



**LIMPOPO**  
**LEGISLATURE**

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# **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**VERBATIM REPORT  
[HANSARD]**

**OF THE**

**DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES**

**OF THE**

**SECOND SESSION**

**OF THE**

**SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE**

**THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

## **MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL [CABINET]**

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

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

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

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3. Matibe, Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
4. Nchabeleng, Mamagase Aleck	ANC
5. Shaikh, Shahidabibi	ANC
6. Smit, Christiaan Frederik Beyers	DA

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- b) Internal Arrangements Committee
- c) Programming Committee
- d) Whippery
- e) Disciplinary Committee
- f) Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests
- g) Committee of Presiding Officers
- h) Public Accounts Committee
- i) Public Participation and Petitions
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- e) Agriculture and Rural Development
- f) Transport and Community Safety
- g) Sport, Arts and Culture
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- j) Social Development
- k) Public Administration
- l) Oversight Review Mechanism

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**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE  
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE  
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER  
THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2020  
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

**1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

There shall now be an opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning honourable Members and welcome to today's Sitting. As you are aware, we are going to have an address by the Commissioner of the Independent Electoral Commission, let me welcome Mr Glen Mashinini, who is the Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission; Ms Nkaro Mateta, the IEC Provincial Electoral Officer; Mr Marco Granelli, Communications Officer at IEC; and Mr Itumeleng Seanego, Limpopo Provincial Manager.

You are welcome to our Sitting and thanks for taking time to come and talk to us about this important issue of 2021 Local Government Elections. I, therefore, call on the Hon Chief Whip to read the motion for the suspension of House Rules.

**THE CHIEF WHIP**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**MOTION FOR THE SUSPENSION OF HOUSE RULES**  
(Motion without Notice)

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

I, Essob Mmanoko Mokgonyana, the Chief Whip of this House, move in terms of the abovementioned rule that the House Rules be suspended to allow the IEC to address the House.

I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS MAKHURUPETJE**

I, Mmakoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to support the motion as moved by the Chief Whip.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The Serjeant-At-Arms will lower the mace. May I take this opportunity and invite Mr Glen Mashinini, the Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, to address the House. We can welcome him by a clap of hands until he reaches the podium. [APPLAUSE]

## THE PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

(Address by Mr G Mashinini, IEC Chairperson)

### MR MASHININI

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Mr Ndou; honourable Members of the Executive Council present, honourable Members of the Legislature here with us. I'm accompanied by our Provincial Electoral Officer, Ms Nkaro Mateta, together with senior officials as they've already been introduced by the Hon Deputy Speaker, members of the media and public who may be following these ~~proceedings; proceedings~~, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa let me thank you for this opportunity to brief the House on our preparations for next year's local government elections. Not even COVID-19 could stop our periodic ritual that we, as the commission, have the honour of coming to brief the honourable Members of this House. I really take this as a privilege that once again in preparations for our local government elections we have ventured into an open space under COVID-19 conditions to deliberate on how we make sure our democracy endures.

Honourable Members, it could not be an overstatement that 2020 has been a year of a great change, uncertainty and disruptions to our lives, not only in South Africa, but throughout the world. With this in mind, the commission greatly appreciates this opportunity to reconnect with yourselves, because we regard yourselves as the key partners insofar as the commission discharging its constitutional responsibility and its constitutional mandate.

As you know, honourable Members, that successful elections require the support, assistance and cooperation of a wide variety of stakeholders in all spheres of society. These include the national and provincial legislatures, our municipal councils, various government departments, political parties and contestants, business community, labour, civil society, our traditional leadership and institutions, our religious-based organisations, various NGOs that operate in our community and most importantly the fourth estate, our media.

Hon Deputy Speaker, today's presentation to this august House will comprise two parts. I will present the first part and present an overview of some of the critical issues we are facing as we prepare for next year's local government elections. This is important, because we are sharing critical information with yourselves as leaders in this province regarding the task ahead and its challenges. I will also identify the various areas of potential cooperation and assistance for us to be ~~in-a-positionable~~ to zoom in on those things to make sure that the next local government elections once again become a beacon of the success of the democracy of our country, the democracy that



so many sacrificed and suffered to see it realised and others paid the highest price. It is a baton that remains with us that we ~~have to~~must hand it over to the next generations. Therefore, this is our collective challenge regardless of our political affiliation, but as patriots serving and advancing the interest of our nation and our country.

Honourable Members, the second part of our presentation will be provided by my colleague, the Provincial Electoral Officer, which will then zoom in on the specifics that relate specifically to Limpopo province. Perhaps one should start by sharing with you again that contrary to the general perceptions, local government elections are much more intricate and complex than national and provincial elections. You know a person might say but it's just local government elections. In the national and provincial elections, we run ten simultaneous elections, which are nine provincial elections and one national. In that we then elect 400 Members of Parliament as well as 430 Members of Provincial Legislatures. Contrary to that, with local government elections, you will see the expansive and the intricacy that comes in. With local government elections we are conducting 4 500 elections simultaneously and each one of them is a unique election because of ballot papers and details and so on and so forth. This is done across 8 metros, 44 district municipalities and 205 local municipalities nationally; and here in the province of Limpopo that constitutes about 5 district municipalities and 22 municipalities. In these elections nearly 10 000 Ward and PR Councillors are then elected. That is the magnitude and the dynamic of the task and the details that need to be attended to. Each one of those elections is very delicate because it is a situation that the chain is as strong as its weakest link. If one of those elections goes wrong, it can mud the rest of the elections. We ~~have to~~must pay a particular attention when we conduct the municipal elections.

This electoral cycle, which I have prepared, is in fact a conceptual framework that we use as a tool for planning elections and that is how we look into the cycle. Honourable Members, you will see that this cycle is a planning tool and as the management body we use this in planning of the elections. In that cycle you will see that there are three phases. The first phase is the pre-election phase of planning and preparation in which we find ourselves in right now. We are undergoing that pre-election phase. The next phase is the actual voting, counting and announcement of the results. Finally, there is the post-election phase. Very often people ask us: What do you ~~actually do~~do when there are no elections? We have a cycle of planning of at least a minimum 18 months to ready ourselves for the elections. The other activities then take place. Remember, there are two elections, namely: the municipal elections and the national and provincial elections. All those things are staggered sufficiently for us to be able to prepare for these elections.

There are other factors that impact on the cycle and its ~~activities~~activities, and these include issues like our socioeconomic and political context. Here we talk about the context within which the elections have taken place. The other issue is the timing of the elections as well as the potential change to electoral processes and new legislative amendments and others. All those things are taking place within an interdependent environment, especially with our national legislature as well as with our political party liaison processes. Therefore, all those things need that there should be enough time for those processes to be undertaken and completed without falling foul of the prescribed requirements. Because our elections are very much regimented, structured and prescribed. You can conduct and finish elections, but if you fall foul of a certain

step, you can be challenged and you can collapse the election. There are due processes that ~~have to~~must be followed and we need to attend to them meticulously, and we also need to have enough time because other dependencies such as the national legislature also have their own timetable. All those things ~~have to~~must be pulled together so that they can move in synchrony and in unison.

As I have said, honourable Members, the key aspect that we face is the issue of socioeconomic reality which has a potential to impact on our preparations directly and dramatically for the local government elections. As leaders, we are sharing transparently these factors as the commission, because it's important that we all have a common understanding and as we advance and as we tackle the issues the commission will have your optimum cooperation, your optimum support as well as optimum understanding which will then be shared with the members and supporters of various political parties represented in this august House.

For example, the socioeconomic factors are the significant deterioration of the economic conditions which have a devastating effect on the fiscus and its associated impact. No state institution is left untouched by the pandemic impact on our fiscus and the reality of that is that all of us will have to make do with less than what we usually expect. This will have a direct impact on some of the activities that the Electoral Commission will have to consider. A good example of this is that if we look at the budget ~~already~~already, we know we can no longer afford to have two registration weekends leading to elections.

We know the importance of registration, but at the same time because of the budget constraint, we cannot afford that. These are some of the examples of the issues that will keep on coming up as we move forward, and this is where need cooperation to find little Peters and Pauls here and there to be robbed to support the electoral activities especially with the coming municipal activity programmes.

The other consideration is that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives and livelihood of the people around the world including South Africans. The pandemic has caused widespread disruptions to electoral events as we can see over the past nine months including our country elections had to be postponed. There's a big challenge about postponing elections. Postponement of elections will create a precedent that in future you could have people trampling the constitutional importance of elections and coming in and introducing undesirable activities or dictatorship and so on and so forth. This is the issue that gives us sleepless nights as the Commission, that elections cannot be postponed. We are pleased that we have been able to start addressing the backlog after we have moved to stage 1 of the lockdown for us to be able to conduct elections even if it is under COVID-19.

Sitting here today we are saying that the democracy that the people of this country fought for must endure and we must act democratically. For us it is too costly to contemplate not having elections because the Constitution prescribes that there will be no government after 90 days if elections have not been conducted at the end of the term. It is the singular focus of the Commission to say we need to get there and make sure that it is done.

You might have seen the successful local government by-elections that we have had last week and were conducted under conditions that gave us enormous exposure

experience to be able to apply the best practices that over the period of COVID-19 we will be in liaison and in communication with our counterparts from all over the world. Looking at the best practices and how are they making sure that the elections are taking place and we said, we too will have to do the same thing. The conditions were typical laboratory environment where we able to do most of the best practices from anywhere else in the world; and I must say being on the ground visiting those voting stations, rain or sunshine South Africans came out. Even the response rate was as high as previous ~~years~~years, and it was raining and the conditions were hard and COVID-19 is still with us. People came and participated and adhered to the highest standards. In that respect, honourable Members, the Commission is very pleased and proud that we continue to carry the amber of distinction and excellence as a state institution. We want to also thank the leadership in the province that supported us when the by-elections were conducted.

Honourable Members, the second consideration that affects the cycle is the issue of the timing of the elections. If we can recall, during the COVID-19, there were ~~a number of~~a few comments and discussions in the media regarding whether the local government elections will be held or not. What we want to reiterate here, honourable Members, is that section 159 of the Constitution read with section 24(1) of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act provides that a term of a municipal council is five years. Therefore, elections must take place within 90 days of the expiry of the term and the current five-year term of municipal councils ends on 03 August 2021. Thus, the local government elections for us it will mean that the 90 days window will start on 04 August 2021 and end on 01 November 2021. The Commission is constitutionally bound to be ready by midnight of 03 August 2021. The next step is the determination of the date of the election and that is the prerogative of the national Minister of CoGTA. They would do that in consultation with the Electoral Commission. And they can pick any date between 04 August 2021 and 01 November 2021. That is why we say we have to be ready, the decision on the date will then be made and things will move accordingly. That is the basis that the Commission is following which is a constitutionally prescribed timetable.

The other issue that came during this COVID-19 period was the debate around the issue of merging elections. There was a proposal for the national and provincial elections to be merged with the local government elections. This is a policy issue; the national legislature is the one that makes policy determination. We implement policy; we implement the law. At this point in time there is no law that provides for that. We as the Commission implement. It is not up to the Commission; it is up to the elected representatives who then make that policy.

Without going into details, what we would like to share with yourselves as leaders, just for information and understanding, is that to hold the national, provincial and municipal elections on the same date, we will require the term of office of either the national and provincial legislatures or the municipal councils to be shortened or lengthened. That is what would be required to happen. Following the legal advice we received, we would share with yourselves that the Commission is of the view that it would be far more advisable and constitutionally sound for a term of office to be shortened rather than to be extended. Because once you extend, you risk because those people no longer have a mandate. We know how litigious our country is. You could be in court throughout. But there is nothing that stops shortening a term. If you were elected for five years and you say we will do it in three years so we can coincide with the five-year

term of the other period. It is just a legal opinion we are sharing with yourselves that we were able to secure. Consequently, then the commission resolved that we shall schedule next year's election according to the prescribed timetable. As I have indicated that we ~~have to~~must adhere to the Constitution, unless the laws have been changed.

The other issue that we are facing in the electoral cycle is the issue of the Constitutional Court's judgement and the reforms. If you recall again that in June the Constitutional Court made a finding that the Electoral Court was unconstitutional in that it did not provide for independent candidates to contest national and provincial elections. This has only to do with national and provincial elections. The finding again is matter of policy. It is national legislature that must attend to it and, as we speak, I'm happy to share with you that there is a portfolio committee seized with the budget vote for the Commission and we were made to understand that there is a task team that is reviewing and looking at the implementation of those ~~particular reforms~~reforms. Therefore, the commission's role is only that of being available if needed to provide the technical assistance. However, we have an interest in the debate and discussions around this ~~particular issue~~issue.

There was also another development during this period of COVID-19, which was the party funding. We now have an Act which was assented by the President, Hon Ramaphosa, last year. The commission drafted and consulted on the regulations supporting the Act, including receiving over 4 000 submissions on holding of public hearings. In preparation for the implementation of the Act and regulations, the commission has begun to build its capacity in this area within the constrained resources.

We have also developed an online funding declaration system which represented political parties and these parties can be trained to test and use the system. The final version of the regulations is awaiting the promulgation date by the head of state, the Hon President.

Hon Speaker, one cannot speak of planning considerations without also taking this opportunity in this august House and the honourable Members to share with them what challenges we are facing as a commission and therefore what can you do as Members of various legislatures and as leaders. Amongst these, is the issue of heightened political contestation and litigation in our country. As this democracy is maturing and developing, we are seeing more and more robust contestation between more and more political parties. Accompanying this is the increase of scrutiny and litigation also towards the commission. We welcome that because that is what is supposed to strengthen the commission in its work. But we just want to share with you that those ~~particular contestations~~contestations, if not maturely undertaken, they can also lead to unintended consequences such as derailing the work of us sustaining such a critical institution in our country which is the Electoral Commission.

We also have issues relating to voter registration and turn out. Again, this is where we appeal that we should join hands to continue to mobilise our people to exercise their choice at least to come to the polls. We have seen that, for example with respect to local government elections, we are encouraging that our country is on the opposite side. We are on the increase compared to other countries, but we should not give up on mobilising our people.

We also have issues around demarcation, particularly in this province. We have one of the biggest challenges insofar as demarcation is concerned. I'm not saying there are no challenges in other provinces, but the case of what happened in the Vhembe District remains unresolved. We appeal to this august House to work together in advance to see that there is an amicable understanding so that the local government elections can continue.

We also see issues of social unrests as being detrimental to our democracy. While it is important for people to express their views, it is equally important that they are done within the laws. We need to continue to urge that we remain a democracy, but we must also be law abiding so that we can then have democracy enduring in our society.

There's also an issue of political violence and largely now it seems it has become more intraparty than interparty. Those within one party saying I'm only a heartbeat away from becoming the person who takes that seat and therefore leading to undesirable things such as even taking human life.

Alongside these challenges, there are also opportunities and for us as the commission is to say Limpopo is our home and the leadership in this province has treated the Electoral Commission as their baby. This province has been the midwife to our democracy and to our institution from its inception and continues to do so. We appeal once more again that together with our provincial leadership, the areas of collaboration should be identified so that we can make sure that we have successful elections once again in this province.

Hon Speaker, I think now I will ask the Provincial Electoral Officer to then supplement the presentation I have made on the overview and strategic issues around the preparation for 2021. She will then give a flavour of local dynamic and perspective in this exercise and our preparations.

Once more let me thank all of you for allowing me to indulge and giving us this platform. Hon Speaker, thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

## **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much.

### **THE PRESENTATION BY THE LIMPOPO INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

(Address by Ms N Mateta, the Limpopo Electoral Officer)

## **MS MATETA**

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. The honourable MECs present, honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, we would like to thank you for inviting us to brief you on our preparations for the 2021 Local Government Elections.

As the Chairperson has already indicated that 03 August 2021 is the date on which we will start planning for elections and the Minister of CoGTA will decide on a date between 03 August 2021 and 01 November 2021. Of course, the process of



demarcation is already on. The Demarcation Board is going to hand over to the IEC at the end of this month and we will start with our programme of delimitation. Registration might happen anytime between March and May next year; the candidate nomination process between May and June 2021 and the planning date for election will be the first Wednesday, 04 August 2021.

The following is just a summary of some of the amendments that our portfolio committee is seized with and are about to be finalised. The first one is based on the fact that we have learned lessons from previous elections as well as the feedback from political parties. The first is about the voters who are without addresses. I think we know that municipal elections are based on whether you are placed in the correct ward within that municipality for you to vote. The IEC is also supporting this very fact that all voters, whether I have an address or not, are entitled to participate in the elections. The only thing is that a different procedure will then be developed to allow these voters to participate in the elections. Nobody will be disenfranchised because they do not have an address.

You will notice that the process of candidate nomination takes time and there are lot of documents that are needed. The IEC is streamlining this to ensure that there is just few paperwork. These days people can also do candidate nomination online. We also want to clarify the period covered by the Electoral Code of Conduct, because we have had problems with transgressions on the Electoral Code of Conduct. The current arrangement is that on the day that the Minister proclaims the elections, the Electoral Code of Conduct kicks in.

We have realised that even for registration weekends, people really cause us problems; ~~seso~~, the period for the Electoral Code of Conduct is going to be a bit longer. We are also guided by the Protection of Access to Information Act (PAIA) that has just kicked in. In future the CEO will have to reduce information from the voters' roll before this voters' roll is handed over to political parties, in particular the IDs of individuals are quite important. They cannot just be shared with third parties. To also remove an entitlement of any person from a segment of a voters' roll. As it was indicated, the demarcation process here in Limpopo is going to be concluded in November and in some of the provinces it has already been concluded. Once the Demarcation Board hands over to IEC, the IEC will then move in to check which voting districts are affected. Remember, here in Limpopo we have two new additional wards in the Lephalale area. However, the most important thing is that the Demarcation Board has announced that about 30% to 40% of our voting stations and our wards will be affected by this process of demarcation. In other words, they are going to change shape and eventually if they change shape, people who might have been voting in ward 5, might find that their ward has changed, they are now moved to ward 6. This is just to balance the norm so that you don't have a lot of people in one ward, whereas the neighbouring ward has few people. Remember, our province is ~~growinggrowing~~, and people are moving to new areas and RDP houses are mushrooming. This slide is just a summary of how our voting stations have grown over several years. Ever since we started in 1999, we now have more than 22 000 voting stations nationally whereas here in Limpopo our contribution is 3 157. This is just to give you an idea of the kind of elections we will be running in 2021.

With respect to the wards as I indicated, we have a growth of two wards. In 2016 we had 566 wards and now we have 568 because the MEC has increased the wards in Lephalale. There are two additional wards in that area.

~~With regard to~~Regarding PR councillors, you will realise that in some cases we have more ward councillors than PR councillors, eventually the addition is now 557 and the district councillors will be 254. Please do not forget that there are councillors in the districts that are elected directly and there are those that will be forwarded from the municipalities to represent them in the district councils. On the day of elections, for district councils we will be voting for 40% of those district councillors and the 60% will be divided proportionally amongst the municipalities in the Limpopo province.

On the day of elections, in total we are going to run 568 different elections for the wards, one PR election for PR councillors in the province as well as PR elections for the district council. Municipal elections are quite difficult and sophisticated because each ward has got a different candidate. It is not possible that ward 1 will have the same candidates as ward 2, because different people contest different wards. You will realise that since the 2019 elections, we have lost some people on our voters' roll. Currently our voters' roll is standing at 2,56 million voters and I'm sure with the voter registration weekend that will be coming before the 2021 elections this voters' roll will also grow.

I must emphasise that normally municipalities forget that the reason why, for example, Lephalale is getting two additional wards is because of the registration figures. The registration figures that are used to determine the number of wards are based on the national and provincial elections. The MEC used the figures for the 2019 elections to determine the number of councillors. All the municipalities are remaining with the same number of councillors except for Lephalale which worked hard and grew its voters' roll.

With respect to logistics, our planning for logistics is based on an estimated 23 000 voting districts nationally and here in Limpopo over 3 000 voting districts. ~~With regard to~~Regarding registration material procurement status, we have already started with procurement, around 15 December 2021 we will start receiving registration material that will be used early next year when we will be conducting registrations. The voting material procurement has also commenced in August and this bulk voting materials will be delivered between April and May next year.

With respect to comparison, when we compare ourselves with the other provinces, most of our voting stations are schools. The Department of Education is one of our key role players. Even now under COVID-19 conditions, we had to negotiate with the Department of Education and assure them that there will be nothing untoward where COVID-19 will become an issue after we would have conducted the by-elections. The only challenge is the high schools where matric learners are writing. We have also agreed with the Department of Education that for the by-elections that we just held in November and the on-coming one on 09 December 2021 in Musina and Blouberg, because matric students will be writing, we are going to have quiet by-elections. There will be no loud music and we really thank the political parties that supported this idea that we should not disturb learners when they prepare for their final matric examination.

The following are just a summary of the key outreach and communication activities. The first one is about the growth of the voters' roll. Every time we go out and do outreach work, we also take advantage and register the voters and collect addresses. Education is also important. I can tell you; we still have spoiled ballots and the numbers that we saw during 11 November 2020 by-elections were very scary. This means our balloting education must increase because in some cases, even where there were only two candidates, a person votes for both candidates. This is a matter of serious concern, because if someone loses by one vote, that spoiled ballot could make a difference in someone winning that ward.

We are a transparent organisation; everything we do is just to make sure that people still have trust in the work that we do as well as ensuring the enforcement of the code of conduct. When political parties do their work, they tolerate each other and appreciate that every political party has a right of contesting elections.

On the recruitment of electoral staff, that process will start early next year. Around January and February 2021, we will be starting with the process of recruitment, because we must already start with the training of electoral staff for the registration weekend. At national level 58 000 electoral staff will be recruited and trained for registration and more than 207 000 on election voting day. Here in Limpopo our figure ranges between 11 000 for registration and about 25 000 on election day.

~~With regard to~~ Regarding the registration of political parties, the Commission has on its record 632 registered parties. Of these, 103 parties are represented either locally, provincially or at national government level, whereas ~~the majority of~~ most of them, about 529, are unrepresented. This is just the summary of the elections we have run so far, and the next election will be the fifth for local government.

I have talked about voters' roll and the most important thing about this slide is the youth, the people aged between 18 and 19. These are the people who are registering for the first time. We are worried that these young people really do not appreciate the importance of democracy. We are a youthful province as Limpopo, but this is not reflected particularly in those young people who are aged 18 and 19. Our programmes are focusing on attracting young people to register as voters. This is just a summary of how our voters' roll has grown.

When we do a comparison of the voters' rolls with other provinces, we can safely say that our contribution as Limpopo to the national voters' roll is about 9,75%. Limpopo is the first province after metro municipalities.

~~With regard to~~ Regarding the addresses on the voters' roll – this is just a comparison of what is happening, and you will see the details for Limpopo as we move on. This is to give you an idea of how we are shaping per municipality here in Limpopo as we approach the 2021 elections – nationally our voters' roll is standing at 94% of complete addresses, whereas those with incomplete addresses is just 1% and those with no recorded address is 4,75%. When we come down to Limpopo, you will remember that we really used to struggle with addresses, and we want to congratulate the Speakers of local municipalities who worked with us to track down these voters who did not have addresses. In March 2016, we had 54% of voters with complete addresses, today we are talking over 90% of people with complete addresses. The voters with incomplete addresses then were 36% and today we have just about 5% of people with incomplete



addresses. The number of people with no recorded addresses is standing at just over 105 000. These are the people I referred to earlier that they will not be disenfranchised because they do not have addresses. This is just to give you an idea of the voter turnout over the number of years, and these figures are not comparable to the national and provincial elections. Municipal elections voter turnout is normally quite low, and this is a worrying trend because local government is so close to the people. The voter turnout for local government elections should be higher. In the last local government elections of 2016, the voter turnout nationally was around 58% and here in Limpopo it was even below the national average because we polled about 50%. Half of the people that registered in Limpopo did not show up on the election day. Besides the fact that IEC does outreach work, political parties when they do their campaign work must also take voters to the voting stations to participate.

~~With regard to~~Regarding the innovations for local government elections, the first thing is the acquisition of a voter management device. We are replacing the zip-zips that nearly collapsed the 2019 elections. This new device is a state-of-the-art device and has the capability of registering a voter, capturing an address or place of residence of the voter, and verifying addresses against ward boundaries. When I provide my address, it will automatically link me to a particular ward. There will no longer be an issue where people have doubts whether I'm in ward 1 or ward 2. It serves as an online voters' roll on election day, because people sometimes attempt to commit electoral fraud. If I vote here and go and attempt to vote at the next station, this voters' roll will pinpoint that I have already voted and if I attempt to vote again that will be an electoral fraud and I might find myself in trouble.

We are in the process of revamping the public website for the IEC and developing a public reporting App and for disinformation on social media, because this disinformation process is quite dangerous. I think you have seen what is happening in America where disinformation is given. This lie is told so many times such that people start believing that it is the truth when it is a lie. Somebody says I'm winning the elections, when they are losing, and people believe and get agitated and start protesting.

We are also going to go on an e-learning process and some of the modules are going to be done via e-learning. We have developed a dashboard to summarise some of the issues. The following are the key considerations:

- collaboration, as the chairperson has indicated, with respect to outreach and civic democracy, education programmes;
- partnership on voters' roll address enhancement. In municipalities, the Speakers, in particular, are working very well with us. I think as political parties you also have an influence to assist us to get addresses.
- availability of government-owned venues for utilisation by the IEC. Most of our voting stations are ~~actually schools~~schools. The Department of Education has been supporting us and I'm sure they will continue to support us because IEC does not own the infrastructure.
- support for electoral processes and events by the Legislature;
- election infrastructure requirements and support;
- promotion of electoral events; and
- encouraging fair gender representation during candidate nomination. I think one of the slides summarises that here in Limpopo the female gender makes 60%

of people who are registered. But then when candidate nomination comes, ~~the majority of most~~ people that are nominated are predominantly male. Please for your political parties, use the voters' roll to determine how many women should be on your candidate nomination list. Then develop programmes that will encourage the male gender to participate effectively. Very often after election results are announced, you find that the voter turnout for males was just about 37%. Women do register and participate. Please develop programmes that will encourage our fathers and brothers to participate in elections.

In conclusion, we are on track with planning for elections, and the following are critical success factors:

- MDB (Municipal Demarcation Board) adherence to timelines: At the e end of November if they don't hand over, then there will be a serious problem.
- Success in linking voter addresses to ward of registration: This is important. If I don't reside in this ward, I cannot influence which councillor should be elected in this ~~particular ward~~ward.
- Positive procurement outcomes for the voter management device.
- Anticipate and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for free and fair elections. I think the Chairperson has alluded to this point that it took us time. The last by-election was held early in March and from then the next one is now being held in November because we are now at level 1 of the lockdown. The Minister of Health was saying that it looks like the Eastern Cape is already having the second wave. We are hopeful that by the time the elections come in 2021, nothing untoward will happen.

On that note, I wish to sincerely thank you for the opportunity. [APPLAUSE]

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for the presentations from the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission and the Limpopo Electoral Officer. I shall now request political parties to comment. I shall start with the DA.

## MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, and good afternoon to all the IEC officials that are present here today. I would like to congratulate them in the manner and professionalism that the IEC operates in Limpopo province. We have a good relationship with the IEC and in times of difficulties we have always been assisted. The year 2021 will be one of the challenging years. It is not going to be an easy year to get our voters out there to come and vote.

The Democratic Alliance will be one of those parties that will do everything in its own power and ability to ensure that we add to the registration numbers and further that we advocate the need to register and to ensure that democratic rights prevail.

Just yesterday I was part of a meeting where I did ask for individuals to come and assist in that regard. I think one of the challenging factors is that with COVID-19, many people are not staying in places where they used to stay in their geographical areas. The people who study at varsity are now here; children who use to go to school are doing home schooling. Those are the things that we must look at going forward.

We are looking forward to 2021 and to work together with all political parties including everybody in this House and the IEC. Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I now call upon the EFF.

#### **MR RAPHELA**

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Let us also join the chorus of appreciating the work that has been done by the IEC. We also say that indeed as the province we will be working together and appreciate the relationship that we have and all of that. Maybe on a lighter note, we wish to say that the females that are participating in the elections are coming from the EFF. It is us who believe in women.

We just come from the by-elections now and there were unresolved issues. We appeal to the leadership of the IEC, because elections are an emotional undertaking and that contestants at times can get emotional during elections, to always listen to the other side of the story. We always have issues and refer them to IEC; and most often the IEC gets misled in the process and takes sides. When we immediately notice that, it then becomes a problem. I'm just saying going forward let's always find a way of balancing issues, and always listening to both sides of the story, because if we don't do that, we will always find ourselves at loggerheads on most of the issues.

Generally, we appreciate the good work and some of the issues that you have raised, we will take them forward to our structures.

We are hoping the discussions of merging the elections both nationally and local government can go through and get resolved so that we do one thing at a time. We don't want to focus our resources permanently on elections, sometimes we also want to build our structures as political organisations. I hope that this merger will happen. Generally, we appreciate the work of the IEC and the inputs made today. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. I now call upon the ANC.

#### **THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP**

Mangikubonge Sekela lakaSomlomo. Ngibonge wonke amaLunga aHloniphekileyo futhi ngithanda ukubonga kakhulu i-IEC. Ngithunyelwe yi-African National Congress ukuthi thina njenge-African National Congress siyaziqhenya kakhulu ukuba ne-IEC efana nale esinayo kulelizwe lakithi. Ngithanda ukubonga kakhulu ukuthi asingabazi ukuthi umsebenzi eniwuqalile, msebenzi omuhle kakhulu. Kilomsebenzi azange

nisenze ukuthi sibhikishe ngoba nina ningahambisi umsebenzi wenu kahle. Siyaziqhenya kakhulu ngani futhi sithanda ukusho njengesishayamthetho sethu ukuthi sizibona singabantu abahloniphekile ezweni lonke.

I want to say IEC we are proud of you, and we are prepared as African National Congress, as the leader of society, to continue to support you. And we are going to make sure that our masses are adhering to all the principles, and they do right. We thank you. [APPLAUSE]

## **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much, and again let me express our gratitude to the Chairperson of the IEC and his team for having taken time to come and address us and give this important information that you have just imparted to us. We do take the work of the IEC seriously and we also participate in these elections knowingly that it is important for our democracy and to build a society that we have always cherished. Hopefully you will have a safe journey back to your different places. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

We shall now proceed with the business of the House, the Orders of the Day.

## **2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

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

### **MR MATLOU**

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable Members of the Executive present here, Hon Chief Whip of this House, the Leader of the Opposition, Members of this honourable House, good morning.

### **THE LAUNCH OF COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCANS AND PICTURE ARCHIVING AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (PACS) IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS**

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to welcome and congratulate the Department of Health on their successful launching and installation of the CT scans and PACS systems in regional hospitals.

On Monday, 16 November 2020, the Department of Health made history in our province with a milestone to benefit and save the lives of our most marginalised people. Four CT scans were commissioned in our four districts and the uniqueness of these scans was the technology installed which enables us to access such services without having a radiologist on site.

The historical event was honoured by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg Prof Tshilidzi Marwala. We all know that Prof Marwala ranks amongst the most distinguished advocates of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and deputise President Cyril Ramaphosa on his commission on the Fourth Industrial

Revolution. The launch was a significant milestone in embracing modern technology towards enhancing rural health and modernising the health system.

In line with the workings of the Limpopo Department of Health, there is no doubt that this moment is an epoch definition.

The three new 63-slice CT scans installed in Letaba, Mokopane and Tshilidzini are our first in the rural hospitals in the history of Limpopo. These machines will help alleviate pressure and decimate blockages in both Mankweng and Polokwane Hospitals. These machines are now installed and fully functional to further advance healthcare service delivery in rural expanses and advance on the world class status.

The ANC-led government will never betray the confidence of our people. We are hard at work to transform rural health. This government is literally taking service delivery to the very doorsteps of the poor we serve.

From now there will absolutely no reason to commute to Polokwane for CT scans; there will be no delay in reports and on images ... [INTERJECTION]

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Honourable Member, motions are only allocated two minutes. You can continue so that your motion can be adopted.

#### **MR MATLOU**

Hon Deputy Speaker, once more we would like to congratulate the ANC-led government in our mission to using advanced technology to deliver quality healthcare services in our rural areas. All rural health matters too. I so move.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

It sounded like a Members' Statement. Is there any seconder to the motion? I recognise Hon Monama.

#### **MR MONAMA**

I, Monama Rodgers, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Matlou.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions with notice? I recognise Hon Managa.

#### **MS MANAGA**

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE LATEST COVID-19 STATISTICS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH**  
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that this House notes the latest statistics issued by the Department of Health which reveal that Limpopo has recorded a total of 658 new COVID-19 cases and 27 deaths this month only. The EFF is deeply concerned that the number of cases is increasing instead of decreasing. This also translate into increasing number of deaths.

Capricorn District is still the main contributor with 5 901 cases; followed by Waterberg with a total of 4 271 cases; Mopani follows closely with 2 866 cases; with Sekhukhune following with 2 842, and Vhembe with 2 295 cases. The Polokwane Municipality still leads the pack with 4 970 cumulative positive cases and 165 deaths. The statistics further reveal that a total of 119 304 tests have been conducted and 55 639 were done by the public sector and 63 665 were done by the private sector. The current state of affairs could also imply that a new resurgence of COVID-19 in the province could be a reality.

The Eastern Cape is currently experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19 and it looks like we are also heading in the same direction. Government should do more by increasing the number of tests and awareness campaigns in the province.

The department must put aggressive programmes in place to counter COVID-19 and further make sure that people comply by wearing masks and keeping social distancing.

We call upon the MEC to provide leadership on this matter. The number of cases must be decreased, and the death statistics must also go down.

We thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS MPHAHLELE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Selaelo Mphahlele, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Managa.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you. Is there any further motion? I see a hand there honourable MEC for Education you are recognised.

**THE MEC FOR EDUCATION**

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I stand to oppose the motion.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

The motion is objected to and falls off. Are there any further motions without notice? I recognise Hon Smalle.

**MR SMALLE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY**  
(Motion without Notice)

I hereby move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes and commemorates the World Children's Day on 20 November 2020. Since 1990 the World Children's Day has also marked the anniversary of UN General Assembly's adoption of both the declaration and the convention on children's rights.

That this House further notes the importance of this day as a reminder to all of us as leaders to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights while also initiating dialogues and actions that will build a better world for our children.

This is even more crucial in this COVID-19 pandemic period that has had adverse effect on the lived experience of the children in our province.

Let us ensure we create a loving and nurturing environment for all our children and opportunities that will allow our children to be safe and grow up enjoying their childhood away from chronic poverty and abuse.

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MR MAHARAJ**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Rasham Maharaj, hereby rise to second the motion as read by Hon Smalle.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. I recognise Hon Selamolela.

**MR SELAMOLELA**

**THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST FEMALE VICE CHANCELLOR AT  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**  
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, allow me within two minutes to rise on behalf of the African National Congress for the House to note the strides made by the Council of the University of South Africa in appointing its first female Vice Chancellor since the establishment of the institution some 148 years ago. The appointment of Prof Puleng LenkaBula as the next Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa is in tandem with the call by various societal entities that women must be recognised as equal citizens of this

country and can also be leaders in institutions which had traditionally being led by men.

The democratic dispensation has brought along with-it numerous changes and reversed some backward and old myths that women are always in a subservient role to men in all walks of life. This is true to our clarion call made by the great men and women who once converged in Kliptown in 1955 for a Peoples Assembly who asserted that women should be accorded the same opportunities as their male counterparts in all spheres of the economy and in all spheres of life.

This is exactly what the people of South Africa fought for. Today, we feel vindicated as the African National Congress that even though it is moving at a slow pace, progress has been made to create an equal society that knows no racial or gender segregation.

I so move.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

#### **MS LEKGANYANE**

I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Selamolela. I thank you.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Are there any further motions? Is it Hon Lebea? I can't see properly.

#### **MS LEBEA**

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Kedibone Lebea, rise on behalf of the African National Congress to move a motion without notice that this House notes the following:

#### **THE PASSING ON MR KIMI MAKWETU, THE FORMER AUDITOR-GENERAL OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND JOHN RAWLINGS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF GHANA** (Motion without Notice)

South Africa has lost one of the dedicated sons of the people of this country in the death of Kimi Makwetu. His tenure as the Auditor-General was very grateful. We have received with shock and sadness the news of the ultimate passing of the outgoing Auditor-General, Mr Thembekile Kimi Makwetu, at the age of 58. His passing on is a huge loss to the auditing profession and the ongoing task of building an accountable administration.

Makwetu was appointed on 01 December 2013 as Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) for a period of seven years. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Auditor-General.

Meanwhile, we have also learned with sadness about the passing on of Jerry John Rawlings, former President of Ghana who died on Thursday, 12 November 2020,



following a short illness. His death is a huge loss to the people of Ghana and the African continent. Mr Rawlings led Ghana from 1981 to 2001 and for a short period in 1979.

May their souls rest in eternal peace! I so move.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS SEONO**

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

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Let us all rise and observe a moment of silence.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

**THE CHIEF WHIP**

**WORDS OF APPRECIATION BY THE ANC TO THE VOTERS FOR WINNING THE  
BY-ELECTIONS**

(Motion without Notice)

The African National Congress is humbled by the confidence the voters continue to demonstrate in its leadership as demonstrated by the outcomes of the 95 by-elections held on 11 November 2020. These by-elections on the eve of the 2021 Local Government Elections are an important yardstick in measuring the resonance of our message with the electorate.

The ANC conducted a people-led and people-centred approach on candidate selection and a campaign that was consistent with our renewal project. This ensured humility, integrity, and a people-centred campaign. The growth of the ANC support from 65 wards in 2016 to 70 of the 95 wards contested in these by-elections is a humbling outcome that we cannot take for granted. We thank all South Africans who came out to cast their votes and further strengthen our democracy.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the hundreds of volunteers who reached out to the voters across the length and breadth of our country to ensure that the ANC remains victorious.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP**

I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise to second the motion as presented by the Hon Chief Whip. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? There are none.

**3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

Can we move to notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? There is none.

**4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

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

**MR MOHLALA**

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the Leader of Government Business, the Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

**THE ILL-TREATMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF WARD 1, MAMONE VILLAGE OVER  
ALLEGATIONS OF SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**  
(Members' Statement)

The ANC-led government failed to provide services to the people of Limpopo despite the huge service delivery backlog in the province. The people of ward 21 in Mamone village near Jane Furse, Sekhukhune, are denied services simply because they are suspected to be supporters and members of the Economic Freedom Fighters. The local ANC ward councillor and his people claim that the EFF is leading a water project in that area, and as a result they have become a threat to them in next year's local government elections. Although water is available, areas that are seen as supporting the EFF are denied water as a means of punishment to sway support to the ANC. The tendency to win elections through fraud and bribery must come to an end.

The ANC must learn to subject itself to clean processes especially when it comes to elections and refrain bullying communities with services like water, housing, electricity and all types of grants provided to the people. They must not use these services as weapons to intimidate them but to support them as it is their constitutional right for the government to provide the people with such services. There are residential areas that have been established since 2016, and to date they do not have electricity, and thus exposing them some to criminal activities. We need to be told what these people did to deserve such treatment.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and provide lasting solutions to the people of Mamone.

I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Are there any further Members' Statements? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Members of this august House, MECs present in this House, members of the public in the gallery and our leader, Hon Jossey Buthane; good morning.

**THE THEFT OF RDP HOUSES BY ANC COUNCILLORS FROM DESERVING PEOPLE AND SELLING THEM TO RELATIVES AND FOREIGN NATIONALS**  
(Members' Statement)

Our people continue to live in misery and serious challenges under the current administration. ANC thugs continue to steal the RDP houses from the deserving people who applied for houses following proper channels. From time to time, we get reports from the people that their RDP houses which were issued under their names were stolen from them and given to friends and relatives. In the worst-case scenario, these houses are sold to our brothers and sisters from the neighbouring countries with the desire to make quick money.

The people of Extension 8, ward 4 in Mookgophong, Waterberg are experiencing the same problems where their RPD houses have been stolen by the ANC officials and given to friends and relatives. It has been two years since the matter was reported to CoGHSTA in Polokwane and no effort was taken to investigate the matter. The lack of interest to investigate the matter is an endorsement to criminal and corrupt activities and a spit on the faces of the poor.

We have been raising our concern on this issue of the theft of RDP houses since the fifth Legislature, but nothing is happening. The theft of houses from the poor continues unabated, leaving them without a roof over their heads.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and make sure that officials and councillors involved in the stealing of RDP houses are brought to book.

I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Are there any further Members' Statements? If none, can I give the opportunity to the Executive Council to respond. I see the MEC for CoGHSTA is not here. The Leader for Government Business, over to you.

**THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

Thank you, Hon Speaker and the august House. Deputy Speaker, I think it is with {(inaudible)} to hear that members of the community are segregated on the basis of

their political affiliation. And you know that water is part of the scarce commodity in the province of Limpopo. Therefore, when there are challenges of water, it should not be based on the basis of what a political paraphernalia people are sharing. Therefore, we should not use it to create a division within our communities. I can cite an example that in Flora Park, Polokwane, there is a problem of waterwater, and it is not on the basis of which party and what leader is leading that particular ward. It is ~~on the basis of~~ based on the availability of water in that ~~particular area~~ area. Therefore, we should not necessarily use this sensitive and critical resource for political campaigns. We will ensure that where there are challenges, the municipalities will then take full responsibility to investigate and ensure that our people have access to water which is a basic need and a necessity.

Regarding the allegations that relate to RDP houses in the Waterberg District, we will take the matter to the MEC for CoGHSTA and ensure that investigations are conducted for us to be able to establish what the issues are.

It would also be important that next time when you raise issues of this nature, Members should be able to mention the names of that person whose house has been taken and the names of the person to whom that house was sold to, so that we do not bring allegations that are not backed up with facts. That's my appeal to honourable Members. By so doing, it will make it easier for the department to investigate such matters.

With those few remarks, I would like to thank you.

## **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much, Hon Sekoati, for that.

## **5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS**

Are there any other Executive Statements? Hon Ramathuba, you are recognised.

## **THE MEC FOR HEALTH**

### **THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD DIABETES DAY** (Executive Statement)

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members, November 14 is designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the World Diabetes Day. This year's commemoration was organised under the theme: The Nurse and Diabetes. The campaign aims to raise awareness around the crucial role that our nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes.

We should collectively appreciate the work done by our nurses in caring for patients diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is a silent killer, honourable Members. It is a chronic disease that occurs either when your pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when your body is failing to use the insulin that has been produced. Insulin is this hormone that regulates your blood sugar and its failure to function results in increased blood sugar. This is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes, and over the time leads

to serious damage of many organs in our body system especially the nerves and blood vessels.

It is reported that in 2014, 8,5% of adults aged between 18 and older had diabetes. In 2016, diabetes was a direct cause of 1,6 million deaths. As we speak today, COVID-19 is responsible for 1,4 million deaths, but diabetes on its own managed to kill 1,6 million people. That's not enough, in 2012 both diabetes and high blood glucose were the causes of more than 2,2 million deaths. If the energy that we use to fight COVID-19 can also be utilised to fight diabetes, even COVID-19 will not even be attacking us.

This year's campaign on diabetes is worsened by COVID-19 itself. In our province, out of the total number of 476 people that have died, one was able to count up to 200 and stop counting, of those who died because the underlying comorbidity was diabetes. It is critical for us to appreciate the fact that by contrast the probability of one of us to be dying in any of the main causes of communicable diseases – your cardiovascular disease, cancer; chronic respiratory or diabetes – between the age of 30 – and I believe that all of us are above 30 – and 70 is possible. We are not scaring you. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of South Africa estimates that there are about 1 in 10 South Africans who are diabetic. What is scary is that roughly 1 in 2 of these individuals don't even know that they are diabetic, because they have not been diagnosed, and it is a silent killer.

We must appreciate that the time the doctor diagnoses you as being diabetic, when you start to be symptomatic, you might have been diabetic for the past ten years, meaning your organs would have been damaged. The type of diabetes includes type 1 which is insulin-dependent and happens to children as a result of their pancreas failing to release insulin, hence the treatment is an injection of insulin. The type 2 is the one that is affecting most of us in this House and is called non-insulin diabetic. It is adult onset. Previously, we used to see it only in adults. But these days, the sad part is that we are beginning to diagnose it even on children, mainly due to obesity and lifestyle, being type-2 diabetes. This is the most dangerous one, because when it attacks you, it unfortunately damages most of our organs. The good thing about this type-2 is that we can be able to manage it; we can be able to control it; and we can be able to prevent it. As we speak today, there are patients who have been in this insulin resistant type-2. We have been able to reverse them because of just changing the lifestyle – exercising regularly and eating healthy.

There is another type which is gestational diabetes. This affects pregnant women; hence we call upon all our pregnant women to visit our clinics early so that we pick it up early and put them on treatment because it then affects the neonate.

As I have indicated, we can prevent diabetes by maintaining a healthy body weight. We will not stop talking about physical activity. At least 30 minutes of regular exercise, five times in a week works a lot. It also has a positive impact on your mental health. If you can eat healthy and avoid sugar and saturated fats. If you can stop smoking and reduce the intake of alcohol. Diabetes presents with constant thirst. When you start seeing yourself drinking water frequently, you should be worried. As you will be drinking water regularly, you will be forced to be passing more urine regularly. When you wake up at night several times to go to the bathroom, you must see that danger is coming. If you are always tired and sleeping even in the Legislature, it is a worrying factor. You must go and check your blood sugar, because it will make you feel sleepy.

Hence when we, together with the Department of Transport, campaign our road safety, we always say to the drivers, check your blood sugar because they sleep behind the steering wheel and cause much more damage, because they don't even know that they are diabetic. Unexplained weight loss and blurred vision are other causes of road fatalities. We charge them with capable homicide whereas the innocent guy was just diabetic and not aware and developed blurred vision behind the steering wheel while driving a bus, and just saw darkness thus resulting in a road fatality killing many innocent passengers.

The regular episodes of thrush when you got thrush that comes especially amongst the women, we need to be able to check what is happening. The diagnosis is simple. Just go to any of our clinics, we will check and tell you the level of your blood glucose and be able to assist you. The treatment is simple. As I have indicated, type-1, we will give insulin, and type-2 we will be able to give you the tablets. But if you don't change your lifestyle, you will end up getting into insulin again.

I have said that diabetes damages your nerves. Sometimes, you don't feel when your foot is injured. That is why you develop what we call a diabetic foot, and we amputate your leg. To avoid amputation, we are advising you to take care of your foot and your nails. Cut your nails regularly and do routine examinations of your feet to see if you still have feelings.

Once you are diagnosed to be diabetic, please make sure you visit an ophthalmologist for the screening of your eyes. When you have blurred vision, don't only go to the optometrists. They will give you spectacles, but they will not diagnose your pathology. Please visit your ophthalmologist so that they can pick up diabetic retinopathy which is the major cause of blindness amongst those who are diabetic and unfortunately sometimes this one becomes irreversible. Make sure that you also check your cholesterol and your blood sugar because they are twins.

The complications as I have already indicated, organs such as your heart, when people collapse ~~as a result of~~because of heart attack, is because the heart on its own is also a muscle and wants blood supply. If you damage all your vessels, and the blood itself doesn't get those, you will have challenges – the eye damages and the kidney damages. Most of our patients who are now on renal dialysis have got underlying diabetes. I have already spoken about the ulcers, your wounds that do not heal, and we will be forced to amputate you. The nerve damage – I have already spoken about it.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are encouraging everyone in this House to go out and be the ambassador of diabetes and talk to our constituency in our different constituency offices and make sure that we make highlights of this silent killer which has killed many people in the world and continues to kill people on daily basis.

In closure, Coronavirus continues to be part of our everyday lives. COVID-19 and diabetes are another campaign we must have on another day. Needless to say, 90% of patients who died in our province due to COVID-19 were having either diabetes or both diabetes-hypertension or diabetes-hypertension and cholesterol levels being very high.

We are saying, as we approach the festive season, people will be becoming more complacent and neglecting their responsibilities. As a province, we are one of the best performers in terms of COVID-19. I must indicate that we are far away from getting a resurge. When you look at the number of cases that we got the past 24 hours, and when you also look at the number of active cases in our province which are just 247, you can't compare with other provinces which are having large numbers. This did not come easy, easy; it is because the honourable Members in this House and the Provincial Command Council are not sleeping on duty. Most importantly, it is the community out there to remain vigilant and support us in our efforts. Honourable Members, let's go out and make sure during our social gatherings during this festive season people continue to comply with COVID-19 regulations because diabetes and COVID-19 have become the twins. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you. Can we have a comment from the DA?

**MR SMALLE**

Hon Speaker, I just saw some Members in this House that might be suffering from blood pressure. I would ask the MEC to offer her services because it seems as if their eyelids are falling. I am very concerned. If the MEC is willing to assist in that, I can request some Members to see her because I have seen some Members struggling. [LAUGHTER]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Hon Smalle, you are out of order. You can't diagnose people. You are not a medical practitioner.

**MR SMALLE**

I was just concerned about Hon Aphiri, who is sitting behind the MEC. I was very concerned.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You are out of order, Hon Smalle. Is that a comment you are making on the Executive Statement, Hon Smalle? EFF, you may take the floor.

**MR RAPHELA**

Thanks, Hon Speaker. [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Just hold on, Hon Raphaela. The DA is wasting our time by commenting on things that are unnecessary. Do you want to comment now? Please, don't follow your leader.

**MR MAHARAJ**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Honourable MEC, indeed, diabetes is a silent killer and is a chronic disease that seems to be becoming a more common disease in many households. I am one of those who suffer from chronic diabetes. We call upon the department to assist our communities who are unable to afford the medical costs associated with diabetes both in terms of the medication and the treatment.

We must also ensure that as a province, we have enough and sufficient medication for diabetes. Having diabetes in this era of COVID-19 is also quite worrying and quite troublesome, because if you contract COVID-19 with diabetes, your risks are extremely high. With diabetes, we must encourage a healthy lifestyle and life choices to ensure that we help fight against this silent killer disease. We must also ensure that we eat healthy and exercise more regularly to avoid diabetes.

Honourable MEC, I have taken it upon myself to also have a lifestyle change on certain things, because I know the impact of this disease. You have our support in also spreading the word as the DA. Thank you.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you. Hon Raphela, we are coming to you. Where are you going? Oh, Hon Mphahlele will debate. Order, please!

#### **MS MPHAHLELE**

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We really appreciate the health education that the MEC gave us this morning, because people have a tendency of forgetting. In case we forget all what the MEC has said, let's just remember these four Ps. I have summarised those symptoms that she was talking about. Just remember these following Ps: Polydipsia, Polyuria, Polyphagia, and Proteinuria.

If you experience excessive thirst and if you feel hungry most of the time, please make sure that you consult your clinic or doctor immediately. Let's always remember prevention is better than cure.

I heard Hon Maharaj talking about exercising. It is not easy, honourable Members, ~~but, but~~ we have to teach ourselves. Let's also stay away from sedentary lifestyle to prevent this diabetes mellitus. Remember, diabetes mellitus is a friend of hypertension, of all the cardio-vascular diseases that you know. If you happen to have one, you are inviting the other one. Let's rather avoid whatever can cause all these diseases. I thank you.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. ANC, it's your turn.

#### **MR MONAMA**

Hon Speaker, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, the Chief Whip of the majority party and the Deputy Chief Whip, on behalf of the African National Congress, I wish to welcome the Executive Statement by the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, on diabetes, not only as a silent killer,



but as a killer disease. It is incumbent upon all and sundry to join hands to prevent and treat lifestyle diseases. Cognisance should be taken that our bodies convert the food we eat into glucose that ourselves use for energy, but the greatest wealth is our health. We fully agree with the honourable MEC that with the benefit of a comprehensive wholistic health ..., varied hydro therapies, an adjustable diet programme, exercise, and a whole range of massage and beauty therapies, our communities will be mentally, physically and emotionally recharged.

Recognition of the early signs, symptoms and diagnosis of this chronic condition can result in getting treatment sooner which reduces the risk of severe complications because untreated diabetes may lead to hyperosmolar hyperglycemic nonketotic syndrome.

On behalf of the African National Congress, we applaud the hard-working honourable MEC and the department on their continuous crusade for their awareness of this lifestyle disease and killer disease. Thank you.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Are there any further Executive Statements? There are none.

#### **6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS**

Are there any tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers? Leader of Government Business, over to you.

#### **THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

Hon Deputy Speaker, in line with the dictates of section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended, I, Seaparo Sekoati, as the Leader of Government Business in this House, on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, hereby table the following annual reports of departmental and public entities for consideration by this august House:

- The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism;
- Limpopo Gambling Board;
- Limpopo Economic Development Agency; and
- Limpopo Tourism Agency.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

The annual reports are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

#### **7. ORDERS OF THE DAY**

We now move to Orders of the Day: Consideration and adoption of the 2018/19 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety. Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Rebecca Mmaishibe Seono, rise in this House to move for the consideration and adoption of the 2018/19 third quarter report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety.

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

**MR SELAMOLELA**

Hon Speaker, Ntse Selaelo Donald Selamolela, ndi ima hafha u tikedza the move by Hon Seono.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to move that this House considers and adopts the 2018/19 fourth quarter report of the Department of Transport. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS MONYAMANE**

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sarah Monyamane, rise to support the motion as presented by the committee chairperson.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Rebecca Seono, rise to move that this House considers and adopts the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Department of Transport. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS MAHASELA**

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Mina, Manana Caroline Mahlodi Mahasela, ndzi yime laha ku seketela leswi nga vulavuriwa hi Muchaviseki Seono. Ndza khensa.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Regina Mphahlele to open the debate. Your three minutes starts now.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and Members of this House. It is evident from the report that the Department of Transport does not take the first programme serious. Instead of implementing this programme timeously as planned and as per expectation, they keep on rolling over to the next quarter, subsequently they end up not implementing and coming to the committee to give all sorts of lousy excuses. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the bad habit of postponing service delivery, not only in this department, but also in many other provincial departments even though such services have been funded for. Why do we allocate funds and not implement timeously as expected? What is difficult in implementing funded programmes? Why do we deny interns, who are mostly young people, opportunities to grow and acquire skills?

We are disappointed that Basic Accounting System (BAS) in the department was down during December 2018 and a solution to this challenge could not be found. Subsequently, their revenue collection was affected impacting negatively on service delivery and day-to-day operations of the department. The department has a serious handicap when it comes to providing even simple solutions to not-so-much complicated challenges or cases. How will they resolve bigger challenges if they fail to resolve smaller challenges? The reason why the department outsourced to consultants for services that could be done in-house is because of laziness to think.

Bus companies that have contractual obligations with the Department of Transport and Community Safety do not comply, leaving hundreds of our people without regular transport to work. This non-compliance by some bus operators also leaves hundreds of school children stranded, thus disrupting their education. The department which has proven that it can provide solutions to any challenges has done nothing to curb this anomaly and the non-compliance keeps on happening.

The increasing number of road accidents in Limpopo is worrying. It is clear to us that not much is done to reduce the number of accidents from happening. Passengers lose their lives from accidents that could have been prevented by tightening up and enforcing road rules and punishing offenders. Furthermore, we are disturbed by taxi industry conflicts, especially in areas around Polokwane which keeps on ...  
[INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Honourable Member, your time has expired.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

These conflicts are fuelled by the failure of the department to provide licenses to deserving taxi associations leading to fights over routes.

As I conclude, Hon Deputy Speaker, the department continues to fail municipalities ...  
[INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Honourable Member, your time has expired.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

The department continues to fail municipalities in developing integrated transport plan to be benefiting to the ... [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

The time allocated to the debate is as per agreement by all political parties. If I say your time has expired, it is because your time is up.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I was just rounding off.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Hon Maharaj, it is your turn. The second one on the Speakers' List that I have is Hon Maharaj, unless if it has changed.

**MR MAHARAJ**

Sorry, Hon Deputy Speaker. I think there is some mistake because I don't even sit on that portfolio.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

I then call upon Hon Seono.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me extend my greetings to the honourable MECs present here, the Chief Whip of the ruling party and the Deputy Chief Whip, and to my colleagues, the honourable Members of this House.

Let me start by congratulating the department for maintaining consistency with the audit outcome and we would like them to keep up the good work. We are, however, rightfully concerned about the slow pace at which they move ~~with regard to~~ regarding their infrastructure projects. There seems to be a level of reluctance on this aspect. As other Members have raised most of the issues pertaining to the department, I would like to focus on the infrastructure projects of the department. The Thohoyandou intermodal facility is still pending, and the project has been handed over to the Office of the Premier. This is a serious challenge as this project has been in process for 12 years. We must raise this point very sharply with the Office of the Premier, and we should come to a place where this matter reaches ~~a final conclusion~~ a conclusion.

In terms of the Limpopo Traffic College, this is another programme that has also been ongoing for some time. We have observed that there was work that was going on. [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

One minute left.

**MS SEONO**

One minute?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Yes.

**MS SEONO**

Aowa! There was work that was going on before the COVID-19, but now it is going on at a slow pace.

On Transport Operations, the department has managed to achieve only two targets out of the targeted eight performance indicators. It is a trend that has been happening since the first quarter of the financial year. This relates to the contracted bus services. As the committee, we understand that LEDET has since purchased a new fleet to replace the ageing fleet, and this is heartily welcome. It means that the issue of the ageing fleet will be a thing of the past. [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Honourable Member, your time has expired.

**MS SEONO**

Excluding the 17 buses that were bought only in 2019 by Bahwaduba Bus Service, the company bought six new buses that were going to be on the road ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Honourable Member, your time has expired. I thought honourable Members are aware that when we debate 2018/19 the decision is that we give each speaker three minutes. It is an agreement between political parties and not my decision.

9.2. Consideration and Adoption of the 2018/19 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety. Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I move that the House considers and adopts the 2018/19 report of Community Safety. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Are we not adopting the same reports? It seems as if they are the same reports. Oh, this is Community Safety. The first one was for the Department of Transport. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

**MR SELAMOLELA**

Mospikara, ke ema mo ke le Selaelo Donald Selamolela go thekga kakanyo le tšhišinyo ya modulasetulo wa komiti ya Polokego ya Setšhaba. Ke a leboga.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to move that the House adopts the 2018/19 fourth quarter report of the Department of Community Safety.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Is there any other seconder? Hon Joshua Matlou, you are recognised.

**MR MATLOU**

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the motion as alluded by Hon Seono. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to move that the House adopts the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Department of Community Safety. Thanks.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Nakedi Sibanda Kekana to open the debate. Hon Monama, I thought we have already adopted. That is why we are proceeding.

Can you pull the mic better? We didn't hear. Hon Monama, can you go back to the mic, we couldn't hear. Hon Smalle, can you allow us to run the House? We didn't hear, Hon Monama.

**MR MONAMA**

Hon Speaker! Hon Speaker! I, Monama Rodgers, rise to support the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community and Safety on the Annual Report as presented. Thank you.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Can we then refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Nakedi Sibanda Kekana to open the debate? Can I remind honourable Members that each one of you is given three minutes?

## MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip of the ruling party, Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members and officials, good afternoon. We converge here today, before the commencement of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children and at the time when the nation experiences the escalating surge of gender-based violence and femicide. In his speech, the President of the country during the launch of the 16 days of activism on ... November 2019 said, "We grew up being taught that as men and boys, you must respect women and protect children. We were taught to never ever raise your hand against a woman. But we have lost our ways."

The committee applauds all the arrests related to gender-based violence in our province, and congratulate the ANC-led government by ensuring that those found guilty of gender-based violence and other crimes receive punishment proportionate to the [inaudible] meted against the crime and also it is an ongoing process ... around ... in the same breath the President's programme to resuscitate the ... and the strides achieved during the recent—... cannot be the scourge of crime if not prevented. 2:13:00.

During the period under review, the department achieved a clean audit opinion after many years of unqualified audit opinion since 2009/10 financial year. We commend the accounting officer and her team for managing the public purse in the department.

It was during this period that 103 police stations across the province including the CPFs and CSFs are accessed and monitored and received their stipends. 2:14:00

The visibility of the police led to our province to be regarded as the safest province across the country followed by the Northern Cape. The committee, however, identified the following challenges:

- Shortages of personnel and vehicles;
- Under-resourced consultative units 2:14:22
- High number of sick leave taken by police members and staff;
- The non-inclusion of the IT annual reports for perusal by the committee the same as (inaudible) does.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

One minute left.

**MS KEKANA**

We recommend that the MEC updates the House on the new ... personnel and ensure that the Budget adjustments made due to COVID-19 addresses all the challenges as alluded. I thank you. 2:14:30. [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Hon Regina Mphahlele, your three minutes starts now.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and Members of this august House. Hon Deputy Speaker, underspending in the Department of Transport has become a norm, and ~~it is clear that they~~they do not see anything wrong with it. For an example, in 2019, they were allocated a Budget of R2,2 billion for its activities and programmes during the period under review, and they only spent 20,5% of the Budget. It seems to us that the ANC government enjoys seeing our people suffering. They do not want them to get out of misery and enjoying a better life, hence they underspent on budgets to the detriment of service delivery to the poor.

The EFF is concerned about the state of Great North Transport buses. Most of these buses are in a dilapidated condition, hence we are concerned about the safety of our commuters who use these buses daily as a mode of transport. We have been raising this matter in this House for quite some time and all has fallen on deaf ears. We demand a detailed list of Great North Transport buses clearly stating those that are in a good condition and the ones are unroadworthy or in a bad condition. All dilapidated buses must stop from operating with immediate effect for the safety of our people. We do not want them on our roads.

The EFF is disappointed that the department has not finalised the restructuring of bus contractors. The delay is unwarranted because it will affect service delivery, and equally cause turmoil and conflict in the taxi industry. It is our belief that government should not create situations of conflict among our people, but rather work towards minimising such conflicts ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

A minute left.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

More traffic officers must be employed for policing on our roads to reduce accidents. These officers must not just sit under the trees and stare at cars or watch road users breaking the law. Traffic officers must be visible on our roads daily and enforce the law without fear or favour.

It is also worth noting that during the second quarter the department underperformed on its planned targets compromising service delivery. It is sad that government sets targets and fails to achieve 100% on its own targets. Why is it difficult for the department to achieve its own targets? If it fails to achieve targets, it is the community



that suffers? The failure in terms of subsidising targeted numbers of ...  
[INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Honourable Member, your time has expired.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

It cannot be allowed to continue because it denies our people opportunity for service delivery ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Honourable Member, your time is up.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

In conclusion, the EFF will investigate the way of helping the taxi and bus industries financially with the ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Your time is up, honourable Member.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Hon Seono, it's your turn. Oh, letsogo. Ke be ke sa le bone. O leswiswing monna yola.

**MR MONAMA**

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to make a point of order, because the report that we are discussing is about Community Safety and not Transport. I thought you will preside over that matter and give a determination on the subject matter. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

I did this last time when a Member was reading a speech that was not part of the debate and Members thought I was intimidating them. We advise Members to really check their notes as they debate, whether they are relevant to the debate. I shall leave it there for now. Hon Seono, it is your turn.

**MS SEONO**

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker and honourable MECs present here. Hon Deputy Speaker, I shall just go to the recommendations of the portfolio committee. That Member, nearly destructed me, because she was busy debating on Transport.

Having reflected and observed the performance of the department during the period under review, the committee would like to recommend as follows:

- That the intergovernmental efforts be expedited to ensure implementation of various recommendations by police monitoring bodies for efficient and effective police service;
- That the budget allocation should consider peculiar challenges faced by each province in terms of resource allocation; and
- That the community policing and safety forums should be provided with access to available resources and tools of trade to carry out their responsibilities.

In conclusion, we, therefore, as the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, present this report to this House for deliberations and adoption. Finally, we accordingly request the House to support the report as presented reflecting the department's performance for the quarter under review. I, therefore, move that the report be adopted as the report of this House. I so move. Thank you.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

I call upon the committee chairperson once again move for the consideration and adoption of 2019/20 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety.

#### **MS SEONO**

Hon Deputy Speaker, I move that this august House adopts the 2019/20 first quarter report of the Department of Transport.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

May I call for any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

#### **MR SELAMOLELA**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Selaelo Donald Selamolela, stand here to second the motion raised by Hon Seono.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Committee chairperson, it is your turn again.

#### **MS SEONO**

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise to move that this House considers and adopts the 2019/20 second quarter report of the Department of Transport.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS MAKHURUPETJE**

Nna, Grace Makoma wa ga Makhurupetje, ke ema mo go thekga tše di boletšwego. Ke a leboga. 2:23:30

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

We shall refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Maria Lekganyane to open the debate. Members, I see you have been allocated three minutes.

**MS LEKGANYANE**

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, MECs present here, our Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, and honourable Members, kgotsong. Hon Speaker, the committee noted continued overcollection of revenue during the period under review. The department managed to surpass its target of R140,3 million. We thus congratulate the MEC and her competent and dedicated officials for the work well done. We would encourage them to keep up this excellent performance.

The committee also noted the delay with infrastructure projects in connection with Manenu, Mampekuil and Thohoyandou traffic stations. The refurbishment of Limpopo Traffic Training College has been allocated a budget of R9,4 million for the last two phases. According to its plan, the department wants to finish these remaining phases of this multi-year project by the end of September 2020. We are now in the middle of November 2020, and as such we would like to appraise on the progress made thus far by the Office of the MEC on this particular project. We would appreciate having a briefing on how much has been spent so far; who the implementing agents are; and what the overall state of the project is. In our last meeting, progress was reported to be at 80% completion. We are expecting an update on progress.

We would also want to elevate the matter of the dysfunctional speed cameras along the N1 road between Polokwane and Carousel Plaza. These cameras have not been functional for a while. We would want a report from the MEC and the national counterparts on progress made, if any, in resolving that problem, because we are losing a significant amount of revenue that could be collected from fines generated by the speed cameras over there. We have raised our concerns as members of the portfolio committee and believe that this matter will be duly addressed. We further believe that where matters fall within the jurisdiction of the national Ministry, the MEC should be able to raise those matters sharply with the Minister. We would also appreciate, Hon Speaker, if your office can elevate matters that are within the scope of national Parliament with our NCOP delegates.

We, therefore, welcome the efforts of the department, and we would encourage them to continue with their good work. As the committee, we recommend that the Transport and Community Safety report on the 2019/20 financial year first quarter and second

quarter reports be considered and approved by this august House. I thank you. Re a leboga. Ga e be kgotso. [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Hon Regina Mphahlele, it is your turn. This time around, you have got seven minutes.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you. The speeches I am having here are for the third and fourth quarters.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

We have done that. We are doing the 2019/20 first and second quarter reports of Department of Transport.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

The EFF government will amend the Public Finance Management Act – I am intimidated.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

No, ignore them and proceed. Let's have order, honourable Members, and listen to the speaker.

**MS MPHAHLELE**

The EFF government will amend the Public Finance Management Act and make it compulsory for all spheres of government that directly provide services in areas that **are inherent functions** of the state. The above revolutionary commitment will **definitely getget** rid of the permanent excuses used by the ANC-led government and its failure to provide the required services. Limpopo alone has over 14 000 contractors who are struggling to get work or any other empowerment transaction as they don't have political proximity. How many Limpopo-based contractors were empowered through the many jobs created by the department? It will be of serious **inheritance** of this House to get rid of the reports that indicate which services were not available from contractors or enterprises as they affect the department's first quarter performance.

The EFF in Limpopo will not subject itself to laziness whilst there are more procurement plans in all departments. It is either those who fail to work are subjected to consequence management or the department is just leaderless. You can't have procurement delayed when there are procurement plans in place.

Hon Deputy Speaker, are there any municipalities which have incurred debt as a result of failing to pay back the provincial shares raised through licensing? Does the department have a report on mini-taxis which were allocated routes in Limpopo? This House will know that often there are battles between associations which endanger the

lives of the commuters. How far is the refurbishment of the Limpopo Traffic Training College, if there was ever any project implemented?

Hon Speaker, the report is required to detail how many and which bus companies continue to contravene their contractual obligations with regard to the number of kilometres and trips travelled despite punitive measures that are imposed by the department. When last did the department conduct its own site audit to verify fleet and all conditions of buses? Failure to be decisive on this matter will result in accidents like the Modjadiskloof incident which killed over 24 people in June 2017. Great North Transport being the biggest offender in terms of non-compliance confirms that the state has been an active party to endanger the lives of the Limpopo people.

This House ought to be told if there has been any action taken against those who defies legal prescripts. Does the department have a comprehensive report relating to the calibration of speed machines and weighing of vehicles? Does Limpopo have litigation cases ~~as a result of~~because of defective speed detection machines and what is the value of such litigations?

What are the equity levels of management in relation to gender and people living with disability? Furthermore, we want to know what database was used which does not have skills development entity. It is our suspicion that the department failed dismally in the learnership programme using the database as an excuse. Can we get feedback since the last **street blockage** which was done by the bus operations in Polokwane against the state of bus fleet and safety?

It is only when there is consequence management that people will focus on what they are paid to do instead of neglecting the Limpopo people. I thank you.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mphahlele. Can we have chairperson of the committee, Hon Seono? You have got ten minutes. This debate is different. That is why she had seven minutes.

## MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Once more, let me greet MECs present and Members of the Provincial Legislature. Chairperson, I will just go straight to the recommendations of the portfolio committee on this report because even when Members are debating, go na le ditaba tše e lego gore re phela re di ahlaahla kgafetšakgafetša, eupša kgoro e tšea sebaka go di šala morago. Let me just say having observed and reflected on the department's report, the committee would like to recommend:

- That the department should intensify its operations similar to Operation Ndadzi throughout the year in order to minimise road crashes and fatalities;
- That the interdepartmental efforts are pursued with the view of relocating the functions of Great North Transport back into fold the department;

- That the department should modernise its technology infrastructure to avoid system failures which have a potential to hamper service delivery; and
- That the department should focus on coordinated forward planning to avoid poor budget expenditure and rollover at the end of the financial year.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety tables this report in this House for deliberations and adoption. The committee further requests the House to support the report as presented reflecting the department's performance plan during the period under review. I, therefore, move that the report be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you. Item 9.4: Consideration and adoption of 2019/20 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2019/20 first quarter report, Department of Community Safety. Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I move that the House considers and adopts the 2019/20 report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS LEKGANYANE**

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

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Committee chairperson, over to you.

**MS SEONO**

Hon Deputy Speaker, I move that the House considers and adopts the 2019/20 second quarter report of the Department of Transport. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

No, it is the Department of Community Safety.

**MS SEONO**

Oh! I move that the House considers and adopts the 2019/20 second quarter report of the Department of Community Safety.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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

**MS MONYAMANE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Sara Monyamane, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Seono.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

We shall refer to the Speakers' List, and just to remind the speakers that we are debating the first and second quarter reports of the Department of Community Safety. We will then call upon Hon Rodgers Monama to open the debate.

**MR MONAMA**

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Members of this august House, the Chief Whip of the majority party and the Deputy Chief Whip, I greet you. Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to participate in the debate on the first and second quarter reports of 2019/20 financial year of the then Department of Community Safety.

Team leadership is a great opportunity to help people with diverse skills, talent, and passion to come together for a common purpose to achieve organisational goals. It is in this context that as much as the portfolio committee applauds the tangible deliverables on a certain planned target, it is however worried about the failure and the laxity of the department to expend the allocated budgets, especially in programme 1: Administration and the Secretariat for Police for the period under review.

We note that amongst each set target the department was to conduct the oversight on IPID (Independent Police Investigative Directorate), because of the outcry of the militaristic behaviour of the police when implementing some of the laws and guidelines. We call upon the MEC to brief the House insofar as the oversight on the IPID is concerned.

We also commend the department by ensuring that there are functional and effective community policing forums despite the limited resources and constraints it is experiencing. Most of the police stations in the province are not well-resourced to be compatible with the primary mandate of combatting crime. The MEC must continue petitioning the national Ministry in providing the necessary human and fiscal resources to our police in the province. The scourge of gender-based violence and femicide that the pandemic has exposed us, has proven that the units established to deal with this social malaise do not have adequate resources at their disposal. The recently released crime statistics have shown that Limpopo remains a province of peace and has been holding this title for the past 10 years, despite the acute shortage of resources. When families feel safe in their homes, this builds and enhances confidence in the police and the criminal justice system. We know for a fact that the decrease in serious crime is likely attributed the fact that the country is now under lockdown. This worrying trend is that the police crime statistics paint a gloomy picture on the rise of sexual assault and car hijacking. I thank you, Chair.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much, Hon Monama. Can I call again upon Hon Mphahlele?

## **MS MPHAHLELE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The Department of Community Safety is hell-bent on destroying community policing forums by not paying them their stipends. What other motive will they have other than that of killing those forums that are aimed at working with the police in ensuring the safety of our people? Community policing forums must be supported at all costs as they fall within the core business of the department. They must be provided with the resources and all tools of trade for them to do their work without any hindrances. Furthermore, community policing and safety forums must be established in all police stations to ensure the maximum safety of our communities. The department must furnish this House with detailed information on how many police stations have established community policing and safety forums and how many have not done so and why?

The EFF is disappointed that the key recommendation by various sector studies and SAPS survey in the department were not implemented during the year under review, implying that they do not take their mandate serious. These are recommendations that are aimed at improving the operations of the department especially on its key programme. Related to this matter we have noted that the department through its police stations does not take the school safety plans serious, hence criminal activities in our schools continue unabated. We call upon the department to prioritise the issue of school safety plans for the safety of teachers, children and all other stakeholders in our schools. The school must develop the culture of prioritising the things that matter most and stop procrastinating or delaying on the implementation of programmes.

The schools have become safe havens for drugs and other criminal activities while the department is not doing anything about it. The police stations are operating with few vehicles which are critical in regular crime prevention and operation and sector policing. The issue of shortage of vehicles in police stations is not a new matter. We have been raising this matter in this House for some time now and the department does not seem to bother.

The number of sick leave taken by members of the visible policing and general staff needs to be investigated. The Employee Wellness Unit of the department must ~~look~~ investigate this matter and furnish a detailed report to this House ~~in order to~~ to have a proper understanding on this matter.

The EFF is deeply concerned about goods and services which were ordered and could not be delivered before the end of the financial year. The department needs to furnish this House with a report about this within the next 30 days and why this happened. Government officials must be accountable and that consequence management must apply to officials who are found to have messed up. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is public knowledge that the government is known for not being a fan of consequence management. I thank you.

## **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much, Hon Mphahlele. Committee chairperson, you may take the floor.



## MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. We appreciate the merger of the department, the arms of the department, and expect a continuous positive outcome on that.

I want to go straight to the shortage of resources. This issue of shortage of resources, honourable MEC, is a matter that is being raised continuously. We think enough voices have been raised in this regard to assist the MEC to do what needs to be done moving forward. We therefore recommend that the department should pursue vigorous interdepartmental and intergovernmental efforts to mobilise for more resource allocation. The committee has further noted that due to the ongoing merger process with the Transport component of the department, some funded posts could not be filled resulting in the department not being able to spend 100% of the allocated budget during the quarter under review. We hope that this situation has been addressed.

On the Provincial Secretariat for Police programme, I wish to indicate that the objective of this programme is to exercise oversight functions ~~with regard to~~regarding law enforcement agencies in the province. This is done through facilitation development and implementation of social crime prevention intervention for safer communities. The programme is further geared at strengthening the relations between communities and police agencies. We are concerned that there is reported lack of support by the municipalities. We thus recommend that the local municipalities should be encouraged to support community policing and safety forums. We would like the department to investigate further the root of non-compliance by the respective municipalities. We would also appreciate if the issue of stipends could be addressed; in that sense we recommend that the department should consider integration management of stipends for community policing forums into its financial and payroll management system. We, therefore, recommend that community policing and safety forums should be provided with access to available resources and tools of trade to carry out their responsibilities.

On IPID, the committee has noted that all quarter second activities were implemented as planned including the monitoring of implementation of the IPID which was not done in the previous quarter.

We trust that given the emphasis on this matter by various speakers this will be duly implemented. We thus recommend that intergovernmental efforts as alluded to be mobilised ensure the implementation of various recommendations by the police monitoring body for efficient and effective police services. We believe that the MEC and her team have noted the concerns raised and will act in accordance with the advice given. I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, committee chairperson. We shall now call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to respond to the debate.

## THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me also take this opportunity and greet the honourable Members and colleagues in the Executive Council, the Chief

Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip, the chairperson and members of the portfolio committee and the leader of the opposition parties. Ndi masiari.

Let me start by acknowledging that we take note of the issues raised and take note also that some issues when they were raised were about another government that I may not be able to respond. On behalf of the department, we want to start by thanking the committee members for the robust debates presented this morning. We take note that today as we present this report and update the 2018/19 reports which were dealing with the former safety and the former transport departments, we have successfully implemented the EXCO resolution of merging the two departments and we present ourselves as the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

Having noted these issues, we are saying as the former Department of Safety on the third quarter review you will remember that we have overspent by 11,9% due to the workload that was carried from the previous quarters, but the budget was realigned to cater for the identified remaining targets. The emphasis was made that programmes intended for a particular quarter must be carried in the specified period unless there are compelling circumstances. We note the issues of the backlog that the honourable Members have been raising.

On the fourth quarter we have noted the underspending by over R5 million as it has been said and by then the Department of Safety in which over R1 million was surrendered back to Treasury, but targets were reached; so there was no variance done as much as the budget was surrendered back.

As the former Department of Transport on the 2018/19 third quarter, the then Department of Transport's targets were reached in this quarter with special focus on safety awareness and reduction of fatal accidents. We conducted road operations and school awareness campaigns and although we exceeded the planned set targets compared to the previous two quarters, but there was no variation done to the budget. On the fourth quarter of 2018/19 financial year, we noted the increase of operations and targets and these were reached within the set budgets. This increase was a result of the concerns raised by Members regarding the issues of fatal accidents.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we were reminded and are aware that the core mandate of the department is to provide public transport to the members of the public, our commuters. Our role as a department is to subsidise the public transport that an ordinary South African has to have benefits the same as that of any other person who can afford to buy a car. By so doing, we'll be assisting our commuters to reach their destinations without a problem. Our mandate is to make sure that the rest of the people in our communities can access their workplace and any other place where they want to go through public transport. We are conscious about that.

I can confirm that we have just come back from the national lekgotla and the national lekgotla has resolved about realigning our policies on how to formalise and improve the public transport to resolve some of the issues that honourable Members raised. The national lekgotla also came up with suggestions on how to professionalise public transport operators and other issues that honourable Members raised regarding roadworthiness of vehicles, challenges relating to learner transport, just to name but a few. The national lekgotla has taken note of such challenges and took resolutions. In our next budget speech in this House, we will share with the Members on the progress

made in the implementation of those resolutions. Again, with the public sector especially in the taxi industry, the Iekgotla has agreed on how we are going to start regulating the issues of the five plus one, the issues of the metered taxis. We have also resolved on how we are going to navigate and deliberate and resolve on the route issues which is one of the core issues that cause most of the taxi violence we see in our province. I was generally and holistically responding to some of the issues relating to public transport.

In responding to the question about the training college, I wish to say that we have a training college that is rated the best amongst others in South Africa. We have got students from all over the province coming to study here.

When we talk about Manenu infrastructure project, we are not starting afresh, but are extending on the existing infrastructure. In terms of the infrastructure issues, we have noted the issues that the honourable Members have raised in terms of delays. You will understand that it is a partnership between ourselves and the Department of Public Works which as this House, you'll know that we have resolved that infrastructure issues resides with the department. We have started with our work and have since began realigning our programmes and this realignment must be done in relation to the budget adjustments that needed to be done. We have lost some funds that were initially earmarked for infrastructure projects to fund COVID-19 programmes. I can assure the House that the infrastructure projects, as honourable Members have alluded to, we, the owner department, and Public Works, the implementing department, have revised our plans and will be continuing with them.

Hon Speaker, COVID-19 has made us realise that we need to intensify police visibility both on the traffic and the police themselves. COVID-19 has also made us realise that we need to intensify our own operations in terms of giving enough support to the police to be able to deal with the gender-based violence. We have since, as the Department of Transport and Community Safety as we do our oversight responsibility towards gender-based violence, partnered with the Department of Social Development to make sure that we give a complete cycle of support. Where the police have to go and deal with a situation but needs support in terms of social workers and all that, that process has been done. There is an agreement between the two departments to make sure that our oversight role is complete. We have noticed that often police officers go to a scene and then leave without making any impact in terms of assisting the victims.

There was an issue which was raised several times about the support we are giving to CPFs and CSFs. You will remember that as a department even before we merged there were public participation processes that were initiated by my predecessors in the department. There is a policy discussion on how can we ensure that CPFs and CSFs are more effective in our own society. As we speak, we are left with two districts, namely, Sekhukhune and Waterberg, to finalise our consultation on the policy. I think the date for Sekhukhune is tomorrow and Waterberg is next week. By the end of November, we would have finalised our consultations on the policy on oversight and the type of support we should continue giving to CPFs and CSFs.

You might be aware, Hon Speaker, we often encounter problems when coming to the elections for CPFs and CSFs with people refusing to vacate those seats. We also experience problems with security companies, be it private or what, that are manning farms and complexes in town. When all is well and they are working nicely, they will

say that the police, CPFs and CSFs should not enter the space. When they are under attack, then we are expected as an oversight body to intervene, because they would insist that the crime belongs to us. We are busy amending that policy and are reviving our CPFs and CSFs structures. These structures are regulated by law. You will know that when they were formed, they had to be regulated. Even the payment that goes to members of these structures must be regulated. The department will not pay them simply because they attended a community meeting and signed a roll call. There are certain processes that must be done and we are working together with the provincial structure just like what we did with public transport.

Without wasting much time, there is a process and a proposal we have done regarding the reduction of accidents on the roads. We agree wholeheartedly with the chairperson of the committee that there is a need to modernise and install technology on our gadgets. The department will ensure that the traffic officials, wherever they will be manning the roads during this festive season, will be in possession of machines which will capture your ID number and indicate if you have outstanding debts or trace if you have other cases – I am not sure if we will be allowed to stop blue light vehicles or what? We are also going to be putting up roadblock operations wherein when you arrive, we will run your car to check if it belongs to you or if it is somebody else's car. This is going to be introduced this year with the festive season's operations we envisage doing. As honourable Members, let us start clearing those tickets if we have. I want to put a disclaimer standing here, Hon Deputy Speaker, that my phones will be off, so you might not have the luxury to call for assistance. You will see those that have been calling for assistance will complain, but my phones will be off. [LAUGHTER] We are agreeing with the honourable Members that if we do not modernise our technology, we are then losing a lot of money.

We have also procured vehicles just before COVID-19. The department procured extra vehicles, but those cars could not be utilised because of COVID-19 travel restrictions. We have started utilising those vehicles. You will start noticing police visibility on the roads in terms of assisting on the reduction of accidents. We will intensify joint operations on our roads. We have observed that fatal accidents are often caused by drunk-driving, reckless ~~driving~~~~driving~~, and high speed. I always say to people, up to so far with the fatal crashes that we have had, the highest speed we have identified was when a car locked 240. Even if there was a traffic officer on the road, with the 240 speed that was locked, it would not have prevented fatalities. Even if Hon Ramathuba, because we are going to be doing joint operations, can put all the ambulances at our roadblocks, we will not be able to save such lives, if drivers continue to disregard the rules of the roads. That is why we have brought back the issue of the breathalysers where you will have to blow when you arrive.

In conclusion, we are acknowledging and have noted down the issues. We are also agreeing that we impose serious risk if our police and police stations are under-resourced. I have embarked on a benchmarking process during the MinMec engagements between ourselves and the Minister of Police and other provinces. We have discussed with provinces on how far they are in terms of resourcing their police stations. This is a continuous engagement. Last week we were in an operation planning in Musina, and we have resolved that the police, the military, the traffic officials and us as a department should come together and map a way-forward as a security cluster on how we are going to deal with the festive season.

In terms of the issues raised in our schools, the MEC for Education has a programme on safety that runs in the schools. In fact, they have collaborated with three departments: our department, with the police they go and run random searches in schools. The Department of Health has got a share of what they do on safety there in schools and the Department of Social Development. These three departments together with the Department of Education run those programmes in schools. The four MECs have since agreed that we need to bring in LEDET, because the people who are found selling drugs next to the schools are the licenced hawkers. We have agreed that as the schools reopen next year, we'll pursue those deliberations.

We are acknowledging that there is a need for CPFs, CSFs, the police, and the traffic officials to be provided with the tools of trade not only for awareness purposes during the holidays, but throughout.

The second conclusion, I need to thank the committee ... [INTERJECTION]

### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Second and last.

### **THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

There is no third one, be rest assured. [LAUGHTER] I need to thank the committee for the robust debate and the Legislature for their support. I also need to thank the officials in the department, the dedicated staff, and the time that they have given, the police team I have worked with, the traffic officials that are out there on their responses to the issues raised. Each time when we are here in the legislative chamber and issues are raised you will notice some improvements in responding to those issues. I want to thank them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of all of us. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

### **THE SPEAKER**

Thank you, honourable MEC. We move to item 9.2.5: Consideration and Adoption of 2020/21 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. I call upon the committee chairperson.

### **MR SELAMOLELA**

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here, nne, Donald Selamolela, mudzula-tshidzulo wa Portfolio Committee ya Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, ndo yima hafha hu andaza muvhiko wa kotara yawuthoma ya dzitshede dza nwaha wa 2020/21 huri ri wusengasege na hutendelana sa muvhiko wa Ndu heyi ithonifhehaho. Ndu livhuha. **3:10:25**.

### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Is there a seconder? Hon Seono, you may take the floor.

### **MS SEONO**

Nna, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, ke emiša letsogo go thekga seo se bolelwago ke modulasetulo wa komiti ya LEDET. Ke a leboga.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and invite Hon Simon Mathe to open the debate. [APPLAUSE] Can I also advise Members to avoid greetings. We have greeted already, just to save your time. I know Members want to greet everybody, but I think we have already greeted. Let us just go to the subject matter.

**MR MATHE**

I do not intend greeting, because I understand that we have already greeted. It was not my intention to greet ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

No, no, I am not specifically referring to you. [LAUGHTER]

**MR MATHE**

Yes, I am just responding. Because you are saying we must avoid it, so I am saying, because it was not my intention to ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You time is running out as you are doing that.

**MR MATHE**

No, no, it is fine. Speaker, we start by saying whether it is North Korea, Sierra Leone or South Africa, poor countries are poor for the same reason that Egypt or Zimbabwe are poor. Countries such as Britain became rich, because their citizens overthrew the elites who controlled power and created a society where political rights were much more broadly distributed, where the government was accountable and responsive to citizens and where the great masses of people could take advantage of economic opportunities. It is indeed happening here in South Africa whereby government is accountable and responsive to citizens. Indeed, we need to concede that we are now confronted by a situation whereby we need, through LEDET, to create an environment that will make the great masses of our people participate in economic activities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, even though I am warned not to greet but I am acknowledging you now, we need to be motivated by what Oscar Auliq-Ice once said: "Social entrepreneurship is an obvious solution that just makes our lives easier, because we are of the view that the future of entrepreneurship is no longer about looking up to a select few who have some kind of a rare gift for implementing innovative ideas." The department should ensure that every individual has a role to play in mobilising skills, ~~talent~~talents, and life experiences to move towards a more just and equitable country and province where all have what they need to survive and thrive in life. The department, with its entities, has initiated various intervention programmes that seek to assist the province and its great masses of people to thrive in life.

Deputy Speaker, we know as a matter of fact and reality that economic development has been central to the ideologies of post-colonial African states. We should start saying it is beginning to dawn on us that the root causes of poverty can be addressed effectively only through economic development not through one-way giving. The department has the potential to ensure that there is greater economic opportunities for the great mass of our people. This poverty has many dimensions, but its causes include unemployment and social exclusions. Therefore, poverty comes in all shapes and sizes and is not determined by geography or natural resources, so much as by the mindset of the leadership.

Deputy Speaker, as the portfolio committee, we are of the view that the mindset of the departmental leadership is that of creating economic opportunities for the great mass of our people. This will slowly wash away poverty.

Deputy Speaker, as indicated earlier that the department has initiated various intervention programmes including the purchasing of fleet for GNT, progress at Musina-Makhado SEZ. Even though we are witnessing racially motivated objections in relation to the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment), but we remain hopeful that we will achieve our dream. It is our view that those who seek to object to the EIA at MMSEZ are informed and motivated by their races, wherein they seek not to acknowledge the economic development programme that is led by a particular race which to them is inferior.

We will achieve our dream. We will only secure a prosperous, ~~peaceful~~peaceful, and liveable planet if we harness economic growth and development to social solidarity across and between generations. We thank you so much without breaking you. [APPLAUSE]

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you, Hon Mathe. The advice we are giving is not that people must not greet. We are trying to save time. If you have realised, a lot of people that have come here before spent more time on salutations and when the time was up they got surprised. If you feel that you can greet, please continue. But we were just helping in terms of time so that we focus on the content rather than salutations. I call upon Hon Seshoka. Hon Seshoka is not here. Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

#### **MR RAPHELA**

No, I am the one who is supposed to speak.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You are not Hon Seshoka.

#### **MR RAPHELA**

He is not even a member of that committee.

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**



Let us have order. The name that I have here says Hon Seshoka.

**MR RAPHELA**

By whom?

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You cannot ask me that question.

**MR RAPHELA**

I am a member of this committee and not Hon Seshoka.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Hon Raphaela, we are given a list of speakers. I do not decide on the list. We suppose that political parties have submitted these names ... [INTERJECTION]

**MR RAPHELA**

I don't think so.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Don't say that you don't think ~~so, because~~ so because that's how it is done.

**MR RAPHELA**

I am saying that, because I am a member of this committee, and I am here to debate.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Listen, listen. Sit down. If Hon Seshoka is not available, you say he is not available; I'll stand in his behalf. That is all that we are saying.

**MR RAPHELA**

Hon Seshoka is not available; I stand on his behalf.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Yes, you can proceed.

**MR RAPHELA**

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The point is that I am going to present. We want to achieve the objective of contributing to this debate. That is why we are agreeing with whatever you are saying. Let me just start by saying for us to remain in this state of being poor in this country and even here, is not something that is made, but a decision by the very



same people that you say they will assist us to change, it is the white monopoly capital. It is not something that happened by coincidence, but a decision. People have decided for us to be poor and if there is no will to change that situation especially from the ruling party, then there won't be any change. There won't be any economic change if the will for radical change is not there.

We have been raising these issues many times on this platform and beyond, pointing out these issues the past ten years since we arrived here. We have said that economic activities in mining, manufacturing and agriculture are not properly supported and prioritised. We are also saying that there is no will in this administration to adhere to equity commitment. There is no justification for not accomplishing the 50% representation of women and 2% representation of people living with disability 25 years into democracy. By now we should be engaging on how to increase the number of people with disability and women representation in achieving targets. Unfortunately, this ANC-led government will continue giving lousy excuses to justify the perpetual suppression of women and people living with disability. All categories of management should be given solid timeframes to disclose their financial interests. How many cases were supposed to be subjected to disciplinary hearings and was there a schedule for all cases before the COVID-19 pandemic? When will the outstanding invoices be paid and what criteria were used to allocate funds to those which have been paid before or during COVID-19 lockdown? These are the questions that we are asking. What caused the Budget to be sitting in the department and the shifting funds towards COVID-19? We would like to know if there was never an ICT strategy in the department and, if not, what are the reasons for not providing reasons for failure to fulfil the mandate?

The economic planning and research of LEDET failed to detect issues which are continuously raised on Musina-Makhado SEZ which are serious red flags. We raised these issues, Hon Charles Sekoati, and we will continue raising them. The House must be given a presentation on BBBEE of the department before its implementation. Is there a schedule to ensure that all missed targets are not delayed any further?

The township and rural economy requires more than documents and summits. Real financial inputs and market linkage with consistent support are necessary if we are to have real success which will create upward mobility to entrepreneurs economically. What are the elements of industrial development plan on the basis of the various industries in relation to revitalisation of industrial parks and the establishment of rural and township economies? If we are not afraid, we will implement it.

A report is required on the third target aimed at enhancing local participation in mining. This sensitive issue causes unrest in mining communities whilst enhanced programmes favour those with close ties to politicians. This report must be made public.

How many liquor licence applications were received and how many were rejected? Does the department have plans to consider extending trading hours of outlets of individual businesses depending on the circumstances of applicants? This may minimise unnecessary long-distance driving at night when people who contribute to the tourism of Limpopo search for open facilities. Currently there is no properly regulated night life in Limpopo.

Can we give a report in writing about on the status of EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and AEL (Atmospheric Emission Licence) for the SEZ as a matter of urgency? Government will not continue wasting money on a project which may not have approvals. We know that the ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You have one minute left.

**MR RAPHELA**

We were not told about the minutes when other speakers were speaking here. Now that it is us speaking, we are told about the minutes.

The point that we wanted to make is that when the presentation was made here on SEZ they said that there was investment money coming, but government is spending on the very same SEZ and it is spending more money than what was said it was going to be invested. We were even coerced to adopt the Mandarin language from China, but the money is not coming. This is how the leadership of the ruling party is selling out this country.

I am moving towards closure. How many liquor outlets are operating illegally and how many are operating legally in the province? A report on the status of nature reserves in Limpopo should be presented to this House. Which activities were affected during the budget shifting ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Your time has expired.

**MR RAPHELA**

This is the last point. All these questions must be properly answered for the benefit of the people of Limpopo as you continue to mislead us. I thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Can we have the next speaker who is Hon Smalle?

**MR SMALLE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. We can all agree that the current year and the upcoming year will be one that most citizens would like to forget. Limpopo's unemployment figures crept up from the previous quarter with 2,4% from 26,3% and it has expanded the unemployment rate from 46,5% to 46,9%. For many in this House it might only be percentages, but the fact is that 30 million South Africans live in poverty and every day becomes a struggle. Thirteen million people are currently unemployed, desperate and are hoping that the leaders of today, this is us, will come up with profound innovative solutions to change their circumstances for the better.

Therefore, government cannot act as usual and in this way, we cannot operate in a space where our departments are either oblivious to the economic situation unwilling to hold officials accountable and allow dysfunctional parastatals to operate at a loss due to their inability to function. Programme 1: Economic Planning and Research is one of the most crucial programmes. Therefore, it is not acceptable that we do not see more innovative research documents with a clear focus on sustainable, viable SMMEs and job creation. Our biggest concern must be around leaders' involvement to oversee the entrepreneurial skills of the youth, women and disabled persons that may be the beneficiaries of the SEZ. I say may, because there are no longer clear commitments of the exact funding for the various applications as well as memorandums of understanding between the stakeholders and the Musina-Makhado SEZ that will speak to local beneficiation. I want to put it on record that the Democratic Alliance supports the MMSEZ. We support private investment, but what we will not support is a clear attempt to circumvent the support of local businesses at the benefit of receiving some brown envelopes in the dark corners of despair.

The core of Limpopo tourism industry is based on wildlife tourism. Private game reserves and game farms which form part of wildlife tourism constitute most of the wildlife products. On these private reserves and game farms, hunting is one of the major income generators for product owners. We need to take note that not one international hunt took place this year in our province. An application to shoot an elephant in your own farm by yourself takes up to four months to be approved. It takes four days for an official to attend to this application at the permit holder's expense can take up to four days. Similarly, a permit to dehorn a rhino can take up to four months as there are only two officials who deal with this. If they are on leave, no permits are issued, and no dehorning can occur. Officials who are responsible for the dehorning process also do not have proper equipment to conduct the process and farmers ~~have~~ must provide the equipment.

Research indicates that in 2015, the hunting industry in Limpopo contributed R1,2 billion in income ~~with regard to~~ regarding employment. Research estimated that some 8 382 jobs in addition to those of the employee's direct involvement may be dependent upon hunting in this province, which supports the notion that this a viable and important sector of the tourism industry. Such unacceptable delays in obtaining permits and inefficient and unprofessional handling of dehorning rhinos will harm the industry. [INTERJECTION]

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You have one minute left.

#### **MR SMALLE**

I beg your pardon?

#### **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You have one minute left.

#### **MR SMALLE**

Introducing the new entity named LIBRA will only require more funds at the expense of service delivery and investments and must be questioned. The department is capable of managing such a section with the department saving tens of thousands of rands. The role of government is to create an environment for business to flourish and not to employ more people and CEOs. I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can I then call upon the Hon Donald Selamolela.

## MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. Since you waived us an opportunity to once again pass greetings and taking advantage of the debates that ensued before I can take a platform, I must take myself down memory lane to one of the poems by William Blake, a scholar of the Georgian era who wrote in the poem "The Tyger" and in the last line of stanza 5, he asks a rhetorical question: "Did he who made the Lamb make thee? We are reminded of this poem, Hon Speaker, of the utterances earlier alluded by our fellow colleague in the portfolio committee and we want to ask a question indeed that: Did he who made Hon Raphela, the one who made Hon Simon Mathe? Are the meetings that we attend and the portfolio committees that we attend, the very same meetings that Hon Raphela attends? Did he who indeed made thee the one who made Raphela?

We are asking this, Hon Deputy Speaker, precisely, because for Hon Raphela there was no COVID-19. For Hon Raphela, the economy is stuck because the ruling party is not willing to move forward. That is not the case, Hon Deputy Speaker, and honourable Members will agree that the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year coincided with the time when the COVID-19-induced lockdown had just begun. Consequently, there were minimal activities taking place in government and its entities. In our interaction with the department to which Hon Raphela was part of, it was clear that the focus of the department was mainly on ensuring that the businesses ~~are able to~~can survive the impact of COVID-19.

Therefore, in terms of the planned activities and targets very little was achieved as the economy was effectively on shutdown and Hon Smalle will attest to that. Hence, we continue to ask, did the very creator who created Raphela, the one who created Smalle.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it has been realised that various planned activities will not be realised or achieved as planned due to COVID-19 lockdown and associated budget cuts. We are aware that the department had to cut, and government had to reprioritise the budgets towards COVID-19 Relief Fund. This effect had trickled down to the budget of the department and its entities. It is not surprising that the department, like all other government entities, focused on the review of annual performance plans taking into consideration the time and financial resources available as well as the need to comply with COVID-19 regulations. But to this Hon Raphela was not there.

However, the committee has recommended that the department and its entities must retain some of the critical activities such as the adjudication of disciplinary cases as well as conducting of campaigns and capacity-building programmes on crime awareness and illegal gambling. In the same vein, Hon Speaker, we implore the

department to work hard to ensure that on those accumulative targets much work should be done for catch up purposes where possible. Hon Mokone is fully aware of this ~~particular imploration~~ imploration that we have made on the department.

While the lockdown has had a negative impact on the economy of the province and the country, it presented an opportunity for the provincial economy in terms of business regulation. This is because several businesses have applied for the COVID-19 Relief Fund thus effectively providing and creating the necessary required database of the businesses that exist within the terrain and frontiers of our province. This critical information about the small businesses will also be useful for capacity-building ~~in-order~~ to realise transformation and job creation which Hon Raphela is crying about. We urge the department and its entities to analyse the presented information and utilise it for the benefit of these businesses and the provincial economy.

The department should continue to work with municipalities to ensure compliance and root out illegal businesses that are mushrooming in our townships and rural areas. We remain alert to the fact that the COVID-19 virus has not disappeared, and the economy is recovering from the effects of the pandemic. The portfolio committee has emphasised the need to ensure compliance of COVID-19 regulations by businesses and all stakeholders in the industries that are critical for the economy of the province.

The impact on the mining industry was also a concern as the sector plays and continues to play an important role in the lives of the people of the province.

The department through its environmental unit seeks to ensure development, ~~promotion~~ promotion, and management of environmental activities in the province as well as the protection and sustainability of natural resource management and utilisation. We commend the department in continuing to process the environmental impact assessment and this could result in some projects that will be critical in the recovery of the economy. We also urge the department to ensure that the completed infrastructure projects are graded and commercialised according to the industry standards so that they can attract tourists and contribute to the generation of the much-needed revenue for the province.

As we conclude, we wish to reiterate: Did the one who created Raphela, the one who created Smalle, Makhurupetje, Phala, Mathe and many others.

Having considered and scrutinised the 2020/21 first quarter report of the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, I move that the report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for that. We will continue to encourage Members to call each other honourable Members and not by their first names.

- 9.6. Consideration and adoption of the 2020/21 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

Committee chairperson, you may take the floor. These are the agencies: Limpopo Gambling Board, Limpopo Tourism Agency, and Limpopo Economic Development Agency.

**MR SELAMOLELA**

Mosepikara wa letšatši, nna, Selaelo Donald Selamolela, modulasetulo wa Komiti ya Tlhabollo ya Ekonomi, Tikologo le Boeti ke ema mo go bea pego ya kotara ya mathomo ya ngwaga wa ditšhelete wa 2020/21 ya Boto ya Meralokopeeletšo ya Limpopo, ya Lekalatirelo la tša Boeti la Limpopo, le ya Lekalatirelo la Tlhabollo ya Ekonomi la Limpopo gore e ahlaahlwe e be e amogelwe bjalo ka pego ya Ntlo ye e hlomphegalo. Ke ema ke realo.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

We will adopt them one by one. We will start with the first quarter report of the Limpopo Gambling Board and ask for a seconder. Hon Monama, you may take the floor.

**MR MONAMA**

Somlomo, ke a leboga. Ke ema mo go tlatša Tatana Selamolela gore pego ye ya kua mataeseng e amogelwe bjalo ka pego ye e hlwekilego le yeo e hlapilego mahlo. Ke a leboga.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Committee chairperson, you may take the floor.

**MR SELAMOLELA**

Ke bea gape pego ya Lekalatirelo la tša Boeti.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Is there a seconder? Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

**MR SMALLE**

Let me try and speak in your home language. Hon Deputy Speaker, nne, Jacques Smalle, murašo wa heyi komiti ya potofolio ndi khou ima na hoyo muvhigo nga mudzulatshidulo wa komiti. Ndi khou livhuwa. Tshivenda 3:41:30 [APPLAUSE]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Committee chairperson, you may take the floor.

**MR SELAMOLELA**

Baie dankie. Ke bea gape pego ya Lekalatirelo la Tlhabollo ya Ekonomi la Limpopo.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Is there a seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you may take the floor. O se ke wa bolela ka Khelobedu mo.

**MS MAKHURUPETJE**

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, rise to second the report by the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon the one who is standing in for Hon Jetrick Seshoka.

**MR RAPHELA**

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Anyway, we will correct these things when we go forward. [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Hon Raphela, your time is moving as you are doing that. Ke tla re ge ke re 'one minute left' wa makala. It is moving.

**MR RAPHELA**

We are not surprised when the DA says it supports the programmes. It is expected because they share the same economic developmental strategy. We expect the ANC to be supported by the DA, because there is no fundamental difference between the two on the economic strategic development plan. By the way, Hon Smalle, it was a decision of the education system in Europe to ensure that Africa is poor. That is why we are not surprised when you support such tendencies, because that is a decision from Europe to ensure that African people are poor. And this is embedded in the education system ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Hon Raphela, can I request you to come and speak from here. They can't hear you from that mic.

**MR RAPHELA**

We will give you the history of how other people came here and somehow landed here. We will remind you about how they landed here and give you a proper history. The point that we are making here is that it is expected because it's a decision by the European imperialists to ensure that African people are poor. That is why we are not surprised when Hon Smalle stands up and supports whatever is happening within the system, especially with the programme of weakening the state. We do not know why you are supporting this, because you hate the state. That is how I debate, and you are not going to determine what I must say. You will only determine in your own forum and not here.

Hon Speaker, gambling cannot be separated from tourism as the two complements each other. Therefore, any efforts to promote responsible gambling should be accompanied by the tourism aspect of the province. It is gambling that must bring a sizeable contribution in terms of economic input in our province. What are the quotas on demographic participation in the industry as per the quota under review? Was there any programme to deliberately open doors for the disadvantaged in the industry? Has the department developed an intervention plan to ensure that the industry survives beyond lockdown and what are such interventions? Beyond lockdown, Hon Selamolela. Beyond lockdown and not permanently. The issues of economic development and poverty did not only come with the lockdown, but they have also been there all long. I am not sure whether you did understand the quotes and the poet you were quoting. Did you understand what the poet was saying? We are saying permanently but are speaking about a specific period.

A detailed report on corporate social responsibility by the industry is needed in this House. Are women and people living with disability empowered in terms of your procurement plan, honourable MEC? What are the equity targets in the entity regarding women, youth and people living with disability? What caused the overexpenditure during the period under review? If this trend will be allowed to continue by the end of the financial year, there will be more problems. Amid this high unemployment, when is the agency going to fill posts as the vacancy rate is over 20%? I am not sure if I am not making a point, Hon Simon Mathe, by saying that there is high unemployment.

Are there any repeats transgressions on illegal gambling and which steps have been taken to resolve them? Maybe it is the glasses that we use; we may not be using the same glasses. Perhaps some of you do not see the crisis of unemployment that we are faced with, that is why you are saying these things. What kind of support did LTA (Limpopo Tourism Agency) provide to the tourism industry during the period under review and what are the revival strategies of the industry post lockdown?

The House must be updated on the CCMA cases, progress and their impact on planned activities. The filling of posts must be prioritised at LTA. This will enable the entity to focus on its core mandate so that we do not come next time and say the entity is failing, let us privatise it. Fill the posts so that it becomes a reliable institution before the DA comes and says that this entity is not operating and then suggests that it be privatised. Before it gets there, let us assist these comrades.

What indicators were used to determine the potential input value of [inaudible] billion in the economy? Clarity is being sought as ... [INTERJECTION]

## **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

You have 30 seconds left.

## **MR RAPHELA**

... both mining and agro-processing by LEDET. How many mineral beneficiation projects are in Limpopo and what is their input? There are several jobs created in various parts of the value chain and not during the period of COVID-19 generally.



The EFF government will nationalise the mines and minerals wealth in Limpopo so that we create more permanent jobs, and we do like what Bolivia did and that is why they are suffering now ... [INTERJECTION]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Your time has expired, honourable Member.

**MR RAPHELA**

But I am still moving towards my last point.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Hon Raphela, your time has expired. Your time has expired. Honourable Member, your time has expired.

**MR RAPHELA**

Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. Hon Smalle, you may take the floor.

**MR SMALLE**

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Revenue collection of the Limpopo Gambling Board has dropped from R38,5 million to R9,3 million during the period under review. This is 24% of the set target. The entity's target is to collect R122 million from its operators during the financial year. From the onset it must be anticipated that many of these operators have been negatively affected by COVID-19 and will not generate their normal income stream. It is therefore advisable that the entity adjust its operational budget downwards anticipating that a 50% drop in revenue must be foreseen and any responsible board will effect the necessary changes well in advance. The DA therefore recommends that the adjustment budget reflects and mitigates against the risk of not achieving the generating incomes.

It is still unacceptable that the entity could only meet five out of its 16 targets during this period. This indicates a 31% performance satisfaction rate. The biggest contributors to the non-compliance was the inability to do any law enforcement and compliance checks. Due to the Disaster Management Act being proclaimed, the entity could only deal with 39% of their disciplinary cases. We call on the entity to expedite the cases in the best interest of all parties involved.

With hardly any visits except one to the operators during the period under review, the entity demonstrated that they did not understand the Disaster Management Act and its regulations or it was a clear attempt by them to revolt against a critical KPI that should have been met to oversee the gambling industry. An investigation report is

required in this case and the DA expects the department to lead in holding responsible officials accountable for not implementing and adhering to such critical regulations.

The entity should further provide a progress report on the formation of the provincial task team in combating illegal gambling. Similarly, LEDET's inability to finalise disciplinary cases indicates the unwillingness to hold people accountable. We can no longer allow a deliberate contempt of a process that secures good governance as a key principle. COVID-19 still has a negative impact on the department's ability to achieve its integrated economic development services target. There it was unable to substantiate the actions and viability of the Walala Wasala Youth Development programme as well as the Informal Traders Support programme.

It is of concern that no liquor licences applications were dealt with and **only 524 of the 2 110 liquor businesses could have been inspected in accordance** with the restrictions that the regulations posed by the Disaster Management Act. This low inspection rate must be worrisome.

Nature reserves infrastructure projects should have been completed in some cases and others need to be prioritised as to improve their revenue income stream of the entity.

It is critical that this department redefines the entity's KPIs to take the lead in rebuilding our province's economy post-COVID-19 by creating an inclusive and sustainable environment for business to thrive with a sustainable development goals in mind.

I would also ask that if Members have not prepared their speeches, that they would rather abstain from participating in the debates. [APPLAUSE] I think that's a good recommendation. Thank you very much.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

## MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, once again taking advantage on the waiver on the greetings, perhaps I should refer to my friend, Hon George Raphela, to draw closer to him in terms of the revolutionary writers and borrow from Rosa Luxemburg, one of the women I know Hon Raphela cherishes very much. I must borrow from her a quote as my opening to my closing address and the quote goes as follows: "... the homemade wisdom of the parliamentary nursery: ~~in-order-to~~ carry anything, you must first have a majority. The same, they say, applies to revolution: first let's become a "majority." The true dialectic of revolutions, ..."

Now, Hon Raphela, you will first have to have the majority ~~in-order-to~~ implement any other policy that in your imaginary world can make a better life for our people. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the role that the public sector, including state-owned entities, needs to play in saving lives and livelihoods. However, the challenge is that some of the entities are also struggling and adding to the burden of government finances. The effect of the pandemic has meant that the budget cuts on the department will further affect these entities. It is for this reason that the entities need to improve

efficiency and effectiveness while offering value for money when executing their duties. Sound institutional corporate governance is critical for the performance of state-owned enterprises. These entities therefore have an important role in the implementation of the economic recovery plan to restore normality in the economy of our province and the country.

The gambling industry in the province and in the country has been hard hit by COVID-19. The impact not only affected the industry, but also affected the companies that provide the gambling facilities, and the revenue of the provincial government. This is because the Gambling Board is key in revenue generation for the province through the collection of levies and taxes for gambling.

At the end of the first quarter the revenue collected was at R38,5 million or 7,7% of the projected R122 million, Hon Raphela. We are aware that the target might not be realised despite the recent easing of conditions which allows establishments to operate fully. This is because the community members who gamble have also been hard hit by the pandemic and would therefore not be able to visit the facilities like before. Although the collection of revenue is a priority, it is also our responsibility to ensure responsible gambling.

For our economy to recover fully from the impact of the pandemic, we need to have institutions that are capable and resourced. It is common knowledge that the budget cuts will affect the hiring of employees and the committee has noted that. However, for the conditions improve, there should be efforts to fill key vacancies especially in the supply chain management in the tourism agency, which in the past affected the performance. The entity should ensure that the process of restructuring and placement of staff is fully completed.

The tourism industry was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic owing to the need to protect those citizens and tourists from the spread of the virus. During the first quarter the borders were closed while the accommodation and entertainment facilities were also shut down thereby affecting business. Since there is a gradual recovery, it would be important to have innovative ways of attracting tourists to the province and the committee implored this to the team led by Hon Mokone.

Hon Deputy Speaker, economic transformation and participation of the previously disadvantaged individuals remain our priority and the priority of the ANC-led government, Hon Raphela.

We urge the Limpopo Tourism Agency and the department to continue to utilise the COVID-19 relief application to assist the applicants, but also to bring them into the mainstream economy. Priority should be given to businesses that are owned by women, people with disability and military veterans. These small businesses should be assisted to access relief funds and capacity-building from other provincial and national institutions, and we have implored on the department to spearhead this particular-processprocess.

The Limpopo Economic Development Agency is considered a vehicle through which our provincial economy can grow and flourish. It is therefore important to ensure that there is a proper governance structure to deliver on the mandate. We remain resolute that the entity should ensure that it complies with the transformation and employment

equity targets by ensuring fair representation of women in executive positions as well as the board.

While we are mindful of the development role that LEDA plays, it is expected that the entity, with all its subsidiaries and the joint ventures, should be self-sustainable and profitable to ensure that they operate without the need for government's financial support. The subsidiaries such as Great North Transport, Corridor Mining should address their challenges to aggressively contribute to the economy. The implementation of various mega-catalyst projects could benefit immensely from an efficiently and effectively run LEDA. We commend LEDA for supporting small businesses during COVID-19 pandemic. We have noted that LEDA has established a provincial call centre which assisted local businesspeople to support the enterprise to take advantage of the financial relief schemes for both the private and public sector. The entity provided the necessary advisory service, a total of 13 059 SMMEs were supported. In addition, 125 local cooperatives were supported by LEDA branch network to respond to the COVID-19 challenges.

Having quoted various writers, Hon Speaker, perhaps the greatest wisdom is close by borrowing from the Holy Book and dedicate the scripture in 1 Timothy 4:1-2 and it reads: "Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead."

The committee having considered and scrutinised the first quarter reports of 2020/21 Limpopo Gambling Board, Limpopo Tourism AgencyAgency, and LEDA, I, therefore, move that the reports be adopted as the reports of this august House. I so move, Hon Speaker.

## THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you so much, chairperson of the committee. We shall now call upon the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to respond.

## BACKGROUND

Malibongwe!

## THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

**4:02:44-4:04:18 Xitsonga** George Washington Carver: "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world." You will remember the President when he spoke, he indicated that the United Nations chief called him to thank him, because South Africa's approach to the COVID-19 was a different way and has attracted the attention of the world. That is why we, as South Africans, have done well and other people of the world have seen that. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Deputy Speaker, what I want to indicate is that what the chairperson and members of the committee said is true. Indeed COVID-19 has wrecked our lives. A lot of people were sick, and businesses were shut down. Thus far 236 people have lost their jobs in this province. If you read the statistics, in the last quarter of this year almost two million people lost their jobs. About eleven million people in South Africa

are unemployed; therefore, it is not something that you can come and play marble with. It is something that we must deal with. Hence, you see Hon Smalle saying he supports our process and criticises us where it is necessary.

We know that in South Africa we have characterised our struggle and we have agreed that we have a colonisation of a special type where the coloniser and the colonised are sharing the borders and we have taken a decision that ours is about a non-racial struggle and we will build a country where all of us will benefit. There is no need to say people are from Europe or somewhere else. Our Constitution says, we as South Africans, the one who has fought in the struggle and the one who has helped to build this country, must work together to build this country. That is why when you came with the socioeconomic recovery plan as a department, we consulted everybody. We have a short-term recovery programme to deal with the problems of COVID-19.

We have allocated R400 million to deal with short-term interventions. We have been able to assist businesses in our province, hence Hon Selamolela spoke about the money that has been disbursed. We had a call centre which the whole of South Africa was utilising, because there were no other call centres that they could utilise.

We continue dealing with the issue of industrialisation. The issue of EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) is not like we do not understand. We know what we are doing; it is just that it is a laborious process. We want to make sure that we do not pollute our environment or lead our province into a dire state. We must implement our programmes in a thorough manner and because of COVID-19 we missed the submission of the EIA report in January. Together with the private sector, we are going to start with the implementation of the Musina-Makhado SEZ with De Beers which is going underground next year. We are committed to those undertakings that we have made. We have noted everything that Hon Raphela has indicated. Some of the questions that you want us to answer require empirical evidence. You have asked for statistics; we will be able to give you such information when it is ready so that you can go through it at your leisure time. Hon Selamolela was asking you if you were part of the committee. I overheard one Member saying, you were not there, hence you wouldn't be able to understand where we are going. No wonder other Members from the opposition are supporting this committee. It is not because we are handsome, it is because we are doing our work. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Deputy Speaker, without much ado, I want to quote one of the African writers Xitsonga 4:09:50.

## **THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Thank you very much. We had hoped that the interpreting service was on because it seems as if Hon Maharaj is having a difficult time. We will try and make sure that you get what the MEC has said.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Are there any announcements? I am told that there is lunch outside.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

| This House will adjourn to 26 November 2020 ~~in order to~~to afford the Provincial Treasury to table the Adjustment Budget and we will finalise it on 3 December 2020. Thank you very much.

**[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]**