intimate partner violence is a problem that affects women worldwide. It is a form of gender-based violence, where women victims are violated and abused by their male intimate partners.
- The issue of intimate partner violence has become a public health concern, in addition to violating women's rights. South Africa's study indicates that intimate partner violence prevalence rates are high despite the intervention programmes that have been designed to address IPV.
- We need to review the current strategies designed to deal with GBV and develop programmes that are aggressive and radical enough to address the problem of killing of women.
- The province of Limpopo has been left bleeding following the ongoing gender-based violence, which seems to be getting worse by the day.
- This week alone, over five women were murdered – all allegedly by their partners during Women's Month.
- Our society has lost its moral compass. Those who should be protecting their loved ones are the ones who are killing them.
- Sometimes drastic measures must be taken to address this disturbing situation. The law must be tough on men who kill women to ensure that they understand that this cannot be tolerated.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mme Ledwaba. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Baloyi, you are recognised.

MR BALOYI

Ndzi khensile, Manana Xipikara. Ndzi xeweta Swirho hinkwaswo. Ndzi yima ku ta seketela xiringanyeto lexi nga hlayiwa hi Muchaviseki Ledwaba. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Khensa swinene, honourable Member. Is there any other motion? Hon Marx, you are recognised.

ADV MARX

**CONDOLENCES TO HON JACOBUS SMALLE ON THE PASSING OF HIS
MOTHER**

(Motion without Notice)

I hereby move without notice that this House notes that we convey our condolences to our Hon Jack Smalle on the passing of his dear mother, Alma Smalle, on Wednesday, 09 August 2025. We honour her memory as a good and dedicated woman whose high-value life is a reminder of strength and resilience of women in our society. In this Women's Month, we acknowledge her contributions as part of a broader legacy to the South African women.

The Legislature extends its deepest sympathy to the honourable Member and his family during this time of mourning and assures them of our collective thoughts and prayers. May her soul rest in eternal peace!

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to support the motion by Hon Marx.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**INTERVENTION BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO AND THE MEC FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE
MOROBENG ROADS PROJECTS**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes with appreciation the recent intervention by the Hon Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, as led by the MEC Tonny Rachoene, in unlocking the long-delayed Morobeng roads projects.

For many years, residents of Morobeng and the Greater Letaba at large have endured poor road conditions that restricted them access to economic opportunities, social services and safe mobility.

This House further notes that the department has not only resolved the challenges that had stalled these projects but has also introduced a capable contractor to carry the project forward.

The resumption of these projects is a significant step towards delivering on government's commitment to improving road infrastructure, stimulating local economic activity and restoring public confidence.

This House recognises that successful completion of these projects will reduce travelling time, improve safety and provide vital support to local businesses and the farmers in Morobeng and the surrounding areas.

We commend the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure under the leadership of MEC, Ernest Rachoene, for unlocking the Morobeng roads projects that has stalled for a number of years.

We welcome the introduction of the contractor to resume the work with clear expectations of quality and timely delivery.

We also call upon the local communities to support and to jealously guard these projects, which are intended to benefit both current and future generations.

We further appreciate the introduction of contractors to upgrade 21 new roads in the province. This might be seen as a drop in the ocean because of the 13 000 km of gravel backlog, but these new projects will make a huge difference towards our road-building programme in the province.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa, Muhulisei Vho Netshifhefhe. Is there any seconder? Hon Mokoale, you are recognised.

MS MOKOELE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any further motion without notice? My list is exhausted. I will proceed to item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? According to my records, there is none. In the absence of any, we shall proceed to item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

On my list here, I only have Hon Baloyi and Hon Mapoulo, but I don't know who would like to start. Hon Baloyi Dunisani is the one who is going to start. You may take the podium.

MR BALOYI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

SEWAGE SPILLAGES IN MAHONISI AND WATERVAL VILLAGES (Members' Statement)

The service delivery record of the ANC-led government to communities in these villages is failing, to say the least. For the past 15 years, residents of Mahonisi and Waterval in Elim, under Vhembe District Municipality, have been living with the harsh reality of sewage spillage in their neighbourhood. Since 2009, this sewage has not been repaired. The ANC councillors have come in and gone, but no one cares about the sewage. Some residents have been writing letters for over a decade, but they have been ignored by the municipality. The sewage spillage is so bad that it even runs into residential houses, causing diseases in children and adults.

Even the livestock in Mahonisi and Waterval villages drink dirty water with garbage from the sewage spillage, resulting in many animals dying and people losing their livelihoods. The dignity of the people of Mahonisi and Waterval villages is being seriously violated by the government. These people deserve better than how they are being treated currently. No human being deserves to be treated like an animal. What makes this government different from the apartheid government, just like what the apartheid government did is that this government continues to treat people like animals. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Baloyi. We will now hand over to the next Member, Hon Lawrence Mapoulo.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje.

CHALLENGES FACING LIMPOPO'S ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (Members' Statement)

Indeed, these days there is a bit of humour in the House. People are laughing and giggling because of how we handle matters. We would like to appreciate Dr Makhurupetje. We don't have to be silent when good things happen. We don't have to be jealous. If you are jealous, you must learn from a song that we sing during weddings. I wouldn't like to sing it here. However, continue doing the good job that you are doing. Even if you do things that we feel are not good, we are still going to tell you because we love you. We are not here for any gimmicks.

Speaker, Dr Makhuruptje, I need this information to be recorded in this House. I have a plea from one of our magoši from Capricorn District, Kgoši T P Matlala, under Mogalakwena Municipality. They have made a plea to one of our MECs. Ke bolela ka yena Hlabirwa. Ge ke be ke bolela le Kgoši ka boyena, o mpoditše a re: “Ke bone Tonakgolo ba beile lesogana le leswa. I understand that for him to run to my kingdom or my kraal would not take time. May you please go and tell him that when he comes to my place, let him use the following roads: Monte Christo road, D3576, which I can't say is extremely horrible; Serabis, roads D5006 and D19, which is Bavaria-Mamehlabe road”.

Therefore, road D19 is running short of 15 km around the royal palace with other connecting adjacent tarred roads, which, amongst others, hosts Bavaria Clinic. The T T Cholo Stadium and other important public social amenities must immediately be prioritised in that part of Capricorn District area. When we speak of Mr Cholo, I would like to say I have been blessed to be raised politically specifically under his guidance.

I spoke to him a month ago over the phone, especially about areas where his name appear. All of you should know how he contributed to the struggle of liberating our people. The message comes from, let me emphasise, Kgoši T P Matlala, of the Matlala Royal House. “We hope that,” he said, “you have appointed a youthful person with energy. May he do that when he comes to my kraal.” Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. There were two Members' Statements. Can I allow the Leader of Government Business or the MECs that are here, who are willing to respond, to respond to the motions. Honourable MEC, there is an issue that has been identified. When some of the MECs are not here, we usually allow those who are here to respond to the Members' Statements that do not pertain to their departments. We wish to engage you further on how you can improve on the responses. We will engage with you outside the Sitting. Over to you, MEC Hon Rachoene.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you very much. Greetings to you, Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje; Leader of Government Business; Members of the Executive Council present here; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Whippers; doctors that are in this august House and all honourable Members, including the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Mapoulo.

A ke bontšhe gore, ke kwele ditaba tša lena, Hon Mapoulo. Ditaba tša mokgalabje, Kgoši T P Matlala. Ke nnete ke mo tseba kudu mokgabje yoo. Tše dingwe tša ditsela tše le bolelago ka tšona ke a ditseba. Fortunately, Monte Christo is one of the roads that are going to get 5km done. Tomorrow is Friday, and we will be doing the handover of a contract at Mogalakwena Municipality for Monte Christo. Tše tše dingwe re tla di lebelela, gomme, re tla netefatša gore, tsela ye e ya sepelega. Re tla romela dikgerekgere kua gomme ba dira gore di sepelege, ge re sa emetše mohlang re humana mašeleng. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Molekgotlaphethiši. We will now allow Hon Makamu to take the podium.

THE MEC FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Thank you very much, Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; colleagues in the Executive; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members and honourable Members on my left, together with Hon Baloyi, greetings to you. Every day, Hon Baloyi, comes with a story from the municipality. I think he is on the ground.

Let me respond to the issue of sewage spillage that is said to be taking place in Mahonisi village, a township that is being taken care of by our Makhado Municipality, in Waterval . Hon Speaker, let me acknowledge the statement and respond by saying, we will be able to talk to our district municipality to check the challenge of sewage spillage in these two areas. Our response is that, definitely, ANC-led government cannot be compared with the apartheid government. I think honourable Members know that. Hon Mapoulo was trying to take the lead in showing how even magošī are determined with this leadership. Whenever we are given information, we listen and we act on it. That is why Hon Mapoulo was able to talk about the work of Hon Rachoene and Hon Rachoene came to respond directly here.

You can't compare our government when we have done so much within villages. The village of Mahonisi that you refer to here is very rural, and you know that. You know how impossible it was during the apartheid government to put a sewage in that particular area. For the fact that it is there, we are going to repair it so that we can benefit from it. You can ask Hon Thabo Mokone; we even built a sewage system in Dan village, which has never happened in the apartheid government. I don't think you are fair to compare the ANC-led government with that of apartheid because we are working for the people. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, for the response. We now proceed to item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Hon Chief Whip, in terms of the Executive Statements, I'm told that our honourable MEC is ready today. MEC Hon Mathe, I'm ambushing you. Okay. The reason why I was laughing is that I saw your name on the list and I thought that our beef stew has been resolved between you, the Chief Whip and I. I apologise if your mic is not working. We apologise for ambushing you. We will sort it out of the Sitting because the list was submitted to me from the Programming Committee. I thought we agreed. So, if it's not there, lets proceed honourable Members.

That was the only Executive Members' Statement that we expected. We will now move to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers? There are none. Let's proceed directly to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

We will now proceed to item 7.1.

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Honourable Members, there is only one debate, I must state it upfront, where the minutes that you are allocated are not the same as other debates. Remember, we are very generous. I want to state this upfront so that Members are prepared. When you come to the debates, it is only this debate that is going to have more minutes. We have 14 minutes for the ANC, 7 minutes for the Freedom Front Plus, 9 minutes for the DA and 11 minutes for the EFF. However, when we go to item 7.3, because there is no longer a backlog, the Programming Committee has decided to go back to our normal allocation of minutes.

It means that it is only the MEC for Transport who will have five minutes to respond. The response time of the other MECs who will come thereafter is three minutes only. I just wanted to clarify that from the beginning so that we are not confused when the time comes.

Chairperson of the committee, Hon Kedibone Lebea, you may take the podium. Today is your day. Over to you, chair.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje, and a very blessed morning to you. Hon Speaker I rise to table for consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 financial year Second Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? MEC, Hon Rachoene, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Ke nna Rachoene Sebataole Phakana' a Hlabirwa. Ke eme mo go thekga se seboletšwego ke, Mohl Kedibone Lebea. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Ge re re komiti ye, ke komiti ya Lekgotlatheramelao ke komiti ya rena ka moka, go sa kgathatsege go re ba bangwe ba na le mešomo e mengwe le maikarabelo. Once you are in the Sitting, we are all Members of the Legislature, equally so. As and

when you are supposed to do your Executive function, you do it, but you are allowed to participate fully because these reports belong to you all. Over to you, chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Thank you again, Dr Speaker. I rise again to table for consideration and adoption the Second Quarter Report of Gateway Airports Authority Limited for the 2024/25 financial year. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Thabo Mabotja – an attorney . You may take the podium.

MR MABOTJA

Thobela, Ngk Mospikara. Nna ke Thabo Mabotja, Tlou ya Moletji kubu ya tšwa bodibeng, kubjana tša tlala naga. I stand to second the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report of Gateway Airports Authority Limited. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Over to you, chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I rise again to table for consideration and adoption the Third Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety for the 2024/25 financial year. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Maseko Solly Pheedi, you are recognised.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I have just been told that Hon Mabotja has just googledsereto sa gabo. Ke ema mo go thekga pego ye e tlišitšwego ke Mohl Lebea. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Go bohlokwa ge re kukula dilo tše gore, bana ba rena le batlogolo ba reba ba tle ba ditsebe. Re a leboga. Over to you, chair.

MS LEBEA

Thank you again, Dr Speaker. I rise again for the fourth time to present the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report of Gateway Airports Authority Limited for consideration and adoption by this House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Andre Moss, rise to support the report as presented by the honourable chairperson of the committee. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The left must not be worried. That does not change their debate because their debate is informed by their party line. It does not mean that they cannot support the report. I am just making them not to have fears. Over to you, chair.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety for the 2024/25 financial year. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Mina ni yima ku seketela leswi nga boxiwa hi Muchaviseki Kedibone Lebea, ni yima na swona. Hi mina, Segata ka boya. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene, Segata ka boya sa Botlokwa. Batlokwa ke batho ba babotse ba go feta batho ka moka, ba gotseba dilo tše botse go feta batho ka moka. Thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the Fourth Quarter Report of Gateway Airports Authority Limited for the 2024/25 financial year. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Depending on where you come from, I, Simon Mathe, hereby second the report as presented by the chairperson, Hon Lebea. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

You can hear how Hon Mathe speaks and how he calls others' surnames. Don't be worried about that. His English is like Monama's, which comes from Wits. It's not necessarily the Limpopo one that is similar to ours. We are on item 7.2.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

Over to you, chair.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I, Hon Lebea, stand here to table for consideration and adoption the report on the oversight visit to Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Capricorn Districts during the 2025 Easter holiday season that we conducted on 16 April 2025. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Lebea. Is there any seconder? There is one person who must know that he must second every day for my subjective reasons. Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Siyathokoza, Somlomo oHloniphekileko. Ibizo lami nginguBongani wakwaNkonyana, izibulo lakaMbuti Nkonyana, ongasekho ephasini. Ngisikimela ukusekela isiphakamiso esethulwe ngusihlalo weKomidi eTjheje zokuThutha nokuPhepha komPhakathi, umHlonitjhwa Kedibone Lebea. Ngiyathokoza.

THE SPEAKER

Siyathokoza, that is my subjective reason. At least I learn one word per day from the language. Thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MS LEBEA

Thank you again, Dr Speaker. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the report on the Easter traffic monitoring and oversight visit to Capricorn, Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts on 17 April 2025. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Is there any seconder? Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Ndza khensa, Manana Dokodela Xipikara. Ndzi lava ku teka nkarhi lowu ndzi seketela Holoby Manana Kedibone Lebea for the motion she raised. Hakhensa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MS LEBEA

Ke a go leboga, Ngk Mospikara. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the report on the Easter traffic monitoring and oversight visit to Vhembe, Mopani, Sekhukhune Districts during the 2025 Easter holiday season which took place on 21 April 2025. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mnisi, you have been raising your hand . Over to you.

MS MNISI

I thank you, Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I, Mvuleni, Dumezulu, rise to second the report as proposed or submitted by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Ke a leboga. Over to you, chairperson.

MS LEBEA

Ndza khensa, Manana Xipikara. I rise to table for consideration and adoption the report on oversight visit to Vhembe, Mopani and Sekhukhune Districts during the 2025 Easter holiday season on 22 April 2025. I move accordingly. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chair. We will now release you for a moment and allow a seconder? I have seen Hon Matjomane. You are recognised.

MS MATJOMANE

Ngiyathokoza, Somlomo oHloniphekileko, Dorh. Makhurupetje. Nna ke ngwetši ya Bapedi, ke Modipadi. Ngisikimela ukusekela umbiko owethulwe nguSihlalo weKomidi eTjheje zokuThutha nokuPhepha komPhakathi. Ngiyathokoza.

THE SPEAKER

Ngiyathokoza. Thank you, honourable Members. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. I have already indicated that the debate has got more minutes than the others. The

first speaker to open the debate is Hon Shai Sonnyboy Mpho. You have got 14 minutes, honourable Member.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Whippery; Members of the Executive Council and esteemed Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, nka re kgotso ga e be le lena.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and a deep sense of honour that I rise before this august House to present for consideration and adoption the reports of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, along with that of its entity, Gateway Airports Authority Limited. Before I explore into the Department of Transport and Community Safety, allow me to remind this august House of the important role that the Department of Transport and Community Safety plays in our province.

The department is central to the provision of a safe, sustainable and integrated transport system which is vital to promoting socioeconomic development, enhancing mobility and accessibility and also supporting the broader fight against crime and corruption.

The department achieved 97% of its performance targets for the 2024/25 financial year. The outstanding achievements clearly demonstrate the department's unwavering commitment to delivering quality services to the people of our province. It reflects not only the dedication of our leadership and staff but also our continued drive to meet the needs and expectations of our communities. I am also pleased to report that the South African Police Service in Limpopo continues to make significant strides in reducing crime across the province. The recent crime statistics indicate a notable decline in several serious crime categories, which include murder, attempted murder, rape and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The commendable progress can be attributed to the implementation of high-density operations such as Operation Shanela and Operation Dudula, which have been strategically deployed in crime hotspot areas. In addition, intensified awareness campaigns in crime-ridden communities have played a vital role in fostering public cooperation and crime prevention. The enlistment of 553 police constables has further boosted the capacity of various police units across the province. It significantly enhances police visibility, rapid response and overall crime prevention efforts.

On the Administration programme, the committee has noted that the department has discontinued a number of learnership programmes implemented despite the high unemployment rate, especially for young graduates. It was reported that learnerships were for a 12-month period and were also discontinued. However, the department is continuing with a three-year apprentice programme in mechanics. This initiative is designed to equip youth with practical and in-demand technical skills, thus enabling them to compete meaningfully in the job market and contributing to the broader economy. Through this programme, the department is not only investing in individual futures but also building the critical skill base required to support the maintenance and sustainability of our transport infrastructure.

With regard to the percentage of people living with disability represented in the appointments, the department has not yet reached the 2% target in terms of employment equity targets. We urge the department to move with speed to fulfil the mandate of the Employment Equity Act in that regard. To continue to provide safe, accessible, efficient and sustainable transport services, the department has rationalised 26 existing bus contracts into nine consolidated agreements. This new contract officially commenced in April 2025. The new agreements deliver even more kilometres of subsidised bus services, including the introduction of roads in previously underserved areas around the province.

To ensure a successful implementation of the contracts, effective monitoring is essential. Currently, this function is performed manually by the department officials, but the process is vulnerable to human error and potential manipulation. To address this, the department promise to introduce innovative digital monitoring systems using modern technology to enhance compliance, transparency and service reliability across all subsidised bus operations.

Madam Speaker, as the portfolio committee, we are proud that our province, in partnership with Gauteng province, has initiated the process of establishing a high-speed rail between Gauteng and Limpopo province. A comprehensive prefeasibility study is currently being done to assess the project's viability. The high-speed rail project will be a transformative development, offering commuters a greater choice between road, rail and air travel. Once realised, it will significantly enhance connectivity, reduce travel time and serve as a catalyst for economic growth and regional integration.

The department has advertised 154 learnership opportunities for learner traffic officers to be undertaken over a period of 12 months. This initiative will contribute towards addressing the current shortfall of approximately 700 traffic officers on provincial roads. The department is in the process of establishing policing and safety forums in 10 municipalities. These forums should play a crucial role in local crime prevention efforts and are supported through monthly stipends to encourage active participation.

The department is also implementing volunteer-based initiatives, including the young civilians on patrol and crime prevention through environmental design programmes. These structures will work collaboratively with the South African Police Service to safeguard our communities.

The department continues to provide funding and strategic oversight to Gateway Airports Authority Limited. Currently, GAAL is not financially self-sustaining. The current board's term ends in September. The department has commenced with the recruitment process for a new board. These new leaders, together with the executive management, will have the responsibility of driving the implementation of the turnaround strategy and ensuring GAAL becomes a financially sustainable contributor to the province's economy. The board will also ensure that the entity expedites the process to fill the remaining vacant posts and further ensure that all appointments are completed.

Lastly, the entity should ensure that its supply chain processes are beefed up and strengthened with the necessary capacity to execute its responsibilities properly. Madam Speaker, GAAL is a business and it must evolve accordingly. It cannot remain a perpetual liability dependent on public funds without delivering measurable returns.

The Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety embarked on an oversight visit to all the districts of Limpopo province during the Easter weekend, with the primary objective of assessing the challenges faced by motorists and the working conditions of officials managing traffic flow during Easter weekends.

During this activity, the committee has noted the presence of traffic officers and high police visibility, thus contributing to order and safety on the roads. The committee has observed that there was a high traffic congestion, especially with people moving from Botswana to South Africa at Grobler's Bridge Border Post. Many vehicles, especially buses and small vehicles transporting members of the Zion Christian Church to Moria, contributed to the traffic. However, as the committee, we see that the national Department of Public Works should expedite the process of the relocation of the Grobler's Bridge Border Post as a matter of urgency.

The committee has also noted the deployment of technological devices along the border post in Beitbridge by the Border Management Authority. This has resulted in the apprehension and arrest of undocumented foreigners who wanted to enter the country illegally. The committee urges the Border Management Authority and other law enforcement agencies to begin to deploy modern technological devices to combat crime and ensure the safety of our people.

In conclusion, as the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, we shall do everything possible to ensure that the Department of Transport and Community Safety delivers services to our people in a responsible and accountable manner. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Member, for opening the debate. You gave us two minutes sixteen seconds; it's good enough for us and we appreciate that. We now move to Hon Andre Moss. You have seven minutes on this debate.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties and Members of this House; and guests, greetings to you all. Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee made unannounced visits to airports at the Air Force Base Hoedspruit, the Eastgate Airport and the Hoedspruit Airport on 19 March 2025 and found the following:

- The air force base provides water and sewage services to the town of Hoedspruit, yet the municipality is not paying for these provided services, which leads to financial strain.
- The air force base faces infrastructure challenges, particularly in maintaining its sewage system, taxiways and runways.
- To date, land and lease disputes remain as there is no formal lease agreement between the air force base and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure regarding the land used by the airport.

What stands out is that the air force base is enduring financial constraints, yet it supplies water and sewage services to the municipality, which is not paying for those services. To resolve these issues, coordinated efforts between the Department of Public Works, municipalities and the military are needed to address the infrastructure needs and to resolve financial and land use disputes.

The Eastgate Airport, which is a privately owned commercial airport, has a lease agreement with the Department of Public Works. The airport offers domestic flights to O R Tambo and Cape Town International Airports and contributes to maintaining the taxiways and runways at the air force base. It also provides crucial access to various reserves in the region. Despite hundreds of passengers flying into and out of the area each day, there remain certification issues as the air traffic controllers at Eastgate are not International Air Transport Association (IATA) or ICAO-certified, meaning that an aircraft using the airport may not be ensured in the event of an accident.

Certifying them would require amendments to the South African Defence Act and the Constitution as military personnel cannot subscribe to external organisations and this remains a significant concern.

Furthermore, civil aviation compliance remains an issue as Eastgate Airport does not have the required category classification for legal national and international operations. Additionally, its emergency response capabilities and personnel do not meet the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) standards.

Hon Speaker, regarding GAAL, we have once again been informed about the deficiencies in supply chain management, specifically the inability to formulate tender specifications, delays in project timelines and unresolved instances of financial misconduct. In certain situations, employees choose to resign prior to facing repercussions, thereby evading accountability altogether. This situation transcends mere mismanagement – it serves as a warning to others that unethical behaviour carries no significant consequences.

The report before us reveals that in the fourth quarter alone, GAAL achieved only five targets and failed to achieve ten targets. This is not an exception; it is a pattern that has haunted this entity. The same excuses echo in every quarterly report where there is: capacity challenges, delays in drafting tender specifications and unresponsive bids. These excuses have become GAAL's official language of failure. The inadequate condition of fire trucks previously resulted in the airport being downgraded. Also, some trucks are currently operational and they are serviced in Gauteng, leading to significant delays when repairs are necessary.

For a Category 7 airport, having adequate firefighting capabilities is not merely a preference – it is an essential safety requirement.

Hon Speaker, although GAAL should become self-sufficient, it is still lacking in filling critical posts with the requisite competent personnel and personnel with the required skills relevant to aviation. Furthermore, the entity has no competent business development plan. Over the past year, GAAL surrendered R37,6 million during the budget adjustment process. These funds were meant for vital projects – runway refurbishment, CCTV cameras, cold storage hangars and air conditioning chillers.

Instead of modernising infrastructure, the money was rolled over to the next year, effectively delaying progress and undermining safety and competitiveness.

The department subsidises 689 bus routes; however, the Great North Transport persistently fails to fulfil its contractual commitments due to unroadworthy fleet. The consequence is that rural communities are deprived of access to affordable transportation and workers endure daily uncertainty. Yes, the department boasts of 19 out of 19 targets achieved, but what do these targets mean if police stations remain under-resourced, if CPFs and CSFs are newly relaunched but still lack capacity? We cannot applaud box-ticking whilst communities remain unsafe. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You have left one minute and forty-four seconds, which is good enough. Thank you so much. We will now proceed and call on Hon Helm Marie. The stage is yours.

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker; all Executive Members present here; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; our Deputy Chair of Chairs; all honourable Members and Members from the opposition; all our guests; support staff and officials present, greetings to you. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Hon Speaker, the department was allocated R2,6 billion in the 2024/25 financial year and is the highest contributor in terms of revenue collection with an estimated 47% of income contributed towards the provincial revenue budget. As a result, the department managed to collect R242,97 million in revenue against the set target of R219,69 million, which is commendable. Thank you very much.

Varied success was achieved during the rest of the financial year. One of the issues not addressed was the percentage of compliance with e-disclosure of financial interests due to noncompliance by four employees. However, I am pretty sure that that can be addressed very quickly. The department should further ensure that strict control is enforced against the GNT, which has consistently failed to comply with its contractual obligations, but I am very sure that as certain steps were taken, this will not increase again and will not happen in the next financial year. The department should ensure that speed measuring machines and other devices used at weighbridges are well maintained and calibrated at all times.

Mampakuil Weighbridge has been a thorny issue for many years. In the Annual Report of the 2013/14 financial year, it was stated: "The department will conduct a feasibility study on overload control in the province. One new weighbridge will be constructed and the Mampakuil Weighbridge will be upgraded for effective overload control. The upgrades and study will be undertaken in the 2014/15 financial year."

Over the years, constant references were made on many provincial platforms in this regard. Promises that this weighbridge will be completed in the 2024/25 financial year were also given. Promises of land transfers were made without any tangible proof on the ground whilst traffic officers were still fighting a losing battle against the dangers of

fast-moving vehicles on the N1. The people of Limpopo are also still waiting for the completion of this weighbridge and in the meantime, massively overloaded vehicles use this important connection road every day without any consequences for those who do not comply with the rules of the road. The problem is that our infrastructure is suffering because of these massively overloaded vehicles.

With regard to Gateway Airports Authority Limited, the entity received R127 million for the 2024/25 financial year. The key objective of GAAL is to establish a globally competitive integrated export platform to serve aviation-linked economic sectors. The entity has a further objective to catalyse sustainable job creation and private sector investment. During the third quarter, declines were experienced in a number of both passenger and aircraft movements, which is really regrettable. In the fourth quarter, it was noted that the entity surrendered an amount of R37 million during the budget adjustment process, which is really regrettable.

During all quarters, GAAL failed to achieve a target on infrastructure maintenance while the budget was available.

GAAL's performance in all quarters is a very unsatisfactory performance worsened by under expenditure on critical targets, which plays a role in the sustainability of the entity. This is because the entity failed dismally to meet its planned targets, continued with underspending and then deferred some of the targets to the next financial year of 2025/26.

The worst is that the Auditor-General's report of the 2023/24 financial year stated clearly that there is evidence that the entity has incurred a deficit of R10,6 billion for the financial year ending 31 March 2024. Furthermore, the Auditor-General has considered evidence that was also in the Scopa report that the current liabilities exceeded its current assets by R16,9 billion. These events or conditions, along with other matters outlined in Note 32, indicate that material uncertainty existed that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In business language, it means that GAAL is bankrupt. It is clear that there was no improvement in the 2024/25 financial year.

The MEC must really start to consider other options. It is not good that our department is the biggest generator of revenue for our province, whilst GAAL squanders millions of rands. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Helm. We will now proceed to Hon Dunisani Baloyi. You have got 11 minutes. Mr Makgopa, your computer is not showing the allocated time. It will cause me problems. Please, fix it quickly so that we don't rob Hon Baloyi of his minutes. However, I'm now looking at my watch. You can proceed. I won't rob you. I hope by the time it appears, it will appear with accurate time as allocated.

MR BALOYI

Ndzi khensile Manana Xipikara, ndzi tisa marungula yo pfuxela eka Swirho hinkwaswo swa Yindlo leyi, ku katsa tiMEC ta hina. Ndzi nga rivali ku xeweta Swirho swa EFF, leswi swi rhangeleke hi Commissar Lawrence Mapoulo.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Transport and Community Safety is a department of delays and underspending. Every budget allocated to key programmes in this department is underspent while service delivery continues to be delayed.

For example, the Administration programme has underspent due to delays in filling vacant posts, which are often filled through promotions. The delay in filling funded vacant posts is a clear sabotage of service delivery because it is the people on the ground who suffer when such posts remain vacant. Perhaps there are still internal battles over who should occupy those positions. Once a post is advertised in government, it is merely for compliance because there are already individuals earmarked for those positions, especially the so-called ground forces and the ANC volunteers.

Hon Speaker, delays in implementing government programmes stem from inadequate planning and communication, funding issues, bureaucratic processes and a lack of skilled personnel. These challenges persist not only in this department but across all government departments in the province of Limpopo.

The government does not seem to have cogent and concrete plans and strategies to completely deal with these challenges. The solution to this is that you need to streamline processes, improve coordination and ensure accountability. Why would there be delays on a simple thing such as the delivery of an escort motor vehicle? This is both shocking and embarrassing, to say the least.

If you cannot deal with small tasks such as this one, how would you navigate around big tasks? The underspending due to delays in signing service level agreements for the transactional advisors and delays in the delivery of uniforms for traffic officers and protective clothing is unacceptable. Underspending characterises how this department conducts its business.

Hon Speaker, budget underspending is treason against the people because it denies them an opportunity for improved service delivery.

The department has undercollected by R3,6 million or 0,5% on tax receipts because of nonpayment from Blouberg, Lephalale and Mogalakwena Municipalities for motor licences and registrations. What is so special about these municipalities that they do not see the need to pay what they owe on tax receipts, while other municipalities service their debts in this regard?

They must not be allowed to be a law unto themselves. Penalties must be applied to any delinquent municipality that thinks it can just defy regulations and get away with murder. This is what happens when government has no idea as to whether it is coming or going. The centre is not holding. Officials and politicians just do as they wish.

Hon Speaker, before I sit down, I must emphasise that nothing will happen to these municipalities because those who are supposed to enforce compliance are themselves conflicted. That is why we continue to see such shenanigans.

As the EFF, we will not allow this to continue. These municipalities must make sure that they pay, just like all others. They are not special. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I'm happy that I never said you are done. You finished on your own, and you still gave me three minutes of your 11 minutes. Thank you for that.

We now proceed and request the chairperson of the committee, Hon Lebea, to come and close the debate.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Dr Speaker.

A very blessed morning to you, Dr Speaker; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members in this august House; distinguished guests; members of the media fraternity in the House and those following us on various live streaming channels.

Dr Speaker, while seated there, I heard people calling themselves by names that I had to also go and google even though I knew Google could not assist me therewith. I then sought the wisdom of my dear mother, Marumo Mamohlagane. Are ke Tšhamane 'a Bokwena, Rampša tša go goba dikgoši.

Hon Speaker, this is a special month of August — a month of roses of our revolution. I wish to draw the attention of this House to the words of the revolutionary man, who once walked the side of Heaven, Amilcar Cabral, who once said: "We must practise revolutionary democracy in every aspect of our party life. Every responsible member must have the courage of his responsibilities, exacting from others a proper respect for his work and properly respecting the work of others. Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories..."

I dedicate this quote to the honourable Member of the opposition, who has just left the podium.

Hon Speaker, this debate is taking place in the month of August, but today I want this House to take off their hats to four women of the revolution, congresswomen par excellence: Mama Lillian Ngoyi, Mama Helen Joseph, Mama Rahima Moosa and Mama Sophia Williams-De Bruyn. We owe our resilience and steadfastness to these women of the revolution, who passed the baton to us to continue standing proudly in this House as women of Limpopo — representing our generation and those yet to come.

Hon Speaker, in exercising our constitutional mandate of transparent oversight, the portfolio committee engages with the Department of Transport and Community Safety,

the entity Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL), and by extension, the South African Police Service.

Hon Shai has represented us very well, and I will not repeat what he has already tabled. With that said, we must appreciate the leadership and stewardship of MEC Susani Violet Mathye in the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

Hon Speaker, we have seen significant changes. We are not saying everything is shipshape, but we have seen significant changes. During my presentation here, Hon Deputy Speaker, I spoke of the oversight visit that we embarked on in April during the Easter period. I would also like to say it again that we are elated as the portfolio committee that during that Easter period, there were no fatalities; there were zero fatalities on the N1. That is indeed a good story to tell. It was achieved through collaborative efforts between the provincial traffic officers, municipalities, the officers, the RTMC and equally the guidance and visibility of all honourable Members of this Legislature who joined these operations that took place on the N1 and elsewhere in the province. That is worth commending, Hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, like we said and also asked, who will guard the guardians, we are also saying to the motorists of this province that it is our responsibility that when we get on the road, we take responsibility for our cars and those ones that are around us because we want to maintain zero fatalities as a province.

Hon Speaker, we also appreciate the deployment of 147 officers that we see on our roads. This is another effort to create jobs and show commitment towards the reduction of road fatalities that we do not want to see on our roads. The bus contracts will assist the majority of our people in the province, whose background we know and who have been severely hit hard by the socioeconomic conditions of the livelihood that we find in the rural province of Limpopo. They will benefit from these subsidies. Sometimes, we must not only oppose in this House, but we must, all together, across political parties, applaud areas and efforts that the ANC-led government is doing in our province. The bus fares have been reduced close to nothing at the level of the commuters. We give all thanks to the ANC-led government.

The department has also advertised 154 learnership opportunities. We know that the young people of this province are going to tap into these opportunities and make sure that we fight the demon of unemployment and poverty as the ANC-led government. Furthermore, the advertisement for the GAAL Board of Directors has closed and shortlisting is underway.

However, as the portfolio committee, we call on the MEC to ensure that great men, women, youth and people with disabilities find resonance with that board of directors. We would like to indicate to the Leader of Government Business seated on our right that as the portfolio committee, we are going to zoom very closely into these particular processes because if we have got a nonfunctional board, it will give us a GAAL that we find ourselves in today. We are saying that without any fear or favour. For GAAL to operate, for GAAL to find itself and for GAAL to find its wings back in the Limpopo province and elsewhere in the country, we ought to put great men and women – educated and extensively knowledgeable with the issues of aviation.

As the portfolio committee, we will come here in this august House and tell the people of Limpopo what has transpired as and when we support the leadership of the honourable MEC in the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

Hon Speaker, with that being said, it tells us that the Department of Transport is on the right trajectory – an upward trajectory – whereby it is fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the Freedom Charter that says: “There shall be work and security.” Hon Helm has also touched on the issues of GAAL – that it should generate sufficient revenue. I believe that the Leader of Government Business, who is here in the House, is listening. I believe that maybe we should have discussions and conversations as province to find out from the honourable MEC whether GAAL was rightly put as a 3D entity. Limpopo is a rural province.

When I was on the N1 driving back home from a meeting somewhere nearby the city, I met a swarm of blue lights driving up or down to Gauteng. When I looked at the number of delegates whos inside those vehicles, I said, my God, this is a full airbus on a return trip from Polokwane to O R Tambo and back. However, honourable Members do not do that, officials do not do that. It’s a joy to drive to O R Tambo while we leave our own Gateway Airport. We are doing all this to the detriment of GAAL because it does not generate any income.

How will GAAL generate an income, while we do not support the initiative of GAAL, which is a 3D entity? Hon Moss spoke about the lack of knowledge in terms of tender specifications. However, we were informed that there are 18 interns who will be integrated into finance and who will be able to assist the entity in with regard to specifications and other areas.

Hon Speaker, I want to mention to this august House and the people of this province that by extension we also conduct an oversight of the South African Police Service through the Provincial Commissioner and her team. We must report back to the people of Limpopo. Let me also bring this information to the people of the great province of Limpopo. The province will recollect the double murder of businesswomen: Makoena Mabusela-Leshabane and Tebogo Mphuti. It is worth noting – and we are we are elated as the portfolio committee – that the four perpetrators got life imprisonment. Let us also be reminded of the horrific Burgersfort bus torching that claimed six lives which led to multiple life sentences for five suspects. The assassination of Collins Chabane Municipality Mayor, Moses “Big Moss” Maluleke, has seen five arrests with life sentences secured.

The philosophy of SAPS in Limpopo is simple yet effective: “Criminals may run, but they cannot outrun a team that never sleeps.”

Hon Speaker, as we conclude, let us be reminded of the steadfastness, resilience and dedication of the women of 1956. In all spheres of life — personal, academic, social and in our households — with the grace of God on our side, we sing a song of tenacity that says: Wathint’ abafazi, wathint’ imbokodo.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson . That one minute fifty seconds is good for me. We now proceed, honourable Members, to allow honourable MEC for Transport and Community Safety. Ba Kgoro ya Dinamelwa le Polokego ya Setšhaba. Siku rin'wana ndzi ta swi vulavula hi xichangana. Va ka Baloyi, nkarhi i wa n'wina.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Hina hi Vatsonga, a hi vulavuli xichangana hi vulavula Xitsonga. Inkomu

Eka manana Xipikara, Dr Makhurupetje ; Hon Chief Whip and your entire office; Hon Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; all Members of the Executive Council in the House; chairpersons of portfolio committees, with special reference to my chairperson, Hon Lebea, and the entire committee; honourable Members; ladies and gentlemen, avuxeni.

Muchaviseki Xipikara, ndzi ta rhanga ndzi hlamula buti la ha ya Khalanga. Hina va ka Valoyi hi vakalanga. Vakalanga vo huma Egypt, ku nga ri laha xikarhi ka Afrika.

Hon Baloyi, you said that the department is unable to spend due to the reasons you have outlined. You further said that we are even failing to purchase uniforms for our traffic officers and to procure traffic fleet. That is not true.

As we speak, the department has procured more vehicles. They are currently at the branding stage, and we are busy with the installation of blue lights. The fleet is there.

On the issue of uniforms, Hon Speaker, as a department we do not simply buy; we participate in the National Transversal Procurement Plan. If you go to your nearest traffic office, you will see officials wearing a new brand — a new colour scheme of uniform for our traffic officers.

Regarding the filling of vacant posts, circular 25, which speaks to learnerships, came after circular 24, wherein we advertised administrative posts. So, it is not a matter of failing. At times, we may be slow, but it is because we do not want to do shoddy work. That is why we are proceeding in this manner.

On the claim that we earmark individuals for posts, I must say I know nothing about that, unfortunately. If you do have examples, you can share them with me outside this House so that I may know those people earmarked by this department.

On the issue of Hoedspruit, we cannot compare Hoedspruit with our Polokwane International Airport. Hoedspruit lies at the Eastgate, directly at the entrance to the Kruger National Park. It is the tourists visiting the park who make that airport to boom, but it remains under private ownership. Therefore, it cannot be licensed to receive international airlines. No, it can't.

With our own Gateway International Airport, the challenge remains, its usage. How many among us here make use of that airport to travel to Gauteng? Research indicates that there are not enough passengers willing to use the airport on a daily or weekly basis. It must start with us. I know that we prefer to claim for kilometres we drive to Gauteng. That is why we do not support our own airport.

On the issue of police stations, I agree with Hon Helm that many police stations are dilapidated and we do not have enough of them. This is not a provincial function. As a department, we coordinate that. The responsibility lies with the national office to build and maintain police stations. However, we will soon go all out to determine which police stations that require maintenance and which should be demolished and rebuilt.

To Hon Shai, on the 97% of our targets achieved, we are aware of that. That is why we are not sleeping on duty. We are committed to addressing the 3% gap. Failure to meet targets we have set for ourselves would mean denying the people of Limpopo services they deserve.

Hon Speaker, before I sit down, let me take this opportunity to welcome all the inputs, advice and criticisms from the portfolio committee. As the Bible says: "Teach us, so that we may learn." I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC for even honouring our time. Ndzi khensile manana Mathye. Ndzi swi dyondzile leswaku i Xitsonga. You see, I'm learning every day. Hi khense swinene manana Mathye ku va ri yini hi Xitsonga.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

Hon Maseko Pheedi, the chair of the committee, Bahananwa, the podium is yours.

MR PHEEDI

Tla ke go leboge, Mospikara wa rena Ngk Makoma Makhurupetje. Let me greet the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; the entire team; the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; the Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; Members of the Executive and all chairpersons of different portfolio committees.

Madam Speaker, allow me to present before this august House the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and greetings to the Members of the Limpopo Legislature. I stand to second the report as tabled by the chairperson, Hon Pheedi. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Over to you, chairperson.

MR PHEEDI

Once again, Hon Speaker, I rise to present before this House the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the adoption of the report as presented by the honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Netshifhefhe. Honourable chair, the podium is yours.

MR PHEEDI

Lastly, allow me to present before this House the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report for consideration and adoption by this House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Champ Sepuru, you are recognised.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ke le Sepuru sa Mmaphaku a'tebele la hloka kgomo le ja motho. Ke eme mo go thekga pego ye e adilwego ke modulasetulo wa komiti.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Re tšwelapele. Bjale, Ngwako o fa sebaka ba ba tlilego go tšwelago pele ka ngangišano. Lenaneo la Diboleli le tlo bula ke Motlatša Modulasetulo wa Baduladitulo, Mohl Hasani Peter Ngobeni. Ka Xitsonga ge ba mo reta ba re ke, Mlambya.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much. Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Chief Whip, Hon Essop Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rogers Monama and Members of the Whippers; Leader of Government Business; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members and guests in the gallery, good morning.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for affording me this noble opportunity to make my humble contribution on today's debate on the Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports for Provincial Treasury. At the outset and through your permission, Hon Speaker, allow me to state that the Department of Provincial Treasury has made significant strides in achieving 100% in terms of their targets, by their own admission, as clearly articulated in the Executive Authority statement of the document entitled Strategic Plan 2025–2030, when they said: "It is not just about meeting targets on paper; it is about seeing real progress where it matters the most." It is, therefore, my understanding of the above assertion that we must do whatever it takes to nudge all departments, all entities and all municipalities into the insatiable appetite for good governance and ethical leadership. The immediate question is, how do we produce the type of leadership that will give us these results?

The Provincial Treasury, laden with solid and tested experiences, can best be used as a yardstick and benchmark for the future we want to construct. Let me now deal with much more serious substantive issues. Advisably, I want to make a bold and unequivocal statement that the Department of Provincial Treasury, as well as the provincial Legislature, through the Oversight Mechanism Committee, is best positioned to lead this struggle to ensure that there is generally clean governance across the board – free from such unethical and disruptive behaviours such as corruption, malfeasance and sleaze.

I am tempted to justify why the Provincial Treasury must lead this charge in this regard: the charge to ensure that all departments, all entities and all municipalities not only attain a clean audit but also deliver services to the people. Two reasons come to my mind, Hon Speaker.

Firstly, it is the fact that the department went through what I will call a rigorous process of metamorphosis. Those of us who hail from the ranks of the African National Congress will argue that it has impeccable credentials, whilst those who subscribe to Marxism will call it negation of the negation. Ka Sepedi ba re ke kgaphampshikela, ke setswerere.

It began as the Department of Finance and Expenditure; later it became the Department of Finance, Economic Affairs and Tourism; it then became the Department of Economic Development; and today we know it as the Provincial Treasury. I am certain that this simplistic explanation of its capacity is sufficient, but beyond this explanation, the department has some of the most capable and committed staff in government as aptly noted in its own strategic plan documents.

Secondly, it would be able to create a conducive environment for collegiality and collaborations just like the geese birds during migration. These birds, Hon Speaker, fly in V-shape formation to take advantage of the upwash created by the wings of the birds in front. Once the bird in front gets tired, it falls back and it would be replaced by another. In doing so, the entire flock increases its flying range by 17%. Geese also honk as a way of encouragement. Therefore, no department, no entity, no municipality and no official should fly solo.

When one of the geese which is a goose, gets sick, two of the geese would accompany the goose to the ground until the goose is healed. With reference to this assertion, when the municipality is sick, the Provincial Treasury and the Legislature must make sure that

we zoom into that municipality until that municipality is up to speed in terms of ethical governance and ethical leadership.

This can be clearly reflected and attested by how as a province, through the Treasury, we have decisively traversed through the turbulences of sections 100 and 139 of the Constitution under our meticulous and watchful monitoring and oversight mechanisms as the Legislature. Nothing of this sort must happen again. To this end, we strongly urge the Provincial Treasury to continue to ensure that our municipalities consistently and regularly maintain compliance with applicable regulatory requirements whilst also ensuring continued and improved service delivery to our people in a transparent, open and accountable manner.

It is against this backdrop that we are emboldened and unshaken that our municipalities will strive to improve audit outcomes in the forthcoming audit season.

Hon Speaker, flowing from above, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury took a decision, together with the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, to jointly interface with section 71 reports as a way of strengthening oversight. This decision is predicated on section 114(2)(b) of the Constitution and section 71 of the MFMA No.56 of 2003. There is absolutely no need for municipalities to be alarmed. We come in peace, humble and contrite like geese. The recurring concern on section 71 is the low level of expenditure, particularly on capital projects.

This is as a direct consequence of poor planning that will eventually lead to delays in terms of the rollout of infrastructure projects – a recipe for underspending. Hon Speaker, let us, therefore, rise to the occasion not as isolated actors but as a collective bound together by purpose. Like the geese in flight, let us honk encouragement to one another, rotate leadership when fatigue sets in and extend our wings in unity to cover greater distance. Provincial Treasury, please be our compass. Departments, entities and municipalities, let good governance and ethical leadership be our wind. Thank you for your kind attention. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. The one minute is good enough. Over to you, Hon Marx. For honourable Members who were not here, we have agreed that if the parties change the names of Members who are going to present, please notify us in writing so that we are aware that this Member is no longer coming – they will be replaced by another Member – so that we don't have confusion. We do that even for recording purposes.

ADV MARX

Did you get our notification in this regard, Hon Speaker?

THE SPEAKER

If the administration has not given that to me, they must know that they need to update me so that I have the record. I will follow it up.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Speaker. The Provincial Treasury is the financial conscience of a province. If it is strong, disciplined and independent, the fiscal powers improve, service delivery advances, public trust grows and the economy prospers. If it is weak, the result is physical crisis, corruption, bailouts, collapsing entities, eroded public confidence and stagnation. Limpopo knows this all too well when Treasury and other departments had to be placed under administration. They have still not fully recovered and the scars remain visible in our stunted socioeconomic development.

On paper, the Limpopo Treasury appears to be excelling. Quarter after quarter, it reports 95% to 100% achievement, even overachieving in women-owned procurement and transversal training. Yet, beneath this glossy surface lies a troubling reality. Our state-owned entities are in crisis. In the second quarter, several departments failed to submit their financial statements, and by the fourth quarter, the gambling board still refused. Great North Transport, GAAL and LEDA remain fiscal black holes reliant on bailouts of no sustainability. Worse, GNT attempted to divert R100 million earmarked for new buses to other purposes.

The portfolio committee rightly resolved that the 2023/24 allocation must still be accounted for. We faced gross municipal incapacity. In the third quarter, the portfolio committee itself found municipalities overrelying on consultants to drive financials. In Modimolle-Mookgophong, the council simply rejected recovery plans. Without internal capacity, stability is impossible. There is no consequence management. Quarter after quarter, 100% of irregular expenditure requests are condoned, forensic reports gather dust, and only 53% of recommendations are implemented. PPE procurement irregularities are quietly shifted to the Office of the Premier. This is not accountability – it is abdication. We face infrastructure stagnation.

In October 2024, only 58% of the provincial infrastructure budget and 21% of MIG allocations had been spent. Whilst Treasury ticks compliance boxes, bridges, clinics and schools remain unfinished. Our fiscal sustainability is under threat. Compensation of employees consumes 65 % of the budget. Medicolegal claims drain hundreds of millions. Bailouts continue and the mere functioning of our Treasury and the foundations of fiscal governance are crumbling. Our Treasury has not recovered from the capture of a decade ago.

It remains underskilled and underresourced, unable to enforce proper control over departments, entities and municipalities. In this ANC-led Seventh Administration, it is still the same leopard with the same spots. If it is serious about good and clean governance, then our Provincial Treasury must be empowered and capacitated with skills and expertise.

This House must go beyond noting reports, and we must support Treasury and insist that timelines and consequences are enforced. Entities that fail to submit statements must face funding sanctions. Municipalities that reject recovery plans must face proper intervention. Irregular expenditure can simply not be rubberstamped. Only then will Treasury perform its shift from paper compliance to real accountability and financial sustainability for the people of Limpopo. The question is, is there a political will to do the right thing? I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. You gave us one minute six seconds. I'm trying to check as to who is giving us more minutes. I notice the EFF party. Hon Lebogo, you may take the podium.

MR LEBOGO

Tla ke go leboge, Ngaka. Mo pele ga lena, go eme Mohananwa, ka ge ba laeditše. Tšhwene ka sebele, e nametše thaba bjale. Ke Mohananwa Mmatšhwene a lebole ka thokolo. Tšhwene senaiwa mmele, ka makopong a se naiwe. Wa šala. Re eme mo re etilwe pele ke yo mosehlana, Makgabo Lawrence Mapoulo. Yena moila lehlaka. Mmago Kgoši ya Moletji, yo re le go mobung wa gagwe, mo re dulago ka tulo, yena Kgoši Kgabo III.

Re ikgantšha ka lena mo re lego gona. Mamohla re a ikgantšha, ka bontšhi, re bolela dipolelo tša gabo rena. Rena taba ye, re e rutilwe ke Balempa, Boiše Julius Malema ke ra yena Mošabi ka Sebele. Ke ditlou tša go se robatše le bo Donald Trump. Ke sa eme mo, tla ke dumediše Mospikara, le mosadi ka gare ga basadi, lehono ga a gona mo, Tonakgolo ya rena, ka ge e le Kgwedi ya Basadi. Tla ke dumediše Mmalebogo mola motseng wa Masakaneng. Ke ra yena ngwana Mabotja. Ke ditlou. O tšwa ka mo lefaseng la Marowe, mo mmušo o palelwago ke go dira tsela ye e ka re sepetšago mola ra fihla toropong ye ntshwa mo e lego gore re thabiša ke tša moya, gona. Ke re, re a ledumediša ka moka lehono le.

Le tšwele pele le swere bjalo ka dipolelo tša gabo lena gore batho ba kwe molaetša. Ke bone le makgowa a gakantšhwa ke sekgowa sa gabo bona. Ba ngala mantšu gare. Le ba go tšwa Amerika ba sa ga gakanega. Ke tseba monna yola e le, Mathe. Ke be ke botšiša gore, a naa go na le Leloko le leswa. Ke kwa le mmitša ka maina a Amerika.

Re a leboga Ngaka. Re le ba Mokgatlo wa EFF, re re, ga re kgahle ke ka fao kgoro ye e palelwago ke go fihlelela dithakete tša yona; e feleletša e ama dikgoro tše dingwe le makala a mmušo, kudu le mebasepala. Ga go thuše ge bona ba ka fetša ba šoma ga botse, eupša makala a mangwe a ba šomišanago le wona a palelwa e ra gore go na le bothata bja boetapele ka gore kgoro e na le maikemišetšo le mošomo wa gore e kgokaganye dikgoro ka moka gomme e etelele pele e be mohlala gohle mo. E se ke ya ba yona e phadimago e le tee. Go ya ka mantšu a setsibi sa go boetapele, John, e sego John wa go timela batho meetse le mabone. Re bolela ka John Maxwell, yo a ilego a bolela gore, diponagalo tša boetapele di tla bonala ge batho ba kgona go ekiša baetapele ka tše ba di dirago.

Bjale re makatšwa ke mo Limpopo ge kgoro e sa kgone go huwetša mebasepala le makala gore di šome gabotse. Se se šupa gore, go na le se sekaone se swanetšego go dirwa. Re sa botšiša gore, naa ditekolo tše di bilego gona tša mebasepala go ya ka tshepedišo ya mašeleng, dipolelo tša gona dikae ka gore mebasepala e tšwelapele e itaola ka tšhomišompe ya mašeleng le makala a gabo rena.

Le a tseba gore Molekudi Pharephare o boletše ka taba ye ya go se sepele gabotse ga mašeleng mo mebasepaleng e mentšhi, eupša ga re bone kgoro e dira se e swanetšego e se dire e kgalemela e bile e eta pele ka mokgwa wo e lego gore batho ba tla bona

gore go na le pušo ye botse. Re re, emang ka maoto Molekgotlaphethiši wa kgoro, le kgone go kgalema tše di diregago tša bošaedi bja mašeleng le se ke la emela mohla re ema mo fela ka gore ditšhelete tše re bolelago ka tšona ke tša sekhwama sa batho.

Batho ga ba sa na mešomo ebile ga ba sa bona ditirelo mo metseng ya ga bo rena. Re re, naa taba ya go šomiša ditekanyetšo gabotse le go bea pele taba ya go laola dithoto e tlo felela kae ka gore batho ga bana mo ba tšeago maikarabelo gona mo Limpopo. Ba dira ka moo ba ratago. Ba kgalwa ka gore, re tla go tšeela mogolo wa kgwedi, ge ba senyeditše setšhaba. Taba ye e swanetše e fele. Re nyaka go bona ka mo dikgolegong e le batho bao ba senyetšago mmušo le setšhaba go sa kgathelege gore ke ba mokgatlo ofe.

Naa taba ya mebasepala ka tshepedišo ya mašeleng bošaedi e tlo felela kae, Molekgotlaphethiši ge re ema mo re lla re le mekgatlo ya go fapanafapana, ka yona mebasepala le makala a lena. Re bolela ka taba ya gore, re nyaka go bona mebasepala ka moka e obamela melao ya MFMA le dikgoro ka moka di obamela melao ya PFMA fao e le go gore yo a palelwago ga a sa fiwa sebaka o a swarwa a ya ntlwanaswiswi ka gore, setšhaba se sokotše. Go ka se thuše go ema ra bolela sekgowa, ra retana eupša batho ba gabo rena ba sokola kua gae, go sena ditirelo tše ba di hwetšago, tšhelete ya bona e timela.

E nngwe ya go kweša bohloko ke gore ga re bone le letša sefepi mo go batho ba e le go gore ba senyetša mmušo. Re tla fa mohlala ka Boto ya go Kempola ya Limpopo, ye e tšere sephetho sa go se tliše ditatamente tša ditšhelete ka mokgwa wo o nyakegago, eupša batho bao ka moka o hwetše gore ba sa le gona, ba maikhutšong, ke šebešebe. Re nyaka go bona le tšea magato a e lego gore ka wona, batho ba tla tšhaba go kgoma tšhelete ya mmušo ba e šomiša bošaedi. Taba ye ya tšhomišo bošaedi ya mašeleng mo Limpopo e tumile o ka re ke madume. Batho ba tšwela pele ba e dira. Re ipotšiša gore, ke mang yo a tlišitšego bohlola bjo bo kaaka mo profenseng ya rena. Re re, ga e eme. Se sengwe le se sengwe go latelwe melao, e ka ba ge go ntšhiwa dithentara. Ke tla fa mohlala mo ka taba ya Kgoro ya Thuto mo Limpopo ye e le go gore e ka gare ga melato ya kgorotsheko ya go feta ye 20.

Re bolela ka mo go Ngwako wo re laetše gore, dikgorotsheko ga di sepetše dilo gabotse. Kgoro ya lena e le gona, Molekgotlaphethiši, le tšwelapele le badumelela gore ba ntšha dikontraka tše e lego gore di a sodiša, ga gona se se sepelago gabotse. Re kgopela le lokiše dilo tša mohuta woo.

Ge re tswalela re re, taba ya tšhomišo bošaedi ya mašeleng ge e ka tšwelapele re tlo fetša re bitša setšhaba, re etela Molekgotlaphethiši mo a dulago gona go lokiša le taba ye ya gore kgoro ya gagwe e eme e phadime ka nnete, ge e kgalemelwa. Go bolela nna tšhwene nkwe ya thaba. Ke re ke fologa thaba. Re a leboga mohanana, rena batho ba thabeng ye tala selemo le marega. Re re, EFF e tla tšwela pele e emetše setšhaba sa Limpopo. Thobela.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Bahananwa. Re tla tšwelapele re bitše Mohananwa yo mongwe, a tlo tswalela ngangišano. Ntate Solomon Maseko Pheedi, sebaka ke sa lena. Le yena ke Mohananwa. Se se ra gore ngangišano ye, e be e le ya Bahananwa.

MR PHEEDI

Tla ke go leboge, Mohl Mospikara, Ngk Makoma Makhurupetje. Ke re madume, go ya ka kgati go ya le ka moo ke šetšego ke hlalošitše. Let me take this opportunity and join those who came before me, for the past two week, who are Members of the ANC, who proudly support women in celebration of August month – a month of great women in history, i.e., Charlotte Mannya Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Sophy Williams-De Bruyn, Albertina Sisulu, Mamoloko Caroline Ngwana Mabelebele-Pheedi, who is my mother, and many heroines, who today we enjoy the fruits of freedom through their sacrifices. I also say to all women in this august House and women out there, ANC loves you. We love you, and as men we say, no to gender-based violence, and that should not be done in our name.

Hon Speaker, some of those issues raised by honourable Members from the left will be answered during my presentation. If you paid attention to the submission, they are just lacking to say, the department is doing so well. They extend the good work done by the departments to other departments and say, we see, you are doing well, but what about other departments. In this presentation, Hon Speaker, I will focus on the quarterly report, which provides an overview of the performance of the department against its programmes, key performance and set targets. The Provincial Treasury is accountable for five programmes, which are aligned to the mission and vision of the department.

The purpose of Corporate Services Management is to ensure sustainable support services and good governance. During the fourth quarter, there was a total expenditure of R54,6 million against the R207,7 million from the annual budget reserved for the quarter under review. For the quarter under review, this programme had six capacity-building performance targets, and they were all achieved. Hon Speaker, don't get tired when we always say, they were all achieved because it is going to be the presentation of the day from this table.

The overall annual target on vacancy rate is at 10% and the department achieved 7,6%. As such, the committee commended the department for such achievement, although there is still room for improvement.

The committee noted that the department had three focus areas by the ICT steering committee which were successfully monitored. All three focus areas achieved 100%, i.e., on surplus valid invoice payments, which were processed during the quarter under review and were all paid within the prescribed timeframe. The committee commended the department for scoring 100% targets achievement in the second, third and fourth quarters. As the committee, we are pleased with how the department takes ANC resolutions seriously when coming to women empowerment. The department had a 40% target achievement planned for procurement on women-owned enterprises.

However, 92% was eventually achieved, which far exceeds the planned target. The expenditure incurred was at R17,4 million at the end of the fourth quarter. This one deserves a clapping of hands, particularly by women.

Sustainable Resource Management is responsible for providing sustainable resource management services to the provincial department and public entities. The overall

expenditure for programme 2 was R16,8 million against the annual budget of R8,8 million. In relation to this programme, the department had planned to achieve three research documents to align the provincial fiscal policy, and indeed the three were successfully achieved. During the fourth quarter period, the department conducted one assessment on revenue collection as planned, with an assessment expenditure of R6,7 million.

Two budget documents were tabled in line with the set standards and National Treasury that incurred expenditure of R9,4 million. On the other hand, the three in-year monetary reports were consolidated and implemented in line with section 32 of the Public Finance Management Act.

The committee further noted that the department had a target and achievement of 27 infrastructure assessments in the department with infrastructure budget. Therefore, there was an incurring of R4,3million or 100% spending in that regard. The term plan target assessment on infrastructure for the MIG-funded municipalities was also conducted with an expenditure of R5 million. The department had also planned for 26 municipal state of finance reports and assessments, which were implemented. This process incurred an expenditure amounting to R41,2 million.

The main purpose of assets, liabilities and supply chain management is to monitor the management of assets, liabilities and supply chain management in provincial departments. Here, the department conducted six assessments in terms of asset management, cash management, supply chain management as well as public entities strategic procurement targets in all votes and public entities as per quarterly plan. The expenditure in terms of asset management indicated an improvement of R7,9 million against the budget of R9,8 million. The expenditure in terms of cash management assessment also indicated an improvement of R7 million in the third quarter against R10,2 million adjusted budget.

The expenditure in terms of supply chain management assessment was R9,3 million or over 100%. There was an improvement of R7 million expenditure in the third quarter against the annual budget of R9,3 million. The expenditure in terms of assessment on strategic procurement targets in public entities and votes was at R11,6 million.

Hon Speaker, the financial governance purpose is to promote accountability and compliance with financial norms and standards as contained in the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), as amended. In this case, an overall expenditure was at R17,3 million or 21,3% against the adjusted budget of R81,3 million. The expenditure was similar as the previous quarters.

Under Accounting Services, , subprogramme on financial management and capacity building, 25 courses were conducted against a target of 17, which was noted as a great achievement by the department. The increase in target performance came because of additional courses requested by other provincial departments.

Hon Speaker, there was another entity that spoiled our clean performance; this is the sad part on our side. The department planned to achieve 16 targets under Financial Accounting and Reporting, but only 15 were achieved. The deviation was as a result of the Limpopo Gambling Board failing to submit their interim financial statements. Three

follow-up sessions were made or conducted in relation to this matter, and we hope that they will pull up their socks or eventually come to the party.

In relation to transversal risk management, the Provincial Treasury conducted one transversal risk management assessment and 16 assessments in terms of the Public Sector Risk Management Compliance Framework, which incurred an expenditure of R7 million or 100% against the revised budget of R7 million. The subprogramme on financial systems administration realised an achievement of targets from 11 assessments conducted on the utilisation of the financial system as per plan. Whilst the subprogramme on governance and compliance through input made an achievement, 100% on irregular expenditure condonation is a request attracting expenditure of R12,1 million against the adjusted budget of R12,1 million.

The objective of the internal shared service programme is to provide internal audit and consultation services to provincial departments. On this department, the department planned for four targets performance achievement on the approved cluster-based annual audit plans, and all the targets were achieved. The department recorded 100% on internal audit finalised and communicated in terms of the approved audit plans and one annual internal quality assurance improvement programme; the implementation report that was also prepared as planned.

In conclusion, an updated report must be compiled to the portfolio committee on measures taken to address the deviation of Limpopo Gambling Board on submission of interim financial statements and steps to mitigate the future recurrence of this deviation. The department should also update the committee on the measures taken to curb some of the irregular expenditure that can be avoided such as noncompliance with tender bid procurement and related expenditures in the department.

Hon Speaker, lastly, allow me to request this precious House to consider the report for adoption. On behalf of the committee, let me borrow a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt when highlighting the resilience and hidden strength of a woman: "A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. We are now on item 7.3.4. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgabo Mahoi, to respond to the debate made by the honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members in your different ranks and grades. We have taken note of all matters raised on the three quarterly reports. We will ensure that we deal with any matter that needs further attention. However, we would like to comment about some of the comments made, which we believe we ourselves need to clarify – that even though we have this transversal duty as Treasury, we do not have unfettered power to even deal with other institutions. Ours is simply to provide evidence where necessary.

We took courage that last week we had an opportunity where there was a very new innovation. There was a combined oversight process between the Portfolio Committees on Treasury and CoGHSTA, especially on matters relating to reports we usually table – section 71 reports. We were lucky that we were there, but I must emphasise that we learnt more than any other thing because this is a trendsetting mechanism whereby those reports will not just be tabled here and then fade away. We then agreed with the joint committees that we would thenceforth sit together and look at the issues because we need to deal with the local government, as all Members are raising issues.

I must indicate, however, that we are not discouraged. We are still helping where we can. I can assure you, as you will see when the results of the current audit cycle come, that the province is moving in the right direction and clean governance has been achieved and it will be achieved. I can stop here, but I will be failing if I don't recognise what Hon Mapoulo said in his statement regarding the plight of Cde T T Cholo, who is turning 100 years this year. The stadium named after him is dilapidated, and the roads leading there as well. I happened to stay there; he was speaking on my behalf. We must give credit where it is due. We really appreciate those kinds of inputs. It shows that as leaders, our eyes are with our people and nowhere else. I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, MEC. We proceed to the next item.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA

Committee chairperson, Hon Sepuru, you may take the podium.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I move for consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, starting with 7.4.1. I move for consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I seconder? Hon Mataboge, you are recognised.

MS MATABOGE

Thank you, Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I stand to second the report as presented by the honourable chairperson. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mataboge. Over to you, honourable chairperson.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA for consideration and adoption by this House. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the report as presented by the chairperson of CoGHSTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Over to you, chair.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I think we are done. We can allow you to take your seat while they are still seconding the report. Is there any seconder? Hon Mhloti Muhlope, you are recognised.

MS MUHLOPE

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I rise to second the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department of CoGHSTA presented by our chairperson, Hon Sepuru. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, so much. We shall refer to the Speakers' List. Hon Machete Phetole Percy is opening the debate. Over to you, Hon Machete.

MR MACHETE

Thank you, very much. Let me start by observing protocol as already established and quickly deal with the business of the day. I am privileged to be afforded this opportunity to address this august House when we are considering and adoption the 2024/25 Second Quarter, Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter Reports of the Portfolio Committee on the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

Let me take this opportunity to greet this august House and indicate that we are gathered here today in the third week of Women's Month. This month is in honour of 20 000 women who challenged the apartheid regime and marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 09 August 1956 against pass laws. We will always remember the five women who led this historic and successful march. We remember Lillian Ngoyi, Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, Rahina Moosa, Albertina Sisulu and Helen Joseph. Let me explain what a petition is. A petition is a formal message requesting something that is submitted to an authority. This is what they said in their petition: "We, the women of South Africa, have come here today. We represent and we speak on behalf of hundreds of thousands of women who could not be with us. But all over the country, at this moment, women are watching and thinking of us. Their hearts are with us."

We are women from every part of South Africa. We are women of every race. We come from the cities and the towns, from the reserves and the villages. We come as women united in our purpose to save the African women from the degradation of passes."

I must explain the concept "race" as an ability to think over the other; the intellect: the ability to reason. For example, at some stage we were told that we may not be able to fit or do well in Maths as Africans. That is purely what racism is all about: a claim of an ability of an intellect over the other. On 09 August 2025, at Nkowankowa township in the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, in Mopani District, the President of the Republic of South Africa paid tribute to the heroic women of 1956 and many others who had paved the way for equal rights, including in advocating for gender equality and empowerment. Hon Monama or Hon Ngobeni would say tribute is something that is done as an expression of esteem. Esteem is nothing else but respect.

The President highlighted that South Africa has greater inclusion of women in every sector of the economy, including in leadership positions, which ranks the country second in terms of representation of women among the G20 countries. The chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Dr Malebana, would say, economy is nothing else but a system of production, distribution and consumption. That is what we learn from him.

We should be proud as this august House – we have a woman as the Premier; we have a woman as the Speaker of the Legislature, and we have a woman as the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature. Look at all women Members who are here. We must be proud as Limpopo province. [APPLAUSE] Of course, this is in tandem with what the election manifesto and policies of the African National Congress affirm – that we should affirm women.

The revolution cannot triumph without the emancipation of women. This milestone is indeed on the right direction to ensure that women are completely emancipated in society. Whilst we celebrate Women's Month as Limpopo, we hang our heads in shame as we face a devastating pandemic which we must face and confront as Members and leaders – the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide. We are among the worst provinces in the country on GBV and F. Take this one case in point, among many horrific cases, of an officer of the law who draws a service gun, shoots and kills his wife in broad daylight in front of their child and shoppers in a mall at Nkuna Kraal in Vhembe District in Collins Chabane Local Municipality.

We need another strong and serious movement to confront this scourge. It is also important to indicate that as and when we deal with these issues, men must be seen to be leading the revolution to ensure that we are able to deal with the scourge as indicated above.

It is us, the ruling party in Limpopo province, the African National Congress, through our manifesto – a document reflecting our policies, goals, aims and objectives – to indicate what we will do for the country. We believe that our election manifesto must find expression in everything that we do as the Seventh Administration. We entered into a contract with the people of this province that we will provide quality basic services to them. That must be done through oversight so that we don't provide shoddy work to the people of this province.

An oversight is nothing else but management of overseeing performance of an individual or a group. It is through the Department of CoGHSTA that the people of Limpopo province are entitled to better houses. They are entitled to municipalities that are functional and efficient and can provide quality basic services to them. They are also entitled to live in traditional leadership areas of jurisdictions that operate the way cooperative governance does. Through section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, as amended, and section 40(d)(1) of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation revised the Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans. The DPME 2017/18 guidelines for the preparation of quarterly performance reports and the guidelines for provincial quarterly performance reporting provide instructions or directives on the completion of quarterly performance reports.

The Legislature must ensure that all organs of state in the province are held accountable and should maintain oversight over the Executive Authority, hence we present the 2024/25 Second Quarter, Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter Reports today. Oversight and monitoring of the Department of CoGHSTA's performance is a constitutional obligation of the portfolio committee. We are implored by sections 26 and 27 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 to make sure that there is accountability in this department and other departments. At its meetings, the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA received briefings by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the 2024/25 Second Quarter, Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter Reports.

The aim of the briefing was to afford an opportunity to the portfolio committee to scrutinise these reports to establish if they are in line with their Annual Performance Plan and Budget. I think it is important that we should also indicate what a budget is: it is a summary of intended expenditure and how to meet them.

In the second Quarter, the department performed at 67% with programme 2, Integrated and Sustainable Human Settlements, performing at 42% and programme 1, Administration, performing at 53%. Programme 2 is the main service delivery-oriented programme in the department and cannot be performing at this level when our people are in need of houses, especially since we have promised them houses. In the third quarter, the department performed at 72%, which is an improvement of 3%. Programme 2 performed at 55%, which is a significant improvement of 13% from the second quarter.

This improvement is commended, but the department is encouraged to work even harder in order to provide our people with the much-needed houses.

In the fourth quarter, the last quarter of the financial year, the department performed at 84%, which is a huge increase of 12%. Programme 2 in this quarter performed at 59%, which is an increase of 5% from the third quarter. The department is implored to speed up the completion of these houses in order to assist especially women and children in our community as we know that they are the ones who are adversely affected by the lack of houses.

Let us think of the 20 000 women who risked their freedom and lives in 1956 facing the apartheid regime in their fight against the pass laws when we deal with the issue of houses. I want to indicate that, if that gets done, we are able to deliver services to our people, of course, we will be qualifying our MDR that, indeed, it is on course, and the MDR is nothing else but a process by which the majority benefit when the revolution is victorious. We are hopeful that programme 2, Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements, will be able to bring the long overdue relief to our people in the following areas:

- Marapong community residential units, Alto state temporary accommodation;
- Vingerkraal temporary accommodation in the Waterberg District;
- Talana community residential units in Mopani District;
- Burgersfort community residential units in Sekhukhune District; and
- Tshikota community residential units and Vanetia mine community residential units in Vhembe District.

Let me take this opportunity, Hon Speaker, to appreciate the confidence that the committee bestowed on me to deliver this speech on their behalf. The speech encapsulates the views of a collective and it is not individually based. I want to take this opportunity to thank you. Thanks very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We will now allow Hon Marx to proceed. You have five minutes.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand in for Hon Wilson again. Hon Members, when you want to ignore a problem, refer it to someone else or wait for it to magically get better, or kick the can down the road. Hon Makamu has been kicking the can down the road since 2019 by providing this House with bloated and hollow commitments to address the decline of our municipalities. The DA is concerned about the MEC's evident lack of transparency in the systematic collapse of our municipalities. The AG specifically noted that the MEC did not table the 2022/23 consolidated report on municipal performance in the provincial Legislature as required.

The report on those municipalities that failed to adequately address the audit report which was tabled by the provincial Legislature to make any resolutions based on the observations in the report. The importance of a stable local government and effective service delivery in a growing economy cannot be overemphasised.

On Cooperative Governance, 96% of the set targets were met – a hollow accolade as our municipalities remain in dire straits. According to the most recent AG report, municipal outcomes remain largely unchanged and a tolerance for transgressions, excessive spending on consultants and poor performance persist – a clear indication that the set targets do not address the actual performance failure. Our municipalities are becoming wastelands, where maladministration thrives on unfunded budgets under our councils. One such a council brazenly and publicly denounced the MEC's powers during the recent Sitting.

The department is mandated to intervene in the local government when municipalities are unable to fulfil their executive obligations and, as a result of financial crises, breach these obligations to provide basic services to meet its financial requirements. It must also support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions. It is imperative that this Constitution and other legislative instruments are effectively implemented not only to save our municipalities from further decline but to minimise financial malfeasance to enhance service delivery.

Targets must be set against this backdrop and tangible results in improving government service delivery. The joint Portfolio Committees on CoGHSTA and Treasury will conduct oversight and accountability engagement sessions on 40 municipalities, guided by section 71 research analysis, and this is a step in the right direction, provided there is consequence management on the findings of financial deliverables.

The section 71 report for the year ending March 2025 focuses on the Sekhukhune District Municipality, which performed dismally on key financial deliverables that have a direct impact on basic service delivery. It realised the highest revenue, in accordance with its budget of R4 million. It is a provincial negative trend that these municipalities are not performing satisfactorily when it comes to debt collection. In terms of data analysis overview, over 91% of the customers have been asking for a period of 90 days, which is an evidence that municipalities do not effectively implement debt control policies to collect debt due.

The districts with the most debts over 90 days are Capricorn at 97%; Vhembe at 92%; Mopani and Sekhukhune both at 90% and Waterberg at 89%. The noncollection of revenue negatively impacts the financial sustainability of municipalities and may lead to delays in the implementation of the budget.

Honourable Members, kicking the can down the road is a result of dire legacy challenges faced by municipalities. We have run out of road. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Marx. You saved me one minute two seconds. I will now proceed to Hon Makgabo Laurence Mapoulo – Makgabo wo mosehlana.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ke a leboga Ngk Makhurupetje. Thank you very much. My time is moving with speed. Let me acknowledge all of you and my colleagues. Let me start by saying that I feel pain because when each one of you stands up here, you don't mention the women who belong to this province. I will remind you, as much as I am no longer with you, that you are forgetting Mama Lydia Komape; you are forgetting Marie Stella Sexwale-Mabitje and you are forgetting Mama Mashamba. What are you doing bomme, ka mala a basadi? I am not saying that those that you have been talking about are not important, but I am trying to tell you that you are starting to forget about your own heroines. Tomorrow, when others will be forgetting about you, don't be surprised.

Ke mengwaga re bolela ka taba ya Marapong. Ke mengwaga re bolela ka ditaba tša Talane. Ke mengwaga re bolela ka Musina-Makhado; bjalo go fihlile sebaka sa gore ka moka re itekole, re itebelele gore ke ka lebaka la eng dilo tše ka moka di diragala, kudu mebasepaleng ya rena. Something that one has observed, especially in our municipalities, is that the leadership at high echelons, both at national and provincial levels, ba dira "kamina kawena" ka mebasepala. People in the municipalities like Municipal Managers, CFOs and the Mayors, ke bona ba e le go gore ba a seka, whilst those that are at national and provincial levels are not touched.

I know you can't even see their footprints at that position for local municipalities. I am saying this, and this is the truth. Ke re, ka kgopelo, tlogelang go lahletša bana ba Modimo ba kua mebasepaleng ka gore lena le a aja. Le dirile "kamina kawena" bona ba lebane le dikgolego.

It pains you as the MEC. I can understand now why you are so confused – you are confused because of the shenanigans that are happening underground. You can't even see these "tsotsis" when they operate. O sa tlile go gakanega, Molekgotalphethiši. Ga se o tšwe o gakanega up until these guys come up and speak the truth – that all these municipalities are their milking cows. We have to speak the truth. The truth will set us free.

Ge re palelwa ke go le botša dinnete, Modimo le rena o ya go re otlā kua pele mo re ya go gona. People were moved from Marapong and Altoostyd in Lephalale Ward 3 with the promise that government would build them houses. Even this morning, when I was driving to work, they were still calling. May we please make sure that you go and build the houses that you, as the ANC, promised to build for them when you were running around. Now the ball is in your court. Molekgotalphethiši, ga re sa bona ANC, re bona wena. So, you must accept when we punch you. This thug called Mpe is promising houses to the people of Extension 133. Today, there is nobody who lives in those houses. I stay in Seshego. Those houses are occupied by thugs. Others are vandalised. What are you doing with the taxes of our people?

The RDP houses corruption is very rife in Limpopo. That is why as the EFF, we are saying, we need to investigate this allocation of RDP houses. I am telling you, there are people who have been waiting since 1999. I am not lying. Somebody enlisted themselves before he became a pensioner, today he is a pensioner like me. What are we doing to our people? Remember, since this person was promised a house about 10 or 20 years ago. What are we doing to our people? This is the truth. It is not about politicking. It is about representing the aspirations of our people.

We are hurt by how you manage our people. Go back and investigate all these issues, MEC, because, currently, our people are struggling. I need to mention that we must never be brought into the factional battles of the ANC. Today we are asked by everybody as to why we can't speak to the Premier and the MEC regarding the issues of Mogalakwena. Whilst you are busy with this thug called Mpe, don't divert us. Don't drag us into the politics of the ANC. We are nowhere there. We are Members of the EFF. We don't want to fight your battles.

Others want us to back the other group. We will never fall into that. What we will do is, we will always stand by our position because what you are doing is incorrect. We cannot be led by people whose moral integrity is managed by those who are not part of this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Member. We now proceed and request the chair of the committee, another Makgabo, to come and close the debate.

MR SEPURU

Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier in absentia; Hon Leader of Government Business and MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Basikopo Makamu; MECs; chairpersons of portfolio committees and standing committees; Chief Whip from GaNthoma and the whole Whippers; honourable Members; ladies and gentlemen, greetings to you once more.

It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be afforded this opportunity to address this august House at a time when we are considering the 2024/25 Second Quarter, Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter Reports of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA. Let me take this opportunity and greet this august House and remind ourselves that we are indeed in the Women's Month. We are fortunate that in this province we are led by a woman Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. At my back is the Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje and the Deputy Speaker, Tebogo Mamrobela.

Madam Speaker, it is the African National Congress, the majority party in this province, through its manifesto, that we have entered into a contract with the people of this province – that we will provide quality basic services to them. It is through the Department of CoGHSTA that the people of Limpopo province are entitled to better houses. Hon Makgabo Mapoulo, I would like to give you, as well as Hon Lebogo and Hon Marx, advice that, we have a Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA that is meeting from time to time and that we need not rush to this august House to ventilate whatever you want to raise.

Please come to the committee. Let us, as a collective, discuss issues and try to address them. We have already, together with the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, identified the need.

The joint Portfolio Committees on CoGHSTA and Provincial Treasury, Hon Mapoulo, have identified the need to conduct oversight accountability on selected municipalities that are not doing well. Key financial deliverables that have a direct impact on service

delivery will be put to scrutiny. It would be important that, with your sharp mind, you contribute towards addressing these challenges. I now hope that you are quiet and that you have heard me well. The Legislature must ensure that all the organs of state in the province are held accountable as we maintain oversight over the Executive Authority, hence we present the 2024/25 Second Quarter, Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter Reports today.

Oversight and monitoring of the Department of CoGHSTA's performance is a constitutional obligation of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA. We are, therefore, pleading with every Member of this august House to come to the portfolio committee and advise accordingly.

Hon Speaker, I am quite aware that when Hon Machete was opening the debate, everybody could see that there is an improvement from the first quarter to the second quarter, from the second quarter to the third quarter and from the third quarter to the fourth quarter. We can only exhort the MEC to work doubly hard to ensure that houses are built expeditiously. Hon Speaker, let me pause here. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga Modulasetulo, Mohl Sepuru. I am receiving some apologies. Don't be surprised when you see other Members leaving the House, they have written to apologise. Today it seems like we are going to finish soon. So, we shouldn't be much worried. However, I am able to allow those who sent apologies to leave. We will now allow the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Hon Basikopo Makamu, to respond to the debate. Ka Sepedi re re ke, Kgoro ya Pušo Tirišano, Bodulo bja Batho le Merero ya Setšo. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; colleagues; MECs; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. I greet you. Let me acknowledge the debate made by honourable Members, from Hon Machete, Hon Moss, Hon Mapoulo and the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Let me start by saying we should agree that it is work in progress. Housing delivery is a moving target, Hon Mapoulo. When you have 5 000 houses to be built this year, next year there are new people who have grown out of their families and who want their own houses.

That is why if you take the Matlala road, it is so depressing to see shacks all over there – it means that people are awaiting their houses. The revenue is not increasing, but we are trying to do our best out of what we receive. Hon Mapoulo, it is not a mistake that no one mentioned that due to our performance in the third and fourth quarter last year, we were able to get R200 million based on the performance of other provinces, and we increased the number of our houses.

Of course, I must indicate that we do intervene in dysfunctional municipalities. Hon Moss said that we are not doing anything, but it is through this House that we dissolved the

municipality in Thabazimbi, which was not doing well, and ensured that we put measures in place to turn it around – that is intervention in terms of section 139(c).

We have a history of intervening in different municipalities. I may not necessarily respond to the issue of section 71, but my colleague, MEC Mahoi, spoke at length about that part. Let me agree with you, Hon Mapoulo, that we delayed the delivery of Marapong CRU. It is a project that we are wary of, even as the department. However, I can confirm to you that tomorrow you can be able to see me as I will be in that area. Most of the areas have been completed. It is not fair that the Altoostyd community – the people that we promised houses – do not have houses up until today. We can go together tomorrow, and you will see houses that have been delivered in that particular area.

I will be running a programme from tomorrow. We can go together. If you fail to come with me, you can catch me live on Facebook. I will be visiting those areas. Let me indicate that we are debating the Second to Fourth Quarter Reports wherein the department was improving. However, I must indicate that we are not necessarily happy about our performance, simply because we can still do more. I acknowledge what you said, but I can confirm to you that the department has got an HOD and a woman accounting officer, Dr Malahlela, who is also here. We should also acknowledge that as the ANC-led government, we are also empowering our women to lead the department.

It is such a complicated department that she is running. We are moving as a department to make sure that what was said in 1955 that “there shall be houses, security and comfort,” is delivered to the people of this province, 70 years later. In Extension 133, Polokwane, where you said we should be able to do more, we put engineering services – both water and sewage – where people are going to build houses. The value of the stand or house in Extension 133 is more than R600 million. We have given our people those stands free of charge. I can confirm that we are working on the audit report of the houses which were not occupied so that we can reallocate them to other people – especially when people have got houses somewhere else.

As the department, we are on course and we should be able to deliver. It would not be enough if I don't thank the portfolio committee for guiding and counselling us, and making sure that we do better for our communities. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. You managed your time. We are now going to proceed to the last debate, which is item 7.5.

7.5 Consideration and adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee of the Department on Social Development

Chairperson, Hon Matsobane Mathe, akere le boni gore Mathe ya bona ga e swane le ya Mme Susana Mathye.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby table the 2024/25 Second Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I see Hon Maringa at the back.

MS MARINGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the adoption of the report as presented by Hon Mathe, who is the chair of that portfolio committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I was still gossiping with my neighbours here. We are from the same section in Seshego, Zone 1. There are issues of neighbourhood that we are dealing with, which do not necessarily require the attention of this House. I table the 2024/25 Third Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development for consideration and adoption

THE SPEAKER

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

ADV MARX

I rise to second the report as read by the honourable chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, chair.

MR MATHE

I table the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report of the Department on Social Development for consideration and adoption. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Dr Malebana, you are recognised.

DR MALEBANA

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke eme mo go thekga pego ya Kotara ya bone, ya Kgoro ya Tlhabollo ya Leago yeo e adilwego ke Mohlomphegi Mathe mo pele ga rena.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. The fact that now the chair has presented and the other Members have debated, we shall now refer to the Speakers' List. MEC Hon Makamu, the Leader of Government Business, is requesting to be excused, as I indicated earlier. I am allowing him to leave on condition that Hon Mahoai is listening. I release Hon Makamu as Leader of Government Business on condition that Hon Mahoai is taking over as the Leader of Government Business in his absence. Thank you so much. Let me go to the Speakers' List and allow Hon Mohale Mankwana Christina to open the debate.

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Greetings to the Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip and the entire Whippers; Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties and honourable Members. A special greeting to all women in the House; it is still their month.

Every year in August, we celebrate Women's Day as South Africans. We celebrate the month of August in commemoration of the historic 1956 Women's March against the apartheid laws. This is proof enough that women were part of the fight for freedom. Thomas Sankara once said: "There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women." Sixty-nine years have passed since the historic 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. South African women are breaking down barriers and achieving everything they desire. Hon Speaker, the African National Congress, as a nonsexist movement, takes pride in the accomplishments of women, as they were previously oppressed.

Honourable Members, despite the amicable progress achieved in the lives of women thus far, the majority of women still face challenges like inequality at home, in workplaces and in their society. The most grappling challenge women face is gender-based violence and femicide. Honourable Members, let it be known that GBV affects all genders. Men also can be victims of GBV. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that women and children suffer the most at the hands of GBV. South Africa has the highest rates of GBV cases in Africa with the Limpopo province leading the highest call rate for help at 104 calls per 100 000 people. The President of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa once described GBV as the second pandemic in the country after COVID-19.

Indeed, it is a pandemic that has claimed lots of lives and closed some families. Parents and family members play a significant role in perpetuating GBV and protecting the perpetrators of GBV. When a woman wants to escape GBV, families always persuade victims to go back to their abusers. Gona le seema sa Sepedi seo se rego mosadi o swara thipa ka bogaleng. Honourable Members, we have buried many women because of this idiom. Victims should know that they are not alone. Limpopo has Khuseleka Centre in Polokwane Welfare Complex. Khuseleka houses victims of GBV, offering them support, accommodation, food and skills until they are back on their feet. The centre does not only cater for victims of GBV, but it also caters for their children too. I would also like to advise parents not to stay in abusive relationships as this would make

the boy child perceive abusing women as a masculinity norm. A girl too is likely to be a victim of GBV herself. Families should be comforters and supporters, not perpetrators of GBVF.

Honourable Members, it is disheartening that in Limpopo during the Women's Month more than 10 women lost their lives because of GBVF. A 34-year-old woman and her 2-year-old daughter were brutally murdered in Vhembe, and a 55-year-old male suspect was arrested in connection with the murder. Just this past weekend, Hon Speaker, a young woman's promising life has come to an end at the hands of her boyfriend. Thankfully, the perpetrator was arrested. Poverty and illiteracy are significant factors that contribute to women staying in an abusive relationship. Women may feel trapped due to economic dependence or lack of education; it makes it difficult for them to escape the cycle of abuse.

GBV is a serious crime. It is important to recognise that GBV is not only a violation of women's rights but also a punishable offence. Police stations have specialised programmes – like Victim Empowerment Programme – that aim to support victims and survivors of crime and violence. These units play a vital role in ensuring that victims receive assistance they need. Collaboration between the Department of Transport and Community Safety and the Department of Social Development is essential in providing comprehensive support to victims. This includes ensuring that police stations have 24-hour victim support units, particularly for sexually abused children and women.

However, more work still needs to be done to combat gender-based violence in South Africa. If we all join hands and work together, we can combat GBVF and create a safe province for ourselves and generations to come.

Hon Speaker, we condemn the behaviour of the people who are abusing the elderly. The issue of elderly abuse is a concerning reality. Elderly people suffer abuse at the hands of their family members. This behaviour is unacceptable and it goes against our ethos as Africans. We are taught to respect and serve our grandparents. Elderly people have reported physical and verbal abuse they endure from their grandchildren. Some have numerously reported that their adult children and grandchildren rob them of their pension money and isolate them. It is truly heartbreaking that families no longer treasure their elderly as they just keep them close only for their monthly pension.

It is about time that we, as a society, evolve and see the importance of old age homes. These centres provide a safe and nurturing environment for individuals who require care and assistance. A great example of such a centre is Sekutupu Old Age Home located in Zebediela. The centre is clean and the elderly have different activities that keep them fit and occupied. One of the primary benefits of an old age home is that it provides relief for families that might be struggling to care for their loved ones. Many families face challenges in balancing their busy schedules with the needs of their elderly relatives, and these centres can offer a much-needed relief. Hon Speaker, we reaffirm our support for the department, and also support the reports as presented in this august House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mankwana Christina Mohale, for opening the debate. Over to you, Hon Marx.

ADV MARX

Hon Speaker, it is common cause that in any parliament or legislature across the world, no matter the subject under discussion, there will always be different perspectives, often shaped by which side of the house a member sits. Those in government may say this bottle is half full and those in the opposition may insist that it is half empty. The truth, Hon Speaker, is that both perspectives hold some merits. As the opposition Members, it is easy to identify shortcomings. However, equally so, Members in government can highlight only the positives.

However, our constitutional duty demands more than selective vision. It requires meaningful and effective oversight over the administration. We must begin by acknowledging that the responsibility of this department is vast and rooted in the Constitution. Section 27 provides for the right of access to social assistance for those who are unable to support themselves and their dependants. Section 28 extends these rights to children, including appropriate care and protection. Schedule 4 places welfare services, population development and disaster management within the shared competence of both national and provincial legislatures.

This means, Hon Speaker, that this department is tasked with some of the most human and urgent responsibilities in our society. The reports before us reflect the scale of this demand. For example, the substance abuse prevention programme reached nearly 79 000 people, far exceeding the target of 49 000 people. Almost 700 people in conflict with the law completed the diversion programme, well above the target of 480. More victims of crime and violence accessed victim empowerment centres than anticipated, and lastly, more gender-based violence victims sought sheltering services than planned.

Therefore, under programme 4, Restorative Services, all targets were achieved, with most being significantly exceeded. These achievements deserve recognition, and as a committee, we acknowledge the department's dedicated efforts to reach those in need. However, Hon Speaker, this brings us back to the half-full or half-empty debate.

Yes, it is commendable that these targets were met and exceeded. Yet the uncomfortable reality is that in a healthier society, we would want these numbers to be going down. Instead of 79 000 substance abuse interventions, we would hope for fewer cases of substance abuse altogether. Instead of more victims of crime and GBV seeking help, we would want fewer victims in the first place. In this sense, the higher these numbers rise, the greater our concern should be. They reflect not only the department's reach but also the scale of suffering in our province.

This is not about pointing fingers at the MEC or accusing the department of doing too little. Rather, it is a desperate plea from our communities who are crying out for more support, more protection and more dignity.

Yet, Hon Speaker, even as the department does more, the demand will continue to grow. This creates a cycle that can only be managed if there is clear, effective

communication between the department, the MEC and Members of this House. When Members furnish the MEC with information about individuals in need, timeous responses are not a courtesy, but they are essential. If these responses are delayed or neglected, confidence in the MEC's leadership may begin to erode. We also recognise the reality that financial constraints will always be a limiting factor. However, within those limits, the department can and must ensure that communication is professional, prompt and reliable.

As the Democratic Alliance, we therefore call on the MEC for Social Development to strengthen communication channels between the department and Members of this Legislature. Treat information about people in need with urgency and seriousness, and work collaboratively with us to protect the integrity, dignity and constitutional rights of the people of Limpopo. Our people do not care about political divides when they are hungry, homeless and vulnerable. They look to us, all of us in this House, as their elected representatives to fight for their rights in these difficult economic times. Let us therefore take hands, set aside selective vision and work together to serve and protect the dignity of the people of Limpopo. They need us. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We'll now allow Hon Magolo Matlebjane Abraham to come to the podium.

MR MAGOLO

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke dumediša Moetapele wa makgotlakganetšo, Commissar Mapoulo; Balekgotlaphethiši le Maloko a Ngwako.

Re le ba EFF re thekga go amogelwa ga pego ya Kotara ya Bobedi le ya Boraro, ya ngwaga wa mašelang wa 2024/25, le pego ya Kotara ya bone ya ngwaga wa mašelang wa 2024/25 ka ditshwayotshwayo tše di latelago:

- Mohlomphegi Mospikara, re dira boipiletšo go kgoro go re e phethagatše ditharollo tša Motlhakišipharephare go ya le ka mokgwa wo a swayaswayilego ka gona go dipego tša gagwe tša tlhakišo. Re tloga re tshwenyegile kudu ka mafokodi a leago ka lebaka la gore gona le tšhomišo mpe ya diokobatši, kudu seokobatši se se bitšwago Nyaope. Re boloka baswa ba go tšwa Metseng, makeišeneng le ditoropong ka lebaka la sona seokobatši se.
- Re na le kgoro yeo e šomago legatong la mmušo go lwantšha di tlhotlo tša go swana le tše; efela rena bjalo ka setšhaba ga re bone phetogo, re bona mathata a Dinyaope gomme ga re bone tharollo. Re a bona gore kgoro e gare e katana le taba ya go tsoseletša bao e lego makgoba a diokobatši, efela palo ya batho bao ba šomišago diokobatši gampe e a oketšega.
- Kgoro e swanetše go re e tle le lenae leo mo go lona e tlogo go šomišana le Maphodisa a naga, toka le batšhotšhisi go re ba kgone go swara batho ba ba rekišago Dinyaope.

- Re ka thibela tšhomišo mpe ya diokobatši ka go swara bao ba di rekišago. Batho ba ba rekišago Dinyaope ba phela ka metseng, re a ba tseba, bothata ke bomenetša bjo bo lego gona ka gare ga tshepedišo ya toka, kudu ka gare ga maphodisa.
- Tsela ya go hwetša tshedimošo le bohlatse e swanetše go kaonafatšwa go re re kgone go lokiša bothata bjo bja diokobatši ka lebaka la gore bo re bolaela bana. Re ba boloka e sale ba ba nnyane ka lebaka la gore go a laetša go re ge ba ka ba ba itema diokobatši ga ba sa kgona go boela morago, ba thoma go thuba, melato ya bohodu le go swara poo le yona e a oketšega, ka lebaka la gore ba utswa ele ge ba nyaka gore ba hwetše setseka sa go fa batho ba go rekiša diokobatši ka mo profenseng ya rena. E a kgonega, Mohlomphegi Mospikara.

We can eliminate it completely. Let us just get commitment from all the participants, the social partners and deal with that problem reliably. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Ntate Magolo. We shall now allow the chair of the committee, Hon Mathe, to close the debate.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to also greet all MECs who are in attendance and those who left earlier; all chairpersons of all portfolio committees; Members of this august House and Hon Mapoulo, in particular; the Chief Whip; the Deputy Chief Whip and all members of the Whippery. Hon Mapoulo, in particular, you are greeted. Heita daar.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Social Development is a department that deals with a number of issues that directly touch the nerves of the society. We want to take this opportunity, Hon Speaker, and appreciate that contributions made by all members of this portfolio committee irrespective of their political affiliation. Our approach was that all these issues that are confronting our communities are issues that require our collective effort. Hon Speaker, we also want to take this opportunity to applaud the MEC and her team for the commendable work that they've been doing. It is unfortunate; if rules were allowing, MEC Radzilani, I was going to call you now and give you a hug here. [LAUGHTER] Unfortunately, the rules do not allow that. Hon Speaker, we also want to appreciate the welcome that we received from two or three traditional authorities in the Vhembe region.

We were received, Hon Speaker, on 23 July while we were conducting an oversight visit in one disability centre. We were warmly received by the royal house under Hosi Xitlhelani. We were also received by the traditional authority of the Mhinga Traditional House. Hon Speaker, the disability centres that we visited, i.e., Pfunanani Xitlhelani Stimulation Centre and the Malamulele Disability Centre, require the support of both the Department of Social Development and the Department of Education.

Hon Speaker, the issue of substance abuse requires all of us to attend to it and to fight it because that is the current problem that contributes towards many social ills. There

are a lot of things that we observe in our communities like raping of a 4-year-old child which is something uncalled for and unnecessary, and evil for that matter. When you go deeper into these issues, you'd realise that substance abuse plays a major role towards these social ills. When we speak about substance abuse, we normally speak about nyaope, cocaine, mandrax and many other things.

Hon Speaker, this department also has a responsibility to play a meaningful role in terms of youth and women's development. Over the past few weeks in this House, we received unsubstantiated allegations – and we are glad that today we did not receive such – that many companies are using disabled people as “fronts” to get tenders. When we say iphepha esandleni, nothing comes out. Hon Mathye, when we say iphepha esandleni, we simply mean that they should produce evidence. People find it easy to stand here and make very wild allegations, but when we say give us evidence so that we can attend to such allegations, there is nothing.

On the issue of audit opinion, Hon Magolo, it is unfortunate that our working relationship in that portfolio committee is so well. I'm going to respond to you very nicely. The department is, after many years of stagnant audit opinion and many years of regressions, sitting on an unqualified audit opinion. Maybe there might be confusion in terms of understanding what a qualified or an unqualified audit opinion is. When we speak of an unqualified audit opinion, we speak of something good.

Hon Speaker, in the last three minutes that I have, let me take this opportunity to also thank you for the guidance that you provided yesterday, as you can see today, I'm not struggling with reading. Let me also take this opportunity to appreciate all women who are Members of this august House as we celebrate Women's Month. [APPLAUSE] Your being here is not only because you are women, but it is because you are part of the core of women leadership in this country and in this province. You are here because of your capabilities and abilities, not because you are women. You are not quota beneficiaries. My message this month also extends to Hon Ledwaba. Happy Women's Month, Hon Ledwaba! [APPLAUSE] As a mother, as a granny, as an aunt, as a sister and as a wife to somebody, when we are here, we are not disrespecting you. Unfortunately, we are doing our work. However, as Africans, we do not forget that you are our elder. [APPLAUSE] In that regard, I want you to accept my happy Women's Month, especially to you. In conclusion, to my dear friend, Hon Hermanus Frans Marx, I'm very much excited about your efforts in trying to learn Sepedi. Marx Frans has two meanings in my township. If you want to learn Sepedi, you must accept that from now, I'll start calling you Friggo – because in my township, Frans is called Friggo. Somewhere in prison, Frans is the most vulnerable prisoner. We normally call him A1.. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

You know, it's just a sad day that Hon Wilson is not here because she would have received a nice message of the Women's Month from her friend. I hope Hon Marx will pass the message to Hon Wilson. Today Hon Mathe was good to all of us. We appreciate you, Hon Mathe, appreciated all of us, even as women, in this August month. Thank you so much. We shall now allow Hon Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, the MEC for Social Development, to respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Speaker, Dr Grace Makhurupetje. Let me greet honourable Members of this House; honourable MECs; the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; the Leader of the Opposition, ba mmitša yo motshehlana, Lawrence Mapoulo. Ke a le dumediša ka moka.

Hon Speaker, let me start my work by sincerely appreciating the robust engagement and guidance of the portfolio committee members. Your support is instrumental in helping us to meet our targets and deliver on our promise of better lives for our people. Our department is on a path of continuous improvement driven by accountability, transparency and a deep commitment to service delivery. We remain resolute in our goal to serve our people with dedication and integrity. I want to fully concur with honourable Members that, indeed, issues of social ills affecting our communities are a cause for concern.

It cannot be a matter to be left with the Department of Social Development and the Department of Transport and Community Safety only. It needs all of us as honourable Members, particularly because we are representatives of our constituencies. When we go back to our respective constituencies, let us make sure that we speak the positive message. Let's encourage our members and encourage our children to refrain from taking part in substance abuse.

We are hard at work as the department; we are intensifying our outreach programmes where we engage with all relevant stakeholders. We are also using social media platforms to communicate the message of discouraging our people from engaging themselves in issues that bring serious challenges to the communities that we are serving. I also want to concur with Hon Mohale on issues of gender-based violence and femicide – that it is something that is very disturbing, especially when looking at how our women are being targeted. As the department, we are hard at work. Hon Marx, we will try our best to improve on our communications. With regard to audit-related matters, the chairperson of the portfolio committee has responded, and we will keep on making sure that we focus on our work. We will improve, especially when it comes to audit outcomes. The Premier has instructed us to work very hard as the department so that we achieve a clean audit because on that department, if we focus on our work, it has the potential to receive a clean audit.

Hon Speaker, let me conclude by appreciating the chairperson as well as all members of the portfolio committee for debating so well. Honourable Members might have realised that there were no serious issues raised. It is because portfolio committee members do attend meetings and thoroughly debate all matters affecting the department. Thank you so much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Florence Radzilani, MEC for Social Development, for responding to the debate. You managed your time very well. Thank you. Re a leboga. Ndo livhuwa ngamaanda.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zwa zwino ri khou ya kha tshiteŋwa tshi tevhelaho. Ndi ngivhadzo nga Deputy Chair of Chairs. Va ta hi hlayela switiviso swa namuntlha.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to make the following announcements:

- Firstly, the Office of the Speaker wishes to inform the honourable Members of the passing of the mother of Hon Frederick Jacobus Smalle, and that the family appreciates the messages that honourable Members were able to share just to condole and commiserate with the family. The funeral of the mother of Hon Smalle will be on 23 August 2025 in KwaZulu-Natal province. Members who are interested to join in support of Hon Smalle are requested to communicate with protocol for purposes of logistical arrangements and support.
- Secondly, the 2025 Provincial Women's Parliament will be held at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber on Thursday, 28 August 2025 at 10:00. Members are requested to make their availability known on or before 25 August.
- Thirdly, there will be a Women's Day celebration for the Legislature staff members tomorrow, Friday, 22 August 2025 at Meropa Casino at 10:00. I think the invitation to that effect has been communicated to the Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, especially female Members. The Speaker extends her sincere appreciation to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for having understood and accepted the request for the postponement of the committee meeting.
- Fourthly, the Legislature will be hosting "Taking Legislature to the People" programme from 08 to 12 September 2025 at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in Sekhukhune District Municipality. All 64 Members of the Legislature are expected to attend. The details in relation to the venue and any other logistics will be communicated in due course.
- Lastly, the next Sitting of the Legislature will be held on Tuesday, 26 August 2025. Lunch will be served at the Committees Boardroom. We are geese and the geese are us. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hi khensile swinene, Mlambya. There are two messages of bereavement that have been presented here. I would like to request that before we adjourn, we should observe a moment of silence. When Hon Mohale presented her own motion, she spoke about the police officer and the eight inmates he was traveling with, who all passed on in that accident. We're doing this memorial service as well to the mother of Hon Smalle. Shall we rise for a moment of silence.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you so much. We have now come to the end of the Sitting. Ke rile re a leboga. We have now come to the end of the Orders of the Day.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 26 August 2025, at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. The House stands adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. We will now take this opportunity to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you, we may all take our seats. Good morning, honourable Members of this august House. We must acknowledge and greet the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; all MECs present in this august House, Deputy Speaker, Mme Tebogo Portia Grace Mamorobela; Chairpersons of Committees, Hon Mokone; Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Hon Ngobeni; Chief Whip who is still outside, but is coming, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip and the entire whippery; opposition parties, Hon Lebogo and your team from the EFF; Hon Wilson, your team and all other parties present here. Good morning, honourable Members.

I am also passing my greetings to all the people sitting in the Gallery, other opposition parties that I have not acknowledged, administration, HODs, officials coming from different departments, and everyone following us from all social media platforms.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Without wasting time, we will proceed to item 2 to check if there are motions without notice in terms of Rule 145. Can I see the hands of those who have motions without notice? Is Hon Bongani Nkonyana here? Okay. It's over to you, Hon Lebogo.

MR LEBOGO

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. E re ke dumediše Ngwako o o hlomphegago. Ke a bona gore le tlile ka bontšhi lehono, re a le lebogiša. Ke rata go lebogiša Tonakgolo ya rena ka lebaka la gore o boile.

**KOTLO YA KGORO KGATLHANONG LE JUSTICE MACHETHE, YO A BONWEGO
MOLATO, DITATOFATŠONG TŠA GO FAPANAFAPANA, TŠA GO KATA
(Tšhišinyo ntle le Tsebišo)**

Ke ema legatong la EFF go šišinya ntle le tsebišo, go lemoša Ngwako gore:

- Justice Machethe o bonwe molato wa go kata, go swara poo le go hlasela batho ka la 19 Phato 2025 ka go Lekgotlatshekelo le le Phagamego la Polokwane, gomme a fiwa sekwebo sa mengwaga ye masomepedi hlano ka kgolegong.

- Bosenyi bjo o bo dirile magareng ga ngwaga wa 2005 le 2019. O be a lebeletše kudu basadi le bana ba motse wa Bolobedu, ka tlase ga Selete sa Mopani.
- Bošula bjo a bego a bo dira bo kwešitše profense ya Limpopo Bohloko, ke ka fao re amogelago sephetho sa kgoro bjalo ka Economic Freedom Fighters.
- Re duma ge nkebe a filwe sekwebo sa Bophelo ka moka. Re duma gore thaka tša gagwe di tlaiše ditho tša gagwe tšeo a bego a dišomiša go tlaiša batho ka tšona, ka mokgwa wo a bego a tlaiša batho ba go sekgone go itwela ka gona.
- Re rata gore kotlo ye ebe molaetša go ba bangwe bao ba katago bana, go hloriša batšofe le batho ka moka mo nageng ya rena, gore re ka se kgotlelele mekgwa ya go swana le ye, yeo e lego gore le diphoofolo ga di e šomiše

Ke šišinya kere yalo.

THE SPEAKER

May those who are talking please switch off their microphones. Is there anyone to second the motion? You are recognised, Hon Malemela.

MR MALEMELA

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Ke ema mo go thekga seo se boletšego ke Mohlomphegi Lebogo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I recognise Hon Monama, the Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVICTION OF EUGENE DE KOCK FOR THE MURDER OF APARTHEID ACTIVISTS OF THIS COUNTRY

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the glorious movement, the African National Congress, for the House to note that:

- Today, 26 August 2025, marks exactly 29 years since the conviction of an apartheid kingpin, an atrocious and apologist Eugene de Kock for the murders of anti-apartheid activists of this country.
- Eugene de Kock who is notoriously known for killing several anti-apartheid activists at the Vlakplaas Farm, was convicted for numerous murders of apartheid activists on this day, 26 August 1996.

- He was sentenced to an effective two life sentences and a further 212 years imprisonment, which was converted into a parole in 2015.
- In this democratic dispensation, we saw it befitting to grant this criminal a parole jail term because we were made aware that he was made a scapegoat since he was acting on orders.
- We did so even though we are convinced that he has not revealed the whole truth about his involvement in the killings of our many liberation stalwarts against apartheid.
- He also admitted being part of numerous operations at the instruction of people like P W Botha and F W de Klerk during his trial.
- Historic occasions like these remain a constant reminder of the historic upheavals that South Africa had to traverse to attain this state of democracy.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there anyone to second the motion? It's over to you, Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Falaza Mdaka, rise to second the motion as moved by Hon Monama. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I see your hand, Hon Nenguda; however, my list indicates that you are supposed to do a Members' Statement. Are you doing a Members' Statement or a motion? [SILENCE]

Okay. Is there anyone with a motion without notice? I recognise you, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. A blessed morning to you and the august House.

A BIRTHDAY MESSAGE TO HONOURABLE KEDIBONE LEBEA'S MOTHER (Motion without Notice)

Today is a very special day. A day that brought a very special and tenacious woman to this side of the earth. A woman who gave birth to a very resilient and progressive woman by the name of Kedibone Lebea. I rise to wish my mother a blessed birthday in this august House. May she live long.

I move accordingly. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion, honourable Members? Hon Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall continue with motions without notice. I see a number of hands. Hon Hermanus Frans Marx, you are recognised.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**LIMPOPO SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED THE 2025 SOUTH AFRICAN BOWLS MIXED
PAIRS TOURNAMENT**
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on a motion without notice for this House notes with appreciation that:

- Limpopo successfully hosted the 2025 South African Bowls Mixed Pairs Tournament from 21-24 August 2025.
- This was the first occasion that Limpopo hosted the National Bowls Mixed Pairs Tournament, which took place at Polokwane Golf Club.
- Teams representing all 20 Bowls districts across all the South African provinces participated.
- The ages of participants ranged widely from as young as 15 years old to a senior who is 77 years old, reflecting the inclusivity of the sport.
- Limpopo represented us very well and performed commendably, finishing in 7th place overall out of the 20 participating teams.
- The House also congratulates Bowls South Africa, Limpopo district organisers, Polokwane Bowls Club, and all the participants for contributing to the success of this prestigious national event. It showcases our province as a worthy sporting destination.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? It's over to you, Hon Helm Maria.

MS HELM

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there any further motions without notice? It's over to you, Hon Andre Moss.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

A HORRIFIC ACCIDENT THAT INJURED 39 PASSENGERS, INCLUDING 30 LEARNERS FROM A SPECIAL SCHOOL AT MAGOEBASKLOOF
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus to move without notice and with great concern for this House to note that:

- There was a recent bus crash at Magoebaskloof outside Tzaneen in which 39 passengers, including 30 learners from a special school sustained injuries, and required hospitalisation.
- Despite clear signage prohibiting heavy trucks on this section, enforcement has often been inadequate, resulting in repeated tragedies and preventable loss of life.
- We commend the swift action of the emergency personnel, police and traffic officers who consistently respond under very difficult conditions.
- We call upon the Department of Transport to strengthen law enforcement to ensure that heavy vehicles comply with existing restrictions on the R71 and the R528. They must also engage with the Department of Education to ensure that scholar transport, particularly for learners with special needs, is provided with the highest safety standards on these hazardous roads.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Honourable Members must remember that a motion falls off if it is not seconded. Is there anyone to second the motion? You are recognised, Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Andre Moss. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We are moving forward. You may present your motion without notice, Hon Sebothoma.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Hon Speaker, the esteemed House, Colleagues in the opposition benches, and our viewers at home. Ke re kgotsong Ma-Afrika.

THE UAT CELEBRATES AN EMERGING FARMER WHO HAS PERSEVERED IN BUSINESS FOR CLOSE TO A DECADE DESPITE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES (Motion without Notice)

I move without notice for the House to note that:

- The UAT celebrates an emerging farmer in the Zebediela area who has persevered in the business for close to a decade despite significant challenges.
- We want to acknowledge his resilience, determination, and resolve to remain in business despite lacking access to formal trading markets. One might wonder how he has managed to stay afloat for all these years.
- Like many emerging farmers across the province, he sells his produce: potatoes, spinach, watermelon, and green peppers directly from his field, which is strategically located along busy roads to customers for household consumption.
- The construction of a nearby mall offered hope that it would provide a reliable market for his produce; however, the red tape has prevented him from accessing this.
- Unreasonable demands for him to produce a weekly quarter are far beyond his capacity, and are ironically more than what the supermarket requires, which has been a significant obstacle.
- Today, we humbly appeal to this House, through the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture to assist black emerging farmers in their vital role of ensuring food security.
- We propose providing meaningful training on farming cooperatives to help them overcome this bureaucracy.
- We cannot stand by and do nothing while white monopoly capital continues to dominate markets at the expense of market-starved black farmers.
- Our plea as the UAT is to urge this government to pass a Bill that compels major supermarkets at these malls to dismantle this bureaucracy and begin to support emerging black farmers, thereby allowing them to participate meaningfully in the province's mainstream economy.

So, I submit. Khanimamba!

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Morena Sebothoma. Naa gona le yo a thekgago tšhišinyo ye? [NOISE]. Hon Sebothoma, a motion falls off if it is not seconded; therefore, your motion will not be recorded as one of the motions that were submitted to this House. Hon Malemela, do you still have a motion without notice? Okay.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

I think that we are done with motions without notice, and we are moving to item 3, which is notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146. Is there any notice? There is none.

4. MEMBER STATEMENTS

We will move to item 4. Are there any Members' Statements in line with Rule 199? Are there any statements from the EFF because the people whose names are appearing on my list are not in the House? So, I am not sure if there are any. Otherwise, let me allow Hon Nenguda to present his statement.

MR NENGUDA

A FATAL ACCIDENT THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF PASSENGERS ALONG THE R574 IN THE ELLIAS MOTSOLEDI MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

Ndi a livhuwa Mulangadzulo Dokotela Vho Makhurupetje, ndi thome hafhu nga u lumelisa Muhulisei Mulangavundu, Vhahulisei vhothe, Miraḁo ya Khorotshitumbe vha re fhanu namusi, ndi sa hangwi Vhahulisei Miraḁo ya Nḁu ino. Ndo ima hafha sa vhurumelwa vhu bvaho kha African National Congress.

Hon Speaker, we have noted with concern the fatal accident that claimed the lives of passengers along the R574 in the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality in the Sekhukhune District yesterday on Monday, 25 August 2025. This happens despite the numerous interventions by this government to ensure heightened traffic police visibility to promote road safety.

Hon Speaker, fatalities like these speak to our capability to ensure a state of zero fatalities on our roads. We have received reports that the deceased in this fatality were foreign nationals who were travelling to South Africa. This means that the government will have to activate an additional arsenal of its other agencies to ensure a seamless repatriation process of the deceased's mortal remains.

Madam Speaker, the fatality is a clarion call to the government to heighten its road safety measures and improve our road safety records. I thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Ndi a livhuwa.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, that was the only member statement that is on my list, unless there is another one that I am not aware of. If there are no Members' Statements, I will allow a member of the executive committee, Manana Susani Mathye, the MEC for the Department of Transport and Community Safety, to respond to the Member' Statement. It's over to you, Hon Mathye.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Inkomu, Muchaviseki Xipikara. Ndzi pfumeleleni ndzi xeweta Huvonkulu ya Xifundzankulu xa Limpopo leyi nga rhangeriwa hi Dokodela Phophi Ramathuba. Ndzi xeweta Swirho hinkwaswo swa Yindlu ya Mfumo wa Milawu, na swa mavandla yo kaneta leswi nga kona ka Yindlu ya Mfumo wa Milawu leswi tshameke ka voko ra mina ra ximatsi. Ndzi xeweta nhlangano lowukulu wa swikwembu wa African National Congress. Ndzi ri avuxeni.

Hon Speaker, allow me to applaud Hon Lebogo for what he said about Justice Machethe. I applaud you Hon Lebogo, because you clearly mentioned and admitted that the ANC-led government is at work. [APPLAUSE]. Hon Speaker, I would like to thank the Members for their statements and to reaffirm that the department remains unwavering in its commitment to intensify law enforcement and monitoring of our roads to ensure that there is compliance from all motorists.

Our traffic law enforcement officers are deployed strategically to conduct regular patrols, vehicle checks, and operations aimed at curbing reckless driving. I always say that the decision lies with the driver. One driver decided to make a wrong decision that led to the fatality that happened yesterday at Tafelkop, where five people lost their lives.

Before I conclude, Hon Premier. Allow me to say that there is nothing wrong with our roads, but people decide to ignore the road signs, speed, and overtake where it is not safe to do so. All these actions will always cause fatal crashes in our country, and South Africa is among ten countries that experience high numbers of these fatalities. Let me convey my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the deceased on behalf of Limpopo Province, not forgetting to send condolences to their country of origin, Mozambique. Let us please be careful. Safety starts with you. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much for the response, Honourable MEC. We really appreciate it.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We will now refer to the Order Paper to check if there are any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 200. There is none

We will move directly to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS, AND PAPERS

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makoma Makhurupetje. Our Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the governing party; leaders of the opposition parties; Chair of Chairs, Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Simon Mathe; all the members of the portfolio committee; honourable Members of this august House; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, a very blessed morning to you all.

Hon Speaker, I stand before you today to table the Annual Performance Report for the 2023/24 financial year, which is vote 12, the Department of Social Development. Initially the report was withdrawn due to a dispute lodged with the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA), particularly relating to performance concerns. I wish to inform this august House that the dispute has since been fully resolved. The audit outcome remains unchanged and there are no outstanding issues affecting the integrity of the report.

In light of this resolution, the department formally withdraws the letter dated 3 October 2024, which previously indicated the withdrawal of the report. This action now permits the House to proceed with the tabling of the 2023/24 Annual Performance Report. We are committed as the department to transparency and accountability. I assure this House that the department will continue to uphold the highest standards of cooperate governance. Thank you so much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity that has been afforded to me. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Honourable MEC. The 2023/24 Annual Performance Report for Social Development together with the written explanation of non-submission on time, are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. Thank you so much. We will now move to item 6.2.

6.2 Tabling of the Departmental/Institutional Annual Reports for the financial year ending 2024/25: Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu, the stage is yours.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

TABLING OF DEPARTMENT/INSTITUTIONAL ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Hon Premier of our province; Members of the Executive Council; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; the Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip and all the honourable Members in the House.

Hon Speaker, allow me to indicate to the august House that the Annual Reports are the important mechanism by which the Executive accounts to the provincial Legislature on their activities. Section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 as amended, provides that the Executive Authority responsible for the department or public entity must table in the provincial Legislature the Annual Report, the financial statements and the audit report of those statements, within one month of the Accounting Officer of the department or public entity receives the audit report. As a result, I hereby on behalf of

my colleagues in the Executive Council table the departmental and institutional Annual Reports for the following departments to be considered by the House:

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

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Makamu. The tabled Departmental/Institutional Annual Reports for the financial year ending 2024/25 are referred to the relevant portfolio committees and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. We will now move to item 6.3.

6.3 Tabling of the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature: Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker, there is a confusion, you were given the speech and the tabling, please focus on the tabling. Deputy Speaker, the stage is yours.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I have realised that, but we will manage. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Hon Premier, Dr Ramathuba; Members of the Executive; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Whippery and greetings to the Members of the Legislature. Good morning, honourable Members.

Hon Speaker, at the same time this august House must note that South Africa commemorates Women's Month in August...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Deputy Speaker, please focus on the tabling.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Speaker, the Annual Report tabled before this august House includes audited attachment of the financial statements for 2024/25 financial year, the audit report on those statements and the Annual Performance Report as required by the legislation. I must indicate that our audit results for the financial year under consideration is an unqualified audit outcome with issues of emphasis. We shall work hard to improve...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please table the Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS-TALK]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Speaker, in compliance with the dictates of the section 60 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act 2009, I, Tebogo Portia Mamrobela, the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, hereby table before this House the Annual Report including the audited financial statements by the Auditor-General for the financial year ending 2024/25 to be considered by the relevant committee of this august House. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much for tabling the report. The 2024/25 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House. Thank you so much, honourable Members. We shall directly move to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life; Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability:

Committee chairperson, Hon Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, the stage is yours.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makhurupetje. Let me first greet our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Deputy Speaker; Chair of Chairs; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; MECs and the honourable Members in the House.

I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, hereby presents in this august House the 2024/25 First Quarter Performance Report on special programme for the Standing

Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chair. Honourable Members, is there any seconder? Hon Matjomane Delly, you are recognised.

MS MATJOMANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I hereby second the report that was presented by the chair of the committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Siyathokoza. It's over to you, chair.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

I hereby present in this august House the 2024/25 Second Quarter Performance Report on special pProgramme for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Dr Che Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Ke eme mo go thekga, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela ka tšhišinyo ye a e tlišitšego.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. It's over to you, chair.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I hereby present in this august House the 2024/25 Third Quarter Performance Report on special programme for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Kupa, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I hereby support what the chairperson has presented to the august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. It's over to you, chair.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Caroline Manthata-Mahasela hereby present in this august House the 2024/25 Fourth Quarter Report Performance Report on special programme for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR NKONYANA

Ngiyathokoza, Somlomo oHloniphekileko. Igamalami nginguBongani wakwaNkonyane, isokana lakaMbuti Nkonyana, ongasekho ephasini. Ngisikimela ukusekela lokho okwethulwe ngumHlonitjhwa u-Manthata-Mahasela. Ngiyathokoza.

THE SPEAKER

Sizwile mHlonitjhwa Nkonyana. Hon Manthata-Mahasela, do not leave the podium, we are now moving to item 7.2.

7.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life; Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability:

Committee chairperson, Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you may proceed.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makhurupetje. I think I have presented all the reports, hence I mentioned that the report I just presented was the last one. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

You have item 7.1 and 7.2. You have only presented reports up to the Fourth Quarter. You must proceed to item 7.2.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, hereby present in this august House the report on the 2025 Provincial Youth Parliament, that was held on the 27 June 2025, for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mokaba, rise to support the report of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability that was presented by Hon Manthata-Mahasela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are now released, you can leave the podium. Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The person who opens the debate is Hon Shai Mpho Sonnyboy. Hon Shai Mpho, the floor is yours.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip and not forgetting the Members of the whippery; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life; Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability, Hon Manthata-Mahasela; Honourable colleagues, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, as we continue to celebrate our women and their achievements over the years, let us accelerate the role of women in the economy of our province and empower them. Let us also commit to tackle barriers that they are faced with, such as poverty, inequality and unemployment that hinder their development. Over the years, the ANC-led government has accelerated women's access to basic services including social welfare provisions, economic opportunities and lifting millions out of absolute poverty. However, we acknowledge that more still needs to be done.

The First and the Second Quarter Report of the 2024/25 financial year, painted a picture of improvement with regard to representation of women in the Senior Management Services (SMS) level and persons with disabilities, as opposed to 2023/24 financial year. The provincial departments continue to do their best in meeting the target of 50% for women at the SMS level and 2% for people with disability. We want to applaud the departments that comply by overachieving and we urge those that are still behind to meet the targets, as a matter of extreme urgency.

The standing committee is pleased with the progress, with regard to the provincial procurement that is recorded by the departments that have achieved, and those that have overachieved. In the same breath, we are deeply worried about the departments that are not meeting the targets, and we call upon the Office of the Premier to convince such departments to develop extra measures of implementation. We dare not fail our designated groups at this day and age of our democracy.

Furthermore, we are pleased as the standing committee with the progress recorded in the programme that is concerned with children on their birth registration, where the Department of Home Affairs is doing its work, besides the minor challenges. On early childhood development programme support, the department achieved 100% of the set target of ECD centres to be registered and supported. We are further pleased with the achievements on the sanitary dignity towels distribution and child support activities,

despite the minor challenges that the department is faced with regarding to the service provider. We want to thank the department for rapidly responding to the challenge and ensuring that our learners are not disadvantaged.

It was evident during the debates by different youth formations of the 2025 Youth Parliament, here in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber, that indeed the youth of Limpopo are living to the vision of our government, the vision that says; together we can do more. The robustness and determination with which the deliberations were carried out, clearly showed that indeed the future of our economy will be in safe hands, if we nurture and empower them in all the facets of life.

We welcome the efforts by the Office of Premier and the provincial government in implementing the resolutions of the previous Youth Parliament, hence, we are encouraged to continue together and make more inputs to better the lives of young people. It became evident during the debates that education and skills development will go a long way in circumventing the challenges that our country and the youth is facing in building future leaders. It is high time that as a country, we should develop a framework to align our higher learning curriculum and the workplace. Our universities and TVET colleges should play a meaningful role in preparing our youth for the job market.

Hon Premier, our province is favoured with the minerals and citrus which we should exploit to grow the economy of our province by skilling our youth through beneficiation. The province must consider establishing special mining schools in Sekhukhune and Waterberg Districts, as these two districts have mineral deposits in abundance. Our youth should be skilled and educated in mining and mining exploration to further explore more mining opportunities except for chrome and platinum. Once the skills gap is bridged, our province will be competitive, and productivity will be maintained in all the sectors of our economy and the youth being at the centre of that development.

The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism should continue with the efforts to encourage public and private partnership and identify experiential learning opportunities for our youth. The Limpopo Economic Development Agency must take a meaningful lead in ensuring that our province is marketed to enhance our chances of attracting more investors. The agency must initiate the deliberate youth development strategies to mitigate the urging economic activists of our province. The tourism industry in our province has massive potential to ease the burden of unemployment amongst the youth, if are well-marketed and managed.

Our province has many tourism destinations compared to our sister provinces. We, therefore, call upon the department through the Limpopo Tourism Agency to expand its marketing network and recruit more tourism investors. In the same breath, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development should take advantage of the many commercial farms we have in the province and partner with farmers to provide training to our youth in farming. More farming intrapreneurs will be developed and assist in employing our youth, which will further enable skills transfer. Manufacturing and processing are the activities that are not exploited to their maximum potential, as the province with many citrus farms around us. We are impressing upon the departments to ensure and establish mineral manufacturing and agro-processing hubs and train the youth in the sector.

The youth living with disability and women should also be prioritised with all the training needs. The sector has experienced marginalisation in the past and deliberate attempts must be made to empower them, so that we should comply with our equity legislations. We continue to make a plea to all the departments, state-owned enterprises and private companies to consider and prioritise this vulnerable sector of our society.

Hon Speaker, the standing committee is pleased with the progress made on the youth development fund, which has since been established. We are calling upon the administrators of the fund to reach out to more youth entrepreneurs in all the four corners of the province and assist them. We are also pleased with the implementation of programmes towards capacitating youth development missionary, and call to broader collaborations with the sector working around the youth development through skill development and placement into the job markets.

Hon Speaker, the creation of the two special economic zones in our province, is a step in a right direction because they create sustainable investment and economic development value chain. Opportunities should be created for our young people to benefit when the consideration is made on small and medium enterprises that apply for spacing in the two zones. Young people must be considered by companies when proposing partnerships for the empowerment and employment opportunities.

Hon Premier, the provincial government must consider the insourcing of basic job opportunities that are sourced from private service providers in the public sector i.e. security, cleaning services, plumbing and electricians, as the tendering and procurement does not favour young people.

The above scenario will motivate our young people to consider enrolment at TVET colleges knowing that opportunities are galore for them after completion. As the provincial government considers insourcing over outsourcing, we are encouraging the public and private sector companies to provide procurement opportunities for the unemployed youth to venture into their business space. Business and on the job mentorship programmes must strengthen the above available opportunities, which will create direct employment and startup businesses that are adopted into their supply value chain system.

The above is contained in our policy documents, such as broad-based black economic empowerment, which we must continue to advocate for on behalf of young people. All of the above, Hon Speaker and Hon Premier, must be implemented by the end of the 2025/26 financial year, as requested by the participants of the Youth Parliament.

Hon Speaker, I move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Shai for sparing us 1 minute 30 seconds. We will now proceed to Hon Helm Maria. Hon Shai was allocated 14 minutes, and you have 9 minutes. It's over to you, Hon Helm.

MS HELM

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Our Premier; Members of the Executive; the whipper; honourable Members in the House and our distinguished guests. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Hon Speaker, in this Women's Month, I will focus on the women in Limpopo. We can talk forever on the empowerment of women, unless we create an enabling environment for women to empower themselves, very little will change. We can set employment targets and [inaudible], we can give preferential treatment to women, force the departments to employ a certain percentage of women and give contracts to women that will make a difference but the big question remains, is that sustainable and will it really give most women in Limpopo the opportunities that they need or are we only empowering a small elite? The truth is, we create dependency not self-sustaining women. True empowerment relies on an enabling environment.

It starts at the beginning with good quality education. If we are happy that women can pass with 30% pass rate, then I wonder if young women learn the correct values to make them succeed in life. I am not talking about the lucky 5 to 10% that will succeed in the government contracts and government preferential treatment, I am talking about the ordinary young women who can't find jobs and who are unemployable because, they have challenges to read for meaning and other basic competencies. We need more competent mathematics, book-keeping and computer educators who can force the learners with the competencies to enable them to thrive as entrepreneurs. We need to teach young women to respect money, plan, budget properly and to have pride in sustaining themselves.

Reducing teenage pregnancy is one of the best ways to enable women to maximise their potential. It is important that young women must be old enough to decide for themselves, and we must reduce teenage pregnancy. We must create an environment that gives young women a bright future. True empowerment relies on jobs and opportunities, jobs for every woman not only a few. However, jobs do not fall out of a thin air, and we know how difficult it is to create jobs. For the creation of jobs, we need an enabling environment, and it starts at the basic. We need an effective road system. We need our young women to move around from village to village, so that they can buy products then resell them. We need good roads, not just roads that look like ground and there is nothing on them.

We need access to water at homes, so that young women can use their time to create the future and not use their time to queue around the pit in the ground where they compete with animals for water. We need incentives to establish, support and grow small businesses for everyone, and this is an interesting thing. We all know that one small business often creates an environment for other businesses. We need quality skills training, one hairdresser in the village creates opportunities for small businesses to stock e.g. hair extensions and in turn that supports this business.

We know what does not work, we have 30 years of foul projects and this empowerment in each village in Limpopo. We must drive to any village in Limpopo and look at the millions of rands wasted on projects of all sorts. All that is left is rusty infrastructure, half-built buildings, overground project sites. We must stop this waste. If we can accept that

every department has a role to play to create an enabling environment, then the question remains, what can we do as a committee?

I have three proposals: Firstly, we need to follow up on each teenage pregnancy and if the girl child is under the age, we need to open cases of rape against males who are responsible. We need to follow up and ensure that the male person is in jail. One woman cannot impregnate another woman, only males can do that. It is true, there is no way that I can impregnate another woman. [LAUGHTER] No, it is not possible, I can assure you.

Secondly, we need to participate and support the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety and strengthen the court watch programme. We as the committee, must ensure that each case is followed up and we need to extend the court watch programme to more magistrate courts. We need to follow up on women who are empowered, either through getting a job or contract and ensure that they empower other women. We are all in this and the question is, are we empowering other women?

We need strong independent women, and we have good examples, to grow our province and our country. We do not need women dependent upon the government. Finally, whether we admit it or not, the government is complicit in the systematic failure of safeguarding woman and the lack of opportunities that woman receive. Let this Seventh Administration be the change that are looking for. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Helm. You have saved us 3 minutes and 17 seconds, that is good. We were supposed to have Hon Ledwaba from the EFF, but Hon Lebogo will present on behalf of the EFF. It's over to you, Hon Lebogo.

MR LEBOGO

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. On behalf of 26 July Movement, re thoma ka dumediša bomme ka moka bao e le go ba tšwa sehlabelo ba tlaišo ka bong. Re eme mo regopola bomahlwa a dibona; Mokaba Precilla, Sara Malema, Mahlodi Malema gape le Rulani Mudau, who encountered medical negligence in Tshilidzini Hospital after the botched operation.

Hon Speaker, the support of designated groups such as youth, women, children and people living with disability by the government is very scanty. Public institutions have not yet developed cogent structures and programmes of addressing challenges faced by designated groups like youth, women, people living with disability, children and military veterans. There are no clear norms and standards by this government in terms of addressing challenges faced by these designated groups in our society.

The youth directorate in the Office of the Premier has serious capacity problems, with only four officials who are responsible for youth development matters. This is a clear testimony that there is no political will and leadership in this province to address all the challenges faced by the young people of our province.

Hon Speaker, there is nothing worse than having a government which does not have solutions, such a government is not fit to lead the society. Hon Speaker, can we get a report on the reduction of illiteracy and increase in skills investment through internships and learnerships during the period under review. The last time we checked, such a report did not exist, meaning that there was nothing that was happening in this regard.

The youth living with disability at the Supported Employment Enterprise which is located at Seshego Industrial Park, must be prioritised and supported. Even when projects are to be advertised, they must be given that priority and we wish to see the centre fully working. There are a number of divisions, and I know that Hon Premier visited the centre some time back, but there is no serious movement. Those people do almost everything; from carpentry and they can do anything that you can think of. Those are graduates from special schools, and they deserve the support from the government. The Legislature does not have sign language services; we need such a service to accommodate deaf people in our province and that service must accompany any programme of the Legislature, so that we do not isolate part of our society.

Hon Speaker, in terms of 25% procurement in our province which must be spent on women, the departments have dismally failed with LEDET which has declined. It is very disappointing, from 34,5% to 10,70% during the period under review. That should be a sign of concern to all the communities. In terms of procurement spent on youth, no single department reached the target of 25%, yet young people are blamed to be drunkards and everything that is not necessary in the society and the government is failing to empower them. Again, this is a clear indication of lack of political will and leadership to address the challenges facing young people in the province of Limpopo.

May we get the progress report on the 3% procurement budget with regard to the projects awarded to military veterans. This report must equally include if the Office of the Premier met the targets in terms of the same indicator. Hon Speaker, how many designated groups especially people living with disability have been recruited and empowered through the employment equity policies especially at SMS level?

Hon Speaker, the budget of R10 million as reported for the Limpopo youth fund is a drop in the ocean, given many challenges faced by the young people. Our youth as we are standing here, require direct intervention and injection of funds into their businesses because the mainstream financial sector is rejecting them through unbearable conditions. Therefore, this government must ensure that it gives young people who want to be in business money and give them the necessary support to grow and that is one route to reduce the rate of unemployment and social ills that we are facing. Therefore, R10 million is indeed nothing compared to what we are facing. We are emphasising that we need a fund that can inject money.

Hon Speaker, most FET colleges are offering training in less absolute skills such as administration courses and others. However, for our province to change, it requires more skills which are related to industrialisation, i.e., engineering, artisan skills, boiler making, construction and maintenance, etc., and that will change our economy and provincial outlook.

We are standing here, and we are disappointed to report that offices of the NYDA in this province have been closed for almost a year. They have reopened recently, mid-July

because they could not afford rent, they were locked out, and they are changing offices bjalo ka batho ba ba jelego hlogwana ya kgaka. Ba be ba le kua mokgotheng wa Schoeman, gona bjalo ba tsamaile ba ile kua mokgotheng wa Biccard, e se kgale ba ka mokgotheng wa Thabo Mbeki. It is a mess that has negative impact on youth development, kindly zoom into that situation of people who change offices and who cannot afford mere telephone services. Young people do not know where to get youth development services in our province. The chapter of youth development in Limpopo is in jeopardy because of NYDA offices not being visible and accessible.

Hon Speaker, it is always reported that the Office of the Premier has given directives to various departments to execute this and that. However, we are unable to detect the monitoring mechanism to ensure that there is mandatory implementation and departments meet the required targets. Therefore, we are calling upon the Hon Premier to ensure that she puts more pressure and focus on the issues of youth development and deliverables across all the departments and entities.

The lack of capacity by departments to attract people from designated groups, is worrying, and it warrants that something must be done urgently by this House. For all these to happen, all that we need and all that we are asking for, is your vision and activism. and as a leader to ensure that everything is implemented, not only remain on paper for people of Limpopo especially women, children, people living with disability are highly disadvantaged. Young people are loitering in the streets because there is no one to take care of them and as the EFF, we call upon your offices to ensure that we respect young people and service them. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, you saved us 3 minutes and 18 seconds, which is very encouraging. We will now allow the chairperson of the committee, Hon Manthata-Mahasela Caroline to come and close the debate.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Let me first greet our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; let me also greet our Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; let me also greet our Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Grace Mamorobela; I also greet the MECs, all the honourable Members in this august House, the Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, let me firstly appreciate the event that the Speakership organised last Friday at Meropa Casino and Entertainment World to honour women in leadership and their achievements. It was indeed a thought-provoking adventure for our women, and we say keep up the good work.

This coming Thursday, 28 August 2025, the Legislature will be hosting the Women's Parliament to allow our women to converse amongst themselves on issues of common interest, empowerment and challenges that they face daily.

Hon Speaker, as we have appreciated the work of the Office of the Premier in the first and second quarter around the establishment of the Limpopo Development Fund, the standing committee is concerned with the slow pace of delivering on the mandate of the fund. The lack of coordination with the stakeholders must be resolved as a matter of urgency, so that our young people would benefit from the funds. We call upon the role players to quickly conclude the assessment of applicants and beneficiaries. We urge the standing committee to ensure that in the First Quarter of 2025/26 financial year funds are distributed to the intended beneficiaries.

The standing committee is further concerned that the objectives set out in the youth development programmes could not be achieved because of the lack of appropriate capacity within the youth sector to develop skills audit. These programmes are critical to our effort as both public and private sectors to reduce youth unemployment and economic exclusion. The programme that relates to the provision of business capacity for designated groups leaves much to be desired. The target of 60 000 capacity building initiative and 3 750 of opportunities could not be met, only 1 946 was achieved, a far cry from the target. However, the standing committee appreciates and welcomes the overachievement in the creation of internship and learnership programmes and urge the Office of Premier to work towards the review of the target to absorb more young people.

Although some progress was recorded by some departments in the first and second quarter around the employment equity for designated groups, it is regrettable that there is regression in meeting the quarters of 50% on women representation at Senior Management Services (SMS) level and 2% on the people with disability, respectively. Out of 11 departments, only 2 departments were able to meet the targets. The standing committee is making a passionate plea to the Hon Premier to direct the departments through the office of the Director-General to develop tangible strategies to address the matter.

Hon Speaker, the standing committee applauds the departments that continue to do better in achieving targets with regard to procurement for designated groups. It is again regrettable that in terms of the procurement spent on youth, no department was able to meet the target. However, the standing committee notes and welcomes some improvements recorded by the above eight departments. We urge the departments to create the necessary capacity to attract relevant candidates from the designated groups.

The standing committee calls on the Office of the Premier to enhance the programmes to increase the number of entrepreneurs with disability bidding through the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism enterprise and development programmes. We are pleased that the highest office in the province acknowledges the role played by our military veterans and seek to consider them in the programme which is procurement for designated groups. The standing committee urges all the provincial departments to increase efforts in empowering our military veterans.

The standing committee is elated that the programme on the registration on Early Childhood Development centres continues to record overachievement and it is a positive sign of the ANC-led government on early childhood development for a better future.

It is an undisputable fact that the youth is the future of our country and carries the hopes of changing our province, country and the world for the better and the journey starts here in Limpopo. Economic development and empowerment are the key drivers in ensuring that our youth participates fully in the creation of a better life for all and any country that does not take care of its youth is not serious about its future. Statistics show that our country is rapidly becoming youthful. This year's youth parliament has again demonstrated a need to spare no effort in creating favourable conditions and opportunities for our young people. Enterprise development is the cornerstone of any developing country for economic participation by all its citizens. Development of enterprises will serve as a catalyst for economic participation of our youth, particularly the previously disadvantaged groups. With our country facing a serious challenge of unemployment amongst the youth, it is important that we prioritise enterprise development to strategically promote economic participation, self-employment and innovation amongst the youth.

Interventions are needed to turn around the structural challenges of employment and entrepreneurship for young people. We must unlock the potential to access financial institutions by inspiring youth entrepreneurs and enhance entrepreneurial education amongst young people. To sustain the momentum of job creation and sustainable livelihood, enterprise development is the vehicle for entertaining unemployment challenges faced by the youth. Enterprise development will further encourage self-reliance by our youth and a better way of surviving in the international world. Young people are determined to actively participate in the economy and create the much needed jobs in our province. Ours is to put mechanisms in place to increase their knowledge and resources accordingly. For young people to realise their potential to the fullest, the government and the private sector must invest in them by providing relevant training and funding. The government and the private sector must prioritise equipping our young people with information that will enhance their knowledge and skills.

When it comes to social ills and health issues. Tackling societal challenges that manifest through social ills and health issues is key in building healthy and positive future generations. A healthy environment will translate into a healthy nation and there will be certainty in the future of our province and country, which is our youth. All the departments and particularly the social cluster must play a central role in addressing these social challenges with the private sector. The Departments of Social Development, Education, Justice, Sport, Arts and Culture, Health and the South African Police Services must develop joint outreach programmes to address these issues. This approach will empower our young people with knowledge on physical, mental and emotional health matters. Coordinated by social cluster departments, we must establish committees in rural villages and townships to encourage young people to participate in health education programmes and create access to psychosocial support and a safe environment for engagement and empowerment. Social ills are the highest contributing factors to a desperate situation that our young people are faced with. Lack of opportunities for young people contributes to crime and drug abuse in the communities, which is a threat to the future of our province.

In conclusion, let me say that as the committee, we are very impressed by your immediate response to the issues that need to be addressed with regard to our youth. Lastly, let me borrow from the analogy of our first democratically elected President;

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Madiba when he said, “After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb”. We have made strides in trying to better the lives of our future leaders although is not enough, we must hand in glove with our young people to do more and to better their living conditions. It is still a long way to go but victory is certain. I move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chair and the entire committee for the debate. We shall now call upon the Hon Premier of the province of Limpopo to come and respond to the debate. Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, you have 5 minutes to respond to the debate. We have added 2 minutes to your time because the debate was long. It's over to you Hon Premier.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; the whippers; the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Caroline Manthata-Mahasela and all other chairpersons of different portfolio committees; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the opposition party and their leader; honourable Members of this august House; representatives of HODs; Director General and members of the public who are within the public gallery, receive warm greetings from the Seventh Administration.

Honourable Members, let me welcome the debates that are very close to honourable Members' hearts. While I was listening to all the honourable Members debating, it became very clear that without focusing on women, young people and dealing with challenges facing people with disability., we won't go anywhere as the province. Therefore, we welcome all your inputs that you have made.

However, I need to emphasise or comment on some of the issues you have presented., With regard to the empowerment of women, the President emphasised on the matter during his address at the Women's Daycelebration event in Nkawkwa stadium. He said, “When you empower a woman, you empower a nation.” We must indicate that as a province we are doing our level best. Previously, we had a challenge whereby the Office of Premier did not have a directorate. Currently, we do have a director who is part of this august House, who better understands the task at hand. It was not a mistake that you saw the Women's Day celebration this year being hosted in our province. The president said in his own words that, it was the best women's celebration he has ever attended. [APPLAUSE]

We want to thank that directorate because they are able to work with the honourable Members and the public. We will continue to ensure that we also fill in the position of a youth directorate. We believe that the process of recruitment is at an advance stage They will be finalising this process soon and by doing so, we will be able to coordinate the work that has been done. It is not only R10 million that is earmarked to support young entrepreneurs, if you can look at SATFA, it has its own allocation focusing on young people. We have around ten young entrepreneurs from our province that I have left in Namibia, we are creating markets for them, and they are funded by SATFA and

LEDA. As a result, you will note that they are able to have access to his excellency, the President.

It is our young people who have manufactured a masonja chocolate bar and I am told that we must not call them mopani worms but mopani shrimps, because people eat prawns and do not call them worms. Therefore, no one must ever call our delicious, high protein meal worms. Ga se diboko, ke dijo tša go fepa mebele ya rena. We also have a National Empowerment Fund that is funding our young people, we also have the NYDA with its own challenges. I will be meeting with the newly elected board very soon so that we can address all the issues because we have met with the locals. They have been complaining about the issues of stability due to lack of offices. We are working with the NYDA. We congratulated the new board. They have already come to the province, and we will give this august House the feedback on this matter.

LEDA, which is also part of the renewal process is working hard to support young people through the earmarked funds. We now have a transformation fund on tourism, where we are calling upon young people to have interest in tourism. As a province, we are equally reviewing the structure to accommodate the issue of capacity, to mention but a few, in terms of skills development and training, and we had two phases. In phase one, we managed to train 500 apprentices on trade focusing on motor mechanics, diesel mechanics, mechanical fitting, welding and electrical work.

In phase two, we have trained 70 young people on artisanship but the focus on phase two was the new venture creation, the NQF level 2 where 250 participants were trained on entrepreneurship because we have seen that even though we can give them skills, without entrepreneurship skills, they are unable to create more jobs. The ten young SMEs are currently being supported. We have trained 130 young people on solar installation skills. So, honourable Members, you can see that there is a lot of work that is being done but because we have not strengthened the office of the youth directorate, there is no collaboration and coordination. Every department is doing things in its own corner but once we fully capacitate that office, we will be able to give you the full and updated picture in terms of the work that we are doing to empower young people, people with disability and women.

Lastly, we do welcome your inputs, Hon Helm on teenage pregnancy and on how do we support the teenagers who are impregnated by older man. We want to welcome the recent arrest that happened two days ago, where a mother of a 9-year-old was arrested because the girl was raped by the 18-year-old brother and the mother decided that the young girl must keep quiet in protection of her son. The community took a stand and took the mother of this girl and her son to the police station after the young girl had explained the incident to the community. We thank the South African Police Service for arresting the mother and the son. When the mother was imprisoned for protecting a rapist in the name of being her son, then many mothers out there who protect statutory rapist that impregnate young girls will learn from this and we will be able to win this battle.

So, we want to appreciate the inputs, and we say, honourable Members, issues of gender-based violence, are all our issues. Let us join hands in support of the work that is being done by the Department of Social Development and the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I want to thank all of you, especially the chairperson

of the portfolio committee and the committee Members and all the honourable Members who continuously guide this portfolio committee so that we continue to deliver more.

We have also noted other inputs, the sign language services, and we will look into that, starting with the Legislature. They must walk the talk, show us how things are done. The Legislature must be accessible to everyone. It cannot only be the Office of Premier that has interpreters, the Legislature must lead us. Thank you, honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Premier, we do have the interpreters, you will see them on Thursday. We utilise their services during big occasions because we do not have money. Hon Mahoai does not have money to give to us, but we do have the interpreters, and you will see them on Thursday. Thank you so much, we deliberately gave the Hon Premier more time so that she can give clarity on all the issues because the debate was long. We shall now proceed honourable Members. I will now request the presiding officer who is presenting the announcements to come forth. Hon Ngobeni, you are recognised.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CAHIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Members of the whippers, Hon Premier of our Province, esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members and guests in the gallery, I greet you.

I rise to make the following announcements:

- Firstly, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, invites honourable female Members of the Legislature to the grannies' football tournament that will take place tomorrow, on the 27 August 2025, the event shall be held at Bela Bela High School stadium.
- Secondly, that the 2025 Provincial Women's Parliament will be held here at Limpopo Legislative Chamber on Thursday, 28 August 2025 at 10:00.
- Thirdly, that the Limpopo Provincial Legislature will host, 'Taking the Legislature to the People' from the 8 until 12 September 2025 at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in Sekhukhune District. The details on logistics and the venue shall be communicated in due course.
- Fourthly, that the next Sitting of the Legislature shall take place on Tuesday, 21 October 2025, here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.
- Lastly, lunch shall be served at the Committee's Boardroom.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable Members, let me read the whole announcement, with regard to taking a break from holding Sittings and in the future, we ask Hon Ngobeni to

read the announcement in detail, because there is reason why we give an explanation. When the House adjourns today, it shall again sit on Tuesday, 21 October 2025, in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. This is an effort to afford the committees of this House sufficient time to work on the 2025/26 First Quarter Reports and 2024/25 Annual Reports referred to them.

Remember, there are several reports that were referred to the committees. We are affording them time to work on those reports, because we can only have a Sitting when the reports are ready. The Legislature sits based on the readiness of the reports to be processed by the House. So, we must allow the committees to do their work and when they are done, we will come back and consider the reports from the committees. I felt, I needed to give that explanation. We are not on recess.

On that note, let me take this opportunity and thank honourable Members for the progressive Sitting that we held today, and we will come back on Thursday, beautiful, as women and men are also invited to the Women's Parliament.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting stands adjourned until the 21 October 2025.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. We shall now have the opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may be seated. Good morning honourable Members. Let me greet the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba in absentia; Leader of Government Business; MECs present today; Deputy Speaker, Hon Grace Tebogo Portia Maorobela' Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama; the Whippers; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo;, and all other Members of the Legislature.

After a very long time and a long break, we must thank the MEC for Public Works; our Legislature is looking nice. We must clap hands for him and appreciate the good work that we see in this Legislature. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you so much, honourable Members. Before we proceed to item 2, we also want to thank the people of the province, the people of Limpopo. Our Sittings are live on social media, and we greet those who are following us and those in the gallery. You are all welcome. We know that you always come to support and that you are able to see how your Legislature is working.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

We will now proceed to item 2. Are there any Motions without Notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Mokgonyana, you are recognised.

MR MOKGONYANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

FARM WORKER KILLED IN THABAZIMBI
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, the ANC wants to register with utter disdain, a shooting incident that took place at a farm in Thabazimbi on 11 October 2025, where a farm worker died after being shot by an 11-year-old child. According to reports, this was an accident, but we are adamant that the owner of the farm that was involved in this incident should be held liable for improper handling of a firearm.

This episode is reminiscent of past similar incidents, where Black people were shot by farmers because they were mistaken for animals like baboons. This is unacceptable, and we are calling upon the police to ensure that no stone will be left unturned in the investigation of this gruesome murder.

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

THE SPEAKER

Do we have any seconder to the motion? Hon Mohale, you are recognised.

MS MOHALE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Before we proceed with the motions without notice, I would like to indicate that we did receive apologies. We must not think that those who are not here did not tender apologies. For example, the absence of the Premier. She is attending the National Cabinet together with Hon Mahoai, the MEC for Treasury. MEC Ramakhanya, MEC Rachoene, Hon Muhlope, and Hon Mokoele, are attending to some challenges in the Department of Health. Hon Machete. Hon Wilson has organisational responsibilities. Apologies were also received from Hon Ledwaba, Hon Malemela, Hon Baloyi, and Hon Mogoane.

I just wanted to indicate that those who are not here, honourable Members, we did receive their apologies. Can I move to the next motion without notice? You can proceed, Hon Nkonyana.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Seniority prevailed.

NUMEROUS FATALITIES ON PROVINCIAL ROADS (Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes that:

- a number of fatalities claimed multiple lives on our provincial roads in the past few weeks.
- It is disheartening to note that the two accidents that happened in the province, claimed a combined 54 innocent lives on our roads.
- On Sunday, 28 September 2025, 12 people perished when their minibus taxi was sandwiched by two trucks, along the R81 at GaSekgopo.
- They were travelling from a church congregation in Solomondale outside Polokwane towards Giyani.
- In another incident, a total of 43 passengers lost their lives on the N1 outside Makhado on Sunday, 13 October 2025. This much-publicised incident has also thrust our province into the spotlight in terms of road safety.

- We commend the good work of the provincial government in helping the bereaved families to identify the remains of their beloved family members and their repatriation thereof.
- We are saddened by these developments, and we are confident that the department will implement its road safety programmes ahead of the festive period.

May the lives of our fellow brothers and sisters rest in eternal peace!

I so move, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Kedibone Lebea, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Bongani Nkonyana.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there further motions? I have seen the hand of Hon Marx.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I see the internet is a bit slow. Maybe you can take the next one, then I will follow.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, you may proceed.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker

ANC CONFERS ITS HIGHEST HONOUR ON DR T T CHOLO (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes that:

- Yesterday, Monday 20 October 2025, we celebrated a centenary on the life of the great Dr Tlou Theophilus Cholo, who is best known in the mass democratic movement as T T Cholo.
- Dr TT Cholo counts amongst the few remaining luminaries of the liberation struggle, who had put their lives in apartheid's crossfire, in pursuit of South Africa's social justice and freedom.

- To mark his centenary, the ANC saw it befitting him to confer him with the title of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe, which is a sacred designation only accorded to a select few people who have gone beyond the call of duty, to ensure the country's freedom and democracy.
- Mr T T Cholo is a former Robben Islander who has been accorded with this martyrdom status for his selflessness and relentless contribution to the liberation struggle at the height of apartheid's repressive laws in the country.
- This is no small feat by any stretch of the imagination, and it would be amiss of us as this august House, not to take cognisance of this milestone.
- May he live long to see the fruits of the freedom that he toiled so hard to achieve.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can we have a seconder? Hon Sebopela, you are recognised.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Speaker. Greetings to the House. I rise to second the motion as presented by the honourable Member. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can we now move to the next motion without notice? Hon Mabotja, you are recognised.

MR MABOTJA

Thank you very much, Speaker.

2024/25 AUDIT OUTCOMES (Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes that:

- We welcome the 2024/25 audit outcomes of the Limpopo Provincial Government as presented by the Office of the Auditor-General.
- The outcomes are a demonstration of a provincial government that is poised towards building a capable state and is spending public funds in an accountable manner.
- It is encouraging to note that out of the 10 provincial departments, 5 have attained clean audit opinions and another 5 have obtained unqualified audit opinions.
- We believe that this is largely due to the intervention mechanisms which were initiated by the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and the effective oversight function of various committees of this Legislature.
- Although there are challenges amongst some parastatals, there is no entity that has received a disclaimer as an audit outcome. This is a demonstration of the Seventh Administration's unwavering determination to make the provincial government be accountable to the people of this province.

I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can we get a seconder for the motion? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Ke nnete. Dilo di fetogile. Ke ema go thekga tše di boletšwego ke Mohl Mabotrja. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can I get another motion? Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Speaker. Ya pele, madulo a a boima. A a nkgarametša. Ga re tsebe go re go diregala eng ka ditulo tše tše diswa. Ga re dule gabotse ka tšona.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW GENERATIONS CHURCH (Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that this House notes that:

- The EFF congratulate New Generations Church in Lenting, GaMphahlele, under the leadership of Dr Bishop M B Mphahlele for celebrating its 27th year anniversary this past weekend.
- This milestone was graced by the President of the EFF and the Commander in Chief, Sello Juluis Malema, EFF provincial officials under the leadership of Commissar Lawrence Mapoulo, and the leadership from other provinces, including some provincial chairpersons and secretaries.
- The EFF is truly inspired by the impeccable leadership qualities of Bishop Mphahlele, who grew the church from just a few members in a garage in 1988 to establishing church branches in parts of Gauteng and elsewhere in the country.
- She persevered with her vision to spread the gospel against all odds and stereotypes against women's leadership.
- The New Generations Church continues to touch the lives of the people both spiritually and socially through her community development projects.
- The church has established an old-age centre within the premises, and it continues to feed and take care of the elderly people, preserving their dignity in the community.
- Furthermore, they are also taking care of orphans through the orphanage programme they have within the church premises.
- The social responsibility of the church through its own funds must be supported by all stakeholders, including the Legislature and the community, including other businesspeople. We call upon other local churches to refrain from giving our

people snakes and grass, to learn from the leadership model of the New Generations Church, which puts the people first and above all led by a woman, moswara thipa ka bogaleng.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mapoulo. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Molapo, you are recognised.

MR MOLAPO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to Members of this House. I stand to second the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. I have the MK party. Are still going to present your motion without notice?

MR JACK

No, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now give Hon Marx an opportunity to give the motion without notice.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

BELA-BELA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
(Motion without Notice)

I move without notice on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes that:

- The Democratic Alliance commends the Bela-Bela Heritage Association for its ongoing efforts to officially establish a cultural heritage museum in Bela-Bela, and its outstanding commitment to preserving and protecting our province's historical and archaeological heritage.
- We note that as we celebrated International Archaeology Day on 18 October 2025, the Bela-Bela Heritage Association and the team led by Professor Anton van Vollenhoven spent a week in Bela-Bela investigating a significant archaeological site where remarkable artifacts were discovered, including 600-year-old glass beads, Iron Age spear points, and an axe head, 400-year old pottery, and Boer War relics, findings which may prove to be of great historical importance to all South Africans.

- We recognise the vital role of cultural and archaeological protection in preserving our shared identity, fostering community pride, and promoting education, tourism, and local economic development.
- We acknowledge the involvement of the Polokwane Museum, the South African Heritage Resources Agency, and internationally recognised archaeologists in ensuring that this site, and others like it, are properly preserved for the benefit of future generations, and
- Lastly, we implore the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to support this initiative and to partner with similar community-driven projects across Limpopo that seek to safeguard and celebrate our province's rich cultural and archaeological heritage.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? You can sit down because you have a second motion. Let's allow for a seconder. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

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

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You can proceed with your second motion, Hon Marx.

ADV MARX

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE 19TH BLACK BASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I move without notice on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes that:

- We congratulate the organisers of the 19th Black Bass World Championship, held at the Flag Boshielo Dam, also known as Arabie Dam, during September 2025.
- We commend the South African Bass Angling Association and all local partners for successfully hosting this prestigious international event here in Limpopo.
- We further note with pride that Team South Africa performed admirably with a 4th place among 15 competing nations
- Limpopo can be proud to have hosted the world's best anglers on its waters.
- The event showcased our province's outstanding natural beauty and tourism potential.

I so move

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members. I think we have dealt with the item of motions without notice, unless there is another one that I have not seen. It is done. Thank you so much. We will now proceed directly to item 3. Are there any Notices of Motions in terms of House Rule 146? From my desk, I did not receive anything. It means there is none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

We will proceed to item 4: Members' Statements in terms of House Rule 199. Can I see by show of hands, the honourable Members who want to make Members' Statements? Hon Smalle, you are recognised. You will be the first.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES AND UNPAID PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS AT GREAT NORTH TRANSPORT (Members' Statement)

The failure to pay over employee and employer pension fund contributions constitutes a serious legal breach of the Pension Fund Act, 1956, the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017, and the Income Tax Act, 1962, and amounts to a criminal offence. Most recently, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and Great North Transport once again showcased their governance failures in the matter between Macheri Group (PTY) Ltd and GNT, under case number 1083/2025, before the Limpopo High Court for liquidation.

At the time, Great North Transport failed to pay R6,78 million in pension contributions, affecting 945 employees. To avoid liquidation, the Portfolio Committee on LEDET and Treasury passed a revised R300 million bailout, of which R93,757, 903 was allocated to GNT for budget pressures and operational costs. Subsequently, the Premier and LEDET confirmed to this House that all outstanding pension contributions had been paid out in full.

Honourable MEC, why then does the DA hold evidence that certain employees' retirement claim remains unpaid, specifically, that employer contributions were never paid over. Why has the committee also received a further deviation application of R97 million from GNT for operational support, when in August, honourable MEC, you assured the House that GNT would be financially self-sustainable within three months. Would you agree that Great North Transport's so-called financial turnaround plan is not self-sustainable in its current form? Finally, will you hold Great North Transport's board and officials accountable for their failure to act transparently and to protect employees' pension rights as required by the Pension Fund Act and the Financial Sector Regulation Act?

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now move to the next Members' Statement. I have seen Hon Molapo.

MR MOLAPO

Thank you. Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo, Members of this House and the people of Limpopo.

FAILURE TO SPEND R69.7 MILLION IN ALLOCATED SCHOOL GRANTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, according to the 2024/25 Department of Basic Education's Annual Report the Limpopo Provincial Department of Basic Education failed to spend R69,7 million on school grants.

The underspending is extremely unacceptable and disappointing given the many chronic challenges the department is facing. Underspending is criminal against the people of Limpopo. The EFF believes that this is a missed opportunity which would have gone a long way in addressing budget constraints of the National School Nutrition Programme, Maths, Science and Technology grant, and Early Childhood Development. Furthermore, the current state of school infrastructure development in Limpopo is one that does not inspire confidence. Many schools across the province require upgrading and refurbishment and we have many schools that should be addressed in terms of storms that have happened.

Hon Speaker, the department has, over the years, failed to eradicate pit latrines across the province. It is extremely disturbing that the department should be forced by NGOs to implement its constitutional mandate. It is disappointing and unfortunate that pit toilets still exist within the province.

This continues to pose a serious risk to learners. The money spent on courts fighting litigation could be spent on much better service delivery purposes, such as refurbishing of schools and building new schools. Underspending on allocated budgets, especially for infrastructure and service delivery, directly causes a decline in public services, in

particular the provision of quality education to our children. Mostly those who are schooling in the public schools and public special schools. The EFF demands that the MEC for Basic Education account for the underspending of R69 million.

Thank you

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Molapo. The next Members' Statement is from Hon Sebothoma Matsobane Jump.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, greetings to you all. Kgotso, MaAfrika.

DENOUNCING THE SURGE OF LAWLESSNESS AND DISORDER IN WARD 9, MOGOTO VILLAGE, ZEBEDIELA (Members' Statement)

Today, as the United Africans Transformation, I rise to strongly condemn the wave of hooliganism and lawlessness devastating Ward 9, Mogoto Village in Zebediela. Criminal syndicates have transformed what should be a sanctuary of dignity and community into a terrain of terror, targeting families and even public spaces like clinics and schools, places meant for healing and upliftment, now shrouded in fear.

It's a shameful act that the province has not invested much in community safety, yet our people are still exposed to vulnerability. Suffice to say, SAPS, having received over a million applications for its 5,500 police trainee positions, on the contrary, our communities still face severe attacks. Where are freedom and democracy in such instances? The primary constitutional provisions in South Africa concerning the safety, security and protection of citizens are found in Chapter 2 (Bill of Rights), specifically section 12, which guarantees everyone's right to freedom and security of a person, including freedom from violence and cruel treatment.

As a result of UAT's support, there has been a significant decline in theft, allowing residents to sleep peacefully at night. The UAT stands out as the only organisation that successfully facilitated this march since the ANC-led government failed to provide services to the community. The UAT has made a remarkable impact in the Mogoto community by restoring hope, dignity, and purpose among its people. The organisation has delivered yet another life-changing experience that continues to uplift and empower the residents of Mogoto in the province of Limpopo. Their efforts have gone beyond addressing immediate social challenges, they have inspired transformation from within the community itself. One of the most profound outcomes of their work was giving a member of the Mogoto community a renewed sense of dignity and belonging by building him a full furnished house... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

[Inaudible]

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. With due respect to you, I am not sure what is happening there, whether it is a motion, or it is a report back of the branch meeting, but that is not a motion. Even a Members' Statement, it is not that. In actual fact it is nothing. Please let him have orientation Hon Speaker. It is none of any of the things.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, we hear the complaint and the concern. I will suggest that we allow Hon Sebothoma to conclude his presentation. The order has been seconded. You can sit down, Hon Sebothoma. Hon Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I will not be as brutal as Hon Mathe. Speaker, the first part of the presentation was a Members' Statement, and I thought he should have left it there. He was complaining about young people vandalising something somewhere. The latter part of it, I would agree with Hon Mathe, is actually unwarranted, and we call it out of order. We believe he still needs orientation. Just stop it there, Hon Speaker, and you will allow the MEC to respond to the first part. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Sebothoma, we are being guided that part of your Members' Statement is not in line with the requirements of a Members' Statement. Do you want to comment?

MR SEBOTHOMA

Yes, I would like to comment. My comment is that this is a Members' Statement in terms of Rule 161, [LAUGHTER] and in terms of Rule 199, I am entitled to make this statement.

THE SPEAKER

You know honourable Members, we must remember that in line with Rule 199, a Members' Statement cannot be a matter for a debate. Once you raise a matter for debate, Honourable Member, it becomes difficult for other Members because not only MECs can respond, but other Members can debate on the matter. I am not sure should I allow you to conclude? It is something that we need to deal with it outside the Sitting so that in the future you don't experience the same thing. The complaint of Members is an important one, that we cannot allow a Member instead of tabling a Members' Statement, come and put a matter up for debate. Other members will not get an opportunity to debate the same way that you did. Over to you, honourable Member. You can conclude.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you very much. I am going to conclude. One of the most profound outcomes of their work was giving a member of the Mogoto community a renewed sense of dignity and belonging by building him a fully furnished house.

This act symbolises the deeper mission of the United Africans Transformation to change lives through compassion, unity and sustainable development. Kxanimambo

THE SPEAKER

Chair of Chairs, you are recognised.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Speaker, I thought you tried to give guidance. I would have imagined that the Member would have said thank you. He is continuing on the line that he was called to order, because he is talking about building a house and all those other things. If we follow that thing. He still continues with the thing that we called him to order for. We ask him to say Ndzi helela ko kwala, riendzo ra mina ri helela ko kwala.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I think he is done. It was his first Members' Statement today, and I hope he has heard the comments of the Members, so that in the future we will not accept it in the manner that the Members' Statement is. It is part of us debating as we are moving forward. Obviously, the MECs will look at the part that is relevant so that they can be able to talk to. If they want to respond to everything, I think they are allowed to do so. Can I check honourable Members, are there any further Members' Statements? I have Hon Kedibone Lebea

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

MAKHADO BUS ACCIDENT (Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to register our concern about the reports that the bus that killed 43 commuters on the N1 outside Makhado on Sunday, 12 October 2025, had a total of 91 passengers on board.

As we are moving towards the festive period, we want to implore the Department of Transport and Community Safety to put adequate measures in place, to ensure heightened road safety operations in the province. It is our view that road safety is everybody's responsibility, but the government has an added obligation to ensure compliance at all times. If left unattended, these road fatalities will proliferate and turn our public roads into death zones.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are we done, honourable Members? If we are done with the Members' Statements, I will now give an opportunity to honourable MECs to respond to the Members' Statements as made by Members of the House. Can I note Hon Mathibe is coming? Is the any other MEC that is coming? Hon Mathye and the Leader of Government Business will be allowed to respond. In that order. Hon Tshitereke, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, over to you.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I will just respond to the allocation and payments of pension funds for GNT. We must indicate that the total files that we have for the payments of the pension funds is 1,163. The claims that have been processed between 2022 and 2023 are 787. The files that have been transferred as unclaimed benefits to the unclaimed benefits fund are 376, and the additional processed claims between 2023 and June 2025 are 214. Currently, we speak we have got 162 unclaimed pension benefits. I'm sure one of the issues that was raised by the honourable Member falls within these 162 unclaimed benefits. We call upon former employees of GNT who have not yet claimed their pension benefits to come to GNT and claim these benefits. We have been tracing these 162 pensioners who are supposed to get their claims and we are unable to trace them. We call upon the community to assist us so that all those members who are supposed to get their pension benefits can come and claim those pension benefits. In terms of the allocation that were given by the Legislature and Treasury, we appreciate that and is the work that we have continued to assist in making GNT sustainable. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Tshitereke. We will allow the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Susan Violet Mathye to respond.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

I will start with the issue that was raised by Hon Sebothoma, to say the issue of safety of a particular community is also in the hands of that particular community, but with this one, because the people that we're talking about, I think it's the children in that vicinity that are the ones who are terrorising you. I'll take the issue up with the Provincial Commissioner. You'll get the report thereof.

The issue of the bus that crashed on 12 October, which was from PE. When it left PE it had 69 passengers in a bus that carries 60 passengers. Already it was full to its capacity and overloaded. When it crashed, it had 91 passengers, which shows that the driver was picking up on the route. The last person was picked around the traffic circle at Makhado, who perished together with those that perished, the number 43, which has risen to 44 now. We had by that time we had eight P 1's, those that understand this language will understand the P 1 are those that are critical.

We're left with 5 that are critical. Our prayers are with them to say we don't want one of them to perish again. Let us rest on 44. As the department we are still investigating the issue. Already, there is a preliminary report that says the bus was speeding, it was overloaded, and again it lost control. The bus is from Zimbabwe, it has a permit, a transporter permit, but other things are happening in Zimbabwe. We will be receiving other reports from Zimbabwe, but with this one, RTMC will be issuing the final report of what happened after three months. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We really appreciate. We will not allow, the MEC for CoGHSTA, who is the Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu to respond.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to yourself, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, colleagues, MECs and honourable Members.

We are here to respond to a Members' Statement in relation to underspending as alleged by honourable Member about R67 million from the Department of Education in our province. Firstly, let me indicate that underspending whatever amount, is not acceptable to this Provincial Administration. It is not factually correct that the Department of Basic Education has underspent about R67 million. Out of the R67 million only R31 million could not necessarily be approved on the rollover the rest has been approved to rollover to allow the department to continue with its programmes of Storm Damage Schools, but also to handle the issue of Infrastructure Development, including the Pit Latrines, which is a programme the department is running.

The MEC is accounting as the honourable Member could be able to find it in the report of the department that it's only R31 million that could not necessarily be underspent. The MEC will still come to the House and account on the matter. I feel Hon Speaker, I must also make a comment on the honourable Member in terms of building the houses. I'm not so sure why building a house in a particular community be brought into this House when everybody has got their responsibility, unless if that person is not able to build his own house and qualifies to be supported to him building houses in the province. I could not get any sense, Hon Speaker, why a building of the house in a particular community should be the business of this House when in fact, every day, wherever we drive, we walk, we see people even building double stories in this province of Limpopo. We are one of the provinces if you can go to Statistics South Africa, Limpopo is the highest province with the proper dwelling places in the whole country. Therefore, bringing an item of building one house should be a matter of this House, honourable Member. I think we should be able to consider that part that is not necessary to come in from the house when people are building their own houses, as much as all of us who should do that. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. Honourable Members, we are done with item 4. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

On a point of privilege, Hon Speaker. We want to put a motion on all these houses that have been built through this arrangement. Are they enrolled with NHBRC? The Member must come and tell us. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I am a bit lost because I am not going to allow a debate. Why are we debating honourable Members? I think we will now proceed. I am not going to allow any other hand. We are proceeding. The final person who spoke, the MEC for CoGHSTA, was doing his concluding remarks. I heard you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. I am not going, unfortunately, I am not going to allow further engagement on the matter. We will now proceed in terms of the Order Paper. We are now at item 5. I have indicated that where I am sitting, in terms of Rule 200, I have not received any indication of any MEC that would be doing an Executive Statement.

We shall now proceed to item 6. Are there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? Item 6.1: Tabling of the 2023/24 section 47 Report on the Performance of Municipalities in the Province. The MEC for CoGHSTA will be presenting the report.[APPLAUSE]

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

6.1 Tabling of the 2023/24 Section 47 Report on the Performance of Municipalities in the Province

MR SMALLE

Speaker on a point of privilege. While the Member is approaching, I just want to indicate that these chairs are very uncomfortable. On a matter of privilege, I would like you to investigate that, please.

THE SPEAKER

The point of privilege is out of order. Honourable MEC, you can proceed. Honourable Members! Honourable Members! Honourable MEC, you can sit down. We have clapped hands for MEC Rachoene, but the matter resides in the Internal Arrangement Committee. If there is any matter to that needs to be raised, I would advise Members to raise the matter through the Internal Arrangement Committee so that we are able to proceed. Over to you, MEC.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I am not so sure if I heard your ruling, because where I am sitting, I am sitting very comfortably. It is maybe because of the size of my

body, and I am very comfortable with these chairs. We want to congratulate. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in terms of the Local Government Municipal System Act, no 32 of 2000, section 47(1) states: The MEC for Local Government must annually compile and submit to the Provincial Legislature a consolidated report on the performance of municipalities in the province.

Section 47(2) further indicates that the report must include the following:

- Identify municipalities that underperform during the year;
- Propose remedial action to be taken, and
- Published in the Provincial Gazette.

Madam Speaker, in line with the provision of the abovementioned legislation, I as the MEC for Local Government in the province, hereby table the 2023/24 report on the performance of municipalities in the province for consideration by this august House.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The 2023/24 section 47 Report on the Performance of Municipalities in the province is referred to the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA for consideration and report back to the House. Thank you. Honourable MEC, you can proceed to item 6.2:

6.2 Tabling of the Financial and Fiscal Commission Report on the 2026/27 Submission for the Division of Revenue.

It was supposed to have been tabled by the MEC for Provincial Treasury. In his absence, the Leader of Government Business is tabling the report. Over to you, MEC

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR TREASURY)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, I hereby table the 2025/26 Annual Submission for the Division of Revenue. This is done in compliance with the provisions of section 220(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and section 9(1) of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act, 1997.

I so move, Hon Speaker, and submit to the House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The tabled Report on the Financial and Fiscal Commission on the 2026/27 Submission for the Division of Revenue is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House. Thank you so much, MEC.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health

We now move to item 7 in terms of the Order Paper: Consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Department of Health. The chairperson of the committee, Dr Malebana, you are given the platform.

DR MALEBANA

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; Chair of Chairs and your Office, chairpersons of portfolio committees and standing committees, Members of the Executive Council, esteemed Members of the honourable House and the people of South Africa, in particular, the people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, I present the report of the portfolio committee for consideration and adoption. The report is on the 2024/25 Annual Report for the financial year, as I said for consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Dr Malebana, for the presentation of the Annual Report. Is there any seconder honourable Members? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Ngiyathokoza, Somhlomo oHloniphekileko. Igamalami nginguBongani wakwaNkonyana. Ngisikimela ukusekela okuphakanyiswe ngusihlalo, uDorh Malebana.

THE SPEAKER

Siyabonga. We will allow the chair to proceed with item 7.2.1 on the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of the Department of Health

DR MALEBANA

Hon Speaker, I will stand on the established protocol as was said earlier, and I rise on the Portfolio Committee for Health. The report is on the 2025/26 First Quarter Report for consideration and adoption. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder honourable Members? Hon Mnisi, you are recognised.

MS MNISI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the presentation of the first quarter report by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. I am told through the Chief Whip that the Programming Committee has agreed on the minutes because there are two debates. This means it is 14, 7, 9, 11, and 14, am I correct? Is it the correct one? Thank you so much. We shall now proceed. The person who is opening the debate, because the 2 debates of the annual report and the first quarter report are going to be debated at the same time. We will allow Hon Bongani Abednigo Nkonyana to open the debate. [APPLAUSE] Your 14 minutes start now.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela; Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; MECs that are here; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Whippers; Leader of the Opposition; the outgoing chairperson of the EFF, Hon Mapoulo; MPLs; our guests in the gallery; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Hon Speaker, before we move forward, let us bring to our nurse, the House, that this month, October, it is marked as Mental Health Awareness Month. We are bound to have cases of this nature in this House because on 10 October, we are celebrating and commemorating and raising awareness about this illness as it engulfs the EFF in the province. During the month of October, mental health is supposed to be taken very seriously, Speaker. The month of October marks Mental Illness Awareness Week, and 10 October was a day that we commemorated. During this month of October were supposed to implement campaigns and programmes that seek to address this social matter through social media to raise these illnesses so that people can understand and separate the special cases, so that we can equally incorporate them into society. The month of October is also designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in South Africa and on top of that the country held its first LGBTQIA+ pride march on 13 October 1990. It is an opportunity to raise awareness and provide a space for people to learn about the history of the LGBTQIA+ rights. You are covered here, Hon Mapoulo.

We must indicate to this august House that we must recognise that the most important component of the health system is the community and ensuring that mechanisms are created for effective community participation, involvement and control. It is us, as legislators, who must create avenues for the people to feel that they are governing. This could be achieved through building health facilities that are humanly welcoming and that communities have a sense of belonging. If that can be done, we will instill hope and faith in our communities. That after their visit, they will go back to their homes, being in a state that is better than when they came into the institution. We encourage the department to address challenges in all our facilities are attended to as a matter of urgency. We have since visited various hospitals and the state in which they are in is inpalatable and will not give hope and faith that is envisaged. We must ensure respect for human rights and accountability to the users of these health facilities and the public at large.

However, Speaker, we commend the department led by the MEC, Hon Dieketseng Mshego for their unqualified audit opinion in the final financial year 2024/25. However, there are findings that remain stagnant. We hope that we will be working very closely with them to ensure that we move towards a positive direction. We recommend that the

department must ensure that all these findings are resolved in this financial year since the audit opinion remains stagnant. We're raising this stagnant additional duty to put on because one the department to progress towards a clean audit. Madam Speaker, countrywide we are confronted with an influx of illegal of legal and illegal immigrants who receive treatment in our health facilities and it poses a serious challenge in servicing both the migrants and all the people that are indigent in this province. However, we received the briefing at all hospitals that we have been able to visit that they're able to provide services for these people, both legal and illegal immigrants. The challenge comes within they must now bury their loved ones and these people are usually classified as Z they are dead, it becomes tough for either the municipality or Social Development to assist in their burial. Most of them die without proper documentation and their families usually run away when it's time to identify them.

We can turn a blind eye to the recent accident that took place in Makhado in the Vhembe District, where many of our medicines were found at the accident scene. Thousands and thousands of our different medicines were found by the Department of Transport's personnel and SAPS officials who attended the scene. Clearly, these medicines were obtained illegally from our health institutions. This is a worrying factor for our hospital security on how these illegal medications were accessed from our different health facilities. We call upon the department to ensure that their security companies tighten their measures to ensure our facilities are kept safe. We would like to appreciate the Department of Transport's personnel and SAPS officials who attended the scene and made sure to extract the medicines and put them back in our depot.

We received a report that the department was allocated R26 billion during the 2024/25 financial year. The department was expected to have spent 25% of its Budget by the end of the first quarter. However, the overall expenditure was 27,03% This implies that the department overspent in programme 1 by 2,9% also in programme 8 alone, the department spent 51,7%. The expenditure was exceeded by 21,7% which is above the norm. The committee was concerned by this overspending in programme 8, which is above the norm of 25% that was supposed to be spent during the first quarter. The department must submit a report detailing why there was such an overspending for programme 1 and programme 8.

During our engagement with the department, we received a report that the new target for HIV positive patients between the ages of 5-14 years that was introduced during the fourth quarter of 2024/25 was not met due to the initiation of HIV positive pregnant women on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP). The department was still struggling with meeting targets on ART adult remain a care rate due to non-adherence to treatment, alcohol abuse, non-disclosure of HIV status, and migration of patients between facilities. Improvement was seen with the target of ART child remaining in care following an adopt-a-child strategy. The review on the lost to follow-up of children and linking them back to care.

The committee also noted with concern that during the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, expenditure on machinery and equipment was at 0%. This financial year it is at 123%. The department must submit a report on how there was an overspending on these two aspects. We received a report that the department achieved and exceeded on 2 of its targets set in the first quarter of this financial year. Due to the availability of resources and implementation of the computerised aided dispatch system. The target

for urban ambulance response time was set at 85% of response within 30 minutes as such the department achieved a response rate of 99%. I think we must give them a round of applause, honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

For the rural area, ambulance response times were set at 85% of responses within 60 minutes. The department achieved a rate of 95%. The committee was concerned about the validity of this achievement as it did not correlate with what was observed while conducting oversight visits to healthcare and EMS facilities. We observed during our engagement with the department that in the province, hospitals such as Mokopane, Tshilidzini, Letaba, St Rita's, Philadelphia, Thabamopo, Evuxakeni, Hayani, Modimolle MDR. XDR-unit services are not given special attention. The committee noted that only one indicator, which is the patient experience of care survey will be reached in the third quarter. The department alluded to the fact that the preparations for conducting the survey are ongoing. The committee recommended that must provide the tool used to conduct the survey and report on the performance on a quarterly basis.

Madam Speaker, outside of what would be the outgoing chair of the EFF would say, we support that the 2024/25 Annual Report and the 2025/26 First Quarter Report, both of the Limpopo Department of Health, be adopted as reports of this august House. Madam Speaker, you might ask yourself why emphasis on the outgoing part. On Sunday there was a church service with the presence of all leaders including the president of the EFF, and one member of ActionSA erroneously said... Thank you, Madam Speaker. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

You were done. You just invite problems when you are done. Thank you so much. We will now proceed to the next speaker. Hon André Moss, you may take the floor. He has seven minutes on the debate.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of the House; and guests. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, once again, the Department of Health comes before this House with an unqualified audit opinion with findings. We've been here before. Every year, we are being told this is an improvement, yet the truth is the department remains stuck spending billions while service delivery deteriorates. An unqualified audit with findings is not a clean audit. It's a polite way of saying there are still serious problems. Let's talk about them.

The department is sitting with a litigation bill of R12,6 billion in medico-legal claims, up from R9,9 billion last year. Tshilidzini Hospital alone accounts for R2 billion of these claims. That means money that should be saving lives is being spent on legal settlements. Two hundred and forty-two new cases in a single year, that tells us something is deeply wrong inside our hospitals. Instead of fixing the causes, the department is talking about appointing case managers. Hon Speaker, we do not need case managers; we need competence, discipline, and leadership.

Programme 2, which is supposed to deliver basic healthcare to communities, achieved only 51% of its targets while spending 99,9% of its budget. How does a department spend everything but achieve only half of its targets? That is not performance, that is failure dressed up as progress. Meanwhile, the department moved R37 million away from salaries to cover other costs, while hospitals are short-staffed, clinics are running with acting managers, and ambulances stand idle because there are no paramedics to drive them. The launched Computer Aided Dispatch system in Ladanna failed as calls were dropped due to staff shortages.

We also cannot ignore the state of infrastructure. The AG found delays everywhere, no penalties for poor contractors, weak oversight, and in some cases, no proof of what money was even spent on. An amount of R500 000 was paid for who-knows-what at the Lebowakgomo EMS Station, while many EMS stations remain non-compliant. Buildings are crumbling before they open, and still no one is held accountable. Then there's the R1,1 billion Veritas Digital Project meant to digitise patient files. Instead, it produced chaos. Records mixed up, personal data misplaced, and yet another contract extension. This is not modernisation, it's mismanagement. The department brags about an increase in ideal clinic status, but anyone who visits knows the reality: broken toilets, peeling walls, exhausted nurses, and patients waiting hours for help. The statistics might look better, but the lives behind them tell a different story.

This is not a department in recovery; it is a department on life support. Limpopo deserves hospitals that heal, not harm. It deserves management that spends wisely, not recklessly. It deserves leadership that earns trust, not lawsuits. Until the R12,6 billion in negligence claims are reduced, until vacancies are filled, and until irregular expenditure stops, we cannot pretend this system is working.

We will not celebrate decline. We will demand accountability and recovery. When you pass the tables and targets in this reports, you find the department has spent money, but not solved problems. During the first three months of this year, the department spent 27% of its R26 billion Budget. That is more than what was planned, but overspent where it should not have and underperformed where it matters most. Programme 8, Health Facility Management overspent by 57%, yet, machinery and equipment spending was zero that means the buildings are going up faster than the capacity to run them. Oversight visits shows half build clinics, broken plumbing and ward still waiting for beds and basic equipment, it's not enough to poor concrete. The hospital is not a building until it heals people. Programme two, District Health Services, remains the weakest link it carries the weight of frontline care, but has the highest number of vacancies. A recruitment plan was approved in May 2025 five months ago and we still hearing that adverts will go out soon. Meanwhile, nurses are doubling shifts, acting managers are burning out, and paramedics are working with no rest days. We can't run a health system on acting positions and empty promises; a plan is not progress until people are hired and patients are helped. The department also missed the revenue target because it's still waiting on payments from the RAF, that excuse is older than this term of office. Every year the RAF delays and every year there is no plan B and an apartment that can plan surgery months in advance should be able to plan for cash flow.

Now look at the emergency medical services. The report says 99% of urban calls and 95% of rural calls were answered within the targeted times, but we've been to those stations. We've seen the parked ambulances with no drivers, radios that don't work, and

bases running on a handful of staff and many are inadequately trained. Those numbers on papers simply don't match the reality on the ground. We must also mention training of nursing students, the department wants to increase nursing students from 150 to 200 this year, good, but the colleges still don't have the computers or resources as promised. You cannot expand intake without expanding capacity. Medicine supplies improve their depots in hospitals but primary care clinics fell short. Those are where ordinary people go first for TB treatment, chronic medication, and childhood vaccines. When a mother walks 10 km to a clinic and yes, comes back next week, that failure doesn't show up as a percentage, it shows up as pain. The report shows that the programme for Health Facilities Management there was an overspending of 50% in this project, while the expenditure on machinery and equipment was at 0%. Hon Speaker, the problem isn't a lack of spending, it's a lack of balance, overspending in some programmes, paralysis in others. That's not performance, that's confusion. The Limpopo health system cannot afford another quarter of drift. The measures of success are not how much we spend, is whether a patient walks out of the hospital alive, cared for, and with dignity. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Moss. I am not so sure about the DA, Hon Smalle. You may now take the podium. Your 9 minutes start now.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable MECs, colleagues in this House, and various departmental officials. I am presenting on behalf of Hon Wilson.

The onwads and forward issue within the department has various allocations that one needs to evaluate. While the results of the 2024/25 Annual Report stayed stagnant on an unqualified audit, there were a myriad of findings and matters of emphasis. These are the most concerning to the portfolio committee.

The department is a defendant in multiple lawsuits in relation to medico-legal claims, up by R9,9 billion from the previous financial year. Claims against the department are now over a staggering R12,5 billion. There were 242 new cases reported in this financial year, the highest being at Tshilidzini Hospital, with claims of R2 billion alone at this facility. It is also a facility that is now monitored by the Human Rights Commission. An amount of R18 million was paid out in claims in the recent financial year, and R36 million in the year prior. These moneys could have been used to pay salaries for nurses and doctors, or for the upgrade of various hospitals, and supply vital machinery to hospitals in dire need within our province. While we accept that there is a current trend of lawyers using victims to submit illegal claims, the facts simply do not change. Millions are being paid out in lost claims, and recent oversights to various hospitals make it clear that many claims are genuine and not going to be defendable. The reason why Tshilidzini Hospital should be under the microscope of this department.

Vacancies vary between 50% and 65% in some areas and hospitals. There is simply no way that any facility practicing health under these kinds of figures is functional, offers good quality healthcare, or speedy medical care in critical instances. It is not shocking, it is criminal. The Bill of Rights gives our people the right to quality healthcare and fair

labour practices. Clearly, in these hospitals, where the vacancy rates sit at 50%, they simply do not exist. The Auditor-General reported that a material impairment amounting to R790 million was provided for because of irrecoverable debtors. The committee noted that this amount has increased from last year's R687 million. The question must be how and why, and what are we doing to hold those responsible for this increase?

Irregular expenditure of R128 million was incurred due to the department not following proper tender processes. The main contributors to irregular expenditure were reportedly the supply and delivery of fire tube boiler coal and the supply and delivery of linen alone. Clearly, officials are practicing outside the regulations of the PFMA, which in itself is irregular and unacceptable. The questions are, who are these responsible officials, what actions have the department taken against them, and what has been done to ensure such strategies do not happen again. We ask this year that these issues must be dealt with by the MEC.

With regards to the realisation of the ideal hospital, the AG audited Tshilidzini Hospital, and some findings included noncompliance with record storage and archives, infrastructure safety hazards, and inadequate human resources. It was further noted that five of the 30 district hospitals and 2 out of 5 regional hospitals attained the ideal hospital status. On infrastructure projects, the AG reported the following:

- Project delays and the department did not impose penalties.
- Inadequate monitoring and oversight by departmental officials.
- Contracts entered into did not include a form of scrutiny and retention.
- No action was taken on the safety and hazards identified.

Penalties must be administered, and project planning must be properly prepared for. The department must accept that they cannot be the implementing agents, which require skills, and do all the projects.

The R1 million per day for the Digital Veritas saga has raised red flags within the AG. It was reported that there was poor scanning and indexing of records, whereby some of the scanned documents were mixed with other patients' information. Some scanned files had information that was not related to the indexed patient, and some of the patient files contained non-patient-related records, such as HR. Furthermore, there was no proper registering or recording of files that were collected from the facilities and the impracticality to pre-sort due to historical record-keeping challenges was cited as a reason.

Speaker, we can go on about the failures of the Department of Health indefinitely. However, one has to visit the hospitals and clinics to see for themselves the ongoing disasters in health. The good story to tell is the Limpopo Central Hospital here at the Peter Mokaba Stadium, which is due to if all goes well, should open its doors towards the end of 2026. This should also become an academic hospital and should run its services with the various universities within the region. I do believe it is a hospital that may and can if run appropriately and efficiently, can provide much-needed world-class services to the people of Limpopo. The nearly 5,7 million people who access our services on a regular basis. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Member. We will now allow Hon Matome Jacob Lebogo to debate next.

MR LEBOGO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Tla ke tamiše ba ba lego ka mo ntlong ye; re tamiše magoši a rena mo Limpopo, kudu Kgoši Kgabo Moloto III, ka mo Moletji le ditšhwene mola, Bahananwa. Ke re madume ke ao. Ka ge rebolela ka tša maphelo, re lotšha mangaka kamoka a mo Limpopo a setšo le mathwasane kamoka. Re re, ntwā ya gore le tle le kgone go tsena ka maokelong le thuše balwetši re tlo elwa , re tlo tšwelelela gore le kgone go phološa batho ba gabo rena. Thobela, Molekgotlaphethiši, le a e tseba a ke re? Ke ditaba tša 'holistic medical care', le ka no se dikwešiše lena ba bangwe, di nyaka le hlola dipampiri gore di sepela bjang.

Bjalo, go na le taba ya Great North Transport ye ba e boletšego mo. Re kgopela diamalense di ye di thuše bakgekolo le bakgalabje bale ba dirago ditšhupetšo mola Ofising ya Tonakgolo le mafelong a mangwe, ba lwela diphentšhene tša bona. Molekgotlaphethiši wa Tlhabollo ya Leago, le se ke la ba le dihlong tša go ba fa dijo ka gore, ditaba tša gona ga di sepetšane le tše di be go di bolelwa mo. Batho ba le ba borena ba a tlaišega, re tlile go di šala morago. Re a tshepha, le na le maatla a go ka thuša bokoko le borakgolo ba le ba rena.

The department obtained an unqualified audit opinion with findings during the period under review. The stagnation from the audit opinion received during the 2023/24 financial year is worrisome in terms of the department not improving with regard to audits. The litigation bill is now at R12,6 billion, moving from R9,9 billion, which is a lot of money that can change the healthcare system in the province. We need serious intervention in that regard, because if we do not give it attention and put a stop to it, it is going to be R100 billion very soon. This province won't manage to deal with such. It is unfortunate and regrettable that the litigation bill now has accumulated an additional 242 new cases reported only in the current financial year. It means the problem is continuing. We demand an immediate skills audit of all medical professionals in the province of Limpopo, with high priority being given to those hospitals that are prone to giving us problems of claims of medical-legal bills. You might find that we are hiring people who are qualified to be doctors and nurses. We just assume that by virtue of them being in the hospitals they are qualified. Is it possible that we have fatigue in the medical industry? Is the shortage of medical equipment a serious contributor to this problem of medico-legal bills. We need to zoom into that space, and we need a report as the EFF in this regard, within the next few months. That will help to determine the absolute and actual crisis, MEC.

This reflects poor governance and weak leadership in the department, which we have been concerned about over a period of time. Honourable MEC, you need to intensify your oversight efforts, we humbly submit that you take along a report which speaks about the NHI status. You will see that the report which you were given contradicts the reality on the ground. Those indicators, sometimes we even ask ourselves if the equipment rotates in hospitals to make sure that they reach the ideal status, or what is happening? We go there physically and we find something different. Failure to do so,

MEC, will reflect negatively on your leadership. Make sure that you take that report and any other report to zoom into that space.

There is Tshilidzini Hospital in this province of Limpopo, which is the biggest contributor in terms of the medico-legal bills. there's no Vhathu vha Venda na vhone vha divha vhuongelo ha Tshilidzini Hospital is known as the hospital of hu tshi nga ndi fhethu ha khombo na lufu. If you go there, the chances of you going back home are very slim. If you go back home, there is going to be a medical negligence case, a lot of errors on your body from the medical professionals there. We cannot leave it unattended. On the project of doing the skills audit and verifying everything, please prioritise Tshilidzini Hospital and include checking if they have the necessary equipment to deal with these issues of healthcare.

Hon Speaker, the dysfunctional hospital is amongst those generating the most of the claims. Only in Tshilidzini Hospital, they have around R2 billion in terms of the medico-legal bills. It cannot be left unattended; everything must be turned around to make sure that we fix the bad things that are happening in that hospital. We have been appealing to the province to explore the possibilities of embarking on a medical insurance for all medical personnel, which the department in particular, can contribute and they can contribute, wherein both the state and professionals contribute because they are being paid.

Some of the people who are part of those who contribute to the bill to grow have their practices elsewhere. You will never find in a single day in their practices that they are experiencing a medico-legal case. When they do that in our institutions, we are actually subjected to this problem, which is growing. That space must be attended to, honourable MEC as a matter of urgency. It will definitely reduce the medico-legal bill, if it is no longer the responsibility of the state.

The EFF is concerned about an irregular expenditure of R128 million, which was incurred, due to the department not following proper tender processes. The failure to follow proper processes to us is deliberate as it opens a window for corruption and collusion between officials, politicians, and contractors. We need a detailed report on consequence management against those who flouted the PFMA and the Treasury Regulations. Such a report must include individual perpetrators and actions which have been taken. We do not want stories that we have deducted for a month, and what, what, and people go back to the same positions to commit the same errors.

Hon Speaker, the issue of the Lebowakgomo EMS Station is the biggest problem and we know that there are no penalties imposed on the contractor that was terminated. We want to check when last did the infrastructure division of the department do oversight on such projects? Similar projects are in various hospitals, and we need a report in that regard. The contractors will continue not performing because they are no penalties MEC. We need to impose penalties, blacklist people, and make the information available to the public so that anyone in the future knows that the department is not playful. Hon Speaker, we are concerned about the vacancy of health professionals in Limpopo and the turnover rate. That in particular includes specialists, doctors, paramedics, nurses, and allied professionals, it remains very high. How do you envisage providing primary healthcare to citizens when you can fill vacancies because it's human beings who must help in that regard? We still repeat our call, Hon Speaker, that those

who are acting in the Department of Health and those who have been acting there must be paid for acting allowance because most of those posts are funded posts and people have been abused and subjected to too much acting without compensation. We want the report in that regard as to who is affected and what has been done to deal with that, and such a matter must be backdated. People have been overworking themselves.

The mandate of the department is to provide quality, accessible, comprehensive, and affordable healthcare services to the people of Limpopo. How is this going to happen when we fail to satisfy the personnel and add additional personnel to solve this problem? It defeats the entire logic and brings confusion to citizens. Hon Speaker, we cannot get an explanation for why the targets for revenue collections are not being met. These excuses about Road Accident Fund not paying this and that, there must be mechanisms to go collect that departmental money so that it can service the people of Limpopo. We don't want any other excuse next time we want to be told this is what was collected whether it's RAF or any medical aid and so forth. When it comes to ordinary people the department does not hesitate to even refuse to help people who don't have that admin fee to release a file. Sometimes we do call the MEC that a person in the hospital ba mo tima faele, ba mo tima tlhokomelo ka gore ga a na ditsokwane, but then you have this big entities which are not being chased and please deal with that. It is evident that the culture of not meeting their targets in the departments is something which is a norm. It is deeply entrenched to a point that they no longer see it as a problem. You need to turn things around MEC so that you whip on whoever is failing you can have continuous excuses on issues which can be resolved. Can we also get a progress with regard to the approval of 200 student intakes who are going to do diploma in nursing for the academic year 2026 and the delivery of desktops. We want to check confirmation of accreditation for which courses or modules are accredited in our campuses, be it for EMS or for nursing. That is very important. We need you to go aggressive in terms of recruitment because most of your people are going on pension.

It is time to translate commitments into actions because this is the only way to inspire confidence to the people of Limpopo who are already fed-up about the lack of services. We want to check, Hon Speaker, how many employees in the department have benefited in a form of skills transfer on this project of migrating information electronically. That is very important. We need a list of people who were taught or who were trained for that specific process so that in case these other ones whom you have extended their contracts, are leaving, we know that the work will continue. Please furnish us with the list of people and where they are deployed so that we can check and pilot it with them. It seems there is a lot of work. Also meet with the Department of Sport to prioritise disposing of...[INTERJECTION] Oh, I'm left with a minute?

Thank you very much. We are going to visit the ambulance call centre. We're getting a lot of calls that it has collapsed, but we got there physically. I'm just warning you. Ordinarily, we don't have to, but I want to go with you so that we experience what people are experiencing.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Please, honourable Members, let us watch the time on the screen so that we are able to manage time ourselves. We now allow Dr Malebana Chuene William to come and close the debate. [APPLAUSE]

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity and may I observe protocol as it is established.

Today, I stand before you as a representative of the Portfolio Committee on Health to present the financial performance of the Limpopo Department of Health for the 2024/25 Annual Report and the First Quarter Report for 2025/26.

As a start, I want to remind honourable Members and the people of Limpopo that the African National Congress Healthcare policy is aiming to provide access to quality healthcare for all South Africans. Its objectives include improving healthcare infrastructure, increasing access to healthcare services, and enhancing the quality of care. These objectives are in line with the ANC manifesto, which prioritises the well-being of the people. With regard to the annual report in a nutshell, the department has achieved 63% of its planned targets as well as spent 99% of its Budget. A number of the department's projects have been achieved, except for services at the district central and provincial level, where there are challenges and they have not met all the targets. Forty-three percent of infrastructure projects were completed in 2024/25.

However, there are findings that we needed to acknowledge, including challenges that we needed to put before this House. In advance, we are saying they are resolvable, and it's true that the MEC is called upon to deal with them and to give progress and healthcare facilities to the people of Limpopo.

Firstly, we needed to acknowledge that the department have obtained an unqualified audit opinion for the 2024/25 financial year. It is important that we acknowledge that, as Members of this House, for a number of reasons. The department is transparent and is committed to good governance, and the Auditor-General was able to see everything from above from below and so on and so on. He was able to give an opinion. It's important that we do that, as the Auditor-General has identified some challenges that are very important, that we need to deal with. The Auditor-General did not confuse all its performance in terms of the practical application of what the department is doing on the ground. The audit opinion is very clear, and it's open for everyone to see. The Performance Information Reporting programmes 2 and 4 have improved from the previous year, leading to both programmes being unqualified as well. There is contingency liability from medico-legal claims that remains a challenge with the litigation bill that is at around R12,6 million. That is an increase from the 2023/24 financial year.

There's also an alarm that is raised by the Auditor-General with regard to irregular expenditure of R128 million that relates to coal and linen supply and delivery of tenders. The recommendation is made that there must be consequences where individuals have been found to have transgressed the rules and regulations. There is a high vacancy rate for health professionals, but there's also a high turnover rate that remain extremely high. The department should be able to scientifically see how can they incentivize some important professionals that are leaving the department while they are employing on the

other side in all categories. There are challenges with regard to HIV/AIDS and TB targets. We understand that the problem is the people that are moving and cannot be found, but it's important that the department should pay attention to this. The target for all clinics to meet ideal clinic status was not reached, but there was a 19% increase for the reported period. We are calling on the department to maintain the status of clinics because it's going up and down. This year they are in this percentage; the other year, they're in that percentage.

It is important that we do not work to satisfy those who come and measure us, but we maintain it on ourselves, honourable MEC. We should be able to meet that in line with what we intended to do with regard to the clinic and the totality of the healthcare services. The following are the recommendations with regard to the annual report that the department:

- must submit a report of the medical and legal costs that are incurred;
- and plans to address the increasing litigation bill;
- and a list of hospitals that are responsible, so that consequence management must be applied to the official responsible for irregular expenditure at all times, wherever they are found;
- that the department must prioritise filling of vacant posts, especially key positions like hospital CEO and clearly operational managers; and
- the terms of reference for the new contractual agreement with regard to Veritas Digital must be submitted to the portfolio committee.

I must say, this Veritas Digital is not in line with what the Premier said was changing, which[Vernacular 1:42:43] was important as it brings strain to the department. It must be dealt with, or attention must be paid to this. His life had come to an end, but it is now being extended. It is important that contract management and those responsible carry out their duties properly.

A report on goods and services benefited from the R37,2 million shifted from compensation of employees must be submitted to the portfolio committee. This was identified by the Auditor-General. The department must submit a report on how it plans to ensure healthcare facilities are clean. It is unusual that a portfolio committee will talk about cleanliness, but we are forced, honourable MEC, because of what we have seen in a number of healthcare facilities, where there are no people who are supposed to clean. Quality improvement plans have clinics that obtained ideal clinic status must be monitored, and the report is submitted on a quarterly basis. We need to maintain that status for the purpose of making sure that we achieve what is coming with regard to NHI. There are specific comments that we need to make about infrastructure projects in programme 8. The department must implement the following recommendations from the Auditor-General: implement corrective measures to prevent project delays, apply contract clauses to impose penalties on poor-performing contractors, and improve project management. It seems it is within the department that we are unable to manage the people who are contracted to us. Show adequate internal control measures, including a form of security or retention in those contracts, and develop and follow a proper maintenance plan for a number of your buildings.

With regard to the first quarter, the following that needs to happen. The department must give a progress report on a quarterly basis only. This is based on the following:

the audit action plan implementation, significant uncertainty caused by medical negligence, and progress on the use of private attorneys, filling of vacant posts, and acting positions, procurement health information systems. We were made to think earlier that Veritas Digital would help us, but unfortunately, it's just a cost issue, it does not assist the Department of Health in the current form. Education and training, nursing and EMS, we have identified a number of challenges, but at the core of that is the basic things that must happen. Meaning to establish them properly and make sure that we train the nurses and EMS personnel. Progress on the construction of the Limpopo Academic Hospital. We also needed to pay attention, as the Portfolio Committee on Health, we know that there is a portfolio that is doing that. We needed to report just to be assured and not be told at the last minute about problems that are out there.

The activity regarding National Health Insurance, that we think we will do all your activities related to that, but we need a focused way. Where we can get report and get certainty that the department is doing something, as you do your work in this regard in a focused way. Then it attract more finance from the national department. That's important that we do that. I can repeat again matters of health facility cleanliness that we have observed and for now we will pay attention to it. We wish that before we go there we will find that the department has done something before we can meet them.

Hon Speaker, I want to dedicate the report from Portfolio Committee on Health to the dedicated workers and personnel in the Department of Health. We are saying to them that you are tireless passion and compassion have been the driving force behind the delivery of quality health care service to the people of Limpopo. Your selfless commitment to improving the health and well-being of our communities is truly commendable. We acknowledge your hard work and dedication. May this report serve as a testimony to your unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of our people that we serve, and also call on the leadership of the department to come to the party, and meet these very focused and passionate, and compassionate employees that is doing their work every day without fear and favour, even if sometimes there is a shortage of staff.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee on Health, after consideration and scrutiny of the 2024/25 Annual Report of the department, moves that the report be adopted as the report of this honourable House, as well as the First Quarter Report for 2025/26 of the Department of Health. I so move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable chair of the portfolio committee. We shall now allow Hon Mashego, the MEC for Health, to respond to the debate. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief; Whippers; MECs; honourable Members present here today; the portfolio committee chair; and all portfolio committee members.

Firstly, let's appreciate the reports and also appreciate what the committee is doing in playing their oversight role. We will go straight to responding to some of the questions that were posted during the debate. Hon Speaker, let me start with the concern of the overspending on programme 1 and programme 8. We have the challenge of accruals in the Department of Health, so each and every financial year when it starts, you would see the first quarter will be overspending because we start by paying off accruals and payables that were carried over from the previous financial year.

That is the explanation when you see that some of these programmes are high, it is because we're paying. We will not be able to continue getting what we need from our providers if we do not pay them, that is the reason. In terms of the issue of the EMS response time, we are saying with the computer-aided dispatch system, we are able to see exactly the times. The app shows when the call is being logged and when we dispatch so the information that we are providing is accurate, because it is something that is being captured by the system itself. In terms of the ideal clinic status, not talking to what is found in the clinics, it's different when you use our clinics on a daily basis than when you go once. Maybe when you are passing by or when you hear a complaint once. Complaints are there, but I ideal clinic status shows the improvement that we're making in our clinics and because we always go there and communicate with our people. We know that where there are improvements, there are also appreciations to say we had complained about this, but now, because you have come as a department to intervene, we are seeing changes. We are saying there is progress that has been made in our clinics, and we will continue to ensure that we keep on improving up until we reach where we want to reach, honourable Members.

The issue that is a recruitment plan but we keep on saying adverts are coming Hon Moss. I think you should start checking our departmental social media platforms. We are advertising we are not saying we are going to advertise and to advertise we are advertising. We are not only advertising. We are advertising and appointing. If you can even go and check now you'll see that there is the latest circular 46 where we are advertising lots and lots of posts. We agree that there is shortage in our facilities because we are in a department where most of the people are retiring so on a daily basis we have retirements. That's why as the department have put measures in place that every quarter we will be advertising. There are many posts that are there which would also address the issue of acting in our in our facilities. You check the positions of accountability talking about the operational managers, your CEOs and so forth are being advertised on the latest circular. We will also be appointing and we will ensure that we continue for transparent to have an induction publicly and welcome our new recruits so that that even the communities can see that the department is not just sitting. We are ensuring that we appoint so that we empower our facilities.

The issue of the audit outcomes that we are stagnant and there are no improvements, it's not true that there are no improvements. We have received an unqualified audit opinion again and we have improved because we have reduced the findings and this time even on information performance we have also achieved unqualified. Which is for the first time. I think as the Department of Health, we should be applauded by this Legislature that indeed we are improving all the department. We are working on ensuring that we deal with the medico-legal cases that we are faced with because indeed they are stealing from their service delivery money that we have. That is why we are strengthening the issue of consequence management of an clinical governance

workshop and also we are now looking into having our own panel of attorneys where we know that we have dedicated attendees who are looking into these cases and ensuring that we defend and win. Some of these cases are not even real, it's just a lawyers who are playing with us to ensure that they steal from the public.

The issue of the call centre, honourable Members are welcome to visit the call centre because with that call centre it is there to ensure that we improve our response in terms of emergency medical services. We are saying with the issue of the Lebowakgomo EMS centre, we are working very hard with the Department of Public works to ensure that we complete that project and we are able to utilise it. We are saying as the department athletes to inform this House that we have just received additional funding from a national where the Minister had once pronounced that we would have additional funding to appoint more health professionals to also assist us in reducing the accruals and also to implement the court order that we had for our community health workers. We are happy to say the additional funding is finally here, and we will be able to continue working very hard to ensure that those improvements are happening. I repeat, Hon Speaker, that the Department of Health in this province is a department that is improving. We are not in the ICU. We are improving, and improvements are being seen by our communities, and they will also continue to see the changes that we are making. Our communities will enjoy the fruits of what we are busy serving as the department.

Thank you very much for the support of the portfolio committee and also honourable Members. Let us all ensure that we work hard to improve the state of our facilities. Where we are where we see there's a problem, we communicate with the MEC, we communicate with whoever, and we would be able to assist those who will be doing that to ensure that our communities get the services that they deserve. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Following Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Re a leboga, Honourable, MEC Mashego. I must remind the MECs that, you remember that normally when responding to the debate, according to the programming committee, you are given 3 minutes, but today you are given 5 minutes because it is 2 debates. I am just saying, I am reminding honourable MECs that are still coming that you must stick to your time so that we do not go beyond the time allocated.

We will now proceed to item 7.3 which is the consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety. Committee chair, Hon Kedibone Lebea, please come and present reports accordingly. While she is still coming, she will start with item 7.3.1 is the 2024/25 Annual report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Honourable chair proceed.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Dr Speaker. I rise for consideration and adoption in the august House. The following report of the portfolio committee for Transport and Community Safety the 2024/25 Annual Report. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you much. Do we have any seconder, honourable Members? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you very much, Dr Speaker. Ndzi yima lahawani, ndzi yimela ku ta seketela leswi vuriweke hi Muchaviseki Lebea. Ndza khensa

THE SPEAKER

Hi khesnsile swinene, Hon Kedibone will move the next report, which is the item, 7.2.3, which is the 2024/25 Annual Report for Gateway Airport Authority Limited.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, again, Dr Speaker. I rise for consideration and adoption for the 2024/25 Annual Report of the entity Gateway Airport Authority Limited. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognized.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Muchaviseki Dr Xipikara. Hi mina Falaza Mdaka ndzi yimela ku ta seketela leswi boxiweke hi Hubyankulu Lebea. Ndza khensa

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable chair, item 7.4, which is the consideration and adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety. Item 7.4.1, is the 2025/26 first quarter report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Over to you, Hon Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you again, Dr Speaker. I rise for consideration and adoption the 2025/26 first quarter report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I move accordingly

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? Hon Moss, you are recognised.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, André Moss rise to second the report as presented by the Hon Lebea.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Lebea, you are on item 7.4.2. The 2025/26 first quarter report of Gateway Airport Authority Limited.

MS LEBEA

Thank you again, Dr Speaker. Lastly, I rise for consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 first quarter report of the entity Gateway Airport Authority Limited.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder, honourable Members? Hon Matjomane, you are recognised.

MS MATJOMANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, we shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The person who is opening the debate is Hon Mankwana Christina Mohale.

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to yourself. Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela, Chief Whip and members of the whippers, Leader of Government Business, Members of the Executive Council, ladies and gentlemen.

Madam Speaker, before I proceed with the reports of the Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity, the Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL). Allow me to express our heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives in the tragic accidents that have recently occurred on our roads. The first of the devastating incidents took place on Sunday, 21 September, on the R81 road near Ga-Sekgopo. The heartbreaking accident claimed the lives of 13 people. The victims, mostly women returning from a church service, were travelling in a minibus taxi that became trapped and crushed between two heavy trucks in a horrific multi-vehicle collision. The second tragedy occurred on Sunday, 12 October on the N1 road near Louis Trichardt. This accident resulted in the loss of 43 lives and left dozens more injured. The bus involved is believed to have been travelling from Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape to Harare, Zimbabwe, carrying passengers from Zimbabwe, Malawi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Madam Speaker, as the committee, we urge all motorists to adhere strictly to the rules of the road. We also call upon our traffic enforcement officers and road safety authorities to intensify their efforts in enforcing road regulations and ensuring safety for all. These

tragic incidents are painful reminders of the urgent need for heightened road safety awareness and stricter enforcement to prevent such loss of life in the future. As a committee, we applaud the department for achieving a clean audit opinion for the financial year under review. This is a commendable accomplishment, and we encourage the department to maintain this high standard of financial management and good governance going forward. Furthermore, we note that appreciation that the department successfully achieved all its planned targets for the first quarter of the current financial year. This is a clear indication that the department is moving in the right direction and remains committed to delivering on its mandate. We commend the department for the revenue collection, which demonstrated that all systems contributing to it need to be enhanced and maintained.

Madam Speaker, while it is often said that we should not praise a fish for swimming, it is equally important to give credit where it is due. The department deserves recognition for these achievements, and we trust that this level of performance will be sustained and even improved in the coming quarters. Under programme 1 which is Administration, the department exceeded its planned employment equity target for People with disabilities. The planned target for the 2024/25 financial year was set at 2%, however, the department reported an actual achievement of 6%. This is in line with the ANC manifesto to promote and monitor employment equity to ensure that black people, women, and persons with disabilities are represented in the public and private sectors, in the professions and artisanal sectors. Towards the growth of a vibrant, nonracial, and nonsexist middle strata, critical to national development.

Madam Speaker, the department is still facing the challenge of getting all required categories of employees to disclose their financial interests; the challenge is still recurring from the past financial year. Corrective actions have been taken against such employees. Madam Speaker, to regulate and facilitate the provision of integrated transport services through coordination and cooperation with national planning authorities CBOs, NGOs and the private sector to enhance mobility for all communities, particularly those currently without or with limited access. The department has rationalised 26 existing bus contracts into 9 consolidated agreements. These new contracts officially commenced in April 2025. These agreements deliver even more kilometres of subsidised bus services, including the introduction of routes in previously underserved areas around the province. The department should also develop and implement measures to monitor the new subsidised bus contracts across all districts to ensure effective public transport access and usage.

It is noted that the department conducted various operations to ensure a safe transport environment and reduce road crash fatalities in the previous financial year and the last quarter under review. However, the recent rise in road fatalities is concerning and unacceptable. There is a need to strengthen various operations to ensure a safe transport environment and reduce road crash fatalities. The operations such as vehicle, compliance inspection, speed operations, vehicle weighing, drunk driving, and vehicle stop and check, and pedestrian operation must be strengthened and monitored. As the committee, we believe that the current recruitment of 154 learnership opportunities for traffic officers, to be undertaken over a period of 12 months, will assist in boosting our road traffic operations and will contribute towards addressing the current shortfall of traffic officers on provincial roads.

Madam Speaker, as the committee, we have observed that there is generally a shortage of manpower and resources highlighted across all police stations. Filling vacancies for retired, deceased, as well as promoted police officials takes longer than anticipated. This puts a lot of pressure on the remaining officials. Absenteeism and early retirement by the most experienced officials have become prevalent. Vehicle shortage, ageing vehicles, and long stays of vehicles at various Saps garages are dominant in all police stations. With the indication that supply chain processes at the garage lengthened the time for repairing vehicles. The availability of victim empowerment rooms is also critical and should be looked at as well.

Madam Speaker, the department continues to provide funding and strategic oversight to Gateway Airport Authority Limited. Currently, GAAL is still not able to generate the maximum profit that will sustain itself and not rely on government grant support. The committee has noted that there are still capacity challenges in the supply chain management, and the process to appoint and fill vacant posts is slow. The department has commenced the recruitment process for a new board. This new leadership, together with executive management, will have the responsibility of driving the implementation of the turnaround strategy and ensuring GAAL becomes a financially sustainable contributor to the province's economy. The board will also ensure that the entity expedites processes to fill the remaining vacant posts and further ensure that all appointments are completed. In conclusion, the entity should ensure that its supply chain processes are beefed up and strengthened with the necessary capacity to execute its responsibilities properly. I thank you.[APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We want to thank Hon Mohale for saving us 5 minutes and 10 seconds. Thank you so much, even if she was not looking at the screen. We will now allow Hon Sebothoma Matsobane Jump to debate. Your 7 minutes start now.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, all esteemed Members of the Limpopo Legislature, Kgotso Ma-Africa.

Since 2011, the question of the Thohoyandou Intermodal has been existing and not enough has been done to stop it by the sitting government with all the mandate given by the people of the province through their votes. The lack of will to resolve this matter is conspicuous by its silence. This could have been nipped in the bud if the government had wanted to do the right thing. The government's inability to apply consequence management has allowed this matter to continue for over 13 years and those responsible for the mess continued with the rot as if there was no government

The Mphepu Airport saga is a good example of what will happen when the government relinquishes its responsibility to implement security measures. The provincial security intelligence failed to show their intelligence by allowing unauthorised flights to land in Mphepu Airport with glee and without proper control measures. The province has become a free-for-all space for criminals to enter our province without fear of repercussions.

One would shudder to think what those aircraft are carrying into our beloved province. With the proliferation of drugs in our province and the damage caused to our youth, we should not wait to be told that they might find their way into our province through Mphepu Airport. The UAT laments the state we find ourselves in, where people would even go to the extent as to show contempt for the court's decision to order them to abide by its decision, as if we are in a banana province without the rule of law. Kanimambo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The honourable Member is saving us 5 minutes and 6 seconds. We will allow Hon André Moss to come to the podium. Your 7 minutes ...yes, I was allowing you to arrive at the podium. Your 7 minutes start now.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, Hon Premier, leaders of the opposition parties, Members of this House, and guests.

The Freedom Front Plus stands in the House today not to echo praise, but to demand progress. A clean audit is not a synonym for success. Financial statements may balance, but the lives of our citizens remain out of balance when our roads crumble, buses fail to arrive, and provincial assets like the Polokwane International Airport operate far below potential.

The Department of Transport and Community Safety spent R2,5 billion of its R2,59 billion Budget, yet, left R75 million unspent. Those savings are missed opportunities. That R75 million could have tarred dangerous stretches like R510 between Northam and Thabazimbi, where collisions continue to claim lives, or repaired police vehicles sitting idle at garages.

We commend the reported 9,6% reduction in road fatalities, but statistics cannot console the families who bury loved ones, because scholar transport is still unsafe. After all, overloading is still ignored, and because enforcement is still inconsistent. Law enforcement cannot be seasonal and decline due to weather conditions must be relentless.

We cannot ignore the silence around GNT's failure to operate all contracted routes. Rural commuters remain stranded, school children walk kilometres to class, and the poor pay the price for administrative complacency. The Limpopo transport system must move people, not just on paper. Now, GAAL, the Gateway Airport Authority Limited, the entity received R114 million and underspent R16 million. It failed to meet most of its performance targets, including its own revenue goals. Out of 6 administrative indicators, only 2 were achieved. Out of 7 business development indicators, only 1 was achieved. Even the Aerodrome category 7 license was downgraded for a month because firefighting equipment was unserviceable.

This is not a strategic delay; it is systematic neglect. An airport cannot be marketed as international while the runway is barely operational and the perimeter fence is still unfinished. Limpopo cannot claim to be open for business when its gateway is half-functional and reliant on government grants year after year. A market strategy should

be put into place to achieve profitability, and the entity should ensure acceptable financial management. A clean audit means nothing when communities live amid potholes, when buses stand still, and when our airport sleeps while the province waits to take off.

The Freedom Front Plus cannot applaud neat accounting when our is running on worn tires and fear. The department may have spent every cent of its R575 million quarterly allocation. The question remains: what did the Limpopo citizens receive in return? Our roads are still a danger zone. Communities from Waterberg to Vhembe drive daily on crumbling shoulders, dogging potholes that no spreadsheet can fill. The department boast of meeting all its indicators, yet R199 subsidised bus routes remain inactive. The people who rely on public transport do not care about. The care that their children can get to school safely and on time. If we should speak honestly about community safety, Limpopo cannot be safe when police vehicles stand in garages waiting for parts. When community forums exist on paper but not on the streets and when victims of crime come to the police station, that has no function of a victim empowerment room.

The report itself admits that the aging and ill officials and vacant post industries like Vhembe have weakened operations. How is it possible that the number of road safety awareness interventions has failed to reach the target due to a shortage of staff due to illness and aging officials. This clearly demonstrates poor planning, which should have been easily prevented. Crime prevention cannot rest on overworked and under-resourced staff. The Freedom Front Plus goes on calls for a safety system that actually reaches communities, not another set of plans and resolutions filed away in committee meeting minutes. The department must partner meaningfully with their Saps, CPF structures, churches and local municipalities to ensure visible policing, rural patrols and real community protection, not photo opportunities.

Then there is GAAL our supposes a symbol of connectivity, yet, instead of flying higher, it continues to glide in circles. During the first quarter, GAAL underspent R1,6 million, failed to complete key projects, and kept its most basic assets, from billboards to aircraft simulators, grounded. The entity has no suitable marketing strategy which occurred profitability and competitiveness even the committee now demands that all appear again to explain itself. This is no longer a turnaround strategy it's a permanent holding pattern.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the Freedom Front Plus demands accountability not in reports, but in results. We call for the filling of all vacant posts in law enforcement and GAAL management for the recovery of outstanding municipal debts owed by the department and for visible improvements in the safety and mobility of our people. A government that balances books fails to protect lives and has lost its moral compass. Limpopo deserves roads that are safe, communities that feel secure, and an airport that earned its name as a gateway, not the gatekeeper of failure. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon André Moss. The 58 seconds are important. We will now proceed to the next speaker. Hon Helm Marie, your 9 minutes start now.

MS HELM

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, all our MECs present, especially our MEC for Transport and Community Safety, all the other Members of this House, and also our guests that are here to listen to us. Thank you very much.

The department remains central in discharging its constitutional mandate to provide safe, efficient, affordable, accessible, and reliable transport infrastructure consistent throughout the province. The Department of Transport and Community Safety was allocated a total budget of R2,5 billion for the 2024/25 financial year, with a total under expenditure of R75 million. If we look at the current carnage on our roads, then this underspending is something we cannot afford, but in the first quarter shows a commendable improvement. Unfortunately, it didn't stop the carnage on our roads. The department continued with a positive improvement in revenue collection. Very well done in MEC, I think we have the best department as far as that is concerned. We are concerned with our number of accidents in which many people lost their lives. This is a danger sign especially if we are looking at we are now coming up to the festive season. During the 2024 festive season, Limpopo recorded 16 fatalities and an increase of 8,79% compared to the previous year. The run-up to the festive season was deadly for Limpopo's road users. I'm speaking of this year.

Maybe use this opportunity to express our sincere condolences to the family, friends, and the communities of the deceased. May I remind the House of the following: in September there was this horrific taxi accident on the R81, where a minibus taxi was crushed between 2 heavy trucks, killing 13 people. That must have been an absolute disaster. On 12 October, a deadly disaster claimed 44 people dead, 17 October tragic accident claimed one life and left two injured, when a minibus taxi, a sedan, and a truck collided on the R36. Sunday, 19 October, 6 people who lost their lives in a horror crash on the R524 road outside Thoyondou in the Vhembe District. It seems to me that human factors remain the largest contributor to real fatalities as we know that speeding over speeding some very important factors, followed by road and environmental factors, and vehicle factors. All three factors must be effectively managed to decrease deaths on our roads and injuries to our people.

The purpose of the subprogramme, Law Enforcement, is to maintain law and order for all modes of transport by providing quality law enforcement services as stipulated by relevant legislation. This is hardly possible as vital resources, such as in Mampakuil Weighbridge, is still not operational. I understand it's not our department that must build that but I think we must put pressure so that it can be built. Especially because so many vehicles travel on that road north. This must impact negatively on the ability of the department to be proactive and efficient. During the quarter and review the department conducted various operations and which include vehicle compliance, inspections, vehicle stop and check etc. It's greatly commendable to know that all targets for the quarter that is under review have been met. The problem is that it seems to be really ineffective in the light of the many disastrous accidents in the past few months. If you take the bus, how is it possible that that bus could travel from Gauteng right through our province, never been stopped, and if it was stopped, why did it carry on? How is it possible that this accident could happen? It seems as if the department does the right things, ticks all the boxes, but the actual service is ineffective. Overloading our vehicles, roadworthiness of vehicles, driver fatigue, quality and training of drivers, and driver behavior seem to overtake any effort by the department.

We are not winning, and the festive season is upon us. We urgently need to look at corruption and lifestyle audit of traffic officials, the quality of equipment, and route maintenance. It is important to have more joint portfolio committee meetings with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, to discuss the maintenance of roads. It is also important to research all mountain passes and the Limpopo, and ascertain how we can make them safer. With regards to the Provincial Secretariat for police services, we need comprehensive reports on the monitoring of police, conduct effectiveness of visible policing, how many cases reach our courts, and actually how many convictions. We need reports on the court watch program, we need information on what they are actually doing, who is doing it, and is there any results. We need to research victim empowerment support and determine the quality and effectiveness of this service. Ticking boxes is not the same as quality service.

I'm afraid there's little to be happy about as far as GAAL is concerned. But at least we might make an effort and say they try to increase the safety at the PRM people's airport. We still hope that GAAL will surprise us. although my hope is fading fast, and really hope to fulfill the mandate and drastically increase our revenue collection in the rest of the year. The department should consider supporting GAAL by developing a joint plan with the tourism and agricultural sectors to increase traffic. Give the aircraft a purpose when they land. Help them to bring people, but give them something to come to. Maybe the tourism and agricultural sectors can support us just to fight to get aircraft to land here and go it's just not effective, and it's just not working. GAAL can really increase the revenue for our province. Let us find new ways to make this possible because the old way obviously is not working. The festive season is upon us, I really hope with all my heart that the past few months is not a warning sign of what is to come. Our officials must be vigilant and strict. We cannot, we really cannot afford further accidents. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Helm Marie. You have given us 2 minutes and 50 seconds. It is highly appreciated. We will now go to the EFF, Hon Baloyi Dunani or he is been replaced by Hon Malemela. I am confused. Thank you for reminding me, Hon Magolo.

MR MAGOLO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, greetings to MECs available in the House, greetings to members of the Economic Freedom Fighters and opposition in the House.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the unspent amount of R75 million and feels that it was supposed to be utilised as it must be used to improve the lives of our people in the province. We are concerned about the delay in completing the K53 projects. There seems to be no progress recorded in this regard, hence our people continue to suffer a lack of services. We find it difficult to understand why the department is failing to expedite processes towards the completion of K53 for the benefit of communities. It is our view that traffic services should be easily accessible to the public, but as it stands, nothing seems to suggest that these services are accessible.

Hon Speaker, there are employees who failed to comply with the disclosure of financial interests while doing business with the government. Did the department apply corrective measures for these non-disclosures, because otherwise, you are creating a precedent and culture of non-compliance by officials. Can we get some progress on how the department is resolving land availability challenges at the Mampakuil Weighbridge. This is a longstanding matter, and we cannot afford to be reiterating on one subject while there are many service delivery issues there to be attended to. How many victim empowerment facilities suitable for post-traumatic treatment are available in various police stations throughout the province? Can we get a breakdown in terms of and per police station? The unavailability of such facilities would suggest that this government does not care about GBV cases, which are prevalent in Limpopo, especially in areas like Vhembe.

Hon Speaker, can we get the progress report on the finalisation of the inception of the new bus subsidies contract? The delay in terms of the finalisation of this contract means a delay in service delivery to the people who need public transport to work in order to steer the economy. Hon Speaker, can we get concrete reasons why the filling of vacancies for retired, deceased, as well as promoted police officials takes longer than anticipated? To what extent does the department intensify road safety education at the community level to engage all road users, including pedestrians, drivers, and public transport users as part of its ongoing programmes? Hon Speaker, it is disturbing and unacceptable that GNT failed to operate on all contracted routes that contribute to the department's underachievement. This is unfair to communities, especially those in rural areas, who desperately need these services. Law enforcement agencies should conduct ongoing regular inspections and targeted operations focusing on scholar transport to prevent unnecessary accidents.

Hon Speaker, the EFF notes the recent suspensions of flights at the Polokwane International Airport, and would register this as a failure on the part of the ANC government to employ capable people and to hold the management of the airport to account. The manager of the airport requested Treasury for additional funds for salaries, but nothing to do with improving the functionality of the airport, until ACSA suspended the license. This is typical of the ANC cadres who prioritise their stomachs over the functionality of the entities that, if they were profitable, they would be earning a lot of profit. The ANC has been destroying entities of government and rendering them unprofitable and then selling them to their cronies in the private sector. It is unthinkable that Hoedspruit Airport is thriving while it is far away from the capital city, which is to be declared a metropolitan over Polokwane International Airport.

Instead, the airport has been receiving bailouts year in-and year out. The airport has been milking taxpayers' money while it has been languishing in a state of despair. How can an airport be profitable if no one can confirm the flight will land or not, even casting doubt on the safety of passengers. The lack of forward planning is evident in this matter and that is why the government is always reacting on issues instead of being proactive. This laziness to plan is the reason why many government projects collapse, leading to the disruption of services to the people. The incident of flight disruption at this airport is not the first one. In 2021, the South African Civil Aviation Authority downgraded Polokwane Airport's operating licence, which resulted in the suspension of commercial flights. The downgrade was due to the airport's failure to meet minimum safety

standards related to emergency services. This led to a significant negative impact on tourism and operations.

All these failures speak to the quality of leadership that is at the helm of GAAL. The appointment of the board members and executives at GAAL is extremely flawed, hence, persistent failures at the entity. Wrong people get appointed through patronage and the system of cadre deployment, and yet, they do not have the expertise or experience to do the job. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Magolo, for saving us some more minutes, 3 minutes 68 seconds. Thank you. We will allow the chair of the committee, Hon Kedibone Lebea to come and close the debate. Your 14 minutes start now. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much. Blessed afternoon, Hon Speaker. Let me also rise on the protocol that is already been established in this august House. To also send warm greetings to members of the community and the citizens of this province whom have logged on to different social media channels

Hon Speaker, of this august House, this is the special month of October, the month that saw the birth of a revolutionary, extraordinary, resilient, and steadfast personified matriarch of the revolution. Hon Speaker, this debate is dedicated to a fearless woman who once walked the site of heaven. Hon Speaker, a resilient yet gentle face of defiance congress woman excellence, the Hon Speaker, this debate is dedicated to none other than Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu, born today in the year 1918 in the Tsomo Region of the Transkei, Eastern Cape. She became a nurse and then a prominent activist of the African National Congress and the broader anti-apartheid movement, often referred to as Mma Sisulu or mother of the nation. Hon Speaker, what lessons can we draw from this great data of the revolution, that one even in the face of adversity, she stood firm to her own convictions and credence. When she said: 'Although politics has given me a rough life, there is absolutely nothing I regret about what I've done and what has happened to me and my family throughout all these years. Instead, I've been strengthened and feel more of a woman that I would otherwise have felt if my life were different'. What does that impact on us, Hon Speaker, at this current political dispensation, that this work of oversight that is entrusted on us by the masses of this province? We owe our loyalty, trustworthiness and dedication to no one but the Congress movement and its people. With that we can candidly emulate the aspiration and ideals of Mam Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe Madikizela-Mandela when she said: 'I had come to that acknowledgement that every time I opened my mouth someone will take offense.

Hon Speaker, back to business of the day and in exercising our constitutional mandate as transparency enables oversight within as a committee met to the department and its entity, Gateway Airport Authority Limited for a briefing on the 2024/25 Annual Report and 2025/26 first quarter report. Hon Speaker, believe you me, we have executed that with utmost diligence, magnanimously and yet decorously. The department should report on the measures taken to GNT regarding their failure to operate on all contracted

routes that contribute to the department's achievement. That will be in the next quarter. That law enforcement agencies should conduct ongoing regular inspections and targeted operations focusing on scholar transport. Hon Speaker, strict penalties should be applied specifically to school minibuses or compromise our learner safety through overloading over speeding and unroadworthy vehicles and law enforcement should be implemented at all material times. The Hon Speaker, Limpopo belongs to the balcony, not in the scholar transport critically and unfortunately in the morning as this will have long-lasting, detrimental effects on the future of our kids that are depending on these services on a daily basis.

Hon Speaker, the department is doing exceptionally well under the stewardship of Hon Susani Violet Mathye, and some might ask why? Okay, with this, I believe I still have a lot of minutes on my counter allocated to us. Let us share a bit, by the end of this first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, the department had an actual budget allocation of R575 804 and actual expenditures spent for the same, which was exactly that, what was budgeted for, with no other expenditure or underspending. Hon Speaker, this explicitly reflects precise financial planning and discipline, expenditure management within the department in the first quarter. Hon Speaker, during the first quarter under review, the department has managed to achieve all its set indicators as planned and this reminds me of the Latin phrase that I like so much: "Quis custodiet Ipsos custodes? Who guard the guardians themselves. Borrowing from the sharpest mind of Tata Nelson Mandela, when he quoted Hon Helm, he said: 'Safety and security doesn't just happen, they are the results of collective concerns, safety and security doesn't just happen, they are the results of collective concerns and public investment...' The department reported, Hon Speaker, on intensifying road safety, visibility, and education thereof. We believe that road safety takes all of us in this province, both the department, law enforcement officers, and us as communities in this province.

Lastly, on the department, I will not dwell much. Hon Mankwana has covered that so well. When we report or engage on the second quarter, we need an update on the implementation of stringent measures to monitor new subsidised bus routes to ensure an uninterrupted public transport, MEC Mathye. Hon Speaker, a gentleman stood here unashamedly so littered in a red overall boldly engaging in an unfortunate attempt to ridicule the Congress movement, and we are sending this message to him, quoted from George Saunders: "Don't be afraid to be confused. Try to remain permanently confused. Anything is possible. Stay open, forever, so open it hurts, and then open up some more, until the day you die, world without end, amen.

Our oversight extends to Gateway Airport Authority Limited, the entity GAAL. We have noted an unfortunate sight constant non-achievement of targets. We therefore resolved that in the next quarter, Hon Speaker, the entity should appear before the committee with relevant officials responsible for the non-achievement of targets in order to account the work done and provide reasons firsthand. This we are doing, understanding, Hon Speaker, people must be responsible to speak for themselves. They do hide behind the faces of the MECs or the faces of their own HODs. We are hopeful that when we meet for the second quarter this catastrophic syndrome will be a thing of the past. The committee raised a sharp dissatisfaction with the lack of marketing and advertising strategy with regards to non-availability and non-functionality of billboards, which remain unattended today. The entity was instructed to resolve these matters before the interactions of the second quarter.

As the philosopher Voltaire said: 'The perfect is the enemy of the good'. Therefore government must not aim for perfection, but to be good enough to attract passengers and remain competitive. This approach aligns with the philosophy of pragmatism and in a sensible way forward and this will sort effort from the Limpopo travel agents. Hon Speaker, let me borrow from the brilliant mind of Martin Luther King Jr when he said: 'We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.' The entity facilitated international movements from the Lesotho and Nigerian soccer teams. They said that they hosted the national archery tournament and this is applauded and commendable revenue. They have seen an increase in aircraft movement, Hon Speaker. From 4 to 12 flights movement per day. A standing ovation to the entity that Cem Air found itself in the Limpopo skies and landed at the airport for the very first time. It's a way to experience the airport for future potential routes. Well, I had catastrophic and flabbergasting words when I was seated there, Hon Speaker. Free for all criminals, failure of intelligence, lack of security and etc and etc. What an unfortunate missed opportunity from the honourable Member.

Let me take a minute to share some of the good stories the men and women in blue in this province are up to. I'd like to believe that at the time it was reported to the committee that the province made a total arrest of 335 CIT. It was a slumber or a case of sheer lack of attention and at the time, the province recovered 3 or 5 firearms, including 40 high-powered rifles, ensuring safety of the citizenry of Limpopo. When did the disjunction Okay, honourable Member, is that at the time the four perpetrators got life imprisonment. The province will recollect of the double murder of business women, Makoena Mabusela-Leshabane and Tebogo Mphuti. The province will also be remembered of the horrific Burgerfort bus torching that claimed 6 lives; five suspects received multiple sentences. The assassination of Collins Chabane, the mayor Moses Maluleke, and the five arrests that followed all resulted in life imprisonment. I'm shocked by the non-security, for the criminals, for the failures of intelligence, etc. That we are not in a hurry, honourable Member. Time will still allow you to grasp these realities of the province that Limpopo is one of the safest province that we have in this country.

As we draw to what conclusion, Hon Speaker, allow us to wish a revolutionary and blessed birthday to our Deputy President, Cde Paul Shipokosa Mashatile of the African National Congress. We wish him nothing but strength, good health, and longevity. Hon Speaker, in conclusion, taken from the words of Samora Machel of the people of Mozambique in Africa: 'We say once again empathetically: let us consolidate unity, let us strengthen vigilance'. Let us get down to work'. With that, Hon Speaker, I rise for consideration and adoption that the annual report and the first quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for the Seventh Administration of the Legislature be adopted as a report of this august House. I thank you. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, chair of the committee, Hon Kedibone Lebea, and for saving us time. Thank you so much. We will allow the MEC, Hon Susani Violet Mathye, the MEC for the Department of Transport and Community Safety, to respond to the debate. Just to remind the MEC, we have 5 minutes for the response. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good afternoon to all honourable Members.

Let me start, Hon Speaker, because I'm on record here to correct the issue of the bus accident. That bus was carrying only the passengers from Zimbabwe and Malawi as confirmed yesterday by the next of their kin, who were there to identify them. No one from Congo. Thank you so much. There are 36 deceased from Zimbabwe and 80 from Malawi. Hon Speaker, there are other challenges that were raised by the committee members, which I acknowledge. They're talking about the lack of police visibility on our roads; that's why we're having these many accidents. Let me say this, we have enough police officers who are always on our roads. The issue of traffic officers that we are now recruiting by the beginning of next year, they will be going to college for us to save the money that we're paying them for overtime. We have already started paying them overtime so that they can be visible.

The issue again of the Gateway Airport of doing enough. We're saying yes, we're aware of that, but if you can look, GAAL is not like the same GAAL that you used to know. It is now becoming another GAAL. We are now involving other Airways to come and be part of us here in Limpopo. The problem remains when you go to FlySafair, they will tell you that there are no passengers in the Gateway. We as Members, don't use Gateway Airport whenever we're going somewhere. Two weeks back on 2 October, we received FlySafair in Hoedspruit. It was coming from Cape Town with 189 passengers when we were launching them. Those are your tourists who are going to Kruger National Park. I agree with you that we want men and women who will be helping us in advertising or marketing our GAAL. Regarding the issue of saying GAAL is not working because there are those who have big stomachs, and that one I'm not going to consider that. Those are just cheap politicking.

You cannot come here and talk about people with big stomachs while we don't have any evidence of that [inaudible]. Regarding the issue of victim empowerment rule rooms, I'll come with the report when I come here again to give the House a report on how many police stations have them. The issue of CPS this I can't always when I come here to talk about it because CPFs are there. The only thing that we're having most of is some of the CPFs that are in our communities are not vetted because they're just waking up and saying we are CPFs. Those that are established by the SAPS, they are vetted to serve the people.

Regarding the issue of scholar transport, all the scholar transport that we are talking about that are on roads are not the color transport that received permits from the Department of Transport and are not government scholar transport. Government scholar transport cannot be bakkies. We can't give permits to bakkies to ferry our learners from home to school. All those that you see on the roads are scholar transport that are paid for by the parents who are promoting that their children must move from the nearest school to another school. That one, when we found them on the road, we impounded them, but when we impound them, the same community that is crying about the unworthiness of those scholar transport is the one that is coming to us to say now, you are frustrating our kids. We are arresting and impounding.

The issue of GNT, as the department ours to subsidise the buses that are on the road and that contract is between the LEDET and the bus owners. With us, we subsidised to say we pay half of the money that was supposed to be paid by our own people. For them not to pay that expensive money that they are being charged by other bus companies that are not part of this scheme, then we cannot say we have challenges. On that one thing are on the way, we saw people yesterday in Giyani. They were saying away with taxes, away with these other bus companies. We want our GNT back. We're happy about that one. The others are just comments.

Finally, the issue of Mphephu Airport, take it on record now, Mphephu Airport has never been a commercial airport. It's a landing strip. We are in the process of making it a commercial airport, and as we speak that security people at Mphephu Airport. Those who will be hearing it from the air, just give yourself time to go and visit that area, there are security people. Again if you are saying people with drugs, wherever, those are just private jets. Wherever they're coming from, if that was there, I'm sure you would have been the last to know. We have SAPS. SAPS, Home Affairs and other structures that were thinking that they cannot go there because that one is not yet a national key point. It's just a landing strip.

I'm sure I'm answering this for the last time. We can't come here always talking about Mphephu and Siyandhani Airports. There is not even a single soul once ever gone Mphephu and said I am going to [inaudible] because I'm going to bought a plane to Johannesburg. Never, because it has never been a commercial airport. We are still in the process. The last one is the one that we were saying GAAL, there was a disruption of flights. I'm sure last week. Yes, that is beyond our control as GAAL. It was affecting 5 of the small airports by the border post, South African Air Traffic Navigation Services which maintains the validity of all the airports, instruments, flights and procedures. It took long for them to can renew their contract that's were we are affected. That one was beyond our control as GAAL, but we are looking forward to push this state body to say we are frustrated, our people are frustrated. With these few words, thank you so much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

7.5 Consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, MEC for the response. Honourable Members, we are now proceeding with the Orders of the Day. We are at item 7.5. Honourable Members, order! We are at item 7.5, which is the consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee of Sport, Arts and Culture. The committee chair please come to the podium to present item 7.5.1, 2024/25 Annual Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Hon Falaza Mdaka

MR MDAKA

Igama lamadoda. Thank you very much, Speaker. Dr Makhurupetje and the honourable Members of this august House. As you have indicated, we are on item 7.5. I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, hereby move for the consideration and adoption of the following report

of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, 2024/25 Annual Report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Do we have any seconder, honourable Members? hon Marx, you are recognised.

ADV MARX

I move to second the honourable chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

You need to stand up

ADV MARX

This chair is very difficult, Speaker. I second the move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We really appreciate. Honourable chair, you may proceed to item 7.6. Consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture which is item 7.6.1 the 2025/26 first quarter report. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MR MDAKA

Thank you very much, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I, Falaza Philemon Mdaka, hereby move for the consideration and adoption of the following report 2025/26 first quarter report, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Do we have any seconder honourable Members? I have seen a hand on this side. Hon Nempumbuluni.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Dr Speaker. I, Hon Nempumbuluni T C stand here to second the adoption of the report as presented by Hon Falaza Mdaka.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Ro livhuwa nga maanda, Muhulisei. We will now proceed to the Speakers' List immediately. When we refer to the Speakers' List, according to the Speakers' List, the first person who is opening the debate is Hon Nenguda Dowelani Alton. [APPLAUSE] You have 14 minutes. Your 14 minutes start now.

MR NENGUDA

Ndi a livhuwa vhahulisei vhothe vhane vha vha fano. Ndi khou thoma nga u resha Mulangadzulo wa Vhusimamilayo ha vundu lashu, Muhulisei Vhodokotela Makoma Makhurupetje; ndi sa hangwi na Tshanda tshavho, Muhulisei Teboho Mamorobela; Tshimebi Tshihulwane, Muhulisei Essob Mokgonyana; Tshanda tsha Tshimebi Tshihulwane, Muhulisei Rodgers Monama; Mirado ya Khorotshitumbe ine ya vha hone fano namusi, ndi khou vha resha; ndi sa hangwi na u resha Mulangavundu washu vha thonifheaho, Dokotela Ramathuba; our distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen in the gallery. Ndi khou dovha hafhu nda vha lumelisa, ndi masiari!

Hon Speaker, as the ANC-led government, we would like to extend our congratulations to our National Team Bafana Bafana for having qualified for the World Cup tournament. This remarkable achievement is a great honour for us as a nation. Let me also express our appreciation to our MEC for Sport, Arts, and Culture, Hon Jerry Maseko, and the collective for leading the cross-country marathon from Zimbabwe to South Africa, Limpopo in the Vhembe district. We really appreciate your efforts, honourable MEC.

Hon Speaker, allow me to report to this august House that the mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's cultural activities increases access to information through the provision of library services, promotes national building through sport, arts, culture. Increase social cohesion and national identity, and promote governance and quality of social services through our culture and sport.

Hon Speaker, the Annual Performance Plan covered programmes of the department as follows:

- Administration, 99% of the allocated budget was spent in 2024/25 financial year.
- Cultural Affairs, 99,3% of the allocated budget in the 2024/25 financial year was spent.
- Library and Archive Services, the budget and archive services spent were 98,7% of the allocated budget in the financial year 2024/25.
- Sport and Recreation, the Sport and Recreation spent 94,6% of the allocated Budget in 2024/25 financial year.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is entrusted with the responsibility to promote culture, conserve and manage the cultural, historical assets and resources of the province by rendering various services. As the African National Congress, we are happy about the contribution that the government has made regarding these programmes. In 2024/25 financial year, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture received a favourable audit outcome and retained its clean audit. [APPLAUSE] Thank you so much. In relation to the first quarter reports of the 2025/26 financial year, the following programmes were covered:

- Administration: 21% of the allocated budget for 2025/26 was spent. There was an over-achievement on the preferential procurement spent by gender, age, and people with disability. The target was 40% women, 30% for the youth, and 7% for persons with disability for the first quarter, which is the same target for the Annual Performance Plan.

- Cultural Affairs: 10% of the allocated budget in the 2025/26 was spent. The programme has 15 targets that are supposed to be achieved; out of the 15 targets, 9 targets were achieved. The number of job opportunities created through arts and culture heritage was 166 targeted and 133 achieved. Madam Speaker, 15 targets that are supposed to be achieved, out of the 15 targets, 9 targets were achieved.
- It is indeed true that heritage brings our people together and strengthens social cohesion amongst communities. It is very important to hold such gatherings every year in celebration of our heritage. We truly appreciate the event that was held at Sekhukhune on 24 September 2025, as it demonstrated unity and served as a meaningful gathering for all. However, we are bound to protect and maintain our heritage sites for example we visited Tšate Hertigae site at Sekhukhune. That heritage site needs refurbishment. A nation that undermines its identity, cultural beliefs, traditional values, its own history, and language is heading towards self-extinction. The report is an inadequate control system for the collection of completed libraries users, registers in districts. Let me repeat this one. The non-achievement of the target was observed in the number of people accessing libraries. The target for the quarter was 62 500, and 41 103 accessed the library. The reason for this nonachievement of target according to the report is the inadequate control system for the collection of completed library user registers in districts. Madam Speaker, under Sports and Recreation- the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture encourages honourable Members to take the opportunity to visit the Limpopo Academy of Sport as the academy has fully equipped gym facilities, and Members are invited to use them for exercise and fitness.

Sixteen percent of the allocated budget was spent in the 2025/26 financial year. For the quarter under review, the department achieved most of its targets and even exceeded its targets, such as the number of participating schools' sport programmes, where the target was 400 and exceeded the target by 430. The Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture encourages honourable Members to take the opportunity to visit the Limpopo Academy, as the academy as I have already indicated, has fully equipped gym facilities, and Members are invited to use them for exercise and fitness. The overachievement was in the number of learners participating in the National School Championship, where the target was 195, but went to achieved 222 on account of learners participating during the athletics and swimming championships.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, our liberation icon Tata Nelson Mandela, once said: ' Sport has the power to change the world, it has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does'. Ndi a livhuwa. Nda u ya nduna. Ndza khensa.

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa nga maanda. Vho ri siela na tshifhinga nyana. Hon Jack, you are next in line to ascend the podium for the next debate. Your seven minutes start now.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good day to everybody; the Secretary of the MKP in the gallery; and every South African following us on social media platforms. Hon Makamu, I can be a worse rascal than you are.

Today, we gather to discuss the 2024/25 Annual and 2025/26 Quarterly Performance Plans of the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture. As we all know, the department is carrying a lot of responsibilities with a very limited budget. This is frustrating, as they are unable to meet their targets and cover the entire province due to a lack of resources; just like the Provincial Archives Entity, which has only seven staff members.

The department has not met the target in terms of job creation, and that is what we are mostly interested in. Moreover, other forms of jobs, beyond EPWP, must be considered. They should strive to implement the resolutions of Scopa and the recommendations put forth by the AG to get rid of any form of fruitless expenditure.

The construction of the Tshaulu and Moutse West Libraries has stopped due to the absence of equipment on site. How were the contractors appointed if they did not have the required resources to run the project? A stoppage in the project slows down progress in the community and hinders job creation.

Sport activities are very important in our lives. Let's not rob our kids of the opportunity to participate. The department must ensure that the sports academy is supported on time, as it is producing stars and its vision will take sports in the province to the next level.

Another thing that I would like to request from you is for is that our libraries work hand in hand with municipalities to ensure that they improve the standard of libraries. We can't have a municipality like Collins Chabane that is not assisting the library. We once requested that we convene with the Mayor so that he could tell us his difficulties in not working hand in glove with library people, because they have a shortage of transport to do their outreach programmes.

The libraries at Collins Chabane and Makhuduthamaga Municipality in Sekhukhune are struggling with transport. Let us please assist them; it is not about assisting them personally, but assisting the people around those areas.

The statue of King Sekhukhune II does not look like a king; it looks like a hunter, and it needs to be removed and replaced with a proper statue. We can't confuse people. You take a statue of a Tanzanian and put it in Sekhukhune and tell us that it resembles Sekhukhune. Please, that statue must be removed with immediate effect. We must respect our culture and activities. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Velile Cyril Jack. We will now move to the next presenter, Hon Hermanus Frans Marx. Hon Marx, your nine minutes start now.

ADV MARX

Hon Speaker, let me begin by acknowledging that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has achieved another clean audit. This continues the positive trend from 2024 and reflects significant progress compared to the unqualified audit opinions obtained in 2021, 2022, and 2023. That reflects administrative progress.

Hon Speaker, the real measure of success lies not only in paperwork but also in the preservation of our heritage and the state of our sporting and community facilities. All the books may be balanced, but heritage sites are being vandalised, and our sporting infrastructure is visibly collapsing all over the province.

Hon Speaker, Limpopo's heritage is one of our greatest assets; from Mapungubwe to Bakone Malapa over the mountain to Modjadjiskloof, from the greats of our liberation movements to the museums that tell our provincial stories. These are not just tourist attractions; they are sacred places of memory. Both these reports tell us that the main aim of programme 02: Cultural Affairs is to promote culture, conserve and manage the cultural historical assets and resources of the province while rendering various services.

One really needs to visit these heritage sites to see how fragile that legacy has become. For example, the South African Heritage Agency (SAHA) recently invested in upgrading the Pietersburg Concentration Site here in Polokwane in honour of those who suffered and died there, but within months, maybe weeks, it was vandalised and theft destroyed much of its work. Why? The Polokwane Municipality failed to support this department by providing even the most basic security or maintenance to protect our heritage. That is the minimum they needed to do, because this department invested; they must just preserve.

Hon Speaker, moving over to programme 04; Sport and Recreation. The purpose of this programme is to contribute towards a promotional sport and recreation, social cohesion, and the development of communities through equitable access to programmes, services, and excellence at all levels of participation. It is also aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle, developing school sport, and finally, promoting, developing, administering, and funding sport in the province.

School sport and recreation is a vital component of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's efforts, with a primary focus on stimulating sport development by assisting provincial sport associations and other relevant bodies. Now the department boasts that 93,000 people participated in recreation programmes last year. The question is: where did they practice and where did they play? On dusty fields? On pothole-ridden pitches? Despite the effort and investment by this department to promote sport and recreation, the lack of proper maintenance and security by municipalities continues to undermine the progress made by this department.

Municipal stadiums, netball courts and soccer fields are all falling into disrepair. We have overgrown grass, broken ablution blocks, and non-functional lighting, to mention but a few. Oversight visits with ward councillors reveal worsening conditions, such as Star Bar Park in Thabazimbi and the Mankweng Sports Facility in Polokwane, where ongoing neglect has left essential infrastructure severely damaged and facilities nearly unusable. These recurring issues highlight a failure to care for community assets, threatening the development of sport at grassroots level and this province's ability to nurture future champions.

The department may very well argue that these facilities belong to the municipality, and that's correct; however, leadership is not about ownership, it is about responsibility. We need a province that coordinates, supports, and co-funds the rehabilitation of these local facilities so that sport development does not die at grassroots level. We cannot develop champions without facilities worthy of ambition.

Through you, Hon Speaker, I wish to address the MEC and the HOD directly. It is an unfortunate reality, as with many aspects in life, that the better the department performs, the greater the scrutiny and expectations become. As the department continues to make improvements and achieve positive outcomes, more attention will be focused on your efforts, and there will be an increasing demand for even higher standards and greater achievements.

The growing expectation is a testament to this department's progress, but it also serves as a reminder of the ongoing responsibility to strive for excellence in serving our communities. I therefore call on the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Funani Jerry Maseko, the big brother of this department, to urgently communicate with the big brother of all these municipalities, the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Basikopo Makamu, to ensure that these municipalities actively and positively look after our sporting and heritage facilities all over the province.

You need to take hands. We do not want to see what happened with education and our sporting failures. In closing, Limpopo cannot afford to lose both its history and its hope. If we truly believe that sport, arts, and culture build nations, then we must protect the spaces that give them life. Let us ensure that the next generation inherits not ruins and empty fields, but places of pride and participation. Let us protect our heritage. Let us rebuild our community and sporting facilities. Let us make this department not only the custodian of clean audits but a guardian of Limpopo's soul. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Marx. Over to you, Hon Molapo from the EFF. Your 11 minutes start now.

MR MOLAPO

Ere ke tšie sebaka se ke go leboge, Mospikara yo a hlomphegago, Ngaka Makhurupetje, ke dumedise Maloko a Lekgotlatheramelao la rena la Limpopo, boetapele bja EFF, magoši a rena a Limpopo go phatlalala profense ka bophara le setšhaba sa Limpopo.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, bjalo ka mokgatlo wa EFF wo e lego wona molwedi wa tokologo ya leruo ka mo Afrika Borwa le dinaga mabapi re nyamile kudu ka lebaka la gore kgoro ye ya Dipapadi, Bokgabo le Setšo ga ena maikemišetšo ago hlola mešomo ka go šomiša mananeo ao a sepelelanago le dipapadi, bokgabo le setšo. Se se bonagala gabotse ka gare ga dipego tša bona tšeo ba di adilego pele ga Lekgotlatheramelao la Limpopo.

Indeed, the department is not serious about creating job opportunities through the arts, culture, and heritage programme. For the period under review, the department failed to meet its target of creating 143 job opportunities. It is clear that the culture of not meeting targets reigns supreme in this department. It is even clearer that the construction of Vleifontein and Tshaulu Libraries is an elephant in the room for this department, and they know very well why. Two libraries, Tshaulu and Mampane, missed practical completion dates due to reasons known to the department. Those reasons are obviously frivolous and cannot be accepted as an excuse for failure to deliver services to our people.

Community libraries are vital for providing free access to information, fostering lifelong learning opportunities and building strong communities. Unfortunately, even in communities where those facilities exist, they are often characterised by a shortage of librarians, computers, books, water, and security. Can we get reasons, for the people of Limpopo, why the two libraries were not completed on time? Why are the timeframes always missed? How much is added budget-wise to complete these projects?

Can we get a progress report on the SIU investigation; firstly, regarding the irregular appointment of security companies during the 2016/17 financial year; secondly, the investigations into procurement processes in the prior years of the Mapungubwe Festival; thirdly, the irregular appointment of assistant directors, and lastly, the investigation into asset management across all districts under the department. Can we equally get a progress report on the forensic investigations commissioned by the Provincial Treasury into the department's use of dinner club cards?

Hon Speaker, the irregular expenditure identified in the provincial theatre procurement remains a secret. We demand that the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Jerry Maseko, come clean on this issue. The lack of promotion of sport and recreation programmes — of which the targeted beneficiaries are learners, youth in particular, professional athletes, coaches, volunteers, and sport administrators, amongst others — is at a snail's pace and is extremely worrisome.

We must then ask the question: What is the mandate of this department, because they are failing to prioritise what matters most to our communities? Can the MEC explain to this august House why the desired standard or target of 255,000 people actively participating in organised sport and recreation was not achieved as per your target? It is disappointing that only 122,786 was achieved during the year under review, clearly exposing the kind of laziness and failure by the department to achieve targets.

The failure to achieve targets compromises service delivery in the province, which already created a huge backlog. We are being led by insensitive people who do not care about the plight of our people, especially in poor communities. Bjale re re go badudi ba Limpopo, metšang mare bohloko boye le pelo bana ba modimo ka lebaka la gore ga le a etela pele ke motho. Kgethang EFF nakong ye e tlogo gore e le tlišetšeng ditirelo. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, we will now proceed and call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Philemon Mdaka, to close the debate. Hon Mdaka, your 14 minutes start now.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa manana Xipikara ku va mi ndzi nyike nkarhi lowu. Eka manana Xipikara; dokodela Makoma Grace Makhurupetje na mupfuneti wa vona manana Tebogo Grace Mamorobela. Ndzi nga rivali Mutshamaxitulu wa Vatshamaxitulu; vona tatana Thabo Mokone na mupfuneti wa vona ku nga tatana Peter Ngoben. Ndzi pfumele manana Xipikara ndzi xeweta Ximokonkulu; yena tatana Essop Mokgonyane na mupfunti wa vona ku nga Muchaviseki Rodgers Monama na hinkwavo lava va tirhaku na vona le ka Ximoko. Ndzi nga rivali yona nhena leyi yi nga hi tisa kwala namuntlha, lava hi vulavulaka hi xiviko xa vona, vona MEC Muchaviseki Funani Jerry Maseko, wanuna wa nkarhi lowu na tiMEC hinkwato leti ti nga kona eka siku ra namuntlha na n'wina hinkwenu vatshamaxitulu va tiphotifoliyo ta Yindlu leyi na n'wina mi nga le ka galari ndza mi xeweta.

Allow me, Hon Speaker, to also pass our special greetings to the newly appointed HOD of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Vona manana Veronica Mokgonyane va tshame va ri voxe lahaya na loko hi fambafamba hi jikajika na Xifundzhankulu hi va hi ri na vona na namuntlha hi na vona. I manana wa tingitsi swinene. Ha mi hoyozela ku va va mi thorile, a swi boha ku va va mi thola hikuva swa mi fanela. Ndza khensa. Congratulations.

Madam Speaker, I rise in this honourable House on behalf of the African National Congress to contribute to the debate on the two reports as I presented earlier. Hon Dowelani Nenguda went into detail on the contents of those reports and the good work the department is doing. Therefore, I will not go into detail or make unnecessary repetitions, except to emphasise certain points where necessary.

Before proceeding with the debate, let me join Hon Mohale in passing our condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in the recent spate of accidents on our roads. May their souls rest in peace! It is something we cannot ignore. It is painful to lose a loved one, and we are with them in these difficult times. It is not far away, up there, as it is also a gateway to Africa. The honourable MEC has also mentioned those who were in the bus, including those for whom we passed a motion of condolences earlier.

We call upon our road users to take precautions and always observe traffic signs when approaching high accident zones. Drivers must avoid high speed and maintain reasonable limits in those areas. Our hope is that something will be done to minimise accidents at the notorious sharp bend near Ingwe Lodge; possibly a flat bridge, for lack of a better word. Such a structure could be designed by capable engineers, as we see in other countries like China, where bridges span directly from one point to another. To avoid that corner, I believe something can be done.

That bend has claimed many lives, including those of our neighbours. We value life, whether within or beyond borders. We value life. We are leaders in Africa in many respects, including the preservation of life, which is enshrined in our Bill of Rights. Life

is very important; it can never be replaced once it is gone. There is a need for SANRAL to intervene and design something to avoid that bend. A bridge could allow buses to move straight, instead of negotiating that terrible corner. Enough is enough; we cannot tolerate this forever.

On a more positive note, allow me, as sports and education go hand in hand, to wish the Grade 12s in our province and the country at large the best of success in their exams. Yes, it is possible; they can pass. They have waited for this day; they must write and pass. If they do not pass, they have not failed. It is just a setback; they are still important, and they can still come back and do something meaningful for themselves, because we love them, and we know that they can succeed in something else in life.

No one came from heaven except Jesus Christ. We all learn from others in this world. No one came with degrees; we all learn from each other. So, no one has all the knowledge. Even if you come from a poor family, you are something; you can do something, you can write a book, and you can contribute. You cannot just fail by answering the questions of others; you must have your own questions that you can also ask.

South Africa, is a winning nation. I can't contain myself from repeating congratulations to Bafana Bafana. What a wonderful job; they have made us proud. We are going to the World Cup. It can be rugby for both men and women. or cricket; you can choose any sport. We are among the best, if not the best. Even at the individual level, we are always at the top. Our province produces athletes for the nation. That is why, as Hon Nenguda said, in the near future we want to see a high-performance centre here in our province, and not for them to be claimed by Gauteng or other provinces.

We want to see the academy of sport in our province as a high-performing centre. We must be looking towards that area. The unfortunate part is that we are a country with many critics. Even if we win, they don't care. Even if we do better, even if we get a clean audit, they don't care, because they are negative in their minds. They are always negative. When they look at things, they look from a negative point of view. They can never say "well done." It is jealousy. Jealous down!

Hon Nenguda went into detail on the programmes run by the department; so, I am not going to repeat. Year in, year out, we get clean audits: 2023/24 clean audit, 2024/25 clean audit, 2025/26 — just check, watch the space. Our belief is that the current Budget of R877,492 million is not enough. We want to see the budget go over a billion rand. Many of the programmes run are concentrating on cultural affairs.

The name of the department starts with sport, and we want to see a lot of sports happening. We want to see a lot of money going into sport so that we can take our youth out of the beer halls and shebeens. We can't be a drunk nation. We can't win economically while having our young people drinking in beer halls in the future. It can't happen. We know that others want money, but we can't make money the wrong way. Let us have our young people doing sport, and let's have more money going into the department.

Madam Speaker, I don't want to say much. My friend from the other side, Hon Molapo, was mumbling, complaining, and saying things, and we don't know what it is that he

was saying. We tried to listen to him, but we couldn't understand. The only thing he was saying was that his party must be voted for. Our people will never make that mistake. Those are the issues of jealousy.

Let me remind you; go and read the reports. The unauthorised, irregular, and fruitless expenditure of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the year under review is zero. So, what is it that you are talking about? [APPLAUSE]. The department works hand in glove with other departments; that is understandable. There are some agreements with other people. As you know, you can blame the African National Congress, but the African National Congress is an organisation that draws its purpose from the community.

The African National Congress employs everyone who is employable. No one has been sent to do wrong things, no one has been sent not to follow the legislation. Why do you blame the ANC? Blame those individuals, not our government. Blame the individuals so that we can find them and remove them. We don't need them. If you don't understand, go and check that.

The ANC policies that are being implemented in this country are clear: we don't want corruption, we don't want irregular expenditure, we don't want anything unauthorised. Everything must go according to authority. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is leading in that regard. [APPLAUSE]

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, allow me to express my gratitude not only to the department, but also to the honourable Members of the portfolio committee who are available when called to the party; not those who just come to the House and debate, but those who go with us when we check what is happening on the ground. We congratulate you. Please keep up the good work.

On behalf of the portfolio committee, I hereby submit that the 2024/25 Annual Report and the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker. Ndza khensa. Inkomu. kxanimbambo

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa. The chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Mdaka, for closing the debate. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Jerry Funani Maseko, to come and respond to the debate. Hon Molapo has his hand up while Hon Maseko is coming to the podium.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. We all know that we cannot allow ourselves to mislead our kids in this country as they go to sit for exams. The previous speaker directed our kids to go to the exam rooms with their own questions, which is very wrong. He can't do that. Our kids must go and answer the questions given in the exam rooms. His doctorate is now misleading our kids.

THE SPEAKER

Order, honourable Members! You are all out of order. Can we allow Hon Maseko to the stage, because I didn't hear that. Honourable Members, can we now be in order and allow Hon Maseko the podium? Hon Maseko, you are on the podium.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Ere ke go leboqe, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, Ngaka Makhurupetje; ke tamiše Motlatša Mospikara, Ofisi ya Difepi, Maloko a Lekgotlaphethiši e lego bašomi mmogo ka nna, le Maloko ka moka a Lekgotlatheramelao gammogo le Mohlomphegi Molapo.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ere ke laetše gore, gantši ge e palelwa ke go tswala e re mokaka ke o monnyane. It is very important that when we delegate Members to come and debate the issues of the portfolio committee, we delegate Members who have attended the meetings of that committee, because that is where a lot of details are shared. Your researchers must also attend those meetings. I am worried, Hon Speaker, ka lebaka la gore Maloko a EFF ka komiting ya rena ga a tle le banyakišiši ba bona ga ba tle.

Ga o tsebe gore ge ba ngwala dilo tše b aba ba ditšere kae, efela ke a ba tshwarela Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Re tšwela pele re aga naga.

MR MOLAPO

Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is misleading for Hon Maseko to come here and say that Members of the EFF are not attending meetings of the portfolio committee. Hon Speaker, we have a Member... [INTRJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

May we please have order in the House.

MR MOLAPO

Hon Letsoalo does attend committee meetings, and you know very well that the honourable MEC does not attend those portfolio committee meetings regularly. So, it is misleading to come and stand here and say that Members of the EFF are not attending portfolio meetings. It is wrong and misleading, and he must withdraw that, because we can prove through attendance registers that Hon Letsoalo does attend. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, let us not comment on the portfolio committee meetings. Let us concentrate on what the department is saying so that we can proceed. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Ere ke e fologe. Let me try to deal with the issues that Members have raised and acknowledge their input. It is very clear that Members are part of what the department is doing; they have an updated report with regard to the state of the department, both at the annual and first quarter reports, and there are very critical issues that Members have raised which I want to take the Legislature and the public through.

With regard to the Tjate Heritage Site, we are correct in saying that we have to refurbish that site. There is collaboration between the department, the local municipality, and the district municipality to refurbish the site. We have also agreed that the statue does not signal a leader and king of Sekhukhune. If possible, we need to look at ways and means to reconstruct a bigger and better statue. I think there is synergy at the level of the department and the portfolio committee. It is about the resources, Hon Speaker, that can make this possible.

We want to also indicate that with regard to municipal and district libraries, there is still a transitional process whereby those municipal libraries are going to be transferred to the department. In that process, we have noted the challenges that were raised, particularly around Collins Chabane Municipality. We will look into that and collaborate in a manner that does not deprive our people of services based on issues of powers and functions.

With regard to recruitment and Scopa resolutions, Hon Speaker, we have advertised posts. Soon we will be filling the posts so that we meet our targets with regard to recruitment by the end of this financial year. Tshaulu and Mampane have been reported to this Legislature and the portfolio committee many times. We had challenges with contractors, and those contractors are appointed by the Department of Public Works.

In Tshaulu, close to three contractors' contracts were terminated due to non-performance. They have appointed new contractors, and at least they are trying to finish those projects. In terms of our plans, by the end of the financial year, we need to have concluded the infrastructure development of those projects. Let me also highlight that with regard to the issues of the SIU, the SIU is still busy with their investigations as proclaimed by the President. Once the investigations are done, the report will be made available, and the implementation part of that report will be executed as expected.

We have noted other issues that were raised here, Hon Speaker. We will go back and deal with them, but I want to invite you to join the country when we go to Morocco for the AFCON Cup come 20 December. There is a very nice package available, and we will distribute it to you so that we can go there and support Bafana Bafana in mass. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you so much, Hon MEC. We are now moving to item 8 in terms of the order paper. Are there any announcements? Over to you, Hon Ngobeni Hassani Peter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Ere ke tšee sebaka se ke dumediše, Motlatša Mospikara, Mohlomphegi Tebobo Mamorobela; the Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokhgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; Members of the Whippery; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members and guests in the gallery. 3 Ndi a ni resha. Ndza mi xeweta. Ke a le tamiša ka hlomphe ye kgolo.

There is no time allocated, so I can take two hours. Hon Speaker, I rise to make the following announcements:

- That all Members of this august House are invited to attend the Taking Legislature to the People programme, which will be held from 10 to 13 November 2025 in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality under the Sekhukhune District, at Peter Nchabeleng Sports Ground in Schoonoord Village;
- That the next Sitting of the Legislature will be held on Thursday, 23 October 2025, at 10:00 here at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chambers; and
- That all Members and guests in the gallery are invited to lunch in the Committees Boardroom.

Asante sana. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Ha khensa swinene, Muchaviseki Ngobeni.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, you have really been a good audience the whole day. We want to appreciate the debates because they were so interesting. We are now coming to item 09, the last item.

This House is adjourned until 23 October 2025 at 10:00 here at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. The House is adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2025
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]

Good morning, honourable Members of this august House of the Limpopo Legislature. Let me greet the Hon Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba, and all the MECs that are present today in this House, led by the Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu. Let me recognise the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; the Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone; the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni; the Chief Whip of the Legislature, Hon Mokgonyana; the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Monama; and the entire Whippery. Let me also recognise Makgabo Moseitlana, the Leader of the Opposition in the entire Limpopo province; and all honourable Members from the Democratic Alliance and the UAT. Let me greet the Members of this House and the community members; and the staff that is supporting us from different departments. Dr Maake and your leadership at the front desk, you are recognised as well.

Let me also recognise the people in the gallery and those who are following us on social media platforms. The Legislature of Limpopo has convened again to debate the matters that are very important for the lives of the people of the province. You are all warmly welcome, even on social media platforms, where we are streaming live. Without wasting any time, we'll just proceed to item 2.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Can I see a show of hands from different Members. I have received a message from the Chief Whip that the EFF has made some changes. We acknowledge the changes that you have made on the list. Can we start with Hon Dunisani Baloyi.

MR BALOYI

Thank you very much, Speaker. Greetings to honourable Members.

**THE EFF'S CONCERN OVER THE RISE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS IN LIMPOPO
PROVINCE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF is disturbed by the rising car accidents in our province. Just two weeks ago, there was a bus accident around the Makhado area in Vhembe, which claimed the lives of 42 foreign nationals from Zimbabwe and Malawi, including children. We are still in pain and devastated by the death of our fellow Africans from our neighbouring countries. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Baloyi, please switch off the mic. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, it's my understanding that when a motion has already been read in the House, it won't be repeated in the House during the period of at least six months. If my recollection serves me right, the specific motion was read by the ANC on Tuesday. Thank you, Chair.

THE SPEAKER

On this point, Hon Smalle, you are correct. The motion was read on Tuesday; there was a members' statement on it as well. The matter was done justice to. Can we now proceed to other Members who are on the list. Hon Phokane Maudu Johannes, you are recognised.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, Deputy Speaker; the Premier; the MECs present; the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; the Whippery, led by Hon Mokgonyana; the chairpersons of committees; all honourable Members and guests present in this House. Good morning.

THE ANC'S CONCERN OVER A RISE OF RAPE OF MINORS IN BOTLOKWA (Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC that this august House notes our concern about multiple rape cases that happened in the Molemole Local Municipality in the past few weeks.

A few weeks ago, we learnt with dismay about the case of a 66-year-old male who raped a toddler in Morebeng. According to reports, the accused's wife is operating a childcare centre, and he is tasked with transporting the children.

On the day in question, the perpetrator reportedly brought the child home, and she later complained about abdominal pains and became restless. Upon being taken to the hospital, she was declared to have been sexually assaulted.

In another incident, in the same area, two male suspects have been arrested in connection with the rape of two minors.

Hon Speaker, this calls for the government to heighten its messaging and fight against gender-based violence in areas like these.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Phokane. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are there any further motions? The EFF had one motion. For the ANC, I don't see Hon Mathe Simon. Should we pass? It means we are done in terms of motions without notice. For the MK Party, there's none. For the Freedom Front Plus, there's none. We will now move directly to item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

I have none. We'll now move to item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Let me check the Members who are to take the floor. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL SAND MINING AND ILLICIT MINING IN LIMPOPO

(Members' Statement)

Illegal sand mining and illicit mining in Limpopo have reached crisis of proportions. Illicit sand mining is spreading rapidly across all major river systems in Limpopo with growing brazenness and impunity. Communities and landowners are left vulnerable as their land and riverine ecosystems, vital for water and food security, are stripped bare, while provincial and national authorities remain largely inactive or unable to act decisively.

Many operations run without permits, rehabilitation plans, or oversight. Others exploit loopholes in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act of 2002 by submitting multiple applications of less than 5 ha to evade environmental scrutiny. In some instances, tribal leaders have been complicit.

Farmers and communities have repeatedly reported inadequate notification, missing or concealed public notice, and deliberate obfuscation by applicants. In a recent case of

Mariam Munyai in Messina, where sand mining continued unlawfully despite a High Court ruling, exposes the systematic failure of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and the South African Police Service to enforce the law. Illicit mining is also escalating at an alarming rate.

In the Bangnet, Kuschke, Ysterberg, and Eerstegoud areas, the farming community is effectively under siege. Armed and organised zamazamas move through farms, engaging in violent clashes with high-calibre weapons. Bodies are frequently found, while the government appears powerless to halt the escalating anarchy.

Honourable MEC, do you agree that the proliferation of illegal sand mining and illicit mining in Limpopo has reached a crisis point? Do you agree that firm and decisive action is required from both provincial and national governments? What steps, if any, have you taken thus far? Do you agree that a joint sitting of the Portfolio Committees on LEDET, Agriculture and Rural Development, Transport and Community Safety, and CoGHSTA should be convened to examine and address the systemic failures leading to a state of lawlessness, and that LEDET, DMRE, and SAPS must be called to account?

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR LEBOGO

Ke a leboga, Mospikara wa Ngwako wo o hlomphegagao.

GO TLOGELWA GA TSELA YA G3671 MAGARENG GA MOSEKWA LE MARINAKWE, VHEMBE (Setatamente ka Maloko)

Ke a leboga, Mospikara wa Ngwako wo o hlomphegagao. Re dumediša Ngwako ka moka. Re leboga, bontate Ngobeni, le banna ba bangwe ka mola go ANC. Re a bona ba ile ba kwa, ge re ile ra re, ge re ekwa sello sa bomme ba rena ka mo Ntlong ka lebaka la kotsi ye e dirwago ke ditulo ra re, ba se ke ba iponagatša nakonyana. Re tla kgopela banna ba ANC gore, ka moka ba dulele ka mo pele, ka gore taba ye e dirwago ke ditulo tše, ga e kgahliše ka mo Ntlong ye e hlomphegagao.

Bjalo, lebaka le ke emego ka lona kudu mo lehono, ke tsela ye e tsebegago ka G3671. Ke tsela ya dikilometara tše tshela, yona e sa le e lahlwa. Ke tsela ye e le go magareng ga Mosekwa le Marinakwe, kua Vhembe. Rankotraka yo a bego filwego maikarabelo a go tsošološa tsela ye o tšhabile. Tsela ye e jele mašelang a go ka lekana dimilone tše R70 . Yona, e swanetše go ba e fedile kgwedding ya Manthole ngwageng wa go feta, eupša ge re bolela mo, ga go bontšhe o ka re mošomo wo o tla tsoga o fedile.

Go ipontšha gabotse gore mmušo wa ANC o tšwela pele o tuma ka tše re di tsebago tša go palelwa ke go fetša diprotšeke, tše e le go gore di fetša di gobatša badudi ka ge go na le tšhomišano le borakontaraka. Ya go tshwenya kudu ke gore, ga go bontšhe go na le dikotlo tše motho yo a otlilwego ka tšona go bontšha go re o palelwa ke go dira

mošomo bjale ka rakontraka. Taba ye ya go šireletša borakontraka; le go se ba ngwale mo lenaneong la go bontšha gore batho ba palelwa ke mošomo gomme ba se ke ba dumelelwa go šoma mo mešomomg ya dithentara ya mmušo; e direla profense ye ya Limpopo bošaedi bjo bo golo. Eupša, e bontšha gore, taba ye e direga ka lebaka la gore, boradikontraka ba ba tsebana le boradipolotiki ba ANC, ke ka lebaka leo ba sa kgonego go ba ngwala mo lenaneong la go bontšha gore batho ba, ba palelwa ke mošomo, goba, ba ba otle. Taba ye ga e sepelelane le kafao molao wa dikontraka o sepetšwago ka gona.

Re kgopela go re, setšhaba sa Limpopo se tsebe gore, ge se ka se eme ka maoto sa thekga EFF ye e lego gore e tlo godiša maatla a mmušo, gore mmušo o kgone go itirela dilo, se tlo tšwelapele se tlaišega ka fase ga boetapele bja ANC. Re re, setšhaba emang ka maoto. Ke nako ya gore le ikemele, le tsebe gore ANC e tlo le sotla gomme EFF e gona go lehomotša gomme re sware tsela ya go tsošološa botho le ditirelo mo setšhabeng. Re a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Can we proceed to the next presenter? Hon Marx, are you presenting? Over to you.

ADV MARX

THE ALARMING FAILURE OF THE MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY TO IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Hon Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this House the alarming failure of the Mopani District Municipality, as the water authority for the Tzaneen area, to implement and monitor infrastructure projects to ensure preventive maintenance.

These failures have a direct impact on the right of our citizens to have access to clean drinking water. It is perhaps the greatest irony that a place called Aquapark, derived from the Latin word “aqua,” meaning water, was left without a single drop of water for most of last week.

The recent reports of water shortages, interruptions, and even possible contamination are a stark reminder of the current government’s failure to prioritise the basic needs of our people. The lack of transparency and accountability has led to a crisis that threatens the health, dignity, and wellbeing of our communities. Section 27 of our Constitution guarantees the right to have access to sufficient water, and it is the duty of our government to ensure that this right is realised. However, the water authority’s incompetence and lack of accountability have resulted in a situation where many of our people are forced to live without access to clean drinking water, a basic necessity for human survival.

Madam Speaker, this is not just a matter of infrastructure; it is a matter of human rights. The failure to provide clean drinking water is a violation of one of the most basic human rights, and it is our collective responsibility to hold the government accountable for this failure. The two questions that need to be asked and answered in this House today are the following:

- Will the MEC responsible for CoGHSTA take immediate action to address this crisis?
- Will the MEC for CoGHSTA utilise his remedies, as provided by the MFMA, to ensure that Mopani and Tzaneen Municipalities are held accountable, and to prioritise the implementation of infrastructure projects will guarantee access to clean drinking water for all our citizens?

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Magolo, you are recognised.

MR MAGOLO

THE EFF'S DISMAY OVER THE R130 MILLION SPENT ON A FAILED BULK WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Re a le tamiša Maloko ka moka, re a karetsa le ketapele ya mokgatlo wa rena wa go lwela taba tša ikonomi ka mo profenseng le ka mo nageng, e le go yona Economic Freedom Fighters.

The EFF is dismayed by the R130 million spent on a failed bulk water infrastructure project in Maruleng Municipality, which cannot be accounted for. There is literally no value for money in this project, which was meant to address the chronic water shortage in Maruleng to relieve our people from suffering. It is for this reason that the people continue to compete for dirty water from bacteria-infested dams and rivers with animals.

This is what our people have been subjected to for more than 30 years of democracy. What happened to the R130 million invested in the water project if there is no water, because this money should be accounted for one way or another? The Mopani District Municipality, which is the water authority, must account for the wastage of taxpayers' money on this project.

It cannot be business as usual; something drastic must be done to hold the people accountable. The days of being evasive when it comes to accountability are over. The reason why many water infrastructure projects in the province collapse is that there is no accountability.

Monies get stolen through collusion between officials and contractors, and they continue to get away with murder. The culture of impunity is deeply embedded in the current government to the point of no return. Severe water shortage affects all communities in Mopani, which speaks to the district municipality's inability to provide water to the people of Mopani.

However, it goes beyond this because it also speaks to serious leadership and governance challenges at Mopani District Municipality, which is generally a reflection of

governance failure of the ANC in the province. We call upon the Hawks and the SIU to investigate this failed bulk water project and to arrest the perpetrators of this corruption.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We are done with Members' Statements. Am I correct? If I'm correct, we will allow honourable MECs, including the Premier, to respond. Maybe you can show by raising your hands if you are going to respond so that I can give you an opportunity. Hon Matibe will start, followed by Hon Makamu. Hon Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, over to you.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and Members of the Legislature.

The Department of Minerals and Petroleum Resources, working together with the Department of Community Safety as well as the Department of Defence, have got an operation called Operation Vala Umgodi, which is dealing with the issues of illegal mining. What is happening in that operation is twofold: when people practise illegal mining, we take their machines, and when they want to become artisanal miners, we support them in terms of starting artisanal mining.. In the case of Ms Maria Munyai in Musina, we are going to investigate and give feedback to the honourable House in terms of what is happening. The issue of illegal mining is a challenge across the length and breadth of the country, and we are dealing with it.

On the issue of the portfolio committees, we are under the guidance of the Legislature. We might not pronounce ourselves on whether that portfolio committee is needed. If the Legislature calls us, the Departments of Agriculture, CoGHSTA as well as Community Safety, we are ready to come and account.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Hon Matibe. Let's allow MEC Hon Makamu Rodgers Basikopo, the MEC for CoGHSTA and the Leader of Government Business. Don't be surprised if he takes other comments as well. MEC, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Greetings to our Premier, colleagues, MECs and the honourable House. I'm here to first deal with the Members' Statement by Hon Matome Lebogo about road D3671, which is incomplete. We also accept that we should be able to make sure that we finish all the projects which we start.

I will take the matter to my colleague MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, as he has started. I think they are just following in his footsteps. He has gone to a number of projects now, and people can see that he's trying to unblock all the challenges

of the projects. I think this one will be able to be attended to. They may not be done in one day, but the energetic MEC will still be able to deal with that.

However, to tell the people of this province that the EFF is there and it can resolve the problem is not necessary. We were in Musina recently, and the EFF was on the ballot, but the people showed who should be given the responsibility to lead the people of this province, and people have seen that. If people are not convinced about Musina, we are busy in Ward 37, Fetakgomo-Tubatse. We are calling upon them to show their strength there, but the people of this province are convinced which one to work for.

Let me also deal with the issue of Hon Moss about the shortage of water in the area of Tzaneen called Aquapark. Fortunately, I have been a resident of Aquapark, but you chose that area based on who stays there. If you were to look at the entire Mopani District, the people of Giyani and the people of Rhulani in Burgersdorp, they were given water and they were happy. The Premier was there, unlocking water challenges.

We will attend to the issue, but if you can go to the people of Aquapark, they will only tell you that the water challenges that they have can be easily fixed. However, the entire community of Mopani should be getting water. On the issue of a failed bulk water infrastructure project in Maruleng Municipality, the only part I will deal with is calling upon the Hawks to investigate the matter.

If there's a criminal offence in spending money for the people, then let's call the Hawks. However, I can confirm to you that the project also includes Mametja-Sekororo, where it is done in phases. You don't only complete the project in phase 1 when you intend completing it in phase 3 to get people water. My question is, how do we call the Hawks and the SAPS? If people know that there is a criminal activity, they should go to the nearest police station to report that criminal activity. As honourable Members, we should also consider that.. However, to come and grandstand on a project that is not yet complete, is also not correct. We know that the source of the water for that bulk comes from Blyde River Canyon in Mpumalanga, and for you to say money has been stolen is also not correct.

So, I wanted to indicate that we are busy dealing with those issues. The district is very hard at work. In fact, they have revived what we thought is a failed project called #HiNwaMati Friday. They are always going to communities. One day, I was on this side. They went to my community without knowing that I had seen it on social media, and when I went back home, the people were receiving water and resolving other challenges.

Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC. We are done with item 4. We are going to item 5.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any executive statements? None. We will now proceed to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There are none. We will proceed to item 7.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration

The chairperson of the portfolio committee will come and present items 7.1.1. and 7.1.2. at the same time. 7.1.1. 2024/25 Annual Report: Office of the Premier. Over to you, Hon Maudu Phokane. I thought as I was reading, you would be walking to the podium.

MR PHOKANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, Hon Speaker; the Deputy Speaker; the Hon Premier; the MECs present; the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, inclusive of the whole Whippers, chairpersons of committees, my fellow honourable Members and leaders of opposition parties. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to table for consideration and adoption the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Office of the Premier.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder, honourable Members? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Ngoba usihlalo ulotjhise isigungu sakaSosibebhe, sithi kuye siyasisekela isihlongozo sakhe.

THE SPEAKER

Ge ke fetola, ke reng, Mohl Nkonyana?

MR NKONYANA

Uthi, siyathokoza baba.

THE SPEAKER

Siyathokoza baba.

7.2. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration

Over to you, chairperson. Please proceed.

MR PHOKANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I once more move for the adoption and consideration of the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of the Office of the Premier. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mospikara ge le mphile nako ya gore ke kgone go bolela. Bjalo ka Leloko la Lekgotlatheramelao, ke ema go thekga tše di boletšwego ke Mohl Phokane. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. I believe the Hon Premier is aware that she will respond after the two debates. Let's allow Mmetle-Ramohlola Dikeledi to open the debate. You have 14 minutes. Over to you.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Leader of Governance Business, Hon Basikopo Makamu; Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; Members of the Whippery; Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Mokone, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Peter Ngobeni; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members, and guests in the gallery, good morning.

The Office of the Premier stands as a heartbeat and fulcrum of seamless executive coordination, a strategic nerve centre where dreams are translated into action for the Premier and Members of the Executive Council to perform. By dreams, Hon Speaker, we don't mean of sleep, but of well-thought-out vision.

Accountability is the cornerstone of democratic governance, and it finds its sharpest expression through the vigilant eye of parliamentary oversight. This sacred duty ensures that the machinery of the government operates with integrity, transparency, and fidelity to the people's mandate. Through this provision, Hon Speaker, the provincial Legislature is entrusted not merely as a participant in governance, but as a custodian of ethical stewardship, and this is supported by one of the novelists, Ben Okri when he says, "It makes a point that the value of mountaintops is not to dwell on them, but to see from them."

It ensures oversight over the executive with clarity and conviction. The Annual Report stands as a vital instrument in this architecture of accountability. It offers a vigorous analysis of departmental performance, measuring budget expenditure against the

commitment outlined in the Annual Performance Plan (APP). Beyond numbers, Hon Speaker, it serves as a mirror reflecting our progress on the key priorities proclaimed in the State of the Province Address by the Hon Premier.

Hon Speaker, the Annual Performance Report for the 2024/25 financial year serves as a bold mirror and compass that clearly reflects the strides of the Office of the Premier, while guiding future governance with clarity and resolve. It chronicles our journey in fortifying the machinery of the government and advancing the frontlines of service delivery. Through a discipline lens, it measures the performance against the planned output and targets set forth for the Annual Performance Plan that asks not only what was not achieved, but what was achieved, and how, to what effect.

In doing so, Hon Speaker, it becomes more than a document. It is a testament to our commitment to ethical leadership, institutional excellence, and the enduring promise of a government that serves its people. Hon Speaker, the year under review bears testimony to the unwavering commitment of the Office of the Premier to the people of Limpopo. With 89% of performance indicators achieved, this milestone reflects not only statistical success, but the heartbeat of a dedicated public service steered by decisive political leadership and anchored by a capable, ethical administration.

This performance signals a government that is not merely functioning but striving. This is my considered view; it is a collective will to serve, to adapt, and to deliver. Yet, we remain mindful that governance is not measured by achievements alone. Specific areas fell short of their intended target, and we approach these gaps not with defensiveness, but with resolve. They will be attended to with due same vigour and accountability that define a broader mission. In this, we reaffirm our covenant with the people to govern with transparency, to lead with integrity, and to serve with purpose.

Hon Speaker, the annual analysis of the Department's annual performance Report is a vital part of the oversight process, whereby oversight bodies and citizens can verify that the Department's actions align with its core mandate and national strategic plans. This scrutiny is essential because it holds the department accountable to the public and ensures that good governance is done. It also allows the critical assessment of the department's goals, ensuring that its performance indicators are clearly defined and its targets are both realistic and achievable.

Hon Speaker, the 2024/25 financial year marks the conclusion of the sixth administrations and the end of the year 2020–2025 strategic plan. Based on how the Office of the Premier performed in the year under review, the Auditor-General confirmed that the Office of the Premier has sustained a clean audit outcome, which further consolidated its standing as one of the best-performing provincial institutions.

Some departments, which historically received unqualified audits, recorded notable progress by closing the year with an improved outcome.

Despite this achievement, Hon Speaker, challenges persisted in the critical areas. There are previous resolutions which were unresolved, and this includes, particularly the Venda Building Society, the sustainability of the 3D entities, and broader governance of end-service delivery, water challenges, unemployment, inadequate ICT

transformation, and insufficient consequence management across departments, being identified as recurring gaps.

Entities such as Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and Gateway Authority Airports Limited (GAAL) continued to underperform, which raises serious concerns about institutional inefficiency. The committee showed concern around the unresolved and outstanding resolutions and urged the Office of the Premier to finalise all of them, particularly those still pending from the previous directives. These must be addressed with clear timeframes and accountability mechanisms.

The committee has also urged the Office of the Premier to strengthen oversight on the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and to provide transparent updates on investors' progress and updates on infrastructure development and job creation, and this was particularly important given public concern about the lack of tangible progress despite frequent reports and observations made during the oversight visit by the portfolio committee.

Hon Speaker, water supply provisions remain among the thorny issues that are still challenging the government of the day. We have seen initiatives like #HiNwaMati Friday by municipalities, especially Mopani District Municipality, as opposed to what our colleague was saying, which intend to curb the water shortage challenges, and we believe that indeed the problems will be attended to because they are working closely with the Office of the Premier through the establishment of the Water War Room in some district municipalities, which are a water services authority. This committee directed the Office of the Premier to prioritise water provision monitoring across districts and to present comprehensive plans with strategies and timelines to ensure consistent service delivery.

Hon Speaker, while the Office of the Premier reported the spending of 99,1% of its R499 million budget, underspending of R4.1 million was noted with raised concern and elements of discomfort because underspending affects service delivery. This underspending trend has also been observed in the preceding financial year, pointing to structural inefficiency in budget execution. The committee questioned whether such funds are being returned to the National Revenue Fund, and whether proactive strategies were in place to close the gap.

Madam Speaker, the service delivery environment was shaped by persistent structural challenges, including high levels of unemployment, particularly among youth, as well as critical service delivery backlogs in sectors such as education, healthcare, housing, and infrastructure. These challenges intensified public demand for accountability, efficiency, and responsiveness, reinforcing the Office of the Premier's role in driving implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan.

The overarching provincial framework aligns with priorities such as NDP Vision 2030 and the MTEF (Medium-Term Expenditure Framework). The Limpopo Youth Development Strategy is in place and must also accommodate the need, which means they are not in employment, education, or training, which refers to individuals aged 34 and above, who are not engaged in any form of education, training, or employment. Nationally, the NEET (not in employment, education, or training) has remained alarming.

In Limpopo province, there is a decrease in the number of NEET youth. The profile of young people who are in NEET is from disadvantaged areas, especially rural areas, where employment opportunities are limited. Joblessness, especially amongst young people, must be addressed as a matter of agency.

Program Director, as part of the recommendations from the committee, the emphasis clear and defined strategies, measurable outcomes, and defined timelines to ensure that water security is maintained and manage persistent challenges of water supply. The district-based water war room must be monitored by the Office of the Premier. The Office of the Premier must submit a turnaround plan to ensure RAL, LEDA and other entities achieve clean audits in the next financial year with specific intervention in road maintenance and economic development. The governance weaknesses and inconsistent application of consequences management are worrisome. While progress was noted in some departments, many continued to delay addressing audit findings, leaving internal, external, and external recommendations unresolved.

As we conclude, Hon Speaker, the Committee welcomed the 2024/25 Annual Report and progress made by the Office of the Premier, especially the achievement of the clean audit outcome and significant progress across departmental performance. However, the Committee emphasised that service delivery realities on the ground, including unemployment, water challenges, and gender-based violence, required agent and sustained attention. The Committee will be closely monitoring the implementation of the outstanding resolution.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration endorsed the 2024/25 Financial Year Annual Report. Allow me, on behalf of the Committee, to request the House to consider and adopt the report as well. Thank you so very much.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mmetle-Ramohlola, for opening the debate. Let's allow Hon Evelyn Wilson to take the podium. She has nine minutes. Over to you.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Premier holds the ultimate executive authority in the province, and with that authority comes the ultimate accountability. As the head of the provincial executive, the Premier is not merely a figurehead, but the central decision-maker and strategic leader of the provincial government. Every major policy direction, governance framework, and service delivery programme flows from the leadership of the Premier and the Executive Council they appoint and lead. The Premier's power to appoint and dismiss Members of the Executive Council (MECs) underscores this responsibility. MECs act under delegated authority, but their mandate originates from and is overseen by the Premier.

When governance breaks down, when service delivery fails, or when departments underperform, it is the Premier who holds both the constitutional responsibility and the political authority to intervene, to demand accountability, and to act. The Premier is also tasked with ensuring that the provincial administration is effective, transparent, and

responsive. This includes aligning provincial programmes with national priorities, safeguarding good governance, and driving developmental outcomes.

In short, the Premier sets the tone, direction, and standard for governance in the province. For these reasons, the buck stops with the Premier. Whether the issue is poor service delivery, governance failures, or a lack of accountability in departments, the Premier cannot outsource or deflect her responsibility. The Premier must lead decisively, hold her executive accountable, and ensure that the provincial government delivers on its constitutional obligations to the people. That is the priority. Ultimately, the Premier plays a central role in overseeing governance, service delivery, and developmental initiatives across the province, ensuring that the government's action translates into tangible improvements and the lives of the people of Limpopo.

Speaker, it is through this lens that the annual report of the Office of the Premier for the 2024/25 financial year must be analysed and judged. While the report generally gives us quite a positive picture, high budget utilisation and strong achievement of internal performance targets, the real question remains. Has this translated into meaningful improvements for the people of Limpopo? Let's look at this through the eye of the needle.

When viewed through this lens, the picture changes dramatically. Local government in Limpopo is in a fragile state and under severe strain. It faces deep and protracted governance crises characterised by political instability and weak governance, failing service delivery systems, deepening financial distress, poor oversight and accountability, and growing public frustration.

In this environment, the Premier's leadership and provincial executive oversight are critical. The buck stops with the provincial leadership. To ensure that municipalities are functional, accountable, and delivering on their constitutional mandate to provide basic services. LEDET is mandated to drive economic development, environmental management, and tourism promotion in Limpopo. Yet its Economic Development Agency, LEDA, is riddled with malfeasance, fiscally unsustainable, and failing to deliver on its mandate. Over the past decade, Limpopo's economic growth has consistently lagged behind its population growth rate, resulting in stagnant or declining GDP per capita.

The much-vaunted Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone continues to flounder, mired in corruption, ineptitude, controversy, and community opposition, with the LEDET playing an untenable role as both developer and environmental custodian. The turnaround of Great North Transport has also stalled. Pension has remained the trade, despite personal assurances from the Premier. Meanwhile, our river systems face severe ecological threats as illicit sand mining spreads unchecked and farming communities live in fear as marauding Zamazamas armed with high-calibre weapons terrorise rural areas in violent turf wars.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration has a serious and important role in this House. That is to oversee the Premier and her department and ensure that not just legislation but promises made and constitutional rights of our citizens are delivered. On Sunday, on return from Mpumalanga, I drove through Lenyenye. It was chaos. Protesters had hijacked and jack-knifed a huge truck across

this busy road, which was extremely dangerous, had laid rocks and tyres across the road, and were burning them.

Drivers en route were threatened with rocks and told to turn back or be hurt. Sadly, and alarmingly, most of these protesters were youths. This is the very place in a town that the MEC Makamu has just told us he lived in, and where people were happy. It would appear not MEC. This is just the beginning of what is still to come. Never have people in Limpopo been so angry, thirsty, hungry, ill, jobless, and hopeless.

Their fingers are pointing all at the Premier and her Executive. It is little wonder that the Portfolio Committee and their recommendations have asked for very detailed reports on the dire straits of our municipalities, water, water infrastructure, and war rooms, with very specific deadlines, which we expect the Premier to honour. Plans and strategies to stop Limpopo from going into further decline are critical and must be acted upon, closely monitored, and there must be consequences for non-compliance at every level, starting with the MECs.

While we acknowledge the positive tone of the annual report of the Office of the Premier for 24-25, which is the first report that we confirmed on this Premier, we must remind the Premier that the buck starts with her office. We are far from having a capable, well-governed provincial government, and we are far from realising a better life for the future of our people in this province. We urge the Premier to please change it.

I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Wilson. Today, Hon Members, you are expensive; you don't compromise on your allocated time.

We will now allow, Hon Mapoulo Lawrence. You have 11 minutes. Over to you.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Premier; MECs; honourable Members, and my colleagues from the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is extremely worried that we've got about 15 resolutions that are unresolved in this department. This is a general problem in the entire provincial government of Limpopo, across all departments. It has become a norm that the department does not resolve previous resolutions and that nothing happens to the responsible officials. The VBS still remains in the room as a big elephant, especially because it involves ANC politicians. Some of these implicated mayors are sitting with us here today.

These politicians were rewarded with promotion to the Legislature as Members, while some of them even share portfolios. It is true. Honourable Speaker, the office of the Premier has drastically failed to ensure that the 3D entities are sustainable for the economic development in the province. These entities play a critical role as a catalyst for job creation.

Road agency Limpopo is on the brink of collapse, and nothing has been done about it. The entity faces significant challenges, including high levels of financial irregularities, non-compliance with policies and wasteful expenditure. Other challenges include project delays due to contract non-performance and general infrastructure backlogs. It should also be noted by this august House that the provincial administration of Limpopo is characterised by broader leadership and governance challenges, which continue to negatively impact service delivery. Some of the most worrying service delivery challenges relate to water shortages, unemployment, inadequate ICT transformation, and insufficient consequence management across the departments, being identified as recurring gaps.

The persistent challenges in water provision are worrying because it has become very clear that the government does not have a new idea to address this problem. They are still stuck in the old ideas that have no bearing on the future. Honourable Speaker, another elephant in the room, which continues to haunt the current Provincial Administration, in the Seventh Administration, is the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, which has stagnated since its conceptualisation stage.

Millions of rands have been injected into this mega project since its inception, but there is nothing to show for it. The government continues to pay staff salaries, while there is very little progress to show on the project. There are serious public concerns about the lack of tangible progress on the project, despite money being spent on the project on an annual basis. It has been almost ten years since the inception, but nothing is happening. People are just on top for nothing.

Hon Speaker, what measures have been put in place to address the underspending trend across all government departments? The recurring underspending of R4,1 million is completely unacceptable because it compromises service delivery, hence our people continue to suffer. This government is not sensitive to the service delivery needs of our people, hence it has become normal for them to underspend on budgets.

Hon Speaker, it is no use for the Office of the Premier to pride itself on the overall clean audit status while departments continue to perform badly on audit outcomes. Why is the Office of the Premier not sharing best practices with other departments, especially on leadership governance and administrative issues? As it stands, there is little progress on audit outcomes across all other departments and entities. Can the Premier brief the House about which departments retained unspent monies to the National Revenue Fund and how much money was returned per department?

Hon Speaker, what are the district-based war rooms established for if they fail to monitor and address water projects because communities continue to face severe water shortages? Unemployment remains another significant challenge in the province, hence the youth continue to suffer severe financial hardship and decline in mental and physical health and negative impact on self-wealth social relationships. Banna ba Limpopo, ba hwetšwa kua Corner Excelsior and Hans van Rensburg kgauswi le Kgoro ya Thuto, moo ba šomišago dimilione le dimilione. Banna ba robala ka dipolasitiki, ba tšhaba go ya magae a bo bona ka lebaka la gore mmušo wo wa ANC o tšere 'di one plus one' (mašilo) wa ba fa dithentara. Ba re 'one plus one is equal to eleven', mmušo wa ANC o fetošitše banna, e le go dihlogo tša Malapa, go re ba fetoge 'dihobo'. Bomme kua

magaeng, ba swererwe ke kgatelelo ya monagano ka lebaka la gore bopapa bjalo ka dihlogo tša malapa ga ba gona go hlokomela bana ba bona.

All over our rural areas, go and do some research, you'll find that the majority of people who are struggling are women because of a lack of support from their men, who are found all over picking up tins and papers so that they can go and feed their families. Now, children, also those that were supposed to be benefiting from the works of government, are also finding themselves in the shebeens, in the taverns. They are also dipping, smoking nyaope because of the ANC government.

Le tše re 'di one plus one' la tšea gore ke 11, la di fa dithentara go re le tle le hwetše 10%.

Now therefore, the EFF, we are not joking, come 2029, this side of right will become the side of left, and the side of left will become the side of right. That is not a dream. If you think our people are asleep out there, they are going to punish you forever and ever, and never think that you will ever come back. And now I'm telling you, you can answer now, but come 2029, you will never see the premier. You will be sitting outside with the people in the chamber. This place will be red. It is not a dream, it's what I'm telling you.

Hon speaker, you can say we are joking. Go outside, people are worried about you, people who are stealing people's money. You are not trusted. Currently, people are glued to the TV (Television) as we speak. General Mkhwanazi must come here; the majority of you are going to run away. We are saying Mkhwanazi must come and be our Provincial Commissioner, now you will see the likes of Mama, Ntate Marapong, they will never be here. From all of you, honourable Marapong will be the first to run away because you have your back full of something.

Hon speaker, based on the challenges alluded to, we can safely say that the Office of the Premier does not have the capacity to solve all the socio-economic challenges faced by our people on a daily basis.

As I conclude, I'm going to request that on the N1 road, we must have a permanent roadblock. That roadblock must have a station commander, who will mean that if cars and buses pass, there should be a strict search. You must either go and study other countries, go to Nigeria, Namibia, or other countries, to learn. You will find out that there's one area where you can't pass. Think about how people are just passing here freely with stolen medicine? It tells us that the country is robbed and the ANC has failed.

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I would plead with you that as you debate, may you please address the Speaker. If you address honourable Members individually, they'll be bound to respond, and the House will go into chaos, so we don't want that. Let's proceed, honourable Members, and allow the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration to close the debate. Hon Phokane Maudu Johannes, over to you. You have 14 minutes.

MR PHOKANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me observe the protocol as it has already been established.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, we want to indicate that the purpose of the quarterly performance report that we are looking into is to provide information on the overall progress made on the implementation of an institution's annual performance plan quarterly. Quarterly performance reports require institutions to review their performance over three months, substantiate and communicate achievements, and indicate the actions that will be taken to ensure the implementation of the annual performance plan if it remains on track.

Hon Speaker, we must indicate that the Office of the Premier presented its first quarter performance report, as well as the annual report, outlining against its annual plans and also identifying areas requiring urgent attention. In the first quarter, of the 35 planned output indicators for the year, 25 were measurable during the quarter under review, 19 of these were achieved, while 6 were not met, but it is not a transmatch. This achievement resulted in a performance of 76%. The budget data reflect an overall allocation of R554 million, distributed across 3 programmes, with programme 2 receiving half of the 12 budget funds.

The first quarter expenditure amounts to R109 million, which represents about 20% of the 12 budgets. Each programme shows proportionally consistent spending, with programme 1 at 24%, programme 2 at 16% and programme 3 at 21% of their respective allocation on the quarter under consideration. This suggests that the Office of the Premier is able to manage its budget and it has control over its expenditure patterns without signs of underspending or overspending. Overall, the data indicate strong fiscal discipline, with expenditure aligned closely with budget projections for the rest of the year.

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio committee commended the Office of the Premier for several positive strides made during the first quarter. The representation of women in senior management positions has reached 52% and it has exceeded the national equity target of 50%. We must applaud this smooth progress in advancing gender equity within the public service.

The committee further welcomes the consistent achievement of paying all legitimate invoices of service providers within a 30-day period. A practice that not only strengthens supply chain discipline but also supports small enterprises by ensuring their liquidity and business continuity. In addition, procurement allocation shows improvement with 77% directed towards women-owned businesses and 28% towards youth-owned enterprises, contributing to inclusive economic development in the province.

In this aspect, Hon Speaker, we need to indicate that the office of the Premier is faring quite well. Other notable achievements include its ongoing monitoring of consequence management measures across all departments, implementation of the provincial anti-corruption strategy, and efforts to professionalise the public service.

These actions demonstrate the office's commitment to promoting accountability, integrity, and ethical leadership within the provincial administration. Hon Speaker, we must indicate that there is a silence about corruption in the province, which is a clear indication of the leadership that is provided by the Office of the Premier.

Hon Speaker, I must also indicate that the Office of the Premier has gone further to ensure that key executive leadership positions were filled and that they constantly monitor internal controls. We must indicate that the AG has a lot to say about the Office of the Premier because there is a lot more, a lot of improvements on that aspect. The Office of the Premier has ensured that there is consistent monitoring of the Risk Management Committee and Audit Steering Committee, which have been operating quite effectively throughout the year.

There was zero tolerance for fraud and corruption. The Office of the Premier fostered high performance culture, building staff capacity, ethical leadership, and compliance with the regulatory framework. There were significant strides also on digital transformation, including electronic recruitment system automation and improving the turnaround time of recruitment. On gender equity with regard to recruitment, there is a total of 52% women who are occupying SMT positions and 2,96% of the positions which are occupied by people with disabilities. Despite having made some achievements, we need to indicate that the committee has observed some challenges in terms of procurement directed towards persons with disabilities. The committee also expressed concern over the persistent weaknesses that undermine the effectiveness of governance.

While progress has been registered on women's and youth empowerment, the consistent underperformance in this category suggests that structural barriers continue to prevent equitable access to procurement opportunities. On this aspect, we call upon the Office of the Premier to ensure that they go all out to address this matter with regard to how they ensure that the people living with disabilities are able to access procurement opportunities. Hon Speaker, we also must indicate that another area of concern, of course, is the progress that was recorded in terms of the implementation of internal audit recommendations, which is 67% as well as the implementation of external audit recommendations, which is 83%.

We are saying as the committee that there should be enough work done on this aspect so that there is a prevention of audit regression in the future. The Office of the Premier must bear in mind that weaknesses in this area could compromise accountability and erode public confidence in governance. Hon Speaker, other challenges include the slow implementation of consequence management across several departments and delays in filling senior posts, which are likely to hinder leadership stability.

Furthermore, there are also challenges in terms of ICD transformation, which has seen a slow implementation or a delayed implementation, which could be ascribed to the unavailability of skilled personnel. Hon Speaker, the committee welcomes the overall clean audit status of the Office of the Premier. We furthermore indicate that we appreciate that in the province, there are five departments that have achieved a clean audit, with seven having achieved a unqualified audit opinion.

We are saying that the departments should be able to emulate the Office of the Premier and other departments much more like the Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury, and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, which have maintained their clean audit opinion. We must also applaud other departments that have improved in terms of their audit opinion.

Hon Speaker, we must also indicate that we are a bit concerned, of course, that with regard to the provincial entities, only the Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) has managed to secure a clean audit. A lot of work still needs to be done on this aspect. Hon Speaker, allow me to quote one of our own, Dr Selane. He penned down an opinion piece on the outcomes, "The audit outcomes are more than just financial compliance reports, but they are an indication of how effectively public resources are managed. The clean audit recorded by key departments demonstrates that resources are being properly accounted for. Internal controls are functioning, and leadership accountability is improving".

So, you can't expect excellence without improvement in terms of audit outcomes. We are expecting that the Office of the Premier should work very hard to ensure that all other departments also secure a clean audit. It's possible. We must also highlight the fact that we are worried about the Department of Health, Department of CoGHSTA, which has maintained an unqualified audit outcome. They've been consistent there. There must be movement in terms of the audit outcome so that they are able to get qualified.

These are the first departments that the office of the premier must ensure that in this financial year, they get clean audits. Honourable speaker, we must indicate that there is a general improvement in the performance of the provincial government and that is clear and visible to everyone of us. That is why, with what Hon Mapoulo has indicated, that they will be replacing the ANC this side and coming on the other side will remain a pipe dream. It will never happen.

We also must indicate to the Hon Speaker that we will be excited and we will celebrate when the office of the Premier has gone all out to mobilise every resource in the province to ensure that there is an improvement with regard to the audit outcomes of municipalities. It cannot be that our municipalities have only got two municipalities with a clean audit opinion. It can't be correct. We direct the office to ensure that they work as hard as possible, taking into account incorporating the Department of CoGHSTA as well as the Department of Provincial Treasury in ensuring that there is an improvement in that respect, because that cannot be allowed to continue as it is.

Hon speaker, we must also highlight that there are challenges of GBV in the province, which the office of the premier must be seen to be leading in ensuring that they are completely obliterated from the face of this province. We cannot allow a situation in which our young people, our women, are attacked left, right and centre. It cannot be correct. We should also indicate that we will be celebrating only when at the time when the office of the premier is able to ensure that municipalities are able to provide water to our people.

This remains a consistent problem in the province, and we acknowledge and applaud the strategies that the Office of the Premier is employing in ensuring that they assist municipalities to improve on that aspect.

Hon Speaker, I thank you. I move for the adoption of this report as the report of this august House.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Chairperson. Premier, normally, when it is one debate, we're given three minutes to respond, but please note that we will take another debate, and after that debate, we will afford you six minutes because it will be two debates, so you can respond to both at the same time. We will now proceed.

7.3. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, and People with Disability

The Chairperson of the committee, Hon Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, she will be presenting the 2025/26 First Quarter Performance Report on special programmes. Over to you, Chairperson.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Let me also greet the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, our Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Whippers, Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members, Members of the Executive Council, and also our guests in the gallery. Good morning.

I, Mahlodi Caroline Manthata-Mahasela, rise and happily ask that this august House consider and adopt the 2025/26 First Quarter Performance Report on the special programme, on the quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, and People with Disability. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Shai, you are recognised.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I rise to second the presentation made by the Chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Shai. Chairperson, you can proceed.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise in this respected House to consider and adopt the 2025 Provincial Women's Parliament, which was held on 28 August 2025.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Mabotja, you are recognised.

MR MABOTJA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the presentation made by the Chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Chairperson, you are allowed to take your seat and will now refer to the speakers' list. In terms of the speakers' list, the honourable Member who is opening the debate is Hon Joshua Leswafo Matlou. He has 14 minutes to open the debate.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga Mospikara wa gešu, Ngaka Makoma Makhurupetje, sesi a Mokgadi; ke dumedise Motlatša Mospikara, Tebogo Mamorobela Molobedu wa gešu; ke dumedise Tonakgolo ya profense ya gešu, Ngaka Phophi Ramathuba; ke bowe ke dumedise Moetapele wa Dikgoropušo, Ntate Basikopo Makamu; Sefepikgolo, Ntate Mokgonyana; Motlatša Sefepikgolo, Ntate Monama; Modulasetulo wa Baduladitulo, Ntate Mokone; Motlatša Modulasetulo wa Badula Ditulo, Ntate Ngobeni; Bakgalemo ka bophara le pepetla; ke dumedise Moetapele wa Mokgatlo wa Kganetšo, yo e be go e le meyara wa pele wa Polokwane, e bi le e le meyara wa pele wa Masepala was Selete wa Capricorn, Ntate Laurence Mapoulo; ke dumedise le baetepele ba mekgatlo ye mengwe ya dipolotiki ba ba le go gona mo; ke dumedise Matshankutu, Ngaka Maaake, moetapelel wa bašomi ka mo go Lekgotlatheramelao le bašomi ka wena; ke dumedise kudukudu batho ba ba nthabišago kudu, ba ke ba theetšago ka matšatši ka moka, ba le ba boelago dipolelo tša go fapafapana ba Hansard, ke leboga ka maatla mošomo wo mogolo wo ba o dirago.

Mospikara, lehono re kopane mo re tlo bolela kudu ka ditaba tše e le go gore Ofisi ya Tonakgolo e ya di dira, kudukudu rena ka kua komiting ya rena, ye re e bitšago gore ke Komiti ya Bophelo bja Boleng, Maemo a Basadi, Baswa le Bagolofadi.

I take this platform to continue to remind us that transformation is not only an event but a journey that requires collective effort, courage, and empathy to traverse. Our oversight responsibility has revealed progress in advancing gender equity, yet the journey towards genuine gender equity, both in representation and lived experience, is far from complete.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak not only about the empowerment of women but about the essential role of men in achieving that empowerment, especially within this particular House. Hon Speaker, on 28 August this year, the House hosted a very important special gathering, the Women's Parliament, a platform which women from different stakeholders and also women and female formations in general have gathered

in this house to voice out their stand in society and command their position within the community.

Men in this House must become allies in action, advocating for policies that uplift women, monitoring young female leaders, and challenging structures that continue to silence women's voices in decision-making spaces. Through leadership, it's not about speaking for women; it's also about creating a platform where women can act where women can speak for themselves.

Madam Speaker, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration has said a mouthful in terms of the achievement that the office of the premier has done in relation to empowering women sitting at around 52% and I can't continue on repeating on that but our committee report highlights that 50% empowerment equity target for women in senior management was the backdrop of the premier's office and that statistic is not just a number in its reflection of opportunities that are still locked behind closed doors for women.

For us to achieve 50% is a milestone, but for us to get more than 50% is a blessing. Male leaders in executive and oversight roles must use their position to unlock these particular doors to ensure that when recruitment is made the intentionally open pathways for qualified women not as a box ticking exercise but as a recognition of women's rights rightful place as decision makers in table like Charlotte Maxeke as she has achieved in those particular years, 154 years ago when she achieved the old BSc degree and as a first black woman to achieve that degree in the Republic of South Africa.

We should also make sure that women of quality and calibre are given responsibilities in government. The report supports ECD centres and their achievement at the target of 4004 registered centres is noted and also appreciated. Two centres would not be funded in the first quarter due to the closure of shops in the west and the east, pending court orders. Most of the ECD centres cannot be supported on a quarterly basis because of an insufficient number of social workers against the number of ECD centres, hence some centres do not comply with norms and standards. We hope, Hon Premier, that in the near future the existing collaboration of departments through your intergovernmental relations framework, as propelled by your office, will yield positively to ensure that these challenges are addressed.

Hon Speaker, the Limpopo Youth Development Strategy seeks to, amongst others to capacitate the youth development machinery in the provincial sector department, districts, and municipalities. The Limpopo youth fund has assessed 242 applications and are eligible for funding in the second phase of the Limpopo youth fund. The directorate further mobilises the private sector to assist in providing opportunities for unemployed youth. A total of 1807 unemployed youth have been linked to job opportunities, and six private companies have been engaged to offer job opportunities for youth. Government departments are required to provide at least 40% of procurement opportunities to youth.

The directorate identified capacity challenges with various departments regarding providing 30% procurement opportunities to youth. The Limpopo youth development

strategy seeks to create 60,000 jobs for the youth in the province through the business capacity programme.

Hon Speaker, social cohesion and health awareness campaigns were implemented in quarter 3, with a total of nine social cohesion dialogues and one health awareness campaign against a total of five targets.

The Military Veterans Act of 2011 places an obligation on the state to roll out the following proposed services and benefits to the military veterans and their dependents:

- Compensation;
- Military veterans' pension;
- Housing;
- Free access to the military health service;
- Free/subsidised access to public transport;
- Skill acquisition and education support;
- Job placement;
- Burial support;
- Entrepreneur support service;
- Counselling.

Furthermore, the Office of the Premier implemented seven services in line with the programme of action in quarter 3 as follows:

- Four military veterans assisted with transport to one military hospital and the Department of military veterans
- 356 military veterans' houses approved and 209 MV's accessed housing
- Facilitated and coordinated military veterans affecting military meetings
- Held weekly meetings discussing matters affecting military veterans for implementation
- Military veterans' annual program developed and approved by the Director General
- Facilitated and coordinated military veterans' transport for bereavement support.

Hon Speaker, the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) cannot be won if men remain silent. The reports remind us that the implementation of the national strategic plan on GBVF requires urgent strengthening, and this is where male parliamentarians must play a role. Men must be champions of accountability, ensuring GBV policies are not only passed but also funded, implemented, and monitored.

Madam Speaker, the future we dream of, South Africa that is safe, fair, and equal, cannot be achieved by women alone. As I stand here in support of the first quarter report of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disability and Women's Parliament 2025 report, be adopted as the report of this august House.

Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga.

We will now proceed, Hon Helm. You must tell me whether your name is Maria or Marie. Over to you.

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Our Premier is present today in the House, MECs, honourable Members, and guests.

Hon Speaker, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Premier and our committee on a very successful Women's Parliament. You have done our province proud. The Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, Children, and Persons with Disability is mandated to conduct oversight over matters that directly affect the quality of life and well-being of vulnerable people, vulnerable groups within our province and our country, but especially in Limpopo. The committee members must interrogate the performance of the Office of the Premier in monitoring transversal programs on gender equity, youth empowerment, disability rights, and children's welfare.

These include employment equity, economic empowerment, gender-based violence prevention, youth development, and support for persons with disabilities. The scope of this committee is not to exclusively focus on employment in the provincial departments. Speaker, we need to bring the work of this committee in line with its intention. Employment equity is only one of the areas of performance. we need to speak to teenage pregnancies, rape, and convictions of those who abuse our young women.

The Department of Health must annually publish a list of all teenage pregnancies in Limpopo, per district and per municipal area. The Department of Transport and Community Safety must open cases of rape against all those who raped young women. The Department of Transport and Community Safety must use the court watch program to monitor the court process and convictions in each case and report to the committee. We have to get practical in these matters.

The Department of Education must follow up on these young women and must make sure that they complete their school education. we need to be mindful of the legislative framework in which we live and in which we must do our oversight, and the first one is the Children's Act of 2005, the other one is the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2007. We have to be sure that we understand the legislative framework and that we must handle it accordingly. the committee must monitor the creation of an enabling environment by all the departments. One committee cannot make a dramatic change, we can't, but if we monitor the creation of an enabling environment and each department must play its role.

Experience opportunities for women are necessary, and let us remind ourselves that you cannot go and ask for a job after school if you do not have any experience. Very few people will give you a chance. so, we must find a way to allow businesses to provide experience in the workplace for young people and resolve to put in place a similar

system as the extended public works programme, and similar to what happened in schools, but also in private business, and assist the businesses to make it possible.

Young people must be trained to start and operate their own businesses. I'm very encouraged when I go through the areas where we do our oversight, when I see how many small businesses are there, and many young people are taking part in it. Young people are especially good at these technologies, you know, Wi-Fi and internet, and everything they're brilliant at it, maybe we must support them in that.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, must ensure that roads are in such a condition that all vulnerable groups can use roads to empower themselves. Bad roads destroy dreams. We must encourage the department to focus on its mandate. The latest in technology must be used to open opportunities for young people, and they are so good at actually using technology, it is therefore unacceptable that Wi-Fi and all other technology resources are not used in all schools, and also in social spaces.

Gender-based violence is one of the biggest problems women face in Limpopo, yet the committee does not regularly request information from the SAPS. This committee must be proactive, plan, and resource safe houses for victims of gender-based violence. specific programs must be put in place to resource the victim empowerment rooms at all police stations and at hospitals. victim empowerment volunteers must be incorporated into the CPF system. Training for volunteers is needed; monthly reports must be completed.

Hon Speaker, my hope is that this valuable committee will take up the challenge to fulfil its mandate, to assist in the creation of an enabling environment for vulnerable people in our province. especially in the light of the constant increase in joblessness and unemployment.

I thank you

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Helm Maria. We shall now call upon Hon Mogaleadi. Over to you, you have 11 minutes.

MS MAGOANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Leader of the official opposition, Commissar Lawrence Mapoulo. Good morning.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned over the recurring underperformance, lack of consequence management, and failure to achieve equity and procurement targets for vulnerable groups. It has become very clear to us that these vulnerable groups are on their own. They should not expect any concrete and tangible intervention from this government except that they continue to be marginalised and undermined. We find it very difficult to understand why equity and procurement targets for the vulnerable groups are not met. It is our view that these groups, amongst others, must also benefit from the mainstream economy to close the gap that continues to persist despite public outcry.

Hon Speaker, is there any logical reason why departments failed to achieve employment equity targets for women, youth, and people living with disabilities? We put it to you that the reason why these anomalies continue to exist is that there is no consequence management in the current administration, and therefore, officials continue to do as they wish with impunity.

The EFF is disappointed that procurement allocations for the designated groups, such as women, youth, persons with disability, and military veterans, fell below the required threshold during the period under review. There is clearly no political will to close the inequality gap in favour of the vulnerable groups in society, hence they continue to be marginalised. Can we get the breakdown of the 98 youth enterprises that benefited from the R4,8 million allocated by the Limpopo Youth Development Fund? Government youth empowerment programmes should benefit all youth of the province, not only ANC-aligned youth.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed that 142 qualifying enterprises could not be funded, and the reason given is resource constraints. Again, this is a clear indication of an attempt by the government to suffocate youth-owned business enterprises due to a lack of support. Why does this government continue to fail the targets they have set themselves? What happens to the budget allocated to the target set since they were not achieved?

Hon Speaker, the ECD sector continues to be afflicted by all sorts of challenges, such as land dispute closures and a shortage of social workers. Does the department have a concrete and tangible plan to resolve such challenges? If not, why can't we get the budget allocated for ECD practitioners for the period under review and the plan to improve their working conditions? How much budget has been set aside to hire additional social workers in the ECD centres to increase capacity and to address the social challenges our children continue to face daily, because the lack of such professionals undermines support to ECD centres?

Hon Speaker, can we get the breakdown on where the social programs on gender-based violence and femicide were implemented and in which specific areas? Military veterans are not only those who are coming from the ANC, because we have many military veterans from other liberation movements, such as PAC and AZAPO. Can we get a detailed report on how many military veterans were supported in terms of health care transport and housing for and from which liberation movements these military veterans belonged to?

The database of the Department of Military Veterans should consist of veterans from all liberation movements, not only from the ANC as it stands, the ANC military veterans benefit from the government, while others continue to suffer even though they have fought for the liberation of this country. Why do you have backlogs in the provision of laptop devices for persons with disabilities? This transgression exonerates us on our long-held view that this government has no place for people with disability in terms of support and general improvement of their livelihoods.

The OTP has drastically failed to enforce accountability, especially on matters of equality and procurement targets. If the premier, who is a citizen in the province, fails to

protect the vulnerable groups, then where should these vulnerable groups run to? We should agree in this House that there is generally an absence of consequence management in the Provincial Administration led by Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is worried that the Thuthuzela Care Centres, which should provide integrated services for the survivors of gender-based violence, including medical care, counselling, and legal assistance, do not get support from the government. In essence and on the contrary, victims should be enjoying a safe, supportive, and dignified environment with a multidisciplinary team of provincials, and that this can only happen if you have visionary leadership at the helm of the department.

I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I am proud of everyone in this committee; they saved me time. We shall now call upon Hon Mahlodi Caroline Manthata Mahasela to close the debate. You have 14 minutes, over to you.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. Greetings to the Hon Deputy Speaker, Teboho Mamorobela; Premier of the Province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Singo wee! Phophi Mutshena; Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Essob Mokgonyana and his Deputy, Hon Rodgers Monama; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone; and Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Peter Hasani Ngobeni; Leader of Opposition, Hon Mapoulo; House of Traditional Leaders; Members of the Provincial Legislature and MPLs. Today, I was told that we have 13 former mayors who are MPLs. Hon Bela Kupa-Mabuza told me that we have 13 former mayors here today. Which means that the ANC is working. Members of the Executive Council, the MECs, guests in the gallery, and our officials who are here with us, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning.

Let me first commend the Office of the Premier for encouraging programmes to ensure that women, youth, and people with disability in this province are taken care of. Let me also appreciate all the robust inputs made by the Hon Members on the 2025/26 First Quarter Report and the Women's Parliament on the Portfolio Committee of Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, and People with Disabilities.

All the inputs were quite enriching and developmental. The ANC Manifesto on the Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, and People Living with Disabilities emphasises improving the quality of life for all citizens through programmes that benefit vulnerable groups like women, people with disabilities, and children. ANC pledged to combat gender inequality and patriarchy, strengthen protections against violence, and ensure infrastructure development addresses the specific needs of women and people with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, the Limpopo Legislature on 28 August 2025 held the Provincial Women's Parliament in Capricorn District, Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality at the Limpopo Legislature Chamber. The Women's Parliament recognises the important role

that the legislature can play to promote gender equality. The Limpopo Legislature is the institution with the legitimacy and authority to resolve in a peaceful way what may appear to be irreconcilable differences.

The Legislature has this authority because it represents the diverse interests of the public and because the representatives are elected through a democratic process. We recognise the effort women have made towards achieving gender equality in South Africa. The Freedom Charter explicitly addresses the creation of an equal society, and this is also supported in the Women's Charter.

The theme for this year's Women's Parliament was building resilient economies for all women. 431 women from different stakeholders and women's formations participated and debated on different themes and topics, and they have made a positive contribution to that Special Sitting, surpassing the recent 26 representatives of youth parliament representing their respective formations and were able to make their voice heard through dynamic and vibrant debates on the topics that were provided. Political parties in the Limpopo Legislature also had their presentations, which included the ANC Youth League, MK Party, FF Plus, DA, UAT and the EFF.

In addition, Madam Speaker, to ensure broader inclusivity, the Women's Parliament drew on representation from various social formations such as the NAPWA, LGBTQIA+ Community, Council for the Blind, NICRO, SANAB, Faith-Based Organisations, Women of His Power, Young Women's Desk, Tsonga-Basadi, Black Management Forum, Malaika Media, DPSA, Limpopo Business Forum, Enshrine Motivational, Africa Break, Thabapi Youth Professionals, Tshepo-Themba, Multi-Purpose The Silence, His Presence Foundation, SABC, Deaf South Africa, including Members of this portfolio committee. The contribution made by this organisation and its participants was extremely phenomenal.

Madam Speaker, on the Women's Parliament, the committee has made the following recommendations after having noted the deliberations and submissions by the participants during this Special Sitting of Women's Parliament:

- That there must be a provision of early-stage education in areas of coding, robotics and AI to high school girls to encourage them to pursue STEM careers and further target unemployed and underemployed women to provide them with the certificates needed to take careers by relevant provincial departments. And the private sector from the commencement of the 2026 academic year.
- That there should be a continuous support for women-led businesses through a business incubator and mentorship programme, helping them overcome the challenges of access to funding and business development by relevant provincial departments, with progress reporting being submitted by the end of 2025/26 Third Quarter, to promote positive narratives and emphasise the need to shift cultural narratives and normalise women's presence in all tech roles and ensure their accommodation in the work environment. And by the end of 2025/26 Third Quarter, to ensure that there is adoption of data-driven policymaking underpinned by collection and analysis of digital data, which takes into account local cultures and languages to inform evidence-based policymaking and help

prevent the misrepresentation of marginalised groups. Including women on an ongoing basis.

- To also encourage the government to initiate policy dialogue forums targeting women to access various products and services that can assist women to start and grow their own businesses on an ongoing basis.

The Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth, and People with Disabilities commends the Office of the Premier for its continued coordination of special programmes dedicated to young people in the province. The committee will ensure and monitor that these resolutions and previous ones are fully implemented.

Madam Speaker, the first quarter report of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities would verify if the planned activities of the quarter have been realised by conducting oversight on the Office of the Premier on special programmes. The Limpopo government has developed a set of targets that addresses the appointment of women in senior management and, employment of persons with disability at all levels. Creation of employment and economic opportunities for youth, as well as economic empowerment for the military veterans through procurement and capacity building. On compliance by provincial departments, let me say that we will be happy if the committee ensures that all the departments comply with this 7% target concerning the disabled persons.

The Office of the Premier must make it a point that all the departments comply with this 7%, Hon Premier. When it comes to procuring from companies of the designated groups, it's also a special target that should be achieved by each department within the province. And the total of 40% of procurement budget should be awarded to women with the same percentage, to 30% to youth, and 7% should be awarded, as I've already indicated, to persons with disabilities, whereas 5% should be awarded to military veterans.

Allow me to also note the youth funding, ECD centre support, the reduction of absenteeism of girls at schools, quarter 3 birth registration, Limpopo youth development strategy, older people and gender-based violence programme, Department of Health support for people with disability and military veterans.

Hon Speaker, the quarter 1 report gave a glimpse of how programme targets throughout the department across the province were implemented to continue to bridge the gap between the non-designated and designated people. Compliance with the prescripts of the Employment Equity Act and broad-based black employment equity must be adhered to.

As I close, I want to quote Martin Luther King Jr, when he said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve, but you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

Madam Speaker, we support the first quarter report of the Committee of Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities and the Women's Parliament report be adopted as a report of this august House.

I so move, and I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Chair. While I'm requesting the Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to come and do the response, as she comes to the podium, the Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela, will come and take over. I am part of the debate, and I need to sit down and account for myself. Premier, you can wait a bit while we allow the Deputy Speaker to take her seat, just a minute. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker. I just wanted to draw your attention to one point, more especially Rule 106 of the Standing Rules and Orders. I heard you saying that you are giving the Hon Premier six minutes, and in terms of the Standing Rules, what does it say in that? The Premier and the Member in charge of the business before the House are not restricted in regard to the length of time that they may speak. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

You know the issue is that the Chief Whip is not in the House. We are always guided by the programming committee. Can we suggest that we refer the matter back to the Programming Committee to go and relook at it? Because when they've made a decision, it might look like we are saying, the Premier, even if she goes beyond six minutes, it is fine. The Programme Committee will be requested to go back and re-examine the matter. Thank you very much, Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Speaker. Greetings to the House. We shall now continue on the order paper with the business of the day. Hon Maseko, there's an order? You are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Chair. I'm just rising here to deal with the matter that was raised by the Deputy Chief. I think we need to stick to the rules. No programming committee can overrule the Rules of the Legislature. Whether the Chief Whip was here or not, the Chief Whip can't overrule the rules of the Legislature. Can we please stick to the rules? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maseko. I was going to deal with the matter that no committee can overrule the rules of the House. I think maybe the Speaker, when she said the Deputy Speaker is coming to finish the matter, she meant that I must come and close the matter. We cannot debate the rules, honourable Members. I think the Deputy Chief Whip was in order.

We may now welcome the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba to come and do the response.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Chief Whip and the entire Whippers, Leader of Government Business, honourable Members of the Executive Council, Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, honourable Members of portfolio committees and also honourable Members of the House, honourable Members of the opposition parties and all members of this august House, let me appreciate this opportunity that has been given to me, to respond to some of the issues that have been raised.

Indeed, Hon Deputy Speaker, I find it necessary to address some of the ongoing sentiments amongst us regarding the purported stagnation in the progress of the Office of the Premier. It seems that certain Members remain tethered to those outdated perspectives, clinging to the narratives that were from last year's speeches and, of course, failing to recognise the substantial strides that the Seventh Administration has made since then.

Maybe let me also start by reminding all of you that when we say things change upon us, we really mean that change is upon us. Hon Wilson and Hon Mapoulo, if you insist on viewing our developments through a narrow lens, you risk being left behind while the people we serve continue to move forward. As is evident by recent results, as our leader of government business has indicated, when we go from one by-election after another, people continuously show confidence in our ruling party, which is the African National Congress, because they know the work that we are currently doing.

Hon Wilson, when you claim that there has been no change in our contribution to the GDP, I must refer you to the article of 11 October, which was written by a certain Luke Fraser. The heading on business tech, not that Davison writes anything wrong, but I'm just saying it's not a tabloid, it's a paper focusing on issues of business. When they say the headline says the one province in South Africa showing the best economic growth.

I must emphasise that from that article, which outlined the recent findings from Statistics South Africa, Limpopo's GDP growth has indeed outperformed all other provinces in South Africa at 0,9%. [APPLAUSE] We are honourable members surpassing the Western Cape, Gauteng and many others. This is an indication of the progress we are currently making.

We must not allow grandstanding and rhetoric to blind us to the realities of our successes as the provincial government. As a province, we have not shied away from our challenges, like our responses to the GNT, and we remain firmly committed to finding solutions and providing reliable transport for our citizens. If I am to go back to the issues that you have raised regarding GNT pension funds, this has been a pain to the Seventh Administration.

Let me remind you that as early as October, after we've been sworn in, we met with the representative, who call themselves Make It Happen Foundation, with the leader called Mr Herry Masindi. From that meeting, we went on to review all the forensic

investigations that were done previously, because it's not like we were the first ones to stop resolving the issues. Even the previous administration, the former MECs for the Department of Economic Development, were attending to this matter.

That is why, if you look at the files that were there, 787 claims were processed by the liquidator during the 2022- 2024 financial years. Out of those, there were 376 files that were handed over to Fed Group. We found more 14, which were also handed over this year.

We have been able to discover that 162 files are outstanding and unclaimed. Hence, in our inter-ministerial task team, we have requested on numerous occasions, Mr Masindi, because he said he's got the list of these 162, we said, give us the list so that we can give it to our Actuaries. We've even appointed actuaries who can assist because we can't get records of these people who are being mentioned. Unfortunately, Mr Masindi keep on holding the files and refuses to even hand them over to the actuaries, and their term is coming to an end, come the end of October. When we questioned why, he told us that the government owes him and other pensioners R500 million. Therefore, the Premier of this province, together with her administration as the Executive Council, must authorise R500 million to be deposited into the account of MIHAFO.

Is that what the honourable Members are saying we are failing to do? When they are sitting there and sleeping there at the Premier's office, I saw opposition parties grandstanding without even understanding. Are you saying this august House, honourable Members, and EXCO must approve and give 500 million to this individual who said he knows these people, he knows what we are owing them, and he will distribute to them? I will never do that. For the sake of the people of this province, I will never do that. [APPLAUSE]

He can mobilise and mobilise. They will sleep there in the office. We're not going to be blackmailed. We're not going to be threatened. I told them that one day, one of the elderly people who is sleeping there will die at night, and he will have to face us. We will have to make sure that he pays for the life that can be lost because he's mobilising people to lie. Give us the people who are owed. We will process that.

Honourable Members, we're not a heartless government. We are a government that cares. Regarding the administration of state-owned entities such as RAL, we are diligently holding them accountable. They are in our process, ensuring that they deliver as expected. Accountability, indeed, Hon Wilson, I agree with you. Accountability lies with the Office of the Premier, but also let me remind you that the government also functions as a collective. Our unprecedented achievement of the 10 unqualified audit opinions in a single year is proof of this collective responsibility. [APPLAUSE] Something that has never happened or been seen in the history of this Legislature.

From those 10, remember there were five of those departments with no single matter of emphasis. We appreciate and say, we have heard you last year. When you say, Hon Mapoulo said, the Office of the Premier cannot celebrate a clean audit when the same is not happening to the Department of Education. I am not sure when last did you last heard Department of Education got an unqualified audit opinion. Under our leadership, we did achieve that.

We are a province on the move. We continue to improve matric results. We gave you 85%. Next year, our learners promised us that they will improve much more. The only thing we know as the provincial government is to improve. We don't know any language, but we know the language is one that to improve for the better of our people.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we also engaged in the battle against under-expenditure. And I'm proud to say that we, as the Office of the Premier, have accounted for over 99% of our expenditure in the year under review. And all the other departments, there's no single department that has spent below 95% if I remember.

All our departments have been able to spend within the acceptable norm. Of course, in certain areas where improvement is required, we are working on it because the only language that we know is the language of improvement. We should not overlook the ongoing challenges that we are facing, particularly regarding the unemployment rate. Hence, the upcoming investment conference, which we have invited honourable Members to, will be one of those strategic initiatives that we launch to stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities for our constituents. And this year, we are going to do things differently. We will also be showcasing that from the 120 billion commitments that were made last year, which projects have already been implemented and how many jobs have been created.

Of course, the 20,000-plus jobs that have been created can't be celebrated because on a daily basis, there are other industries that are closing down, resulting in job losses. Therefore, when you try to improve on this side, on the other side, you are losing out. Hence, our focus is to say we need to look into sustainability, focusing on the industry that has proven to us in our province, whether it's mining, whether it's tourism, and also agriculture, because these are the three sectors that have led us to say we are not capitalising enough.

If you look at the statistics, how we managed to improve to 0,9% GDP, it's mainly in the financial sector, especially the Real Estate. We underestimate the work, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, the work that Risima has done and is doing in our province. When Risima started with its vision to fund public servants to build their houses in GaKindikitlana (far flung areas), where the commercial banks would refuse to fund such houses, people did not understand the dream that the ANC-led government came up with to have this particular institution, which made it possible to fund public servants to build their big houses.

Now, if you drive all over, whether it is Sekhukhune or Thohoyandou, you'll find double storeys in the villages. That is why banks, they are starting to say, it is possible to can fund a house in a rural area. What does it do? It then makes our properties, even in our village, to be having their value to be very high, and their values are increasing, Hon Mabotja, in your language.

The values of the property in a village in Limpopo, compared to a village in another province, it's not the same. Now, the banks are going to fund people so that people can build their houses. You don't have to stay in a randavel in a village and stay in a townhouse in Polokwane. You can build a house in a village. That is the progress that we want to see, our rural province must change its phase, and we must urbanise every single corner in our province. So that they can see the good work which done by the ANC-led government. I think we need to stand up together in the issue of fighting

gender-based violence, because this issue transcends across all the political lines. It affects all of us. All of us sitting here, we are at pain.

Some cases are not being reported. Some cases are being reported. We need to work together as the august House to make sure that we keep this scourge of gender-based violence and femicide.

Hon Speaker, the issues that are being raised, about; what are we doing about the VBS? We are promoting them to be in this House. I want to remind and request this House and all political parties to show me a political party in this country which, when its member is accused or charged by the law enforcement agency, is requested to step aside, if not the African National Congress. Now, people come here when they know in their own organisations, people wake up in the morning, from a political position, to appear in court.

It is only in the ANC that you do that. Therefore, you can't come here and say, Premier, why do you appoint so-and-so, because there was a rumour of an allegation. It means when I want to deal with somebody political, I will just initiate a rumour and get a journalist to write a story and write about that, so that that person is not able to reach their potential in terms of their political career.

I am not going to do that as the Premier of this province. Show me anyone who's charged in my Executive Council, then I will ask that person, and I will recall them to step aside. If there is no such, allow my 10 MECs to continue with the good work and remain focused on delivering services to the people of their province, the people who voted them and gave them over 70% because they've got confidence in them.

As I conclude, I want to implore all honourable Members to recognise the substantial developments that have taken place in the Limpopo over the past years, and also to remind honourable Members that when we say military veterans, we are only focusing on those who are aligned to the ANC or to the Umkhonto weSizwe Party. You are wrong because personally, not so long ago, I was in Vyeboom, where Mr Raphalalani Matamela Mishack, a former A ZANLA.

I personally handed over a house to him, and his wife was built by our military veterans through our Department of CoGHSTA. It is not correct to come and mislead the people of this province that we are only focusing on ANC-aligned military veterans. We have another one, who is Mr Manganyi Mkhacani George. Equally, in July, we handed over a house to him. He's not coming from the African National Congress or the Umkhonto weSizwe. He's not a member of Umkhonto weSizwe Liberation War veterans. He is a former soldier who was part of APLA and A ZANLA, and all the other military wings of all different political parties.

When we talk about the women that we are not attending to them and people with disabilities, I can tell you that through the African National Congress, this august House is led by a speaker who's a woman, a deputy speaker who's a woman, a premier who's a woman. Despite that, we still had five MECs who are women, and out of the ten, out of all the ten HODs that we've appointed, five of them are women, and we are not compromising on that.

They are not just women, but they are women with capacity, because we can't just celebrate the gender without brains. These are women with capacity, women with potential who can take the men head-on. It's a fact. [APPLAUSE]

I see even the men coming from my organisation are a bit worried, but that is a fact. Honourable Members, with the people with disability, the Seventh Administration does not sleep. Just a few hours ago, the MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture, jointly with the MEC for Health. We saw them leading a massive White Cane Walk, handing over a number of assistive devices to assist people with disability, including those with visual impairment. We are prioritising them, whether it's wheelchairs, and whenever we always make sure that we are attending to them. Even in this august House, we make sure that people with disability, with capacity, are sitting and are honourable Members, but we can't see the same on the other side.

People want to come and preach to us, who know exactly what needs to be done. That is why we are building an inclusive economic growth. An inclusive economic growth is going to talk about women, children, young people, and people with disability. We are moving away from the era of only men, especially the white males who are benefiting, because even African men, if you go to the stock exchange, there are very few. We can't even talk about the black woman because they represent the face of poverty. The Seventh Administration is focusing on that.

As I conclude, Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to appreciate the chairperson, two chairpersons of my portfolio committee, and all the members of these two portfolio committees, because they continuously hold us accountable. On a daily basis, they don't say this is the Premier; therefore, we can't hold her accountable. They know where we box each other in that portfolio committee. When they come here, they give a report that presents what was debated and agreed upon. I can't say everything about others. We agree on something and sometimes not, but otherwise, thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ndo livhuwa, Mulangavundu Singo Vhodokotela Ramathuba.

7.4. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism

Zwa zwino musi ri tshi khou bvela phanda ri go humbela Muhulisei Thovhele Midiyavhathu Tshivhase uri vha swikise muvhigo wa Komiti ya Maitele a zwa Vhulavhelesi uri u sedzuluswe na u tangananedzwa nga Ndu. Singo la Masingo! Ndo livhuwa.

MR TSHIVHASE

Mulangadzulo, Muthusa Mulangadzulo; Mulangavundu vha thonifheaho, Dokotela Phophi Ramathuba, muduhulu wa Vele la Mbeu, tshedza tsha Limpopo, Tshirukhwe tsha shango!

Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable MECs, Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, Whippery, and all Members. I rise to request for consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report: Legislature.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa. Is there any seconder? Hon Sebopela, you are recognised.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I stand to second the presentation made by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa Muhulisei Sebopela. Ri khou humbela uri mudzulatshidulo wa komiti Thovhele vha bvele phanda.

MR TSHIVHASE

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I move for the adoption and consideration of 2025/26 First Quarter Report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MABOTJA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I stand to second the presentation made by the Chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mabotja. We shall now start with the debate. We shall now call upon Hon Mataboge Shimane Morris.

MR MATABOGE

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Members of the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip and Whippery; Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members; distinguished guests in the gallery; receive my greetings.

Deputy Speaker, section 114(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the Legislature to exercise oversight over all provincial organs of the state. This is a very crucial responsibility that requires the Legislature itself to put its order, to fulfil this task without fear or favour. The Legislature must, therefore, in this regard, lead by example in terms of performance and overall governance.

Having settled the constitutional imperatives bestowed on the Legislature, the question of who oversees the overseer remains fundamental in the accountability spectrum. Fortunately, section 4(1) of FMPLA empowers the oversight mechanism to exercise oversight over the Legislature, which informs the basis of this debate. We have indeed scrutinised the performance of the Legislature in line with this principle in order to ensure improvement in performance, which we believe will ultimately lead to the regain of our lost clean audit outcome.

As overseers of others, we must talk from a position of strength, not of weakness, as we are. Madam Speaker, clean audits are the foundation of good governance, with which it will be difficult to tell a compelling story about the integrity of any institution. The Limpopo Provincial Legislature must therefore play a leading role as a custodian of legislation.

Madam Speaker, as the Committee of Oversight, we are pleased that the institution has delivered on the support that has to be given to both the political and strategic leadership, with minor and insignificant deviation. The annual performance plan in terms of Programme 1, under Governance and Leadership, and its sub-programs in the first quarter has been achieved, save for the protocol and international relations, where target on-study tours were not met. We therefore urge the relevant units to comply, particularly committees do their relevant part, or else we risk regressing even further come the end of the financial year.

We are further pleased that the sub-program on Political Party and Member Support Services has achieved 100% in the first quarter, with all political parties represented in the Legislature complying in terms of their audited financial statements. It is our view, Madam Speaker, that Programme 1 makes up an important integral part of the entire institution, and normal functioning will go a long way in making sure that all other programs are functioning as required.

Madam Speaker, the Committee is worried that some sub-programmes in Programme 2 under Administration have not achieved their targets. The sub-programme on Security and Risk Management indicates several underperformers, which is a cause for concern as it relates to the overall security of our national key point. We urge the relevant units to expedite the updating of the risk register as a matter of extreme urgency.

Madam Speaker, the continued defiance by staff members who are to be subjected to vetting is worrisome, and I ask the Office of the Secretary to immediately implement consequence management on those who do not comply with the requirement and furnish the Committee with the report before the end of the current quarter. The appointment of a service provider for the access points to the buildings must also be expedited to achieve 100%. It is now standard 50% according to the report that we have just received.

Madam Speaker, the Committee expects the sub-programme on Finance, Budget Control and Reporting to always achieve 100% as it has a huge bearing on the audit outcomes at the end of each financial year. If the institution is able to have the sub-programme on its toes and achieve maximally, we will go back to our glory days of achieving a clean audit. It is doable; we have to work towards that. Madam Speaker,

the same goes for Expenditure and Revenue Management, which has several underperformers, including but not limited to the debt collection.

The process to remove deceased debtors and outstanding debts must be finalised urgently. The 0% achievement in Human Resource Management regarding the implementation of approved policies and their performance is a worrying factor. Therefore, it is important to implement those policies. There should not be excuses. The performance of this unit is critical if the Legislature was to comply with all laws governing human resources. The 98% achievement on ICT is acknowledged, save for the ineffectiveness of the systems in the legislative chamber that need urgent attention, but we can see there is a lot of improvement.

Madam Speaker, the achievement of the set targets in the quarter under review is critical to the achievement of targets in the subsequent quarters. The first quarter lays the foundations for the future achievements of targets. Therefore, it is paramount that during the first quarter we make sure that we achieve. As a committee, we therefore support the report, and I therefore move that the report be adopted as a report of this august House.

I thank you. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mataboge. You have given us more than five minutes left. We shall now call upon Hon Harmanus Frans Marx.

MR MARX

Hon Speaker, the 2024/25 Annual Report and the 2025/26 First Quarter Report for the Limpopo Legislature paint a bleak picture. These reports highlight significant concerns regarding the Legislature's financial management compliance and compliance with accounting practices and overall performance. According to the Auditor-General's findings, the financial statements submitted for auditing were not fully prepared in line with generally recognised accounting practices and were not supported by comprehensive and proper records.

The Auditor-General further reported that the measures in place for the preparation, review and approval of the annual financial statements and annual performance reports, as well as controls to detect and prevent non-compliance with legislation, were inadequate.

As a result, Hon Speaker, the Legislature received an unqualified audited opinion for the 2024/25 financial year. This issue was held to be a cause for concern among all Members present in this chamber. The committee noted with concern that the legislator failed to achieve all its targets. Out of 58 performance targets, only 59 were achieved, a mere 68% success rate. The explanation offered was that much of the administration time was consumed by elections and preparations for the Seventh Legislature, including orientation and induction workshops for new members.

Hon Speaker, elections are part of a constitutional rhythm, not an excuse for underperformance. If our systems collapse every time there is an election, it means they are too fragile to sustain this institution. The committee also raised questions about disciplinary processes within the legislature. It is unacceptable that such matters drag on for months without finality. Disciplinary processes are not optional. They are essential for restoring accountability and integrity in this institution.

Hon speaker, the most concerning finding relates to the unauthorised and irregular purchase of a vehicle for the office of the speaker, which was above the approved treasury threshold. This irregular expenditure, reportedly over R1 million, contributed directly to the Legislature's poor audit performance and may have already affected the audit status for 2025/26. The speaker has told the committee that she never requested a vehicle and that the matter is under investigation.

With respect, Hon Speaker, the actual issue is not whether you requested a vehicle or not, but the public wants to know when those responsible to be held accountable, and yes, Hon Speaker, as the committee, we duly take note that you say the matter is under investigation, and as the committee, we fully support you launching such an investigation.

However, speaker, you would recall that the committee pertinently asked you to give us clear timelines for the completion of this investigation and for the tabling of a report before this Legislature.

Can it really take more than six months to investigate this issue and submit a report to this house? As the committee, we are still waiting for your answer, Hon Speaker. I humbly ask you again, when will the investigation be completed, and when will the report be submitted? This is not an attack on you, Hon Speaker. It's a request to please hold the administration accountable.

The public deserves answers. Hon Speaker, as if that were not enough, recent media reports have revealed yet another shocking allegation of wasteful expenditure. It is widely reported and alleged that the Secretary of the Legislature, Dr Timothy Maake, caused R1,8 million in cancelled flights, bookings, and unused accommodation for a delegation of seven delegates attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association event in Gambia.

The reason, apparently, his academic title, doctor, was not printed on the airline ticket. Now, Dr Speaker, we had some good laughs and banter in this house regarding the insistence of some of our own honourable Members on the use of their academic titles, and we are privileged and proud to have such qualified and educated Members in our midst.

However, Hon Speaker, when there are allegations that insistence on the use of these titles starts to cost the taxpaying public millions in wasteful expenditure, then it's no longer a laughing matter. It requires serious and urgent attention from all Members in this House. According to the reports, the initial bookings cost about R442,000, which were cancelled.

A second booking was also allegedly cancelled for the very same reason. It was only after the airline responded with the rules and regulations that the Legislature involuntarily accepted the airline's policy. This allegedly led to the purchase of a third

set of bookings, reportedly at the cost of over R800,000 and therefore bringing the total wasted expenditure to nearly R1,8 million.

Effectively, Hon Speaker, that means that each delegate costs taxpayers R257,000 in wasteful expenditure. The Legislature has reportedly defended the Secretary's right to use his title, but has not released any invoices, cost breakdowns, or disciplinary findings. If these reports are true, Hon Speaker, it is nothing short of an embarrassment to this institution and an insult to the people of Limpopo.

However, if they are not true, please take this House into your confidence. Give us a detailed report as to what actually transpired with supporting documentation. Between the irregular vehicle, the cancelled flights, and the regression in audit outcomes. It is clear that we are those trusters with safeguarding public money act with arrogance and without consequence.

We cannot get our own House in disarray. Therefore, we demand, on behalf of all the taxpaying residents of Limpopo, a full cost breakdown on the authorisation record of the alleged R1,8 million travel expenditure, a comprehensive report on the irregular vehicle purchase, including disciplinary action, and the recovery of funds, and immediate disciplinary measures to be taken against officials implicated, and stronger internal controls and oversight over procurement and travel management.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, Limpopo's people deserve a Legislature that leads by example. One that is transparent, prudent, and accountable. When millions are wasted on vanity and mismanagement, while communities go without water, jobs, and proper services, we lose the moral authority to demand better from anyone else. It is time for this Legislature to clean its own house.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very, Hon Marx. We shall now call upon Hon Molapo Walter Samuel. I can see he is not in the House, Hon Baloyi. Are you going to debate on his behalf?

MR BALOYI

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Baloyi. Over to you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Marks. We shall now call upon Hon Molapo. I see that he is not in the House. Hon Baloyi, are you standing in on his behalf? Thank you very much. Hon Baloyi will come. Thank you.

MR BALOYI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the MECs, Premier, my party leader, Hon Mapoulo, and Members in the House.

The EFF is completely dismayed, disappointed, and dejected by the continuous negative reports about the Limpopo Legislature, which can be confirmed to be true. When the Speaker started her term, she was given a vehicle that cost more than the treasury regulations allowed. The Auditor General has since found that the purchase of the vehicle caused the institution to decline to an unqualified audit finding.

The EFF notes that her inimitable appetite for fine things in life has led her to the purchase of a Mercedes-Benz which was reported to be gathering dust in the basement of the building by the media. This is the same appetite that the Secretary of the Legislature has, which was also reported by the media to have cost R1.8 million on accommodation and flights to Gambia. It is unheard that someone holding a public position would insist at a cost to the taxpayer that his academic title be on a ticket, and that all tickets of MPLs be cancelled to accommodate his title.

The EFF notes that each time the Secretary and the Speaker appear before the oversight committee, they spew all sorts of lies to protect each other from accountability. The last time they appeared before the committee, the Speaker indicated that she had not seen the car, she did not know the car, and that she never authorised nor indicated that she needed the car. Which is all lies, Hon Speaker, because there is no way that R3 million can be spent without the knowledge of the Speaker as the custodian of the budget of the Legislature, according to FMPPLA.

The EFF further notes that Dr Maake, the Secretary, who should have been the first to have the axe fall on him, is shielded by the Speaker. The same Secretary who squandered the budget of the Legislature is never held accountable for the shenanigans that he is doing, but some persons of known consequences remain suspended. If the axe had to fall, it should begin at the end with him.

Can we get a progress report on disciplinary cases involving some employees in the institution? In this institution, workers are being threatened with suspensions all the time, while unplanned meetings are held at any given time. When do these people do their work? Because they are boardrooms holding unnecessary meetings all the time.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is disappointed that the financial statements submitted for auditing were not fully prepared in accordance with the generally recognised accounting practice, and supporting full and proper records are requested by section 5.1 of FMPPLA, as indicated by the AG's audit findings. Hon Speaker, we are concerned that the Legislature received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2023/24 financial year, which represents a regression from a clean audit opinion that the Legislature received in the previous financial year.

The obsession with the title instead of the obsession with the quality and meeting the target is a dilemma we need to address. Once you become obsessed with titles, you start dropping the ball on your responsibilities as an accounting officer, because your mind is filled with things that have nothing to do with your work.

Hon Speaker, the EFF is worried about the internal control deficiency in the Legislature, which can be linked to the regression on audit outcomes. We are also disturbed, like the EFF, that the Legislature has not recorded 100% achievement of all targets set across all programmes in the annual report. Only 39 of the 58 targets that were set during the 2024/25 financial year were achieved, which is the smallest performance to say the least. The incapacity to meet the targets by the Legislature is the real reason why service delivery continues to be compromised. This is completely unacceptable, Hon Speaker.

These shenanigans emanating from the arrogance and ego of the Secretary of this Legislature must be nipped in the bud. Hon Speaker, the EFF is quite burdened by the fact that the political leadership and the management of this Legislature spend most of their time on overseas trips with some of their favourite ANC members in this House. Why are members of the opposition, especially from the official opposition, excluded from undertaking these overseas trips? Does this Legislature only represent ANC? The last time we checked, the Legislature was for the people of Limpopo.

This Legislature is not from Frans Mohlala or Luthuli House, but it is for the people who belong to this province and all opposition parties in this House. So, we are looking at you. We know that you are doing this as a partisan, and we will make sure that you are held accountable for all these shenanigans. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Baloyi. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Vho Thovhele Midiavhatho Tshivhase. [APPLAUSE]

MR TSHIVHASE

Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip and the Deputy, Hon Chairperson of Committees and his Deputy, Hon MECs, distinguished guests in the gallery. Ndi a vha resha.

Gona le kereke ye nngwe ya moropa ya go swana le ZCC. Ge ba opela ba re “Hee hee tše dingwe ke mabarebare hee”. [LAUGHTER]. I have responded.

Madam Speaker, Cathrine Phalsifer once said, “How you act, what you do today is a living legacy on display”. Those words, Madam Speaker, resonate deeply with us who are gathered here today. They remind us that our actions as Members of this Legislature are not isolated moments; they are a living legacy unfolding before the people we serve. As I echo the sentiments of my colleagues, I must emphasise that this Legislature must stand as a beacon of accountability and integrity. It must be an example to all institutions, entities, and departments within our province with clean governance.

Clean governance is not merely a target, Madam Speaker, but a moral responsibility. This is because clean audits reflect the credibility of our financial statements. The credibility that can only be achieved through sound financial management and strict adherence to the prescripts of the law, especially in areas such as procurement and contract management. They are statements on how faithful we as custodians of public

resources use the people's money to advance our constitutional mandate within the bounds of legality.

Madam Speaker, allow me for a moment to remind Members of what we already know. We are an oversight body; this implies that we must lead by example. Turning to the parliamentary service programme, Madam Speaker. This is the heartbeat of the Legislature; it demands our focused effort and our unwavering commitment; yet during the quarter under review, a few targets were not achieved. The under expenditure of 18.8% in this program is concerning, yet we urge all role players to tighten their coordination and ensure that resources are efficiently utilised to realise every planned objective.

Equally worrying, Madam Speaker is underperforming in implementing House resolutions. While the Legislature may not bear sole responsibility, we, nonetheless, call upon relevant portfolio committees and units to double their efforts. Reports generated after oversight visits must not gather dust; however, they must trigger action. Oversight without implementation, Madam Speaker, renders our efforts meaningless. We, therefore, urge the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to keep a close watch on departmental action plans and ensure that resolutions of this House are honoured.

To those sub-programs that performed well, we say keep the momentum. Leadership must continue providing the necessary support to sustain this positive trajectory. Madam Speaker, it is concerning that the planning and development subprogram had no targets set in the quarter under review. Planning is not a luxury; it is the backbone of achievement. We urge that this gap be covered in the next quarter. On a positive note, we commend the research service unit for achieving all its targets. An informed Legislature, Madam Speaker, is a powerful Legislature. Research enhances policy development and enriches our decision-making. Leadership must continue supporting this vital function.

Priority must also be directed to underperforming programs, particularly programs for strategic planning and knowledge development services, which have lacked the most. Furthermore, the over expenditure on compensation of employees raises red flags and requires a thorough explanation, as does the under expenditure on goods and services. Madam Speaker, the auditor general raised several concerns, amongst them is poor financial management and weak record keeping, particularly travelling expenses, such as the unauthorised and irregular purchases of two vehicles for the Speaker, exceeding the treasury threshold. We call upon the Speakership to expedite the investigations and report back to this House with transparency.

Madam Speaker, Essop once wrote, "Being a good example teaches others to be good". How then can we, as an oversight body, demand clean audits from the departments when we, ourselves, fall short? Let us set a bold goal that at the end of this 7th Legislature, every department achieves a clean audit. We must further extend our support to municipalities, for without clean governance, service delivery continues to suffer.

Madam Speaker, the question before us is: what kind of living legacy are we displaying as an oversight body? And equally important, what example do we wish to set for those who follow? Our actions today will echo far beyond this chamber. They will define the

standards of governance, accountability, and integrity in our province. Let us therefore choose to be remembered as a Legislature that led with honour, that upheld the rule of law, and left behind a legacy of clean governance, worthy of the trust our people have placed in us.

Lastly, Madam Speaker. Emerging issues concerning this Legislature are currently attracting media attention. They must be addressed urgently because our institutional reputation and integrity are at stake. The communication unit must act swiftly to clarify facts and protect the credibility of this House. Therefore, Madam Speaker, with due consideration to all these matters. I move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]. Ndi a livhuwa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa Vhothovele Midiyavhathu Tshivhase. Zwa zwino ri do humbela Mulangadzulo Dokotela Makoma Grace Makhurupetje uri vha de vha fhindle mbilaelo dzo disiwaho. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I wanted to find out what happened to DA Members. I saw them packing their bags and leaving.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I would not know. They just bowed and went out. Thank you very much, we will check that. Over to you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much to the Deputy Speaker, who is the presiding officer for the session today. Let me greet the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba in her absence, she did apologise because she has a meeting with the AG; greetings to all the MECs present here, the Chairperson of Committees and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip and all the Members of the Whippers, and all honourable Members of the Legislature including the opposition led by Hon Mapoulo and all other Members.

Deputy Speaker, let me appreciate the debates by honourable Members led by the Chairperson, Vhone Singo, Muhulisei Midiyavhathu Prince Kenedy Tshivhase, vhone vhe vha netshedza muvhigo. I am not going to tackle the issues one by one, because Hon Matoboge said a mouthful. He has raised issues where there are issues, he has indicated where we can do better, and we appreciate that, because he was very specific.

The Chairperson has done the same thing; he has given all the outcomes. There are a few things that I can talk about. Firstly, Members are raising the issue of targets in the 2024/25 financial year. You will remember that that is the year in which we took over in the middle of the year, when all targets were approved were approved in the beginning of the year. We had to live with them, despite the challenges that we had, such as the fact that we had elections when we took over. We have presented in detail to the

committee as something that we need to deal with, which is why we are improving in the first quarter. We commit that, going to the second quarter, we will be able to make sure that there is a correlation between the performance of the targets and that of the budget.

Secondly, another matter that I need to deal with relates to the clean audit that has been taken away. It is something that we are not proud of, but we are happy that we got an unqualified audit opinion. What makes us happy is that we got an unqualified audit opinion with less unwarranted wastage is because there was a change in senior management leadership.

Members will remember that Dr Maake only came on 01 November, which was in the third quarter of the year. Two months later, the CFO left towards the end of the financial year, as a result, some of the information that would be required, especially in the preparation of the annual financial statements could not be corroborated in a manner that it would be corroborated, because some of the matters were previous year matters. For example, we had to meet with the AG so that we and the AG are on the same page in understanding what might have really caused the audit outcome.

I will not refer to the issue of a vehicle that they are talking about, because it is a matter under investigation. The other previous related matters that I am talking about are, for example, if the Legislature has not budgeted according to the requirements of the gram. The Legislature is supposed to budget money on an annual basis for Members who are supposed to exit the system; if they do not do that and just pay everybody, it becomes an issue for the audit.

Another matter that is related to the audit is the fact that we are utilizing an office that belongs to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and we are not paying anything. The matter was raised in the previous year as an audit matter that we needed to report on, and we needed to quantify all the services that we use as revenue, because we are not paying anything. We must quantify everything that we pay for. Unfortunately, this was not done in the previous years, and it was their own omission, as the AG, and they acknowledge that.

When we put that into the annual financial statement, we were told to put the amount only and not the relationship we have with the Department of Public Works. Some of the figures that were not properly captured, and the notes that were there; for example, some of the issues relate to licences. Licences were put as intangible assets, when we were supposed to put them as pre-payments because it is a one-year thing, and when it is a one-year thing, you cannot put it like that.

Once you do not write what the AG wants completely, and you are forced to amend your annual financial statements, it reduces your clean audit to unqualified. We are not saying that there are no problems. There are issues of controls; the controls are a serious matter in the institution, and we are putting those controls and systems in place so that we do not have the same experience as the one we had this year. Dr Maake and the new CFO, who has been appointed, cannot come back and tell us why they cannot deliver clean audits, because they have all the time now; we are only on the second quarter. They must correct whatever they need to correct.

I agree with you. I will stand here and account for anything other than a clean audit in the next financial year; that is a commitment that I am making, and I hope that they are listening. I am going to do everything in my power to make sure that we go back to the glory we used to be.

Hon Marx and Hon Baloyi, who stood for Hon Molapo in his absence, have raised issues tša mabarebare, and I am happy that the chairperson has responded to them adequately. Ro livhuwa nga maanda mudzulatshidulo, you have responded. We came to the oversight mechanism. We presented that there are issues that are troubling the Legislature, we mentioned those things by name, and when the investigation reports are complete. We come back to the same oversight mechanism because when you do investigation reports, the first reference point is the oversight mechanism.

We will come and present, and unfortunately, we can't deal with Mavharivhari zwino, because we cannot interfere with investigations when they are happening. We will come with a full report at the right time about all the matters that you have raised, such as mavharivhari, of the car, and other things.

It is our wish that this process is completed by the end of October so that, when we close for November, we will have gone to the oversight mechanism and presented the report accordingly, and we will be able to go to the media at that time because the matter would have been finalised, which includes the matter relating to the disciplinary processes. We subject them to a process that is legal, called dis-sub judice. Allow space, those matters will be attended to with the speed that Members are expecting them to be addressed.

Deputy Speaker, I stand here to indicate that Limpopo Legislation is an institution and an agent for transformation that strives to defend, strengthen, deepen, and maintain democracy. We are therefore required without fail to be a representative and consultative body, a vanguard of people's aspirations and interests towards a democratic, non-sexist, non-racial, united and prosperous South Africa and society in Limpopo.

For me to commit myself, I had to stand in the words of Amilcar Cabraal, and I believe in those words, when he said, "Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies wherever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures, and claim no easy victories". We believe in that, so mabarebare will come to an end at some point when the real truth comes out.

We will do everything in our power to preserve the performance excellence in this Legislature, promote good governance and safeguard the purse, and ensure that money is accounted for and all our targets are achieved, because we must set an example with everything we do, and it is in our interest to set an example. We will never fail the committee; we will come as and when you want us to account to make sure that we are able to account accordingly to the people of the province through this sitting.

On that note, Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the chairperson of the committee, Singo, Muhulisei Kenedy Midiyavhathu Tshivhase, vhone vhane vha ri ifai nda fa. Ri ri khavho ri khou livhuwa nga maanda for the leadership that you are providing all the time, and all your committee members. I might not mention you by name, Hon Marx and

Hon Molapo, you are very helpful in that committee, and we are learning a lot from you as a team, Legislature. We are not coming here to pretend as if we know all; we are coming to you to say this is the state of our institution, and you always advise and guide us, and we will continue to learn. On that note, we can assure you that we will continue to come and account for the people of Limpopo to know that the Legislature is in good hands.

Presiding officers led by the Deputy Speaker, Chairperson of Committees, Hon Mokone; Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Chief Whip, and the Deputy Chief Whip, we are in good hands. The support that we receive from you all the time makes us feel like we are at home, that we have a mother to cry on, and we feel like we have a father to cry on. Together, we will rebuild this institution to the highest level.

Dr Maake, the COO, Mme Kgomo, Ntate Makgopa, and CFO, Ntate Mabote, the risk unit, and the internal audit unit; I know that I will call at midnight when we are trying to finalise the annual financial statements. The good thing is that the Legislature is not outsourcing; we do it internally. What we need is to just perfect the system. Continue doing the hard work, and ensure that you and I, Dr Maake, are not accused of being Doctors because we worked hard. I worked hard. So, my title is very important, but my title cannot overshadow the work that I do. My title will never make me spend the money of the Legislature in order to achieve that; that will not be acceptable in this Legislature. It must never happen again, and I will follow up on the matter later to make sure that if indeed there was money of the Legislature that was used, it is recovered accordingly.

On that note, I take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Legislature. Chairperson of Committees, when they say that we have not achieved all targets, it is because it has been a bumpy road, but together, we are now on the same page. With you, the Legislature can be able to function better because if the committees are not supported, if the committees are not working, obviously, all of us are going to fail.

The Legislature would not be able to run, and the departments would not be able to account. We will continue to make sure that we support and our offices and doors open for you as and when you encounter challenges. I am happy with those chairpersons who are able to call when they experience challenges in committees to say, Speaker, here we are being failed, so that we are able to intervene at all times.

There is a matter that has been raised by the committee, and I know that Members are worried about: the issue of international trips. The EFF should not complain. The first trip that we organised was a trip to Rwanda, and the delegation of EFF was part of it. They wrote out a formal letter from their party indicating that they will not be able to attend. Unfortunately, they did not tell us that they would be attending the other trips. By the time they wanted to send somebody on the next trip, it was already too late because the delegation was finalised.

We agree that there are delegations that are not chosen by the Legislature, for example, the commonwealth. When I attend the Commonwealth, I go in my capacity as the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker goes there in her capacity as the Deputy Speaker, and the Secretary in his capacity as the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We can add other people, but these three are supposed to go. This year, I decided that I was not going to attend any trip, but I was summoned because we are

led by the Speaker at the national level. It was by choice that I was not attending; there were many issues that were supposed to be debated in Gambia because it was an international debate.

So, in Africa, we needed to go and raise certain voices. So, I had to be instructed by the Speaker to say, We need you as the leader of the delegation to go and join the delegation. Initially, I was not supposed to be part of that delegation; they were led by the Deputy Speaker. So, I must indicate that the CPA must not be confused with anything, and it has a number of delegates. Those who went to Gambia, Rwanda, and America were part of the CPA program. Those are Legislated and regulated, and I agree that the inclusion of the opposition will be done.

On the study tours, the money is there. Our wish is that by the time we finish the year in March, you will have left with the budgeted ones. The approval has been made. What we are left with is protocol; they were finalising with the Department of International Relations, because we need a go-ahead from the Department of International Relations. We will push them to make sure that, if there are those who can still go this year, we will make sure that they go, but others must be ready between January and February to find out when you will be able to attend your study tours.

On that note, I take this opportunity, ka Khelobedu ke re, ke leboga mošomo o mobotse o Lekgotlatheramelao le o dirago. Di profense tše dingwe di a leduma. Le seke la tšwela pele le bona o kare le a palelwa. O tla dula o ithoga ka lapeng la gago, o nagana gore o a palelwa. Other provinces come here to learn, and they continue to call me every day to learn how we do things. Continue to do the good work. Re a leboga. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Ke dzwaa dzweo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, Ngaka Grace Makhurupetje, as you come back here and continue with the sitting. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Members. We are now proceeding with the order paper.

8. Response to parliamentary Questions

We are now proceeding to item 8, which is parliamentary questions. Honourable Members have raised questions.

8.1 Q40-2025: For written reply. We are informing you that we have received a response from the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture. The matter is now removed from the question paper of the Legislature.

8.1.2 Q70-2025. For a written reply has been received from the MEC of Health, and the matter has now been closed because it has been removed from the question paper.

9. NCOP Business

We now proceed directly to item 9, which is NCOP business.

9.1 The Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration on the Public Service Amendment Bill [B13D-2023] by the committee chairperson, Hon Phokane. He is coming to present that Report.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to yourself, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; the Deputy Speaker, Premier in absentia, Leader of Government Business, MECs present, whippers, office of the Chairperson of Committees, Leader of Opposition Parties, and my fellow honourable Members present here.

Hon Speaker, I move on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration that the Public Service Amendment Bill [B13D-2023] be adopted as an official report of the House. Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any second to the report? It is over to you, Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Inkomu manana Xipikara, ndzi yimela ku seketela leswi nga vuriwa hi Mutshamaxitulu wa Komiti ya Photifoliyo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. We have received a request from the MEC and Leader of Government Business that all MECs are supposed to meet with the AG at 15h00 and requests that they be released, but we need to know. However, the next debate affects the Leader of Government Business more than us, because the policies are going to affect you in terms of a lot of things. You are released; I am just not sure if all of you are leaving. Maybe you can remain behind for a little while because we will be finishing soon. Thanks. Can we request the chairperson to proceed with 9.2?

9.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration on the Public Service Management Bill [B10B-2023]

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I move that the report on Public Administration Management Amendment Bill [B10B-2023] be adopted as an official report of the House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now move directly to the Speaker's List and allow Hon Nempumbuluni Nthabeni Colbert to open the debate for the first Bill, which is the Public

Service Administration Amendment Bill. You don't have 14 minutes; you have 10, and you don't have to utilise all of them.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, Chairpersons of Committees, Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, in particular the Whippery. [LAUGHTER], Leader of Opposition and Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, we are embarking on a journey to totally professionalise public service. In the words of Thomas Woodrow Wilson, who is regarded as the father of public administration by most scholars. He described public administration as government in action, emphasising the need for efficiency, professional skills, and also the separation of administration from politics to create a merit-based system. In terms of Chapter 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, public service administration must be governed by democratic principles and values enshrined in the Constitution.

Public Service must be broadly representative of the South African Citizens with employment and personal management practices based on ability, objectivity, fairness, and the need to redress the imbalances of the past in order to attain broad representation. Services must be provided to the people, impartially, fairly, equitably, and without bias. The element of transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, accessible, and accurate information.

In February 2024, the National Assembly of the Republic of South Africa adopted the Public Service Administration Management Bill. This adoption marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance the element of professionalism, efficiency, and responsiveness of the public service and administration in South Africa. The Public Administration Amendment Bill introduces provisions aimed at enhancing administrative powers, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and improving efficiency in the public service.

These reforms align with President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa's vision for a professional, efficient, and ethical public service as emphasised in the State of the Nation Address. Similarly, the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill also seeks to harmonise critical aspects of public administration across all spheres of government. The Bill emphasises the improvement of state capacity and capability through the transfer and secondment of employees, the promotion of ethical standards for public servants, the reconfiguration of the National School of Governance, the removal of disparities in conditions of service, and better coordination of the determination of conditions of service for all employees in the public administration.

The bill's purpose is to amend the Public Administration Management Act 2014 so as to further provide for:

- the transfer and secondment of employees,
- clarification regarding the prohibition against employees conducting business with organs of state,

- the National School of Government to be constituted as a government department,
- removal of employment disparities across the public administration,
- the coordination of the mandating process for collective bargaining in the public administration
- and to also amend the schedule so as to effect certain amendments and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The bill also seeks to strengthen governance, enhance the capacity of public administration employees, and ensure fairness, transparency, and equity across all spheres of government. The committee received oral submissions during the public hearing and written inputs from various stakeholders after the public hearings, which were conducted across all five district municipalities in the province. Stakeholders were informed of the purpose of the bill with emphasis on the clauses identified for amendment.

The majority of participants expressed support for the bill, while raising the following key concerns:

- Ensuring that transfers and secondments respect workers' rights
- Clarity on the roles of HODs versus MECs in employee management and
- Timing and fairness of job advertisement and interviews

On 20 June 2025, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration considered the Public Administration Amendment Management Bill, including briefings from the NCOP Permanent Delegates and the Department of Public Service and Administration. Following the briefings and public hearings, the committee resolved to undertake further deliberation on the bill and prepare a negotiation mandate.

The Public Administration Management Amendment Bill was then referred to the Limpopo Legislature by the National Council of Provinces. The Legislature, in turn, referred the bill to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and to confer a negotiating mandate on the NCOP permanent delegates.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, having considered the bill, stakeholder inputs, and public submissions, recommends that the Limpopo Legislature confer a final mandate to the NCOP Permanent delegates to vote in favour of the Public Administration Management Bill to pass it into law. Therefore, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I move for the adoption of the report. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE].

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Nempumbuluni's debate already covers 9.2. We will allow Hon Willson to proceed, but the person who will come on 9.2 will be doing 9.1. There was just a swap from the ANC, which I don't think is a problem.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Public Service Amendment Bill [B14b/ 2023] was referred to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature by the National Council of Provinces. The Legislature, in turn, referred the bill to the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration for consideration and to confer a negotiating mandate on the NCOP permanent delegate.

The bill seeks to amend the Public Service Act 1994, Proclamation No 103 of 1994, in order to:

- support provided for the devolution of administrative powers from executive authority to heads of departments,
- strengthen the role of the director general in the presidency and provide to the President,
- establish a mechanism for the recovery of overpayments or remuneration and benefits,
- clarify the role of the Public Service Commission in relation to grievance management,
- clarify the role of the President and the Premier regarding appointment in career incidents of heads of departments and
- to provide for related and consequential matters.

The bill aims to enhance efficiency, accountability, and transparency in the public service, while ensuring fairness to employees. The committee conducted public hearings across the five district municipalities of Limpopo Province. Overall, the committee noted broad support for the bill and noted concerns on clauses 11, 14, and 16 related to HOD powers, acting appointments, and employment dismissal procedures.

On 10 September 2025, the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration considered a negotiating mandate of all the provinces, and seven provinces supported the bill. The C-list of amendments adopted on 16 September 2025, forming part of the D version, further noted that the select committee confirmed that concerns were addressed on the C-list.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, having considered the bill and stakeholder submissions, recommended that the Limpopo Provincial Legislature confer a final mandate to the NCOP permanent delegate to vote in favour of the Public Services Amendment Bill [B13d/23], noting that clauses 11, 14, and 16 should be duly considered and addressed during the negotiations in the NCOP. The DA supports this recommendation. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We now hand over to Hon Mapoulo. Hon Mapoulo, it is over to you.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Nempumbuluni, “whipper” and Whipper. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje.

Hon Speaker and colleagues, the EFF rejects the provision of clauses in the bill in the current form. It lacks the transformative elements of change in public administration in South Africa for the better. The transfer of employees is a matter of great concern to workers; if it is handled well, it could boost morale, support family stability, and workplace productivity. The provisions within the bill, as it stands, could do the opposite, and the result is unnecessary mitigation.

There must be a clear provision providing for the transfer of employees, which would require the concept of the request of the effect of employees, and that transfer would not cause a break in service or result in the conditions of service being negatively affected. Unless agreed to by the employees. This is a matter of great stress to many workers, and unless it is adequately addressed, it will continue to be a thorn in the flesh.

The bill's provisions and regulations were relevant, prohibiting public servants from doing business with the state. There are many officials in government doing business with the state despite the existing policies that prohibit them from doing so. The lack of consequence management by the government exacerbates or compounds this problem even more. This bill is not aggressive enough in terms of addressing the issue of officials doing business with the state.

The state must be cleansed of the cancers of corruption and state capture that have become endemic throughout the state at all levels. Public service depends upon a state geared towards the needs of the poor and working class and cannot be a hotbed for entrepreneurship or corruption. Hon Speaker, the culture of throwing javelins is deeply embedded in our state, where senior management and other officials would award lucrative contracts to private sector companies and promptly resign to join such companies. That is a great javelin.

The EFF has been addressing the crisis of unjustifiable disparities within the public administration for many years, whilst nurses, teachers, police officers, and countless other public servants work under very trying conditions. There were senior management in the public service, entities, and municipalities who were paid exorbitant salaries. These huge disparities are worrying because the people who do the actual job on the ground get paid less, while those sitting in air-conditioned offices earn unjustified salaries.

The state must place limits on what senior management who fall outside these collective bargaining processes could earn, as well as enable the state to remove unjustifiable disparities. Furthermore, the ministerial coordination and the consent for government representatives involved in collective bargaining engagement in public service and local government are not clearly outlined in this bill. It is for these reasons that we reject the bill in its entirety, Dr Makhurupetje, the Speaker of the Legislature. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We do know that it is procedural for any party that is not in agreement to raise their objection. Their objection will be noted in the final mandate as and when it is forwarded.

We will now allow Hon Phokane to come and close the debate.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to talk on this matter of the Public Service Amendment Bill. Public Service Administration deals with the process and practices involving the management of public sector organisations and delivering services to the citizens. It encompasses a wide range of activities, including policy formulation, program implementation, and service delivery. The primary goal of it is to ensure that government services are accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the public.

On the other hand, public service administrators are responsible for developing policies and addressing societal needs and challenges. This involves research, stakeholder engagement, and analysis to create solutions that are effective. Hon Speaker, we need to indicate that a session was convened wherein the NCOP permanent delegate was able to brief the committee, inclusive of the administrators of the public service department, and out of that, they were able to clarify some of the clauses in the bill that need to be looked into.

This committee, Hon Speaker, was able to take the bill to the masses of the province for public hearings and inputs. I must also indicate to you that the purpose of the bill is to amend the Public Service Act of 1994, which thereby provides for the devolution of administrative powers from executive authorities to heads of departments. It is also meant to ensure that they augment the role of the director general in the Presidency to support the President and to also provide for a mechanism to deal with the recovery of overpayments of remuneration and benefits, to clarify the role of Public Service Commission in respect of the grievances and to clarify the role of the President and the Premier in respect of the appointment and career incidents of heads of departments and to provide for matters connected therewith.

These are the reasons in favour of the bill, Hon Speaker. As I have indicated that public hearings were conducted by the portfolio committee in the entirety of the province. All five districts were visited, in which stakeholders were invited, and stakeholders were able to make inputs into the bill as provided. The stakeholders were taken through all the clauses that were meant to be amended, and we are here to indicate that the people out there, who were consulted, were supportive of the bill with a few concerns, which were adequately addressed.

It is unfortunate that others decide to take a certain decision not informed by what the people on the ground have said. So, as the portfolio committee, we then supported that the bill be supported, and we were able to give a negotiating mandate to the permanent NCOP delegate. I must indicate, Hon Speaker, that there was a meeting that was convened by the Select Committee of Cooperative Governance and Public Administration in which we were invited, as the province and the majority of the provinces supported the bill. It is on that basis, Hon Speaker, that we are moving for the support of this bill. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We appreciate the closing debate. We now move to the debate on the Public Administration Amendment Bill [B10B/2023]. We now move directly to the Member who is opening the debate, Hon David Champ Sepuru. Please open the debate for us.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand on existing courtesy in the interest of time. Hon Nempumbuluni, I checked my dictionary to check on how to pronounce the word “Whippery,” and you were correct, it is whi-pe-ri. [APPLAUSE]. Thank you.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, I would like to report on the final negotiating mandate on the Public Service Management Amendment Bill [B13B-2023]. The public administration deals with the processes and practices involved in the public sector organisations and the delivery of services to the citizens. It encompasses a wide range of activities, including policy formulation, program implementation, and service delivery.

The primary goal is to ensure that government services are accessible, effective, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the public. On the other hand, public service administrators, meaning officials, are responsible for developing policies and addressing societal needs and challenges. This involves research, stakeholder engagement, and analysis to create solutions that are effective. The aim is to enhance efficiency, accountability, and transparency in the public service, while ensuring fairness to employees.

Earlier this morning, while we were enjoying breakfast, Hon Marx emphasised that officials must stay in their lane and politicians must call the shots. He was speaking directly to what we call “Political administrative dichotomy”, which proposes that there must be a separation of powers between politicians and officials. So, the Minister of Public Service and Administration, in February 2024, with the intention of addressing policy reform commitments and strengthening the public service, presented the Public Service Amendment Bill.

The object of the bill is to:

- amend the Public Service Act 103 of 1994,
- provide for the devolution of administrative powers from executive authority to heads of departments,
- augment the role of the director general in the presidency to support the President,
- provide for mechanism to deal with the recovery of overpayment of remuneration and benefits
- clarify the role of the Public Service Commission in respect of grievances,
- clarify the role of the President and Premier in respect of the appointments and career incidents of heads of departments and
- deal with consequential matters.

These reforms are crucial to improve accountability, address corruption, and deliver efficient public service.

The committee on public administration conducted successful public hearings across the five district municipalities in the province to sensitise the Limpopo citizens about the bill and allow them to make their contributions. The committee noted the manner in which the bill was broadly supported by community members, while highlighting concerns regarding clauses contained in the bill related to powers vested in the heads of departments, acting appointments, and employee dismissal procedures.

On 09 April this year, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration received briefings on the Public Service Amendment Bill from the NCOP permanent delegate in the Department of Public Service and Administration. The briefings were in relation to what transpired during the public hearings. Following deliberations and public hearings, the committee considered all stakeholder inputs and resolved to prepare a negotiating mandate for the NCOP.

The Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration met to consider a negotiating mandate for all the provinces. We are talking of a mandate from all the provinces, not political parties. Hon Speaker, it is pleasing to announce that 7 out of the 9 provinces supported the bill, including our own province, Limpopo. The Public Service Management Amendment Bill was referred to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature by the National Council of Provinces, and the Legislature, in turn, referred the bill to the portfolio committee and conferred a negotiating mandate to the NCOP permanent delegate.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration has considered the bill and stakeholder submissions and recommended that the Limpopo Provincial Legislature confer a final negotiating mandate to the NCOP permanent delegate to vote in favour of the Public Service Management Amendment Bill, and further recommended that all the clauses that were recommended for amendments must indeed be amended. The adoption of the bill underscores the commitment of the National Assembly to the vision of a capable, professional, and developmental state that serves the interests of the people of South Africa. These progressive reforms align with the National Development Plan, which prioritises the transformation and improvement of the public service.

As the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, we have adopted this report. Allow me, Hon Speaker, to request the House to move for the adoption of this report, as an official report of the House, and that a final mandate be conferred to the NCOP permanent delegate to support and vote in favour of the Public Service Management Amendment Bill for it to pass into law to become an Act. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. It shall be recorded that Hon Sepuru was adopting the amendment bill [B13D-2023] and Hon Nempumbuluni has supported [B10B-2023]; it must be recorded as such. We will now allow Hon Wilson to proceed.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The purpose of the bill is to:

- Amend the Public Administration Management Act 2014 in order to further provide for the transfer and secondment of employees within the public administration.
- Clarify the provisions relating to the prohibitions of employees conducting business with organs of state
- Provide for the establishment of the national school of governance as a national department
- Provide for the removal of employment disparities across the public administration
- Make provisions for the determination of conditions of service where such conditions have financial implications
- Amend schedules to affect consequential amendments and
- provide for matters incidental thereto.

The bill seeks to strengthen governance, enhance the capacity of the public administration employees, and ensure fairness, transparency, and equity across all spheres of government. We are happy with the fact that public hearings with regard to the bill were indeed held, and the majority of participants expressed support for the bill while raising the following concerns:

- Ensuring that transfers and secondments are consensual and protect workers' rights
- Clarity on the roles of HODs vs MECs in employment management
- Concerns regarding timing and fairness of job advertisements and interviews
- Maintaining existing bargaining arrangements under sections 17a and b, and the need for the harmonisation across all spheres of government

Following the briefings of public hearings, the committee resolved to undertake further deliberations on the bill and to prepare a negotiating mandate. The committee, having considered all the inputs, resolved to confer a negotiating mandate to the NCOP permanent delegate to vote in favour of the bill.

On 10 September 2025, the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration considered the negotiating mandate of all the provinces, and Limpopo and the majority of the provinces supported the bill. No C-list was tabled as there were no textual amendments required. The Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, having considered the bill, stakeholder inputs, and public submissions, recommended that the Limpopo Provincial Legislature confer a final mandate to the NCOP permanent delegate to vote in favour of the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill [B10B-2023]. The Democratic Alliance supports this submission. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Makamu, the Leader of Government Business, you are released because the AG must tell you what needs to be done. We need a clean audit in CoHGSTA as well, so we cannot delay you anymore. Thank you so much. We will now allow Mmakgabo Yo Mosehlana, Ntate Mapoulo, to come to the podium.

MR MAPOULO

Thank you very much, Dr Makhurupetje, our Speaker of the Legislature; MECs and my colleagues, MPLs, and the red berets. I think that it is I who said GNU, I must declare, and I think that the confusion would be registered very well because I am responding to the B13 now.

Hon Speaker, the EFF stands again to reject this bill. The bill does not go far enough in implementing the professionalisation framework adopted by the cabinet in 2022. This bill does not aggressively deal with the cadre deployment policy of the ANC which is responsible for the collapse of the state. There is still plenty of room for political corruption to enter decisions about who is appointed as HOD, and for that HOD to then promote those interests down to the administrative hierarchy into procurement decisions through their new authority over recruitment and appointment in the department.

The government's professionalisation framework underscores the significance of this matter. The task is not to depoliticise the administration, which should be the case, but to bring another form of cadre deployment disguised as progressive transformation through the back door. The Public Service Management Amendment Bill fails to professionalise public service in its entirety, and it leaves appointment and dismissal of senior officials to political actors rather than an individual body like the Public Service Commission. Furthermore, this bill has the potential to weaken municipal autonomy, imposing new regulations without sufficient consultation.

We are further concerned that there is some wording in this bill that appears to be optional instead of being mandatory, just like these commissions of yours, which you say that their recommendations are not binding. Hon Speaker, the bill is not progressive enough to address challenges of the public service, and it camouflages issues instead of addressing real issues, weakening the public service in South Africa.

Of most concern is the possibility of continued political interference in public service, which the bill does not seem to address. Truth be told, there is nothing progressive that this bill brings on board. What we see is duplication of old, stale ideas, which do not have the potential to change public service in South Africa. I am still giving you four minutes because you are hungry there, Dr Makhurupetje. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Leader of the Opposition, for really saving our time. We will now allow Hon Phokane to close the debate.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, we received the Bill from the Legislature, and we had a session with the NCOP permanent delegate as well as administrators of the public service and administration department, whereby they were able to take us through the processes and the clauses that need to be looked into in the Bill. We were able, Hon Speaker, to then ensure that the bill is taken for public input in all five districts of the province.

Stakeholders were invited by the portfolio committee on behalf of the Legislature to ensure that they have a bite in terms of the bill. I must indicate, Hon Speaker, that the stakeholders were able to engage with the bill. They were taken through the clauses, and they were able to engage on all matters that needed their attention.

This bill, Hon Speaker, has been brought to us because it was meant to:

- amend the Public Administration Management Act of 2014,
- further provide for the transfer and secondment of employees,
- provide clarification regarding the prohibition against employees conducting business with organs of state and state capacity capability through the transfer and secondment of employees,
- promote ethical standards for public servants,
- provide for the reconfiguration of the National School of Governance,
- provide for the removal of disparities in conditions of service and to afford a better coordination of the determination of conditions of service for all employees in the public administration.

Hon Speaker, we must be able to indicate as the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration that after the public participations, we came back and considered the submissions, both written and verbal and then decided to support the bill and we were then able to support the bill, and we were able to provide the NCOP permanent delegate with a negotiating mandate to support the bill.

Hon Speaker, we must indicate that, recently, we just had a session convened by the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration in which we meant to ensure that there were debates with regard to this bill. We must be able to indicate that the majority of the provinces supported the bill. It is on that basis, Hon Speaker, that the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration in Limpopo province would move that this Legislation adopt the bill and also confer a mandate to the NCOP permanent delegate to support the bill. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The debate is closed, and we have now given the mandate to the NCOP. I want to request the chairpersons of different committees to really consider the reports urgently as and when they are referred to them, because the NCOP will no longer allow any mandate that will be ratified after the debate, because of the litigations that we are experiencing on some of the things that were taking place before. So, let's make sure that we have public hearings on time so that we are able to get scheduled and get the mandate accordingly. So that we are able to do the right thing.

Thank you very much, the committee on public administration, we are starting to do things in the right way, it is very excellent.

Thank you so much. We will go to item 3.

9.3 Motion for the conferral of the final Voting Mandate to the NCOP Permanent Delegate. Over to you, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker, and good afternoon to honourable Members. I will stand on the protocols that have been established. Hon Speaker, now that the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration has tabled the reports on the Public Service Amendment Bill and the Public Administration Amendment Bill, and the House has adopted the reports with recommendations. I, therefore, move that this House give the authority to the NCOP permanent delegate to vote in favour of the bills and pass them into law in terms of Rule 234(4). I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

We shall now request support. Is there any seconder? It is over to you, Hon Sebopela.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the first motion as presented by the Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sebopela. The Chief Whip can move to 9.4. Over to you, Chief Whip.

9.4 Motion for the Ratification of the Designation of Special Delegates who attended NCOP Plenaries.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, House Rule 226(3) and the standing rules of the House read together with section 61(4) of the Republic of South Africa provide for the designation of special delegates when the House is not sitting. In line with this provision, the following Members were appointed to attend the below-listed NCOP Plenaries when the House was not sitting.

- Special NCOP Plenary to consider the following interventions in terms of section 139(1c) of the Constitution in the Knysna Local Municipality on 28 September 2025: Hon Ramathuba P C; Hon Makamu; Hon Sepuru DMC, and Hon Netshifhefhe K J.
- To consider the following transport mass debate on 07 October 2025: Hon Mathye S V; Hon Lebea K; Hon Nenguda D A, and Hon Shai M S.
- Questions to Cluster 4B Economies, Forestry, Fisheries, Environment, Employment, and Labour on 09 October 2025: Hon Matibe TB; Hon Mokaba MA; Hon Maringa VW, and Hon Matjomane GD.
- Questions to the President on 14 October 2025: Hon Ramathuba PC; Hon Monama GR; Hon Mmetle DJ, and Hon Ngobeni HP.
- Debate on International Rule of Law Day on 15 October 2025: Hon Kekana NG; Hon Kupa-Mabuza CR; Hon Rakgoale NC, and Hon Maringa VW.

- Questions to Cluster 4C, Economics, mineral, petroleum resources, electricity, energy, communication, and digital technology on 16 October 2025: Hon Matibe TB; Hon Mokaba MA; Hon Maringa VW; Dr Selane CBD.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this House resolve to ratify the appointment of the above-mentioned special delegates in line with the above-mentioned provisions. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder, honourable Members? It is over to you, Hon Nkonyana.

MR NKONYANA

Thanks, Madam Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. It is over to you, Hon Chief Whip.

9.5 Motion for the Appointment of Special Delegates to attend NCOP Plenaries

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the NCOP has scheduled hybrid Plenaries, and provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these plenaries. In terms of Rule 226(1), I therefore propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend the NCOP plenaries:

- Plenary to deal with questions to cluster 5A: economics, trade industries and economics and small business development on 28 October 2025: Hon Mokaba M A; Dr Selane CBD and Hon Mnisi GD
- Plenary to deal with a debate on Local Government Week on 29 October 2025: Hon Sepuru M C; Hon Machethe B and Hon Matjomane M A
- Plenary to deal with Questions to Cluster 5B: Economic, finance, and tourism on 30 October 2025: Hon Pheed M S and Hon Mokaba M A
- Plenary to deal with Questions to Cluster 5C: Economics, Public Works and Infrastructure on 04 December 2025: Hon Netshifhefhe K J and Hon Matjomane M A
- Plenary to deal with Question to Cluster 5D: Economics, communication, and digital technologies on 06 November 2025: Hon Monama G R; Hon Mokone T A and Hon Mohale M C

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder? I see that Hon Mnisi was raising her hand.

MS MNISI

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I am rising to second the motion as submitted by the Chief Whip. Thank you.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**THE SPEAKER**

Thank you so much. We are done; we are now on item 10. Are there any announcements? Over to you, Hon Ngobeni Hasani Peter. There is no longer confusion as to which Hassani this is.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. May I, through your indulgence, use the peatlands as used by the Chief Whip, so that all protocol is observed? I therefore rise, Hon Speaker, to make the following announcements:

- That all Members of the Legislature are invited to take the Legislature to the people, which is scheduled to take place from 10 to 13 November 2025 at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in Sekhukhune District at Peter Nchabeleng Sport Grounds.
- Immediately after this sitting, the programming committee is invited to the Speaker's boardroom for a quick meeting, and lunch will be provided at the level.
- The next sitting of the Legislature will take place on Tuesday, 28 October 2025, at 10H00 here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chambers
- That lunch will be served at the main committee boardroom

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable Members are informed that on the first announcement of taking the Legislature to the people, we will be considering to have a session with some Members some time next week and the date will be communicated so that we can brief you on the proposed content and format so that we can be able to assist the administration and Members can be able to give inputs on time before the scheduled date, so that logistics are done accordingly when Members are in agreement. You will be advised on the date that we think will be feasible.

10. ADJOURNMENT**THE SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. We will now proceed to the item that I think we have been waiting for. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the participants in the Legislature, from the Premier, all the MECs, Deputy Speaker who is here, Chairperson of Committees and Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Whippyery through, Hon Mokgonyana and Hon

Monama, Hon Mapoulo and your team and everybody in the opposition, including the DA.

The DA owes us an explanation as to why their Members left without saying that they were leaving. They just took their bags and left without indicating why they were leaving, as if we had done something wrong. We need to be clear about the reasons why the left, so that we can know if we have done something wrong.

Well done, honourable Members. We thank everybody in the public gallery and on social media. Indeed, this House stands adjourned to 28 October 2025 at 10H00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much. The sitting stands adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYER/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Good morning, honourable Members. Let me greet the Speaker; Premier; Members of the Executive; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Whippery; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Leader of the Opposition and all honourable Members.

We shall now go to item 2.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

I have five motions without notice. I will start with Hon Ledwaba. You may take the floor.

MS LEDWABA

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE LAW ENFORCERS FOR THE MULTIPLE
ARRESTS MADE IN THE FOUR DISTRICTS FOR DRUNK DRIVING**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that:

- The House notes that during the month, a total of 32 drivers were arrested for drunken driving. This paints a very bad picture because it means that our roads are not safe at all due to drivers' behaviour. If this behaviour is not nipped in the bud by traffic law enforcers, death and injuries on our roads will continue to soar.
- There must be zero tolerance to drivers who drive under the influence of alcohol. They must receive the harshest penalty to send a strong message to those who may want to behave the same way in the future. We cannot allow a few ill-disciplined people in society to endanger the lives of the innocent law-abiding citizens. The highest alcohol level recorded was 1,12mg per 100ml in the Mopani District.
- The breakdown of the arrests per district is as follows: Mopani District: 15 arrests, Capricorn District: 7 arrests, Vhembe District: 4 arrests, Waterberg District: 6 arrests. In the Sekhukhune District no arrests were recorded.

- We call upon the traffic officers to continue arresting people who drive under the influence of alcohol without any fear or favour. They have our support and must adopt a no-nonsense approach when dealing with these fellows who make our roads dangerous to drive on.

I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any seconder for the motion? Honourable MEC Makamu, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I stand here to second the motion which shows that the ANC government is definitely working, as commended by the Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Makamu. I shall now call on Hon Jacobus Smalle.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS-TALK]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Good morning to the Premier; Executive Members; and the House at large. Hon Speaker, I know that the motion has been seconded by the MEC for CoGHSTA. The motion appears to be very good if you have not listened to it in its entirety. In the motion the Member is talking about drunken drivers and we agree that this statement is correct. However, the Member in the same statement talks about the roads that the ANC has built which are not in order and that does not tally with her own message. On that basis, while we acknowledge the work done by the law enforcers, the issue of the roads contaminates the motion. As a result, the motion is objected. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Chief Whip, I don't know if I have heard her correctly. She said that our roads are not safe because of people who drive under the influence of alcohol, that is exactly what she said. She is not putting the blame on potholes or anything. She says that because of people who are driving under the influence of alcohol, our people are not safe on the roads, and the traffic officers are doing a good job by arresting those who drive under the influence of alcohol. That was her motion. That is what I have heard unless if I have missed that then we will ask the Member to submit the motion and we will check it.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Chair, if what you are saying is what she said, we will retract the objection and wait for you to read the motion. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you for that Chief Whip. Hon Smalle, the floor is yours.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**FINAL MATRIC EXAMINATION AND CHALLENGES THAT LEARNERS ARE
FACED WITH**
(Motion without Notice)

I move that this House notes with pride the thousands of pupils across Limpopo and South Africa who have embarked on their 2025 matric examination, a crucial milestone in their academic journey; acknowledges the challenges and disruptions that many learners face, including gang violence, bullying and inadequate learning environments, which undermine the ethos and spirit of a conducive learning environment; expresses concerns about the specific case of Caroline Tale Kolane, whose son is unable to perform optimally due to the lack of electricity at home caused by a burnt prepaid electricity meter box; and recognises the difficulties and hardships that our learners endure, often with remarkable resilience and determination.

It extends its unwavering support to our learners and educators who work tirelessly to overcome these challenges and achieve academic excellence. It calls on the relevant authorities to investigate and address the incidences of gang violence and bullying in our schools; provide adequate support and resources to ensure a conducive learning environment for all our learners; expedite the resolution of Caroline Tele Kolane's case and ensure that her son receives necessary support to complete his exams; and reaffirms its commitment to promote quality education and advocate for the rights and well-being of learners in Limpopo and South Africa.

I hereby move for the adoption of this motion. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Deputy Speaker, I stand to support Hon Smalle's motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I shall now call upon Hon Phokane.

MR PHOKANE

Thank you, Presiding Officer. Greetings to you Deputy Speaker; Speaker; Premier; MECs; Chief Whip and the entirety of his Office; Office of the Chair of Chairs and the entirety of the Members of the Legislature present in here.

**WELCOMING THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA ON
THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to welcome the announcement made by Statistics South Africa that the Limpopo province's Gross Domestic Product has outpaced the national average in 2024.

According to the Statistics South Africa report, Limpopo's real GDP grew by 0,9% in 2024, while the national GDP grew by 0,5%, which makes it the fifth-largest province by GDP per capita.

It is also worth noting that Limpopo has recorded the most growth outpacing affluent provinces like the Western Cape, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal.

This is attributable to the surge in the property market and growth within the financial services sector. You will agree with me that this is largely possible because of the ANC government's endless efforts to create an inclusive economy where all the citizens can draw value.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phokane. Is there any seconder to this motion? Hon Mmetle, you are recognised.

MS MMETLE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as proposed by Hon Phokane. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I shall now move to Hon Shai. Hon Shai the floor is yours.

MR SHAI

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

**AN ALERT TO POSSIBLE INCIDENTS OF FRAUD AND SCAMMING DURING THE
FESTIVE SEASON**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to notify the people of our beautiful province of Limpopo to be alert to the spike in possible incidents of fraud and scamming as we draw towards the festive season. As most people will be embarking on their journeys to different destinations, scammers and bootleggers will be on the lookout for possible targets to rob them of their hard-earned money.

It is our view, as an ANC in this august House, that our people should be alert to such elements and always be careful. The high proliferation of Artificial Intelligence has swindled a lot of people out of their money. Therefore, members of the public should be careful when interfacing with various internet platforms. Scammers will employ several methodologies to steal people's money, and as the ANC in this august House, we are calling upon members of the public to be extra careful during this time.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Shai. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Matjomane, you are recognised.

MS MATJOMANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Shai. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now move to the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Good morning once again.

THE DA'S ATTEMPT TO RUBBISH THE BROAD-BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT POLICY.

(Motion without Notice)

We have noted with utter dismay the DA's desperate attempt to rubbish one of South Africa's most progressive policies in the form of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, pronounced as BBBEE. In an attempt to grandstand for political expediency, the DA has announced some flimsy propositions towards the repealing of BBBEE. The DA, true to its character of hatred towards black people, sees the BBBEE policy has a threat to white dominance, hence they want to reverse and block the advancement of black people towards the attainment of economic emancipation.

Its shallow reasoning is that the BBBEE policy has not totally empowered the majority of black people in this country, which is not true. It is disingenuous for the DA to argue that BBBEE has not been beneficial to the people of South Africa because, in their shallow minds, this is the only piece of legislation that will put black business on an equal footing with their white counterparts. They are advancing this obnoxious

reasoning because, in their small world, black people should not be at the same level with white “baas”. The BBBEE policy has greatly transformed the economic landscape of this country, and its bias towards black people is an attempt to take the country’s economic fortunes and build an equal society. It is well on course, and the DA is acting out of fear of seeing black people being economically liberated.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. Is there any seconder? Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nkonyana. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, we object to the motion. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

May you at least give reasons so that we can move for your support.

MR SMALLE

Chairperson, it is the first time that we have had to give reasons to the objection of the motion but I will give reasons. Double B Triple E has created a R1 trillion investment pool to 100 specific individuals over the past years and the inclusive bill provides opportunities for partnerships with various public partnerships. I was just responding to the Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder for the objection? Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Presiding Officer, Hon Deputy Speaker. The reasons advanced are a debate about my motion, and my motion cannot be debated because it is not a statement; it is a motion. That is the first thing. Secondly, as frivolous as it is, that objection has been seconded. Can you please divide the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Chairs of Chairs, before I divide the House, do you want to say something?

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip says that the motion is not to be debated, but you allowed Hon Smalle to speak. I think we should also address him and tell him that we don't want frivolous issues here. What he is saying cannot be accounted for. Black people have benefited from BBBEE, and you know very well. So, I will take a cue from what the Chief Whip is saying. Maybe we might want to have a debate in this House about BBBEE so that we can tell them what we have done as the ANC to improve our people's lives. Thank you.

MR SMALLE

On a point of order...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members, there is a motion that has been read by the Chief Whip and has been rejected by the DA. We should now call upon those that are supporting the motion that has been raised by the Chief Whip.

BACKGROUND

Yay!

MR SMALLE

No, just hang on. Hon Speaker, if I may raise a point of order. It is just within the rules. Hon Speaker, I apologise if I did not hear the Hon Chief Whip well, but normally, if you wanted to call for a division or for a vote on it, you would have asked. If I missed that, I apologise. However, you can't call it; one of the Members should then call for it. My apologies if I did not hear.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You have missed that; they have called for the division of the House. Thank you. May we have those who are in support of the motion.

BACKGROUND

Yay!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

May we see those who are rejecting the motion.

MR SMALLE

Nay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The rejection falls away and the motion is recorded. Can we now go to the notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

I don't have any from my desk. Now we are going to the Members' Statements.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

I shall now call upon Hon Molapo. He is not in the House. Hon Baloyi, he is not in the House as well. Hon Magolo, you may come in on behalf of both of them.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker.

IRREGULARITIES AT MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (Members' Statement)

The following is the Member's Statement on Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality. Hon Speaker, the EFF has noted very bad things that are happening in Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality under the Waterberg District. It should be noted by this House that the last ordinary council meeting took place in this municipality at the end of July 2025. The Speaker is no longer capable of convening council meetings because she convenes meetings and cancels them while councillors are on their way to attend. In some instances, meetings are cancelled when the councillors are already in the municipal premises, resulting in fruitless expenditure because councillors claim for the kilometres travelled.

The Council approved the facilitation of a loan from a bank, but the municipality went to a service provider doing business with them to loan the money. This mashonisa company is not registered with the National Credit Regulator to offer loan services in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003). The municipality can only loan money from a registered bank. Furthermore, the Acting Municipal Manager acted for three months without concurrence from CoGHSTA. The Mayor refused to write the letters to CoGHSTA to obtain concurrence because he wants to do things outside the municipality.

Furthermore, the Mayor cancelled the services of the municipality through some officials without the approval of the Council. It is also concerning that the Mayor continues to interfere with the administration of the municipality. Hon Speaker, these bad things continue to happen unabated because it is normal in this municipality not to do things by the book.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Deputy Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker of the House. Honourable Members, the objective reality that obtains is that this is the Members' Statement that must be read by the very same Member. I will draw your attention to section 147 of the Standing Orders, which reads as follows: "A Member may give a notice of motion on behalf of the absent Member if he has been authorised in writing to do so by the absent Member or by the Whip of the Member's party." You will confirm this as the Presiding Officer. You called upon Hon Baloyi to come and read the Members' Statement, but I saw Hon Magolo. I just wanted to check whether the party concerned has authorised the Member to raise the very same motion that he has presented.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. From my desk I don't have the replacement; maybe it is with the Whippery, because this should be done through the Whippery. Chief Whip, you may confirm.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Chair, we confirm as the Whippery that we do not have such a request. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chief Whip. Hon Lebogo, are you standing in for Hon Mogoane as Whip today?

MR LEBOGO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I just wanted to confirm that our disciplined Member is authorised to communicate anything on behalf of the organisation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lebogo. You must hand over the authorisation to the Whippery. Thank you very much. We shall now call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**LEDET'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW PROCEDURES IN INTRODUCING BUFFALO
INTO THE NYLSVLEI NATURE RESERVE
(Members' Statement)**

During 2024, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) made a decision to introduce proximately 16 Cape Buffalo into the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve. Several serious concerns have been identified, primarily relating to the contact of the department in introducing buffalo into the reserve.

This includes noncompliance with the purpose of the Declaration Management Criteria and the management plans of the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve; inadequacies in the permitting processes to introduce and keep buffalo in the reserve; and noncompliance with the norms and standards for the management of protected areas.

The purpose for which the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve was declared, as set out in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands documentation and its management plans over the years includes: conservation of rare wetland areas and its fauna and flora; protection of more than 102 waterfowl species, including red-listed species that rely on the wetland for breeding and feeding; conservation and safeguarding of roaming antelope that depend on the floodplain; preservation of rare, vulnerable, and endangered indigenous plant species; and ensuring public access to exceptional bird-watching opportunities in South Africa.

Honourable MEC, the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No.57 of 2003) prescribes how protected areas must be governed. Section 40(1)(a) requires that the Management Authority must manage the area exclusively for the purpose for which it was declared. The introduction of Cape Buffalo into the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve is inconsistent with this requirement.

Section 41(b)(ii-iv) further requires compliance, which sets out the relevant legislation and regulations. This includes the Animal Health Act, 2002 (Act No.7 of 2002) and the association of animal disease regulations, which stipulate that no person may move or remove buffalo from one property to another without permits issued by the responsible State Veterinarian and all relevant authorities. All land on which buffalo are kept must also be registered with the National Director of Animal Health.

Honourable MEC, will the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve be used as a sanctuary for confiscated buffalo? Can the MEC guarantee that the buffalo are disease-free in relation to foot and mouth disease? Did the department follow all legal requirements and register the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve for the keeping of buffalo?

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I shall now move to Hon Kedibone Lebea.

MS LEBEA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. A blessed morning to the august House.

CONCERNS REGARDING DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS OF FLIGHTS AFFECTING CATEGORY 7 AT DRONE AIRPORTS

(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to express our concerns regarding the ongoing delays and cancellations of flights affecting Category 7 at drone airports in the Republic, including the Polokwane International Airport. Hon Speaker, we appeal to the government to expedite the process of acquiring approvals for the revised regulations from the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS).

These regulations, which are critical for enabling pilots to land safely during adverse weather conditions, expired in August 2024. The delay in issuing new ones is having an adverse effect on air travel in the country. The absence of the updated protocols has resulted in significant disruptions to flight operations, causing enduring frustration and inconvenience to passengers travelling to various destinations across the country. The situation does not require displays of self-promoting, egocentric, self-absorbed, or pompous behaviour in this regard.

We, therefore, call upon the National Department of Transport, as the custodian of the Air Traffic and Navigation Services, to speed up the process of revising and implementing the necessary regulations without further delay. Hon Deputy Speaker, the people of Limpopo and South Africa at large deserve a reliable and safe air transport.

I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lebea. I shall now call upon Members of the Executive to respond to the Members' Statements. I see MEC Baldwin Tshitereke Matibe, you are welcome to respond to the Members' Statements.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the Premier and the House at large. Hon Smalle has submitted these questions for written reply. I will implore this honourable House that we don't respond twice. We are going to respond in writing to the questions, as they have been put forward for written reply. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matibe. Do we have any other Member of the Executive Council? Hon Makamu, the floor is yours.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier; Members of the Executive Council; and the honourable House. I am here to respond to the Members' Statement in relation to Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality. Allow me to share the background of the Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality. It is the municipality that was under the leadership of the DA, with the help of the EFF.

BACKGROUND

[CROSS-TALK]

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Until such time during the term, we had an unfortunate situation: we lost a Mayor there. After that, both the people and the leadership of the DA and the EFF saw that they were running down that municipality, and they then agreed to hand it over to the ANC. Hence, the ANC has only 14 Councillors in this municipality, while the DA, FF+, EFF combined also have 14.

However, as we speak, we are busy correcting what I can call the mess that was created by that relationship. One of the issues is that the municipality has the highest Eskom debt, over R700 million, which we were not necessarily able to assist with. However, we are busy assisting.

Regarding the loan you referred to, you said it right here: we are doing the right thing by suspending the Municipal Manager (MM) for having gone out and making a loan from a service provider that is doing business with the municipality. So, the ANC led Councillors, under the leadership of the Mayor, are correcting the mess that was already there.

Regarding the Acting MM, without concurrence, the MM has the necessary qualifications but did not necessarily have enough experience. However, the municipality did not have any other person who could act in the position except the one who is currently acting. The person is qualified and has the necessary skills.

It was through the MEC for CoGHSTA that a letter was written to advise the municipality on the lack of experience of the Municipal Manager. All these things are happening as we try to correct the mess of the unholy relationship that existed in that municipality.

Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Makamu. I think that is all on the response.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We are now moving on to the Executive Statements, and we call upon MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you so much. Ndi masheroni. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker, Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip and the Whippers, Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of the Legislature; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education and members of the portfolio committee; ladies and gentlemen, ndi matsheroni.

I stand before this House today to deliver a message of confidence and assurance. The Limpopo Department of Education is fully prepared and ready to administer the 2025 National Senior Certificate examinations. Our readiness is the result of a deliberate and comprehensive strategy executed with precision. We have built on past successes to ensure that these examinations are conducted with the outmost integrity and efficiency.

Our preparedness rests on four solid pillars. On these four pillars, I should put it on record that in Limpopo we do not have any case of bullying. It is not happening in this province. The case involving the National Senior Certificate happened last week in the Western Cape.

The issues of Eskom have already been escalated to the Office of the Premier, particularly in the Mopani areas affected by load reduction. Our first pillar is that our personnel are ready. We have completed rigorous, standardised training of all invigilators and examination administrators. They are fully prepared to uphold the highest standards of examination security and fairness for every candidate.

Secondly, our systems are secured. The entire logistics chain for the distribution and safekeeping of all question papers and answer books is fully operational and fortified. Our protocols guarantee zero compromise from the central depot to every examination desk.

Thirdly, our oversight is active and vigilant. A dedicated team of monitors has been trained and is being deployed across the province. Their role is to provide real-time support, ensure compliance, and swiftly address any irregularities.

Finally, our learners are prepared and motivated. They have been supported throughout the year, and they approach this pivotal moment with focus and determination. We have immense confidence in their abilities.

Honourable Members, our confidence is well-founded, built on a consistent record of achievement and improvement. The excellence we celebrate through the National Teachers' Awards winners continues to drive quality teaching and learning in our classrooms, directly impacting learner preparedness. We have three educators who have achieved first place nationally amongst their peers. Notably, one of them was recognised as the country's number one in Mathematics FET, which affirms Limpopo's continued capacity to excel in that stream of teaching and learning.

In addition, our administrative engine is stronger than ever, empowered by a motivated team that has secured an unqualified audit outcome after many years of toiling. This discipline in governance is the bedrock of a credible examination process. We continue to build on the momentum from breaking the seven-year stagnation, with a steady increase on post-basket intake. This demonstrates to our current Grade 12 learners that their hard work opens doors to real and meaningful future opportunities.

In conclusion, a foundation has been laid, Hon Deputy Speaker. The systems are tested, our officials are trained, and our learners are ready. We can confirm, from the latest tally of survey results, that the most caring teachers are in Limpopo. [APPLAUSE] We call on our parents and communities to continue with their vital support. We wish

the Class of 2025 the very best as they prepare to write their future. We are confident that they will make our province proud.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya. We shall now move to item 6...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Speaker, you are recognised.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, Deputy Speaker. I think after the Executive Statement, you need to allow political parties to comment on it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

My apologies. I will start with the EFF. Hon Baloyi, you are recognised.

MR BALOYI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We salute the teachers of Limpopo, and we remain proud with the work they are doing under difficult circumstances. However, we call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development that, in the near future, they must work together with the Department of Education in advising those to whom they provide animal support. During this period, as learners go on camps, they need food. Such farmers must come on board to donate cattle, vegetables and other necessities. These learners come from different families, and some of them go there without food. We continue supporting the teachers and learners, and we wish all the best to the Grade 12 learners and all those who are going to write.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I shall now go to the MKP. Hon Jack, you are recognised.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we do not have any comment. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will now go to the FF+. Hon Moss, you are recognised.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The FF+ wishes to congratulate all the teachers. We wish the Grade 12 learners success with the examinations as they begin. We hope that everything runs smoothly and that there are no hold-ups with the exam papers or anything that might go wrong.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We will now go to the DA. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As in my Members' Statement, we have acknowledged the hard work demonstrated by our educators and learners across the Limpopo province. However, we understand the difficulties that a province like ours faces within the education system, noting the serious infrastructure backlogs that our learners encounter. Yet, they continue to rise, especially our special-needs learners across Limpopo, who make us proud and continue to produce excellent results at the end of year. We acknowledge those commitments.

We have also noted some concerns in our marking centres, which were raised by the Department of Education last year in the 2024 cycle. Fewer than 10% of the marking centres were monitored, and we ask the MEC to increase that monitoring system within our province. Together with Umalusi, we must ensure that we uphold and protect the standards at the end of the financial year going forward. At the end of the day, it is the future of our learners that we need to protect.

It is the province's capacity to produce results that we need to protect, so that we can stand by the Class of 2025; but not only the Class of 2025. All the learners from Grade R up to Grade 11 need our support. We tend to focus only on the latter part, but is the younger children, at the very beginning of their path, who struggle every day to get to school and study. Alongside them are parents who also re-do Grade 12 and Grade 11. Any parent who doesn't take up the academic class book is probably not a true parent, but there are many of parents who re-do classes together with their learners. I want to thank those parents as well.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will now move to the UAT. Hon Sebothoma, there was an Executive Statement and I just saw you coming in now. Do you want to comment?

MR SEBOTHOMA

The UAT abandons that. Thank you very much.

[LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I think that is because he has just come back now. The learners' future is all our business.

MR SEBOTHOMA

The UAT is not participating in this debate. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

It is noted. Can we go to the ANC now. Hon Rakgoale, you are recognised.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the ANC, we welcome the statement by the MEC. As the Limpopo Legislature, we are not expecting anything less than 90%. What we are simply saying is that we want to appreciate the work that you have been doing. We have seen you leading the team, traversing the whole province to ensure that our learners are prepared are ready for this examination.

We want to take this opportunity to wish our learners, the Class of 2025, all the best. I have already said that we are expecting nothing less than the best.

Hon Smalle, next time you must learn to say that we take it from the 2024 class and we expect 2025 class to bring us nothing but the best; especially because you are part of the portfolio committee and you have seen the work that has been done by the Department of Education in ensuring that all our learners are ready for 2025.

We want to thank all the teachers and the parents, as they are helping their learners, led by teacher number one; Hon MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya. With those words, we want to say we are expecting the best results, and we will be praying — including the pastor from UAT — for our learners to ensure that they are achieve the best results as a province.

Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We are now proceeding to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

There are no reports to be tabled, So we are proceeding to the Orders of the Day.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

We will now call upon Hon Kupa-Mabuza to deal with the adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much. Greetings to you the Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Whippery; Members of the Executive Council; together with all the honourable Members of this Parliament.

I, Bella Kupa-Mabuza, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, table the report for consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mabuza. I shall now call upon the seconder. Hon Rakgoale, you are recognised.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the presentation by the chairperson of the committee. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Rakgoale. I shall now call upon the chairperson. Hon Kupa-Mabuza, the floor is yours. Thank you.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I present the consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 First Quarter Report for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chairperson. I shall now call upon the seconder. Hon Nempumbuluni, you are recognised.

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Ndo livhuwa, Muhulisei. Ndo takutshela u tikedza jikumedzwa le ja swikisiwa kha ino Ndu I thonifheaho nga mudzulatshidulo wa komiti.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Chairperson, you may go back to your seat. We shall now proceed with the debates. You will come later to table other reports. Let me call upon Hon Mnisi Gloria Dzunusani to open the debate.

MS MNISI

Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker, Dr Grace Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana Essob; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; Whippery; Chairperson of Committees, Hon Thabo Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hasani Peter Ngobeni; Leader of Government Business, Hon Basikopo Makamu; Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties; honourable Members of this august House. Good morning. hi xewetile, ndi matsheloni. Goeiemôre.

Hon Speaker, it is an honour for me to rise before this august House for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report and the 2025/26 First Quarter Report.

Firstly, I want to say that the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development welcomes with relish the appointment of a woman HOD, Ms Mpho Mashamba, in the department. I hold a firm belief in the words of Margaret Thatcher: "If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman." [APPLAUSE]

Well done to the honourable MEC and the Premier for this achievement. George Washington said: "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man." You are not farmers yourselves but it is the responsibility of the department to make the environment conducive to farming in the province.

In any life, Hon Speaker; in any building, honourable MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development; in any race, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Kupa-Mabuza; and in all endeavours, honourable Members — how you begin is a very important component of your finishing, if not dependent on it.

The first quarter performance is the foundation of the annual performance. Therefore, it needs to be treated as important as the fourth quarter, just as the foundation of a house is important. With ample experience drawn from the previous financial year, together with new commitment, new energy, a new head of department and more hard work, Hon Speaker, let me take this afforded opportunity to reflect on the 2024/25 Annual Report in summary.

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has performed excellently for the year under review. The portfolio committee commends this achievement. Amongst the eight programmes that the department had to implement, six programmes have achieved 100%, while the other two programmes achieved 95% and 89% respectively.

The ANC appreciates the performance of its deployees and the administration of this sterling work. It should be noted that some programmes recorded minor underexpenditure and deviations due to factors such as contractor performance, scope

changes and unavoidable challenges such as climate conditions. The financial performance of the department for the 2024/25 financial year stands at 98,7% of its total Budget of R1,8 billion.

The appreciation of good work done by the department should not create complacency, because the expectation for the 2025/26 financial year is 100% performance; and we are convinced that it is doable. We cannot afford underspending on the most critical programme, popularly known as the Farmers' Support programme. Firstly, it takes almost 50% of the total Budget, mainly to offer much-needed support to emerging and commercial farmers.

Hon Speaker, the strategic focus of this department is food security, economic growth, and job creation through sustainable agricultural development. We, therefore, dare not to fail due to underspending. The ruling party did not only promise job creation through its manifesto, but the ANC is resolute in making it a reality through programmes like Farmers' Support. The focus of this programme is not just a wishful gesture, but a revolutionary intervention that seeks to address farmers' challenges so that they can thrive and create much needed-jobs and food.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee has noted some of the challenges that confront farmers in this province which are; lack of transport, free market access, inadequate infrastructure, skills gap and many more. Therefore, the portfolio committee employs the MEC to use every available cent to address these challenges which means we do not expect any cent to go back. We need all the money to address the challenges of our farmers so that they can continue to produce food and create jobs for our youth.

Hon Speaker and the House, the Auditor-General of South Africa has expressed an opinion on the performance of the department for the 2024/25 financial year, and the audit opinion remains stagnant at an unqualified audit opinion. As we commend the audit opinion, most importantly, we do so because it did not regress. However, we urge the department to address the issues and weaknesses raised in the audit report as well as the management report so that the department can move to a clean audit. The AGSA is very clear that there is improvement in financial statements, which pleases us. However, the outcomes on the predetermined objectives for scope programmes remain stagnant on the reliability of performance information, which is caused by the lack of conscious review and quality assurance by management.

Honourable MEC Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana, during her 2025 Budget Speech, reminded us that she committed and said: "We will put our hands on deck to implement Scopa and portfolio committee resolutions, the internal audit and action plan in order to attain a clean audit, moving from stagnant unqualified audit opinion." The ascension of the honourable MEC is complimented by the aspiration of the portfolio committee, which also validates the fact that the department has been stagnant on an unqualified audit opinion for many years. What we need now is a change; and that is a clean audit. The achievement of a clean audit is not rocket science.

Hon Speaker, the 2025/26 first quarter performance of the department is not speaking the same language as the MEC's speech. It is a point of concern to the portfolio committee. We would therefore like to request the MEC to reflect on the matter of underachievement in the first quarter and come up with a catch-up plan which is realistic

and tangible to ensure that the situation speaks to the commitment. The department must maintain strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to safeguard financial performance, norms and standards, and curb the signs that might impede the achievement of a clean audit; more especially in veterinary services on animal health as well as technical support services. Programme 3 has become a problem child for the department, and in the first quarter it was joined by programmes 6 and 7.

Hon Speaker, allow me to use this opportunity to appreciate our chairperson, Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza, for her sterling leadership, energy, and commitment, which are motivating to all of us. [APPLAUSE]

As I gravitate towards conclusion, Madam Speaker, allow me to share a prayer in agriculture: “We pray for those who grow, prepare, and distribute the food that we eat. As they try to achieve the impossible, grant to them a sense of their part in the poise and balance of all life. May they be vigilant for our safety and for the quality of what they produce.” – Unknown author.

The portfolio committee on Agriculture and Rural Development supports the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report and the 2025/26 First Quarter Report to be the reports of this august House. I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mnisi, ha khensa. I shall now call upon Hon Velile Cyril Jack.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Speaker, and honourable Members in the House. My special greetings to the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza; greetings to the leader of the MKP in the gallery, Cde Ngobeni; and greetings to our esteemed guests and fellow citizens

The theft of land and mineral resources is the root cause of poverty and unemployment. In the Seventh Administration, as the Premier always says, izinto zizakutjhuguluka, we hope that in the Seventh Administration things really change. Things should turn around. Agriculture in schools has long been preached, yet there are still no agricultural activities in the majority of schools in the province.

The department needs to integrate with the Department of Education to initiate this programme, as well as provide an update on the migration of Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka Agricultural Colleges to the Department of Higher Education. This will enhance the impact of agricultural studies and activities, equally fostering interest in agriculture in young people. Interest in agriculture is escalating and promising for food security. However, we need the department to host seminars for emerging farmers, like Cynthia, the potato farmer from Bochum, who is doing everything by herself.

The seminars will not only empower them but will also assist in providing marketing strategies to improve access to domestic and export markets. On the key projects that the department is supposed to focus on, it seems they are failing to resuscitate the

Lebowakgomo Abattoir and the Zebediela Citrus. These projects are necessary for job creation and economic development, and we need them. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile Jack. We shall now call upon Hon Sebothoma Matsobane Jump.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Kgotso, MaAfrika.

We rise today not only to consider departmental resolutions but to address Africa's transformation in the sacred fields and rural heartlands that sustain our people. Today we speak with the voice of Pan-African dignity, drawing strength from the spirit of ubuntu and the inexhaustible hope of the African child. As members of the UAT, we see agriculture not merely as commerce but as the living core of African sovereignty. The land beneath our feet is the cradle of dignity; the seed in our hands, the promise of Africa's future. Our rural communities must stand empowered; never dependent, but forever resilient.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we affirm the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the progress achieved in line with the will of the House. The revival of the Makgoba Tea Estate under community ownership is more than economic renewal; it is ubuntu realised, creating work and wealth for the many, not the few. The Mariveni Citrus Cooperative, led by 23 visionary local farmers, now exports to Japan, Europe and India. This a proud Pan-Africanist triumph, rooted in community excellence. In addition, we should also export under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and uphold the vision of leaders such as Kwame Nkruma, Patrice Lumumba, and Muammar Gaddafi for a United States of Africa. We observed with satisfaction the disciplined use of Letsema.

However, we vehemently condemn the spearheading of the EPWP. Our state is not yet ready to give our people permanent opportunities compared to this new liberal protocol, and land-care grants are already fully utilised after years of struggle. Most importantly, the inclusion of 706 small scale farmers, 536 of them women, honours African women as the true cultivators of our continental food security. These victories are ubuntu in motion: when one community rises, all are elevated.

However, we must speak with candour, because not all the fields have flourished. The Lebowakgomo Abattoir once promised an economic anchor, but it remains unfinished; an emblem of lost hope for local poultry farmers.

The Zebediela Citrus master plan is visionary but remains bound by red tape, awaiting strategic partners who never arrived. Our agricultural colleges, Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila, remain in bureaucratic limbo. Their migration to higher education delayed - and with it, the dreams of young African agriculturists.

Persistent audit findings remind us that accountability is not a luxury but a duty. When droughts, floods and pestilence strike, too often our farmers are left waiting for a relief,

as the Provincial Treasury lacks a dedicated contingency fund for agricultural disasters. This is not only a systematic shortfall but also a failure of empathy. Ubuntu teaches us to feel as the people feel and to act with compassion and urgency when the land cries out.

The Pan African...[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Nkonyana, is that a point of order?

MR NKONYANA

Thanks, Deputy Speaker. No, it is not a point of order. We would like to know if the Member is willing to take a question.

MR SEBOTHOMA

No.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sebothoma. You may proceed.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We call upon this House to champion a Pan-African agricultural vision where Limpopo joins hands with other provinces and SADC states, forging cross-border value chains in citrus, tea and livestock. We further call upon this House to institute the ubuntu accountability framework, measuring officials not by paperwork but by their human impact: jobs created, youth empowered, and communities uplifted. We call upon this House to establish a provincial government resilience fund so that when the SASA visits, farmers are not beggars, but partners in the economy.

We call upon this House to accelerate the migration of Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila, transforming them into beacons of African agricultural excellence under higher education, producing scientists, thinkers, and innovators. We call upon this House to restore CPAs and land reform projects, ensuring that land is not only returned but managed democratically and productively by the communities themselves.

In conclusion, transformation must be more than a report; it must live in the hands of our people — every smallholder, every youth who chooses the soil, every woman who leads a cooperative. Let our policies embody ubuntu: I am because we are. Let agriculture be our liberation; let Limpopo not only feed itself but nourish Africa. United Africa Transformation advances the Pan-African agricultural rebirth with ubuntu and accountability as our core.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sebothoma. I shall now call upon Hon Moss.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of opposition parties; Members of this House and guests.

The FF+ has considered the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Behind the polished numbers lies a pattern of underperformance masked by technical compliance. The department spent R1,788 billion of R1,8 billion, reflecting a 98,7% expenditure rate, and claims 90% target achievement. Yet, for five consecutive years, the audit outcome has remained merely unqualified and not clean. That means the figures add up, but the evidence does not. The AGSA identified material misstatements in programme 3; the very programme meant to support the producers, while the departmental information system still cannot reliably track, verify, and report the results. That is not progress but stagnation.

Hon Speaker, an unqualified audit without clean governance is not a success; it's an alarm bell. The department must stop celebrating the absence of disqualification and start pursuing integrity in reporting. We are equally concerned about the R38 million underspent in CASP. These funds should have trained graduates, provided inputs, and supported post-settlement projects. They did not reach the ground. The excuses are familiar: slow procurement, nonperforming service providers, and endless roll-overs, while farmers face drought, pests, and rising costs with no relief.

Every unspent rand is a failed promise and a missed opportunity for food security. There are 55 incomplete infrastructure projects, some carried over from prior years. Oversight requires accountability: each project needs a completion date and a responsible official. Limpopo cannot continue tolerating half-finished buildings and perpetual extensions while service delivery exists only in progress reports.

The AGSA also cites weak internal controls, unreliable performance data, and inadequate consequence management. These are not minor administrative issues; they are failures of leadership. The department must also account for the SIU inquiries into cash irregularities. Findings cannot be buried; they must lead to disciplinary action and financial recovery.

Hon Speaker, agriculture in Limpopo cannot survive on good intentions and recycled explanations. Farmers need delivery, not declarations. Reports that sound successful while the ground reality does not change are not service delivery; they are misrepresentation. Agriculture is not about reports and workshops; it is about the farmer, the field and the future of food security in this province.

Let us also be clear: agricultural jobs are vital to Limpopo's rural livelihood. Even if the sector's GDP share appears modest, that is where the family earn, skills are built, and communities are anchored. Agriculture remains pivotal to our rural development.

Turning to the 2025/26 First Quarter Report, the picture repeats. The department spent R411 million — only 21,5% of the annual Budget — leaving 78,5% untouched while farmers contend with drought, pests and input shortages. The department itself

attributes underexpenditure in goods and services and capital assets to slow procurement, weak contract management and failing service providers. The Red Meat Support programme reached 1,075 of 1,662 targeted farmers because fleet deliveries were delayed by a supplier.

How many more reports must carry the same excuse before there are consequences? These are not statistics; these are farmers who did not receive the promised support. Mentorship sessions were postponed because mentors were unavailable. Graduates resigned due to the absence of a retention strategy. This is not how you build capacity in a province that depends on it.

Planning inconsistencies are equally troubling. The department report achievements not scheduled for the first quarter; 759 farmers assisted through disaster relief and 42 research presentations. Either planning is inaccurate or reporting is opportunistic.

We need clarity. Are these genuine early deliveries backed by profiling, or a reshuffling of numbers to create an appearance of success? The SL and Sons Farm vandalism incident, allegedly involving a beneficiary's family member, raises further questions about how state-assisted projects are monitored. These are public investments, and the departments must ensure that they are funded, protected, productive, and properly managed.

Yes, veterinary services worked hard on disease control: over 1,700 disease samples were collected and dipping sessions more than doubled. However, success in one corner does not excuse complacency elsewhere. In many areas, broken or absent fencing still compromises the red-line disease control zones; an ongoing and serious risk. The department's habit of rolling over projects, underspending on capital, and blaming service providers must end.

Hon Speaker, agriculture is not about the quarterly targets or PowerPoint slides. It's about livelihoods; farmers who feed and employ thousands in this province. Until this department delivers on time and to specification, the people of Limpopo will continue receiving promises on paper instead of action in the field. The FF+ will continue to expose inefficiency, demand accountability, and insist that public funds serve the people for whom they are intended to. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Moss. I shall now call up on Hon Helm Maria.

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you, Hon Premier, in her absence — she was here just now, so I also greet her this morning. I would like to greet all our MECs; thank you very much for being here. I know you are very busy, but it's always good for us to see you here. Our chairperson of the committee, thank you very much for your leadership. It's very good to be in this committee.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the GDP for Limpopo in the second quarter of 2025 is promising at 0,9%. That may seem promising, but in reality it is very low. However, if we look at

the rest country, we have really achieved something. The main contributors are finance, personal services, and the utility sector. It is very concerning that there are many challenges faced by three of the province's main economic drivers; mining, tourism, and agriculture. We all know that 0,9% GDP is hardly enough to lift our province out of economic stagnation and the morass of unemployment, poverty, and inequality in which it finds itself. One thing is for sure: for Limpopo to succeed, agriculture must succeed. The question I ask is, is the department succeeding, and what impact is this department making?

The department has maintained an unqualified audit opinion for five consecutive years, which on the surface reflects basic financial control. In reality, it reflects institutional stagnation. The department's failure to progress to a clean audit underscores deep-rooted internal control deficiencies and persistent weaknesses in performance reporting. Material findings in programme 3, which is Producer Support, again point to unreliable data, poor evidence management, and weak performance monitoring; a direct contravention of public service regulations.

The absence of integrated performance information systems represents a structural governance failure that places the department at risk of audit regression. The department reports a 98,7% budget expenditure and 94,6% revenue collection for the annual statements, largely from asset disposal. While superficially impressive, these figures mask serious implementation failures. The underspending of R38 million in CASP, which only achieved 85,8% expenditure, reveals not prudent management but planning deficiencies, weak executional capacity, and chronic service provider under-performance. I think we can all agree that service provider under-performance is a serious threat for all departments in this province.

Deferrals of training, procurement delays and failure to manage key suppliers point to system management breakdowns, not isolated administrative hiccups. High expenditure does not equal effective service delivery. We see relatively good spending but without the effective delivery. While the department spent 87% of its infrastructure budget, with 56 projects completed, 45 remain unfinished. Persistent contractor delays, maintenance backlogs, and budget rollovers are evidence of poor infrastructure delivery planning. More troubling is the theft of R102,68 million in IT assets, which exposes critical internal control and asset management failures. The inability to safeguard basic infrastructure reflects an environment of weak accountability and poor control discipline. We are witnesses of bottlenecked delivery and failures in control.

Programme 3, the largest budget line, remains plagued by underspending and reporting irregularities, reflecting ineffective governance. The star of our province, veterinary services and research, are exceptions. I know they are not perfect, but they have achieved high outputs despite resource constraints, demonstrating that pockets of operational excellence exist. However, these are not systemic. I must also note that this department, specifically, has prevented an outbreak of foot-and-mouth-disease for the past few years, and it's this pocket of excellence that made that possible. Rural development continues to be chronically underfunded, despite its strategic importance for land reform and communal agriculture.

Hon Speaker, structural constraints remain entrenched. Rising input costs and deteriorating infrastructure erode delivery capacity. Poor communal resource

management, weak restitution land reform coordination, and limited market access undermine economic impact. Disputes in CPA communities are legendary, and it seems there is no solution in sight. In effect, they cannot truly become drivers of economic growth through agricultural projects. Recurring irregular expenditure of R78,5 million shows that compliance failures remain embedded despite years of scrutiny.

What we see are systemic challenges and structural weaknesses that continue to exist. Speaker, as the DA, we see high reported achievements but little transformation, growth, or productivity. It is the same people receiving support over and over again. It has been alleged that one farmer can receive funds in his or her name, while siblings and children also receive funding for the same family entity, leaving others without support. For some time, we have requested a list of all those who receive funding for each of the available programmes. We need to empower as many farmers as possible and must move away from supporting a select few.

We see CASP and infrastructure programmes suffering from weak planning, poor monitoring, and operational fragmentation, pointing to weak institutional capacity. We see repeated audit findings and SIU probes, which point to chronic failures in accountability and consequences management. Beneath the veneer of stability lies a failing government and system. We see a department that spends, reports, and complies, but fails to deliver real transformation and development. Sadly, we see little to no assistance rendered to our successful and trailblazing commercial farming sector; food-producing, food-securing, exporting, and employing.

Serious challenges that the department fails to address, and this is important, include stock and produce theft, as well as equipment theft. Support that does not give farmers a market advantage is ineffective and there are fixed times for ploughing support. A farmer that asks the department to assist with ploughing in October is not assisted. Farmers who have the land and water and want to plant earlier are refused support because the department only supplies tractors at certain fixed times.

The first quarter is the first quarter for the Seventh Administration. Initiatives to show that this Administration is different are not forthcoming. During this quarter, the department spent a total of R411 million or 21,5% of the total Budget. That is too low. It is critical that the department improve its budget performance in sustainable resource use and management, which is now 21%, as well as agricultural produce support and development, which is now 22,2%.

Budget performance of agricultural economic services is at a very low 16,4%, and rural development is not much better at 18%. Again, we must commend veterinary services for their hard work in keeping foot-and-mouth-disease out of our province., We have conducted oversight, and under immensely difficult conditions they have continued to do their job well. We thank them for their support. The department achieved 42 out of 46 targets, a 91,3% achievement rate. Only two programmes didn't achieve 100%, and that is good, but the department must up its game.

If the department can improve in the programmes of agricultural producer support and development, as well as agricultural economic services, the second quarter can promise very good results. The DA congratulates the department on building 12 animal handling crush pens. This is vital equipment for livestock farmers, and on their behalf I would like

to say thank you. By providing practical support to farmers, we can assist in improving the livelihoods of people. One farmer normally has a very big influence on his whole community. Let us focus on making things better. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Helm. I shall now call upon Hon Malemela Dumisani. He is not in the House. Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Chair, I wanted Hon Magolo to get to the podium first before raising my point, because we can't remove him when he's there. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. We will again refer to our Standing Rules and Orders of this House, because they are very important. This Rule is made to control and manage attendance at the Sittings of this House, and if left unimplemented, it will defeat its purpose.

I will read it again, as the Deputy Chief Whip has read it before. It is Rule 112, which states: "Acting for an absent Member: a Member may take charge of a motion or an order of the day in the absence of the Member in charge, if he or she has been authorised in writing to do so by the absent Member or by a Whip of that Member's party."

Unless, Deputy Speaker, we have that authorisation in writing, you cannot allow the honourable Member to proceed with the debate. If not, the Member who is on the podium must come and sit with us. These seats are very nice. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The notice that I have here is not from the Member who was supposed to debate. It's a note from the honourable Member who is replacing the one who was supposed to debate. These are the two notes I received regarding the replacement of Hon Mogoane and Hon Malemela, but they were submitted by the Members who are replacing them, not by the Whip or the absent Members themselves. Unfortunately, Hon Magolo, we must follow the Rules. Thank you very much. Hon Lebogo, you are recognised.

MR LEBOGO

Deputy Speaker, we are noting the Rule as articulated here, and I doubt if nullifies the position that we took in our caucus. We resolved that those who are here are able to communicate like this. We note, perhaps, the error which might have occurred; that your office was not informed in line with what is stipulated.

However, it will be injustice to the people of Limpopo to be denied what the EFF wants to say here, because we are here and we did not mandate ourselves. We have been mandated by the organisation. Hence, we have these official organisational documents. Any other issue, we will alert our Whip to then interact better with the situation in the near future.

It would be wrong for us to leave here as if we came as spectators. We have full speaking rights as Members designated by the organisation, and you can, after this Sitting, check with the organisation if they did not deploy us. Therefore, allow us to speak. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Deputy Chief Whip, let Hon Smalle come in, and you will come after him. Then we conclude on this matter.

MR SMALLE

Honourable Chairperson, the Programming Committee is responsible for the Orders of the House in a Sitting like this. As much as I hear the sentiments of the honourable Member, we must follow the Rules. Even when we want to do motions and statements, and when we put the Speakers' List before the House, we inform the Speakership and the Whippers of those people beforehand.

Even if there's an apology by the Member who is not here today, we inform the Speaker beforehand. You made a ruling, and I would appreciate that we stay with the Rules, because once we start deviating, we are going to have an unorderly session. As long as we treat all Members equally, and all parties equally, so be it. Thank you, Chair.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I think, to some extent, I'm extensively covered, but I believe the decorum of the House also allows them to make the necessary submissions. It's not as though we are depriving them of the opportunity. There are established protocols that must be adhered to. We can't bend the Rules because of their negligence or their absence in the House. That's our submission, Chair.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Hon Lebogo, I didn't want to be the bad one. Unfortunately, we must adhere to the rules. I wanted Hon Smalle and the Deputy Chief Whip to remind you about our adherence to the rules, because we cannot change that now. Thank you very much. Can we then proceed to the chairperson of the committee, Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Chief Whip; Members of the Whippers; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members; and my Acting MEC, I would like to say good morning.

Madam Speaker, allow me to address this august House today for the purpose of considering and adopting the 2024/25 Annual Report and the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development. The governing party in our province, the ANC, through its Agricultural Policy, particularly the core pillars, has set out land reform, with the aim of redistributing land to Black South Africans. In addition, the agriculture and agro-processing master plan focusses on building an inclusive and competitive agricultural economy.

Support for smallholder farmers is aimed mainly at fighting poverty by promoting household food security, boosting rural employment, driving economic growth, and strengthening food security. Agriculture should be recognised as one of the potential drivers of economic activity that can contribute massively to job creation and ensure food security for the nation.

The final pillar is infrastructure development, with a focus on improving facilities for farmers and providing access to inputs such as soil analysis and fertiliser, particularly for small-scale farmers.

The applicability of these core pillars, as alluded to above, is almost evident everywhere in our government today. To cite one example in our province: the departmental programme 3, which accounts for agricultural producer support and development, responds to a core pillar that addresses support to small-scale farmers. The relationship between the policy and how our government should respond to it is mutual and collaborative.

In the ANC Today of 14 to 20 March 2025, there was an article titled “*Agriculture is a Vital Part of Our Growth Story*.” It was written by the ANC President, Cyril Matamela Ramaposa. He mentioned something interesting on international market access and job creation in the sector. He said: “According to data from AgriBIS, last year South Africa's agricultural exports reached a record of \$13 billion. These exports comprised 44% to other African countries, 21% to Asia and the Middle East, 19% to the European Union and 6% to the Americas.” He further pointed out that the sector is a major source of employment. By the end of 2024, approximately 924,000 people worked directly in agriculture, and over 200,000 worked elsewhere in the agricultural value chain.

That relates directly to the work that we are confronted with. It shows that we are on track. We request the Executive Authority, from time to time, to encourage the administration to push harder in its responsibilities, in order to work diligently and be part of the transformation of the sector, supporting farmers for the full realisation of food security as well as job creation.

The 2024/25 Annual Report reflects programme performance; whether overachieved or underachieved; measured against departmental targets. In areas where we achieved moderately against the target, we commend and applaud wholeheartedly. We say: keep up the good work in areas where we overachieved. In areas where we underachieved, we know for sure that explanations exist, such as climatic conditions, contractor underperformance and disaster responses. Underachievement is synonymous with underspending, while overachievement is linked with overspending. This overall picture will affect the goal of achieving a clean audit.

Hon Speaker, as alluded to above, it seems the CASP grant, which is the largest conditional grant, was the primary contributor to underspending. They managed to utilise 85% of R272 million, leaving R38 million unspent. It was further explained that the underspending resulted from the postponement of training for unemployed graduates to the 2025/26 financial year. We use CASP as an example: of course, there are other factors which the department is quite aware of. Going into the next financial year, we urge the leadership, in particular the management, to prioritise and act on this matter.

On capital projects, the department invested R130 million in infrastructure projects during the financial year under review. A total of 52 projects were completed across the district, while 55 are still ongoing. The focus areas of the projects are mainly irrigation, livestock infrastructure, college upgrades, veterinary laboratories, and district offices. Without necessarily mentioning all the projects, it is reported that those still lagging behind will be completed in the next financial year.

In response to Hon Jack regarding to our colleges: the migration of colleges is still underway, spearheaded by the National Department of Agriculture. The delays were due to the policy framework and institutional arrangements. They were still awaiting the finalisation of government policy and the regulatory framework on how colleges will be managed once transferred to the Department of Higher Education. I hope, and I know, that since they always attend the meetings, they have that report.

A portfolio committee has recommended that the department establish an Infrastructure Project Management unit, which will create a centralised unit with technical experts to oversee planning, procurement, and execution of capital projects, thereby addressing chronic underspending and contractor delays.

On the Auditor-General, the department has been stagnant for five years with an unqualified audit opinion. In all those years, recommendations were put forward to assist the department in resolving issues. In this financial year under review, there are some improvements, but equally there are areas that are regressing. The department should champion for a clean audit culture. The Accounting Officer should lead a monthly clean audit steering committee to enforce compliance, address audit findings pre-emptively, oversee resolution tracking, and instil accountability across all management levels.

The 2025/26 First Quarter Report indicates elements of both overachievement and underachievement, attributed to challenges in different programme areas. The factors of underspending and overspending have resurfaced, and if not confronted promptly by the Accounting Officer, they will perpetuate stagnation or even regression of the audit opinion. One example of underspending is the delay in red meat support. The department must enforce contractual penalties and immediately initiate processes to source a reliable and alternative service provider.

As His Excellency, the President of the Republic, Hon Cyril Ramaphosa, has indicated regarding international market access and the sector's potential for job creation, it is evident that through CASP and the Farmer Support programme, where smallholder farmers work alongside commercial farmers, many jobs can be created in our beloved province.

Madam Speaker, we request the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to arrange a summit for all emerging farmers in our province before the end of this financial year. The purpose is to hold a session that will recharge and empower them. We also request the department to invite stakeholders and entities such as Eskom, to assist farmers in energising their boreholes as they struggle with energy; SAPS, for safety purposes; the Department of Water and Sanitation, to address water rights issues, since farmers constantly report that they lack them; and the Department of Rural Development, for land matters. We are certain that out of this summit, many issues will be resolved, and our farmers will double their efforts, as President Matamela Ramaphosa has said: "Agriculture is a vital part of our growth story." Ke a leboga, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza. Honourable Members, we are going to allow the Acting MEC, Hon Mashego, to respond after the debates have been concluded. So, Hon chairperson, you are supposed to come back and continue with item 7.3.

7.3 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

Hon Mabuza, the stage is yours. Thank you.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you once again, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me thank Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; Hon Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Chief Whip; Hon Deputy Chief Whip; and the Whippery.

I am Bella Kupa-Mabuza, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. I am here for the consideration and adoption of the report on the oversight visit to Merensky Agriculture Academy on 04 June 2025. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS SEBOPELA

Ke a leboga, Motlatša Mospikara, ke ma go thekga Pego ya Ketelo ya Tekolo, go ya Merensky Academy. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Ms Sebopela, from the Whippery. Chairperson, you may continue.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

I am here for the consideration and adoption of the Report on the Oversight Visit to Tshilwavhusiku Secondary Cooperative Farming in Vhembe District on 28 April 2025. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Ke ema go thekga se se boletšego ke Mohlomphegi Kupa-Mabuza ka ge ke be ke le fao. Ke bohlatse bja nnete bjo a bo fa go.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ke a leboga, Ms Mokaba. Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much. I am here for the consideration and adoption of the Report on the Oversight Visit to Kopano Disabled Drip Irrigation Scheme and Tafelkop Farmers Association in Sekhukhune District on 18 June 2025. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Sebopele, you are recognised.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise once again to second the adoption of the report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Honourable chairperson, you may proceed.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

I am here again for the consideration and adoption of the Report on the Oversight Visit to Dimani Agricultural High School and the government-assisted chicken house project in Vhembe District. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MNISI

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the report that has been presented on the oversight visit to Dimani High School by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mnisi. Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Lastly, I am here for the consideration and adoption of the Report on the Oversight Visit to Raletjane and Nkukeng projects in Blouberg Local Municipality on 23 July 2025. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the ANC, I support the honourable chairperson of the committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. We shall now proceed to the debates. I now call upon Hon Hasani Ngobeni, the Deputy Chair of Chairs, to open the debates.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Hon Premier; Deputy Chief Whip; Members of the Whippers; Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Mokone; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members; officials from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development led by Ms Mpho Mashamba, the HOD — and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on this responsibility; distinguished guests in the gallery; and the people of Limpopo. Good afternoon.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is an immense honour and privilege to rise before this august House to contribute to the consideration and adoption of the consolidated oversight reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Allow me to begin with a line from Ben Okri's poem *An African Elegy*, and I quote: "In the beginning there was a prison."

It is my considered view, therefore, that this evocative image captures the initial state of our committee; confined not by physical walls, but by the absence of knowledge, clarity, and grounded understanding of the realities on the ground.

I must also recall the words of Aimé Césaire, who spoke for times such as these when he said: "Beware, my body and my soul, beware of assuming the sterile attitude of the spectator, for life is not a spectacle..."

It is this crude realisation that precipitated the absolute and urgent need to break free from the prison of not knowing, to go to the ground, and to deduce the empirical evidence. In this regard, and with reference to the above firm association, our committee has diligently fulfilled its constitutional mandate of oversight over the past months, traversing the province and visiting catalytic projects that are brimming with potential.

The visits to Tshilwavhusiku Secondary Cooperative, Kopano Disabled Cooperative, Tafelkop Farmers Association, and Dimani Agricultural High School were conducted to assess the exogenous impact of public investment, to understand challenges on the ground, and to ensure that our agricultural support programmes are effective engines for job creation, skills development, and rural economic growth.

Allow me to provide this august House with some findings of the committee.

We begin with the Tafelkop Farmers Association in Groblersdal. This is a flagship cooperative farming initiative on 191 ha, divided among 32 farmers, including nine women, one youth, and two persons with disability. Through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has invested approximately R55 million in fixed infrastructure, including irrigation systems and shade nets.

This substantial investment has enabled the cultivation of high-value crops and currently supports 64 permanent and 320 seasonal jobs at full operational capacity. This project has the potential, the sharp propensity, to employ 128 permanent and 640 seasonal workers, a significant contribution to our provincial economy.

However, infrastructure alone is not sufficient. The association faces critical challenges, including but not limited to: lack of working capital, difficulties in accessing formal markets, the absence of a pack house for value addition, and the inability to use title deeds to secure credit. Our committee, therefore, recommends that the department enhance its support beyond infrastructure to include financial mechanisms for operational costs and to assist in facilitating formal market linkages.

We further visited Kopano Disabled Cooperative in Marble Hall, a project that truly embodies the principle of inclusivity and the indomitable human spirit. Indeed, as a human race, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible. This 178 ha farm, owned by 11 members including 4 persons with disability, has received over R12,5 million in historical government support. It is now poised for growth with a further R13 million injection from the CGA Job Fund, enabling the development of 29,5 ha of citrus.

The department's recent CASP support of R6,7 million for the 2023/24 financial year provided critical irrigation infrastructure, a balancing dam, and a pump house. This project has already created 13 permanent jobs and 10 temporary jobs.

The primary challenges are of a long-term nature: the immaturity of the orchards, which will take years to reach full yield; the financial burden of loan repayments; and a heavy reliance on export markets, which carries inherent risks. Vandalism is also a concern.

We recommend sustained multi-year support, assistance with market diversification, and help in securing an electric perimeter fence.

Dimani Agricultural High School in Shayandima has a proud and rich history, dating back to 1978, which serves as a crucible for our future farmers. The department has commendably completed more than 1,000 chicken capacity broiler houses, providing invaluable and much-needed practical skills for 1,478 learners. Yet, this new facility stands in stark contrast with the school's dilapidated old infrastructure, including its piggery and nursery.

The project is further hampered by a lack of operational budget from the Department of Basic Education, unreliable water supply with only one of the three boreholes functional, and a reliance on EPWP parolees due to a shortage of dedicated farm staff. Our committee urgently recommends a collaborative intervention between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Basic Education to refurbish the old facilities, secure sustainable funding for operations, and resolve the water crisis. The school is an investment in our human capital and must be treated as such.

Hon Deputy Speaker, finally, the Tshilwavhusiku Secondary Cooperative in Makhado represents a vibrant collective of 90 farmers. The department has responded to their needs with a R9 million infrastructure project currently underway, which includes a pack house, cold rooms and irrigation system — key assets for accessing formal markets such as Peppadew International.

Their most significant barrier, however, is access to water. The exorbitant cost of R36,000 per farmer for a geohydrological report is a prohibitive barrier to obtaining water licences. Without this, their production capacity remains severely constrained. Our key recommendation in this regard is for the department to engage with the Department of Water and Sanitation to explore subsidising or waving these costs, and to continue investing in climate-resilient infrastructure such as solar power.

In conclusion, the projects we visited beam with promise and purpose. They demonstrate that with strategic public investment, agriculture can be a growth engine for economic development in our province. They have enormous capacity to create jobs, foster skills, and enhance food security. More than that, the people of this province are resilient: radiant like the baobabs that stand towering through drought and storm, rooted in hope.

The eminent son of the soil, the most venerated leader, the pantheon of his generation, front-rank combatant and a Robben Islander, Andimba Toivo ya Toivo, is quoted as saying: “I have come to know that our people cannot expect progress as a gift from anyone. Progress is something we shall have to struggle and work for, and I believe that the only way in which we shall be able to secure that progress is to learn from our experiences and mistakes.”

Frankly, our future is for greater and brighter than our past and present. We still premise our conviction on the fact that today is better than yesterday, and surely tomorrow will be better than today.

I, therefore, move that this House considers and adopts the oversight reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Thank you very much for your kind attention. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni. Hon Jack Velile, the stage is yours.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. All protocol observed.

Hon Speaker, the legacy of land theft remains the root cause of inequality. Our oversight visits highlighted contrast that underscores deeper issues of inequality and poverty. The difference between the privileged and the marginalised communities is evident in the opportunities afforded to them.

Agricultural schools like Merensky and Dimani High School exemplify this gap. Merensky Agricultural School boasts superior facilities, offering learners hands-on experience with various animals and plants, making it easy to facilitate practical learning. Dimani High School struggles with a conducive environment as well as equipment. The recent addition of a chicken house is a step forward.

However, significant gaps persist, and our learners deserve equal opportunities to excel. We appreciate the department for stepping in. The Tshilwavhusiku Cooperative exemplifies that unity is power. Participants correlate effectively, demonstrating potential growth. However, without agro-processing equipment their progress is hindered. Procurement of such equipment is critical to unlock job creation, and drive industrial revolution.

Peppadew International's model in Nkowankowa, where they produce and process their products for global export, could be replicated in Tshilwavhusiku to enhance local economic impact.

On the Potato Belt projects, Nkukeng requires a storage facility to preserve the potatoes and prevent damage due to the weather conditions. This will enable the production of a market-ready product that will be easier to market and export globally.

Agriculture is the root of food security. We need to transfer the necessary skills for sustainable food production. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile Jack. Hon Nkonyana, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Hon Velile Jack might be out of order for not greeting Cde John Ngobeni. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Whippy. He is laughing in the gallery, so he is fine. He's okay with that. Can we now call upon Hon André Moss. Hon Jump Sebothoma will not be participating in the debate today.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties; Members of this House; and guests.

Hon Speaker, the FF+ values oversight because it tells the truth beneath the glossy reports; the truth that farmers, learners, and rural families live within. In 2025, the Legislature's oversight visit shows that plans are approved, budgets are spent. However, the real impact remains delayed, diluted or simply unfinished. It's a cycle that repeats year after year, and it must stop.

Let's begin with Merensky Agriculture Academy in Tzaneen, meant to be a flagship for agriculture, education, and skills development. On paper, this should have been a success story; a modern facility preparing the next generation of farmers and technicians. In reality, the project took 11 months just to move from planning to construction. Then, when equipment finally arrived, it was incorrect: battery cages instead of the planned barn-rearing systems.

As a result, the school had to rewrite its curriculum to fit the department's mistakes. Instead of empowering educators, the project forced them to adapt to bureaucratic blunders. This is not just inefficiency but waste, and it shows a disconnection between planning officers and the people expected to teach and deliver results on the ground.

In Dimani Agricultural High School in Vhembe, the picture is even more worrying. A brand-new 1,000 capacity broiler house stands proudly, but without even the most basic biosecurity measures: no footpaths, no disinfection zones, and no record-keeping. It is bluntly noncompliant with environmental and animal welfare standards. The surrounding infrastructure is collapsing.

The piggery and nursery are deteriorating, and out of three of the boreholes only one is functional. There is no veterinary support, no operational budget, and no extension officer assigned to the school. What is most disappointing is that learners are spectators, not participants, in the very project designed to give them practical skills. We cannot build the future of agriculture by locking learners out of learning.

Dimani is a symbol of a system that builds structures but forgets to fund their purpose.

Now to Blouberg Potato Belt, where we saw two sides of one coin: success and struggle side by side. At Raletjane farm, we saw what can happen when bureaucracy steps aside and competence takes the lead. This farmer employs over 120 seasonal workers, the majority of them women, and has formal supplier agreements with Simba and Peppadew International. Part of the farm's profits are reinvested in community irrigation

projects for nearby schools. This is a proof that agriculture can uplift when allowed to work.

The infrastructure is solid: functioning boreholes, a pack-out facility, a cold room and equipment purchased through public and private partnerships. This is what value for money looks like when the system is functioning.

However, success has limits when government support is half-built. Raletjane faces crippling electricity costs, sometimes R300,000 per month, and no assistance to install embedded solar energy that could make the farm sustainable. Bureaucracy moves slowly. Approvals get stuck in corridors, and what should be a model farm for Limpopo risks stagnation because retail out-runs common sense.

A few kilometres away, the Nkukeng project tells the opposite story. Here the potential is strong. There are boreholes, pivots and a dedicated work-force. However, the farm is vulnerable because there is no fencing, no packhouse, and no security. Potatoes are left in the open sun to rot, while thieves strip cables and irrigation lines. Years of effort are lost because government could not provide a simple fence and storage facility. It's the same pattern: partial delivery that turns investment into frustration.

Hon Speaker, this is not about politics; it's about principles. The FF+ believes that every rand of taxpayers' money must become a tangible benefit. We cannot keep praising expenditure when delivery is absent. A 90% spend rate means nothing if projects fail to produce results. We cannot keep mistaking spending for success and construction for completion. Limpopo can lead in agriculture; our soil, our people, and our potential prove that, but leadership demands that we fix what's broken and how we govern.

Oversight is not a punishment; it is a mirror. It shows us that most failures come not from lack of funding, but from lack of follow-through. The FF+ believes that the change begins with discipline. We need clear timelines, named accountability, and visible progress. Every project that receives provincial funding should have a completion date, a responsible official, and published progress reports. Farmers, schools and communities should not have to wait for another oversight visit to learn what went wrong.

Secondly, the department must learn to fund operations, not just infrastructure. A poultry house without feed, water, or veterinary care is not a success; it's a liability. Every capital project must include operational budgets, maintenance plans, and training. The lack of these basics is what turns the bright ideas into white elephants.

Thirdly, we must finish the last mile: the fences, pack houses, cold rooms, and market access points that turn production into profits. At Raletjane, these final links are already in place, and look at the results. At Nkukeng, they are missing, and look at the waste. The province cannot afford to keep funding almost-finished projects.

Fourthly, the department must reward competence and penalise failures. When service providers do not deliver, terminate the contracts. When officials delay, hold them accountable. When a project succeeds, replicate it. Accountability is not cruelty; it's fairness to those who work hard and deliver.

Finally, we must reconnect agriculture to education. Schools like Merensky and Dimani are meant to train the next generation of farmers, technicians, and entrepreneurs. That will only happen when learners are active participants in real agriculture production; when they handle the soil, the feed, and the data themselves.

The FF+ calls on the department to assign dedicated extensions officers to every agricultural school, and to ensure that learning by doing becomes a standard structure. Hon Speaker, agriculture is not about forms and figures; it's about the people — farmers who rise before dawn, students who dream of working the land with pride, and communities that depend on their jobs, food and dignity. Oversight is not just a bureaucratic exercise; it's the voice of the people being heard through us. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Moss. I shall now call upon Hon Helm Maria.

MS HELM

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

In respect of the various projects visited, the Tshilwavhusiku Secondary Cooperative Farming project in the Makhado Municipal area taught us a valuable lesson. Each farmer was working on his own piece of land, but as far as marketing is concerned, they were working together. This is not a new concept, but it's a concept that has stood the test of time.

Moreover, they all strive to hold water licenses, and they all strive to farm according to the law and all the laws that are applicable in farming; and that's commendable. This group is full of promise. The agricultural economist working with them is guiding them to be more successful.

However, the final destiny must be self-sufficient commercial farmers, with title deeds to their land. The department also cannot continue to pour money into the projects indefinitely. It is said that there can be no trees on a planet without wind, because wind forces the trees to grow strong roots and resilient trunks. So, these farmers must now be left to stand tall in the wind.

At the Dimani Agricultural High School, it was clear that these farmers are farmers in the making, and they produced the most wonderful spinach. It was wonderful to take some of the spinach and enjoy it later.

It is vital to support our schools. As previous speakers have said, and I'm not going to repeat, there are areas that we need to look into. However, there's nothing wrong with their minds, nothing wrong with their motivation and nothing wrong with their hard work. So, we must support our schools, especially in areas where the parents are not able to contribute towards the needs of the school.

Even in schools like Merensky, we cannot expect parents to carry the full load. It is good that the department invests in these schools. We need to prepare the future generation of resilient commercial farmers.

The Immerpan Red Meat Project represents a classic case of implementation failure, despite its sound conceptual foundation. Years after inception, the project has not produced commercial output. Beneficiaries remain dependent, infrastructure is degraded or stolen, and oversight mechanisms has failed.

If the department is serious about agricultural transformation, it must do the following four things:

- Enforce accountability against nonperforming contractors; and I think that's a theme throughout many of our projects;
- Establish governance structures both beneficial capacities through structured business mentorship;
- Implement a turnaround strategy with clear timelines for commercialisation.
- Ensure decisive intervention to avoid permanent failure.

The project was strategically sound, but poorly implemented and weakly governed.

The Raletjena project in the Blouberg Municipality, located in the Potato Belt, was a wonderful experience. It is now time to handover a title deed to the farmer. No farmer can be truly commercial unless he or she owns the land. The farmer is doing well, as previous speakers have said. He shows initiative and is clearly hardworking. This is one project where we can now say that the farmer has migrated to being a real commercial farmer, and we would like to congratulate him.

We need to see more projects that migrate to commercial enterprises. It is clear that the best way to nurture upcoming farmers into become commercial is to allow each farmer to make his or her own decisions. Group farming has never worked and will not work. The chaotic and massively unsuccessful collapsing CPA farming groups are a striking example.

In Limpopo, some of the challenges we face at present concern how we use communal land and how traditional authorities manage land. Very soon, South Africa must make a decision to protect our valuable agricultural land. It is important that we start managing communal land better and protect our farmers in those areas.

Lastly, I would like to thank the support staff for making the work of the committee possible. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Helm. Hon Malemela is not in the House. I will call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Bella Kupa-Mabuza to come and close the debate.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the Speaker; Premier in absentia; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Members of the Executive Council; the Whippers; and honourable Members.

Madam Speaker, it is always an honour to be given an opportunity to address this House twice in one day. Allow me to point out that these reflections are going to be about the consideration and adoption of the following oversight reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development: Tshilawavhusiku Secondary Cooperative in Vhembe District; Kopano Disabled Drip and Tafelkop Farmers' Association in Sekhukhune District; Merensky Agricultural Academy; Raletjane and Nkukeng projects in Blouberg, Capricorn District; and Dimani Agricultural High School in Vhembe District.

Oversight work is the constitutional prerogative that gives powers to the provincial legislatures. To be precise, section 114(2)(a)(b) of the Constitution defines exactly the mandate in relation to oversight. To some extent, it is the framework that is more involved in monitoring and accountability, especially on the utilisation of public funds by government departments, the application of budgets and the active management of the government departments. In summary, the overall goal is to ensure government transparency, accountability and to prevent the abuse of the state resources.

Oversight work promotes good governance and participatory democracy by interacting with the people in their own development, especially the most affected stakeholders. The former President, Thabo Mbeki, has pointed out some years ago that: "Oversight is an active process to understand the practical reality of government programmes. This approach helps measure progress against service delivery commitments and identify challenges on the ground."

Merensky Agricultural Academy is one of the catalytic projects of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The school is in Tzaneen, Mopani District and was established in 1936. The school received building materials, including bend-red and battery-layer systems, from the department to construct a chicken house that will assist learners with their educational practicals. There was a delay of about 11 months in starting with the construction, which was caused by the department.

The school was clear in ventilating the need for additional support, and they recommended that the department, through the portfolio committee, should help in sourcing chickens and assist in developing a poultry management plan. The department has also noted this proposed additional support, and we hope that we will assist them.

Generally, the model and the system of the school are progressive. The school also relies on private sponsors such as ZZ2, and they indicated that they shared their best practices with other schools, such as Dimani Agricultural High School, since they are all pure agricultural schools. It is recommended by the portfolio committee that skills transferred to other agricultural schools are of paramount importance, and the facilitator should be the department.

Raletjane farming is 100% black-owned. The business was established in 2005, trading as Torofina Trading Post. In 2012, the farmer managed to acquire 1,367 ha of land from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in the Blouberg area. It is reported that the farmer received R24,6 million from the department. The farm produces potatoes, and their market is Simba for Lay's production.

In terms of employment, they have 12 permanent workers and 120 seasonal workers, which is what the governing party in our province appreciates and further encourages the department to prioritise when assisting these farmers. Priority should also be placed on the creation of employment.

It must be reported that the farmer is giving back to the community. Firstly, the farmers and workers on the farm share 10% of the profit. Secondly, the farmer has built a drip-irrigation system, which is fully equipped, for a primary school in one of the nearest villages. The farmer is involved in transferring skills to young learners, encouraging them to develop a love and passion for agriculture. The farmer also introduced annual Top Ten Awards in the school, mainly to encourage learners in agriculture. The name of the project is the De Vrede School Project.

Just like other projects that we have visited, Raletjane farming has some challenges, such as energy costs which are too high — to the extent that they pay around R300,000 per month despite 50% consumption. Frequent outages also disrupt operations. It will, therefore, be appreciated if the Land Bank, together with our department, can rescue the situation by a 200 kW solar system, which will reduce grid dependency.

While we are still in the Blouberg Potato Belt, we have the farm called Nkukeng Farming Project, which was established in 2003. It started farming on 20 ha, but at the moment they utilise 50 ha. They produce potatoes mainly, and they acquired the land from the Manthata Tribal Council in Mohodi Ga-Manthata.

They have permission to occupy and operate their businesses. They have received irrigation infrastructure, boreholes, a tractor, and production inputs from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The project has employed three permanent workers and 90 seasonal workers.

The farm does not have a pack house, electric fence, ablution facilities, or the additional three boreholes required. It is also important to involve the department so that the farm can be assisted once again. The farm also has the means of ploughing back to the communities. They reported that they donate vegetables to the local schools, and this should be appreciated as a good gesture.

The challenges include market access and shortages of implements such as ploughs, harvesters and boom sprayers, just to mention a few. The department should look into these and intervene.

In conclusion, oversight work, as guided by our Constitution as the supreme law of the country, has a significant impact on addressing service delivery backlogs. It assists both the department and the affected bodies, such as farmers' projects and even the ordinary people in the communities. We hope that the challenges and the recommendations put forward to the department will be addressed. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mabuza. We shall now call upon the Acting MEC, Hon Mashego, to respond to the debates. Thank you.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH (ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Tebogo Mamorobela; Hon Speaker of the House; MECs present here; honourable Members; chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development; members of the committee; guests in the gallery; HODs; and everyone present in the House.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development continues to demonstrate significant progress in strengthening the province's agricultural sector, expanding interdepartmental collaboration, and driving sustainable rural development. In this financial year, we are proud that the department has successfully concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Limpopo Department of Education to integrate agriculture into the school curriculum, Hon Velile Jack.

Through this partnership, agriculture will now be introduced as a subject from the intermediary phase, allowing learners to develop an early understanding of food systems, agricultural science, and environmental sustainability.

This approach will nurture a new generation of young people who view agriculture not merely as a subject, but as a pathway to entrepreneurship, innovation and food security. Beyond the classroom, this partnership has direct economic impact. The agreement ensures that service providers in the school nutrition programme procure fruits, vegetables, and maize from local farmers. This will strengthen local market access, support small-holder, an emerging farmers, and ensure that our children benefit from fresh, nutritious, and locally produced food.

It is a clear example of a whole-government approach, linking education, agriculture, and local economic empowerment. In the same spirit of collaboration, the department continues to support the revitalisation of the Lebowakgomo Abattoir, working together with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is actively contributing to this initiative through the supply of day-old chicks.

We are finalising the refurbishment of five environmentally controlled poultry houses within a 100 km radius to enhance production capacity throughout. Once completed, these facilities will enable the signing of a take-off agreement with Montana, ensuring a sustainable poultry value chain and creating opportunities for rural communities.

We are saying to honourable Members that we are giving attention to the Lebowakgomo Abattoir. From a fiscal performance perspective, the department has made commendable progress in the 2024/25 financial year. The overall expenditure stood at 98,7%; a notable improvement from 96% in the previous year. This reflects discipline in financial management and strengthened internal controls.

The Limpopo Provincial Treasury approved R15 million for multi-year programmes, demonstrating confidence in the department's ability to utilise conditional grants effectively. The funds have been legitimately utilised to support ongoing projects and priorities. In the 2025/26 financial year, the department experienced a slow start, with a 21,5% expenditure record in the first quarter, as outlined by portfolio committee

members. Largely, this was due to delays in obtaining business plan approvals from the National Department of Agriculture.

However, through focused acceleration and catch-up plans implemented in the second quarter, performance improved substantially; reaching 50,5% overall expenditure, slightly above projected costs, and 55% effective use of resources to stimulate agriculture growth.

Hon Speaker, despite these achievements, the department also faces structural and environmental challenges that explains why Limpopo agriculture did not contribute to the provincial GDP in the second quarter of 2025. There are many reasons behind this outcome. Firstly, agriculture in Limpopo is inherently seasonal. The second quarter, which covers April to June, coincides with the post-harvest period for major summer crops such as maize, tomatoes and potatoes. During this time, production naturally slows down as farmers focus on land preparation, equipment servicing, and input procurement for the next planting season.

Another issue is that the province experienced drought and climate vulnerability in late 2023 and early 2024; below average rainfall and high temperatures, particularly in Mopani, Vhembe and Waterberg Districts. This affected yields in key crops such as maize, groundnuts, and vegetables. Water restrictions and irrigation systems like Letaba, Levubu, and Mogalakwena further constrained output. This decline in production volumes directly impacted gross value added on the GDP.

However, we must also note that GDP reporting is a static and time-based. It captures realised production and sales rather than preparatory work. Much of Limpopo's agricultural activity during the second quarter was preparatory in nature; involving land preparation, irrigation, maintenance, and input procurement. These do not yet appear in the GDP figures but set the stage for recovery in the subsequent quarters. So, by that we are saying it will show, because if we do not prepare then we will not be able to reap the rewards. That is why we concentrated on ensuring that we do prepare.

Hon Speaker, despite the seasonal and structural constraints experienced in the second quarter, we remain confident that with improved rainfall, accelerated infrastructure completion, and continued farmer support, Limpopo agriculture will rebound strongly in the third and fourth quarters of the 2025/26 financial year. The department is steadfast in its mission to build a resilient, inclusive, and competitive agricultural sector that contributes meaningfully to the provincial economy, supports job creation, and ensure food security for our people.

That is why we are proud to announce that, because of our intervention as the department, 134 unemployed graduates were placed at commercial enterprises for practical experience. In addition, 180 agribusinesses were supported with market access; knowing very well that you might be a farmer, but if you don't have access to the market then you won't have a place to sell.

So, we have managed to expose 180 agribusinesses, and throughout our various projects we have contributed to 5,053 job opportunities. These are not just job opportunities; they are also a contribution to household income and food security. We are saying, as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development here in Limpopo,

that we are serious about ensuring that we make agriculture fashionable, especially among young people; hence the MOU with the Department of Education.

We appreciate the oversight that is played by our portfolio committee, led by Hon Kupa-Mabuza. We really appreciate the good work that you are doing, and it is through your leadership and oversight that we are able to improve in most of the things that we are doing. We are saying that, through the reports we received from the oversight visit, we are already strengthening farmer support through integrated producer development programmes, and we are expanding beyond irrigation to ensure timely access to inputs; talking about seed, fertilisers, feed and agro-chemicals. We are saying they must be provided timeously so that when the time comes for our farmers to start planting, they are ready with the inputs they received from the department.

We also adopt a voucher-based support system to improve transparency and reduce administrative delays. We are saying we will continue to empower youth and women through targeted programmes. These interventions will only be successful through the support of our Provincial Treasury, Hon Mahoai. If you can open the purse and assist the department, surely we will be able to do more for our communities. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Mashego. We shall now go to item 7.4.

7.4 Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on LEDET, Hon Mokaba Mapula, the stage is yours.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; leaders of political parties; Hon MECs present here and our guests in the gallery, good afternoon.

I rise to move that the 2024/25 Annual Report for LEDET be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, chairperson. Is there any seconder? Hon Kupa-Mabuza, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the adoption as presented by the chairperson for LEDET. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise again to move for the 2024/25 Annual Report of LEDA to be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the presentation of the 2024/25 Annual Report for LEDA as presented by the chairperson. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon chairperson, you may proceed.

MS MOKABA

Ke a leboga. I rise to move that the 2024/25 Annual Report for LTA be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR NEMPUMBULUNI

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I stand here to second the adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report for LTA.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Chairperson, you may proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you. I move lastly for the adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report for LGB to be adopted as the report of this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MATJOMANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. I rise to second the 2024/25 Annual Report for LGB. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now go to the debates. I shall now call upon Hon Pheedi Maseko to open the debates.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Portia Grace Mamorobela. Greetings to you, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Grace Makurupetje; Hon Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; the entire Whippers; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairpersons of various portfolio committees; Members of this august House; and members of the public out there. Kgotsa ga ebe le lena.

Hon Speaker, I rise today to participate in this critical debate on the First Quarter Performance Reports of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, together with its entities, namely, Limpopo Tourism Agency and the Limpopo Economic Development Agency.

This debate comes at a crucial juncture in our provincial development trajectory, where the decisions we make and the oversight we exercise will determine whether we succeed in building an inclusive economy that creates jobs, reduces poverty, and ensures sustainable development for all our people.

As I stand before this House, I am reminded of the profound words of President Cyril Ramaphosa when he addressed the nation during the State of the Nation Address in February 2024, where he emphasised: "We must build an economy that works for all South Africans, not just a few. An economy that creates jobs, reduces inequality, and provides opportunities for everyone to realise their full potential."

These words resonate deeply with the work that the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism has been mandated to undertake in our province of Limpopo.

The performance of the department and its entities is not isolated from the lived experience of our people. Every percentage point of budget expenditure, every job created, every enterprise supported, and every environmental protection measure implemented has a direct bearing on the lives of ordinary citizens of Limpopo, who look to this government for leadership and delivery.

Let me begin by providing a comprehensive overview of the department's performance during the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. The department was allocated a total Budget of R1,8 billion, of which R436 million, representing 23% of the original Budget, was spent during the quarter under review. This represents a slight underspending relative to the expected Budget spending norms of 25%.

This expenditure level, while below the targeted 25%, demonstrates a reasonably steady start to the financial year, though it raises questions about the pace of

implementation that I shall address in due course. As we continue with this debate, the department's performance across its four programmes represents a mixed picture and requires our careful analysis and consecutive engagement.

Programme 1: Administration, the department achieved 5 out of 9 performance indicators, representing 56% achievement. Programme 2: Economic Development achieved 7 out of 8 performance targets, translating to an impressive 88% achievement rate.

Programme 3: Environmental Affairs distinguished itself by achieving 9 out of 9 performance indicators, signifying a perfect 100% achievement. Programme 4: Tourism achieved 2 out of 2 performance indicators, also representing 100% achievement.

Hon Speaker, statistics tell a story of both success and challenges. They reveal areas where the department has excelled and areas where urgent intervention is required. It is in this spirit of constructive accountability that I approach this debate today.

The Administration programme serves as the backbone of the entire department, providing strategic direction, financial management, administrative support, and information management services.

During the quarter under review, this programme spent R98,9 million out of an allocated R366,2 million, representing 26% expenditure, slightly above the overall departmental average. The achievement of 100% compliance with the e-Disclosure of Financial Interests by all 36 senior administrative members is commendable and demonstrates commitment to transparency and ethical governance. Our public servants have shown integrity by complying with disclosure requirements, laying a foundation of trust and effective governance.

I must draw attention to the concerning underperformance in employee performance contracts, where only 87% compliance was achieved, with 776 out of 896 contracts submitted within set timelines. While the department attributes this to alignment challenges arising from the new organisational structure and staff placement processes, we cannot allow administrative restructuring to become a perpetual excuse for noncompliance with basic human resource management requirements. The department must urgently complete the placement process and ensure that all performance agreements are aligned with job descriptions to enable effective performance management.

As the ANC we commend the department for ensuring that 99,9% of invoices, that is 1,047 out of 1,048, were paid within 30 days of receipt. This achievement demonstrates respect for service providers and contributes to the economic ecosystem by ensuring timely payment to small business and suppliers. The one outstanding invoice that missed the disbursement run due to system unavailability is an acceptable exception, provided that it is processed in the subsequent disbursement cycle.

The overall expenditure of 23,4% against the target of 25% raises concerns about the pace of budget utilisation. The department attributes this underexpenditure to the ongoing process of filling vacant posts and infrastructure projects that have not yet reached spending levels. While these explanations have merit, we must emphasise that

underexpenditure is not merely a technical countermeasure. It represents delayed service delivery, postponed development projects, and deferred economic opportunities for our people.

Hon Speaker, we must escape from the old pattern of perpetual underexpenditure in the first quarter, followed by rushed spending in the final quarter that often compromises quality and value for money. The department must develop and implement more effective expenditure management systems that ensure steady, planned utilisation of allocated resources throughout the financial year.

Procurement from enterprises owned by previously disadvantaged individuals, particularly the persistent failure to meet the target for procurement from enterprises owned by persons living with disability, is concerning. The department exceeded its target for women-owned enterprises by spending 34,8% against a target of 10% but achieved only 0.0% expenditure on enterprises owned by persons living with disability against a target of 1%. As the African National Congress, we are deeply concerned by this underperformance.

This failure is not unique to the department. It was also reported in the Limpopo Tourism Agency's performance. The explanation provided, that there is no criteria or methodology for the invitation of RFQs for the targeted group, is simply unacceptable.

The ANC welcomes the performance of Economic Development, which is at the heart of our mandate to promote economic growth and job creation. This programme spent R204,2 million out of an allocated R827,1 million, representing 21% expenditure. The achievement of seven out of 8 performance targets, representing an 88% achievement rate, is commendable and demonstrates focused execution of planned activities.

The compilation of one economic development report, as planned, is a positive achievement that ensures evidence-based policymaking. The facilitation of three components of the National Exporter Development Programme, implementation of three manufacturing support programmes, and implementation of two programmes to enhance local participation in the mining sector all demonstrate commitment to industrialisation and economic transformation.

The department's focus on manufacturing support and mining sector participation aligns perfectly with the national vision, and these programmes must be sustained and strengthened.

On business regulations and governance, particularly liquor business regulations, the ANC notes the production of one monitoring report on LIBRA implementation in local municipalities and the inspection of 1,723 liquor businesses, falling short of the 1,800 target. The explanation that June was used for roadshows on convention of old licences is reasonable, but it highlights the ongoing challenges in implementing new legislation.

We commend the department for processing 100% of liquor applications, all 133 were processed within stipulated timeframes. This efficiency in administrative processing demonstrates respect for business operators and facilitates ease of doing business in our province.

Similarly, Hon Speaker, the finalisation of 100% consumer complaints, 20 out of 20, within legislated timeframes, shows commitment to consumer protection.

We urge the entity to commit to retraining all liquor inspectors to understand the new Liquor Acts so that they must be implemented urgently. In the context of liquor regulations, we need inspectors who apply the law consistently, fairly, and knowledgeably across all established areas of the province.

Environmental Affairs represents a beacon of excellence in the department's performance, having achieved 100% of its performance indicators. This programme spent R92,4 million out of an allocated R407,1 million, representing 23% expenditure.

The perfect achievement rate demonstrates exceptional planning, execution, and management. The finalisation of 100% of environmental impact assessment, 34 out of 34 within legislated timeframes, is particularly commendable, as it ensures that development proceeds in an environmentally sustainable manner without unnecessary delays.

We welcome the conducting of 93 compliance inspections, exceeding the target of 70, which shows proactive environmental protection. The handing over of three completed criminal investigations to the NPA for prosecution and the issuing of 12 administrative enforcement notices, exceeding the target of 10, demonstrate commitment to environmental law enforcement.

The Environmental Affairs programme's performance embodies the principle that excellence in environmental management is achievable when there is clear vision, adequate resources, and committed leadership.

As we move towards conclusion, the conducting of 17 environmental awareness activities, exceeding the target of 10 due to demand from the schools for career expos, and the conducting of five environmental capacity-building activities, as planned, demonstrate commitment to environmental education and empowerment.

The issuing of 100% of biodiversity management permits, 3,121 out of 3,121, within legislated timeframes, shows efficiency in permit processing that facilitates the sustainable use of natural resources.

Hon Speaker, I'm tempted to shorten the presentation in the following form: LTA was allocated a budget of R102 million for the financial year, of which R21 million was spent during the first quarter, representing 21% expenditure.

In that regard, Hon Speaker, allow me to... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You must just conclude, honourable Member. Thank you.

MR PHEEDI

Hon Speaker, the issue of the economy is very big, and the time is very short.

In conclusion, we may face challenges in implementing our economic development programmes. We may experience setbacks and delays. We may fall short of some targets. However, we must remain strong in our will to strive, to seek better solutions, and to build an inclusive economy that creates jobs and improves the lives of all Limpopo citizens.

The department and its entities have the resources and the mandate. What is required now, referring to you, honourable MEC, is execution, accountability, and unwavering commitment to delivery. The people of Limpopo deserve nothing less than the department's efforts.

They deserve a government that spends its budget effectively, creates jobs consistently, supports business meaningfully, protects the environment diligently, and promotes tourism aggressively. They deserve entities that operate sustainably, deliver services reliably, and contribute to the economy.

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Hon Pheedi. We proceed to the debate by Hon Velile Jack.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. All protocol observed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I present my analysis of LEDET for the 2024/25 Annual Report, highlighting significant concerns and areas requiring urgent attention.

LEDET failed to meet the planned targets, particularly in employing people with disability. LEDA met 22 of 41 targets in the 2024/25 financial year, falling short in critical areas such as mineral beneficiation, agro-processing projects, expo assistance, business development, MMSEZ stagnation, Fetakgomo SEZ delays due to scope-of-work changes and infrastructure issues.

SMMEs and cooperative support play an important role in our communities. That is where jobs are created and business owners are empowered and encouraged to work harder. Failure to provide support jeopardises emerging businesses and economic growth.

There's been a decline in the number of cases investigated by LGB, which is a decrease from the previous financial year. Are they decreasing because there are no cases, or is someone not doing his or her job?

The audit outcome for LGB has regressed due to material misstatements, underscoring the need to strengthen the finance unit. LTA's limited target for domestic campaigns is concerning. Why set only four targets for domestic campaigns for the entire year and expect to promote tourism in the province? We need to market ourselves regularly to reach as many people as possible.

There are many project delays, such as the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery, that are hindering progress and job creation, thereby exacerbating poverty and undermining economic development in the province. When these projects were announced, people were promised jobs. The Vhembe produce packhouse procurement is still pending.

The Seshego Industrial Park and the sweet potato processing plant expanding into it, is also unprocured. Let's prioritise our people to alleviate poverty in Limpopo. Thank you, honourable MEC, for sending us to Cape Town for that workshop.

I learned something, and I thought I should educate Hon Makamu. I know he's very scared of lions. Hon Makamu, there are two types of lions: the dangerous one and the tamed one. Don't just run away from any lion. You must observe first whether it's tamed or dangerous.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile. I shall now call upon Hon Jacobus Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker; honourable MECs; and fellow honourable Members.

Last week in this House, in reply to Hon Wilson's debate on the Annual Report to the Office of the Premier, the Premier pontificated over Statistics South Africa's latest GDP growth figures, which indicated that Limpopo's economy grew by 0,9% in the second quarter of this year; higher than any other province. Let us put this into perspective. The 0,9% growth relates to one quarter of a single year.

Limpopo's annual population growth rate is between 1,8% and 2%. This means that in quarter two of 2025, the people of Limpopo actually grew poorer in terms of per capita GDP. Over the past decade, economic growth has consistently lagged behind population growth, resulting in stagnant or declining GDP per capita.

Our people are not feeling their democratic dividend. Instead, they are experiencing deepening poverty, unemployment, and inequality under this governance. The growth was concentrated in finance, real estate, business services, and personal services.

How did this benefit our rural citizens? For example, in Vhembe? Did they feel any tangible impact?

Hon Speaker, the real picture is reflected in the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey report. It paints a deeply troubling picture of Limpopo's economic trajectory between quarter three and quarter four of 2024. Sixteen thousand jobs were lost, pushing the official unemployment rate to 31,9%. The expanded unemployment rate, including discouraged job seekers, stands at a staggering 46,5%; well above the national average.

This is not merely statistics. It reflects the harsh reality faced by thousands of Limpopo families who remain locked out of economic opportunity. From a developmental perspective, it means that the majority of Limpopo citizens are trapped on the bottom rung of Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Their lives revolve around their most basic philosophical needs: food, water, warmth, and shelter. This is an outright betrayal of a promise of a better life for all. What about the three sectors that should be driving growth; agriculture, tourism and mining.

Statistics South Africa has reported that all three of these sectors face challenges. Limpopo's economic problems are structural, deep-seated and demand urgent, targeted intervention. Limpopo's Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism is mandated to drive economic development.

Yet, its agency LEDA and its entities are riddled with malfeasance, are fiscally unsustainable, and are failing to deliver on their mandate. Great North Transport remains in financial distress. The portfolio committee has directed that outstanding obligations, including pension and medical aid, must be settled in the 2025/26 financial year.

Financial stability must be achieved within six months, with quarterly reporting. A full creditors' list and proof of the R93 million bailout payments must be submitted. Monthly surpluses of R5 million must be allocated to bus refurbishments. Leasing costs must be reduced, and 20 to 40 buses must be restored.

Honourable Members, we will stand in this House in the very near future, and we will witness and pass a bleak report to the contrary, because the people of GNT and the officials within Great North Transport are not open and transparent; not just to the committee, but also to the honourable MEC.

GNT hired 71 temporary drivers without notice, without creditor information, and LEDET failed to challenge irregular lease agreements flagged by the Auditor-General. This reflects a culture of nonaccountability and maladministration, further eroding public trust. The reduction of bus procurement from 120 to 71 units only deepens financial risk. Treasury's support depends on accountability and a credible recovery plan.

This crisis mirrors broader governance failures, corruption, and ineptitude across LEDA. The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone has failed to deliver mineral beneficiation projects and faces fresh controversy and unanswered questions.

A recent environmental assessment revealed that the proposed coking-coal plant, previously part of the SEZ layout, will now be developed outside of the SEZ boundary. This means it forfeits government incentives. Why? What informs this decision? An investigation report suggests that the air pollution impact of the Musina-Makhado SEZ was underestimated by 87,5%, casting serious doubt of the integrity of the EIA.

While officials claim the coal power station was abandoned in favour of renewables, Eskom is reportedly considering resupplying 1,000 megawatts to the smelter; equivalent to one stage of load-shedding. Where lies the truth, honourable MEC? These

developments confirm the Democratic Alliance's longstanding concerns that the MMSEZ is ill-conceived, environmentally damaging, and economically uncertain. Limpopo deserves a credible, transparent, and sustainable alternative.

Of the 25,000 jobs committed to during the financial year, LEDA has created only 3,500 due to delays in SEZ infrastructure development and failure to intensify SMME support and financing. Industrial parks remain underutilised, while 20 DTIC-funded factories await refurbishment. Other outstanding matters include the finalisation of the section 54 application for Tshakhuma Packhouse, completion of due diligence for Tshivhase Tea Estate, and conclusion of broiler grower contracts with Montana.

Limpopo's economy cannot grow without effective oversight, sound infrastructure a real economic strategy. GNT's questionable rescue and the failing state of LEDET and LEDA's much-vaunted flagship MMSEZ are not isolated issues. They form part of a systemic failure that undermines job creation and investor confidence.

LEDA has failed and continues to fail. Apart from Risima Housing Finance and the Limpopo Gambling Board, LEDA and its entities are afoot to failures. Limpopo's economy cannot grow without effective oversight, sound infrastructure, and a clear strategy.

We must confront the systemic failures that undermine job creation and disinvested confidence. It is time to change. It is time for accountability and transparency.

As the Democratic Alliance, we remain committed to fighting for a sustainable, prosperous Limpopo.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle.

We shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Ms Mokaba Mapula, because Hon Kgothatso Mogoane is not in the House,

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Madume go lena kamoka gape.

Former President Thabo Mbeki once observed that, "Development is not about buildings and roads. It is about people, their dreams, their aspiration, and their dignity."

I listened to the contribution in this debate, and as I reflect on the extensive oversight work conducted by our committee throughout the year. I'm struck by how often we have lost sight of the people behind the statistics, the families behind the financial statements, the communities behind the compliance report.

Today, as I stand before this House, I carry with me not just the weight of this voluminous report, but the burden of the stories they conceal. Stories of pensioners

sleeping outside the Premier's Office, fighting for pensions that were promised but never paid.

Stories of entrepreneurs whose businesses collapsed because promised loans never materialised. Stories of investors who committed billions based on infrastructure that was never built.

Hon Deputy Speaker, before I address the broader issues in this report, I must speak about a matter that weighed heavily on my conscience and should trouble the conscience of every Member of this House.

The plight of former Great North Transport employees who are owed their pensions. I'm dismayed, I'm ashamed, and I'm angry that the 2025 pensioners, many of them elderly, some of them sick, all of them desperate, are reduced to sleeping outside the Premier's Office, fighting for money they earned, fighting for pensions they were promised, fighting for the dignity that should be theirs by right.

Oliver Tambo taught us that "freedom is not merely the absence of oppression, but the presence of justice". What justice is there when workers who gave their productive years to public service are forced to beg for their own money? What freedom is there when pensioners must camp outside government offices like applicants rather than being served as citizens with their rights?

The forensic report by BDO and GNT pensioners lays bare a system failure of catastrophic proportions. Former employees and their beneficiaries are owed pensions money, but the entity has been unable to determine the exact amount of, even identify all those affected. Actuary professionals have been brought in, investigations are ongoing, but while bureaucracy grinds slowly, people suffer.

I want to be absolutely clear this is unacceptable and intolerant. It is a stain on our government's reputation, an indictment on our glorious movement and a betrayal of our founding values.

President Ramaphosa has repeatedly emphasised that, "We must put people first, we must serve the people." But how are we serving these pensioners? How are we putting them first when they sleep on cold pavement, while we sleep in warm beds? How are we honouring their service when we make them fight for what is rightfully theirs?

I implore the honourable MEC Matibe, I implore the honourable Premier, I implore the entire Executive Council, treat this matter with the urgency it deserves. These pensioners do not have the luxury of time. They do not have the privilege of waiting for another financial year, another report, another investigation.

The former President of the ANC, Oliver Reginald Tambo, reminded us that: "A nation that does not take care of its own children has no future and deserves none.. These words were not merely a moral plea; they were a call to responsibility.

They compel us, as the custodians of a democratic revolution, to ensure that the institution of our provincial government serves the people, uplifts communities, and gives meaning to the promise of freedom. This debate on the performance of LEDET

and its entities, particularly the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), offers us not only a chance to reflect, but to recalibrate. We do so as members of the African National Congress, a movement whose moral authority has always rested on its ability to be self-critical, disciplined, and honest about its successes and shortcomings.

The ANC's 2024 manifesto reaffirmed that a capable, ethical, and developmental state is the foundation upon which a better life for all is built. It is on that foundation that LEDA was created; to address market failure, stimulate inclusive industrialisation, and advance the objectives of the national democratic revolution.

LEDA was not designed to be just another administrative agency. It was meant to be the engine room for provincial economic transformation, a lever through which we could democratise ownership, promote enterprises, and create sustainable livelihoods.

While the agency continues to demonstrate a measure of institutional capacity, with improvements in internal control and governance effectiveness reaching 95%, we must confront a difficult truth.

LEDA, in its current structure, is not financially sustainable. This is not merely a statement of criticism; it is a statement of fact. Too many of its subsidiaries depend on the parent entity for financial support while contributing insufficient revenue to ensure their own long-term sustainability.

Honourable Members, when the ANC-led government established LEDA, the policy objective was clear: to create a catalytic instrument that would bridge the gap between government's developmental vision and market realities. It was a de-risked investment in strategic sectors such as mining, agro-processing, tourism, and SMME development. Yet, over the years, the proliferation of subsidiaries, many of which operate without clear profitability models, has diluted the original mission.

Instead of enabling the market, LEDA now sustains entities that cannot sustain themselves. In the 2024/25 financial year, LEDA achieved five unqualified audit opinions across its group of companies, but this fell short of the target of eight. The LEDA agency and Corridor Mining Resources received unqualified audit opinions while, New Era Life obtained a disclaimer.

This audit outcome is more than a technical classification. It is a reflection of how accountability, internal control, and strategic coherence are being undermined to operational levels.

In response, LEDA has developed a clean-audit administration strategy. This is a commendable step. However, strategy without cultural change, without discipline, and without execution will remain a document on a shelf.

The question we must ask ourselves collectively is whether LEDA's governance framework is still fit for purpose. Are its subsidiaries aligned with provincial industrial priorities? Do their boards operate with the requisite skills, independence, and oversight capacity? Crucially, are we still using LEDA to transform the economy, or merely to maintain it?

President Nelson Mandela once reminded us that: “After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.” That is where we stand with LEDA. Today we are at the foot of new hills of reform.

The entity's impressive property portfolio, with 85,5% occupancy of total gross lettable area, surpassing the 80% target, is proof of progress. Yet, the committee was correct in raising the question: if occupancy is increasing, why is revenue not sufficient to refurbish industrial parks?

The answer lies in the structural imbalance between LEDA's rental income and its expenditure. Maintenance costs are escalating, while lease agreements often fail to reflect market values. If this pattern continues, the agency will remain caught between operational performance and fiscal fragility. It is therefore vital that LEDA embark on a comprehensive leasing and assets-optimisation strategy, one that maximises returns without compromising developmental objectives.

LEDA's mission must not be reduced to property management. It must serve as a platform for industrial renewal, particularly in our rural and peri-urban areas. The refurbishment of industrial parks should not be viewed merely as a cost, but as an investment into SMME development, local employment, and the township economy.

Every square-metre lease should represent a job created, a product manufactured, and a family's hope restored. One subsidiary continues to embody one of the most human-centred expressions of LEDA's mandate: access to dignified housing finance for the people of Limpopo.

In the 2024/25 financial year, Risima disbursed over R101,3 million in home loans, surpassing its target of R91 million. It assisted 3,985 beneficiaries, though short of its planned 4,027, with the shortfall largely due to applicants not meeting the National Credit Act requirements.

This is not a failure; it is an opportunity for policy innovation. By linking its incremental products to first-home finance, Risima is not only expanding its reach but aligning itself with national efforts to democratise home ownership. That is a commendable step. It reflects the ANC's long-standing commitment, as expressed in the Freedom Charter, that “There shall be houses, security and comfort.” These are not abstract ideas; they are the living pillars of human dignity.

Risima's profitability, achieving R44 million against a target of R37 million, and a return on investment of 20% against a 6% target, shows that developmental finance can indeed be sustainable when guided by sound management and responsive product design.

This is the balance we must strike across all LEDA subsidiaries: development with discipline, compassion with competence, and transformation with accountability. We must also be honest, even within Risima's access. There is a deeper challenge in access.

The very families who most need finance often cannot meet credit requirements. It is therefore imperative that LEDA and Provincial Treasury explore a guarantee or

blended-finance mechanism that can support low-income applicants without undermining financial transformative innovation. One that speaks to the ANC's 2019 manifesto call for inclusive growth that leaves no one behind.

In conclusion, in the 2024/25 financial year, LEDA achieved five unqualified audit opinion across... another. Ke tlile go hlhlakantšha dipampiri tšaka. Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much.

It's just that we are dealing with a lot of entities and the minutes are too few. Perhaps in future, if time could be doubled, because we have four entities that we cannot manage to cover everything. But with that, thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chairperson. Let's just make sure that we deal with the important matter and summarise the matters that are of importance for debate to assist us. Now, we are proceeding. Honourable chairperson, you may proceed.

7.5 Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise and move to adopt the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of LEDET to be adopted as the report of this august House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Chair. Is there any seconder? Dr Selane, you are recognised.

DR SELANE

Ke a go leboga, Motlatša Mospikara wa rena. Ke rata go tšea sebaka se go thekga Mohlomphegi Mokaba ka ge a laeditše gore go swanetše go lebeledišišwe le go amogelwa pego ya kotare ya mathomo ya makala kamoka.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Dr Selane. Chair, you may proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

I rise to move for the 2025/26, First Quarter Report of LEDA to be adopted as the report of this august House, I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? Hon Mnisi.

MS MNISI

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the motion for the consideration and adoption of the First Quarter Report for LEDA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mnisi. Chair, you may proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you once more. I rise to move for the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of LTA to be adopted as the Report of this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MARINGA

Thanks, honourable chair. I rise to second the motion for the consideration and adoption of the First Quarter Report of LTA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Maringa. Chair, you may proceed.

MS MOKABA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

I rise to move for the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of LGB to be adopted as the report of this August House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Mmetle-Ramohlola, you are recognised.

MS MMETLE RAMOHLOLA

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I move for the secondment of the report as presented by Hon Mokaba.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mmetle-Ramohlola. We shall now proceed with the debates.

I shall now call upon, Dr Bonnie David Che Selane.

DR SELANE

Ntumelele ke go leboge, Mohlomphegi Motlatša Mospikara, ke leboge le Mohlomphegi Mospikara le Mohlomphegi Tonakgolo. Ke a tseba gore ba gona kamoka ga bona. Hon Premier; Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs, Mlambya; honourable MEC for the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; all Members of this majestic House; leaders of opposition parties.

Allow me to take this opportunity to greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Hon Speaker, we do not have much time because, as already alluded to by the chair, our own Ms Mapula Mokaba has indicated that matters of economic development are too many to debate fully today. We will try to pick and debate where we can, so that we don't consume much time. Before I proceed, I will go straight and be specific to the honourable MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. My learned friend, who is a school genius, Hon Matibe Baldwin Tshitereke.

Though we are going to debate, I want to be specific on what should be done, especially regarding those entities that our colleagues have already spoken about. I think it's high time that, despite the fact that we are going to read here, you need to crash or disrupt the status quo, particularly in those entities, because the problems of economic stagnation and corruption arises from those particular entities.

It is an honour to rise before this august House to participate in this important debate on the consideration and adoption of the First Quarter Performance Report for the 2025/26 financial year for the Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism and its entities; Limpopo Economic Development Agency, Limpopo Tourism Agency, and Limpopo Gambling Board.

This debate comes at a critical juncture, when the province continues to face persistent socioeconomic challenge of unemployment, poverty, inequality, and sluggish economic growth. Yet, it is also a moment filled with opportunity as the provincial government under the leadership of Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba intensifies efforts to industrialise the province in order to create jobs and empower our communities.

Hon Speaker, as we scrutinise this report today, we must ask ourselves a fundamental question: are we fulfilling the sacred trust bestowed upon us by the people of Limpopo? Are our economic development entities truly creating a better life for all our people, or are we merely administering poverty with sophisticated reports and glossy presentations?

We cannot afford to become comfortable with the process while neglecting progress. The purpose of governance is not to produce documents but to produce change. Each report tabled before this august House must reflect not only compliance with targets, but genuine impact on the ground: whether jobs were created, whether the livelihoods of our people have been improved.

The first phase of the South African struggle brought us political freedom, which becomes meaningless when our people continue to be marginalised on economic activity. These structural patterns and designs continue to place our people in pursuit of a distant dream. The daily reality of unemployment, inequality and underdevelopment continues to weigh heavily on the shoulders of our people.

Hon Speaker, that's why LEDET, LEDA, LTA and LGB are not merely bureaucratic entities but instruments of transformation. They are the levers through which our political power must be translated into economic justice. These entities carry the mandate to industrialise our province, to support local entrepreneurs, to promote tourism as a driver for economic growth, and to ensure that the gaming industry operates with fairness and transparency.

Our responsibility is not only to account on expenditures but to ensure that every rand spent brings us closer to the economic liberation envisioned by our forebearers. We must refuse to normalise underperformance, reject complacency, and recommit ourselves to radical economic transformation. We must treat underspending as a political crime.

Those who underspend must be rejected and dealt with harshly, because our people need services, not mediocrity. Friends of such arrangements must be isolated in the best interests of our people.

Hon Speaker, let me also address the performance of the Department of Economic Development. The ANC has already commended the work that has been done by the department in achieving a clean audit outcome for the 2024/25 Financial year: a remarkable improvement from the unqualified audit opinion findings received in the previous year. This is not just a small achievement. In an era where financial mismanagement has unfortunately become more common than accountability in the public sector, the department must be applauded for demonstrating fiscal discipline and administrative integrity. Hon Matibe Baldwin Tshitereke, you have done well.

According to the report before us, the department has spent over R1,7 billion, representing 98% of the allocated Budget, and achieved 88% of its annual performance targets. These are impressive statistics. Despite this development, the department generated over R390 million in revenue collection, exceeding its target of more than R356 million. This over-performance is attributed largely to increased participation in gambling activities and fines collected under section 27(g) of the National Environment Management Act.

The challenge before us is not merely about spending. It is about the impact we are making on service delivery. The people of Limpopo do not measure performance by percentages, but by whether jobs have been created, as I've already alluded to.

Let this clean audit, honourable MEC, not be the end of the story but the beginning of a new era: where clean governance is matched by clean water, clean air, and clean economic opportunity for all our people.

The Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) has set for itself a noble and ambitious target to become self-sustainable. However, as we evaluate its performance over time, the picture before us becomes increasingly troubling.

For the fifth consecutive year, from 2021 up until today, 2025, LEDA has received a qualified audit opinion. This is not just another line in the Auditor-General's report; it is a damning indictment on institutional capacity and governance failure within the entity that was created to drive Limpopo's economic transformation. The basis for this qualified opinion is particularly revealing.

One of LEDA's subsidiaries, New Era Life Insurance Company Limited, has failed, for three consecutive years, to produce audited financial statements in the time for consolidation. As a result, the Auditor-General was unable to obtain sufficient audit evidence for revenue amounting to more than R102 million and operating expenses of more than R1 billion at New Era Life.

Similarly, the same applies to GNT, another subsidiary, where the Auditor-General could not verify operating expenses of over R1 billion due to the poor state of accounting records. These findings expose a deep-seated problem of financial mismanagement, weak internal controls and the absence of accountability across LEDA's subsidiaries.

That is why I said, even before, that honourable MEC, it is time for you to punch and to crush the status quo in those subsidiaries, because people they do as they wish, as if that LEDA or its subsidiaries are being run like Casey and Jojo, where we see our fathers toy-toying every day they need money, and where they see people not being paid what is due to them.

Of course, during the year under review, the LEDA group received a grant amounting to more than R496 million, while generating R567 million in revenue. On paper, honourable MEC, it means that the group made a profit of more than R267 million. However, without the government grant, LEDA would have been operating at a loss, and we must be careful about that.

The reality is that it raises uncomfortable, but at the same time, necessary questions. After more than a decade of its existence, following the 2011 amalgamation, is self-sustainability still a realistic policy objective for LEDA?

This is a fundamental question that we must, from time to time, ask ourselves. Since the amalgamation in 2011, we are now in 2025, 14 years later. Despite billions of investments and continuous support, LEDA remains dependent on government subsidies, disturbed by the chronic underperformance of entities like GNT and New Era Life. Given these persistent patterns, are we not setting the agency and its Executive up for inevitable failure by clinging to an unrealistic target?

The performance of LEDA and its subsidiaries reveals that the organisation is in distress, and there is a need for urgent intervention. What is needed now, as I've already indicated, is bold restructuring. Employ young, capable people who will transform that agency, because others are sitting on their laurels, in a comfort zone, earning their big salaries but doing nothing.

We must punch harder until they retreat. We stand here today, confronted by a matter that strikes GNT at the very heart of governance. A disturbing trend is emerging where criminal cases are opened, yet no arrests are effected. Cases are reported, yet no action follows, and millions are lost, yet no one is held responsible. This is not a mere procedural failure; it is a moral and institutional collapse when departments and their entities report cases of fraud, theft, and corruption.

Whether through the Auditor-General's finding, internal controls, or whistle-blowers, there is an expectation that the law enforcement agencies will act swiftly and decisively. Yet what we see, instead, is a deafening silence. Dockets gather dust, investigations are dragged on endlessly, and alleged perpetrators continue to earn their salaries, even receiving promotions, while the public, whose money has been stolen, receive nothing but excuses.

This culture of impunity, emboldened by corruption, erodes public faith; it is very dangerous. Let us be clear: when money is lost from the public purse, when departments and entities lose millions through fraud, mismanagement or criminal conduct, that is not just a financial issue; it is a crime against the people of Limpopo. It is a crime against every learner who studies under a tree, every patient who waits for hours in an overcrowded clinic, and every unemployed youth still searching for hope. If no arrests follow, if no one is held accountable, then we are telling our people that crime in government pays, and justice is only for the powerless.

Section 195 of the Constitution calls for the Public Administration that is accountable, transparent and responsive. President Ramaphosa, told us that those who steal from the people must face the full might of the law. However, words alone cannot restore trust. We must see hand cuffs. If there are no headlines or prosecutions, then there is a problem.

Those who are corrupt, honourable MEC, and you must make it a point, must know that we, as the portfolio committee, stand with those who suffer; the struggles and pains with the people of Limpopo. That is the statement. Those whom you have seen in those entities, those who are corrupt, you must tell them, and they must know: we are with the pains, the struggles, and the sufferings of the people of Limpopo.

It cannot be correct that, every audit cycle, we read about irregular expenditure, authorised spending, and losses due to fraud, yet no one spends a single night behind bars. If law enforcement agencies fail to act, then this Legislature must summon them, must question them, and must remind them that their constitutional duty is not optional.

As we conclude: when cases are opened and no arrests are made, when evidence exists but is ignored, we must treat that failure itself as misconduct and obstruction of justice.

Those who are corrupt; deal with them. You have our support. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Dr Selane. Honourable Members, as much as our issues are many, some of the things we are repeating them, and we are wasting time.

The truth must be told as it is. Can we get straight to the point and stop repeating matters, so that you don't go beyond your time? This committee is really going beyond its time limit.

No, there is no point of clarity, Hon Lebogo. I'm addressing honourable Members. I've never said anything like that. Don't say things that I didn't say. Thank you very much.

Can we now call upon Hon Velile Jack?

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker' and all protocol observed.

Hon Speaker, I think it is my duty... [INTERJECTION]

MR NKONYANE

Hon Deputy Speaker!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Nkonyane, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

I rise on Rule 92, whereby I am empowered by the Rules that, when I don't get clarity from a Member in this debate, I can ask that he explains something. Can I do that?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

[INAUDIBLE]

MR NKONYANE

I'm anticipating that he will say something. So, can I be granted?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No. Hon Velile, please start your debate.

MR JACK

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I don't blame Hon Bongani. When one Member was complaining about these chairs and how uncomfortable they are, that Member was crushed without any testing, and I heard Hon Bongani gossiping there that, indeed, these chairs are uncomfortable.

Hon Speaker. I thought I should take it upon myself to protect you. There's no way you can have two English names. You must choose one, please, and replace the other with a local name. I thank you.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I'm partially covered by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, who is our chairperson in the committee, who is leading by example, and who is really on the side of the masses of Limpopo in terms of service delivery. I wouldn't dwell much on my report, because it would be a repetition of many matters that have already been raised here.

We can't be seated here discussing Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ and the SMME's. We need to practicalise everything that must be done in those SEZs to assist them, and we are well led under the leadership of Hon Mokaba.

Hon Che Selane represented me very well. I must say, honourable MEC, I followed you closely in your deployments as a cadre of the ANC. From your executive mayorship in Vhembe, you have been a person who cared for those in need.

I remember giving you a list of my unemployed soldiers. When I woke up the next week, they were all employed by you. You have never disappointed in your deployments, and some of those who are doubted, can learn a lot from your leadership skills.

I'm just requesting, leadership, as I know you are looking at the matter: let's sort out the issue of the GNT people on humanitarian grounds. Let's put aside the propaganda being spread and look after those people.

At least they must go home and sleep peacefully, knowing that they are going to be repaid their money. That I know, as I'm your beneficiary also. It's a pity I've never benefited from Hon Makamu.

I'm not going to stand here and waste a lot of time. The previous speakers have represented me very well, and I think even my party will be happy because they were spot on.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Velile. Hon Jacobus Frederik Smalle is our next speaker on the list.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker. I think we must give credit where credit is due, and I do think that the LEDET committee is functioning optimally. The debates are healthy, and the recommendations to the department are of such a nature that they give credibility to how a turnaround strategy plan must take place.

Honourable MEC, as various Members have stood on this platform, it's important to ensure that those recommendations actually find resolution within the department. It's

when those resolutions do not find expression, that emotions rise among Members, and that is what we are trying to avoid.

If we look only at the first quarter, leaving previous years behind, it is commendable that the department is achieving between 88% and 100% of its various KPIs. As LEDET, it would seem that the HOD and the team are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

When we further look into LEDA as the shareholding company of various subsidiaries, we then question LEDA's performance in that space and how they are functioning, given that they are only meeting 50% of their key performing indicators.

With regard to the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, very hard questions arise when we consider the budget process. We have highlighted allocations towards the special economic zone, and one must then ask: wouldn't it be better to channel some of those human resources elsewhere?

I'm looking at the board, I'm looking at the HR operational size of the MMSEZ, and I'm looking at what is happening at the FTSEZ, and I'm asking: has the time not come for us to re-channel some of that time, effort and resources into a space where, perhaps in a year's time, we can stand here and say, we have an SEZ that is working; we have an SEZ that is bringing investment to the province, and we have an SEZ that is starting to create job opportunities?

The performance of the Enterprise and Financial Development Division is also concerning.

The division planned to distribute R1,5 million rand in business loans, but only R858,000 rand. This speaks to the real capacity challenges in that division and the need to strengthen it, while also supporting SMMEs. We must look at the red tape, how we are going to reduce it, and what are we going to do about it.

I don't want to speak at length about GNT again in this debate, but Hon Che Selane spoke eloquently about accountability and where we need to stand firm. Honourable MEC, if you are not going to take action and hold people accountable for their failures and for their inability to be transparent in their reporting, the onus will be on you to step aside and ensure accountability. That is where we will hold you accountable.

We need to start doing the right thing. We cannot proceed with lease agreements when the Auditor-General has said those lease agreements are irregular. We cannot continue to do the wrong thing when everybody around us knows something is rotten. We need to start fixing it.

Perhaps it is time for a strong statement from your office: to say, these are the factors; this is what we're doing; this is how we're holding people accountable. We look forward to that debate within the committee.

In conclusion, honourable MEC, I urge LEDET to continue its commendable work addressing the challenges we face in Limpopo, to prioritise the implementation of key projects and programmes that will drive economic growth, create jobs and improve the lives of our people.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Jacobus Smalle. Hon Mogoane is not in the House. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Mapula Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise to debate the First Quarter Performance Report of LEDET, LEDA, LTA and the Limpopo Gambling Board. This debate represents the culmination of the diligent and collective work undertaken by honourable Members from all political parties represented in this House through the portfolio committee's oversight processes.

Allow me to begin by grounding this debate in the political mandate that guides our work as it's deployees. The ANC's 2024 election manifesto makes a clear and unambiguous commitment to our people: we will build an inclusive economy that creates jobs, drives industrialisation, and ensures that the benefits of economic growth are shared by all South Africans.

We will support small businesses, attract investment, promote manufacturing, develop our tourism sector, and ensure that previously marginalised groups — including women, youth and persons living with disability — participate fully in economic opportunities. Economic transformation is not just about growth; it is about ensuring that growth translates into jobs, reducing inequality, and improves living conditions for all our people.

This is the mandate we carry; this is the promise we have made; and this is the standard against which the performance of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities must be measured.

The report we are debating today is not merely a technical document about budget expenditure and performance indicators. It is an accountability instrument that shows whether we are keeping our promises, whether we are delivering on our mandate, and whether we are building the inclusive economy our people deserve.

Standing before you at this moment, the Portfolio Committee on LEDET has conducted its oversight with rigour but also with fairness. We have been critical where criticism was warranted, but we have also been generous in our recommendations where excellence has been demonstrated. We have asked difficult questions because the people of Limpopo deserve answers. We have demanded accountability because public resources belong to the people and must be used in their interest.

As members of the portfolio committee and representatives in this Legislature, we have been granted the wider vision, the constitutional mandate, to see beyond day-to-day operations and to assess whether government programmes are truly transforming lives and building the economy we need.

Hon Speaker, before I delve into the substance of today's debate, permit me to reflect briefly on the constitutional foundation of our work. Section 114(2)(a) of the Constitution

of the Republic of South Africa, read together with Rule 81(1)(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislature of Limpopo Province, mandates this portfolio committee to exercise oversight over the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

This is not merely a procedural requirement; it is a fundamental pillar of our democratic system. The Public Finance Management Act reinforces this constitutional duty, creating a framework of accountability that ensures public resources are managed with transparency, efficiency and integrity. Public money is not government money; it is the people's money.

Every rand that is spent must be spent in the public interest, must deliver value for money, and must contribute to the development of our country and the improvement of people's lives.

The overall picture that emerges from the first quarter performance is one of mixed results. There are areas of excellence that deserve celebration, areas of adequate performance that require consolidation, and areas of underperformance that demand urgent intervention and corrective action.

Let me address each entity systematically, drawing on the insights gained through our engagement with the department and its entities. While statistics and percentages are necessary for oversight, we must never lose sight of the human dimension behind these numbers. Allow me to paint a slightly different picture from the one presented; a picture of the real people affected by the performance we are reviewing.

Consider the young entrepreneur in Vhembe District who has a viable business plan, who has identified a market opportunity, and who needs just R50,000 to purchase equipment and create three jobs. This entrepreneur approaches LEDA for support, fill out applications, waits for months, only to be told that the division is under-capacitated and cannot process the loan. The shortfall of R858,000 against the R1,5 million disbursement target represents dozens of such entrepreneurs whose dreams are deferred, whose businesses remain small, whose potential employees remain unemployed.

One of the most troubling dimensions of the work of the committee, and one I wish to emphasise differently from earlier speakers' analysis, is what I call the paradox of plenty. LEDET has been allocated R1,866 billion to the department, R102,064 million to the Limpopo Tourism Agency and substantial resources to LEDA and its subsidiaries. The ANC has given a mandate to the department, and the department has developed plans. Government has formulated policies, yet we struggle to translate these resources into the results our people need.

The sustainability challenges facing the entities strike at the heart of whether these entities can fulfil their developmental mandates while operating on a sound financial and operational foundation. The situation at Great North Transport is particularly alarming. Beyond the statistics of passengers not transported lies a deeper crisis of governance and sustainability.

New Era Life Insurance faces its own existential crisis with the withdrawal of its operating licences. An insurance company that cannot operate is not just a failed business; it is a broken promise to a policyholder who trusted their financial security to this entity.

The legal processes to restore the licences must be pursued vigorously, but we must also ask: how did we allow an entity to reach this point? What governance failure occurred? Who is accountable?

Limpopo Connection's slow progress in onboarding an investment partner for broadband rollout delays our province's digital transformation at a time when digital connectivity is essential for economic participation, for education, and for access to services. Every month of delay is another month that rural communities remain digitally isolated, that businesses cannot compete effectively, and that students cannot access online learning.

Honourable MEC, the only necessary condition for the collapse of public entities is for oversight bodies to see a warning sign and do nothing. We see the warning signs in GNT, in New Era, and in the implementation delays at our special economic zones. We cannot do nothing.

I wish to situate the issue of procurement within the broader context of economic transformation; the unfinished businesses of our democratic revolution. The ANC manifesto's commitment to ensuring that previously marginalised groups, including women, youth, and persons living with disability, participate fully in economic opportunities is not a bureaucratic target to be reported on quarterly.

It is a moral imperative, a constitutional obligation, and a test of whether our economic transformation is real or rhetorical. The persistence failure across the department and entities to meet procurement targets for disability-owned enterprises is not just underperformance: it is systemic exclusion.

When departments achieve only 0,02% against a 1% target, when LEDA achieves 0% against a 7% target, and when explanations are repeated without solution being implemented, we must confront an uncomfortable truth: we are complicit in the continued economic marginalisation of persons with disability. The explanation: lack of criteria, limited registration on database, concerns about jeopardising disability grants, reveals something deeper than administrative challenges.

They reveal a failure of creative problem-solving, a failure to prioritise what should be non-negotiable. Similarly, the underperformance in supporting youth-owned enterprises strikes at our democratic time bomb of youth unemployment. LEDA supported only nine youth enterprises against a target of 15.

However, beyond this number lies a deeper question: are we truly committed to youth economic empowerment, or do we merely speak about it while our system continues to fail young entrepreneurs? The ANC manifesto recognised that young people are not just the future; they are the present. They are today's entrepreneurs, today's innovators, today's job creators. When our system fails them, we are not just missing targets; we are betraying our own future.

Limpopo is richly endowed with minerals: platinum, chrome, coal, diamonds and copper. We also have fertile agricultural land.

We have a strategic location on the transport corridor to Zimbabwe and beyond. Yet, we remain largely an exporter of raw materials, with value addition and job creation happening elsewhere. The special economic zone at Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse represent our strategic response to these challenges.

They are our boldest attempts to move from a resource-extraction economy to a value-adding industrial economy. However, strategy without implementation is merely aspiration. When infrastructure projects at these SEZs are delayed, when roads and stormwater projects experience scope challenges, when bulk water and sewer projects await approval from WESA, and when electricity infrastructure depends on Eskom's capacity, we are not just experiencing project delays.

We are watching our industrialisation vision slip further into the future while other provinces and other countries capture the opportunities we should be seizing. The failure to operationalise the Lebowakgomo Abattoir and Mashashane Hatchery similarly represent lost opportunities for agro-processing industrialisation.

Agriculture is not just about farming; it is about value chain. When we cannot process our livestock, when we cannot hatch and graze chickens commercially, we end up exporting raw agricultural products that could create jobs and add value locally.

The portfolio committee commends the department for processing 100% of applications within the required time frame. However, the inspection of 1,723 out of 1,800 liquor businesses revealed continuing challenges in enforcement. Liquor regulation is not merely about licences and inspections; it is about the social fabric of our communities. Limpopo has assets that other provinces envy.

The Kruger National Park, ancient ecological sites like Mapungubwe, the beautiful mountain landscapes in the Blouberg and Waterberg ranges, cultural tourism opportunities, natural hot springs, and diverse wildlife: these are the raw material of a thriving tourism industry. What we lack is the infrastructure that translates potential into actual tourist arrivals, extended stays, spending, and job creation.

The committee's oversight visits to state-owned resorts and nature reserves revealed deteriorating facilities, inadequate maintenance, and delayed upgrades. When tourists arrive at our resorts and find poor accommodation, when they visit nature reserves with inadequate roads and facilities, they leave with a negative impression that they share widely in the age of social media and online reviews. Every disappointment to tourists is a marketing disaster that undermines years of promotional efforts.

The Limpopo Tourism Agency's marketing campaigns, including Tourism Thursday, create visibility and brand awareness. However, marketing creates expectations that infrastructure must fulfil. There is nothing more damaging than marketing that brings tourists to facilities that disappoint them. The comprehensive infrastructure improvement plan that we have recommended must address not just physical

structures, but the entire visitor experience; from the moment tourists arrive until they depart.

This includes accommodations quality, restaurants, standard activity offerings, safety and security, cleanliness, signage, accessibility, and all elements that contribute to tourist satisfaction.

Hon Speaker, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterised by artificial intelligence, automation, digital platforms, and rapid technological change, is transforming the nature of work globally. Jobs that existed a decade ago are disappearing.

New jobs requiring new skills are emerging. In this context, skill development is not a secondary support function; it is central to whether our people can participate in the economy of tomorrow.

The training offered by LEDA at the Lwamondo Training Centre, together with its various skills programmes is valuable; however we must ask a critical question: are we training people for the job that exist today, or for the jobs that will exist tomorrow? Are we providing digital skills that enable participation in the online economy? Are we teaching entrepreneurship and innovation, or just technical skills? Are we helping people to adapt to change, or preparing them for a static economy that no longer exists? Moreover, skills development must be aligned with our industrial strategy.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You may continue, but towards conclusion, thank you.

MS MOKABA

Skills development must be aligned with our industrial strategy. If we are building a special economic zone focused on mineral beneficiation, are we training metallurgists, industrial engineers, process controllers?

If we are developing tourism, are we training hospitality managers, tour guides, chefs, and conservation managers? If we are promoting agro-processing, are we training food technologists, quality controllers, and supply chain managers? The 2,977 beneficiaries trained represent a significant reach, but we need systematic reporting on what skills were they trained in.

Are these skills aligned with labour market demand? What percentage found employment or started businesses after training? What is the quality and relevance of the training provided? These questions determine whether skills development is truly transformative or just active without impact.

Hon Speaker, thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Honourable chairperson, Ms Mapula Mokaba. Re a leboga

We will now call upon the honourable MEC, Matibe Tshitereke Baldwin, to respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

The MEC for Social Development is saying I must not take time. I sympathise with her, because it shows that LEDET needs a whole day to be debated in this House without any other portfolio committee.

I have noted the issues that were raised by Members. I will just respond to one, which is critical: GNT. As I was coming here, I was telling the MEC for Treasury that you can see we need a lot of money to deal with the issues of GNT, especially the pensions for our former employees. During the Sixth Administration, BDO was appointed to address the pension matters of GNT employees, and they implemented a process to deal with these pensions. However, their work only covered the period from 2010 to 2017.

I have also implemented these measures. When we found that BDO only addressed pensions from 2010 to 2017, we then appointed actuaries to examine the pensions of GNT employees from 1999 to 2010. That is the challenge that we are facing, and we sympathise with those pensioners that are sitting in the Premier's Office.

The reason we appointed actuaries was to ensure that they could reconstruct the pensions for those pensioners. Otherwise, without actuaries, because the information is in bits and pieces, we will not succeed. We have issued a notice that all must provide the information required by GNT.

Once this is done, and the pensions are reconstructed, we will be able to see whether we have underpaid or overpaid them, and assist accordingly. We are still implementing the BDO forensic report, and I have indicated that we are left with 162 employees who have not yet come forward. We must reconstruct the pension funds for those pensioners from 1999, when Gazankulu Transport and Lebowa Transport were merged, so that we have correct figures. That can only be done by actuaries. That is the work we are doing.

We really, really sympathise with them. The work of a revolutionary is to love the people that we are leading. We know and love those pensioners, because we are revolutionaries and we must support them.

Currently, we are doing everything in our power to ensure that we support them. The challenge we have is that those who are at the Premier's Office are not willing to give us information.

If they were providing information, I would have gone to the MEC for Treasury to say that I now have the amount needed to pay those pensioners, and we would pay them out. But now, he can't budget for them, because he can't budget for contingent liabilities. We need correct figures so that the EXCO and the Legislature can make determinations.

On the other issues, we have noted them. We will work together. It was a debate about LEDA.

The work of other entities is better. We must focus on LEDA and ensure that it gives services to our people.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. As we proceed to the next item, I shall now call upon the acting chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Nenguda.

7.6 Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

MR NENGUDA

Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker, for granting me this opportunity to present the reports as listed. Ndi thome nga u lumelisa Mulangadzulo wa Buthano lashu la Vhusimamilayo ha vundu lashu la Limpopo, Muhulisei Dokotela Makoma Makhurupetje na tshanda tshavho nga ngei ntha khuluṇonini; ndi lumelise vhurangaphanda hothe ha khoro dzine dza wanala fano kha Buthano lashu.

Madam Speaker, I am here to move for the consideration and adoption of the following Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development:

The 2023/24 Annual Report of the Department of Social Development.

So, I move, Madam Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MS MOHALE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I second the presentation of the report as made by the acting chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Chair, you may proceed

MR NENGUDA

Thank you once more, Hon Deputy Speaker.

Allow me to move for the consideration and adoption consideration of the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Department of Social Development. So, I move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable chair.

Is there any seconder? Hon Nkonyana from the Whippery, you are recognised.

MR NKONYANA

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I second the motion as proposed by the honourable acting chair, Mr Nenguda.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Nkonyana. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MR NENGUDA

Thank you once more. Our last report is the 2025/26 First Quarter Report of the Department of Social Development.

So I move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, you may take your seat, chair. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Manana Xandla xa Xipikara, ku nyikiwa nkarhi lowu. Ndzi yima ku ta seketela leswi boxiweke hi Mukhomeri wa Mutshamaxitulu tatana Nenguda.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mdaka. We shall now proceed to the Speakers' List, and I call upon Dr Malebana Chuene William Disagree to open the debate.

DR MALEBANA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Allow me to stand on the protocol that has already been observed and acknowledged. I will go through my contribution, and I greet all the people of Limpopo, whom the MEC for Social Development loves so much.

Hon Deputy Speaker, may I start my contribution with regard to gender-based violence and femicide. This is a problem whose root causes cut across our society.

The scourge of gender-based violence remains a pressing concern. Recent incidents, such as the brutal murder of Dineo Pilusa and the tragic events involving Pitsi Malepe, underscores the need for urgent action. As the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, we condemn all forms of abuse against women and children.

We must address the root cause of the GBVF, including patriarchy, the legacy of apartheid and colonialism, economic inequality, and poverty.

The former Deputy President of South Africa, the late Mr D D Mabuza, advised us on how we should deal with matters of gender-based violence: "As a society, we must fight the scourge of GBV with the same vigour we fought the oppressive system of apartheid."

We call for economic empowerment, social protection, and the challenging of patriarchal norms to combat GBV. We emphasise that addressing GBVF requires a fundamental transformation of the country's socioeconomic structure, prioritising the needs and the rights of women and marginalised communities.

We convey our deepest gratitude to the honourable MEC and her team for ensuring that the victims of gender-based violence and femicide are well cared for.

In the first quarter of 2025/26, 29 victims of the GBV were assessed and given shelter. With regard to older persons and people with disability, during the first quarter, 13, 588 elderly people were assessed and received community-based care and support services, while 516 older persons were assessed residential care facilities. We urge families to consider residential facilities if they struggle to provide adequate care. Additionally, we recommend accrediting skills training provided by centres for people with disability to empower people living with disability.

Our province is making inroads with regard to this programme. As we interact with other provinces, including through the Older Persons National Games, Limpopo has become a role model in how to care for older persons. We emphasise that participation should be prioritised, because at the level of the games, the emphasis tends to be on competition.

The emphasis should instead be on the participation of all older persons. We are pleased to report that in the first quarter, 30,355 beneficiaries participated in Social and Behavioural Change Programmes exceeding the quarter one target of 22,000. This initiative promotes an inclusive community and empowers individuals to cope with the status and live healthy lives.

Community-based prevention and early intervention programmes play a crucial role in shaping the lives of young people. This initiative educates children and youth about the dangers of crime and substance abuse, equipping them with the knowledge and resilience to make informed choices. In hindsight, it strengthens the social fabric of our society, but it also addresses the family unit. If we do not address challenges within the family, we will face problems as a society, because the family is the first organisation known to be truly functional.

We have challenges in this regard. The department's poverty-reduction programmes, including food-security initiatives as well as participation in the EPWP, help alleviate poverty and create temporary work opportunities. What exactly am I saying?

I'm saying that, if I were to use the 2024/25 Annual Report as well as the 2023/24, except for the dispute the department has with the Auditor-General about assets recorded outside of the department's knowledge, the assessment of the Limpopo Department of Social Development for 2024/25, including the first quarter and the 2023/24 financial year, reveals a department that has made significant strides in fulfilling its constitutional mandate to provide social assistance and protect vulnerable populations, as outlined in sections 27 and 28 of the Constitution.

The return to an unqualified audit opinion marks a notable recovery from the 2023/24 financial year's qualified opinion, reflecting improved financial reporting and adherence to the Public Finance Management Act and modified cash standard. This achievement, coupled with high expenditure rates averaging 97,7% across programmes, underscores a commitment to efficient resource utilisation and service delivery, particularly in the demand-driven areas such as social relief, HIV/AIDS support, and community empowerment.

In other words, the department has achieved all its targets, and we have no doubt regarding the year that is coming, as the portfolio committee will be part of it. However, the department faces persistent challenges that temper this progress. As part of a developmental stage, we are leading programmes that face evolving challenges, as well as chronic issues such as a 46% vacancy rate in the year under review, inadequate IT infrastructure, and budgetary constraints. These continue to hinder optimal performance, particularly in attracting skilled professionals and maintaining operational capacity at district levels.

The Auditor-General's identification of material misstatements in performance reporting for programmes 2 and 3 highlights gaps in internal control and evidence-based reporting, necessitating urgent action to ensure accuracy and accountability.

Moreover, underspending of about R48,894 million and underperformance in specific targets suggest opportunities for better planning and resource allocation. Programme performance nonetheless demonstrates resilience, with overachievement in key areas such as crime prevention, child protection, and poverty alleviation; largely driven by robust partnerships with stakeholders such as SASSA, SAPS, and NPOs.

These collaborations have amplified the department's reach, aligning with its vision of an integrated, sustainable, and caring society. Nevertheless, challenges such as families being unready for reunification and limited procurement from disability-owned companies indicate areas where strategic adjustments and enhanced forecasting are required in the current year.

Portfolio committee oversight questions and recommendations will provide a road map to address systemic weakness, strengthen governance, and maximise the impact of public resources by prioritising recruitment, improving IT systems, and formalising partnerships.

The department can build on its strengths and mitigate risks. The 2025/26 financial year offers a pivotal opportunity to translate these efforts into tangible outcomes for Limpopo's most vulnerable populations, ensuring alignment with national priorities and

the National Development Plan. Continued vigilance and collaboration between the department and the committee will be essential to sustain this momentum and to achieve long-term transformation.

In conclusion, the Department of Social Development represents a collective mission that requires compassion and commitment. As the ANC commits to social transformation, we must work together to build a society where every individual has an opportunity to thrive. Let us remember the ANC's 2024 National and Provincial Elections commitment to prioritise social development and work towards a better life for all South Africans.

I want to take this opportunity to wish the chairperson of the portfolio committee well, as all of us have seen that today is not here.

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Dr Malebana Disagree. Hon Marx is not in the House. I didn't see a letter of replacement, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, I can refer you to the emails that were sent to your office, as well as to the Secretary to the Legislature, regarding Hon Marx's non-attendance and the apology for today's meeting, together with myself standing in for him, and the acknowledgement thereof.

I can refer to you that email, which was sent yesterday and acknowledged, Hon Deputy Speaker. It was sent by our Chief of Staff, Karla van Rensburg, from the office.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Chief Whip, from the Whippery of the DA, can you confirm that?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Chair, it's quite difficult, because apparently the email was sent to your office, so it will be difficult for me to confirm.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You can just show us the email, then we can allow you to proceed. You were going to tell us who you sent it to, who you gave it to.

I am a member of Programming Committee and Chairperson for that matter. When you send such communication, it must go to the Chief Whip or the Programming Committee Chairperson, because that is where we deal with the Speakers' List.

Thank you. O ngwala tša gago, ga o ngwale tshwarelo. Can the Secretariat desk confirm it, please, so that he can proceed and present. I know my email address, and also the email address of the Secretary to the Legislature; I know them. All I need is the time.

Hon Smalle, please proceed. Aowa ga ke tšhabe, le yena o a tseba.

You can't talk about that. It's not about that; it's about following the rules and confirming if indeed there was such communication, and we have confirmed that.

Let us maintain the decorum of the House, please.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

Today I rise addressing a pressing issue that affects millions of South Africans; social welfare. As we gather here, over 25 million people in the country rely on social grants for survival, accounting for approximately 40,1% of our population. Limpopo accounts for 2,7 million beneficiaries, which equates to nearly 50% of its population, and therefore it's not considered as being employed.

The latest General Household Survey reveals a stark reality. Grants have become the second most important source of income for our households, surpassing salaries in some of our poorest provinces, including the Eastern Cape, Free State, and Limpopo. This is a clear indication that our economic growth is not translating into job creation and improved living standards for many.

As we support the incredible and valuable role of NGOs playing in assisting the most vulnerable, it is concerning that, honourable MEC, the department was unable, or unwilling, to answer the question regarding the payment and the support of 19,982 noncompliant NPOs in Limpopo.

Why is it that we lack oversight and fail to get the basics right of good, responsible government? If you say you are conducting reconciliation processes each quarter, then we would be able to report on those who transgress. As the province continues to confront the crisis of gender-based violence, with increasing focus on a number of victims of GBV, these shortcomings become even more pressing.

It is important that the department continue to resource and increase capacity in victim-empowerment programmes, and ensure that there are sufficient support and shelter for victims, along with awareness programmes that encourage them to report their perpetrators, so that it becomes the norm in our society.

In the same breath, the department plays a significant role in assisting and addressing HIV and AIDS. Programmes that focus on social and behavioural change towards HIV and AIDS and other social ills need to be widespread. This, together with the social workers provided to beneficiaries, will go a long way in improving the conditions of our communities.

We have to be honest with ourselves. Limpopo programme managers and coordinators either are stretched, lack the necessary skills, or simply their role as a tick-box exercise. Some chronic challenges remain.

The delay in filling funded vacant posts as per the recruitment plan, inadequate budgets for the implementation of skills programmes, difficulty in attracting social-service professionals, inability to absorb graduates due to budgetary constraints, information-technology challenges, office-accommodation shortages, inadequate budget for tools of trade, and internal-control deficiencies have all been identified.

The Auditor-General reported material misstatements in performance reporting for programme 2, Social Welfare Services, and programme 3, Children and Families. Nearly 3 million beneficiaries received support, including 2 million children and 500,000 older persons.

However, despite these efforts, poverty and inequality persist, with 53,8% of our population living below the upper-bound poverty line. The National Development Plan requires 55,000 social-service professionals by 2030 to meet the growing demand for social services. The question remains: will Limpopo add value to the ongoing demand, or will it continue to fall short in its oversight role? As we strive to harness the demographic dividend and advance human-capital development, we must invest in our youth.

Comprehensive social-security systems establish the robust framework providing a basic income grant, increased investment in social services, prioritised recruitment and retention of social-service professionals, youth empowerment, investment in programmes promoting youth employment, education, and skills development, and addressing inequality. This includes tackling the root causes of inequality, such as unequal access to education, health care, and economic opportunities.

I urge this House to join me in calling for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to social development. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and future generations to ensure that every South African and Limpoplian has access to a dignified and a prosperous life.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. I shall now call upon Hon Magolo.

MR MAGOLO

Greetings, Hon Deputy Speaker; honourable MECs in the House; honourable Members of the House; Members of the opposition parties; and our guests in the gallery.

I will not repeat what other members of the portfolio committee have said. I will just try to touch those matters that I feel must be emphasised.

Hon Speaker, the EFF notes the improvement from a qualified audit opinion in 2023/24 to unqualified audit opinion in the 2024/25 financial year. We are, however, concerned that with the matters of emphasis noted by the Auditor-General, there is still a problem of reliable information and misstatements.

We call on the department to correct this anomaly in order to achieve a clean audit. The most notable issue in this department is that it has not been able to absorb all the graduates who completed their studies starting from 2013 academic year, due to budgetary constraints.

Now, when we take into consideration the underspending of R48 million by the department in the 2024/25 financial year, that becomes concerning. The majority of these graduates are beneficiaries of the very same bursary scheme of the department, which was meant to increase capacity in terms of the workforce.

Information technology also remains a huge challenge in the department, particularly with regard to the vacancy rate in ICT and inadequate provision of connectivity. Nothing seems to be working in this regard.

Office accommodation also remains a great challenge in the department, particularly at district and sub-district level. This is due to the infrastructure backlog in the department, which they do not seem to have an appetite to resolve.

The EFF is also concerned about the inadequate budget provision for tools of trade in the form of computer equipment, internet connectivity, office furniture, and transportation at district and sub-district level.

With regard to the First Quarter Report of 2025/26, the EFF notes that the department is far behind in terms of the planned performance. The department must ensure that, by the end of the financial year, we do not end up with underspent amounts.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Magolo. I shall now call upon the acting chair, Hon Nenguda, to come and close the debate.

MR NENGUDA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Speaker; Hon Chief Whip and Members of the Whippers; chairpersons of portfolio committees; Members of the Executive Council in attendance; honourable Members; as well as our distinguished guests in the gallery, good afternoon.

There is a powerful saying: "You cannot lead those you do not love." True leadership is rooted in compassion and commitment to the well-being of others. The Department of Social Development may often be perceived as a small department, but it is one of the most important departments of government.

It serves as the frontline of care for the most vulnerable members of our society; children, the elderly, persons with disability, survivors of abuse, and those living in poverty. Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of Satyagraha, the passive-resistance movement, once said: "There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread. God comes to the hungry in the form of food."

Hence the importance of this Department of Social Development. The department does not only administer programmes but also carries the moral weight of the nation's conscience. Its work demands not only administrative efficiency but also emotional intelligence and sensitivity.

To lead in the Department of Social Development, is to embrace the pain and hopes of others and to translate that empathy into policy, protection, and progress. It is time we elevate its status, resource it adequately, and recognise that the strength of a nation is measured not by its wealth but by how it treats its most vulnerable.

On Administration, we are happy to note that women now make 54% of senior management positions in our province. This is a positive testament to our efforts to dismantle inequality and challenge patriarchy. The appointment of a woman as the new head of department of the Department of Social Development further reinforces our commitment to inclusive leadership. This shows that we are moving decisively in the right direction, where competence and representation go hand in hand.

This progress reflects good transformation in governance; one that values diversity, empowers women, and ensures that leadership mirrors society itself. When women lead, especially in strategic administrative roles, they bring perspectives that are often overlooked. The department has met its initial target of employing people with disability with 2% of the employees comprising people living with disability.

Through you, honourable MEC Ms Radzilani, we commend the Department of Social Development for its efforts in ensuring that people living with a disability are represented in the department. This approach ensures that people living with disability are not overlooked and have a place within the department.

On Financial Services, in the first quarter, the department paid 99,8% of valid invoices within 30 days, falling just short of its target of 100%. Out of 1,628 invoices, only 1,625 were paid. The only three that were delayed were due to incorrect receipt-date capture.

We encourage the department to improve its data accuracy to ensure no mistakes are made. Service providers rely on these funds to support their families, so fast and effective payments are essential. As previously mentioned, the Department of Social Development is committed to promoting the inclusion of historically marginalised groups.

These include the youth, women, persons living with disability, and military veterans. Through targeted programmes and policies, the department strives to ensure that these previously marginalised groups are not only acknowledged but actively supported in accessing opportunities and resources.

Madam Speaker, the department aims to allocate 30% of the procurement budget to youth-owned businesses, but it failed to meet its target and achieved only 16,81%, due to fewer youth-owned companies being registered in the common departmental commodities utilised in the quarter.

The African National Congress has emphasised the importance of youth involvement in shaping South Africa's future. Our icon, Tata Nelson Mandela, once said: "A country, a movement, a people, that does not value its youth, does not deserve its future." This statement was further echoed by the President of the Republic, Hon Cyril Ramaphosa, who encouraged young people to be job creators, not just job seekers, and to liberate themselves from poverty and unemployment.

We indeed live in great times to witness the achievements of women. The target for procurement spent on women was 40%, And this target was greatly surpassed, reaching 61,33%.

This was possible because most companies were registered on the central supply database. The procurement target for military veterans was set at 5% target, but it is disheartening that the initial outcome was 0%, while procurement spent on persons living with disability was only 0,2%.

We plead with the honourable MEC and the department to host programmes aimed at encouraging the youth, persons living with disability, and military veterans to register their companies in the relevant databases.

The department has seen a decline in family-participation preservation services, with fewer families engaging than anticipated. This has continued from 2023/24 into the 2025/26 first quarter, with some families not responding positively to sessions. The rise in children placed in foster care is alarming.

It emphasises the challenges faced by parents in providing suitable care. We appreciate the department's swift response in ensuring that children are safe. Children often go through a lot at the hands of their parents and guardians.

As the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, we advise the department to hold awareness programmes that educate children about abuse, while also motivating community members to report any type of child abuse.

On Substance Abuse, it remains a serious challenge not only in Limpopo but across South Africa. Many young people have fallen victim to addiction, losing their potential and futures to the grip of drugs and alcohol. In many cases, substance dependency drives individuals to commit crimes such as theft simply to feed their cravings.

As I conclude, we commend the Department of Social Development for its unwavering support in addressing this crisis. Through its rehabilitation centres, the department continues to offer vital assistance to those battling addiction, providing them with the opportunity to recover.

Hon Speaker, the committee has considered and supported the Department of Social Development's 2023/24 and 2024/25 Annual Reports, as well as the 2025/26 First

Quarter Report. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, I move that these reports be adopted.

Thank you so much, Madam Deputy Speaker. Ndi a livhuwa. Nda u ya nduna!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nenguda. I shall now call upon the MEC for Social Development, Hon Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani to come and respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; honourable Members of this august House; and our distinguished guests at the public gallery. Good afternoon to all of you.

Let me start by appreciating the debate by honourable Members in this august House, especially regarding the performance of the Department of Social Development and the areas where the department still has to work very hard to improve performance.

I want to indicate in this august House that our department has made significant strides across numerous performance areas, demonstrating that we are capable of turning setbacks into opportunities for growth.

Honourable Members also raised concerns about the department failing to recruit or absorb social workers who were supported by the department itself. I want to indicate to this House that we have reduced our overall high vacancy rate, which previously hampered our service delivery as a department.

We once reported in this House that the vacancy rate was standing at 48%, but today we can proudly indicate that we have moved with speed as a department. We now have the HOD and other senior managers in place, with women occupying 57% of these positions.

A clear demonstration of our resolve to empower women as the department. We continue to fill funded vacant positions in order to eventually have a full staff complement. It is true that, based on budgetary constraints, we are unable to fill all the positions as per the organisational structure. However, we appreciate that the Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier, together with the entire Executive, have approved 151 posts for this financial year, which we are in the process of filling.

I want to address the issue raised by Hon Smalle in relation to the department failing to account, especially regarding the 19 NPOs funded by the department while they were not compliant with legislation. We have already responded and indicated that the list comes from the National Department. Out of the 19 listed, not a single one that is funded by the Limpopo Department of Social Development.

We'll continue to work very hard with the portfolio committee, especially in areas where we are still lacking. There are areas highlighted in the Auditor-General's report which

the department is putting more effort into addressing, particularly in the management of the finances.

As I conclude, a number of issues raised here are known to the department, and we are working very hard to ensure that we resolve all of them.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I don't want to continue to delay this Sitting, particularly because you can see that the time is already 16:00 and we started at 10:00. We also want to indicate that the Department of Social Development, since the start of the Seventh Administration, has often been scheduled last from time to time.

We are not sure about the criteria that the Programming Committee is utilising, so we hope that next time the criteria will be reviewed, so that we are afforded the opportunity to account to the people of Limpopo.

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. My apologies for that. There are no criteria for this, really. We simply enlist the departments as they are ready with their reports.

We don't have criteria that we follow. So, whenever a department is ready with its reports, we enlist it on the Order Paper. It's not about who's number one or two. However, we have noted your concern, honourable MEC. I think we should leave it there. Thank you very much.

8. RESPONSE TO THE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS:

The following parliamentary questions have been responded to, and the responses have been published on the ATC. They are therefore disposed of:

- Q 5, Q 8, Q 27 and Q 53 of 2025 for written reply by the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure
- Q 64, Q 71, Q 72, Q 97 of 2025 for written reply by the MEC for Transport and Community Safety.

Are there any announcements, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs?

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF CHAIRS

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I will harp on the lexicon, the diction and the parlance that all protocol is observed.

I rise, Hon Deputy Speaker, to make the following announcements:

- The Speaker invites all Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature to take part in the "Taking Legislature to the People programme, scheduled to take place

from 10 to 13 November 2025 at Peter Nchabeleng Sportsground, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District.

- The Office of the Speaker received information that an investment conference is scheduled to take place from 30 to 31 October 2025 at The Ranch. To that extent, the Speaker, in consultation with key role players, will communicate whether or not there will be a Sitting on that date. Communication will be provided accordingly.
- Lunch is served at the committee's main boardroom.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs,

10. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned until Thursday, 30 October 2025, at 10:00.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you so much. We may now take our seats. Good morning, honourable Members. We shall greet the Premier in absentia, all MECs, and we also greet the Deputy Speaker, Hon Portia Tebogo Mamurobela.

The Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone; Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Ngobeni; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, and the entire whippery, Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mapoulo; and other honourable Members in the opposition benches. Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to greet our guests present here today. We are honoured and blessed to have leaders of our political parties present, but in particular, we shall greet the Provincial Secretary of the African National Congress. You are welcomed to this Sitting. Let me welcome the HODs from different departments that are with us today, I greet specifically the MEC for Provincial Treasury. He has brought a number of guests.

I'm not sure if he has brought his family, but a number of guests are here, feel acknowledged in the gallery. Let me also greet all our followers on social media today, on Tuesday, 25 November 2025. We are here in the Limpopo Legislative Chamber to proceed with the business of the Limpopo Legislature. Without wasting time, I will now move to item 2.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Item 2, on our Order Paper, deals with Rule 145, which is Motions without Notice. Are there any motions without notice? Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE DANCING DUO OF ADELAIDE
HLUNGWANI AND HAPPY ROMANO
(Motion without Notice)**

Thank you, Speaker. I stand on behalf of the Democratic Alliance and ask that this House congratulates the dancing duo of Adelaide Hlungwani and Happy Romano. That it also:

- Notes that the pair reached the second round of the Amateur Latin World Open Championships in 2025, which were held in the Netherlands.
- Notes that the event featured a wide range of ballroom and Latin dancing competitors from across the world, including professional, amateur, youth, junior, and juvenile divisions.
- Further notes that this ballroom pair have been finalists in the Amateur Latin World Championships for three years, namely 2022, 2024, and 2025.
- It is a wonderful achievement for them to have brought medals back to South Africa and, more particularly, to Limpopo.
- We ask that this House congratulates the pair on their outstanding achievement and ask that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to do more to assist with the sponsorship of this team and others who would like to compete but cannot, due to funding issues. I so move.

Thank you, Hon Speaker

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as read by Hon Lindy Wilson. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. Is there any other motion? Hon Nenguda, you are recognised.

ADV MARX

On a point of order, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Marx, you are recognised.

ADV MARX

Speaker, in terms of Rule 148, an urgent motion directly concerning the privilege of the House shall take precedence over other motions and Orders of the Day. You will recall that I sent you a motion regarding privilege, and I therefore request that it take precedence in accordance with the rules.

THE SPEAKER

The Programming Committee has considered the motion and has programmed it accordingly. Can we proceed please. Are there any other motions without notice? Hon Nenguda, over to you.

ADV MARX

On a point of order, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I have quoted directly from the rules. There is nothing in these rules that says the Programming Committee can overrule the rules, and therefore, I insist that we follow the rules that are applicable to you. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Marx, we have followed the rules. Rule 148 is not read in isolation. It's one statement there. It means when you read the rules, you must read from 146. It follows down until that one sentence that says to you, those motions when we come to Rule 146, the motion will take precedence. I agree.

Hon Nenguda, you can proceed.

MR NENGUDA

**SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE**
(Motion without Notice)

Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, Ndi a livhuwa Murangaphanda washu. Ndi tama u lumelisa Vhahulisei Mirado ya Buthano la Vhusimamilayo ha vundu lashu la Limpopo. Ndi lumelise hafhu na vhurangaphanda ha African National Congress ho rangwaho phanda nga Vhamusanda Vho Madadzhe.

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to applaud the African National Congress in Limpopo for the successful launch of the Campaign against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide on Friday, the 21st of November 2025, in the Vhembe region.

This initiative follows the declaration of GBVF as a national disaster according to section 23 of the Disaster Management Act, section 23 of 2000. This campaign reflects the ANC in Limpopo's commitment to translating national priorities into local action. It demonstrates that the African National Congress is not only responding to this urgent call, but it is also reinforcing its own manifesto, which strongly commits to fighting GBVF.

Madam Speaker, the African National Congress manifesto recognises gender justice as central to building a safe, inclusive and democratic society. Campaigns such as these are practical of that vision. It came at a critical time as South Africa observes 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children.

By raising awareness, the African National Congress in Limpopo is making an effort to eradicate GBVF, which has claimed lots of lives, left children orphaned, and women and children living in fear every day.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Any seconder to the motion? Hon Mmetle-Ramohlola, you are recognised.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Mmetle-Ramohlola, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Nenguda. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any further motion? Hon Mokaba, the time is yours.

MS MOKABA

THE EXPOTENTIAL GROWTH EXPERIENCED BY THE HOEDSPRUIT AIRPORT
(Motion without Notice)

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; MEC's present here; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; Deputy Speaker; Leader of Opposition party; honourable Members; guests in the gallery; the Provincial Secretary of the ANC; good morning.

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to welcome and applaud the exponential growth experienced by the Hoedspruit Airport within the Maruleng Local Municipality.

A few days after welcoming FlySafair as an additional operator on the Hoedspruit – Cape Town route, Comair has also indicated that it will be launching a new route between Hoedspruit and George in May 2026.

This is a huge achievement for Limpopo as it opens new doors for opportunities for the province and its people. This route will improve travel between the Limpopo province and other parts of the world and will improve tourism in the province.

It will increase tourism between the country's top tourism destinations and will remove unnecessary transit for travellers. I so move.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

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

MR SMALLE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I stand to support the motion as read by Hon Mokaba.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed with other motions. Hon Monama, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

THE SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF THE HISTORIC G20 LEADERS' SUMMIT HELD IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Motion without Notice)

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier and honourable MECs; honourable Members of this August House; our Provincial Secretary, Vho Madadzhe.

Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress that this august House notes the successful hosting of the historic G20 Leaders' Summit that was held in South Africa this past weekend under the groundbreaking theme, Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability.

The ANC welcomed the growing stature of South Africa on the global arena, reflected most powerfully in our country's preparation for the event of this magnitude.

We applaud the judicious stewardship of His Excellency, the State President Vho Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, undoubtedly hosting the G20 carried substantial economic spin-offs for our country and the continent.

In the immediate term, he stimulated tourism, hospitality, aviation and business services, generating thousands of jobs and injecting millions of rands into the local economy. The G20 South Africa Summit Leaders' Declaration is more than words.

It is a commitment to concrete action that will improve the lives of people in every part of the world. We applaud the professionalism, discipline and dedication that was demonstrated by various organs of state and civil society structures that made this event a phenomenal success.

We have laid the foundation of solidarity, and now we must build the walls of justice and the roofs of prosperity. It is our wish that these commitments, which were made by these global leaders should translate into actionable programmes meant to bring an end to international poverty and inequality.

This gathering, Hon Speaker, has heightened Africa's weight on global affairs, and we want to congratulate the South African Government for its outstanding ability to become that platform.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Over to you, Hon Sebopela.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Dr Speaker and greetings to the House. I rise to second the motion as moved by the Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Sebopela. And we can now continue if there's any other motion. Hon Phokane, you are recognised.

MR PHOKANE

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

(Motion without Notice)

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Mospikare, Ke go tamišitše. Ke tamiše Motlatša Mospikara; Balekgotlaphethiši ba ba lego gona fa; Difepi; Ofisi ya Modulasetulo wa Baduladitulo; the Leader of Opposition Parties; our guests. Let me also acknowledge the presence of the Provincial Secretary of the ANC, Vho Maḡadzhe.

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes the Limpopo Provincial Investment Conference that was hosted by the provincial government about a month ago.

The conference has received in excess of R170 billion in pledges, with R9,5 billion of that set to build a mineral refinery base, which is in line with our beneficiation programme. Upon conclusion, this will turn the Limpopo province into a fully industrialised region where minerals are extracted and refined within the same locality.

Hon Speaker, it has been our long-held view as the ANC government to reduce the amount of minerals that are being exported to foreign markets for refining. We are also optimistic that these pledges will translate into tangible economic deposits that will transform this province's employment prospects.

This R170 billion that was pledged this year has far outpaced the R120 billion that was pledged in 2024. We have also seen how this investment has grown the provincial economy in the recent past.

Through this investment, Hon Speaker, the province has seen a rollout of infrastructural programmes like the building of malls and the mining industry, which continue to employ the majority of our people.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Phokane. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Kupa-Mabuza, you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion that was presented by Hon Phokane, and I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Kupa. I now recognise Hon Mapoulo.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO EFF LEADER, JULIUS MALEMA

(Motion without Notice)

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; the Premier; MECs present; Chair of Chairs; and his deputy; and the members of the community at the gallery. I rise on behalf of the EFF so that the House can know the following:

- The EFF Office of the Presidency has been inundated with calls from Prime Ministers attending the G20, arranging to meet President Julius Malema before they can even fly back to their homes.
- The EFF is humbled by the love shown by the world leaders to President Malema as he continues to be the beacon of hope in South Africa, the continent, and the diaspora.
- Furthermore, we are also humbled by the many visits to the Commander-in-Chief by local and international dignitaries at the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela House, the headquarters of the Economic Freedom Fighters.
- It is encouraging to know that South Africans and world leaders are inspired by the impeccable leadership of President Malema, more especially for the love of fellow Africans. President Malema continues to be a powerful voice of the poor, the unemployed, and the marginalised black South Africans.
- He continues to demonstrate his love for fellow South Africans by building them dignified decent houses, not like my friend. Leadership by action is the principle that leadership is demonstrated through behaviour and deeds, not just words. It involves aligning your words with your values and visions.
- May the good Lord continue to keep him for us and bless him with long life until he rules this country. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mapoulo. Hon Sebopela, you are recognised.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Speaker. I'm rising in terms of Rule 145 item 2(i) that says such a motion may in any event not take longer than 90 seconds to reach out, and I felt the motion that was presented was taking too long. Honourable Members must not read biographies of other people. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Sebopela, let me check if there is any seconder. If there is an objection, Members will be allowed to do so. Is there any seconder to the motion? Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Molapo, you are recognised.

MR LEBOGO

Madume, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Re leboga le ge Mohlomphegi Sebopela a e bone temana ye, ya gore Moshabi o tshweri go phatlalala le lefase kamoka, le lefase le a amogela. Re a leboga, gomme rere o tla tšwela pele a re tshweri. Le lena le ka se lahlege ka ge dilo tša lena di phatlalala.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Monama is raising a hand.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

No, no, thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second Hon Sebopela on the basis that the motion was more political than congratulatory. On that basis, I think I should move accordingly to object to the obituary that was read in the House.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the objection? Hon Mantata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the objection which was made by Hon Monama. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The motion falls off on the basis that it was objected to, but if an honourable Member wants us to divide the House, I will allow them to do so. Hon Mapoulo, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, when I was listening to Hon Monama, he was objecting to an obituary. I was not reading an obituary, and, unfortunately, you objected to an obituary. I was not reading an obituary; they are wrong. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, you are recognised.

MR LEBOGO

Hon Monama stood there to second what Hon Sebopela said, and she did not object to anything. She just raised a caution on time. Therefore, you can't be saying later on she's objecting or rejecting. I think we can move on to the next item.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. It is unprecedented that you would have ruled on the motion, and the motion was objected to, and the objection was seconded, and you allowed orders to get in between. That must not happen. It does not belong to this House. Therefore, if they wanted to divide the House, they have an opportunity to do so, which they will not risk knowing their predicament.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip, for giving direction. Actually, when I was allowing them to raise their hands, I thought they would call for a division of the House, which unfortunately they didn't do.

And now we are agreeing that the motion falls off. We now proceed in terms of the Order Paper to the next item. We are now at item 3.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Now, Hon Marx, you are getting your precedence here. You are allowed to put your notice of a motion.

ADV MARX

AN URGENT MOTION CONCERNING PRIVILEGE IN TERMS OF RULE 148 (Notice of a Motion)

Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance here have submitted an urgent motion concerning privilege in terms of Rule 148, which shall take precedence over other motions and Orders of the Day.

A matter of privilege, as defined in the rules, means a matter relating to privileges of the Legislature or its Members, including the powers, privileges, and immunities set out in section 117 of the Constitution, as well as the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009

The following are listed as prohibited acts:

- Section 7A prohibits a person from improperly interfering with or impeding the exercise or performance of Parliament or a House or committee of its authority or functions.
- Section 7B provides that a person may not improperly interfere with the performance of a Member in his or her functions as a Member.

- Section 7C provides that a person may not threaten or obstruct a Member proceeding to or going from a meeting of Parliament or a House or committee meeting.
- Section 7D provides that a person may not assault or threaten a Member or the private member of any benefit on account of the Member's conduct in Parliament or a House or committee.
- In this regard, section 27 of the Act makes it a criminal offence to contravene section 7 of the Act.

On 17 November 2025, an interview between our Members of the DA and journalists within the precinct was pre-arranged, and the necessary logistical arrangements were made to utilise a boardroom, given the ongoing failure by this Legislature to maintain office space allocated to the DA caucus. Immediately after the interview, the media team was aggressively confronted by an unidentified official.

Even after our Members identified themselves by showing officially issued identification cards and indicated to the unidentified official that the media representatives were guests of the DA, the unidentified official refused to identify himself, acted in a threatening manner, stating, "I will clean you out here." The SAPS officer stationed at the precinct informed our Members that the unidentified and aggressive individual was, in fact, the Security Manager, but refused to write his name and surname despite multiple requests. Instead, the unidentified official and the SAPS insisted that the DA representatives leave the building immediately.

We have subsequently learned, although not officially confirmed, that the official in question is allegedly the head of security, a certain Mr Kgatle Condry Mashape. If the said Mr Mashape is indeed the head of security, it raises serious concerns about the safety of all Members of this Legislature, especially considering the fact that the said Mr Mashape outright refused to identify himself and to clarify his official position. Hon Speaker, you would also recall that you have written to me a WhatsApp message.

We have asked that we formally write to you in this regard, which we did; my caucus leader and my caucus whip wrote to you. Yesterday, when I enquired as to whether or not you received it, you said you would follow up with your office. Unfortunately, until now, we have not received, and not even the courtesy of a reply from the Hon Speaker.

We have requested that our safety not be placed into jeopardy, and therefore, that official should be placed under suspension pending the outcome of such investigation. And it's therefore unfortunate, Speaker, that you have failed to even give us the courtesy of responding to Members who have serious fears for their safety. And that is why I've asked that we deal with this item as a matter of privilege.

Therefore, I have submitted proposed resolutions that the Speaker and the Secretary satisfy these Members of this Legislature as to the adequacy of the security measures in place to protect Members of the Legislature against persons who improperly interfere with the performance of Members. And that the Speaker and the Secretary take appropriate steps to urgently launch an investigation into the conduct of the late head of security, Mr Kgatle Condry Mashape, and report to the Legislature on the outcome of such investigation before the next Sitting.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, there is a motion on the table that was tabled in the Programming Committee. I need to get guidance on how to handle the motion. Over to you, Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I would need your confirmation after I have made this presentation. In the discussions with yourselves, you have acknowledged receipt of the complaint by the Democratic Alliance.

And you have promised them that they will get a formal response from you. If that is true, we believe that it is premature for this motion to be brought to this House. That is the first issue.

The second issue, Hon Speaker, which would again need an investigation, is that whilst we acknowledge that the DA is represented in this Legislature, this Legislature does not have journalists and security officers as its members. So, it becomes a predicament as to whose privilege we are debating in this House if the two are involved. That's the second issue.

Again, subject to our confirmation, Hon Speaker, it has come to our knowledge that the DA has opened a criminal case against the whole situation concerned. And we were also made to understand that the alleged employee has also opened a criminal case. And if these two are again correct, Hon Speaker, as per what you have indicated to us, if that is true, the matter then remains sub judice.

Therefore, this House does not have the jurisdiction to debate the motion. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

I can confirm that the letter has been written to the DA to indicate to them that the matter will be investigated and we will give the report not later than Friday. If they haven't received the letter, it might have been in their office, but the letter has been sent to them. I can confirm that. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I take note of your comments about that. I will follow up with our office. But from the Members, we haven't received anything, but I will follow it up. I'll take your word for it. Just for the ease of reference for the House and just to put evidence on, the case is not sub judice.

We are following processes within the House. And therefore, it is important that an open and transparent discussion takes place. The Rules Committee can allocate a committee to handle this matter, so we get facts.

But I also do think it goes hand in hand because there's an operational matter that needs to be attended to. And I haven't read your letter, Hon Speaker, but I will respond to it once I get it.

THE SPEAKER

Members should be reminded that this letter was referred to the Programming Committee. And the Programming Committee discussed whether this letter falls within the rules or not. We do not want to suffocate the Members of the DA. But according to the rules, this letter doesn't fall within the rules.

Because firstly, they have written to the Speaker, and the matter is under investigation; secondly..., can you please sit down. Please sit down.

I must give direction to the House. You were given an opportunity to speak. Can you please sit down? No, wait until I finish. I'll give you an opportunity. You don't make a point of order when you are on the podium. When you make a point of order, you raise your hand, and I will allow you to speak.

No, I will not allow you to speak. Everybody is raising a hand. It can't be you. No, it can't be. No, you are not going to speak standing. No, I'm not going to allow you to speak. Yes, but sit down. No, but you can't cause chaos in the House. You must sit down. No, I will not give you time to speak. No, sit down. Sit down, raise your hand like any other person.

No, sit down. You raise a hand while sitting down. Hon Monama, you are recognised

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, it is common cause that Hon Smalle, is the leader of the very same party that the Member is trying to articulate the subject matter that is advised in this august House, that you have to refer it to another committee, and it is in that context that I think there is no longer a conundrum on that particular matter.

The matter is closed. Let's move on, Hon Speaker. [INTERJECTION]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I just wanted to say that, as you said, the matter was brought to our attention, and we looked at it. I would imagine that we don't have as an MP, we don't have a person called Mashape, and I don't know which party he is representing. Therefore, we are saying, as the Chief Whip is saying, the matter is receiving the attention of the Speaker because it has to do with an employee of this Legislature, and therefore, the matter is closed, and the Speaker will respond to the DA with due respect. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Lebogo, you are recognised.

MR LEBOGO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is common cause that when couples fight, there must be a mediating party. We are available for that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, thank you so much. The matter is closed. We are now proceeding with the Order Paper. Hon Mathye, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As much as we acknowledge that the matter is closed and locked, but we want to, as this Legislature, as these honourable Members, condemn this unnecessary publicity stance.

When people are aware that a particular process is underway, yet they come here so that they can gain publicity, we want to condemn that as the Legislature, as Members, because now you cannot have a particular process there and also have another process of coming here as if the matters that you are raising here they are not being attended to. It's publicity-seeking, whatever, and it must be condemned. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, we now move in terms of Rule 146. Honourable Members, we are now moving to Item 4, which is Members' Statements in terms of Rule 199.

ADV MARX

[The Speaker, responding to Hon Marx, whose mike is off]

THE SPEAKER

You have got a notice which was not submitted according to the rules. No, according to the rules, the Speaker has not received that motion. So, on that basis, that motion will not be considered. It must follow a process.

ADV MARX

[Hon Marx continues to address the Speaker with his mike off]

THE SPEAKER

Rule 146.2, written notice of motion must be delivered to the Speaker. No, but I'm reading the rules.

ADV MARX

[Hon Marx continues to address the Speaker with his mike off]

THE SPEAKER

No, the motion will not be considered because it has not followed the rules. Can we agree, Members? Yes, and we request the DA to follow the rules. Let's proceed Hon Marx wants to disrupt the Sitting. No, we know that Hon Marx was not inducted. We'll have to organise the induction in January.

ADV MARX

...Member must read it out aloud, which I intend to, and then deliver it at the table. Why am I not allowed to do it? It's the second time today that you refuse to concede and agree to a clear wording of the rules.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, this is now the second time that I think your officials do not communicate with you. At 08:53 yesterday, the Democratic Alliance wrote an email to the table staff and other individuals.

The same thing happened the previous week, when we put our Speakers' List forward as required by this Legislature. We indicated the motions, the notices of motions, and I can confirm that we, in that letter, did indicate that we will have a notice of motion on it. I don't know why it did not get to your office, but it was. I can confirm that it was delivered.

THE SPEAKER

We agree that the motion has not followed the process. The DA is aware that anything you write to the Secretary of the Legislature, and if they've got an option to copy the Speaker's Office, they know how I get their communicate. So, for me, they should have written according to the manner they write and followed the procedures.

Let's proceed so that we are able to deal with the business of the day. We are now moving to item...

ADV MARX

Point of Order, Speaker. Hon Smalle explained to you that we did give you notice. Clearly, in your office, there's a problem, and Hon Speaker, I can mention now for the record that the motion is about you not doing your work, and the Secretary not doing his work, and your relationship. That is why you do not want us to read it to this House, because you are not following the rules.

THE SPEAKER

But Hon Marx, I think you will have to mind your language, because the language you are using now is no longer affording Members the decorum of the House. We are pleading with you.

MR MATHE

Hon Speaker, maybe you should not caution him in terms of how he uses the language, because the game that he's trying to play, we can play it better than him. The fact that I'm raising an order on him, because you have made a ruling which was sufficiently

accepted by this House, that whatever he's trying to do, whatever gimmick that he's trying to do, did not follow the procedure. And we have accepted it as this House. So, his failure to accept your ruling means that the powers and privileges that you enjoined as the Speaker, as we did with others before, in terms of requesting them to leave the House, you can do so with him also.

Because we are not going to be held at ransom by one person the whole morning. It cannot be. Even Hon Mapoulo noticed that some "ntelezi" had been drunk by somebody.

THE SPEAKER

The matter is closed. I'm not going to allow any other person to rise. We are moving to the next item. We are now at item 4.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MS LEDWABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and the entire House.

DILOKONG HOSPITAL'S CONDITION (Members' Statement)

- Hon Speaker, the Dilokong Hospital is an epitome of poor governance, chronic failure, and lack of capacity at all levels. This hospital is characterised by all sorts of challenges affecting service delivery, with the poorest of the poor at the receiving end.
- Dilokong Hospital is a sad mirror of the majority of many hospitals and clinics across the province in terms of the collapse of systems and operations. Doctors are demoralised due to the many unresolved challenges, including shifts and overtime, which is not paid. Many of these medical professionals, who were working elsewhere, were transferred to the hospital where they could work without hindrances.
- Community services medical doctors did overtime in January and February due to shortage of staff. Even today, they have not been paid for their services and time. Doctors are forced to work overtime and work a strenuous shift because of shortage of doctors, which puts a strain and fatigue on them.
- This compromises their health and ability to deliver stellar and quality healthcare to the community. Hon Speaker, five doctors who have resigned due to unconducive working conditions have not been replaced to date. The environment in this hospital is not conducive for the provision of primary healthcare as per the mandate of the department.

- The transfer of patients to other hospitals like Muckleneuk and Mankweng takes forever and forever. There is a total collapse of the system and governance in this hospital, which warrants that something drastic be done.

Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other Members' Statement? Hon Helm, you are recognised.

MS HELM

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and all the honourable MECs and all Members present.

OUTBREAK OF THE RED-BILLED QUELEA BIRDS (Members' Statement)

- In Limpopo, the outbreak of the red-billed quelea bird occurs between October and March, peaking from December to February, during the small grain ripening period. Each bird consumes about four grams of grain per day. A single colony of 400 000 birds can destroy around 1,6 tonnes of grain daily. Control operations are conducted after sunset at roosting and breeding sites where large colonies gather.
- Inadequate control poses a severe threat to food security and to the livelihoods of subsistence, emerging and commercial farmers alike. Historically, pest control officials tasked with managing outbreaks of queleas, locusts and similar pests were exempted from the overtime limits in the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997 (Act 75 of 1997) and the Department of Public Service and Administration cost containment restrictions. However, overtime restrictions were imposed earlier this year.
- Despite assurances that the matter was being addressed with the national government, no active quelea control is currently taking place. Hon Speaker, these pests do not wait for office hours, and neither should the officials who protect South Africa's food supply. There is no excuse for this level of administrative paralysis when farmers tend to lose millions of rands, and our national food security is at risk.
- I would like to ask our MEC for Agriculture, Hon Kekana, what is being done to resolve this matter? Has your department been in contact with the national government, and what is the status of these interactions, if any? What assurance can you give to the farmers of this province that our department will assist and support them?

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Are we done with Members' Statements? Is it another Members' Statement? I only have one. I only have one for the day. Only one.

We were informed about one. I'm being directed by the Programming Committee, and once it makes determinations, I can't change them. We will now proceed and allow honourable MECs to respond to the Members' Statements that have been presented. It will be honourable MEC Mashego and MEC Kekana.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker; and greetings to the Hon Deputy Speaker; the Hon Premier; MEC's; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members; our guests in the gallery and our Provincial Secretary, Vho Musanda.

Hon Speaker, I want to respond to the issue of the Dilokong Hospital. Firstly, let us say that Dilokong Hospital is one of the hospitals that have been given attention, and indeed, we are seeing progress that is happening there. I want honourable Members to understand the issue of doctors who are complaining about overtime.

In this province, we have taken a decision that we need to see all our doctors working and we want to see value for money when we pay our doctors. That is why we have adopted a shift system where we pay doctors as per the work that they have done. So far, according to our rosters and everything, there is no need for us to be paying overtime.

Hence, there is no overtime. If there's a doctor who is given overtime, the overtime is being approved by the HOD as per the need, and all overtimes are being paid. But we are saying we cannot have unemployed doctors, yet we are paying overtime for doctors to be overworked, complain of fatigue and being unable to perform their duties both at work, even in their social lives.

So, we are saying we continue with the shift system, where we allow our doctors to come and give proper care to our patients at work, and they do not get too tired. They get a chance to rest and allow other doctors to come and continue working. And the issue of saying doctors are resigning because of the work environment that is not conducive is not true. What we are saying is that there are doctors, honourable Members, who want to do RWOPS (Remunerative Work Outside the Public Service). They are approved RWOPS, but what they do now is that they take the time that they are supposed to be spending in our hospitals, serving our communities. They come there tired, and do not want to do anything. They even steal our hours to go and do their work in their private surgeries, which is something that we will not allow.

Because as the Limpopo Department of Health we pay doctors to serve the communities that have elected all of us to be here. We need them to serve with excellence when they are not tired or when they are not being agitated about small things because they were busy serving their people in their private institutions very well and then when they come they are tired and once they are being disciplined, honourable Speaker, about that, then they threaten that they are going to resign. We are saying if they want to resign because they do not want to serve the people of Limpopo, then they can go.

We will get more doctors who will come and who are committed to serving the people of Limpopo, and we will continue to do that, honourable Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Dieketseng Mashego, for responding on behalf of the Department of Health. We will now allow Hon Nakedi Kekana to respond to the matters relating to the Department of Agriculture.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The matter is declared as of national importance for food security and all control operations for migratory pests are executed by the national department through aerial spraying for combating colonisation of these pests on grain crops. We therefore, out of the request that we made to the national Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, this query was directed to them and already an exemption to pay overtime for controlling quelea birds in the morning and at nine was rejected. Therefore, the issue of aerial spraying for the control of that flock of birds that are damaging the crops is receiving attention from the national department.

It is purely their competency, and the matter is receiving attention.
Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MECs.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

We have an Executive Statement that is in line with Rule 200, and I will allow , Hon Jerry Maseko, the MEC for the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture to make the Executive Statement.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

THE INAUGURAL LIMPOPO ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS

(Executive Statement)

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; our Premier; MECs; whippers; special acknowledgement to the Provincial Secretary of the ruling party; Members of the Legislature; Executive Management and people in the gallery.

I'm pleased to submit to this august House a Statement that speaks to the inaugural Limpopo Arts and Culture Awards, which took place on 21 November 2025 at Meropa Casino in Polokwane. Hon Speaker, this event marked a historic moment for the province's creative industry. Over 500 guests, including artists, cultural practitioners, the creative sector, magoši gathered to honour outstanding achievements across diverse creative sector disciplines.

This inaugural edition has set a new standard for provincial arts recognition, reinforcing the government's commitment to promoting talent, fostering innovation and uplifting creatives at all levels. The awards, Hon Speaker, emphasise the government's vision of using arts and culture as a powerful tool for economic participation and creative industry's growth, social cohesion and nation-building, youth empowerment through skills development and opportunities through cultural expression and storytelling. The awards also aligned the national priorities on transformation, inclusivity and the recognition of historically marginalised creative voices.

The successful hosting and presentation of these awards strengthens Limpopo's profile as a vibrant, diverse cultural hub while signalling the province's readiness to lead in arts development during a period of heightened global engagement and cultural diplomacy. The completion of the Provincial Theatre, currently under construction, will find the province ready to utilise it. It will not be a white elephant, not under our watch, as our Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, regards the creative sector as a powerful engine of economic transformation.

Under her leadership, the arts and creative economy are recognised not as a side activity but as a core pillar of inclusivity, inclusive growth, job creation, youth empowerment and community upliftment. Let me indicate that amongst others who get these awards is one internationally recognised artist, Limpopo Boy, lifetime achievement Dr Colbert Mukwevho, posthumous honours to the late Mr Paul Rapetswa, artist with disability Rapson Mbilu Rambuwani, outstanding fashion and textile candidate by Frank Ramatsetse and outstanding comedian, Mashabela Galane.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, the event wouldn't have been successful without the support of my colleagues, the Executive Council under the leadership of the Premier, members of the Portfolio Committee, magoši arena who were led by the Majesty Queen Leganabatho II Queen's praise, Hlapogadi'a Phaahla and other magoši who were there.

And as we are approaching this December, let me indicate to Hon Speaker that the Limpopo Government, together with Polokwane Local Municipality, will be hosting several activities starting with Sopa Yopa, which is on the 27th. There will be a golf day plus a gala dinner. There will be Kaizer Chiefs and Zamalek playing here in the province.

There will be a Carling Black Label match where Orlando Pirates will be playing against Marumo Gallants. There will be the Mapungubwe Youth Festival on the 6th, after the Orlando Pirates game. There will be the Mapungubwe Festival on the 13th.

The ANC Youth League will be hosting its national congress here in Limpopo. So, you are all invited to come and join us as we celebrate the might of Limpopo as a province. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. I will allow political parties, if you have any comment to the Members' Statement by the MEC. Freedom Front Plus, Hon Moss, do you want to say anything? Thank you. We will allow the DA.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker, and obviously, as residents of the city and residents of the province, there is always a great delight when we can attract large events to our province.

They obviously generate money, they generate tourists, they generate guests for many of the businesses around. The only problem I have MEC on your Statement is that, in so doing and when we have these events, particularly in the centre of Polokwane, please can we take into account the residents. A lot of these facilities are held around 3 or 4 old age homes.

They start at 6 o'clock in the evening, and they finish at 6 o'clock in the morning. I believe they are called crossover events. It is against the bylaws. We are excited about them, but can we also please take the bylaws into account and also respect the citizens, particularly the elderly, who find these events at 1, 2, 3, and 4 a.m. very traumatic. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Wilson. Over to the EFF.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Re a leboga, Dr Makhurupetje the Speaker. Re a leboga, Ngaka Makhurupetje, Mospikara wa rena. Re amogela polelo ya Molekgotlaphethiši wa rena, gore ka nnete re tla swanela ke gore re bolele le ditšhaba tša rena gore ba tloge ba thekga Mokete wo wa Mapungubwe. Yenngwe ye kgolo yeo re e llelago, ke gore go be le difoka tše dingwe, difoka di oketšwe le gore go bonagale ditiro tša ekonomi. Se ke sona selo sa bohlokwa seo re se kgopelago. Gape rena re tseba ditaba, ga re no phela re elwa. [APPLAUSE]. Re ra gore le no dira jwalo Molekgotlaphethiši. Thobela! Re a leboga, Ngaka Makhurupetje.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. We will now allow the African National Congress to give remarks.

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Speaker. On behalf of the ANC, we welcome the move by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to recognise talent in the province. We hope and believe that this move will be catalytic in encouraging and unleashing more talent in the province. We also know that the government has invested so much in the sports and arts space. We are confident that the awards will be an inspiration within the sector.

I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now proceed in terms of the Order Paper, honourable Members. We are now going to item 6.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS, AND PAPERS

6.1 Tabling of the 2025/26 Departmental / Public Entities Second Quarter Performance Reports

I call upon the Leader of Government Business, Hon Basikopo Rogers Makamu.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker; our Hon Premier; colleagues; MECs; the Chief Whip and Deputy Chief; and the entire whippers; Chair of Chairs and the entire leadership of the opposition parties; honourable Members; our special guests; the Provincial Secretary of the ANC in the gallery.

I'm here to table, Hon Speaker, in terms of provisions of Section 40(1f) and 51(f) of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 read together with Rule 205(6) which states that "departments are required to submit their quarterly reports to the provincial legislature for tabling on the date that will be determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Programming Committee".

Madam Speaker, in line with the provision of the House Rule 205(7), as the Leader of Government Business, on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, do hereby table the Departmental/Institutional 2025/26 second quarter performance reports for the following departments and entities for consideration by the 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, Tourism and its entities;
- The Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA), the Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB), the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA);
- The Department of Health;
- The Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity GAL;
- The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity RAL;
- The Department of CoGHSTA;
- The Department of Social Development; and
- The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

I so submit to you, Hon Speaker to you and the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. The 2025/26 Departmental and Public Entities' second quarter performance reports are referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and report back to the House.

6.2 Tabling of the 2025/26 Limpopo Legislature Second Quarter Performance Report

I now call upon Hon Grace Portia Mamorobela, the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Let me greet the Premier and the Executive; the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; of course, the whole whippers; let me also greet the Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; the Leader of the Opposition and all honourable Members in the House; not forgetting our special guests; the leader of the ruling party, the Provincial Secretary, Vho Musanda Madadzhe.

Hon Speaker, in line with the provision of Section 54.1 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act of 2009, I, Tebogo Grace Portia Mamorobela, on behalf of the Hon Speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature hereby table before this House, the 2025/26 Second Quarter Performance Report of the Limpopo Legislature to be considered by the relevant committee of this august House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much Hon Deputy Speaker. The 2025/26 Limpopo Legislature Second Quarter Performance Report is referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House. We now proceed to 6.3, the tabling of the 2025/26 revised Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, as presented by the MEC of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Nakedi Kekana.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker; the Deputy Speaker; the Deputy Chief Whip; Hon Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs honourable colleagues in the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties; extinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; the Secretary of the Ruling Party Vho Musanda Reuben Madadzhe.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development submitted its Annual Performance Plan to the Legislature in March 2025, guided by the Public Finance Management Act and the Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans. We are today tabling the revised Annual Performance Plan following concerns raised by the Auditor-General of South Africa, which highlighted weaknesses in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of departmental performance processes. Key challenges, Hon Speaker, relate to the misclassification of procedures due to instances where service beneficiaries do not fully cooperate with technical advisory services.

The revision of the APP affects performance targets only; the Budget remains unchanged unless adjusted by the Provincial Treasury during the Budget adjustment processes, and the re-tabling of the APP 2025/26 aims to, amongst others, align implementation with the national policy on comprehensive producer development support. The new targets reflect the transition from reporting both tangible and non-tangible support to reporting only tangible support in the APP. The revised target and the Programme 3 are as reflected in the report from 3.1.1 up to 3.3.1. The adjusted

Annual Performance Plan for 2025/26, Hon Speaker, is hereby re-tabled for consideration by this House, and I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. The 2025/26 revised Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is referred to the Portfolio Committee of the Department of Agriculture for scrutiny and report back to the House. Honourable Members, we now move to the item we have been waiting for. Members were delaying us because this is the moment that we have been waiting for.

The real business of the day is the First Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill [B05-2025], the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury is to do the First Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025. Honourable MEC Kgabo Mahoai, you are on the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

The Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Dr. Makoma Makhurupetje; the Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; the Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; fellow Members of the Executive Council; leaders of various opposition parties; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature in your classes and grades; Provincial Secretary of the ANC; Vho Musanda Reuben Madadzhe; our special guest, the Director General; and HODs present; all guests present in the gallery; ladies and gentlemen; ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Lotjhani. Thobela. Good morning. Goeie more.

Hon Speaker, just this past Friday, when President Cyril Ramaphosa was addressing the G20 global citizens scaling up renewables in Africa, he reminded us of something very fundamental. And as we gather here for the Adjustments Budget, we shall table accordingly. I want us to borrow from his wisdom, as he said, "The real test lies in implementation."

These words carry weight for every sphere of government, and they speak directly to the purpose of this Adjustments Budget. We are not here to repeat plans. We are here to confirm that our commitments are backed by practical steps, sound allocations and a clear sense of duty to the people of Limpopo.

This Adjustments Budget allows us to correct causes where pressure has built in the process, strengthen programmes that show progress and redirect resources to areas where the need is most visible. This is because our work should not be shaped by promises, but by action, able leadership and results should be visible in our committees all over the province, which is what our Premier always emphasises.

Hon Speaker, it is in this spirit that I table before this august House the following documents:

- The Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025;
- The Mid-Term Provincial Budget Overview, 2025;
- The Adjustment Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure, 2025; and
- This Adjustments Budget Speech, together with other relevant gazettes.

Hon Speaker, allow me to delve briefly into the economic outlook. The 2025 Medium-Term Provincial Budget Overview is presented against a backdrop of persistent global uncertainties, yet it is built on a foundation of rigorous resilience and measured hope here in our province.

We acknowledge the risks posed by global integration and shocks, particularly the US import tariffs, which necessitate a proactive strategy to explore international and regional markets for our province. As it was indicated by the Minister of Finance, Hon Enoch Godongwana, recently during his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, that while the national economy experienced modest growth of 0,6% in 2024, we are strongly encouraged by the fact that our government is on track to meet its fiscal targets and is advancing economic reform, as evidenced by progress of Phase 2 of Operation Vulindlela, which has delivered an uninterrupted electricity supply. In the same breath, the National Treasury projects the national growth to double to 1,2% in 2025.

And additional to that, the consensus on the 3% inflation target will be a game changer. This strengthens the path to reducing the cost of living and sets the stage for interest rate cuts, as it happened last week. That will directly support household spending, boost business investment, and drive long-term job creation.

Now there is trouble here. Therefore, Hon Speaker, this has taken long before I came here, anyway. And I believe this is the last time this happened, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, our province is not just surviving the economic uncertainty, but we are leading the growth curve in the country at the moment. That is not negotiable. It is what is happening.

This success is not theoretical. The provincial unemployment rate has declined significantly by 5,2% points in the third quarter, from 35% to 29,8%. The decline is proof that our economic efforts are translating into jobs for our people. We also recorded the highest rise in our contribution to the gross domestic product by 0,9% compared to the national average of 0,5%. We see a direct correlation in the labour market.

And to sustain this positive momentum and transform it into lasting prosperity, we have confidence in the Limpopo Development Plan 2025-2030. It is a blueprint that embodies our commitment to transforming our provincial economy, addressing present social issues, and uplifting the lives of all our residents. Alongside, we have established a consistent LDP funding framework that guides how public resources are allocated and how private investment is attracted.

Its purpose is to ensure that our limited financial resources are used strategically, efficiently, and effectively to drive inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and strengthen institutional capacity throughout the province. Hon Speaker and fellow Members, I will now turn to the provincial own revenue. Our commitment to financial sustainability is clearly reflected in the outstanding results of our provincial revenue enhancement and retention strategy.

Our provincial revenue has increased considerably from the original target of R2 billion to R2,3 billion for the current year. This represents a substantial upward adjustment of R258,2 million or 12,8%. This successful performance gives us additional resources to

address the needs of our communities. The increase in the province's own revenue is the result of enhanced collection and financial discipline across several key departments.

This includes improved earnings of interest generated from favourable bank balances, better revenue through enhanced collection of motor vehicle licensing and registration fees, and more effective recovery of traffic fines and penalties, among others. Lastly, implementing improved collection of patient fees and generating once-off income from the successful auction sales of obsolete assets. Our Premier has consistently emphasised the need to fast-track the completion of infrastructure that is already under construction in the province and to be prompt in our processes from planning to implementation of new projects.

This is because, in our belief, infrastructure remains a key driver of our country's economic recovery and growth. It was also emphasised in the 2025 MTBPS. Limpopo Province is implementing structural reforms in infrastructure planning, delivery and oversight through the institutionalisation of the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS), and stronger interdepartmental partnerships.

Despite progress, media reviews revealed challenges such as procurement delays, which is a source of concern, and contractor underperformance. This is taking a toll on us, moving very progressively to address the various aspects that we need to do. To address this, our Adjustments Budget introduces measures to boost delivery capacity, including reallocation of high-performing projects, improved planning processes, and support for early-stage project preparation.

Following rigorous departmental engagements, the provincial infrastructure allocation for 2025/26 has been revised upward by 5,4% to R8,8 billion just for infrastructure, reflecting strengthened project readiness and accelerated implementation. The breakdown of the infrastructure allocation is as follows. I will start with core social services.

In the Department of Health, we are allocating one of the most substantial adjustments to its Budget, increasing from R907 million to R1,0 billion. I'm talking about infrastructure only. This is primarily driven by a major increase in funding for maintenance and repairs, and for upgrades where necessary.

This is a crucial investment to ensure our health facilities are functional, safe, and able to deliver quality care. The Department of Education sees its infrastructure budget increase by R44,9 million to a revised allocation of R1,7 billion, ensuring that the learning environment for our children is continually improved. The Department of CoGHSTA Budget increases from R1,1 billion to R1,3 billion.

This significant augmentation includes an additional R200 million for human settlement delivery and R6,8 million for the construction of traditional council offices. The Department also receives a R1,1 million conditional grant rollover for both the informal settlement partnership grant and the human settlement development grant. Boosting infrastructure for economic resilience is one aspect that we want to focus on, and to boost economic stability and connectivity, we are making targeted investments in the infrastructure network.

The consolidated infrastructure budget, therefore, for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure rises from R3,9 billion to R4,0 billion. This is a critical investment to safeguard provincial assets, with a substantial R270 million earmarked for storm damage rehabilitation projects and R123 million for ongoing provincial road upgrades. These funds are essential to stabilise our provincial road network and prevent further costly deterioration.

Meanwhile, the Budget for Agriculture and Rural Development increases from R210 million to R257 million, mainly through additional allocations for the maintenance of essential agricultural infrastructure, supporting our rural economy and food security. For Sport, Arts and Culture, the department's Budget is unfortunately being revised downward from R245,9 million to R142,1 million. You will agree with me.

You know very well. This is a necessary adjustment due to the slow progress, and I repeat, due to the slow progress on the Limpopo Provincial Theatre, which has only reached 52% completion.

So, crucially, an amount of R10 million has been allocated to complete the construction of libraries, redirecting resources to projects that can be completed efficiently and serve the public immediately. So, honourable Members, fiscal discipline requires us to address underperformance and ensure every cent delivers maximum value. We are speaking between ourselves and the team that will start to invoke that unwanted section in the PFMA in future for withholding in events where we realise there is not much progress.

It doesn't have to be if we are to do what we are supposed to do. Hon Speaker, the Provincial Treasury is committed to implementing the National Treasury's Budget reform initiatives of what we call targeted and responsible savings. This framework emphasises the careful reprioritisation of resources, cost containment, and the avoidance of wasteful expenditure while still maintaining the flexibility to respond to emerging priorities and socioeconomic challenges.

Note deliberate savings, but targeted and responsible, focusing mainly on those things that can give immediate impact. To support the implementation of TARS budget reforms (Targeted and Responsible Savings), Provincial Treasury will rigorously enforce the use of the Programme Assessment Matrix tool, also introduced by the National Treasury. We are so privileged that the National Treasury has also brought in some of the officials from the National Treasury to show oneness between the two. They are with us, those who are responsible for the Budget for Limpopo. So, they are in this House, and we really want to welcome them. [APPLAUSE]

This tool empowers departments to systematically assess their programmes and sub-programmes, fostering evidence-based decision-making rooted in clear criteria such as legal relevance, strategic alignment, performance, efficiency, and sustainability.

As we prepare for the next year, for the 2026 MTEF, this PAM tool will play a central role in guiding a transparent and effective Budget planning, so that in the next few years, we will not encounter unforeseen things. We should be forward-looking in all that we

do. Of importance, it is a supportive measure designed to strengthen our approach to programme planning, performance management, and long-term fiscal sustainability, ensuring that every department is accountable for delivering results and achieving our developmental objectives.

Hon Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that the total provincial receipts during this adjustment period increased by R2,0 billion, ensuring that critical sectors receive the resources needed to drive progress and improve the quality of life for all Limpopo residents. This increase comprises several key components, and I will list them just for your information here. Equitable share allocation from the National Treasury, and as I have just indicated, we have officials from the National Treasury.

During this adjustment, there was an additional allocation of R1,0 billion. Of this amount, R701,5 million is allocated to the Department of Health, with R362,7 million dedicated to the Department of Education. These additional funds were made available immediately to the province by the Minister of Finance through Gazette No 53574 of 2025, in compliance with Section 6(4) of the Division of Revenue Act. We also have the equitable share rollover of R490,3 million from the 2024/25 financial year to the 2025/26 financial year. This includes a rollover of R49,2 million, which is a retention and revenue for the Provincial Legislature.

We also have conditional grants increasing by R712,9 million. This includes rollovers from the previous financial year of R62,2 million, an additional R69,0 million for PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) initiatives in health, as well as R306,7 million to expand early childhood development in education. So, the additional funds for HIV/Aids in Health and ECD in Education were made available to the province by the Minister of Finance through Gazette No 53437 and Gazette 53602 of 2025, respectively. Included in the R712 million conditional grant increase is R275 million for disaster relief made available for the Department of Education, Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. This is, if you break it down, R140 million for Education, R110 million for Public Works, and R25 million for Agriculture.

The funds are made available for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of provincial infrastructure damaged by rainfall, flooding, thunderstorms, and strong winds that occurred between April 2024 and June 2025. As indicated earlier, and I must repeat that our own revenue also has increased to R2,2 billion from the initial target of R2,0 billion. I therefore present the Adjustments Budget Votes 2025/26 as follows:

I will focus only on the adjustments and not the compound figure, as we normally will do in the main Budget.

Vote 1 is the Office of the Premier. We adjust downwards by R33,3 million. So don't ask me why.

Vote 2, Provincial Legislature. We adjust upward by R89 million. I thought the Members would be happy about this one. It is increasing. The adjustment primarily addresses budgetary pressures to ensure the institution continues to effectively exercise its oversight mandate for the remainder of the financial year. Members should be able to execute their work, at least. I will then move over to the conditional grant allocations. I'm just indicating all matters that relate to the Legislature and how it has been done.

Vote 3, which is Education, there's an upward adjustment, fortunately, R843,8 million. So, it is taking the overall Budget of R42 billion to R43 billion. The department receives an equitable share in conditional grant additions for the appointment of teachers across all the districts, and to cover spending pressures on scholar transport to support eligible learners, and for special school buses, as well as the learner admission system, and all other related matters.

Vote 4, Agriculture and Rural Development, a small upward adjustment of R49,0 million. I believe it will go a long way. This is for adjustment. Otherwise, what more can we do if we are not doing the least that we can do?

Vote 5, Provincial Treasury, then you can listen attentively. There is a downward adjustment of R45 million. Why? This should be reallocated for infrastructure development in the province.

Vote 6, the Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism gets a downward adjustment of R186,6 million. We have withheld some earmarked funds, especially for the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Capital Projects, back to the provincial revenue fund for future use. So, this reduction is more, but it was offset by additional allocations, including Equitable Share rollovers of R19,2 million and R20,9 million, respectively, to address pressures related to contractual obligations and other related matters. So, there is a given and take, which results in a net value.

Vote 7, which is the Department of Health, gets an upward adjustment and also a net value, R521,7 million, which actually takes the original appropriation of R26,0 billion to R26,5. So a total of R921 million Equitable Share is made available through additional funding comprising, among others, R218,6 million for the appointment of doctors and healthcare professionals, R416,6 million to cover spending pressures on goods and services, including procurement of medicine and medical supplies, among others.

Vote 8 is the Department of Transport and Community Safety. There is a downward adjustment here by R112,4 million, this is due to the reprioritisation of funds that were previously allocated to projects that did not progress as expected.

Included here is the R38 million that was initially allocated to the Thohoyandou Intermodal Transport Facility, and the R80 million that was earmarked for feasibility studies for the high-speed rail project, which we are putting aside and reallocating money where it can best be used now. It's not just a bad thing to do. There are good things as well in it.

With receipt of additional allocations for an Equitable Share amounting to R86,8 million, we are prioritising, among others, the acquisition of an instrument lending system, because one aeroplane is to land there. It's among the money that we are giving back. There should be no excuses.

We need to see the implementation of those infrastructure projects, the K-53s issue, the Mampakuil weighbridge, and the traffic college, something in the tune of R1,5 million, and other contractual obligations for R21,3 million.

Vote 9, Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. There is an upward adjustment to the amount of R316,6 million. This adjustment reflects an Equitable Share. Well, there was a surrender of R234,000 in additional funding. You see, where you give and take, it results in a net. And there's a net effect of everything that happens. By the way, this can only happen during an adjustment. Because in an adjustment, by its nature, suggests that where we need to take to do better, we take.

And that's what we actually do. And that's what fiscal management means. So, the details about it, which may be expanded upon, is we want to ensure that there is reconstruction and rehabilitation of the provincial road infrastructure, especially damaged by rainfall and flooding, as I said earlier.

The road infrastructure projects that need to be implemented by Roads Agency Limpopo were given this R123,7 million. And additional funds for the procurement of an office building in Polokwane, totalling R69 million. The most important here is the R20 million for the settlement of rates and taxes to municipalities.

Hon Rachoene, we cannot allow a situation where the government owes this. And our plea is that it be done as soon as possible, so that this money should be taken to where it matters most. We still want to see the LEDET building in Suid Street refurbished. And we would like to see the replacement of furniture in the Parliamentary Village. I'm tired of the camping chair. We can't leave that one out.

Vote 10 is the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture. There is a downward adjustment of R125 million. And I have indicated earlier, I don't have to repeat. Otherwise, my friend will continue to be angry with me. He always threatens me because he sits next to me.

Vote 11, CoGHSTA, there is an upward adjustment of R267 million. This includes R200 million for human settlement delivery, R6,8 million for construction of traditional council offices, R4,4 million for traditional leaders' vehicles, and R33 million for municipal finance intervention with the invocation of section 139(5), not 1, 2, 3. That must be understood as such. This intervention is necessary if we are to realise progress in that regard. There is also a conditional grant rollover from the informal settlement, informal settlement partnership grant, and human settlement development grant.

Vote 12, which is our last vote, Hon Radzilani, we leave it as it is. Neither upward nor downward. Unfortunately, the allocation remains unchanged. That does not mean anything, but we also want to appreciate that you have to address certain key priorities, especially this one that is close to the heart of even the leadership, I believe, of the financial management graduates, who are primarily intended for non-profit organisations delivering social services to strengthen compliance, creation of jobs in a way, but addressing matters that are of necessity, on the other hand. This is exactly what the adjustment was all about. And I will just do a synoptic overview in short here.

Honourable Members, our Adjustments Budget for this current year demonstrates our commitment to prudent financial management and strategic investment in critical service delivery areas. If you check, we are directing our resources more to the infrastructure and other things, and less on compensation of employees. Not that we don't want people, but we have to strike a balance between the two.

The adjustment is not merely a technical exercise. It represents a recalibration of our resources to better address the immediate needs of our province and secure long-term stability and sustainability. The core of this adjustment centres on an overall increase in the provincial adjustment allocations, from the R88,9 billion we tabled in May to now R90,5 billion.

Our Budget is no longer R88,9 billion, it is now R90 billion. The R1,5 billion growth is financed through a strategic combination of rollovers, own revenue, and targeted additional funding, as alluded to earlier. Honourable Members, I will now turn to the projections for the 2026 MTEF Budget that will be elaborated upon when we table it next year.

This is just a glimpse of a picture of what you should anticipate. The 2026 MTEF marks a critical phase in our fiscal journey. Our provincial equitable share allocation reflects some adjustments due to a change in data updates.

The mid-year population estimates show that we are going down. And the downward inflation adjustments. So, congruent inflation, which was a little bit here and it's going down, as you see, although not that much, that affects our Budget in one way or another. I say that 2026/27 is likely to reduce by R88,5 million. When you celebrate this upward adjustment now, anticipate that the Budget for the MTEF will have to be adjusted. And not adjusted, will go down.

And I have indicated the reason, mainly being the changes in data updates, as well as downward inflation adjustments. This will be a trend, in 2027/28, it will go down by R648,2 million from R88 million, and it will be R678 in 2027/28 and R648 in the outer year. In the next three years, we will be witnessing a downward spiral.

This should not bother you, because we can still make ends meet. We are Limpopo, and we move that way. Over the 2026 MTEF, our preliminary equitable share allocation will be R77,7 billion, increasing to R81,1 billion in the mid-year, 2027/28, and R83,7 billion in the outer year.

Despite reductions in this regard, we have managed our finances responsibly, linking funding to priority projects aligned to our plan, the Limpopo Development Plan, which prioritises infrastructure, poverty eradication, and job creation to drive growth, uplifting our communities. Hon Speaker, it is important to remind ourselves and those whom we are entrusting this Budget to that the true measure of leadership, the true measure of our capabilities, lies in implementing what this Budget is allocated for. Budgets alone can never change the lives of people, but implementation will.

We can talk about budgets. Until it is implemented, no impact will be felt. The difference comes from prudent management, continuous oversight, and a shared commitment to deliver what has been planned.

Let's truly change our approach and be a province that is more action and results-driven, which is what our Premier has inherited a name in the middle of her names as. Our task, therefore, is to turn these figures into service, opportunities and growth. I we remain focused, if we match intention with effort, this province will continue to move forward with confidence and fairness.

As I conclude, Hon Speaker, allow me to appreciate the leadership of our Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for setting the tone and pace at which our province is moving, a pace that is clearly forward-looking and evidently in a positive direction. My appreciation also goes to my colleagues of Exco and the Exco Budget Committee for the steady hand and consistent support they provide in steering our fiscal agenda. To the Portfolio Committee on Finance, I extend my gratitude for your firm, insightful, and constructive oversight.

Lastly, it would be odd, if not unwise, for me not to convey my heartfelt appreciation to team Limpopo Provincial Treasury, led by HOD Gavin Pratt, Mokone. Ndo livhuwa. Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. Thank you. Baie dankie.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Thank you so much. Another round of applause, honourable Members, because indeed we can turn the figures into service to the people. That is what the people are waiting for. Thank you so much, honourable MEC, for a well-detailed presentation.

The Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 and its supporting documents are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House within the timelines. On that note, we have referred the report and will now proceed to the next item in terms of the Order Paper. We are now at 7.2, the Consideration, the adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee of the Provincial Treasury, Committee chair, Hon Pheedi.

He will be presenting on 7.2.1, which is the 2024/25 Annual Report for the Provincial Treasury.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I thought Hon Mapoulo and Hon Lebogo would clap hands because Ke bahananwa ba babedi kamo.

Hon Speaker, greetings to you and the Deputy Speaker; as well as the Chief Whip; as well as the Deputy Chief Whip; the Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; Premier and your Executive; chairpersons of various portfolio committees and Members of this Legislature; as well as the Provincial Secretary of African National Congress, Vha Musanda, Reuben Madadzhe; and our guests at the gallery and those on the media space.

Hon Speaker, I rise to present before this august House the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for the 2024/25 Annual Performance Report for consideration and adoption. And I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Maseka Peedi. Is there any seconder to the report, honourable Members? Hon Netshifhefhe, you are recognised.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by honourable chair of Provincial Treasury. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable chair. You can proceed to 7.3, 7.3.1, 2025/26 first quarter reports, Provincial Treasury.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker. I rise before this august House once more to present a report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for the 2025/26 first quarter report for consideration and adoption. I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chair. Is there any seconder? Over to Hon Mataboge.

MR MATABOGE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the report as presented by Hon Pheedi. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, we shall now refer to the Speaker's List. In terms of the Speaker's List, we will be debating the two reports jointly, which is the Annual Report and the first quarter report for the Provincial Treasury. The honourable Member who is opening the debate is the Deputy Chair of Chairs, Hon Hasani Peter Ngobeni.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela; Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; provincial Secretary of the African National Congress in Limpopo, Vhamusanda, Mr Reuben Madadzhe; Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana; Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Rodgers Monama; members of the whippers; Chair of Chairs, Hon Thabo Mokone; Leader of Government Business, Hon Rodgers Makamu; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members and guests here in the gallery and at home following these proceedings through YouTube and other social media platforms; good afternoon.

It is a singular honour and privilege to be afforded an opportunity to make my humble contribution on today's debate on the Annual Performance Report for the Provincial Treasury. Hon Speaker, let me begin by making few but invaluable remarks about the 2025 Limpopo Investment Conference (LIC) that took place on 30 to 31 October 2025 at The Ranch in Polokwane.

This rousingly successful Limpopo Investment Conference has secured R170 billion in investment pledges across such sectors as water, energy, real estate, and mining. May I, through your indulgence Hon Speaker, implore on this august House to give our Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba and her MECs a deserved round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

Now the real game begins, Hon Speaker, to ensure that these pledges translate into practical and actionable projects. For pledges are but seeds, without fertile soil on regulations and leadership, they will never blossom into infrastructure that the province desperately needs.

Specifically, in this regard, two pertinent questions must guide us: firstly, whether the regulatory frameworks in their current form help promote public-private partnerships? Secondly, whether we have the requisite institutional capacity to monitor the implementation of the much-needed infrastructure projects? These questions must be answered honestly and accurately if we are to create sustainable jobs for the people of Limpopo.

These questions, Hon Speaker, are occasioned by two things. Firstly, when closing the investment conference, Hon Premier warned about the possibility of regulatory impediments in harnessing these private resources for public use. This is what she said, "Together, we will address any regulatory burdens that may impede our progress and explore the adoption of public-private partnerships as a key model for delivering infrastructure and development projects."

You will agree with me that the Premier made succinct observations when she exhorted all and sundry that there is an absolute and urgent need to create a framework for public-private partnerships to replace the current fragmented approach.

The Premier is vindicated by Chapter 2 of the 2026/27 Financial and Fiscal Commission Report that examines the exogenous impact of the National Treasury's Regulation 16 before and after the reforms. In the past, the National Treasury would seek to approve any transaction between any public institution and the private sector. From 01 June 2025, it set the threshold to R2 billion or less.

Secondly, it is imperative to interrogate whether we have the necessary wherewithal to implement infrastructure projects. I wish to encourage you Hon Premier, with the extraordinary words of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, when he said, "The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement." Your hard work and dedication will always and forever be celebrated by generations to come. Zwithu zwi n̄tha! Nndaa!

Hon Speaker, let me now return to my required and specific debate on the Annual Performance Report on Provincial Treasury. Permit me to reflect briefly on Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL). The entity has indeed faced capacity challenges within Supply Chain Management, which regrettably caused delays in the appointment of contractors in addressing maintenance issues. Of importance to note, however, is that corrective steps have been taken.

Committees were appointed to confront these SCM challenges, and they have worked diligently towards finalising processes and ensuring the appointment of service

providers. Hon Speaker, the progress is commendable. Yet, let us be frank, GAAL is too important to fail. GAAL is too precious for the people of this province to fail. [APPLAUSE]

It is not merely an aviation entity, it is a gateway to Limpopo's economic growth, tourism, and connectivity. We must, therefore, do all that we can to help it thrive. More critically, we must ensure that these reforms are not episodic but institutionalised, so that future projects take flight without any turbulence.

Hon Speaker, as I gravitate towards conclusion, as we reflect on the Annual Performance Report of the Provincial Treasury, one thing is clear, that numbers alone do not define success, as the honourable MEC has indicated earlier on this platform, but impact does. Investment pledges must become projects, clean audits must become clean water, and budgets must become bridges, clinics, roads, and jobs.

Having said everything that I have said, Limpopo, under the enabling leadership of Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba, is on an upward trajectory. A trajectory that is not episodic but sustained through quality political and intellectual leadership. Indeed, "The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement." Let the sun rise, rise and rise.

I, therefore, move that this august House considers and adopts the 2024/25 Annual Performance Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Thank you very much for your kind attention. Asante sana..

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Ngobeni. We will now move to the next presenter, Hon Jacobus Frederik Smalle. You have got 05 minutes, honourable Member.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker and good morning to Members of the Executive Council as well as Members of this august House and senior officials that attended this important Sitting of today.

Like the National Treasury, our Provincial Treasury is the central guardian of public finance in Limpopo. Its core purpose is to ensure that every rand of public money is used lawfully, efficiently, and for its intended purpose across all departments, municipalities, and public entities.

While as the Democratic Alliance, we welcome Treasury's clean audit for the 2024/25 financial year, and the progress it has made, it is through this mandate that this constitutional duty and the Annual Report must be judged.

Hon Speaker, the report presents a picture of stability and achievement, but behind this narrative lies in a province that is in deep financial distress. Our SOEs are unable to meet their objectives, and their fiscal discipline sometimes is wanting. Treasury's reliance on its own clean audit, and a handful of clean audits across departments, creates an illusion of provincial progress. This is misleading.

Clean audits measure financial reporting, not whether money actually fixes hospitals, delivers water, maintains roads, or improves lives. Give service to our people. Municipalities deliver water, maintenance of our roads and improving our lives. Just as the MEC has said here in this podium earlier, Budget alone cannot change the lives of the people, it is the actions of those departments that change the lives of our people.

Key delivery departments like Health, Education, Public Works, Social Development and Transport remain qualified or unqualified. Municipal audit outcomes remained entrenched in failure.

The report highlights good news while ignoring the collapse of core services. There is no honest confrontation with the persistent breakdown of governance across departments and municipalities as the Auditor-General's report highlights.

The most glaring failure is Treasury's inability or unwillingness to arrest the municipal finance crisis. Despite its MFMA mandate, municipalities continue to adopt:

- Unfunded budgets;
- Remain dependent on consultants; and
- Show stagnant or regressing audit outcomes.

Treasury discloses no interventions, no sanctions, no withheld funds, no consequence management. This silence speaks more volume.

The report acknowledges its chronic weaknesses in conditional grant spending and infrastructure delivery:

- Last-minute fiscal dumping;
- Poor planning; and
- Inadequate technical capacity.

These are not administrative glitches; they are the reason Limpopo faces:

- Non-functionality of water schemes;
- Sewage running down the roads and polluting our environment;
- Stalled clinics;
- Collapsing roads; and
- Unfinished capital projects.

Yet Treasury proposes no turnaround plan to reform strategy, no measurable corrective action. Irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure is brushed over without identifying responsible institutions or recovery steps. These shield failing departments and undermines accountability.

Even treasury's own revenue over-collection driven by favourable bank balances is presented without any analysis of liquidity risks or how those funds will improve service delivery. Limpopo may be earning interest, but communities continue to suffer collapsing infrastructure and unreliable services.

Hon Speaker, the Government of National Unity (GNU) has stabilised South Africa's macroeconomic trajectory. Through its GNU Cabinet:

- Structural reforms are underway to strengthen competitiveness and efficiency.

- Debt is projected to stabilise in the 2025/26 financial year with a narrowing deficit, and
- Investment in growth-enhancing public infrastructure freight rail rehabilitation, wastewater treatment upgrades and it is beginning to take shape.

The Democratic Alliance do acknowledge that the Limpopo Provincial Treasury has made the progress in the financial year and the internal controls and audit outcomes that they have instituted.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Members must be careful of their minutes because it is not my intention to stop anyone but let's look at the watch. We shall now move to Hon Letsoalo Mapula Gratitude. Hon Lebogo will present on her behalf. You have seven minutes honourable Member.

MR LEBOGO

Re le lotšhe Mohlomphegi, Mospikara, Tonakgolo, baetapele bao ba lego mo, Mohlomphegi Mapoulo, Moetapele wa EFF le bao re sepelago le bona.

Re kopane mo, gomme re thabela go bona Morena Madadzhe a le gona ka lebaka la gore o tla tseba gore dikgoro di a utswetšwa. Ge o ka lebelela gona mo Lekgotlatheramelao, gona le bothatha bja sefatanaga seo se rekilwego saba sa gomišwa, gomme re kgopela gore tšhelete yeo e bošetšwe. Gona le dithendara tše dintši ka go Kgoro ya Thuto tšeo di sa sepelego gabotse. Re thabela le ditaba tša Hoedspruit, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, re duma gore nkabe le ya Polokwane e be botse go swana le yona.

Le tla bolela. Re ka se dire phošo yeo gape. Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ke tshepa gore Mongwaledi wa Mokgatlo wa ANC o o ekalago tlase badimong, o kwele ditaba tše, tša bomenetša bjo bo lego gona. Pego ya kgoro ye e bego e le fa, e re laetša gore, ngwageng wa go feta ba filwe tšhelete ya go lekana dimilione tše makgolonne masomešupa le diranta tše masometshela pedi, eupša ka manyami gase ba šomiše mašeleng ao ka moka.

Ge o ka lebelela dipuku tša bona, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, gona le tšhelete ya boleng bja diranta tše lekgolo le dikete tše masomesenyane, yeo e ka bago e fetotše maphelo a setšhaba sa Limpopo. Se se tloga se laetša kgatelelo go badudi bao ba hlokago ditirelo ka mo profenseng ya Limpopo, mola e le gore ba be ba holofetše gore ka ge kgoro e hweditše tekanyetšo, e tla ba thuša ka ditirelo.

Go se šomišwe ga mašeleng go laetša go se hlomphe badudi ba Limpopo ka ge dinyakwa tša bona di dula di šaletše morago. Ditekanyetšo tše e noba tša gore batho batle ba bolele fela kamo. Ke nyaka go botšiša kgoro, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, gore maemo le dikgato ke dife tšeo e lego gore ba tšile go di tšia go kgonthišiša gore ga go tlo ba le taba ye ya go se šomiše tšhelete kamoka mo ngwageng wo wa ditšhelete. Kgoro e swanetše go ba mohlala o mobotse.

Rele ba EFF ga re no thabišwa fela ke dipoelo tša tlhakišo ya go hloka bosodiš. Re nyaka gore mmušo kamoka o be le tlhakišo ya go hloka bosodi yeo e lego gore e sepelelana le ditirelo tšeo di nyakago ke batho. Re nyaka go bona go eba le ditirelo, e seke ya ba fela go bethelana matsogo ka ge batho ba hweditše dipoelo tše kaone.

Re eme fa lehono, re lebeletše kgoro ye e lego gore dipoelo tša yona ga di fetoge, mola batho nkabe ba ithuta go yona kgoro ye. Re nyaka gore boetapele bja kgoro ye bo eme ka maoto. Re a boeletša gomme re boletše le maloba fa gore letšang sefepi ka gare ga dikgoro tše dingwe le mebasepala ka lebaka la gore bomenetša bo tšwelapele, ebile ga re tsebe gore le a tšhabana naa, ka ge le sa tšee magato bjalo ka bath oba mokgatlo o tee.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, kgoro ye ga se ya bolela kudu ka taba ya dikgoba tša mošomo tšeo e sego ya di tlatša kamo kgorong. Re rata go bontšha gore taba ye e laetša bohwi hwiri bja go fihla ditaba tšeo di be di swanetše go tseba ke setšhaba le palamente. Ge re eme mo, re nyaka gore kgoro e šome ka nnete mo bathong, le rena e refe pego ye e feleletšego. Re nyaka pego ya tšwelopele ka taba ya go tlatšwa ga dikgoba tša mešomo tšeo e lego gore di be di sa begwa mo.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ke magato afe ao e lego gore kgoro e tlile go a tšia go thuša makala a mmušo ao a palelwago kamo profenseng ya Limpopo. Ge re thoma go bolela mo, re boletše ka boemafofane bjo bo retwago, bja Hoedspruit. Ke ka lebaka la eng go retwa sona bošego le mosegare? E kaba ke ka lebaka la gore keya makgowa?

Rere le ye bja rena, yeo e lego gore balaodi ba bjona ba a palelwa, batho ka moka ba a palelwa re nyaka bo retwe. Bolwetši bjo bja go palelwa bo tlile go le fetela Molekgotlaphethiši ge le ka se kobe batho bale, ra thoma ka leswa gomme difofane tša tla mo ka bontši. Re kgopela dikhamphani tše dingwe tša difofane di be gona batho ba rena ba tlogele go turela ke difofane, ditle di fofe mo di eya mafelong a go fapanafapana, ekonomi e tla gola.

Rena le bothata bja mebasepala, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ka lebaka la gore le thwetše batho ba go se kgone ko hlakanthša dipalopalo, gotšwa go mokgatlo wa ANC; ke ka fao letšwelago pele go lefa bašomi ba go ikema gore ba le direle dipuku ge di swanetše di ye go motlhakiši pharephare. Bothata bjo ga bo fele ka lebaka la gore re lefela batho ba, re gopola gore batšwa dikolong. Le na le dingaka tše dintši, efela ga re bone kaonafalo ka gare ga dingaka tše, mmušo o tšwela pele o gobala. Taba ye ga e sepelelane le maswanedi a dithuto.

Go Mongwaledi wa ANC yo a lego gona, go palelwa ga lena go a re gobatša. Re kgopela gore le ntšhe taba ye ya bašomi ba ka ntle, go be le bokgoni bja ka gare. Thwalang batho bao ba tšwago dikolong, le ge e se ba mokgatlo wa lena goba ba sa tšee karolo polotiking. Re kgopela gore le ba thwale, ntle le dunusa goba difane tša go swana, ba kgone go šomela setšhaba.

Re eme fa, re nyamile ka ge mmušo o tšwela pele o palelwa, Mohlomphegi Mospikara. Rere ditaba tše ba šetšego ba di bolešete mo kotareng ya bobedi, tša makala a mmušo ga di kgahliše. [INTERJECTION]

THE CHIEF WHIP

Sorry, Hon Speaker. It is a matter of principle; it is not an order. We want to apologise to the EFF that we have received a notice that Hon Lebogo will replace Hon Letsoalo. I was just reading the note before he spoke, so that we don't seat around addressing that. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much Hon Chief Whip and it is properly recorded so that tomorrow we are not accused. Thank you so much. Hon Lebogo, you can proceed.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ke nyaka go tseba sekgowa se, Mohlomphegi Lebogo a se boletšego ge are “Ka ntle ga Dunusa”. Dunusa ke eng kamo mošomong? Re hlalose tše gore Dunusa ke eng.

MR LEBOGO

Aowa, ebe e se sekgowa Leloko le le hlomphegago. Ke Sepedi se se hlwekilego gomme se ra gore batho ba seke ba thwalwa ka lephopholo le go kgonamišwa boka bedio yela e ilego ya tšwelela, ya kereke ye nngwe. Rere batho ga ba thwalwe go ya le ka mokgwa wo ba tšwago sekolong ka gona. Ke bothata bjo re nago le bjona mo nageng ya rena.

Re tla tšwela pele ka Sepedi go laetša gore, tiišang letsogo ka magato ao a tšewago ge batho ba bonwe molato, Molekgotlaphethiši, le seke la faena batho, kobang batho. Batho ga ba swarwe, tšhelete ya mmušo e bowe. Batho ba tšwa dikolong ga bana mošomo, mola lena le šireletša batho bao ba senyetšago setšhaba le mmušo.

Mohlomphegi Mospikara, batho ga ba lefelwe, ba kgone go dira mošomo mo mmušong. Taba ye ya ditefelo tša go dula di šaletše morago e gobatša dikgwebo tša batho baso. Re kgopela gore le e tiišetša batho ba fiwe tšhelete ya gore ke borakgwebopotlana, ba tlhabolle ekonomi ya rena.

Se sengwe gape, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, ke gore go a nyamiša gore kgoro ye e fihleletše fela diperesente tše masomeseswai tshela, mola ba beakantše gabotse, ba tseba gore diphihlelelo tša bona di swenetše gore e be tša diperesente tše lekgolo. Dikgoro tše dingwe di ile go ithuta jwang, ge go palelwa kgoro ye kgolo? E swanetšego goba mohlala o mobotse go lena? Re re, taba ya dunusa e sesa dumelelwa, Morena Mokone, le re thuše go e lwantšha mo mmušong wa rena, batho ba thwalwe goya ka dithuto. Re a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re tla kgopela gore, Mohlomphegi Lebogo le Mohlomphegi Mokone ba seke ba šomiša polelo yeo e sego ya maleba ka lebaka la gore polelo yela ga se ya lokela palamente. Le seke la šomiša mantšu a a sa dumelelwago ka Ngwakong.

MR LEBOGO

E kwagetše, Mohlomphegi Mospikara, mohlomongwe nkabe ke rile taba ya go kgonamiša batho. Le ntshwarele. Rere ga e dumelelwe, ga e lwathšiwe. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Yes, Hon Mokone will be followed by Hon Mathe.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, when I stood up here, I thought you would call Hon Lebogo to order. I was attracting your attention to say that the word “Dunusa” is not there in the dictionary of South Africa, and I thought you will call him to order, but now you are calling me to order. Please, call Hon Lebogo to order because this is a matter of when you cast aspersions on Members of the Executive and Members and administration, that they are using unprofessional way of appointing people.

He must substantiate and bring substantive motion to the House. I didn't want to go there. So, I'm saying you can't provoke me because I will disown, and you will have to write that substantive motion and withdraw before we go home tonight. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, there is a motion on the table that the word “Dunusa” is not acceptable and is unparliamentary. Let's withdraw it so that we are able to proceed.

MR LEBOGO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I was trying to get a better Sepedi word for that. Aowa re ka se kgone go gomiša lentšu lela, ka lebaka la gore ke lentšu leo le lego kgouswi le Isizulu, gomme le laetša mathata ao batho ba borena ba kopanago le ona bošego le mosegare. Akere re baetapele le rena ge rele mo? Re bolela seo re se kwago gore setšhaba se lla ka sona, gore mešomo e fiwa goya ka ditsela tše di sa dumelelwago. Taba ye le ya e tseba, ga e nyake pukuntšu.

Must I withdraw that some of our people are being subjected to illegal or intended activities which they did it in bedrooms and in some corners? Then save it for the day I will bring the evidence; I am not going to withdraw it. You know it Thabo Mokone, and honourable Members that there is a problem.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, please sit down. Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Logically, any usage of an unparliamentary word, needs to be withdrawn. It's a non-negotiable, but if Hon Lebogo thinks that whatever he is raising is correct and refuses to withdraw, then he must submit what Hon Mokone referred to as a substantive motion.

This is because we cannot be sitting here and be held at ransom on the basis of allegations which are not yet proven anywhere. The word, “Dunusa” is unparliamentary, especially when we are from a day which we were speaking against any form of abuse, degradation and any other thing against women. In this august House, a Member, who is a public representative, stands proudly so to continue to degenerate and degrade the standing of women, it is unparliamentary.

If he cannot withdraw, we cannot plead with a person to withdraw. He must withdraw. If he is not able to withdraw, let's enforce what the rules are saying because we are having rules here.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Lebogo, the word you have used is unparliamentary. We request that whatever explanation you wanted to give, even when you want to say it in Sepedi, today is the day that we start with the 16 Days of Activism. If you stand in a forum like this, the manner you put it, I can't put it myself because it shows the disrespect not only for the Members who are sitting in the Legislature, but also for the public as well that is listening to us.

We are just saying you wanted to make a presentation, but unfortunately, the word you used is unparliamentary. It is the plea that we are making as the House that you withdraw the word that you have used. You are not withdrawing the content; you are withdrawing the manner in which it is used.

Even if you are trying to explain in Sepedi still it is worse. Please withdraw Hon Lebogo, so that we are able to proceed on that word.

MR LEBOGO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As I gravitate towards the point you raised, it will be wrong to allow Members to misquote me. I never mentioned women. We are advocates of respecting women and as we are going towards what you are saying.

Go dunisiwa ge re tsena go ye o e bolelago, go akaretša batho kamoka. Le banna ba a dunisiwa, ga ke tsebe go bolela ka basadi. However, I am withdrawing that word. Se se golo ke gore le Mohlomphegi Ngoben, o a tseba gore ke bolela ka eng? Ke bothata bjo re lwago le bjona go tloga kgale.

However, I am withdrawing that word, Kgoši. I withdraw that word, but the context remains the same. I withdraw.

THE SPEAKER

You see, he wants to do with other people. He is coercing other Members. Honourable Members, let's proceed. Allow Hon Pheedi to come and close the debate.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Maybe the honourable MEC for Education must help. You will remember that we have a problem of language, honourable MEC.

MR PHEEDI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Without much ado I will just greet yourself as well as the PEC of the African National Congress. All protocol is observed.

Hon Speaker, the essence and the importance of quarterly reports is to provide an analysis of what transpired in the department during that period under review. The first quarter report for the 2025/26 financial year of the Limpopo Provincial Treasury covers the period between April to June 2025.

In line with the Legislative Oversight Model, the committee is tasked to check the use of resources such as human, finance, capital and others allocated to different programmes which are consistent with the projections made in the Annual Performance Plan or the framework used to measure performance.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury had a session with the department to check progress made on the five programmes that the department is mandated to respond to.

The Corporate Management Services is aimed at ensuring sustainable support services and good governance focusing on capacity-building, human resources, ICT governance, and financial accounting. The department had set three targets for the programme and the department managed to achieve two of them, which translated to 67% targets achievement.

The reason for not achieving the remaining target, Hon Speaker, according to the department was because of one invoice that was not paid on time due to unavailability of BAS and LOGIS system during April 2025 as a result of migration from BAS V5 to V6. You will understand these are the systems in procurement services, Hon Speaker. However, the department managed to pay 99,7% of all the supplier's valid invoices including the one that was delayed due to the system administration challenges.

Hon Speaker, the department further achieved 87% of the procurement of goods and services in support of women-owned enterprises. The department allocated this programme an amount of R13,2 million for the entire financial year and out of that, an amount of R9,2 million was allocated to address the vacancy rate in the department.

Hon Speaker, this is the area that also raises concern for not closing the gaps in terms of the employment rate whereas the allocation of money is made for the department. We, therefore, as the committee, have also pushed the department to make sure that the vacancies are very soon closed.

Hon Speaker, the purpose of Sustainable Resource Management programme is to provide sustainable resource management services to the provincial departments and public entities. The programme also handles fiscal policy, economic analysis, Budget management and support for the provincial and municipal finances.

During the period under review, the department had eight targets, of which seven were achieved. The committee commended the department for achieving seven targets. The department had a target of 26 municipal state of finance reports assessments which were all implemented. Hon Speaker, this also responds to what Hon Lebogo has raised on the issue of oversight played over the municipalities.

Hon Speaker, the committee requested the department to provide a comprehensive report regarding the status of the date for Budget assessment regarding 26 municipalities. The plan must include the interventions that are in place to improve and sustain the municipal financial expenditure.

There were 10 targets planned for prioritised municipalities funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grants (MIG) and all 10 targets were accomplished, translating to 100%, Hon Speaker.

Once more, Hon Speaker, Programme 3 deals with Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management. All the management assets, liabilities and supply chain management across all the provincial departments and entities were also achieved.

Hon Speaker, the committee noted that for the period under review, the programme had 4 output indicators, which are:

- Management of assets;
- Banking, cash and liabilities management;
- Supply Chain Management governance and compliance; and
- Supply Chain Management client support.

All 4 output indicators were accomplished, translating to 100% target achievement as well. Hon Speaker, I think this one also responds directly to what Hon Lebogo was saying about the competency of the department in terms of the implementation of the programmes.

The Supply Chain Management governance and compliance output indicator had 16 targets for cash management assessments to be conducted in public entities and votes and were all achieved. The Supply Chain Management client support output indicator had 16 targets conducted in public entities and votes on strategic procurement and targets of Limpopo procurement strategy and all the targets were also achieved which also translates to 100%.

The annual budget for the programme was R11,3 million wherein the department managed to spend an amount of R2,8 million translating to 47% budget expenditure. The expenditure for the period under review was R473 482, translating to 4% expenditure of the annual budget.

Hon Speaker, the Financial Governance programme's purpose is to promote accountability and compliance with the financial norms and standards as contained in the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999) as amended. The output indicators for the programme are financial management and capacity-building, financial accounting and as well as reporting, transversal risk management, financial system administration and governance and compliance monitoring.

Hon Speaker, the last programme is Shared Internal Audit Services which objectively provides internal audit and consultation services to provincial departments. The programme had five performance indicators, all in all but during the quarter under review the three outputs targeted were not achieved.

Hon Speaker, without much ado, we are moving over to the Limpopo Provincial Treasury's First Quarter Performance Report for the 2025/26 financial year. It demonstrates praiseworthy progress aligned to its mandate of sustainable public resource management, with the majority of planned target achievement or exceeded across all the key programmes.

Key highlights include full compliance in ICT governance monitoring, exceeding procurement awards to women-owned enterprises which was at 87% against the 70% comprehensive assessments in fiscal policy, infrastructure, and financial management, and over-delivery in transversal system training of 25 courses implemented against 18 planned.

These accomplishments align with the Annual Performance Plan and contribute to the enhancement governance, socio-economic development, and alignment with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (PFMA), and Limpopo procurement of 2030 strategy.

Once more, Hon Speaker, as I draw to conclusion, the portfolio committee commended:

- The department for reaching 86% target achievement and commitments made to reach 100% target achievement in the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year;
- That the department should provide the portfolio committee with the details on the assessment conducted on the municipalities in relation to MIG in the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year;
- Therefore, Hon Speaker, the department must present a capacity-building plan to ensure that municipalities rely on their internal capacity to develop annual financial statements without outsourcing.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, I rest my case by saying, allow me to present this report before this House for consideration and adoption.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. We shall now call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgabo Elias Mahoai, to respond to the debate. You have got three minutes.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We have taken note of all matters raised by the relevant honourable Members and we will accordingly deal with what we need to do.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. That was a very quick response. You did not even need my three minutes. The MEC for Education should not panic. She has the five minutes. We shall now proceed to the next item, honourable Members.

7.4. Consideration and Adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on Education.

We shall now call the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Hon Christian Nkakareng Rakgoale, to come and present the report of the portfolio committee.

MS RAKGOALE

Greetings to yourself, Hon Speaker; the Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Premier and all the MECs present here; honourable Members; good afternoon.

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Allow me to present for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Department of Education.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable chair. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mmetle-Ramohlola you are recognised.

MS MMETLE-RAMOHLOLA

Thanks very much Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje. I, Hon Mmetle, hereby seconding the presentation as made by Hon Rakgoale.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. May you please proceed, honourable chair to deal with all your reports. You are now at Item 7.5.

MS RAKGOALE

Once more, Hon Speaker, allow me to present to the House the 2025/26 first quarter report of the Department of Education for the consideration and adoption.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chair. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Mokoale, you are recognised.

MS MOKOELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mokoele M E, rise to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education on the 2025/26 first quarter report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Honourable chairperson, you can proceed.

MS RAKGOALE

Hon Speaker, I present to the House the report on the state of school infrastructure in the province for the consideration and adoption. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks, honourable Members. Is there any seconder to the report? I have seen the hand of Hon Mokaba.

MS MOKABA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My name is Hon Mokaba, from Mankweng cluster. I rise to support the report as presented by Hon Nkakareng.

THE SPEAKER

We are happy to know that Mankweng cluster still exists. Honourable chair, you may proceed.

MS RAKGOALE

Once more Hon Speaker, I present to the House for consideration and adoption on Oversight Visit Report to special schools in Vhembe District on 01 October 2025.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Kupa-Mabuza you are recognised.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Bella Kupa Mabuza is my name. I stand to second the report as presented by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Hon Rakgoale. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Over to you, honourable chair.

MS RAKGOALE

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Lastly, I present for the consideration and adoption the report on special schools in Sekhukhune District Municipality on 02 October 2025.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Manthata-Mahasela, you are recognised.

MS MANTHATA-MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the presentation of the report as presented by Hon Nkakareng. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. We shall now proceed to the Speakers' List. When we go to the Speakers' List, this is one of the longest debates unfortunately. That is why you have got more minutes. Even the MEC has got more minutes to respond to. We will now allow Hon Maringa Vongani Wesly to open the debates. Hon Maringa you have got 14 minutes to debate.

MR MARINGA

Hon Speaker, let me greet you, Dr Makoma Makhurupetje; the Deputy Speaker; Premier of Limpopo province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; all MECs present here, you are greeted. Let me greet the Chief Whip and his Deputy and all the whippers and greet all Members of this august House. Thank you.

I am going to be engaging with all of you on the 2024/25 financial year report of the Department of Education in Limpopo. Hon Speaker, I want to start with a Tibetan proverb that says, "A child without education is like a bird without wings".

The future has to start there. We need to invest very strongly as the government in as far as the level of education is concerned from basic education up to a point of your matric qualification so that when they move beyond that, they are able to do well.

This report highlights both achievements and challenges. We know progress we have made in improving learner outcomes, teacher development and also infrastructure upgrade as the province.

However, Hon Chair, we also need to acknowledge the persistent challenges that hinder the department's ability to deliver. In this case, some amongst those particular challenges we face will be resource constraints and the loss of capacity within the teaching fraternity and also within the department in terms of movement of people as they relocate from time to time.

Hon Speaker, the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has implored all of us to recognise that education is a societal issue. During the 2025 Provincial Education Awards, she said, "We are reminded of a transformation power of education in shaping the future of the province."

With that statement said, that signals the commitment on the part of government to do well in terms of education in respect of the capacity that you must produce and also in respect of the financial muscle that we must redirect to boosting the capacity of all our education fraternity to do well.

Hon Speaker, in terms of expenditure, we were able to spend at least up to about 98% as way back as March during the current financial year and that was serious progress considering in terms of comparative speaking with how we have been doing in the past years. With that amount of financial expenditure, the department was able to make serious inroads in terms of how we must prepare our schools, teachers and learners to set a standard and put our province where it supposed to be

We historically had challenges as a department in terms of audit findings where we would be found wanting and we received qualified audit opinions from time to time. Under the stewardship of our MEC, Hon Mavhungu-Ramakhanya, we have been able to, at least, pull strings across and put them together where we are now receiving unqualified audits and that is a very serious borne of contention that we need to walk tall about as the department.

We stand very strongly, and we stand very firm in cognisance of the fact that we are turning the tide around, in respect of our spending and cleaning our books so that we can continue to service our communities, in particular, in the space of our basic education.

On service delivery, we have been facing challenges of infrastructure decays and development across our province. To list, quite a number of schools have always been wanting in terms of the infrastructure where our pupils are supposed to learn from.

Out of the conditions that exist that relate to the state of the schools and the classroom situations, we have always been experiencing challenges in terms of delivery. In some of these challenges we have been able to intervene through your temporary infrastructure where the learners can learn from.

We will continue to say we need to do better. We need to improve the infrastructure. We need to build schools. We need to develop classroom situations that are there. To give you a typical example, Hon Speaker, there is a school called Bohlalaneng Primary School where learners were learning from a carport.

You will then be worried about that. In Mahase Secondary School as well, and in Shigalo Primary school somewhere in Vhembe District certain learners of Grade 7 will be learning and receiving their education in a shack. It can't be that in Limpopo to date, we still have challenges of classroom situations and part of the challenges we faced in this regard, honourable MEC, we are left wanting on the basis of the delivery in the part of implementing agencies.

We need to be firm in terms of the contracts we have with the implementing agencies when it comes to the construction of the school infrastructure so that we can eradicate the current challenges that we face where our learners are studying under trees and

others are studying under shacks. With that said, we can do better. We can even produce more results than what we have produced in the previous academic years.

On administration, Hon Speaker, we have taken note, and we have always moved as fast as possible where we have also decreased the challenge of employment of teachers. You will know very well, Hon Speaker that at some point Limpopo has been facing challenges of shortage of teachers versus what the need is on the ground. We have been able to employ almost over 150 teachers to fill the vacancies that are there.

We admit as a department that we have not done enough because we still have quite a number of vacancies, however, you know better that the presence of teachers comes along with the financial muscle to be able to provide them with remuneration but with the current leadership that we have in the department, led by the MEC, Hon Mavhungu, we are confident that we are going to fill the gap.

With Capitec being available and now is zero supporting the wealth of the province, we have confidence that in the next financial year, the MEC for Provincial Treasury will then pay attention to the need that we have. The MEC will continue to engage with the national departments for additional funding so that we have got what we call funded posts so that we can fill all the gaps of the teachers that we do not have.

In inclusive education, the department has done well in terms of engaging the stakeholders who can add value in the development of our education system. We are running short, we are lagging behind in respect of community participation.

A lot of the challenges that we are facing today have to do a lot with how the community is participating in safeguarding the future of their children and in terms of their participation with the school engagements, including the weaknesses that we have with our SGBs. A lot of parents are not necessarily coming forward.

We need to acknowledge one thing that parents that are there today are parents of my generation, and the big question is why do we have parents of my generation who do not have interest in terms of participation in the SGBs? That is where we must begin to strengthen that particular component so that all community members are able to participate in development of the education of their children and also in safeguarding the properties of the state that are used by these learners when they are at school.

Hon Speaker, when we declare schools and make them special schools, what qualified them to be the special school is because of the learners who are going to that school. You will know very well that it means all those who are students there are pupils with special needs.

To a particular extent, we have not done well in terms of preparing all the special schools to respond adequately, properly and efficiently to the kind of the learners that they have. I will give a typical example, Hon Speaker, we went to Rivoni Special School in Vhembe District. The situation there in is unbearable.

However, we have got a new structure. On the state of the structure that is there, the contractor there has not been responding effectively in terms of timelines that are there. We are just hopeful that through the engagement that we are having with the

department and the officials there and the department come 2025/26 financial year, the MEC should have to walk there and officially open that new infrastructure so that all the learners are able to receive the necessary kind of support through infrastructure development that they deserve.

We have a special school in Sekhukhune District which I think the government must reconsider its position. The school there is where we have close up the aspect of high school, honourable MEC, we have moved the learners there to Setotlwane. If you look at all those learners who are there, these are children with special needs.

Even if they are from Sekhukhune, by a mere calculation of the distance that exists between Sekhukhune and Mankweng, already it is a burden on the part of the parents in terms of visitations. You can just imagine that a person with special needs moving from Sekhukhune to Setotlwane in Mankweng, that alone, the environmental changes that happens is not necessarily contributing very strongly to their development in terms of academic activities.

We need to reconsider that decision and find ways and means to rebuild a school or take them back to Sekhukhune and have them studying there. The MEC for CoGHSTA is here, I am going to engage you on this one. We have got a special school that we are building in Sekhukhune as government.

In the very same piece of land where this school is being built, a kgoši in that area has already disposed a piece of land right in the middle of the school. You have got a house, while the contractor is building a school, we have got a citizen of South Africa in Sekhukhune who is building his own three-bedroom house on the premises.

The question will be: Once the construction of the school is completed, what is going to be the situation? Who is going to be responsible for the fencing and how are learners going to be learning? And these are learners with special needs. On the other side, there is a construction of a house I know very well, that the ANC-led government is very sympathetic to magoši and the government is always taking care of them.

Maybe honourable MEC for CoGHSTA one day you may need to be part of those delegations who are going to be engaging with the kgoši to suspend this disposition of that piece of land which has already been allocated for the construction of the school so that we can build a school and complete it and have our learners studying there.

Hon Speaker, there is also another critical issue of one school in Vhembe District, the school of Tshilwavhusiku. The contractor has been building, you see we are failed by contractors unfortunately, and when the blame game begins to pop up, it never gets directed at the contractor. It will always pops up on the face of government, and in this case, it will be the ruling party which is supposed to take blame.

We have a contractor there who has built a school and who have been paid but then there is a lot of work that has not being completed in respect of your sewage system, your ablution system. This is a school for learners with special needs and the question will be: If the contractor completes work and gets back and closes the file when such kind of activities have not been resolved, what then becomes of the situation?

Hon Speaker, we have a responsibility as government to equip all special schools. There are those who are visually impaired and must have necessary tools to see. Those who can't read must have the braille and those who have got hearing problems must be assisted with the hearing devices that can assist them to be able to understand better and to hear as and when they are taught.

This responsibility does not rest on anyone except the government of the day where in this case it is going to be the ANC-led government. These schools, we are the ones who categorised them. We are the ones supporting them, unfortunately the amount of support has not reached a level where we are buying them devices to assist them to learn.

The other area where we are facing serious challenges, MEC for Education, Hon Mavhungu, you are here, and MEC Dieketseng Mashego, you are here, and the Premier is also here; we do not have educational specialists who must deal with the mental wellness of all learners who are in all those special schools.

It is an area that we have not necessarily empowered very strongly and very firmly. We have a responsibility as government as we get these students from Treasury, honourable MEC, we need to find a way to allocate some few cents, I am not sure how best we can do it, to try and make sure that all these special schools have got the educational specialists who are always at those schools.

Even if those specialists are not there every day, at least they can't have a specialist once in three weeks or once in a month because naturally, the learners who are there, need some certain level of special care. The majority of that special care can only come from these medical practitioners who are qualified to deliver such services.

Before the Hon Speaker says I must seat down, let me just bow out and say we have got a very strong responsibility. The challenges are too heavy but not too difficult for us. We are going to conquer and get them right. Honourable MEC, you must continue to provide the necessary leadership you are providing and engage your officials there to literally do well, not just report that they are doing well.

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for giving me 30 seconds extra. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Maringa. We will now allow Hon Andre Moss. You have got 5 minutes, not additional 30 seconds.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties; Members of this House and guests.

South Africa does not merely have a funding problem in basic education. It has a priorities, management and accountability problem. Limpopo's education reports, the Annual Report, the first quarter performance and the Oversight Report on Infrastructure and special schools lay that reality bare. And because these are all implemented under

national frameworks, grants and norms, this is not just Limpopo's problem. It is a national warning light.

At Rivoni School for the Blind, the new school started in 2021. It was supposed to be finished long ago. We are now told it is at 93% completion, yet the children are still living and learning in old, freezing mobile classrooms and mobile hostels.

They walk and play among open trenches, rubble and a construction site, children who cannot see the danger in front of them. The contractor is currently under business rescue. The building stands there, almost done, but not usable and the blind children wait.

At Bosele School for the Blind and Deaf, built in 1957, hostels and ablutions are deteriorating, plumbing blasts regularly, there is a chronic shortage of braille materials and hearing aids, only 12 of 31 educators are special needs qualified, and the school carries an Eskom bill of more than R1 million per year.

At Thushanang, a special school was built on a wetland. Millions were spent. The buildings are there. The furniture is there, but the school is not functional because basic engineering principles were ignored. The department had to buy more mobile classrooms again.

Hon Speaker, these are not just provincial headaches. They are violations of section 10, 24 and 29 of the Constitution – dignity, safe environment and basic education spelled out in committee reports.

In other places, like Masoka and Kgalushi, the department decided that a new brick infrastructure does not make business sense because of low enrolment. Those children must stay in temporary structures and hope that, one day, they will be merged into another school.

So, in one village we build a broken school in the wrong place, in another village we say a proper school is not worth the investment. The common factor is that the child is never at the centre of any decision.

Out of R3,43 billion in conditional grants, the province spent just over 97% on paper that seems fine, but once again, the problem is where the gaps are. Grants for Nutrition, ECD, Infrastructure and HIV are all reported at above 90% by year end, yet the worst performer by far is the Maths, Science and Technology grant at barely two thirds of its allocation. It dropped dramatically from over 90% the previous year to just over 60%.

The department itself admits that this was caused by a failure to procure coding and robotic kits on time, then trying to redirect the money to laptops which also were not delivered in time. In other words, they changed the plan mid-stream and still did not execute.

This is not a small technical matter. This is a province and a country that says it wants to create engineers, doctors, technicians, and scientists. We speak in big speeches about the Fourth Industrial Revolution, about digital skills, about STEM being the future,

yet the very grant designed to support Maths and Science in the schools is the one that repeatedly gets underspent and, in some years, has to send money back.

Hon Speaker, we are long past the stage of discovering these conditions. They are on record. What remains is whether this House will still tolerate them. If not, accountability must move from words to action now.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Moss. We will now proceed to Hon Jacobus Frederik Smalle. You have got 9 minutes, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This is quite a progressive committee that is not standing backwards towards what should be done.

Honourable Members, stakeholders, and guests, I stand before you today to discuss the 2024/25 Annual Report of the Department of Education of Limpopo, highlighting serious shortcomings and providing guidance for improvement.

As the opposition, we acknowledge the department's efforts, but we cannot ignore the human rights violations and legislative shortcomings that plague our education system.

The Auditor-General's report reveals irregular expenditure, unauthorised spending, and wasteful expenditure, totalling R123 million, R45 million, and R18 million respectively. These funds could have been better spent on improving infrastructure, supporting special needs schools, and enhancing teacher development programmes.

Specifically, we are concerned about the plight of our learners at our special needs school of Rivoni School and Setotolwane School, which lack basic infrastructure resources. Rivoni School, with over 200 learners, has inadequate classrooms, sanitation facilities, and learning materials and Setotolwane School, with over 150 learners, is facing similar challenges, including the lack of assistive devices and specialised teachers.

I, agree with Hon Maringa, at this stage in our democracy we should not be speaking about how we are still assisting or need to deal with special needs school. We should have completed that project. Every school we build today and the priorities of what needs to be done on the APPs speak for itself.

Honourable MEC, thank you for answering some of my critical questions in the programme set out in our programme today. The 744 schools are in need of additional classrooms, 934 schools are in need of additional sanitation, but what must be concerning is that we still got 05 schools with pit latrines, 361 enviroloo schools.

My biggest question here is the boy-girl ratio of sanitation that has been answered here by the MEC. It is 01 to 44, and I can take the department and yourself to schools with

the sanitation ratio at schools is not 01 to 44 and it is how we answered some of these questions that I would ask that we consider some of those inputs a bit more strongly.

If you look at mobile toilets at our schools in 2023/24 financial year, 28 schools had access to them. We move from 24 to 25 to 182 and we are moving to this financial year to 188. What we would have wanted to see is a decrease and a bit more brick and water in buildings going up and supporting those sanitation facilities to our learners.

We cannot continue to neglect the pressing needs of our learners with special needs and educational needs and urge the department to prioritise the needs of these learners and provide the necessary support to ensure they receive quality education.

Key concern for the department to prioritise remained the addressing delayed delivery of textbooks, providing assistive devices, and school furniture that impacts learner's rights to the quality of our education.

Tackling the high vacancy rates, particularly in rural schools, which indicate challenges in meeting Employment Equity Act requirements, a continuous overlooking of underachievement of the targets for specialised schools and technical vocational streams continue to limit opportunities for our learners and must be reversed as a priority.

The report on the state of school infrastructure in the province paints a bleak picture. Of the 28 schools visited across the province, none of the outstanding matters have been resolved. All of the committee resolutions are either not resolved or not fully resolved. This displays a lack of sufficient will and commitment to address institutional challenges that continue to affect our education system.

Despite the failure to resolve the committee's resolutions, it is encouraging that the department has indicated efforts to address some social ills and issues in our education system such as deploying 230 Learner Support Agencies (LSAs) to high burden schools, efforts to focus on substance abuse, prevention of unwanted pregnancies and attempts to address the progression of learners despite poor performance through training of SMTs, and ensuring remedial programmes are fully implemented.

The department needs to speed up infrastructure development plans and their implementation as the report shows major areas of concern such as unallocated projects including 31 special needs education schools with no implementing agents allocated, 109 storm-damaged projects from the 2024/25 financial year that have not been allocated implementing agents and schools where not all pit toilets are demolished.

I do take note of the comments of the MEC for Treasury today in the Adjustments Budget, but the report is retrospective during that financial year, honourable MEC.

Recommendations that the department must prioritise is the addressing of the infrastructure challenges, including pit toilet eradication and safe sanitation facilities. Strengthening governance and compliance with financial regulations is another necessary step to ensure the department does not misuse or waste limited resources needed to address the numerous educational challenges in Limpopo.

In addition to strengthening governance and compliance, it is important to enhance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure there is a continuous improvement in the implementation of programmes. Honourable MEC, you have to make sure in undertaking to prioritise funding for EDC programmes, special education, and vulnerable groups, that have been severely neglected for years and deserve an adequate level of education.

The need to continue to develop targeted strategies for Mathematics and Science subjects must continue to ensure that learners of this province have as many avenues as possible and opportunities available to them. We urge the department to take concrete steps to address these shortcomings and ensure quality education for all our learners in this province.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Smalle. I have recovered my 30 seconds. I will now allow Hon Molapo Walter Samuel to come and present on his debate. You have 11 minutes honourable Member.

MR MOLAPO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Allow me to acknowledge and greet the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Mapoulo, chairperson of the EFF in the province, members of the EFF out there, invited guests in the gallery and Members of this House.

Hon Speaker, allow me to begin by agreeing with the MEC for Provincial Treasury in his accession that true leadership lies on the spending of the 100% of the money allocated. Se ga sere gore o šomiša tšhelete ka go e utswa, se ra gore, o šomiše tšhelete ka go iša ditirelo bathong.

Hon Speaker, 30 years into the ANC rule, the Limpopo Department of Basic Education continues to fail the poorest and most vulnerable learners. The department failed to spend 100% of its adjusted appropriation of R39,8 billion, leaving behind an unforgivable R722 million that could have changed the lives of the learners trapped in collapsing classrooms and unsafe premises.

The ANC-led government failed to spend R3,4 billion in conditional grants. This includes non-conclusion of procurement for Maths, Science and Technology kits, and the reckless redirection of Maths, Science and Technology grants for purchasing of laptops that were never delivered on time. Having the period of 30 years in governance, yet the department still cannot complete basic procurement processes.

Hon Speaker, it is concerning that the department's chronic failure stems from the late submission of invoices for delivery of school furniture, delays in appointing chemical service providers for ECD centres, and failure to procure motor vehicles and buses for

special schools. Those are not administrative errors. They are structural governance failures after three decades in power.

It is interesting but not surprising, Madam Speaker, that the department is able to fully support independent schools in accordance with the South African Schools Act, about spending R169,465 million fully in the independent schools. Meanwhile the ANC-led government cannot support public ordinary schools and public special schools with the same enthusiasm.

Se se tloga se laetša gore tšeo di lego bohlokwa mmušong wa ANC, ga se tša ema gabotse. Ge ba iša ditirelo go dikolo tša makgowa, ba a kitima efela ge ba swanetše go iša go tša rena batho baso ba goga maoto.

The Public Ordinary Schools were allocated R33,5 billion, yet the department underspent by R355 million. The reasons are the same recycled excuses – late delivery of school furniture, delayed textbooks, and unpaid scholar transport invoices. After 30 years, the ANC-led government is unable to deal with a mere basic rule.

The irrational situation where 22,000 teacher assistants remain unpaid in certain districts while others are being paid is unacceptable. Those delays are not accidental; they reflect a department that has lost all financial and administrative control.

The department has repeatedly lied about the infrastructure challenges, particularly on the eradication of pit toilets and fixing dilapidated buildings. Oversight visits contradict those claims.

Taung High School in Fetakgomo Tubatse is still using pit toilets. Ratseke Primary School in Kgapane village still operates in dilapidated buildings. At Thabisong Primary School in Jokong village learners literally learn under trees.

The budget for public special schools was R833 million, yet the expenditure amounted to R747 million, leaving R86 million underspent. This is a disgrace, especially given the horrifying conditions in the special schools.

Hon Speaker, at Rivoni Schools for the Blind:

- Our oversight visit revealed a school in severe infrastructure crisis.
- A stalled and incomplete construction project forces blind learners into dilapidated mobile classrooms and unsafe hostels.
- There are zero therapists, only one teacher assistant, and no mobility instructor.
- Hostels are freezing in winter and unbearably hot in summer.
- This is the lived reality under the ANC-led government 30 years later.

Hon Speaker, at Asiphumelele Special School:

- The school operates from container classrooms, lacking hostels, no therapy rooms, and no essential assistive devices.
- Teacher posts remain unfilled, and the adjacent construction site is incomplete and hazardous to the health of the learners.

- Learners with severe and multiple disabilities are being taught in conditions unfit for human learning.

Hon Speaker, at Tshilwavhusiku Special School:

- The school operates a hostel without formal registration using three classrooms to house learners.
- There are serious water shortages, broken ablution facilities, and unsafe sanitary conditions.
- Only one occupational therapist is available for 281 learners, with no psychologist, no physiotherapist, and no speech therapist. This is not a school environment. It is a humanitarian crisis.

In the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, Vote 3 analysis shows that Public Special Schools Education spent only 8,1% of its budget in the first quarter down from 25% previously. This is the lowest spending among all programmes. At the same time, Independent Schools are being supported at this stage and spending is at 50% of its budget. Those numbers expose the ANC's twisted priorities.

Se se no bontšha gore ge ANC e ya go thekga dikolo dikolo tša go ikema, e a kitima, efela ge ba ya dikolong tša magaeng ba goga maoto. Ke seo re swanetšego go se boeletša nako le nako go laetša gore ga se la bea maikarabelo a lena gabotse.

The Education Infrastructure Grant spent only 14,1% in the first quarter confirming the delays, abandoned projects, and crumbling infrastructure visible across the entire province. The 30 years into ANC rule, schools still resemble construction sites rather than safe learning environments.

The Auditor-General found that the department incurred R1,5 billion in irregular expenditure. This includes the R292 million lost through the irregular awarding of National School Nutrition programme tenders, and over R400 million lost through unlawful transversal contracts which the department litigated and lost in courts. Corruption continues to swallow our resources in this department.

Hon Speaker, it is highly suspicious that the new HOD appointed by the current MEC for Education presided over the same controversial transversal contract while he was still working in the Northwest province. Few months later, he was absorbed in our department.

Hon Speaker, the state of education in this Limpopo is a mirror of the ANC's 30-year legacy, pit toilets, collapsing schools, unpaid teacher assistants, abandoned projects, disabled learners neglected, blind learners living in dangerous conditions, and hundreds of millions unspent.

The Economic Freedom Fighters in the province demands immediate intervention, accountability and justice for the learners in this province.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now allow the chairperson of the committee, Hon Christian Nkakareng Rakgoale to close the debate. Over to you, chairperson. You have got 14 minutes to debate.

MS RAKGOALE

Hon Speaker, I am also lobbying for the remaining minutes that were left by Hon Smalle to also be allocated to me as I take this opportunity to greet you Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and the Deputy Chair of Chairs; Hon Premier; all MECs present here and honourable Members.

Let me take this opportunity also and greet our Provincial Secretary, Vhamusanda Mr Madadzhe. I have listened to all the members of the committee that were here. Some of them sound like a bitter ex. I mean some of them we used to travel this journey together as the country in this democracy. They just left a few years ago, today they are seeing all the wrongs from this other side. It is okay, but we are soldiering on.

Madam Speaker, let me not take time. On behalf of the committee, I presented the first quarter and Oversight Report on the Department of Education in Limpopo for the 2025/26 financial year. This report highlights our progress, challenges and commitment to delivering quality services to our learners.

The Department of Education in Limpopo is committed to providing quality education that prepares our learners for the challenges of the 21st century. As we continue to navigate the complexities of our education system, we remain focused on our core mandate to provide access to quality education for all.

Under Administration, the programme was allocated R2,641 billion, expenditure for the quarter amounted to R5,78 million which is 19% of the programme allocation. The department planned to reach out to 3,606 public schools that use South African schools' administration and management system, any alternative electronic solution to provide data in public schools that can be contacted electronically.

It was found that 99,8% of supplier's invoices that should be paid within 30 days, honourable MEC, were not paid within that period. I think, we need to improve on that one. The report that we get as a committee indicates that there is a late interphase between LOGIS and BAS.

The committee enquired about measures put in place to resolve the matter, since it was recurring from the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year. The committee recommended that an assessment on capacity of officials responsible for LOGIS and BAS should be made to avoid the regular system errors and therefore, quarterly progress on mitigating measures should be reported to that effect.

Furthermore, the committee was concerned that the afore mentioned system has long been available and could therefore not be used as an excuse for non-performance. At the time of reporting, the committee noted gender imbalances at senior management levels and realised that gender equity must be addressed in the department.

The committee recommended that the department must address gender imbalances in compliance with equity legislation. Whilst on appointments, perhaps we might need to remind my colleagues that the MEC for Education is not responsible for the appointment of the HOD. It is the Office of the Premier which is responsible to run the process of appointing the HOD.

If you are interested to know how the Office has run the process as we were to keep quite as we were listening to you, now, you have to then understand and be reminded in terms of the process of appointing the HOD.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the ANC, chairing the committee I would be failing, in my objective assessment of the performance of the Department of Education if we do not consider in routes that have been made in the delivery of some quality education to our learners.

It is through education that individuals acquire skills that make them employable and equip them to access opportunities that improve their lives. Producing quality learners requires a quality learning environment and we need quality schools, with adequate infrastructure, enough classrooms, suitably qualified educators, sanitation, electricity, water and supporting facilities.

The committee have seen improvement in our matric pass rate increasing to 85% from 82% in the previous year. This is testament to the hard work of our learners, teachers and officials as led by the teacher number one honourable MEC, Mavhungu-Lerule Ramakhanya.

On Public Ordinary Schools Education, during the quarter under review, there were no targets for programmes as all targets were scheduled for the fourth quarter. The committee noted a number of vacancies in the department and in its considered view; deemed it necessary that assessment should be done so as to strike a balance between the teacher-learner ratios.

Another concern was with respect to Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme, wherein the department was advised that bursaries should be awarded in career fields that respond to the mandate of the department and the needs of the economy. By so doing, graduates will not find it hard to access employment in their respective fields of study.

The committee was made aware about components of HIV/AIDS teenage pregnancies that are purely societal issues. However, it is our considered view that educators need to be trained in holistic sexuality education so that they can feel free to talk to and advice learners about those issues so as to minimise the risk associated with those conditions, including limiting the number of learners who might be impregnated during schooling years.

The committee further welcomes the Health Products Regulator's decision to approve the long-acting prevention drug. South Africa is the first country on the continent to register the twice a year injection which provides six months of protection against HIV/AIDS as reported on 28 October 2025.

We have faith that, that drug could help to close major gaps in HIV/AIDS prevention as reported by Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. It was also reported that during trials, it was found that in young girls, if they take this injection, they are 100% protected from contracting HIV/AIDS. This will minimise the risk associated with this condition, including limiting the number of learners who might be affected or impregnated during schooling years.

Under Early Childhood Development programme, the main task for this programme is to focus on promoting holistic development in young children, including cognitive, emotional, social and physical growth. The programme was allocated R990,651 million, and expenditure for the quarter amounted to R252,690 million or 25% of the programme allocation. During the quarter under review, there were no targets for the programme as all targets were scheduled for the fourth quarter.

On School Infrastructure, this programme was allocated R1,692 385 billion, and expenditure for the quarter amounted to R470,974 million or 27% of the programme allocation. During the quarter under review there were no targets for the programme as all targets were scheduled for the fourth quarter.

The committee learned from the 2024/25 Budget Speech of the department that over 20 school projects were under construction and requested that details of such projects be submitted to the committee. Subsequently, a list outlining project cost, time frames, achievement and the challenges at various projects was to be submitted to the committee for scrutiny. It was found that less than 20% of the budget for the programme was spent on goods and services and payment of the capital assets.

On Rivoni Special School, this time, I am also inviting the MEC, Hon Rachoene, on this one. Rivoni Special School is really a sad story. I wish you can go there together MECs not to the extent that the principal said “we are becoming a zoo to an extent that each and every politician that wants to come and make oversight, then comes to our school, then leaves, and nothing happens”.

I can tell you; the situation is appalling on the basis that there are even trenches. Actually, it is like the contractor has left the site. We are talking about a school where its learners have special needs. Some of whom don't see. They didn't close the trenches. There are no longer those red danger tapes. Anything can happen and we are talking about learners who cannot see, and we are saying, the sooner we attend to it the better.

The problem, honourable MEC is that on the day we went to the school, the contractor was there, but he does not give hope. You can hear that months still 2026 as well coming to an end without anything happening. I am pleading with both of you as MECs that please get closer to that situation. It might become an embarrassment one of the good days.

During the visit, it was found that from the previous committee visit, nothing was done. The learners were still relying on mobile classrooms that were provided by the department, and those mobile classes were dilapidated as they were meant to be night shift facilities.

The ablution facilities were old. There were no therapy rooms, no fencing around the school and some parts of the available structures were vandalised. There were no ramps and walkways which is one of the situations that we are finding in almost all the special schools. I think if we can engage MEC Rachoene to check with these people on the manner in which they are attending to these issues.

“Dikgerekgere” if you can have a programme to go and assist, even if it is just temporary ramps just for the learners to be able to have access to the school as it becomes a challenge for those that are taking care of them in those schools. So, IDT really needs to be attended to.

The most defining feature of Rivoni is the incomplete construction site that dominates the school grounds, and the state of facility is in poor condition because the school is trapped in a prolonged transitional phase relying entirely on temporary mobile structures. During deliberations it was found that the school is in the sewage place, but I think I was able to indicate that.

Now let me go to Tshilwavhusiku that I think my colleagues that have come here have already make an indication on. I’m not going to repeat what they have said but I will also talk and one of the things is that officials, honourable MECs, signed a completion certificate when certain things which are very critical were not completed.

One of these ones, especially in Tshilwavhusiku Special School, is the plumbing system. They left it unfinished and the IDT admitted that indeed they left without completing it. Now it creates a serious problem. I think that needs to be attended to as soon as possible.

Asiphumelele Special School, I think, Hon Maringa was able to speak about it, especially on the issue of saying there were issues between the two magoši . The MEC, Hon Makamu, I think you know about the situation of the issue between the two magoši that one allocated the stand for the school, another one allocated the stand for settlement and both as we speak, are busy at constructing their structures. It is going to be a challenge if we don’t attend to it as quickly as possible.

The construction in Asiphumelele, I think is good work that we need to applaud. I think, the IDT is doing wonderful work, and we were happy as a committee. Even if the temporary structures that we have put there, we are happy that they are well-functioning, and they are taken care of.

Now, the challenges are not insurmountable, honourable MEC and they can be attended to as quick as possible. Like I am saying, we are talking about special schools here, different from our children that they can be able to see well where there is a pit that they should jump without falling into it.

In way forward, the department must continue to prioritise teacher development and support. This includes ongoing training and coaching to ensure that our teachers are equipped to deliver high quality education.

One other critical issue is that when certain teachers resign from special schools, they have to pick any other teacher who is not trained in terms of how to deal with those learners with special needs. It is another issue that we might need to look into.

In conclusion, the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year and Oversight Visit Report have been marked with by significant progress and challenges. We are proud of what we have achieved, but we are not complacent, and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our learners receive the quality education they deserve.

I want to thank our dedicated officials, teachers and partners for their hard work as led by the honourable MEC. Your efforts are making a difference in the lives of our learners. Let us continue to work together to build a brighter future of our province – a future where every learner has access to quality education and where every child can reach their full potential.

Lastly, the committee, having considered the 2025/26 First Quarter Performance Report and Oversight Report of the Department of Education, recommends to the House to accept the reports and that the department should comply with the recommendations of the committee as indicated above.

The committee considered these reports and hereby moves that they should be adopted as the reports of this House. I thank you, Hon Speaker. One day I am going to come back for my 11 seconds. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson for a well elaborated debate. At least you gave me 6 seconds. Thank you so much for that. I want to make a small announcement. Don't be surprised when you don't see the Hon Premier and the Chief Whip.

As we speak now, at 14:00, His Excellency, the Deputy President, Paul Shipokosa Mashatile will be in the NCOP. They are supposed to join the plenary there. They are just outside to join the NCOP plenary when the Deputy President will be there. Don't be surprised when you don't see them. I felt I needed to inform the House.

We will now allow the honourable MEC for the Department of Education to come and respond to the debate.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you. Ndi masiari, Hon Speaker; our Hon Deputy Speaker; Leader of Government Business, Hon Makamu; colleagues; MECs; Chair of Chairs; the whippery; Leader of the Opposition; our honourable chairperson of the committee and the members of the committee. Thank you so much for the time allocated.

I will not deal with the discussion as differently, but I would want to just raise a few issues, Hon Speaker. We want to start by appreciating the debates as given by the committee, the counsel and the support that the committee is giving us, the positive attitude in terms of raising challenges and also giving us support but equally appreciate how the committee understands the challenges that we have as a department.

We want to also indicate that the debate takes place when all books have been delivered for 2026 as we are ready for the “Back to School Campaign”. We have also improved on our 30-day payment of invoices.

We want to also indicate that the debate takes place when 30 buses, during the inclusive education months to close gaps of special schools, have been given to our schools in the province. We have delt with the issue of the loss of capacity and movement and the retirement of educators by making sure that we are getting younger teachers and they are being mentored but also, we have got a Teacher Development Orientation programme in place.

We understand the issues that they have raised on the merging of schools and prioritising, but we have learned through the committee that it is not one size fits all in terms of the special schools, so we will improve.

We have taken note in terms of the infrastructure for the special schools, and we will keep the House updated. The communities are growing and also the numbers of the children change. They never remained the same, so we don't deal with the issues of saying the schools are overcrowded. We also need to accommodate the growth of the communities.

On the issue of the ECD, we have increased the rates on building capacity. We have got 61 graduates in the ECD space. The 55 of them graduated on the First Aid programme, 51 graduated in basic computer skills from all our 10 districts.

We will continue, honourable chairperson and the members of the committee, to want to improve the targets but there is continuous discussion with the universities, especially on those that are on the bursary to improve on the qualification of teachers as they continue to work in our communities.

The EXCO has taken a decision on supporting us with the programme of infrastructure together with the Treasury where we will improve on bringing in bricks and water instead of giving our schools mobile classrooms.

Hon Speaker, as a department we are ready to give accountability, and we also allow counselling by the committee and also welcome new ideas on the improvement. The ANC-led government is at work. There is never any chasing if the car has stopped.

This is because the ANC-led government is a moving car, then that is why now there are a lot of challenges that can be identified because we are moving. We want to say thank you so much to the chairperson and the members of the committee.

Our schools are giving us feedback that when you do oversight, on behalf of this House, you are able to talk to them properly and also able to give us feedback. Education remains a societal matter. We want to take this time to say thank you to the honourable House for the support that you give to us as a department.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable MEC. You were just straight to the point. Honourable Members, we are now proceeding without wasting time to the next item.

7.7. Consideration and Adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA. It will be for both 7.7.1 and 7.7.8. We will request the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, Hon Champ Sepuru, to come and present.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I move for the consideration and adoption of the 2024/25 Annual Report for the Department of CoGHSTA. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson. Is there any seconder to the report? Hon Muhlope, you are recognised.

MS MUHLOPE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. Greetings to the Povincial Secretary, Vhamusanda Mr Madadzhe and honourable Members. My name is Hon Mihloti Muhlope Ethel. I rise to second the 2024/25 Annual Report as presented by the chairperson, Hon Sepuru Champ. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Muhlope. Chairperson, the next presentation is 7.7.8.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 first quarter report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sepuru. Is there any seconder to the report, honourable Members? Hon Matjomane, you are recognised.

MS MATJOMANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje. I, Matjomane Asnad, rise to second the motion that was presented by our chairperson, Hon Sepuru. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Members. Without wasting time, we shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The person who is opening the debate is Hon Phokane Maudu Johannes. Hon Phokane, you have got 10 minutes.

MR PHOKANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker; the ANC provincial secretary who is in our midst; Chief Whip and his Deputy; Chair of Chairs and his Deputy; the MECs present in this House; ladies and gentlemen.

Hon Speaker, today's Sitting of the Legislature coincides with the conclusion of the G20 Summit that was held in our country and the first one to be held in an African country. We applaud the government as led by the President of the country, President Matamela Ramaphosa for the successful hosting of this crucial event.

It would be amiss of me, Hon Speaker, not to congratulate our President for dealing with all matters relating to the event with aplomb. The challenge posed by the refusal by America in the person of President Donald Trump to participate in the event, in an effort to scupper the hosting of this Summit and renegade the standing of our country before the nations of the world was collapsed by the President.

The President has demonstrated his political mettle and power in the excellent manner in initiating the process as well as the conclusion of the Summit. Submitting all the handles deliberated thrown at the process. We applaud the leaders of all the countries who graced this prestigious Summit and ensure that consensus is reached on the issues that were placed on the table for discussion.

Hon Speaker, we have this Legislature Sitting today, a week after the successful hosting of the "Taking the Legislature to the People" which took place in the Sekhukhune District, wherein the eight projects were visited in all the local municipalities in the district.

This was subsequently followed by a weeklong visit by the NCOP in their Local Government Week in the District of Mopani wherein a successful number of projects were visited. That happened in all the local municipalities in the District of Mopani.

These two events by the NCOP and Limpopo Legislature effectively demonstrate how serious these ANC-led institutions are, in carrying out their mandates to play oversight on the Executive authorities and holding them accountable in terms of the services that they are providing to our communities.

It remains the responsibility of the NCOP and the Legislature to ensure that follow-ups should be done with regards all outstanding issues on the projects that were visited as well as those raised in the stakeholder meetings.

Hon Speaker, allow me to remind this august House that the Legislature is mandated by the provision of Section 114 of the Constitution of South Africa to ensure that all provincial organs of the state in the province are accountable to maintain oversight on the Executive Authority, including on the implementation of legislations.

Flowing from the mandate of the Legislature, the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA is constitutionally obligated to oversee and monitor the Department of CoGHSTA on the performance indicators and priorities as well as Budget expenditure as captured in their APP.

In question of this mandate installed to the committee by the Legislature, it was able to make the department, and it was briefed on the 2025/26 first quarter report on the 23 September 2025.

Madam Speaker, we can, without fear of contradiction, report to this august House, that in terms of our interaction with the first quarter report of the Department of CoGHSTA, it has performed relatively well after having achieved 85% of its overall targets. This 85% overall performance resulted in the achievement of 79% in programme 1, which is Administration, 62,5% in programme 2, which is Human Settlements, 100% in programme 3, which is Corporative Governance, and 100% in programme 4, which is Traditional Affairs.

On matters of the Budget performance, we can report that the department, which had received R2,6 billion for the 2025/26 financial year, has subsequently managed to utilise R674,7 million in the quarter under review. This reflects a 26% spending of the Budget which indicates good performance. If the department is able to keep and maintain this performance, obviously, it will be able to spend the entirety of its Budget.

Madam Speaker, it should be clear to this august House that as the portfolio committee we remain alive to the fact that the department is still doing exceedingly better than it has done thus far in terms of performance and we are impressed on the MEC to ensure that this happened.

Madam Speaker, it is worthy to indicate that in some of the notable achievements registered by the department in the first quarter:

One, we can say that the department has been able to reward the designated groups beads. This is a welcome development in our attempt to transform the economy of the province and to ensure that those previously disadvantaged are deliberately assisted in order to improve their lives.

Secondly, we can also indicate that the department is up in representation of people living with disability in employment which goes well for the department in its endeavour to address issues of employment equity.

The department has also managed to ensure that 800 asbestos roofs were removed in Seshego, and thus averting future health challenges that it should remain in future of that area where those asbestos roofs to remain. We still want to implore the department to ensure all asbestos roofs are eventually eliminated from the face of this province.

Hon Speaker, we are able to report that there is a reasonable progress pertaining to the construction of CRUs at Marapong and the House remove it out of state. We also implore on the MEC and his team to fast-track conclusion of this project and other similar projects in other districts in order to restore the dignity for our people. This long chapter must be closed without delay.

Hon Speaker, we must also note that there has been an improvement with regards to the matters of Thabazimbi Local Municipality as supervised by the Department of CoGHSTA. Despite the improvement recorded, Hon Speaker, it should be stated categorically that the municipality is not out of the woods yet.

The department should ensure that they do everything legislatively possible to ensure that the municipality is not allowed to regress or become worse off than it was even before the provincial intervention.

Hon Speaker, we must also indicate that the department in terms of its failures, has failed to ensure that it pays 100% in all ambitious invoices. We are pleading with the department to ensure that they are able to address such.

Hon Speaker, we must also indicate that the Department of CoGHSTA has achieved an unqualified audit opinion outcome for the 2024/25 financial year which is a continuation of a five-year trend with matters of emphasis.

As the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA, although we applaud that the department is consistently not regressing, we believe that it can do more. Our expectation, Hon Speaker, is that this department that has selected to permanently settle on unqualified audit opinion, needs to move and ensure that they get a clean audit.

Hon Speaker, the other mandate of the Department of CoGHSTA is to support municipalities. We must indicate that our municipalities have performed badly in the 2023/24 financial year in terms of audit outcomes wherein we only have two municipalities with clean audits.

But we are saying that even though there is only one disclaimer audit outcome by Thabazimbi Local Municipality which is a demonstration that the department is trying its level best, we believe that the department can do more to ensure that there is improvement with regard to the audit outcome by all municipalities in the province. We expect that the MEC should ensure that happens.

In our view, as the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA we will accept that there is effective support being given to municipalities by CoGHSTA only by the time when that gets reflected through improved audit outcomes as well as tangible service delivery to our communities on the ground.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Phokane for opening the debate. Now we will allow Hon Evelyn Rayne Wilson to come to the podium. You have 5 minutes honourable Member.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. His Excellency, the President Cyril Ramaphosa recently said gingerly and to his own detriment that, “Those municipalities that do best are not ANC-controlled municipalities, they are often DA-controlled municipalities.”

Hon Speaker, in the Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes for the 2023/24 financial year, the Western Cape recorded 17 municipalities with clean audits. Of the 27 municipalities in Limpopo, only 2 achieved clean audits and that was Capricorn and Waterberg Districts. I am surprised because I’m not hearing anything that your PECs have once involved to 139 and 5 are Waterberg District Municipality with the clean audit.

During this period, the Western Cape municipalities spent R37 million on consultants. In contrast Limpopo municipalities spent more than R287 million, only narrowly pipped by Northwest as the top spender, who forked out R344 million.

Western Cape municipalities recorded 5 material irregularities and 3 of which were resolved, Limpopo municipalities recorded 40 material irregularities, 34 related to financial losses of R1,43 billion, 24 were resolved, R230,8 million was recovered and R3,61 million prevented, leaving a loss of more than R1,2 million on the books ...[INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, you are recognised. Hon Wilson, please seat down.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I only want to ask two things. If she is going to refuse the first one, then she has no choice but to do the second one, because I know she is going to refuse. One, are you prepared to take a question?

MS WILSON

I am not prepared to take a question. Thank you.

MR MATHE

Like I said, I know that you are going to reject the first one. Now, the second one here because you are in the Legislature and the item in terms of the Order Paper is debated. I’m not sure as to whether you are doing comparison or you are debating. This is because you are just telling us about R2 million and above in the Western Cape. What is it that you are doing here?

You are telling us about the Western Cape and its million. I want to understand exactly what you are saying, because I don’t want to be confused. Aowa, wena o kgaoswi le go bolela ka di soup kitchen. Ema ga nnyane, ga ke bolele le wena. I want to understand exactly on what you are saying, because we are lost here.

THE SPEAKER

Order! honourable Members. Can we please come back to the House? Hon Wilson, can you proceed with the debate.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Mathe gave me enough time, I will get to the point and exactly where I was wanting to go.

At the end of the day, all the R287 million for consultants, plus R362 million under programme 3 to capacitate local government, the millions and millions spent on salaries and perks for municipal managers, directors, accountants, supply chain managers and CFOs, who remain incapacitated, unwilling or not politically and financially motivated to comply with the regulatory legislation.

Hon Speaker, poor governance in our municipalities is an ANC manufactured challenge. Local government is responsible for driving economic growth, providing infrastructure and delivering essential services in its jurisdiction. To do so, municipal actors regularly interact with private sector service providers, the mechanisms of which are governed by the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003.

The lack of internal legislative compliance and consequence management mean these interactions can easily be exploited. Role players inside and outside municipalities have formed corrupt networks and processes that facilitate personal benefit. These are organised and maintained over time:

- Influence is gained through irregular appointments, nepotism and patronage;
- This influence is used to manipulate and exploit legitimate systems for personal gain; and
- The illicit activities are abetted or protected by either administrative or violent means, or both.

The more organised, normalised and profitable corruption becomes in municipalities, the less incentive there is for good governance. Under the ANC-led government in Limpopo, reward for maladministration, rather than facing consequences, is the rule rather than the exception.

A relevant and vulgar example is the coveted position in this institution currently being held by someone who was dismissed from a municipality after the disciplinary committee found him guilty of 18 charges, including gross misconduct, failure to pay salaries of municipal employees as per schedule, continuous poor audit outcomes.

There was also gross dereliction of duty. Gross dishonesty emanating from the contravention of several sections of the MFMA and the SCM Act. He failed to account for a staggering R210 million conditional grant which was allocated to the municipality, but he sits in this House.

The implications are serious and directly affect the daily lives of the people in Limpopo, with health, sanitation, environmental and economic consequences. I could go on and definitely go on, Hon Speaker, but I will close.

Finally, the DA wants to say, we applaud the Auditor-General for her landmark decision to issue a Certificate of Debt on a municipal manager for a material irregularity. This will hopefully deter officials from engaging in self-serving or party interests whilst neglecting their mandate to serve the people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, order in the House! We shall now afford an opportunity to Hon Mapoulo. He has got 7 minutes from now.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ke a leboga, Mohlomphegi Makhurupetje le Motlatši wa gago. I hope she will be a doctor next time. The Chief Whip and the Chairperson of Chairpersons; Le bagwera baka ba Economic Freedom Fighters, our ground forces and fighters out there.

Hon Speaker, the department was allocated R2,6 billion for the 2025/26 financial year during the period under review, but what impact. Go no swana le ge re kitimiša leswiswi ka sefepi. Go boima ka lebaka la gore ga ona thekgo gotšwa mebasepaleng ka tšhelete ye ya R2,6 billion, you have no support of municipalities and the construction of offices for the royal houses.

The royal houses, as I speak right now, don't have medical aids, and I think you will come to your senses and make sure that our royal houses get medical aids. The provision of electricity and building of houses to the people of Limpopo and building of houses for the people of Limpopo

Hon Speaker, while the department is comfortable with stagnant audit outcomes, ke meetse magakwa. The EFF is disappointed that the department achieved an unqualified audit opinion for the 2024/25 financial year, with a continuation of a five-year trend with matters of emphasis.

This is a disturbing trend because it is clear that there is no political will by those who are at the helm of the department to change the status to clean audit. I hope because your secretary today is here, you will think twice. Some of you are going to be taken out of the office.

It should be noted by this House that recurring findings related to supply chain documentation, performance information accuracy, and irregular expenditure resolution which require urgent attention. Hon Speaker, like all other departments of this administration, consequence management is not strictly enforced, hence we continue to see a recurrence of these anomalies in every financial year.

The EFF is also concerned about the over reliance on consultants for Annual Financial Statements completion by the department and its municipalities. What a hell. The use of consultants for financial reporting moved from R279 million in 2022/23 financial year to R278 million in 2023/24 financial year. Municipalities appointed consultants due to lack of skills and or vacancies in the finance units.

Government spent billions on consultants, a cost that does not always translate into improved performance in areas like financial reporting and audit outcomes. Focus on external consultants can neglect the need to build internal expertise and this creates a cycle where government departments become dependent on outside help, undermining the goal of self-sufficient public service.

Hon Speaker, it is concerning that during a period under review of 2024/25 financial year processes and procedures were not in place at the department for efficient use of the institution's assets, as required by Treasury Regulation 10,1,2 which means that assets in this department cannot be accounted for.

Furthermore, specific information systems were not established to enable monitoring of progress made towards achieving targets, core objectives and service delivery as required by Public Service Regulation 25(1)(e)(i) and (ii).

Hon Speaker, key projects including Marapong CRU, Altoostyd RDP in Lephalale, Tshikota in Vhembe, and Talana in Mopani remain the elephant in the room, but the person is still in office. The shenanigans in these projects remain glaring to the public while the government fails to complete these corruption-infested projects.

Can we get a breakdown of the number of rural and urban housing units, enhanced people's housing process, and military veterans? Can we also get an update on the Kgatla Commission's outstanding matters before the House for resolution, challenges in court or family disputes regarding recognition?

Hon Speaker, the Tubatse land investigation is the elephant in the room again. Some of the culprits in this corrupted project are without shame sitting with us here today. To date, the Tubatse land investigation report has not been implemented, and we ask ourselves why? Who are you covering up and who are you protecting?

Ke ka lebaka le eng le šireletšana, ka lebaka la gore le šireletša tšhelete ya go utswiwa. Batho bao ba swanetšego ba seke, ba ye kgolegong, ka pela le gona. Mkhwanazi o a nyakega felo fa.

Furthermore, it is disappointing that this is the 10th year since Community Residential Units (CRUs) or Social Housing Units in Marapong, Lephalale were under construction. The same years that you have been in the office, which is 10 years, Marapong e ya pala. This project started during the Fifth Administration, and it has now overlapped into the Seventh Administration. Shame on you. Le a palelwa, le hlotšwe.

Hon Speaker, we demand that the department furnish us with the Thabazimbi Local Municipality's service delivery stability and good governance after the by-elections. It cannot be business as usual in this municipality, because the person at the helm, I think is either benefiting this hell of throwing javelin in terms of all these consultants. I think you even have shares in some of the areas of Thabazimbi. That's the reason why things are not shaping up.

The Moshate Stadium project in Mogalakwena has stalled and we are told that the money is finished. The pervasive and detrimental nature of corruption in this notorious municipality is widespread and has severe negative impact on public services.

Hon Speaker, we request you to add more time on this department like you did with the Department of Education because it is about the lives of our people. Molekgotlaphethiši o nabile fela ka kua, o ja dithotse, ga ana mathata le ge tšhelete e felelela. Mongwaledi o a mmona, šo yena. O a palelwa.

I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mapoulo, the minutes are not determined by the Speaker but by the Programming Committee. Thank you so much. We shall now call upon Hon Sepuru Mmakgabo Champ, the chair of the committee, to come and close the debate. You have 10 minutes to close the debate.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Chief Whip; members of the Whippery; provincial Secretary of the ANC in Limpopo; Hon Premier in absentia; Members of the Executive Council; Chair of Chairs; Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairpersons of committees; esteemed Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

In his closing remarks at the historic G20 Summit that was held on our own turf from 18 until 23 November 2025, the President of the Republic who has roots in Limpopo, His Excellency, President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa quipped that, "South Africa's presidency marks the first time that the G20 has been hosted on African soil, adding that building on the developmental agenda of previous presidencies in Indonesia, India, and Brazil. We have prioritised the issues that matter most in developing countries."

Hon Mapoulo would want to disrupt or disorganise me. He knows where I'm going. Even the President of the EFF, Julius Malema, has commended our President for his steadfast and...[inaudible] Hon Mapoulo and his partner in crime, Hon Wilson, think that we are here to while away time. They ignore real issues, and I understand why, their mandate is to refuse any progress that is made by the ruling party, the ANC.

Hon Mapoulo and Hon Wilson, despite the challenges that affected the community residential units in Marapong in Lephalale, we are pleased to report that at last and to the amusement of Hon MEC Basikopo Makamu, who nearly ended the [inaudible] name of Marapong. You will recall that Hon Mapoulo and his team from the EFF wanted to give you that name. Unfortunately, it won't stick because all the 514 units are roofed with finishes and the installation of engineering services is in process with a planned completion date of March 2025. This is real progress that we need to appreciate. To accommodate the previous hostel dwellers at Alto State who cannot afford the rental housing units at Marapong, the department has appointed two contractors to construct 200 housing units at Alto State, and the project is progressing well. Hon Mapoulo was there when we visited the area.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, allow me to commend the department again for sustaining an unqualified audit outcome. This achievement reflects commendable effort and commitment to sound financial covenants. It is encouraging to note that there were no material findings on the department's annual financial statements, and the number of material findings has decreased compared to the previous audit. This strength signals the improvement in financial management practises.

However, the committee bemoans the lack of progress in elevating the audit opinion to the next level. You are right, Hon Mapoulo, we need to elevate the audit opinion from the qualified audit opinion to the unqualified one. We agree, we need to acknowledge where things are not going well. We urge the department to intensify its efforts towards achieving a clean audit outcome, nothing more and nothing less. Hon Speaker and honourable Members, royal leaders remain a powerful component to bring about unity and social cohesion in our communities. They have always been part of the governance since time immemorial. They hated the evil apartheid regime of the grandparents of Hon Wilson who attempted to use them to implement oppressive policies of apartheid. However, the vast majority refused to be blind royals. The institution of Magoši continues to provide guidance to our communities.

BACKGROUND

Noise

THE SPEAKER

Hon Sepuru, please take your seat. Hon Marx, when we raise a hand, you raise it while seated and then I will acknowledge you. You don't have to stand, you raise your hand, I note you, give you an opportunity to speak and then you stand. Now it's your opportunity, you may raise your point of order.

ADV MARX

Hon Speaker, to refer to the grandparents of Hon Wilson in that manner is unparliamentary and I would request that the honourable Member withdraws. Hon Wilson's grandparents were never in this House and he does not have any proof to that effect. If that is the way in which we are going to treat each other, we can do the same, but it's not proper to insult here.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Marx, I didn't hear what you are talking about. I will go and listen to the recording and bring the report to the next meeting. Hon Sepuru, you may proceed.

MR SEPURU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department has fulfilled its commitment to procure vehicles for traditional leaders; 161 of 162 vehicles have been handed over to the senior traditional leaders. The delivery of the remaining one vehicles is expected during the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. Furthermore, in continuing to modernise

the sector, the department is continuing with the construction of traditional council offices. Procurement of furniture for 2025 has been awarded and the delivery is expected during the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. We applaud these efforts by the department. Hon Wilson must understand that this is progress made.

The perceived antagonistic relationship between the government and employers must fall. To this end, the portfolio committee has set up a session with the Executive Committee of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders to discuss the provincial Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill and the antecedent matters tomorrow, Wednesday, 26 November 2025 at 10:00. This meeting should lay a good foundation to improve the relationship between the government and the royal leaders and thereby help expedite service delivery. This is a sign that *dilo di tšhentšitše*, a concept used by the Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to mark a new era of socio-economic transformation and service delivery in the province.

When Hon Wilson was either debating or making a comparison, she spoke well about the Western Cape. We were there with the NCOP. We visited a number of areas. There was the sewage spillage all over the shore. The officials of the City of Cape Town, as well as those of the provincial department, were nowhere to be seen. They ran away, they didn't want to account. So, you can't come here and tell us about the things that you think we don't know. We were there and we know what's happening.

Madam Speaker, the department was able to achieve a reduced vacancy rate by 5,1% against a 10% national norm. That was at the end of the 2024/25 financial year, mainly due to the progress that was recorded in filling the advertised post. That's a move again in the positive direction. However, the department is still experiencing challenges of gender representative decline. In other words, when they want to close the gap, they take long to fill the posts left by the female managers. My time is up, and I would like to thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, chair of the committee for closing the debate. We will now give MEC Makamu the opportunity to respond to the debate. Hon MEC Makamu, the stage is yours.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks very much. Hon Speaker; honourable colleagues, MECs. I will not take long. We acknowledge the guidance we get from the portfolio committee members. We agree about the audit outcome that we have been stagnant on a qualified audit opinion and we should improve so that we can lead by example to our municipalities. However, it is not correct that all the departments in the province are using consultants. It's only municipalities and we have the reduction strategy. We are working with my colleague, MEC for Treasury, to reduce the use of consultants. Hon Wilson, we acknowledge that we are not necessarily number one; we are still reducing the use of consultants. However, on the issue of Thabazimbi stability, we are working hard to make sure that the municipality is stable. The municipality has been under the leadership of the DA for quite some time, and we are making corrections there.

The issue raised about the comparison. I was part of the NCOP Week. I was in Philippi, if you know Hon Wilson. I went there to be shown a project of housing, we could not see a slab, get a councillor or an official from the Human Settlements. In fact, the DA tried to block us from going to the venue where we were supposed to be. Last week, there was an NCOP here. The DA was part of the team that went to the projects that we have ourselves and that is good governance. The other issue that I want to raise is about the issue of the Kgatla Commission. We are busy, Hon Mapoulo and we want to implement the recommendations as we are able to see those which are implementable. Also, the payment of salaries of senior traditional leaders is the responsibility of the President in terms of the remuneration of office bearers. The issue of the provincial government in paying for patient or medical aid, we can't do that because it is the responsibility of the President. That's what cut across.

The issue of the Mogalakwena Local Municipality Moshate Stadium, you would have noted yourself that since we have intervened there is progress. Hon Wilson, go and read the Constitution of the Republic, section 139(5), that MEC Mahoai spoke about. Read it and understand. Where you have a problem, the portfolio committee will clarify better. We are busy supporting the Waterberg District Municipality in order for them to have a financial recovery plan. We are not placing it under administration. Administration is only when you implement section 139 (a)(b) or (c). However, we are on subsection 5. Go and read, you will be able to understand. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thanks very much, honourable MEC, for responding to the debate. Honourable Members, we will now move to item 8.

8. RESPONSE TO THE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

The following questions have been responded to, and responses have been published on the ATC dated Monday, 24 November 2025, and are therefore disposed of.

8.1 Question 58 2025 for written response was responded to by the Hon MEC for Provincial Treasury.

8.2 Question 57 and 69 2025 for written response were responded to by the Hon MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development.

8.3 Question 7,13,14, 15 and 42 2025 for written response were responded to by the MEC for Education.

8.4 Question 72 2025 for written response was responded to by the MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture.

As I've already said, these questions have been disposed of. We will now go to item 9.

9. NCOP BUSINESS

9.1 The Motion for the Ratification of the Conferral of Final Voting Mandate to the NCOP Permanent Delegates

Hon Deputy Chief Whip, over to you.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Allow me to move for a motion for the ratification of the conferred final mandate to the NCOP permanent delegates. Hon Speaker, on Tuesday, 28 October 2025, when the House was not sitting, the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs held a meeting to consider and adopt the report on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill.

The final mandate of this Bill was due to the tabling at the NCOP Select Committee on 04 November 2025. In light of the above, Rule 236 was invoked to allow the Hon Speaker to confer final mandate to the permanent delegates to vote in favour of the Bill. I, therefore, move that this august House resolve to ratify this mandate as already conferred in terms of Rule 236.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

MS SEBOPELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion that ratifies as stipulated by the Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Sebopela. Hon Wilson, you are recognised.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Just for record, the DA objected to this Bill. We rejected it in the portfolio meeting and we continue to reject it now. We will not support the Bill. I'd like that on record. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

The objection of the DA will be recorded accordingly. Can we now proceed to item 9.2.

9.2 Motion for the Designation of Special Delegates to attend the NCOP Plenaries.

Hon Deputy Chief, the stage is yours.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I rise to table a motion for the designation of special delegates to attend the NCOP hybrid plenaries scheduled for November and December 2025. Hon Speaker, the NCOP has scheduled hybrid plenaries and provinces are required to designate special delegates to attend these plenaries in terms of Rule 226(1). I, therefore, propose that this House designate the following Members as special delegates to attend the NCOP plenary.

Firstly, the first plenary is to deal with Questions to the Deputy President, which is sitting now and Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela and the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana have to attend.

The second plenary is to consider various reports on the NCOP (Select Committees). Reports on the Select Committee on Economic Development and Trade; reports on the Select Committee on Finances on the provinces, Economic and Budget Performance and the report of the Select Committee on Social Development on an oversight visit to the Eastern Cape province and others. The following honourable Members will be attending on behalf of this House: Hon Mokaba M A; Hon Pheedi M S; Hon Mathe S M on 27 November 2025 in hybrid form.

The third plenary is to deal with Questions to Cluster 5A, economics that is your Trade Industry, Competition and Small Business Development. It's scheduled for 02 December 2025 at 14:00 in hybrid form where Hon Mokaba, Hon Matjomane G D and Hon Selane will be attending on behalf of this august House.

The fourth plenary is to deal with the Annual Address by the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and the debate thereafter, which is scheduled for 04 December 2025 in a hybrid form where we are expecting Hon Speaker, Dr Makhurupetje; Deputy Speaker, Hon Mamorobela and the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana.

The last plenary to consider is the Division of the Revenue Amendment Bill of 2025 on 17 December 2025 at 10:00 virtually. We are delegating and designating Hon Pheedi M S; Hon Selane C B D and Hon Rakgoale C N to be in attendance of these critical meetings. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

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

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to you, Hon Premier, the leader of the ANC in the province. Ke ema mo, go thekga ditšhišinyo ka moka tše di adilwego ke sefepikgolo, Mohlomphegi kanyane. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon MEC. I want to clarify item 9.1, where the motion was the ratification of the conferral final voting mandate. The objection of the DA does not

represent the Limpopo Legislature, it is only recorded. As the Limpopo Legislature, we have adopted that we are voting in favour of the Bill. I just wanted that to be clarified. Thank you so much. We will now proceed to item 10.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF CHAIRS

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on the protocol that has already been established. I rise to make the following announcements:

- Firstly, the Limpopo Provincial Legislature will be hosting the People Living with Disability Sectoral Parliament on 27 November 2025 at the Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane.
- Secondly, the Legislature will be hosting the Provincial Men's Sectoral Parliament on 05 December 2025 at Karibu Lodge in Tzaneen.
- Thirdly, the next Sitting of the Legislature will be held on 04 December 2025 here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.
- Lastly and most importantly, Hon Lebogo, lunch shall be served in the Main Committees Boardroom. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Indeed, the announcement that Hon Ngobeni has made that there will be no Sitting on 02 December 2025 on the basis that the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury will still be busy in terms of processing the Budget adjustment process. So, the Sitting will be on 04 December 2025 as announced.

On that note, honourable Members, we would like to take this opportunity and thank all of us for attending this Sitting though it took too long but we were able to conclude the business of the day. We are now saying to all of you, thank you so much for being part of us.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Sitting stands adjourned until 04 December 2025.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 04 DECEMBER 2025
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 so much, you may be seated. Good morning, honourable Members. We are convened here today on 4 December 2025 in one of the official responsibilities for us as Members of the Legislature to transact the business of the House. I take this responsibility to welcome all of you, Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba; all MECs' present in the House; we greet Deputy Chair of Chairs; we greet Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip and Whippery; we greet our opposition parties present in the meeting and all honourable Members; you are humbly welcomed. We specifically welcome the MEC for Provincial Treasury because today, he has one of the most important activities that he is going to be able to present and talk to the people of the province.

But as well, we must greet HODs; the Director-General is here and other HODs and senior government officials who are also here, we greet those who are in the gallery; those who are following us from the media, you are warmly welcome in this Sitting of the Legislature.

Without wasting anytime, I have been informed that the Programming Committee has agreed that today we will not have motions, which is Item 2 on our Order Paper. You will direct me. There will be no motions without notice. Is it confirmed, Chief Whip?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Yes, it is confirmed.

THE SPEAKER

Before we proceed with our programme, I would like to indicate that items 2–5 are suspended.

[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 will then proceed directly to Item 6: Tabling of Committee Reports, other Reports and Papers. There is none.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio committee of the Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025]

We will now move to Item 7.1 in terms of the Orders of the Day; Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio committee of the Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025]. Over to you, committee chair, Hon Maseko Pheedi.

MR PHEEDI

Hon Speaker, please receive my warm greetings to you and the Deputy Speaker in her absentia; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; the entire Whippers; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; I have seen him, he is around; chairpersons of different committees; not forgetting our Hon Premier, Hon Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba and your entire council as well as leaders of the opposition parties and our respective audience who are in the gallery as well as on social media.

Hon Speaker, I rise to present before this august House the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B25-2025] for consideration and adoption. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, chair. Can I get a seconder on the presentation. I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Inkomu Muchaviseki Xipikara. Ndzi ku ta seketela leswi vekiweke hi Muchaviseki Pheedi. Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. On Item 7.1.1 in terms of the Speakers' List, we have got Hon Hasani Peter Ngobeni to open the debate. We also remind you that you have 10 minutes instead of 14 minutes. Over to you, Hon Ngobeni.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. May I rise on the already established protocols. Let me hasten to greet the Premier of the province, Hon Phophi Ramathuba; Hon

Speaker and honourable Members; good morning. It gives me great pleasure and gratitude to make my humble contribution on today's debate on Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025. It will be both remiss and imprudent of me to be immersed into matters of the Budget without making some important reflections on the recently held 17th Anniversary celebrations of Sapa Yopa Biking Club, 2025 Carling Knockout final between Orlando Pirates and Marumo Gallants due to take place on 6 December 2025, the 27 African National Congress of the preparatory political school and the conference of the African National Congress Youth League which is due to take place from 14 to 17 December 2025 in our beautiful province.

Inevitably, these enormous events have sharp propensity to jack up the economy of our province, especially the hospitality sector. This important R20 billion sector includes hotels, restaurants and entertainment amongst others. Our informal traders are also likely to benefit from all these events just more especially during Christmas. This, of course, will include workers of the adult industry, Hon Maseko. In 2012, the African Union (AU) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) established what was called the high-level panel chaired by the former President of the Republic of South Africa and the former President of the African National Congress, President Thabo Mbeki.

In the report, the commission highlighted three components that affect badly illicit financial flows from Africa. Those three components include commercial activities. This will mean that you have got big companies that participate in mispricing and tax evasion. The second one spoke about criminal activities and on the one hand, it speaks about fraud and, of course, illegal activities that relate to smuggling of drugs, guns and trafficking of people. Lastly, it speaks about activities that are to do with corruption and abuse of entrusted powers.

In corruption, it says that pledging and stealing of public resources for personal use continues to collapse our government on matters that are to do with infrastructure. I must be able to highlight two important issues that emanate from these illicit financial flows from Africa - the report prepared by this high-level panel. It says that Africa loses R50 billion into these illicit financial flows, but it also needs R50 billion for infrastructure needs for Africa. Inevitably and importantly, Hon Speaker, let me now deal with the politics of bricks, mortar, steel, cement and numerals.

The provincial infrastructure location for 2025 has been revise upward by 5,4% which translate into R8,8 billion and it has been allocated to various departments in the manner that follows:

- The Department of Health got an increased budget for maintenance repairs and upgrades from R515 million to R702 million.
- The Department of Education's budget increased from a modest R48,983 million to a revised allocation of R1 737 billion for the much-needed and deserved infrastructure. It is a leap that ensures that learning and teaching takes place in an environment worthy of our children's dreams, especially in such special schools such as Rivoni School for the Blind in Vhembe, Setotolwane Special School in Capricorn, Asiphumelele School in Sekhukhune, Thusanang School in Waterberg and Nthabiseng School in Mopani and any other school with

infrastructure challenges. Every child, regardless of circumstances, must find a path to flourish.

- The Department of Corporative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) received an additional R250 million for human settlements delivery and a further R6 816 million for construction of traditional council offices. This department also secured a R1 192 billion rollover for both Informal Settlements Partnership Grant, Human Settlement Development Grant in ensuring continuity in the struggle for dignified shelter for our people.
- The consolidated infrastructure budget for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure rises from R3 930 billion to R4 098 billion. Within this, a substantial R270 million is earmarked for storm damage rehabilitation projects while R123 million is set aside for ongoing provincial road upgrades.
- By contrast, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has suffered a downward allocation from R245 009 million to R142 001 million. This excruciating cut came as a direct consequence of the department's perfect inability to complete the provincial theatre – a project that languishes at mere 52% completion. The unfinished theatre stands as a monument to inefficiency. A half-built stage where dreams of cultural renaissance remain trapped in scaffolding yet amidst it has declined a modest R10 million, has been allocated for the completion of libraries.

The department may be small but its problems are huge and its responsibilities are immense to give voice to our culture and ensure that art thrives.

In conclusion, it must be emphasised that physical discipline is an integral part of ethical leadership and good governance. Let us all declare here and now that while we all still walk the solid earth, we will never allow financial leakages in our own departments and entities. No matter how improbable the task may seem, we must commit ourselves to the prudent utilisation of public resources. No cent must go unspent and no project must be abandoned in scaffolding. Thank, you very much for your kind attention. I support the Budget. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Ngobeni. We shall now move to the next presenter; Hon Jacobus Frederik Smalle. You have five minutes for the debate.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I thought it's the last day where there is extra allocation. Good morning, Hon Premier and to your team and to all Members that are here present, especially HOD and his team from Treasury. As the Democratic Alliance, we share MEC Mahoai's concerns about the risks posed by the purists of global uncertainty that we face. We also agree with his optimism that under the Government of National Unity, we are beginning to see the first fruits of fiscal prudence after 15 years of reckless fiscal governance and borrowing.

The GNU, with the DA inside, is fully committed to stopping the debts spiral and putting in place the reforms needed for growth.

Whilst we might be seeing the beginning of green shoots in our economy, growth predictions nationally and particularly in our province remains far too weak for the dire situation we find ourselves in following years of ANC's misrule. We need deeper reforms, more agency, more capable governance and far better implementation. Hon Speaker, the MEC's adjustments speech last week in this House, tried to present a positive picture of the shift of unspent funds between departments and entities which requires the Treasury to do a proper assessment for financial plans within the APPs to make sure that these plans are adequately planned for and that funds are not just being directed to be later redirected into their hope, but to change the mindsets of our people.

It's clear that one person is not efficient enough for engineering assessments with the Department of Provincial Treasury to oversee the poor spending and planning and implementation of the Department of Public Works performance. In quoting President Ramaphosa's warning, that, the real test will lie in the implementation. Honourable MEC has confirmed the ANC's biggest weakness.

The Adjustments Budget exposes a government that cannot implement. The shifting of funds across departments is not evidence of strategic decision making. It reflects irrational choices, weak implementation, failed project management, poor oversight and inability of departments to spend money they were given. This is not a budgeting problem; it is a governance problem. Hon Speaker, nowhere is the collapse more evident than in Makhado-Musina Special Economic Zone. For a third consecutive year, funding earmarked for MMSEZ has been returned to the Provincial Revenue Fund because the project has again failed to progress to a point where spending was even impossible.

Limpopo Connections which come with price tag of R500 million and with no dividends paid to-date requires another R45 million to stay afloat. Great North Transport faced scrutiny of irregular lease agreements, service providers that should have delivered buses have not done so and will not before the financial year ends require another bailout of R90 million which proves that the entity is not financially sustainable. In total, R186 million has been withdrawn from the SEZ capital budget covering both the SEZ; a devastating indulgent of the province supposed flagships and economic programmes.

The pattern of failure extends well beyond this SEZ. The Adjustments Budget confirms the collapse or stalling of several high-profile projects, including the halting of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre, the withdrawal of funding from the Limpopo-Gauteng speed rail and the stalled Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility. These are not isolated incidents. They reflect a systematic inability to implement major capital initiatives. Hon Speaker, the single biggest threat to the credibility of this Adjustments Budget is not funding, it's the implementation thereof.

Until this government demonstrates stability to turn Budget into delivery, it must hold departments truly accountable. Limpopo's economy will remain stagnant and its people will continue to suffer. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. We will now move to the next presenter. I'm told by the Chief Whip that the EFF will be represented by Ms Mapula Ledwaba. Hon Ledwaba, you can come to the podium. You have seven minutes for the debate.

MS LEDWABA

Thobela ka moka. Hon Speaker, although the provincial own revenue has increased from R2,009 billion to R2,267 billion for the current financial year, this increase has never resulted into any tangible result on the ground over the years. Our people continue to suffer despite the increased revenue that people proudly announced on podiums. They are thereby creating an impression that government is doing something while nothing is happening on the ground. It is important to ensure that critical sectors receive resources needed to drive progress and improve the quality of life for all the Limpopo residents.

These additional resources are meant to address the needs of our communities and must be directed to where they are needed the most which is the communities in the poorest parts of our province. Hon Speaker, the Department of Health received one of the most substantial adjustments with its Budget increasing from R907 million to R1,078 billion and yet our hospitals and clinics continue to grapple with staff shortages. They have shortages of medicine and equipment while ambulances are lying in waste as they do not have drivers.

Majority of clinics still do not operate 24-hours a day, hence women give birth at the gates of health facilities because nurses tell them that they have already closed. In Limpopo, you can hardly find an ideal clinic that has good infrastructure, adequate staff, adequate medicines and suppliers, good administrative process and adequate bulk suppliers. Our health facilities are not functional, are unsafe and they are not able to deliver quality care.

An example is the chilling and horrific incident which occurred at Ga-Chuene Clinic last year where criminals raped nurses within clinic facility. The infrastructure budget increase of R44,983 million in the Department of Education does not inspire confidence at all, given the many challenges this department continues to be confronted with. These infrastructure increases have, over the years, not ensured that the learning environment for our children is continually improved because it is just a drop in the ocean while for CoGHSTA, the Budget increased from R1,1 billion to R1,3 billion for Marapong CRU and Altoostyd housing projects in Lephalale remain the elephant in the room. These long-delayed housing projects of more than ten years are infested with corruption and maladministration, and yet no one has been held accountable. Hon Speaker, the meagre allocation of R6,816 million for the construction of traditional council offices confirms what we have always indicated, that the government does not take royal houses seriously. Their needs are not on the priority list of government; hence, they are allocated tiny budgets. Equally so, the budget allocation of R123 million for ongoing provincial roads upgrades is a drop in the ocean, given the backlog in this regard and the promises that have been made to our people for over the years.

The EFF does not understand as to why the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Budget was revised downwards from R245,9 million to R142,1 million while there is still

a lot of work that still needs to be done in the construction of the provincial theatre. This downward revision is an attempt to derail the much-anticipated progress at the theatre and to fail the MEC in this department. This is a clear sabotage of progress in this project which upon completion, will give young people in the arts opportunities to harness their talents.

Crucially, an amount of R10 million has been allocated to complete the construction of libraries redirecting resources to projects that can be completed efficiently and serve the public immediately. The EFF is concerned that although conditional grants increased by R712 979 million, they are not fully utilised to improve the lives of our people to an extent that they get returned to Treasury in every financial year as if the people of Limpopo do not have service delivery needs. Despite allocation . . .

THE SPEAKER

We apologise that you couldn't finish your speech, but your time is up. Thank you so much. We will now allow the chair of the committee, Hon Pheedi Maseka Solomon, to come and close the debate. Honourable Member, you have got 10 minutes. [APPLAUSE]

MR PHEEDI

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker, all protocol observed. Hon Speaker, as guided by Public Finance Management Act of 1999, an Adjustments Budget is crucial as it allows the provincial government to reassess and realign its spending priorities in response to changing economic conditions, unforeseen circumstances or if there are shifts in terms of its policies. For provincial government, the Adjustments Budget enables the government to do the following:

- To reallocate funds to highly priority areas such as infrastructure development and social services;
- To address Budget and revenue shortfalls;
- To respond to emerging needs like natural disasters or economic shocks; and
- To ensure effective utilisation of resources to improve Budget execution.

I hope that honourable Members will understand as to why we have this Budget adjustment against what they were saying. The total adjustments for provincial Budget allocation for the 2025/26 financial year have increased by R1,5 million from R88,9 billion to R90,9 million compared to the 2024/25 financial year. This R1,5 million growth was financed through a strategic combination of rollovers, own revenue growth and targeted additional funding. The provincial reserves have increased by R2 million which will ensure that critical sectors in the province receive resources needed to service delivery as well as quality of life to our residents.

Hon Speaker, equitable share allocation from the national government is at R1,0 billion and from this amount of R701,5 million, which has been allocated to the Department of Health, an amount of R362,7 million has been allocated to the Department of Education. This is because we are a government that cares and there are other areas that cannot be postponed or compromised. That is in Health as well as in Education. Equitable shares rollover of R419,3 million from 2024/25 to 2025/26 include R42,9 million rollover of retention and revenue from the Limpopo Legislature.

Once again, conditional grants increased by R712,9 million. This includes the rollover amount of R62,2 million from the previous financial year. As we continue, the provincial own revenue was increased by R258,7 million from R2 billion to R2,267 billion and there was an additional conditional grant of R306,7 million for the Early Childhood Development in Education as well as in Health which is R69 million and disaster funding of R275 million for Education, Agriculture and Public Works.

Like we said before, Hon Speaker, we are a government that cares. The Office of the Premier experienced a decrease of R33,3 million from R554 million to R521 million – meaning that the Office of the Premier has also seen the importance of making a shift on certain funds from its Office to other areas of demand. As we continue, from the Provincial Treasury, the institution's Budget has increased by R89 million from R671 million to R762,6 million. These adjustments are primarily to ease the budgetary constraints to ensure that the institution continue to effectively exercise its oversight mandate for the remaining period of the financial year.

Once again, Hon Speaker, the Department of Education, as it has been said by Hon Ledwaba, who might have missed some of the key points, received an increase by a net of R843,8 million from R42,5 billion to R43,3 billion. The department has received an equitable share and conditional grants additions amounting to R1 billion and R491,9 million respectively. The equitable share funding of R1 billion covered R362,7 million for the appointment of teachers across all districts as well as R233 million to cover spending pressures on scholar transport to support eligible learners as well as R30 million for special school's buses and R14 million for learner's admission system as well as R104 million for contractual obligations.

Once again, conditional grants allocation of R491,9 million to the department covered an amount of R306,7 million earmarked for Early Childhood Development grant, as I said earlier. The remaining R185,2 million is comprised of R414 million for education infrastructure grant to fund reconstruction or rehabilitation of school infrastructure damaged by rainfall, flooding, thunderstorms and strong winds between April 2024 and June 2025 and R45,2 million in rollovers from 2024/25 financial year, primarily for the school nutrition programme of R33,8 million and various other grants totalling R11,4 million.

Hon Speaker, you will understand that millions are many because we care. We give this to our people. Hon Speaker, once more, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, received an increase of R49 million, increasing its total Budget from R1,9 billion to R1,95 billion. Notably, this results from additional equitable share resources of R53 million to cover spending pressure on goods and services and R41,8 million for the completion of broiler house maintenance projects as well as the R3,2 million and the procurement of tools of trade in the tune of R8,5 million.

The committee further noted that conditional grants portfolio also increased by R40,8 million made up of R15,8 million conditional grants rollovers for the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme grant and R25 million to fund the reconstruction and rehabilitation of provincial infrastructure damaged by rainfall, flooding, thunderstorms and strong winds. Once again, Hon Speaker, to the Department of Provincial Treasury, the Provincial Budget was adjusted downwards from R512 million to R467 million. This

is because the department surrendered R45,8 million which was reallocated for infrastructure development in the province.

On Limpopo Economic Development and Tourism, Hon Speaker, its Budget has increased by R186,6 million from R2,2 billion to R2,1 billion. The downward cut came as a result of the withholding of the earmarked funds for Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park Capital Projects into the provincial revenue funds for future use. As Hon Smalle said before, that we are a government that reconsiders our positions in taking decisions, that is exactly what is happening in this regard, Hon Speaker.

Once more, Hon Speaker, this reduction was partially offset by additional allocation, including equitable share rollover of R19,2 million and R20,9 million to address pressures related to contractual obligations. Limpopo Economic Development Agency and its subsidiaries were allocated R198,1 million for operational costs. The Limpopo Gambling Board was allocated R23 million through the revenue retention strategy and Limpopo Tourism Agency received R5 million for goods and services. The Department of Health, I think I find it surprising that, when it was said that our clinics are dysfunctional. I'm here to bear testimony, Hon Speaker, that I'm one of those officers that some of clinics during Taking Legislature to the People at Sekhukhune, we found fully functional clinics.

The department Budget showed a net increase of R521,7 million from the main appropriation of R26,7 billion to R26,5 billion. A total of R921,2 million equitable share was made available through additional funding comprising of R218,6 million for the appointment of doctors and healthcare professionals and R460 million to cover spending pressures on goods and services which include procurement of medicines and medical supplies. About R240,8 million for the procurement of medical equipment and R45 million for claims against the state. As I said it earlier on that, all these allocations is because we care.

The African National Congress cares and makes it a point that in that sector of health, our people are always prioritised. The department also received an additional conditional grants allocation of R69 million for the comprehensive HIV and Aids component. In the Department of Transport and Community Safety, Hon Speaker, the Budget was adjusted downwards by a net of R112,4 million from the main appropriation of R3 billion to R2,9 billion. The downward adjustment was mainly due to reprioritisation of funds that were previously allocated to projects that did not progress as expected.

The downward adjustment included R38 million that was initially allocated to Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility and R8 million for the Limpopo-Gautrain speed railway project. Once more, Hon Speaker, the department also receives an equitable share additional amount to R86,8 million for the implementation of the instrument lending system and to settle a claim against the state in Gateway Authority Limited and another portion was set aside for the implementation of infrastructure projects; that is Seshego K53, Mamperkuil Weighbridge as well as traffic college and for goods and services items and contractual obligations.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives an increased Budget allocation amounting to R316,6 million rising from R5,6 million to R5,9 million.

This adjustment was inclusive of equitable shares surrendered of R234, 9 million and additional funding totalling to R551,6 million. As I conclude, the same way with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the Budget decrease by R125 million. As we continue once more, on the Department of Social Development, this is the only department that its Budget has neither increase nor decrease. The allocation remains unchanged.

Therefore, Hon Speaker, in my conclusion, I will call for the House to move for the adoption of this report. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chair. The chair has closed the debate. We shall now call upon the MEC, Hon Mahoai, to respond to the debates. MEC Hon Mahoai has honoured the call by the Programming Committee that we must be casual. He knows the dress code for the day.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is a rare privileged to be on this podium casually on very serious business, of course. I must appreciate that all of you and all parties are supporting this adjustment, I don't doubt that. I have seen that we have taken note of all what you are concerned about. I must emphasise that it is true, a very capable organisation called the ANC that we are able to deliver goods such as these. Hon Speaker; Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier; Hon Chief Whip and Deputy; Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Committees; chairperson of Scopa; chairpersons of all committees; chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Finance; DG and other HODs; including staff from the Office of the Premier; it is a rare honour for us to receive today the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill which is due to be approved by this honourable House.

Be rest assured, money is going to be taken care of. We have evidence, Hon Premier. We are a trendsetter. Our province is doing well and even the Chapter Nine Institutions which are supporting democracy and having the good assurance attested to that. Who else can say anything? I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mahoai. Honourable Members, we shall now go to Item 7.2.

7.2 Motion for the Suspension of Rule 193 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House

We shall now allow the Chief Whip to move a motion for the suspension of Rule 193 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the House. Over to you, Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker and good morning to our Premier, Members of the Executive Council and the Whippery as led by Cde Monama. Members of this House, good morning, once again. Madam Speaker, now that the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025] 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, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Essob Mmanoko Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, I have been informed by the bench on my back that I read a wrong motion.

THE SPEAKER

We apologise, Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

It is becoming a trend, Hon Speaker, I don't know whether the intention is to sabotage the Whippery. That was on a lighter note. Madam Speaker, House Rule 173 provides that, unless otherwise provided in these rules, not more than one stage of a Bill may be taken on the same Sitting day if objections 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 Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025] today as the House will be going into recess. I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

We really thank you, Hon Chief Whip and we thank the table for advising you well on time. Can we now request for a seconder, honourable Members. I recognise Hon Nkonyana.

MR NKONYANA

It's for the Whippery. Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga. Siyabonga.

7.3 Second Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025]

We shall now request Item 7.3. MEC Hon Mahoai to move the motion for the Second Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025] Over to you, MEC, Hon Kgabo Mahoai.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Madam Speaker, now that the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative processes of this House, I now move for the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provisions of House Rule 170. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. Can we get the seconder from the House. Even the left are allowed to second. It's not only the right. I recognise Hon Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the proposal by Hon Mahoai. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We really appreciate.

7.4 Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025]

Honourable Members, we shall now go to Item 7.4 which is the Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill, 2025 [B05-2025] by the Presiding Officer. We shall now adopt the Schedule by Schedule of the Bill. Those who agree with the Bill will say 'Yeah' and those who disagree with the Bill will say 'Nay'. Schedule 1: The Definition. Schedule 2: Appropriation of the adjustments of amounts of money for the requirements of the province.

Schedule 3: Appropriations listed as specifically and exclusively appropriated. Schedule 3 as well will have a short title. We shall now adopt vote by vote of the Bill. I have already indicated that those that agree with the Bill will say 'Yeah' and those that do not agree will say 'Nay'. I will listen to the voices. If the 'Nays' are many, it means they are disagreeing and if the 'Yeah' are agreeing it means the Bill is moving. So, I will be listening to the voices.

Vote 1: Office of the Premier?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 2: Limpopo Legislature?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 3: Department of Education?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 5: Department of Provincial Treasury?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 6: Department of Economic Development and Tourism?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 7: Department of Health?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 8: Department of Transport and Community Safety?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 9: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 10: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 11: Department of CoGHSTA?

BACKGROUND

Yeah.

THE SPEAKER

Vote 12: Department of Social Development?

We shall now call upon the Secretary to read the Short Title of the Bill. Over to you, Secretary.

THE SECRETARY

This Act is the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Act, 2025. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

I thought you are going to clap hands now that the Bill has been adopted. The Appropriations Bill is formally adopted by the House. Now it has been handed over to the MEC, Premier and all departments to go and ensure that we serve the people of the province with money that has been appropriated. Thank you so much, honourable Members.

7.5 Consideration and Adoption of the following reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

We now go to Item 7.5. on the Order Paper: Consideration and adoption of the following report of the Portfolio Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development. Over to you, committee chair, Hon Bella Kupa.

Chair, we are now giving you an opportunity to present the 2025/26 revised Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker; honourable Members; Chief Whip; Hon Deputy Chief Whip and Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs and Whippery. As the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, I'm hereby moving for the adoption of the revised Annual Performance Plan for 2025/26 financial year. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Ms Bella Kupa-Mabuza. Can we get a seconder. You should not be surprised; Hon Premier and the honourable MEC have got an event of launching the festive season campaign. They are released to do that. So, you are released Hon MEC and the Premier. Can we get the seconder? I recognise Hon Khathu Netshifhefhe.

MR NETSHIFHEFHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Khathu Netshifhefhe. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. In terms of the Speakers' List, we have got Hon Velile Jack as the first person, but I have got an apology that he is not here. Maybe towards the end I will have to inform you about all the apologies because you might be surprised as to why other people, including the Deputy Speaker, are not here. I will indicate that towards the end. As Hon Velile has apologised, we will now move to Hon Sebothoma Matsobane Jump. I'm reminding you, honourable Member that you have got three minutes.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, the esteemed House, colleagues in the opposition benches and our viewers at home, kgotso ma-Africa. Today we debate the 2025/26 revised Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. A department that carries enormous responsibility of ensuring that there is food security, rural livelihoods and economic growth in our communities. Agriculture is not just an economic sector. It is the backbone of rural development, it feeds our nation, it creates jobs, sustains millions of livelihoods, particularly for small scale and emerging farmers.

Therefore, the plans we approved must be realistic, responsive and transformative. Hon Speaker, while we acknowledge the department's commitment to expanding farmer support, increasing food production and modernising agriculture infrastructure, serious challenges remain – access to land, water, markets, veterinary services and affordable

inputs continue to limit the success of many farmers, especially women and youth in rural areas. We are deeply concerned that Budget constraints and slow implementation continue to derail well-intended programmes.

Too often, we see ambitious targets on paper but limited impact on the ground. The revised APP must move beyond compliance and focus on measurable outcomes that change lives. Climate change is no longer a future threat. It is a present crisis. Drought, floods and rising food prices are directly affecting our farmers and consumers. We must ask, is this revised plan adequately responding to climate resilience, irrigation development and disaster preparedness? If not, then we are setting our farmers up for failure.

Furthermore, rural development cannot succeed without integrated support. Roads, fencing, storage facilities, market access and extension services must work together. Fragmented delivery wastes resources and frustrate communities. We call on the department to strengthen coordination with municipalities, cooperatives and the private sector. Hon Speaker, we also need to address the issue of monitoring and consequence management. Year after year, the Auditor-General raises similar complaints.

Without accountability, no amount of planning will yield results. In conclusion, this House must ensure that the 2025/26 revised APP is not just a policy document, but a living commitment to farmers, to food security and to rural dignity. We must demand efficiency, transparency and impact because our people cannot eat promises but they eat the results of effective governance. Thank you, Hon Speaker. Kanimambo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member, let's stick to the time. I'm pleading with you. That's why I indicated to you as to how many minutes you have. We are now going to call Andre Moss. You have got three minutes. Please, let's stick to the time, honourable Members.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Esteemed Members of the Executive Council; leaders of the opposition parties; Members of this House and guests. The Freedom Front Plus rises as the opposition today with a simple concern. This department is very busy rewriting the plan but far less convincing when it comes to fixing its performance. We start where the department itself starts. The AG found that the performance processes of the department are not properly planned, monitored and evaluated. That means that the basic architectural planning and reporting was defective.

Despite that, the Legislature received a strategic plan in their APP in March and then again in June as if everything was in order. It's only when the audit bites, suddenly we are told that the APP must be revised. Hon Speaker, the very framework on strategic and Annual Performance Plans warns that the APP should ideally not be revised in the middle of the financial year, except in a very specific circumstance like an adjusted Budget.

Yet, here we have a revision driven not by a changed Budget but by poor planning exposed during the audit. That should worry all of us who take oversight seriously . . . (TECHNICAL ERROR)

MS HELM

Hon Speaker, it is true that this department is notorious for over underachievement. So much on the AG remarks on Programme 3: Agriculture Producer Support and Development, “Based on the audit evidence, the actual achievements for nine indicators do not agree to what was reported, I could not determine the actual achievement”. It is hoped now that the AG pointed the department in the right direction. We will see more accurate reflection of achievements. We are considering this matter in the House today because the AG told the department that its performance processes are not properly planned, monitored or evaluated.

This is not a minor technical issue, the revision of this APP is therefore a forced correction of weaknesses that have already compromised the accuracy, credibility and the integrity of the department’s performance reporting. So, the decision to revise the definition of subsistence producer is correct and supported and we hope that the department will, in future, look carefully into all of the definitions and not wait for the AG to do so. Most indigent households are active producers. Excluding them undermines food security and contradicts national food priorities.

Fixing this definition was thus necessary, but the scale of targeted reductions is alarming. The revised APP shall drastically cut across programmes but I’m not going to repeat what Hon Moss has said, but just to caution that we must look at it carefully. These announced adjustments are collasars. They are coming from programmes they worse admit here. This raises an unavoidable question: Are we correcting planned weakness or simply lowering the bar to conceal underperformance? I think that’s a valid question. Key gaps remain unaddressed.

The revision fixes the definition but that may not a deeper issue highlighted by the AG. We still lack a clear verification method for identifying subsistence producers and how do we support all farmers not just to select a few, according to political party affiliation. Secondly, an assurance that the new provincial definition aligns with nationality IDs. Thirdly, an explanation as to why Programme 6 will deliver its entire commercialisation target only in quarter four.

The next one is the evidence of an extension of office capacity to support 9 760 advisory beneficiaries. And then, we still need the list of all farmers who receive support. This is critical because this is the basis of this revision. This omission leaves a significant audit in the delivery risk untouched and this might point one of the real problems – no proper records. The fact that the department failed so far to produce the list of those who receive support might indicate that the department really doesn’t know how many farmers are supported. This will explain the lament from the AG.

Hon Speaker, food concerns are also on a rise. The APP also argues that the indigent households must be included, yet it reduces household food production targets. In a province with high vulnerability, shrinking agricultural support is contradictory and dangerous. The department indicated that only ten farmers per district, which is 50

farmers in total will be supported with commercialisation services. Still, we don't know if these farmers will be selected by an independent board panel or by an objectively identified criteria or by ANC appointed officials.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee directives must now be implemented, including a detailed verification and registration plan, proper liable compliance reporting from supported farmers, guarantees that reduced targets will not result in reduced support and a structural programme for training unemployed graduates. Correcting the definition is not enough. Without stronger systems, credible data and real delivery, this revision risk is becoming another exercise in lowering expectations. The people of Limpopo cannot afford that. As the DA, we will hold the department to its mandate not to its excuses. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We must all learn from you as you have saved me many minutes. Thank you so much. With the debates that are there, I'm trying to save my minutes today. I'm now going to call upon Hon Magolo. The stage is yours. You have got seven minutes.

MR MAGOLO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Premier and MECs available in the House and the Leader of the Opposition, Commissar Mapoulo; and other leaders of the opposition in the House together with other honourable Members in general. The EFF is disappointed that processes in relation to planning of targets were not properly aligned to the broader goal and vision of the department. It is clear that from the reports that the departmental processes were not properly planned as alluded to by the Auditor-General, which is quite disturbing.

The level of incompetency in this department has the potential to derail service delivery in our province. Unfortunately, it is the poor of the poorest who will suffer the incompetency and laziness of the government while consequence management remains just a far-fetched reality. Programme 3 of the department indicated that subsistence farmers who are on municipal register of farmers are not supposed to get assistance or benefit from the policy of empowering farmers. It's only the heartless government who will come up with such an upset position which seeks to exclude our people from benefiting from government policies and programmes.

It is stated that these farmers must have an annual turnover of less than R50 000. Se, se ka se kgonege e bile se kgtholla balemurui, kudu bao ba hlokago thušo ya mmušo. The EFF will not allow this level of exclusion as it marginalises and puts our farmers in serious financial strain. Any policy in this department which is not in favour of emerging and small-holder farmers must be rejected at all cost because it increases audit risks. What is the department doing in terms of assisting farmers who do not have necessary skills to prepare their financial statements? There are many of such farmers who cannot prepare their financial statements because of historical background that we all know. Furthermore, if they do not have necessary skills to prepare their financial statements, it will be difficult for them to track profits or even losses in business. The incapacity will continue to hamper on the growth of their farming operations if not addressed by the

government. The majority of farm operations end up collapsing because of the lack of experience and expertise by the emerging black farmers to run such operations.

They do not get adequate support from the government. The department must employ more extension officers and deploy them to every single emerging farmer in the province to capacitate them with necessary skills to run the farming operations. Furthermore, the department must also come up with programme to partner experienced farmers with emerging farmers for skills transfer providing firm support by the experienced farmers.

The commercial farmers ba swanetše go rwala maikarabelo a go fana ka tlhahlo ye e feletqego go balemi ba bannyane gore le bona ba be le bokgone bja temo. EFF e nyaka gore balemi ba be le dipeo tše di laetšago nomoro ya bašomi ba lebaka le letelele, ba šomi ba lebakanyana, le bašomi ba go tla ba feta ba ngwadišwe le Kgoro ya Mešomo. Hon Speaker, graduates who studied much-needed agricultural courses remain unemployed which further deepens poverty in our province. The department must employ these young people to better their lives and allow them to participate in the mainstream economic activities. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, Mr Magolo for indeed giving us more minutes. It's now the opportunity for the chair of the committee to come and close the debate. She has ten minutes. Hon Kupa-Mabuza, it's your turn. Le tla nthuta ka se sa Mabuza go re re le bitša bjang ka sona, in future. Siyabonga, mama.

MS KUPA-MABUZA

Thank you, Hon Dr Speaker; my greetings to yourself; Chief Whip; Deputy Chief Whip; Deputy Chair of Chairs; honourable Members and the Executive Committee. Batho ba bo rena bao ba re lebeletšego go dikgokaganyo tša leago; le ba ba lego gona ka mo, baeng ba rena; our very special guest today, Moreki, our honourable MEC for Finance; my honourable MEC for Agriculture; kea le dumedisha.

Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity once again to appreciate this moment to address this august House on the consideration and adoption of the 2025/26 revised Annual Performance Plan. Maybe before we can reflect on the matter under review, it is also important to acknowledge the fact that November and December are a very busy months in terms of their form as festive months. The rollout of government programmes that seek to address and confront gender-based violence and femicide in our communities have been launched.

Just some few days ago, on 1 December 2025, our government at all spheres managed to organise a very successful international World Aids Day that was commemorated at Ga-Masemola Stadium in Sekhukhune District, under Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality on 21 November 2025. The party that I'm representing in this House, the African National Congress, launched the Gender-Based Violence Campaign in Vhembe District, Thulamela Local Municipality. On 25 November 2025, it was a start of 16 Days of Activism.

All of these activities mentioned and many other activities that are happening in our province are efforts to confront gender-based violence and femicide. Madam Speaker and honourable Members, let's once again embrace and appreciate this rainy season which is upon us, even though in some areas there might be some disasters, but if that happened, proper channels should be utilised to seek assistance.

On the revised 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan, it was precisely informed by the consideration and prompting by the Auditor-General South Africa that has affected two programmes, Programme 3 and Programme 6 and their content where we will explain about them including the intention thereof. It should be highlighted that the revised Annual Performance Plan does not affect the Budget as tabled previously by the MEC, Hon Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana.

The implementation of the plans will unfold as guided by the very same Budget. Honourable Members, the amendment on Programme 3, in particular, on subsistence producer, is defined in contradiction with that of the municipality as they are also benefiting as indigents by the policy of the municipality, Hon Magolo. But on this one, the national technical indicator description defines it as one who is not classified as an indigent by the municipality and has an annual turnover of less than R50 000.

The department should consider this and act in a manner that it shall assist subsistence producers in our province. They are not supposed to be excluded as a result, it might impact negatively to the whole process. Accordingly, with matters of budget, it was indicated that it is already covered under Limpopo Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme; popularly known as CASP. It is strategically placed as it will move producer into the mainstream economy. It is commendable given the fact that it shall elevate our farmers to greater heights by preparing them to be commercial farmers.

On the amendment of Programme 6, the establishment of 50 farmers is equal to ten farmers per district. This is coined as a new commercialisation target. It is very progressive, but we request from the department to actually outline a criteria that will be used to select the ten beneficiary farmers per district for commercialisation support. Generally, we wish that they can be sustainable so that other farmers can come and benefit from the programme for the better of our food security and the creation of jobs in our province.

While on the creation of jobs by our farmers, the department should not be that we normally get reports of jobs created from the farmers during oversight, Hon Magolo. We do not prompt by asking, were permanent, seasonal or temporary workers registered with the Department of Labour? Just to be sure about the status of jobs including the security of the very same jobs that we are advocating for in our sector. It has to be looked into holistically. If possible, we should be getting statistics analysis of the farmers that have created these jobs.

We wish that the department can have a database of all jobs created by the farmers. Madam Speaker, the governing party, African National Congress, is unapologetic in terms of the implementation of their manifesto. On this one, we are looking mainly on the creation of jobs and the achievements of the inclusive economy with the role played by the farmers of our province because the expectation is that those that are benefiting

and growing as farmers should then assist by creating jobs and be competitive in the economy of our province and that of our country.

As we appreciate our provincial unemployed trends being reduced, we should use this sector to create even more jobs in order to sustain the status or even to surpass it. As I conclude, the hopes of attainment of clean audit are very much higher and the promise by the AG and now, the revised APP. We wish that the Executive Management and the Executive Authority as they will be working very hard to break the stagnant unqualified audit opinion to a long anticipated clean audit in its financial year.

The AG recommendations in the main, together with you, already have portfolio resolution tracking and many others assisted you to achieve it. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

The chairperson leads by example. Giving us two minutes and five seconds is really helping. We are really appreciating it. We will now allow MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Kekana to respond to the debates.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thobela, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Chair of Chairs; Department; Members of the Executive Committee and the House at large. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the concerns as raised by the portfolio committee Members. I want to indicate vividly that, Hon Speaker, we must express our disappointments that some of our colleagues chose to display political propaganda and refuse to give credit where it is due. Constructive oversight is necessary and welcome, but misrepresentation does not help this House or the people we are mandated to serve.

It is not by surprise that the department in its endeavour to support all farmers to their categories. There is one category of farming which is commercial farmers where they refuse categorically to be assisted with the support emanating from the floods that they incurred during 2025/26 financial year primarily because those commercial farmers are in the main. Farmers who have financial muscle which other farmers like the subsistence farmers and the emerging farmers do not have and cannot even afford to pay for the insurances which will then be able to cover them in terms of disasters.

So, I'm not surprised by comments. This is simply because what we are doing precisely is to assist the emerging and subsistence farmers so that at the end of the day, we provide them with technical support which will then assist them to be upscaled from the very same subsistence farmer to the small scale farmer and even to reach that level of commercial that we want to achieve. Hon Members, we have been transparent in revising our targets in the previous APP.

Some household support interventions were nontangible, mostly, advisory in nature. We deliberately shifted those targets to tangible targets and indicated in the provincial indicator. These revised and realistic targets are clearly indicated in the 2025/26 revised Annual Performance Plan. What we are essentially saying is this, instead of supporting households, only with technical advice, we have aligned our approach to ensure that

our extension in farmer support services is accompanied by concrete, measurable and practical assistance.

We want farmers to see, feel and benefit directly from government intervention. As I close, Hon speaker, these are not promises, they are deliverables. They reflect sound planning, prudent budgeting and a commitment of turning policy into results that changes lives. We, therefore, call on honourable Members to engage honestly and fairly with the evidence before them and to join us in strengthening agricultural services delivery and rural development for the people of Limpopo. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Re a leboga, honourable MEC.

8. SNAP DEBATE ON 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

We shall now go to Item 8: Snap Debate on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. We will just go directly to the debates. It doesn't need to be moved or seconded. In terms of the Snap Debate that we have, Hon Velile Jack, was supposed to start the debate, but he is not here, we still remind honourable Members that they have got strictly three minutes. There are those who have three, five and seven and ten minutes accordingly. Let's look at the debate because we still have two other debates after this one. Hon Velile has made an apology.

We will now request upon Hon Matsobane Sebothoma Jump to start with the debate. You have got three minutes, honourable Member.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Yes, my name is Matsobane. Thank you, Hon Speaker, esteemed House and colleagues in the opposition benches. We are here today, we should stand united not just to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, but it is to raise our voices for justice, dignity and equality. This 16 Days of 16 are more than a campaign. They are global call to action. A call to end silence. A call to end fear. A call to end violence. Gender-based violence is not a private issue or a cultural issue. It is not a women's issue alone. It is human rights crisis that affect families, communities, economies and the future of our nation.

Everyday, women, girls and vulnerable groups face abuse in their homes, schools, workplace and on our streets. Behind every statistic is a life disrupted, a dream shattered and a voice struggling to be heard. We must be clear and courageous; violence has no excuse. No excuse in tradition, no excuse in poverty, no excuse in silence and no excuse in power. A society that tolerates gender-based violence is a society that tolerate injustice. Our laws may exist on paper but laws alone are not enough. We need enforcement, accountability and political will.

We need safe reporting schemes, survivor-centred justice and zero tolerance for perpetrators no matter who they are and how powerful they may be. Government action is one part of the solution. Change begins in our homes, schools, churches, in our

workplace and in our everyday conversations. It begins when his son teaches his son a respect. When a school teaches equality, when a community protect survivors instead of blaming them. When men stand as allies not bystanders.

To the survivors listening today, we see you and we stand with you. Your pain matters, your life matters and your voice matters. You are not alone. To the perpetrators, the days of impunity must end. This society will no longer look away. There will be consequences for violence, abuse and for exploitation. As leaders, as citizens and as human beings, we must turn this 16 Days into 365 days of action. Let us commit to funding survivor services. Let us strengthen our laws, let us educate our youth, let us challenge harmful norms, let us protect the vulnerable and empower the silence.

History will judge us not by our speeches, but by our actions. Let it be said that we were the generation that refuse to normalise abuse that shows justice over silence and that build a nation where every woman and every girl can live free from fear. Together we can end gender-based violence. Together we must. Kxanimambo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You stucked to your minutes. Can we now allow Hon Andre Moss.

MR MOSS

Limpopo enters 16 Days of Activism with a painful reality. In the province, gender-based violence is not only driven by perpetrators, but also enabled by failing systems that are meant to protect victims. You cannot fix GBV with posters and speeches while the foundations of safety are crumbling. For 16 days, we will hear big promises but outside this House in villages and townships across Limpopo, women and children still live in fear because the basic machinery of justice does not work. Police response times are slow. Victims struggle to get dignified assistance.

Social workers are overloaded and court cases drag on and still, the survivors lose hope. Even during recent oversight visits, whether it's in Elias Motsoaledi, Thabazimbi or Mogalakwena the message was the same; stations do not have enough vehicles, victim-friendly rooms are inadequate and staffing are below the need. That is not an isolated problem. It is a reality across the province. This is why gender-based violence continues at the scale we see today. It is not because we lack awareness, it is because we lack a functional, reliable system that can deliver justice quickly and consistently.

Hon Speaker, we need to stop pretending that annual campaigns are enough. GBV will not be defeated by symbolic gestures, it will be defeated by police stations with working vehicles and trained officers, DNA results processed on time, shelters that are properly funded and left to funded and not to beg for survival, social workers supported with manageable case slots and cases being moved with urgency instead of delays. Survivors in Giyani, Burgersfort, Marble Hall or Lephalale don't care as to how much we launched. They care at someone who answers when they call for help. They care at the system that believes in her, protects her and brings the perpetrators to the justice system.

Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus will not stand here and congratulate the government for awareness campaigns when women in this province continue to fall through the cracks. Limpopo does not need more speeches. It needs competence, it needs accountability, it needs a government that preaches gender-based violence as a daily emergency not as a seasonal headline. If the 16 Days of Activism are meant to be anything, let it be the moment to stop hiding behind slogans and start fixing the system that protects our people because women in Limpopo deserve more than promises. They deserve safety and justice every day of the year. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Moss for sticking to your time. We will now proceed to Hon Helm Maria. You have got five minutes ma'am.

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The DA is fighting for a province where all vulnerable people are safe. We want a province where all survivors are supported and not failed, where perpetrators face justice, where the state responds fast, spends money properly and fixes its broken systems. We have proof, the latest crime stats of SAPS released few days ago painted a picture where most reported crime decreased (and I think that was very good) except sexual offences and again the culprits are, and we all know them; Thohoyandou Police Station, Mankweng, Seshego which are part of the top 30 in the country.

Right, we still have an alarming high rate, with again, our stations in the top 30 list that are Thohoyandou, Mankweng and Seshego and that's the only crisis that is actually reported. The place of occurrence shows again that most frequent place of violation is in the residence of perpetrators of victims, including residences known by the victim. So, in your neighbourhood it is the place where you are supposed to feel safe. Meaning those places where all people must feel safe are no longer safe anymore.

Further, in a school that is supposed to be a safe place where learning must take place, sexual offences are very high. Further, teenage pregnancy shows that our children are not safe. We want a justice system that actually works, police stations that protect, shelters that are funded, doctors, nurses and social workers who can do their jobs and are not so overloaded so that they cannot focus properly.

DNA lapses and cannot collapse political neglect. We want a law that binds, a budget that matters and accountability that delivers results. We want a Limpopo where we can get quarterly reports from the Department of Transport and Community Safety of specific information of GBV because it's only where we have a reliable data and where we know how to deliver programmes that can make a difference. We demand that the Department of Transport and Community Safety uses court ward programmes to specifically follow the cases of GBV to enable the committee to find out whether the SAPS and the justice system support or render victims to experience through justice.

We have the tools, so let's use them. We need to find out where the challenges are so that they can be fixed. For years, DA has pushed, exposed much legislated and demanded action. We demand accountability for teenage pregnancies and why they're

not taken as child rape? We have to push for transparency on crime stats. We also need to find out whether are all crimes actually reported; yes or no. We do that because reality is brutal.

Women are raped, beaten and murdered every day. Children are assaulted in homes, schools and in communities. Sometimes survivors walk into police stations and get turned away. Cases collapse because DNA takes years to come to a conclusion. Girls as young as ten fall pregnant and nobody reports the crime. Shelters run out of food. Doctors are unavailable. Social workers are overwhelmed. The DA cares because every case has a name, face and a story because the country that cannot protect its women and children cannot call itself free.

To curb this terror at this stage, we need a multi-dimensional approach. The Department of Transport and Community Safety must make sure that the South African Police Services and justice system provide caring and supporting services to all victims and trace that through court ward system. Talking doesn't help anymore, we need proof. The Department of Health must make sure that hospitals and clinics are equipped, and nurses and social workers are trained to treat victims of sexual crimes.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure must make sure that the buildings for these services are in a good condition to create an environment where victims feel comfortable and safe. We all need to do our part. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, honourable Member. We will now allow Hon Ledwaba Josephine to come to the podium. You have got seven minutes. If you feel comfortable to present where you are, it's fine, but if you want to come to the podium as well, you are welcome.

MS LEDWABA

Greetings once more. Hon Speaker, the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBV) and child abuse continues to tear the moral fibre of South Africa. These atrocities are not newspaper headlines, but they are daily lived realities in our society. They occur in our houses, at school's precinct and tragically, we also see it at our universities. Victims have lost hope and they have given up on the police and justice system of South Africa. There is no political will by the government to address this national crisis. We need to invest in police; provide them with better training, more resources and capacity to protect the communities.

There is a need for a renewed focus and new strategies to tackle gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) as a national crisis. It is regrettable that the only time when the Legislature considers the issue of GBVF is during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign for No Violence Against Women and Children. This gives an impression that GBVF only happens during this time of the year when in reality, it happens almost every day of our lives. Every year we come here and cry about things as if we care and yet nothing is being done to address GBV pandemic which continues to destroy our women and children.

Hon Speaker, GBV continues unabated particularly for women, children, LGBTQ and persons with disability. Wwomen continue to live in fear in their homes and communities and sometimes in the hands of those who are supposed to love and protect them. It is regrettable that domestic violence Act is being violated by the very institutions that are supposed to endorse it. These institutions have no regard for the wellbeing of women, children and people living with disability and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, our police stations have no rape kits and no victim-friendly rooms. However, GBV is not just a policing problem, but it is also a cultural problem.

Boys are not taught values of respect towards fellow human beings, especially the respect for women because men are not exemplary in their social interaction with women. When police fail to effectively arrest and prosecute perpetrators of GBV, they are not only denying victims justice, but they are in fact further victimising them. Perhaps we should appraise this august House that we have other forms of violence against women and children and they are pervasive and impact more negatively.

This includes sex for jobs, sex pests in schools and churches. Sex for jobs is done by the majority of the ANC officials in government departments and municipalities and in the ANC. Bao ba swelego ka ganong, bas a tsebego go ferea basadi.

ADV MARX

Hon Speaker, with your permission, may I assist my colleague with the page?

THE SPEAKER

I'm not sure if it is allowed in terms of the rules. I agree she can submit but if Hon Magolo wants to assist, he can assist.

MR MAGOLO

It is clear, Hon Speaker, that victims of GBV are on their own as perpetrators continue to inflict more pain on them with renewed courage and vigour because they know nothing will happen to them. We will never win this GBV war if that is the attitude to go by. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

We would really appreciate that Hon Marx wanted to assist but we must remember that on the Snap Debate, you are debating on the mandate of your party so that's why I wasn't sure whether in terms of the rules that is allowed to have another Member when the EFF Members are in the House. Thank you so much.

Can we now proceed to Hon Florence Radzilani, the MEC for Social Development. She will be debating representing the African National Congress. You have got ten minutes.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker; our Hon Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, who has just left; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Deputy

Chair of Chairs; honourable Members of this august House; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, a very blessed afternoon to you all. It's still morning, Hon Speaker. Today we gather amidst the spirit of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence; a crucial reminder of an urgent need to confront and eradicate the scourge that continues to threaten the very fibre of our society. As we reflect on this period, I'm filled with profound pain and sorrow for the women and children of South Africa and particularly those in Limpopo who remain the victims of gender-based violence.

Their suffering is a stark reminder that our fight is far from over. As we participate in this important debate of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, I want to acknowledge and emphasise the powerful theme for 2025 which reads as follows: "Letsema, men, women, boys and girls working together to end gender-based violence and femicide."

This theme underscores the critical importance of unity and collective responsibility in combating this pandemic. It calls on segments of our society men, women, boys and girls to join hands and work collectively towards ending gender-based violence and femicide once and for all.

Furthermore, we welcome the declaration of gender-based violence as a national disaster, a decisive step that highlights the gravity of the problem and the urgent need for comprehensive coordinated action across all sectors of society to protect our women and build a safer, and a far more equal nation. Gender-based violence is not just statistics, it is a brutal reality inflicted upon our loved ones; our sisters, our daughters, our mothers and our children. It tears families apart, destroys lives and robs our nation of its potential.

It is a scourge that demands unwavering attention and collective action. The Department of Social Development stands at the forefront of this fight. Every day, Hon Speaker, our dedicated social workers attend to victims, listening, supporting and providing the care they so desperately need. Through their tireless efforts, many victims find a glimmer of hope and a path to healing. When circumstance demands, we extend our support through facilities like the Khuseleka One-Stop Centre where integrated services are provided to the victims of gender-based violence services that offer safety counselling, legal and empowerment.

However, as much as government plays its part, it is not enough. We call upon male Members of this Legislature and the society at large to rise above rhetoric and demonstrate activism. I am not referring to the Members of the African National Congress because gender-based violence needs all to work together, whether you are coming from the opposition or not.

It will not assist the community that we are serving if the honourable Members, when afforded an opportunity to debate, they start to come up with unfounded allegations levelled against honourable Members and leaders of the African National Congress. Going forward, if you don't call that to order, we will make sure that we also take action because we are also protected by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It is time to turn words into concrete action, use your influence, your position and your voice to wage a war against gender-based violence. Expose and challenge those amongst us

who perpetuate this violence, those who threaten the safety and dignity of women and children.

Be the agent of change who leads by example and shifts societal norms. A revolutionary fighter requires boldness, conviction and unwavering commitment. It demands that we protect the rights of women and children, ensuring that they live free from fear and violence. We owe this, given our ancestors, men and women of this beautiful land, who fought tirelessly for democracy; for the right to live in dignity and freedom.

We remember heroines like Mama Lydia Ngwenya-Komape and Mama Joyce Mashamba – stalwarts of this Legislature – who dedicated their lives to advancing interests of women, children and the vulnerable. Their legacy calls us to be more.

As I conclude, the Department of Social Development will leave no stone unturned in this battle. We are committed, not only to providing care and support, but also exposing perpetrators and fighting tirelessly for justice. Our mission is to create a society where women and children can flourish, living free, safe and empowered, enjoying democracy fought for by brave men and women of our nation. Let us stand united. Let us be the voice that defies violence.

Let us be the change that transforms our society into one where gender-based violence is a thing of the past. Together we can turn the tide and build a future of peace, dignity and equality for all. Thank you much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, for representing the African National Congress. We really appreciate you for closing the debate.

9. SNAP DEBATE ON WORLD AIDS DAY

We will now move to Item 9: World Aids Day. We will, as well, request that as the Presiding Officer's Desk, there will be no motion or moving or seconding. We will just go directly to the Speaker's List. I will not count Hon Velile Jack. He is already not in. I will now request Hon Sebothoma Matsobane Jump. The three minutes applies.

I will request the Members of the EFF to decide whether they want to forfeit the debate because we can see that Hon Mapula Ledwaba looks not very well. So, the EFF can make a determination on whether they want to change the speaker or whatever they want to do, we will hear from them. Over to you, Hon Sebothoma.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. We are gathered here today not only to observe a day on the calendar but to reaffirm a promise to humility on this World Aids Day. We stand with millions of people living with HIV. We honour those who have lost their lives. We have lost and we renew our commitment to a future which is free from Aids. Four decades ago, HIV was a death sentence. Fear, misinformation and stigma spread faster than the virus itself. But science, courage and global solidarity changed the course of history.

Today, life-saving treatment exists. People living with HIV can live long, healthy and productive lives. This is not a miracle of chance, but it is a victory of public investment, community and political will. Yet, let us be honest. The fight is still far from over. Every new infection still occurs. Too many young people, especially young people, women and marginalised communities, still lack access to testing, treatment and education. Stigma and discrimination still remain powerful barriers, and poverty and inequality still continue to fuel vulnerability.

As leaders and citizens, we must ask ourselves; are we doing enough? This is not only a health issue. It is a question of human rights, social justice and national responsibility. Access to prevention, treatment and care must not depend on where you live, how much you earn or who you are. No child should be born with HIV because treatment was unavailable. No patient should die because stigma kept them from seeking help.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, fellow citizens, history will judge us not by our words alone, but by what we chose to do. When we have got the power to act, let us choose investment over indifference, science over stigma and hope over fear. On this day, let us move forward together, united in purpose, strong in compassion and determined in action until the day when Aids is no longer a global threat but a chapter in history, we overcome together. Khammambo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Sebothoma. Honourable Members, we have received a request from the EFF that we release Hon Ledwaba. Hon Ledwaba, you are officially released because we can see that you are not well and we wish that you get well sooner. Thank you so much. We will allow Hon Moss to the podium.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker. All protocol observed. World Aids Day is not merely a date on the calendar, it's a mirror held up to our country's public health record. It focuses us to ask uncomfortable questions about what leadership, accountability and whether South Africans truly owes us the lives lost and protected those who are still vulnerable.

The FF Plus approaches this day with respect for every South African affected by HIV and Aids. But, also with an affirmed amount about the failure that brought us here, South Africa's HIV strategy did not fall from the sky. It was shaped by years of denialism, delayed treatment rollout and erosion of public trust in health institutions. The South African government, particularly during the early 2000s under President Thabo Mbeki and his Minister, Manto Chabalala Msimang, was slow to embrace the global scientific consensus on HIV/Aids while scientists worldwide were calling for the urgent roll-out of ARV treatment to save lives, but the South African government questioned the link between HIV and Aids.

Postponing the provision of ARVs in public hospitals endorsed alternative or unverified treatments and spent years biting rather than taking action. This delay resulted in thousands of preventable deaths. The World Aids Day without recognising the history would be disservice to the families as they continue to bear consequences.

Commemoration is not enough. Today, South Africa remains home to the world's largest HIV/Aids positive population with communities where treatment interruptions, medicines stock out, and failing clinics stricken the progress we have made.

In many rural provinces including Limpopo, clinics are understaffed, outreach programmes are inconsistent and young people lack access to prevention, testing or counselling, public transport failures isolates patients, chronic vacancies weaken continuity of care and procurement failures undermine the treatment availability.

On this World Aids Day, we honour every South African who lives with HIV, every family which has lost someone and every health worker who stepped in where the state has failed. The best way to honour them is not with promises, but with action. Real practical measurable actions that restore trust and save the lives. The Freedom Front Plus believes in a health system where ideology never outranks evidence. Where patients don't have to beg for medication and where accountability is not treated as optional. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now allow Hon Wilson. You have five minutes, ma'am.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we recently see wonderful accolades in all spheres of life. We are Rugby World Champions. Our cricket teams, both men and women, have done us proud in reaching the world cups. SA swimmers have done us proud on the world stage. Our surfers, dancers, football players and athletes, the list go on. It is amazing how these things have brought our rainbow nation together, uniting and celebrating, discussions over the braais and in gatherings. There is one accolade we cannot be proud of; South Africa is the world leader in terms of the HIV/Aids burden. This is not a course for celebration; it is not talked about and not to be often discussed.

Currently, there are approximately 8 million people living with the virus in South Africa. It is a staggering number, alarming. These are just people we know about. We suspect that there are many more that we are not aware of. Furthermore, Hon Speaker, there are amounts of immigrants who cross on our borders on a daily basis or unknown factor in terms of their status. In 2024, it was estimated that 630 000 people died from HIV-related causes. These, along with our current GBV statistics and rape statistics, are numbers that are similar to that of a war zone. Indeed, we are at a war zone with HIV/Aids but it is an enemy we cannot see and it is hard to detect without the wounded coming in for help.

After 37 years of the outbreak and despite the fact that health and medicine are now available to control the viral load, stigma and fear continue to intimidate and control the management of the virus. Hesitancy to address or get help for this scourge and to get preventative cure by suffering is the plague of the stigma. Sadly, the highest prevalence of the disease affects men and women in working age groups of our civilians.

More recently, there has been an increase in young people between 15 and 30. The next generation is of workforce and this send latter the United States withdrawal for

HIV/Aids is going to have a severe impact on the future of this country unless we do more to deal with this battle now. Action must be taken in companies and with employers when non-discriminatory and occupational health programme so implemented.

For as long as stigma and discrimination are attached to the virus, fewer people will come forward. Death threats will rise and ultimately this deadly virus is going to affect us in all the workplaces and efficiency around the country. South Africa celebrates this World Aids Day at a national event at Ga-Masemola under the theme, "Renewed efforts and sustainable commitments to end Aids". The situation within Limpopo continues to be a cause for concern and it is highlighted by the performance of the HIV/Aids subprogramme in the 2024/25 Annual Report. The department failed to achieve its planned targets with regards to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Adults who remain in care are only at 84,3% instead of 95%. ART in children who remain in care are at 91,4% instead of 95%/ ART viral loads under 50 is at 77% instead of 95% and I could go on.

This points to more resources wider reach and a concerted efforts calm back HIV/Aids and to decrease the burden of disease on our population. Our current house crisis mainly underfunding mass vacancy rate is only going to exacerbate the situation further. Collapsing clinics, lack of community-based citizen workers and the closing down of NGO's who made a massive difference because of the lack of funding is a crisis. It is a serious crisis that is going to have a devastating effect on our poor and vulnerable results very shortly. We need to act now. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now move to what the EFF have said they will not participate on this debate. We will now allow Hon Mashego Dieketseng, MEC for Health to come and close the debate on behalf of the African National Congress.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker; honourable Members of the Legislature; Members of the Executive Council; fellow citizens of Limpopo; good afternoon. We meet here today at a critical moment in our collective fight against HIV and Aids. According to the national Department of Health, South Africa currently has 1,1 million people living with HIV and Aids who have disengaged from antiretroviral treatment care, patients who have defaulted on treatment are not receiving viral load monitoring or remaining virally unsuppressed.

South Africa continues to record progress towards achieving ambitious 95-95-95 targets. We must confront the reality that too many of our people remain lost in the system. Efforts against HIV/Aids have achieved notable progress, including surpassing the first and third UNAids of 95-95-95 targets. Yet, challenges persist in initiating and retaining diagnosed individuals who are on treatment. Currently, statistics are at 96-80-97 while the global figures stand at 95-85-92. To confront the stubborn second 95 target, we launched one of the most ambitious national recovery efforts on 25 February 2025 known as the 1,1 Million Close the Gap Treatment Acceleration Campaign.

We are going to implement the 6 multi dispensing and the launching of the lenacapavir next year 2026. Here in Limpopo, our target is clear and urgent. We are searching for

180 975 individuals who are unaccounted for in ART care. To date we have successfully traced and returned 84 327 people which is 47% back to treatment and support. As the department we are also experiencing duplicates of missing patients who move from one facility to the other and we are working tirelessly to ensure that we stop or find them so that we can address the real missing numbers.

As the provincial government we are committed to closing the gap of HIV treatment of 180 975 by December 2025. While we have not fully reached this target, we must acknowledge the meaningful improvement recorded between October 2024 and October 2025. On the first 95, we reached 93% close, but it is not enough. On the second 95 we reached 80% which is our biggest area of concern. On the third 95 we performed strongly at 97%. This indicates that once people are on treatment, our system does support them well. When it comes to treatment outcomes, we are encouraged by the continued improvement in treatment outcomes in both adults and children.

For adult retention in care improved from 83,9% in December 2024 to 87,6% in September 2025. Adult viral load suppression rose from 76,6% to 83,9% during the same period. When it comes to children, here Limpopo shines brightly. We reached 95% child retention in care up from 88,9%. A remarkable improvement of 6,1%. Child viral load suppression improved dramatically from 52,8% to 91%, it is a 38,2% improvement.

When broken by district child retention, care rates are as follows: Sekhukhune leads with 98% child retention, Waterberg follows at 95,6%, Vhembe at 95,4%, Mopani at 92,7% and Capricorn at 93,8%. On viral load suppression of children on ART, Waterberg achieved 100%, Vhembe 93,3%, Sekhukhune 91,7%, Mopani 83,9%, Capricorn 86,2%. These achievements shows that it is possible when our system is working, when our people are supported and when our partnerships are strong.

Honourable Members, these are not mere statistic, these are fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, colleagues and neighbours whose lives matter and whose future depends on our collective commitment to act decisively. The battle against HIV/Aids cannot and will not be won by the department alone, it requires a generous multisectoral response involving government response, municipalities, traditional leadership, faith-based organisations, civil society, private sector, community health workers and ordinary citizens.

Stigma, social barriers, unemployment, substance abuse and migration, all contribute to treatment interruption. These challenges demand coordinated interventions that go beyond clinical care to embrace community mobilisation, psychosocial support, youth empowerment and strengthened primary health systems. In Limpopo we remained committed to expanding community-based tracing, strengthening adhering clubs, utilising ward-based outreach teams, intensifying viral load monitoring and partnerships with local leadership structures to ensure that no one is left behind.

As a province, we are honoured to demonstrate this united front by hosting a successful national World Aids Day commemoration at Masemola Stadium at Ga-Masemola within the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality under Sekhukhune District. This historical event was addressed by the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Hon Paul Mashatile, in reaffirming government's unyielding commitment to end Aids by 2030.

That day symbolises not only remembrance and awareness but also renewed action. A call to every sector of society to play its part in tracing those missing from care, encouraging HIV testing and supporting, ensuring initiative treatment and supporting sustained viral suppression. Honourable Members, our duty is clear, we must intensify our efforts to find every missing patient, support, adherence to treatment and restore hope to families across Limpopo.

Let us move beyond debate into decisive action, strengthening partnerships, mobilising communities, breaking stigma and ensuring that our healthcare system responds with compassion, efficiency and accountability. Together we can close the gaps to reach the no reachable and accelerate our march towards the 95-95-95 targets. The fight against HIV and Aids is not only a medical struggle, it is a moral imperative to protect life, dignity, and future of our province. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, we really appreciate Hon MEC for your response on behalf of the ANC. I must indicate that the MEC has got other responsibility. She has requested to be released after the presentation. Honourable MEC, you are formally released. We will now go to the last debate. Members, we will be done before 13H00 today. So, those that are here should not panic that we are going to take long. This is the last snap debate and once we finish it, we will be done. The last one is the goodbyes. Gore ge re tswalela today, what are you saying to us? What has been a year we need to hear from the political parties. How was the 2025 so that we must be able to start the 2026?

Go and rest and come back fresh and that will be done by honourable Members themselves as they are representing their parties when doing the closing remarks for the day. We still start with Hon Sebothoma. Unfortunately, the three minutes applies. You have three minutes, honourable Member.

MR SEBOTHOMA

Thank you, Hon Speaker and even to those who are howling. Colleagues, if it comes to the closing of the year's legislative sessions, I want to take a moment to reflect on the work we have done together. In a time when the public offences us, we only see divisions in government. We have shown that serious people can still come together, debate with conviction and ultimately, find common ground. This year has also reminded us that progress is really easy.

It requires patience, respect for the process and willingness to truly listen to one another. I'm proud that even in moments of tensions we maintained civility and upheld the dignity of this institution. That is not just a reflection of our professionalism, it is the reflection of a shared belief that democracy works best when we work together. As we look to the year ahead, let us carry forward the lessons we have learned. The collaboration is not weaknesses but principled debate in our responsibility. Public service is a privilege, we must never take it for granted.

Thank you for your dedication, your partnership and your service. I wish each one of you a restful break and time with the people you love and a renewed energy for the work that is with us in the new year. Khanimambo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Sebothoma. We now move to the next presenter who is Hon Moss.

MR MOSS

Thank you, Hon Speaker and all protocol observed. As we close the final Sitting of the legislature for the year, the Freedom Front Plus rises to reflect not with nostalgia, but with honesty. This has been a difficult year for the people of Limpopo. Service delivery frustrations, collapsing infrastructure, fragile policing and community strengthening clinics and carrying one crisis after another. Our task in the House has not been easy, and the year ahead will not magically improve unless we confront our failures with sincerity.

In the spirit of the season, we can stand here and offer warm wishes, but the people of Limpopo deserve more than pleasantries. They deserve a government that recognises the weight of its responsibilities. Families heading for festive season still worry about water interruptions, unsafe roads, unreliable police response and hospitals stretched far beyond their capacities. To pretend as if everything is well would be an insult to those who live with these realities every day.

Yes, Hon Speaker, this is also a moment to recognise the resilience of our communities. Through every shortfall of government, it is ordinary South Africans who continue keeping this province going. Teachers who stay late, nurses who push through shortages of medicines, police officers who work without vehicles and families who carry one another through our mistakes. Limpopo's strength has always come from people not from its politicians.

The Freedom Front Plus enters a new year with a simple commitment to push harder, to scrutinise deeper and to speak honestly about what must change. We will continue to do so without fear or favour. Accountability is not a seasonal and neither it is our duty to the citizens of this province. As Members leave this House for the festive season, we ask that each of us carry a sense of responsibility with us. The community we serve will not get a holiday from their problems. Neither should we take a holiday from our obligations to fix them.

Let the new year not begin with recycled speeches but with renewal, urgency and genuine political courage. To the people of Limpopo, may you travel safely. May you rest where you can and may the season bring you a moment of peace in a year where peace was often redefined.

In conclusion, the Freedom Front Plus wishes every Member of this House a safe, responsible and blessed festive season. May the grace of Jesus Christ guide us to the

new year with clear focus, stronger resolve and shared understanding that our work is far from done. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Moss. We will now proceed to Hon Evelyn Wilson.

MS WILSON

Thank you, Speaker. There is often fear that the year is getting shorter and shorter. It's certain, some of us are getting older and I'm not alone on that. The year 2025, indeed, has been a busy year. We are faced with a string of by-elections. Many of us have suffered losses of our loved ones and several of us have extension of hospitals – within health issues but we have seen our Members achieve at high levels with new degrees, many have had the arrivals of new babies, new grandchildren and new generations. It has been a lot of good with some sad things, but we are here now. Despite it all, we are here and we are all human after all.

As this year closes and we bid goodbye to each other for few weeks, our prayers for each Member of this House are simple. We pray that over this period, God keeps each and everyone in this House safe, healthy, free from harm and grants travelling mercies to those who are going away on vacation or to catch up with their loved ones. We pray that our families who often give us so much for us to do our jobs are united and spend time together to bond and celebrate unions that are special to us and give us strength to carry on the new season that is ahead of us.

With elections next year, each and everyone of us will be carrying an extra burden that those big elections bring. For those who have Christian faith, let us enjoy the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The love, miracles, the protection that He has brought to all of us and the goodness that He constantly bestows on those that believe in him. For those who have different faiths, celebrate regardless. I pray that you have peace in your lives and the abundance of love and joy and a special rest.

In this House we don't always see eye to eye and agree with each other or support opinions that are different to us, that's okay, we are democratic after all. Next year there will be no difference. However, I pray that in this closing time we find time for reflection, for forgiveness, for love and rejuvenation and quality time with our loved ones. Let us remember to be kind, there are many who are not as lucky as us.

Let us do what we can in uplifting them in our prayers. Where possible, support them with any little thing that really matters. In closing, Chairperson, we pray for peace in the world, in South Africa, in Limpopo and in each and every one of our lives. May God bless you all at this time. I thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much, Hon Wilson. We will allow Hon Magolo to debate on behalf of the EFF.

MR MAGOLO

Once again greetings honourable Members. Hon Speaker and our guests in the gallery. Hon Speaker, this year, like never before, has been marred by challenges which sought to shake the foundation upon which democracy was built through blood and sweat of our freedom fighters. This is usually in particular was not spared from such challenges as it was always on the spotlight for the wrong reasons. The government continues to be plagued by systematic issues such as financial mismanagement, poor service delivery, especially regarding water and infrastructure, governance collapses in municipalities and a failure to spend allocated budgets.

Key sectors including health, education and public works were negatively impacted. Entities of government like RAL and GAAL continue to die a natural death while there are no immediate coagent and workable strategies to save them. Several municipalities have been identified by the Auditor-General as underperforming primarily due to ongoing financial mismanagement, governance issues and consistent service delivery failures while some face uncertainty about their ability to continue operating.

Thabazimbi Local Municipality continues to struggle with its inability to fulfil its constitutional obligation under section 15, particularly in improving budgets and delivering services to the people. Municipal financial liabilities and infrastructure deficits remain significant hurdles. The EFF will continue to hold government accountable by playing its oversight role without fear or favour. The people of Limpopo need clean governance. The people of Limpopo deserve better than what they are currently being subjected to. The EFF will call for people-orientated prioritisation of needs and wellbeing of its citizens by being accountable, transparent and responsive through open engagements and improved service delivery.

As I conclude, yesterday the deployees of the Economic Freedom Fighters in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality embarked on an oversight visit to St Ritas Hospital under the leadership of Cllr Gift Machaba. What they discovered there, which is a practice in most hospitals or in almost all hospitals, is that people wake up as early as 4am to go and form a queue in hospitals. That is very disturbing. In the coming year, the EFF is calling for improvement to make sure that people are getting attended to.

You are taking your patient who is sick to hospital to be attended. You arrive there at 04:00. At 10:00, after seven or eight hours you are still number seven on the queue. That is not the situation that we would like to see for the people of this province. The EFF will continue to push for oversight. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. We will now request Hon Mmanoko Essob Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip for both the ANC and the Legislature to come and close the debate. Over to you, Hon Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, Dr Makoma Grace Makhurupetje. The Deputy Speaker, Hon Tebogo Mamorobela who has apologised for not being a part of this Sitting; Chair of Chairs, Hon Mokone who also could not be with us; Members of the

Whippery led by Hon Nkonyana; Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members from the opposition parties, I would have wanted to greet the leader of the opposition party but he is not here and the delegates in the gallery, receive our hearty salutations as we conclude what has been an eventful, activity-driven annual calendar of this august House.

As this House rises today, Hon Speaker, we are reminded of the tireless efforts put in by these honourable Members to ensure that we continue to deliver the basic portable services to the people of this province. This noble task of ensuring a better life for our people has been bestowed upon us by the millions of South Africans who used the electronic power and entrust us with the solemn responsibility to lead their government.

As the curtain falls on the 2025 calendar, we are reminded of the social pact that we have entered into with our people, of providing them with improved healthcare, world-class education, decent housing, state-of-the-art facilities, and unparalleled infrastructural projects. In the past 12 months, we have witnessed the unmatched energy levels by the Members of the Executive Council who were traversing the length and breadth of this province launching service delivery projects, conducting sod-turning ceremonies and making various forms of interventions to improve the lives of our people.

Our preoccupation with the upright programme of creating a better life for our people has seen us launch the magnanimous Dikgerekgere Wednesday, handing over numerous water projects to the communities, providing our residents with world-class healthcare services and many other interventions. We continue to use this Legislature as a site of the struggle with the sole intent of ensuring that our people are the direct beneficiaries of this hard-fought democracy. With the ANC being the leader of this province, Limpopo shall not stop being a construction site, because we are alive to our people's lived realities and daily challenges.

Honourable Members, we must consider ourselves fortunate for being elected as the public representatives to lead this government on behalf of our communities. We are, therefore, obligated to carry out this mandate with distinction because much is expected from us as a collective. Despite the ongoing differences that we have, we are cognisant of the fact that at the centre of our existence is the need to provide services to the people we represent.

Honourable Members, while the activities of this august House will be temporarily adjourned, our oversight obligation over the Executive and government departments continues unabated. Our adoption of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriations Bill for 2025 is a clear demonstration of our unfettered commitment to improving the lives of our people. It is, therefore, our wish that these allocated funds will be catalytic to this government's goal of creating a better life for all. We are optimistic that these funds will intensify the service delivery momentum and we continue to fend our people from the old ruts of poverty and inequality.

The festive period is largely characterised by celebrations and jubilations as families will be meeting after not seeing each other for a longer period. Our wish and prayer as the ANC, as we will be taking part in countless celebrations, is that we must always remain safe on our roads, refrain from drinking and driving, and always remain within the speed

limit. Our role as the public representatives compels us to become the ambassadors of all the government's goodwill programmes.

Therefore, we are expected to be the torchbearers in the promotion of healthy living, responsible driving and the fight against gender-based violence and femicide. Hon Speaker, we had indeed laboured hard for the people of this province, and as we take this well-deserved break, we must proudly reflect on the year and compliment ourselves where we did well and encourage ourselves to work harder where we fell short.

As I conclude, in the words of George Bernard Shaw, "A day's work is a day's work, neither more nor less, and the man who does it needs a day's sustenance, a night's repose and due leisure, whether they be a painter or a ploughman." I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. The Chief Whip has closed the debate and he told us that we need to be responsible during the festive season. All the debaters told us how they felt during the year and how they wish to see the new year. Well done. As the Legislature, we thank you so much for closing on a high note with the Members who still have the energy. However, we are saying it's time to go and energise and come back next year with more energy. We will now proceed to item 11.

11. DRAFT RESOLUTION

We'll now allow the Chief Whip to present a motion that indicates that when we rise today, when are we coming back to the Sitting. Over to you, Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I hereby move that when this House rises today, it will sit again on Thursday, 26 February 2026 at 10:00 at this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. I so move, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We don't just clap hands. The question is, do we agree? I need a formal seconder on this one. Hon Helm Maria, you are recognised.

MS HELM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second a very welcome proposal.

THE SPEAKER

This motion was well seconded by everybody in the House. Everybody is tired and wants to rest. Thank you so much, honourable Members. We now move in terms of the Order Paper, as I've indicated that we will finish today's work quickly.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will now allow announcements if there are any. Hon Ngobeni, the stage is yours.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise to make the following announcements:

- Firstly, the Limpopo Legislature will be hosting the Limpopo provincial Men's Parliament on 05 December 2025 at Karibu Lodge in Tzaneen at 10:00 in the morning, and the Members are requested to form part of the briefing, which will commence at 9:00 in the morning at the venue.
- Secondly, Members are scheduled to attend an induction workshop and a training on 5 to 6 February 2026 at the venue to be confirmed. In this regard, logistics shall be communicated to the honourable Members in due course.
- Thirdly, the Legislature is going on recess as the Hon Chief Whip has already alluded to. It will be on recess from 05 December 2025, and the next Sitting of the Legislature will be on Thursday, 26 February 2026, on the occasion of the State of the Province Address.
- Fourthly, the honourable Members are invited to a Get Together End-of-Year Function after the Limpopo Provincial Men's Sectoral Parliament on 05 December 2025, to be held at Sunset View in Tzaneen.
- Lastly and most importantly, lunch will be served in the main Committees Boardroom. We stayed the course and stay safe honourable Members. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you so much. Hon Ngobeni, I didn't hear you properly. Did you say Tuesday or Thursday of the 26 February 2026? It is Thursday of the 26 February 2026. I felt that I needed to confirm that. Honourable Members, you will note that this will be a special day for the Premier to address the people of the province as it will be SOPA. So, it's a special day according to the rules as requested by the Premier. So, let us be ready for SOPA on 26 February 2026.

About other honourable Members who are not here, I feel that it is necessary that I announce their whereabouts so that people will not think that other Members just chose not to attend the Sitting. We have released Hon Mapula Ledwaba from the EFF and we have received an apology from Hon Mokone, Chair of Chairs who was here. He started with us in the briefing. Unfortunately, due to ill-health, we also had to release him. Hon MEC Matibe and Hon Makamu are committed to doing other work. Hon Mamorobela is attending the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Durban together with Hon Maringa. They are representing this Legislature at the SADC Parliamentary Forum led by the Speaker of the national Parliament, Hon Thoko Didiza.

Hon Rakgoale has family responsibilities. Hon Lebea; Hon Mogoane; Hon Molapo; Hon Baloyi; Hon Lebogo and Hon Mapoulo have organisational work. Hon Shai and Hon

Velile Jack are absent due to ill-health. I felt that it was important that we give these announcements so that Members wouldn't be surprised where other Members are.

Finally, we have come to the end of today's session and the end of the session of the year. We wish you all the best of luck, and we can't repeat what has already been said by all the parties. We hope to meet next year in the manner that we are. Let's just make sure that we take care of ourselves and make sure that we get stronger in the next year.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On that note, the House stands adjourned until next year. Thank you so much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

UNREVIEWED

UNREVIEWED