



**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, 26 NOVEMBER 2020

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL [CABINET]

Office of the Premier	Mr C S Mathabatha [Premier]
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Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Mr T A Mokone
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Agriculture and Rural Development	Ms N A Ndalane
CoGHSTA	Mr B R Makamu
Sport, Arts and Culture	Ms T A Moraka
Provincial Treasury	Mr S C Sekoati

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The Deputy Speaker	Mr A J D Ndou
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The Deputy Chief Whip	Dr S M Mochadi
The Chairperson of Committees	Mr N V Mashamaite
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The Leader of Government Business	Mr S C Sekoati
The Leader of the Opposition	Mr M J Buthane
The Secretary of Limpopo Legislature	Mr S Mothoa

MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE (in alphabetical order)

PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE HOUSE:

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

1. Aphiri, Mokgadi Johanna	ANC
2. Boshielo, Shela Polly	ANC
3. Buthane, Modikane Joseph	EFF
4. Kekana, Nakedi Grace	ANC
5. Lebea, Kedibone Margaret	ANC
6. Lekganyane, Nakedi Maria	ANC
7. Lerule-Ramakhanya, Mavhungu Maureen	ANC
8. Maharaj, Risham	DA
9. Mahasela, Mahlodi Caroline	ANC
10. Makamu, Basikopo Rodgers	ANC
11. Makhurupetje, Makoma Grace	ANC
12. Managa, Lilian	EFF
13. Manganye, Tinyiko Florence	EFF
14. Maritz, Marcelle Frieda	FF+
15. Marule, Jacob Boy Otto	ANC
16. Maseko, Funani Jerry	ANC
17. Masekoameng, Mmabogahla Isaiah	ANC
18. Masemola, Namane Dickson	ANC
19. Mashamaite, Nkholo Victor	ANC
20. Mathabatha, Chupu Stanley	ANC
21. Mathe, Simon Matsobane	ANC
22. Mathye, Susani Violet	ANC
23. Matlou, Leswafo Joshua	ANC
24. Mdaka, Falaza Philemon	ANC
25. Mitileni, 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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1. Mamaregane, Mmamora Lilliet	ANC
2. Mathevula, Brenda Tirhani	EFF
3. Matibe, Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
4. Nchabeleng, Mamagase Aleck	ANC
5. Shaikh, Shahidabibi	ANC
6. Smit, Christiaan Frederik Beyers	DA

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- a) Rules Committee
- b) Internal Arrangements Committee
- c) Programming Committee
- d) Whippery
- e) Disciplinary Committee
- f) Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests
- g) Committee of Presiding Officers
- h) Public Accounts Committee
- i) Public Participation and Petitions
- j) Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and Disability

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- c) Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure
- d) Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
- e) Agriculture and Rural Development
- f) Transport and Community Safety
- g) Sport, Arts and Culture
- h) Education
- i) Health
- j) Social Development
- k) Public Administration
- l) Oversight Review Mechanism

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Mukundamago, N T (Ms)
Ndala, N T (Ms)
Netshamulivho, A J (Mr)

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2020
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated. Let me take this opportunity to welcome Members and our guests in the gallery to this session today.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

MS LEBEA

THE HAILSTORM THAT DAMAGED HOUSES IN SESHEGO
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, I rise on a motion without notice on behalf of the African National Congress that the House notes the hailstorm that damaged houses in Seshego, yesterday on Wednesday, 25 November 2020. As we are sitting here, honourable Members, the Department of CoGHSTA, the Capricorn District Municipality and the Polokwane Municipality have dispatched teams of disaster management officials to Seshego, to take stock of the extent of the damage, and make necessary interventions where required.

We must applaud these stakeholders for a prudent intergovernmental effort and for being able to make an instant intervention to assist our people who were in distress because of this disaster. Just to give the august House the picture of the damage, all houses with asbestos roofs had their roofs damaged by the hail. This means that their households are now wet as we speak. The hail was so strong and has left many households with broken windows. Car windshields have also not been spared the rod in the hailstorm.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the rapid response by all levels of government and making the necessary arrangements for our people to get makeshift accommodation, by making the Ngoako Ramatlhodi Sport Complex available. We hope that they will continue to assist our people beyond all political lines as they rebuild their lives.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Let me recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Deputy Speaker, I, Simon Mathe, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Lebea.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, honourable chairperson.

**THE HARD WORK DONE BY SISTER MAKOMA SELOPYANE AT TSHILIDZINI
SPECIAL SCHOOL**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes the hard work done by Makoma Meriam Selopyane, a professional nurse at the Tshilidzini Special School, who joined the school's clinic in 2018 and improved the clinic's condition. Positive improvements were made despite the clinic at the school not meeting proper standards, such as having a ventilator. and further underresourced, with no emergency rooms, sluice room and isolation room for any infection. It is a clinic which received its BP (blood pressure) machine six months ago.

This House should further note that despite all the challenges mounted at the health professionals led by Sister Makoma Selopyane, the clinic is offering learners with special needs the best service under unfortunate avoidable circumstances. This House should applaud Sister Makoma Selopyane for the great job she and her team are doing.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion by Hon Phala.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise on a motion without notice that seeks to celebrate the anniversary of the release of Harry Gwala and Zephania Mothopeng.

**CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF HARRY GWALA AND
ZEPHANIA MOTHOPENG FROM ROBBER ISLAND**

(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, 26 November marks 34 years since the release of Harry Gwala and Zephania Mothopeng from Robben Island, who were imprisoned by the desperate apartheid regime that was trying everything it could to suppress black people. Little did they know that they were up against ideologies that were engraved and had mushroomed in the black and progressive communities of this country.

Harry Gwala and Zeph Mothopeng were both members of the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress respectively, and they knew very well what the consequences of their actions could be. Nevertheless, they chose to pursue a revolutionary path.

Hon Speaker, we must use days like today to remind South Africans of the great sacrifices made by our forebears for us to find ourselves in this democracy, which we are enjoying and some of us are messing up. Cdes Harry Gwala and Zephania Mothopeng count amongst a long list of comrades who were jailed for challenging the apartheid regime. There are hundreds and thousands who paid the ultimate price for us to attain this democracy.

We must also use occasions like these to school and to teach our children and our political foes that the freedom they are basking in, enjoying, is a result of blood and sweat of like-minded individuals who understood that we can't be differentiated on the basis of our skin colour.

I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Do we have any seconder? You are recognised, Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the motion as presented by Hon Mochadi. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions? Hon Kekana, you may take the floor.

MS KEKANA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to present the motion without notice in the House today.

THE PASSING AWAY OF ANELE NGCONGCA
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, we have learnt with shock of the passing of the former Bafana Bafana, Mamelodi Sundowns FC and AmaZulu FC player, Anele Ngcongca. Ngcongca died in a car accident on Monday morning in KwaZulu-Natal. He had just joined AmaZulu FC in Durban.

On behalf of the people of Limpopo, we would like to send messages of condolences to his family and the footballing fraternity for the loss of yet another role model, and a dedicated servant to the sport.

We would also like to take this opportunity to send messages of condolences to the families of the five people who died in a car accident on the N1 stretch, between Modimolle and Mookgophong on Sunday afternoon.

We are now heading to the festive season, and there is a likelihood that traffic volumes will reach peak levels. We want to make a call to motorists to drive with caution as they undertake their trips.

May the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace!

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Radzilani, yes, I'm right. I can't see, it's too dark, I think.

MS RADZILANI

Ndi nne, Hon Speaker. Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Kekana.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

May we rise for a moment of silence?

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Ndaa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Managa Lilian, rise from the Economic Freedom Fighters on a motion without notice.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO VELLY MALATJI FOR PUBLISHING HIS FIRST BOOK

(Motion without Notice)

The EFF congratulates Mr Velly Malatji in Mopani for publishing his first book. His debut book is a 58-page Sepedi teen drama titled Mantlapolele (Nuisance) which targets youngsters from the age of twelve up to seventeen years. It is based on common mistakes made by the youth, political challenges as well as life challenges. Malatji is from Makgagapatse in the Bolobedu area. He has been writing from a young age.

It is clear from what Malatji has achieved that if you set your mind on something, nothing can stop you from achieving it. It is not about your standing in society, but it is more about one's dreams and how they plan to achieve them.

The EFF calls upon all our people in rural communities not to look down upon themselves, but they must make sure that they use all opportunities that come their way. Their dreams about life can change the lives of many in different communities.

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Do I have any seconder? Hon Manganye, you may take the floor.

MS MANGANYE

Mina, Tinyiko Manganye, ndzi seketela mbulavulo lowu a wu andlariwa hi Muchaviseki Managa. Inkomu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further motions without notice? There is none.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE'S OVERSIGHT VISIT TO TSHILWAVHUSIKU
POLICE STATION**
(Members' Statement)

This House should note the DA's oversight visit on 11 November 2020 to the Tshilwavhusiku Police Station, outside Makhado following a virtual meeting between the Portfolio Committee on Community Safety and SAPS during the lockdown, where the DA raised an issue during a virtual committee meeting with the department months ago. Sadly, our concern fell on deaf ears. This august House should be concerned about the persistent lack of water at the Tshilwavhusiku Police Station which serves 19 villages. It is now a direct impediment to SAPS mandate to ensure the safety of the community.

The Tshilwavhusiku Police Station currently receives 20 000 litres per month from the nearby air force, but this water does not run through the pipeline. The lack of water prompted the SAPS station to surrender their housing quarters back to the Department of Public Works as they are inhabitable without functional ablution facilities.

Due to the lack of water, awaiting-trial prisoners are incarcerated at the SAPS station in Makhado, 50 km away, and are transported daily to stand trial at the magistrates' court which is right next to the Tshilwavhusiku Police Station. SAPS members from the Tshilwavhusiku Police Station spend their time transporting prisoners in vehicles that could have been utilised for crime prevention, which has now led to a high increase in house breakings during the day.

Victims are also affected by the lack of water. The women and children who seek safety at the victim empowerment centre are unable to bath or clean themselves. With the COVID-19 outbreak, police vehicles must be regularly washed and disinfected, which is challenging without water. This duty is currently being outsourced at R50 per wash from personal pockets of the SAPS members. This House is quick to congratulate our men and women in blue.

We, therefore, call upon the SAPS Provincial Secretariat and the Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Nneke Ledwaba and the MEC for Community Safety to ensure that the water issue at the Tshilwavhusiku Police Station is resolved without delay to ensure that our SAPS members can execute their mandate effectively.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further Members' Statements? Hon Managa, you may take the floor.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

ESCALATING FARM EVICTION INCIDENTS IN LIMPOPO
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the EFF is concerned about the ongoing evictions of people living on farms without court orders in some parts of Limpopo. Many cases were raised before in this House on farm evictions, but nothing has been done to date. In the latest case, a farm owner in Musina is allegedly threatening to evict a 61-year-old Skokian Nkuna and his family without a court order. Nkuna has lived on the farm in Musina for more than 40 years and worked as a labourer for 31 years.

Nkuna and his wife raised their children and grandchildren there. Problems surfaced in 2016 when the new owner Dilmias Bertis allegedly dismissed Nkuna and some of his children from work. There are so many threats by the farm owner: to cut their water and to cut their line. The owner gave them a verbal seven-day notice to vacate the farm.

The government has the responsibility of protecting our people from racist white farmers who evict people as and when they want.

We call upon the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in Limpopo to investigate this matter and provide lasting solutions to our people.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further Members' Statements? Can we remind ourselves and members in the gallery about these COVID-19 protocols: social distances and wearing masks always. Let us just abide by these protocols. Are there any further Members' Statements? There is none. Is there any response from the Executive? Honourable MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip in absentia, Leader of the Opposition in absentia, honourable Members and everybody in the gallery. Let me thank you, Speaker, for offering me the opportunity to respond to the Members' Statement.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is the custodian of food security. My role as the MEC is to make necessary follow-ups and then give an update to the Members of the House, as we continue to fight against gender-based violence.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any other Member of the Executive who wishes to respond? Hon Moraka, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of my colleague, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety in the Limpopo provincial government, Hon Mavhungu, in trying to respond to the Members' Statement regarding the Tshilwavhusiku Police Station and the challenges of lack of water in that facility.

We note the concern as raised by Hon Phala, and we want to assure the House and the entire community of Limpopo that the issues are going to be followed up. We will come back to this august House with a detailed report with regard to the plans that are in place to mitigate against the challenges as raised by the honourable Member.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? Hon Moraka, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Speaker.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE NEWLY-CROWNED MISS SOUTH
AFRICA AND MASTER KG**
(Executive Statement)

I rise on behalf of the ANC-led government in this House to congratulate the newly-crowned Miss SA 2020, Shudufhadzo Musida, and Kgaogelo Moagi, who is popularly known as Master KG, for winning six international awards in the month of October 2020.

Hon Speaker, Shudufhadzo who was born and bred at Ha-Vhangani, Sinthumule village in the Collins Chabane Municipality, Vhembe District was the only contestant from Limpopo province to make it to the finals of the pageant. She is also the first Limpoplian to be crowned Miss SA in the last ten years. The last time the crown was in the province of Limpopo was in the year 2010 when our own Bokang Montjane from Seshego took the crown.

To celebrate her achievement and as a way of bringing her to the people of Limpopo, the ANC-led government hosted a series of homecoming activities at the beginning of this month. Shudufhadzo was received by the Premier of this province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha and his Executive Council. She went on to the streets of Polokwane to parade the crown and also to Thohoyandou and Malamulele, respectively.

She also donated sport equipment, books and food parcels to the following centres: Takalani Children's Home, Nsovo Special School and Fhulufhelo Special School as part of the festivities. She concluded her homecoming activities by celebrating with her family, relatives and friends at her home village of Ha-Vhangani.

Hon Speaker, let me also take this opportunity and congratulate Kgaogelo Moagi, popularly known as Master KG, for winning six international awards in the month of October 2020. Master KG won the Best African Act at the 2020 MTV European Music Awards. He also won the Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Male Southern African Artist and Best Collaboration with the Nigerian singer, Burna Boy and Nomcebo Zikode on the "Jerusalema" remix at the Afrimma Awards. He has just recently won the Best African Song at the Muzikol Music Awards and the Most Stylish SA Icon at the SA Style Awards.

The Tzaneen-born artist has cemented himself in the music industry space after his song "Jerusalema" reached more than 200 million views on the YouTube channel. The song has also been making waves internationally as the people from countries such as Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, France, Nepal and many other countries can be seen all over social media dancing to the song.

Indeed, Hon Speaker, we are a province that is on the rise and we should never in any way underestimate the talent that we have in this province.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any comments from the DA?

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me start with the last words of the honourable MEC, the appreciation and acknowledgements of the various artists that are born and bred in the Limpopo province. For far too long, I believe, we have been silenced by our critics that we cannot produce the goods from Limpopo.

We have produced the goods from Limpopo, and we produced a lovely, beautiful, talented, skilful Miss South Africa. Shudufhadzo is going to make us all proud. There are other artists that are also making a name on behalf of Limpopo. They do that in the international space: Sho Madjozi, Candy Tsa Mandebele and others.

I would also like to give appreciation to the MEC here today. Hon Speaker, sometimes we must understand and give recognition where it should be given. It was under the MEC's department, long before these events took place, that there was a marketing team that drove the brand of Limpopo.

From the Democratic Alliance, I would like to appreciate the efforts that the MEC has given to this portfolio. I want to give my thanks on behalf of the people of Limpopo and also the artists of Limpopo.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, EFF, it's your turn.

MS MANAGA

Thank you honourable MEC. We are also feeling proud of what Shudufhadzo has achieved on behalf of all South Africans. Believe you me, we still have a lot of Shudufhadzo Musidas who will be coming from South Africa. We wish her well, hoping that she will come back with the crown of Miss Universe.

We thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. It's over to the ANC.

MR MASEKO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and Members. On behalf of the ANC, we want to welcome the Executive Statement as presented by the MEC for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hon Tandi Moraka. We are grateful that government is at the centre of development, and it continues to play a critical role in enhancing social cohesion and fostering unity.

Of course, we all took pride in how Master KG's "Jerusalema" song took the world by storm. We were all directed by the President to dance to that song, and it was something that was much good for the whole world. The new international award goes to affirm our longstanding view that Limpopo gem, Master KG, is here to stay and we would like to congratulate him.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we all exploded with pride and jubilation when Shudufhadzo Musida was crowned as the winner of the prestigious Miss South Africa beauty pageant. A victory we hope will go a long way in inspiring multitudes of children in the far-flung rural areas across the province.

We know that this ANC-led government has somehow contributed to the road she traversed towards achieving her crown. We want to wish her well with the other competition that will be happening internationally. Let's continue to develop and nurture the youth talent of the province, and give them the necessary support they deserve. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? It's over to you, Leader of Government Business.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

TABLING OF THE LIMPOPO ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION BILL

(Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers)

On 21 July 2020, we introduced the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2020, which subsequently became an Act after going through all the necessary steps. The purpose of the Bill was to appropriate the adjustment amounts of money from the provincial revenue fund in respect of the COVID-19-related requirements.

One of the House resolutions before the Bill was passed into an Act of the Legislature was that the adjustment made for COVID-19 response necessitates the review of Annual Performance Plans of departments and entities. These reviewed APPs should therefore be retabled in this House.

Hon Speaker, in compliance with the House resolution, I hereby table the revised APPs for all votes as follows:

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

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The revised Annual Performance Plans targets for the 2020/21 financial year are therefore referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and report back to the House. We are now on item 6.2: Tabling of Reports. Chairperson of Committees, the floor is yours.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Che Bonnie David Selane, rise to table the revised Limpopo Legislature Annual Performance Plan's targets for the 2020/21 financial year. Honourable Members will note and consider that during the appropriation of funds in response to COVID-19, the House resolved that the 2020/21 Annual Performance Plans targets need to be revised and be tabled.

In compliance with the House resolution, I hereby table the revised Limpopo Legislature Annual Performance Plan's targets for the 2020/21 financial year for consideration by this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The APP targets for the 2020/21 financial year will be referred to the Oversight Mechanism for consideration and report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

7.1 MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE AND AN ALTERNATE TRUSTEE TO THE POLITICAL OFFICE-BEARERS PENSION FUND

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, rise for the motion of appointment of a trustee and an alternate trustee.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE AND AN ALTERNATE TRUSTEE TO THE POLITICAL OFFICE-BEARERS PENSION FUND

(Motion without Notice)

The Political Office-Bearers Pension Fund provides retirement benefits and associated insurance benefits to all Members of Parliament and the provincial legislatures. Rule 12.3.1 of the fund requires the provincial legislature to pass a motion for the appointment of a trustee and an alternate trustee.

I, therefore, move that the Speaker, Hon Molapo R R, be appointed as a trustee and the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana M E, as an alternate trustee.

I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? The motion must be seconded. Hon Phala, you are recognised. [LAUGHTER]

MR PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the motion as tabled by the Hon Deputy Chief Whip. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much.

7.2. FIRST READING OF THE LIMPOPO ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION BILL, 2020 [B04-2020]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

TABLING OF THE 2020/21 PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENTS BUDGET

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

Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Hon Ndou; Premier of our province, Hon Mathabatha in absentia, honourable Members of the Executive Council; Members of this august House; HOD for Provincial Treasury, Mr Gavin Pratt and all HODs from various departments; comrades and friends; ladies and gentlemen. I table to this august House for consideration and approval of the 2019/20 Adjustment Appropriation Bill, the provincial Mid-Term Budget Policy Statement and the Second Adjustment Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure.

The 2020/21 financial year has ensued in ways unprecedented to the people of South Africa and the world in general. Livelihoods, business operations and parts of government had to be put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent stages of lockdown as announced by the Hon President. The impact of the lockdown and the implementation of plans to fight the spread of the virus, caused serious disruptions to our nation and its people.

Our country faced mammoth socioeconomic challenges before COVID-19, the disruptive interceptions of the pandemic have simply compounded our economic situation, especially the unemployment rates and poverty levels. It has further deepened inequality and poverty, threatening increased hunger and breeding sudden loss of income to many people in our province. Our provincial economy, like those of other provinces, has contracted sharply, businesses have closed, and jobs have undeniably been lost. And for many, these signal the bells of gloom.

It is an agreed fact, that it will take the province a couple of years to recover from the impact of the pandemic, despite the various support packages made available by both national and provincial governments. As a province, we have thus far performed fairly well in containing the spread of the virus, and we applaud all our frontline workers in all departments for their unwavering commitment in the battle against this pandemic.

In the aftermath of the Great Depression, faced with such dispirited nation, higher levels of futility, doom and despondency, President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 on the occasion of his inaugural address, emphasised that economic recovery was dependent upon new policies and a new national attitude. Roosevelt's address struck a chord when he said: "This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyses needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigour has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory."

Ladies and gentlemen, on 21 July this year, we tabled before the Legislature a special adjustment budget, modifying the 2020/21 budget allocations to provide for and enable spending in order to contain and prevent the spread the COVID-19 virus. As at 30 September 2020, our overall expenditure was R32,5 billion, which is 45,3% of the total adjusted budget of R71,6 billion. The provincial equitable share expenditure was R29,4 billion or 47,3% of the budget while the expenditure on conditional grants amounted to R3 billion or 32,3% of the adjusted conditional grant budget of R9,4 billion.

At the same time, the province spent R24 billion or 47,4% on the compensation of employees and R4,6 billion or 40,8% on the goods and services budget. The spending on provincial transfers was at R3,3 billion or 43,6% of the allocated budget of R7,5 billion. Lastly, the spending on capital assets was extremely low at R584,2 million or 26,4% of the capital payments budget.

A major contributing factor to the slow spending by various departments was the implementation of the lockdown stages; however, we are currently seeing improved spending trends now that infrastructure projects are once again being activated and the announcement of level 1 lockdown regulations has been made.

As at 30 September 2020, provincial own revenue collections were at R482,4 million or 34,8% of the own revenue collection budget, which is R212,2 million less than the projected collections for the year under review. The under-collection is mainly on motor vehicle licence; casino and horse racing taxes; and patient fees. The under-collection was again mainly influenced by the decline or lack of economic activities due to the enforced lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objective of mid-term reviews is to examine the departmental priorities within the context of applicable baseline allocations, hence in our context, all set targets on the Limpopo Development Plan are assessed and resources made available on the basis of each departmental mandate and the existing capacity to deliver services in the year under review.

Based on these reviews, the province has decided to reduce the provincial own revenue budget by R119,6 million or 8,6% from R1,3 billion to R1,2 billion. The decrease is mainly influenced by slow performance on interest, casino taxes as well as patient fees from the Departments of Health; Provincial Treasury; and Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. These reductions are mainly as a result of the reduced economic activities during the enforced lockdown and the reduction of interest rates as announced by the South African Reserve Bank.

The 2020/21 provincial equitable share allocation is revised downwards by R3 billion due to implementation of the national salary freeze as pronounced by the Minister for Finance. The Department of Education is, however, allocated an additional equitable share amount of R987,8 million to implement the presidential employment initiative and a further R57,8 million is allocated to the Department of Social Development for the food relief programme. The net effect of these adjustments is that the provincial equitable share is reduced by an amount of R2,029 billion in this adjusted budget. Conditional grants are also adjusted by R396,7 million which is comprised of conditional grant rollovers of R220,5 million, additional conditional grant allocations of R201,2 million and conditional grant reductions of R24,9 million.

The additional R201,2 million allocations are made up as follows:

- R18,6 million earmarked for provincial drought relief in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; and
- Presidential employment initiative allocations of R53,7 million for Health; R70,5 million for provincial roads maintenance grant in Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; and R58,2 million for the Early Childhood Development grant in Social Development.

The reduction of R24,9 million is within the following grants:

- R3 million in agricultural grants;
- R19,8 million comprehensive HIV/Aids grant in the Department of Health; and
- R2 million in mass sport and library grants in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

The effect of all these adjustments are that the 2020/21 provincial available funding sources are adjusted downwards by R1,7 billion, from R73,1 billion to R71,3 billion.

The following, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, will constitute our adjustment to the 2020/21 budget allocations per department:

Vote 1: The Office of the Premier's allocation is reduced by R5,4 million due to a surrender of R14,3 million from compensation of employees to contribute to a provincial surrender of R3,075 billion. The office receives an additional allocation of R7,5 million for the implementation of the provincial digital signature and for the reconfiguration of public

entities project. Therefore, the department is allocated R1,3 million for costs associated with early retirement penalties.

Vote 2: The Provincial Legislature's budget is reduced by R9,4 million due to a surrender of R26,2 million from compensation of employees to contribute towards a provincial surrender of R3 billion and R16,7 million is retained for the 2019/20 unspent funds as per section 22 of the PFMA.

Vote 3: The Department of Education receives an additional budget of R201,9 million for conditional grant rollovers, R987,8 million for the presidential employment initiatives and R5 million for funding of costs associated with early retirement penalties. The department will also surrender R620 million from compensation of employees to contribute towards the provincial compensation of employees surrender of R3,075 billion and R397 million from COVID-19 unspent funds, and thank you for the savings.

Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development will surrender R52,1 million from compensation of employees and R3 million from conditional grants (made from CASP, Letsema and Land Care). The department is, therefore, allocated R18,6 million for provincial disaster drought relief grant and R22 million to fund costs associated with early retirement penalties.

Vote 5: Provincial Treasury's allocation is reduced by R2,1 million due the surrender of R16,6 million from compensation of employees and an additional allocation of R14,5 million to fund early retirement penalties.

Vote 6: LEDET's allocation is adjusted upwards by R63,1 million. The department is allocated R5 million to fund early retirement penalties and R90,6 million to fund the broadband project in Limpopo Connexion. The department will also surrender R33,4 million from compensation of employees to fund the provincial COE surrender of R3,075 billion.

Vote 7: The Department of Health will surrender R706,6 million from COVID-19 unspent funds and R19,8 million from the HIV, TB, malaria and community outreach grant. They will receive a further allocation of R35,4 million to fund early retirement penalties.

The department is also approved to receive the conditional grant rollover amount of R7,8 million: for comprehensive HIV/Aids – R2,5 million, and for health revitalisation grant – R5,253 million. In addition, they will also receive an additional allocation of R53,7 million for the presidential employment initiatives in the following conditional grants:

- R31,2 million in the community services outreach component under the HIV, TB, malaria and outreach grant; and
- R22,5 million for the statutory human resource, training and development grant.

Vote 8: The Department of Transport will surrender R21,4 million from compensation of employees and R80 million from unspent funds for bus subsidies. The department is

allocated R7,475 million to fund early retirement penalties and R12 000 to fund 2017/18 unauthorised expenditure as per SCOPA resolution 4 of the 2017/18 financial year.

Vote 9: Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is allocated R100 million to settle outstanding municipal rates and taxes, R15,1 million for funding of early retirement penalties and R70,5 million for the presidential employment initiatives under the provincial roads maintenance grant. The department will surrender R36,5 million allocated for COVID-19 quarantine sites and R69,4 million from compensation of employees to fund provincial COE surrender of R3,075 billion.

Vote 10: Sport, Arts and Culture's allocation is increased by R19,2 million. The department is allocated R11,8 million on compensation of employees, R836 000 for funding of early retirement penalties and R8,6 million for rollovers in the community library services grant. Conditional grants for the department have been reduced by R2 million (collated from R514 000 for mass participation and sport development grant and R1,5 million for Community Library Services).

Vote 11: CoGHSTA receives R20,6 million additional allocations for compensation of employees, R6,3 million for funding of early retirement penalties and R1,2 million for EPWP incentive grant rollover.

Vote 12: The Department of Social Development is allocated R57,8 million for the food relief programme, R4,1 million for early retirement penalties, R848 thousand for rollover in respect of Early Childhood Development grant and R58,2 million for presidential employment initiatives under the Early Childhood Development grant. The department will surrender R10,8 million from compensation of employees to fund provincial COE surrender of R3,075 billion.

Madam Speaker, it is prudent for me to indicate that the province has indefensibly experienced severe budget cuts during this adjustment budget due to compensation of employee budget reductions emanating from the salary freeze through which the province had to surrender R3,075 billion. As a result of these COE budget cuts, the province could not provide any additional funding to provincial institutions to augment their pressures. This will mean accounting officers should focus on budget management controls to avoid unauthorised expenditure at the end of the year. I think it will be important to reemphasise this, the accounting officers should focus on budget management controls to avoid unauthorised expenditure at the year end. It is very much important, facts are looking at us, and we need to look back with open eyes.

In relation to the 2021/22 MTEF budget, the provincial equitable share is reduced nationally to curb spending levels over the MTEF period to account for compensation of employee's reductions and additional reductions to support other fiscal consolidations. As a result, the national provincial equitable share is reduced by an amount of R60 billion in the 2021/22 financial year, R85,6 billion in 2022/23 and R64,1 billion in the 2023/24 financial years respectively. Furthermore, due to continuous data updates, the Limpopo allocation as the proportion of national equitable share is reducing from 11,6% in 2020/21 to 11,3% in 2023/24 financial year.

The provincial equitable share baseline allocation has thus been adjusted downwards due to equitable share data updates by R465 million in 2021/22, R824,8 million in 2022/23 and by R1,3 billion in 2023/24 financial years. Our equitable share is further reduced by R6,875 billion in 2021/22, R9,728 billion in 2022/23 and R7,2 billion in 2023/24 as our contribution towards national fiscal consolidations and the wage freeze. The total provincial equitable share allocation for Limpopo in the 2021/22 financial year amounts to R58,9 billion. In 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years, equitable share allocations amount to R59,3 billion and R59 billion respectively.

The effects of these reductions on Limpopo's equitable share, are as a decrease by 5,5% in 2021/22, an increase by 0,8% in 2022/23 and a decrease of 0,5% in 2023/24 financial years. Provincial own revenue increases from R1,2 billion budgeted for 2020/21 financial year to R1,4 billion in 2021/22, to R1,5 billion in 2022/23 and R1,6 billion in 2023/24 financial years. The conditional grants funding will be finalised by the sectors in December 2020, and the total provincial sources of funding will be reduced by 4,5% in 2021/22, 1,4% in 2022/23 and 1,1% in 2023/24 financial years.

The total provincial allocation for the 2021/22 financial year amounts to R68,4 billion, which reflects negative growth of 5,9% when compared to R72,7 billion main appropriation of the 2020/21 financial year. All votes show negative growths with Provincial Treasury; Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; and Transport and Community reflecting 14,6%; 21,0%; and 18,5% respectively. In 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years, allocations amount to R69,2 billion or growth of 4,8% and R71,7 billion or 1,2% growth year-on-year respectively.

This situation is untenable and as Roosevelt said, it requires a leadership of frankness and vigour, and the understanding and support of the people themselves. Having had to deal with these difficulties, Hon Speaker, we are reminded by President Cyril Ramaphosa when he said: "In the wake of this pandemic, our foremost task now is to rebuild our economy. This must be akin to how the protea germinates after the fire. Our strategic approach must not be to restore it to what it was before, but to make it even more vibrant, more resilient and more inclusive. While this time of rebuilding our economy from fraught with risk, danger, hardship and difficulty, it is also a time of great opportunity."

We are very conscious that the world is not going to solve our challenges for us; nor is the government going to do it for us alone. Our optimism, resources, power, ability and capacity will carry us forward to victory together, but it is going to require new thinking and courage. Hon Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I so table. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

We shall have a Snap Debate on the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children and the National Week of Mourning for COVID-19 Casualties. We shall then refer to the Speakers' List. Over to you, Hon Katlego Phala. Your time starts now.

**THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND
CHILDREN AND NATIONAL WEEK OF MOURNING FOR COVID-19 CASUALTIES**
(Snap Debate)

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This year the world is marking 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children under the global theme, "Orange the world: Fund, Respond, Prevent and Collect!" This year is like no other. Even before COVID-19 hit, violence against women and girls had reached pandemic proportions. Globally, 243 million women and girls were abused by an intimate partner in the past year. Meanwhile, less than 40% of women who experience violence do not report it or seek help. Limpopo is currently losing the battle on violence against women, with the 2019/20 financial year crime statistics for Limpopo showing that 8 519 cases of crime against women were reported. From July to September this year, there were 934 reported sexual offences in the province. Sadly, those who are meant to protect our women and children such as ward councillors and police officers also form part of the problem in the increase of gender-based violence cases at various police stations in the province. We have seen gender-based violence cases opened against them.

Those stations include Makhado Cluster, Mara Police Station, Mphephu Police Station, Polokwane Police Station, Rooiberg Police Station, Bolobedu Police Station, Modjadiskloof Police Station and Hlogotlou Police Station. As we are busy debating here, it is still unclear if these officers are still in active duty in spite of these serious charges.

The DA has submitted supplementary questions to SAPS through the Department of Community Safety to seek clarity on whether these officers are still at work. It is concerning that the very people who have been given authority and entrusted to protect members of society, including women become perpetrators of gender-based violence. This problem is further compounded by the recent spate of gender-based violence cases in the province. On 09 December 2019, the Legislature's Committee on the Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth, Children and People Living with Disability had a 16 days of activism summit on no violence against women and children at Bolivia Lodge, Polokwane.

We invited those who work at the victim empowerment centres (VECs). Most of their frustration was the lack of funding that allows them to do their duty in assisting victims. Sadly, both MECs who attended the summit delivered their speeches and left. They were heard, but unfortunately, most of the people who work within the victim empowerment centres were not heard. As a result of their voices having not been heard, there is a huge budget cut for VECs in the province. It was the DA in this House which was deeply concerned by the huge cuts in the financial support for the victim empowerment centres by the Limpopo Department of Social Development during their 2020 Budget Speech.

Over 70% of Victim Empowerment Centres were allocated R10,9 million for this financial year, which presented an almost 50% cut from the R20,4 million budgeted in the previous year. These VECs experienced a great pinch during the past few months. At the time the department decided to reduce funding for the VECs despite the SAPS 2018/19 crime

stats showing that Limpopo had already three police stations, namely, Thohoyandou Police Station, Mankweng Police Station and Seshego Police Station ranked in the top 30 for sexual offences and rape cases, with Thohoyandou Police Station being ranked third.

The VECs play a vital role in the prevention of domestic violence, provision of victim empowerment programmes, counselling services and provision of shelter for victims of abuse. The centres need more support to fulfil their functions and in order for the department to achieve one of its apex priorities of social cohesion and community safety. As a House, we have debated this issue, and today we are even dressed in black.

However, violence continues to take the lives of women and children. We need to do more. Fund our VECs efficiently and equip SAPS in dealing with these cases. Harshly punish the perpetrators, including those in law enforcement. Work intensively with communities to eradicate problems in our society. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I call Hon Mphahlele Regina? She is not here. It's over to you, Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I shall debate on behalf of Hon Mphahlele. The EFF joins the international community in marking the 16 days of activism against the abuse of women and the girl child. As South Africa, more than any other country in the world, we need to focus on the phenomena of femicide, rape, sexual harassment, misogyny and patriarchy in general. This country is fundamentally dehumanising society with a long, cold, heartless and permanent war against women. Their bodies and their souls have been defiled.

It is noteworthy that gender-based violence has also found a permanent place in Limpopo. Our province has become one of the most dangerous places for women and girl child to live in. In a recent incident, a 14-year-old girl was raped in the presence of her friends on their way from school between GaMolele and Rammutla villages in the Senwabarwana area outside Polokwane. The suspect allegedly constrained the friends who had to witness the heinous act.

The second incident happened at Shawela village in Bolobedu outside Tzaneen where a 13-year-old girl was raped by her 15-year-old brother on two occasions at their home. In a separate incident, the body of a 31-year-old woman who was reported missing on 23 June 2020 was discovered in the bushes on Friday at Impala Park Stadium in Phalaborwa. Her body was already in a state of decomposition. In yet another incident, a police officer attending to a gender-based violence case in which a woman was repeatedly assaulted by her partner was stabbed and seriously injured by the alleged perpetrator. The attack happened at Mbuzini village near Elandskraal while the officer was investigating the case and trying to assist the victim to leave the house. The officer was attacked.

All of these incidents happened this year 2020. We continue to bow our heads in shame for the actions of barbaric men who continue to misrepresent men in our society. To be a woman in our society is to be in a permanent stage of abuse, sexual humiliation, danger of being raped, abducted and killed by both those close to you and strangers. Our workplaces remain working places where men earn more than women for doing the same job. In business, women are asked to exchange sex for deals and opportunities. The sex for jobs for some ANC-led government officials and their public representatives, especially ward councillors is rampant.

In religious formations, they are treated as inferior beings subject to traditions and cultures that mark them out for servitude. False prophets and pastors deliberately twist the word of God to satisfy their own flesh desires by raping our women and children while churches should serve as a place of love, peace, protection for women and children. They are now used by those who are supposed to protect them to sexually violate them.

The so-called prophets in the occultic arrangements take advantage of our women and children by raping them and stripping them of their dignity. The evil spirit they worship demands that they rape women and subject them to all sorts of sexual abuse and violation. Many woman victims in churches are afraid to come forward because they are being threatened with death and all sorts of bad things. We call upon government to regulate churches because they have become a safe haven for rapists who are so-called prophets and pastors.

In rural areas, women are not allowed to own land or inherit property simply because they are women. Our criminal justice system is a gigantic bureaucratic nightmare that adds to the limited access to justice for victims of gender-based violence. Many reported cases of rape and other sexual crimes are not attended to by the police, and this accounts for the despondency in many more others not being reported.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You have one minute left.

MS MANGANYE

As I conclude, sadly, Limpopo has already recorded more than 490 death cases so far. The EFF takes this moment to pass its condolences to our beloved ones who lost their lives through COVID-19. These casualties should have been prevented had government listened to our warning about opening the economy too early. There was just too much pressure from the Ruperts. There shall be no freedom in South Africa until our women are free. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can I call on Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale?

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Members of the Executive Council present, honourable Members of the august House, good morning. Former President Nelson Mandela used to say, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." What then does the rape of a six-year-old girl say about our society? We need to ask ourselves in this modern day and age, do we still have to tolerate the most horrific acts of violence and abuse against the most vulnerable members of our society? How long must we allow our sisters to be raped and abused, and our children to be killed? Let us also not forget the heinous crimes committed against our elderly citizens – the mothers of our nations. We are angry that against our better efforts of creating awareness, condemning the acts of violence and assisting victims of crime and violence, the situation has not improved. We are angry that people continue with hate-mongering and spreading messages of violence against citizens of this country instead of praying and pleading for peace and stability.

The only light in the dark tunnel is the fact that President Cyril Ramaphosa himself has taken a lead in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide. Just last night, the President had a gender-based violence dialogue aimed at further creating awareness on this thorny issue. During the dialogue, one of the survivors of gender-based violence, a 34-year-old, Melissa Grootboom, shared the ordeal she suffered at the hands of her ex-partner, and she continued to forgive him as he repeatedly abused her.

She eventually decided to get out of her abusive relationship, and she broke the silence to social workers and an NGO operating in her home village in the Eastern Cape province. She was fortunate as she managed to walk away from that abusive relationship while she was still alive. The reason I'm sharing Grootboom's ordeal is because I believe that her story must be used to encourage all women and men who are still in abusive relationships to walk away while they are still alive.

Speaking during the same GBV dialogue last night, President Cyril Ramaphosa said, "As we launch this year's campaign, we ask: for how long must this go on? For how much longer must we say, "enough is enough", only for it to continue? It simply cannot go on like this." The President's message urges all of us to respect and uphold the rights of women and children. We must all agree that the drivers of gender-based violence are diverse and they need a multifaceted response from all sectors of our society.

It is common knowledge that violence against women and children is not confined to a specific culture, origin, country or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women, however, seems to lie in the persistent discrimination against women and girls. The theme for this year's observance of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children is "Women's Economic Justice for a Non-violent and Non-sexist South Africa".

This year's theme made all of us to share a view that the economic inclusion of women is so critical for their independence and self-reliance as well as necessary to decrease their vulnerability to violence.

The advent of COVID-19 in South Africa and the subsequent lockdown has made it more difficult than ever before for those women who have to care for families and children. Over and above that, statistics tells us that domestic abuse increased during the hard lockdown, which meant that women were stuck with their abusers during this time with nowhere to run to. Social workers at the Department of Social Development have attended to 1 001 cases of gender-based violence since the start of the lockdown period. This is an indication that we must as leaders in the Legislature, NGOs, the civil society and our community join hands and confront this scourge head on.

The 16 days campaign is, therefore, a time for us to pause, reflect and ask ourselves, how free, especially economically free, are the women of South Africa when we can't walk around in the streets without looking over our shoulders? When we come home behind closed doors, the abuse continues. When we take a stand against abuse, we need to engage our boy children and make them understand that their role in society as responsible men include treating all women around them with the respect and dignity they deserve.

It is a culture and practice that needs to be inculcated in our homes and community. For many young men, this is all they know in terms of the family unity. The abuse they see and even experience is something that might make them feel switched off when they too have families of their own. We are also starting to witness a trend that there are women who have recently assaulted and killed their partners – incidents that are related to gender-based violence.

Our plea to the justice system and law enforcement agencies is that they must come down stronger on those who abuse women and children, especially those who murder women. It is my conviction or belief that harsher sentences will serve as a deterrent to would-be abusers. Yesterday when the Hon Premier was leading the virtual launch of the province's 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, he said, "The abuse of women and children in this country has indeed reached pandemic levels. To defuse this pandemic, we will require the same energy, awareness campaign, solidarity and investment of resources as we did with the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. We need everyone on board."

Indeed, this demands of us to be on the ground and tactically fight the scourge. Furthermore, we need to acknowledge that violence against women and children is not only a government issue, but a societal problem. In order for us to move forward in the eradication of this scourge, we need to join hands. In this regard, we applaud the selfless work already done by civil society structures to create awareness, to protect victims of crime and violence and to assist victims through difficult times. In his latest weekly letter to the nation, President Cyril Ramaphosa commended various members of the public for their part in the fight against gender-based violence ahead of the launch of 16 days of activism global campaign.

The President highlighted that GBV remains an issue for millions of women and girls around the world. The President said, "The reality is that legislative and policy measures instituted by government cannot alone rid us of this problem. The 16 days of activism campaign affirms the need for all sectors of society to play their part in the fight against

gender-based violence.” Honourable Members, you have previously seen the success, the successes of government and civil society working together to curb crime and violence, and more of this type cooperation is needed.

I know that there might be one or two Members in this House who might want to blame the ANC-led government on the escalation of incidents of gender-based violence. Such a notion should be exposed and dispelled as it steers away from reality. Hon Premier directed the Departments of Social Development, and Transport and Community Safety to establish the gender-based violence technical committee which we intend to launch during these 16 days period. It is one indication that government is determined to end these incidents that mainly happen behind closed doors.

It remains imperative for government and society as a whole to give these victims the voice and empower them to break the silence. It is important for the society to admit the negative impact of this scourge and not to turn a blind eye to abuse, which is a crime in itself. GBV is tearing families apart, and more worrying, it violates the dignity and human rights of the victims. There is much talk about what we are doing beyond the 16 days of activism. Yesterday, the Hon Premier launched the campaign, and from hereon, we will be observing the 16 days of Activism – keeping a close eye on an activity and the impact thereof.

However, there is no need to wait for specific 16 days. We will be rooting out the scourge 365 days a year. Our programmes on educating our community and protecting our women and children will continue unabated. We must, therefore, continue beyond these 16 days to protect our sisters, our mother and our children. Let us give them a voice and let us create a caring society and nonviolent South Africa.

I’m leaving you with the words of Miss South Africa, Shudufhadzo Musida, who also participated during the GBV dialogue yesterday. She said, “It is not for women not to be raped and killed, but it is up to the perpetrators to change their attitude and behaviour.” Violence is a choice; let us all say, enough is enough. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

That concludes the Snap Debate on 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. Thank you very much.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? There is none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 03 December 2020 at 10:00.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]