

FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2009

***PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE
EASTERN CAPE***

The House met at 10:00.

The Speaker took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to greet you good morning.

Without further ado, I will call on the hon Premier to deliver his Address. Hon Premier, hon Sogoni. [Applause.]

Performance by Praise Singer.

PREMIER'S STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker; members of the Provincial Legislature and delegates of the National Council of Provinces; Mr Stone Sizani, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the ANC in the province; Executive Mayors and Mayors; traditional leaders, religious leaders and representatives of civil society; members of the Judiciary, Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service, and heads of the Security Services in the province; ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps; vice-chancellors of institutions of higher learning; heads of department and other members of the Public Service; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This State of the Province Address is being broadcast live on Tru FM, community radio stations, the DSTV parliamentary channel, and is being simultaneously beamed on screens in Matatiele, Komga, Kouga, Ntsika Yethu, Elundini, Mhlontlo and KwaZakhele.

I humbly take this moment to greet all the listeners and viewers in those areas.

Madam Speaker, before we begin with the substance of this address, it is appropriate to acknowledge and pay respect to some of our compatriots, distinguished leaders and heroes and heroines of the soil who passed on in the period between the previous State of the Province Address and this day. These include, but are not limited to the following: Ncumisa Kondlo - MPL, MEC, MP, member of the NEC of the ANC and of the Politburo of the South African Communist Party; Nontuthuzelo Mabhala - a veteran of the ANC Women's League and one of the brave women

who marched in 1956 against the pass laws; Tata Toto Alfred Metele - who served both as a senator in the first democratic Senate, as well as a Member of the Provincial Legislature; Nobantu Buka - member of our Provincial Legislature; and Ludumo Galada - world featherweight boxing champion, who died tragically in a recent car accident. There are many others, including the three health professionals who died in a road accident and the two football players who were struck and killed by lightning in Mhlontlo recently.

We all know that the Eastern Cape is poorer without them, and we continue to feel indebted for their contribution to building the new South African nation.

In contrast, Madam Speaker, I take great pleasure in extending congratulations and warm wishes to those in our extended provincial family who have achieved great heights in their respective fields. They include the following: the province's four cricketers: Makhaya Ntini, Mark Boucher, Wayne Parnell and Lonwabo Tsotsobe, all of whom were part of the Proteas cricket team's historic test and one-day international victories over the mighty Aussies on their own soil; Zanele Mdodana and Nontle Gwavu, for their selection in the Netball Proteas team; Bay United on playing in the Premier League of the Premier Soccer League this season; Kevin Paul, who won gold at the Paralympics in Beijing and his colleague David Ross, who won silver at the same tournament; the Eastern Province Women's Rugby team on becoming national champions for the second year running; the National Female Farmer of the Year, Bongiwe Kali, who is only 27 years of age, from Ngcetshe Village in Mnquma; and the National Emerging Farmer of the Year, Merlon de Jager from Aberdeen in Camdeboo. [Applause.]

Madam Speaker, on behalf the Provincial Government and people of the Eastern Cape, I wish Ali Funeka well as he goes toe-to-toe in his International Boxing Federation title fight in the United States tomorrow. [Applause.]

These, and many others, are just a sprinkling of the abundant talent we have in the Eastern Cape, much of which we do little to appreciate.

It is my honour now, Madam Speaker, as Premier of the Eastern Cape, to present to you and the people of our province this State of the Province Address, the last in this third term of Government.

Whilst this occasion is dictated to by tradition, I would want to underscore the significance we attach to it as both the Provincial Government and the ANC, as the ruling party. This occasion draws interest and participation across all sectors of society, and thereby cements the broad partnership that has become the cornerstone of our inclusive policy approach. Further representing our commitment to transparency and public accountability, this occasion presents yet another opportunity to publicly articulate our own perspective of where

we are as a province, whilst detailing the progress we have made and where we are heading. In this regard, I will attempt, in some level of detail, to review the work of Government during this term, and in preparing to pass the baton to the new administration after the forthcoming elections, I will reflect not only on the achievements in the Government's relentless efforts to create a better life for all our people but also on the challenges that remain. Later, I will refer to some of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Madam Speaker, it is important to give a broad paint-brush picture of the development context in which we operate. It is far too easy in the current political and socio-economic climate to forget exactly where we come from. Only 15 years ago South Africa was not only a divided and conflict-ridden society, but also one with an economy that was stagnant after more than 10 years of negative growth. The social effects of economic mismanagement and institutionalised racial discrimination were glaring. More than 12 million people lacked access to water; more than 23 million of our people had no electricity; and more than two million children never had the opportunity to attend school. More than 25% of the population lived on less than half of the poverty line income. It goes without saying that the Eastern Cape, with its bigger share of the marginalized Bantustan component, had a disproportionately high share of these negative socio-economic indicators.

The Government's 15-year review report outlines in detail the progress made in the efforts to restore dignity, human and socio-economic rights to millions of South Africans who were disenfranchised under apartheid colonialism. This report informs us that over the past 15 years hundreds of thousands of the poorest households have been provided with a range of social services, including social grants, housing, electrification, safety, water, sanitation, health and education services.

It also acknowledges reduction in the levels of poverty and unemployment, and that much has been achieved with respect to efforts to stabilize the macro-economic environment, partly as a response to globalisation but also to ensure a sustained economic growth rate higher than 4%.

Informed by this report, we are concerned that levels of inequality have increased and about the fact that access to quality social services still correlates too strongly with race, class, gender and spatial factors. It is also evident from the report that, despite the significant gains of the past 15 years, as Government we have not yet achieved an acceptable pace and quality of service delivery.

At the provincial level, many of the structural features of the apartheid economy are still evident, including the monopolistic structure of capital, a vulnerable industrial economy dominated by the automotive sector, massive service and infrastructure backlogs in the former Bantustans, and an underdeveloped agricultural sector.

Having outlined all of these challenges, we need to be mindful that we have not only built a sustainable and resilient political and economic system of governance, but also ensured that South Africa and the Eastern Cape remains a stable society where all citizens can realise their potential. We have built and continue to consolidate a society founded on solid social partnerships between Government, business, labour, civil society, churches and academic institutions, among others. This is based on an understanding that our success, moving forward, depends on us all working together.

Madam Speaker, I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the interest shown by the people of the Eastern Cape in the build-up to the fourth General Elections to be held on 22 April 2009, as evident in the level of voter registration. A total of 2,9 million of the province's population has registered as voters, and this accounts for close to half of the total provincial population. [Applause.] This interest shown by the voting population in our province and the expected high voter turn-out will contribute to the deepening of democracy, and ensure legitimacy of a government based on the will of the people.

However, we must remain vigilant and never allow this interest and desire for political fortunes to lead to violent incidents in the run-up to the elections. In this regard, I call upon members and supporters of all political parties in the province to exercise political tolerance, and that leaders should effectively use the party liaison structures of the Independent Electoral Commission to resolve conflict, thus making sure that these elections are free of incidents of violence and intimidation. I take this opportunity to wish the IEC in our province well in the mammoth task of managing the forthcoming elections.

Madam Speaker, let me preface my analysis and presentation of our achievements with a summary of the mandate we carry as Government. At the beginning of this third term of Government in 2004, our shared destiny was set out in the manifesto of the ruling party, and this formed the basis for the mandate given to Government to achieve the objectives of reducing unemployment, poverty and crime; providing the skills required by our economy; ensuring that all South Africans enjoy the full dignity of freedom including compassionate government service and a better national health profile.

These objectives were carried through in very specific targets in the Provincial Growth and Development Plan, the PGDP, the Government's over-arching blueprint providing a 10-year vision for growth and development. It is against this programme that I today present to the House and the people of our province the performance of Provincial Government during this term.

Madam Speaker, looking at our economic interventions, the Government's efforts over the past five years to grow the economy and

create sustainable work opportunities for our people, were based on the six-fold strategy. Firstly, the building of world-class logistics and transport infrastructure such as the Coega and East London Industrial Development Zones; secondly, the consolidation of our manufacturing strengths around the automotive sector, while at the same time actively diversifying into new niche sectors; thirdly, the deepening and sharing of the impact of economic growth through Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and, where possible, leveraging off State procurement; fourthly, addressing our skills deficit through a targeted skills plan, and the establishment of a provincial council for the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition, JIPSA, to prioritise and co-ordinate skills development interventions in the province; fifthly, the establishment and beneficiation of the Mzimvubu Development Zone in the Eastern part of the Province, including the Ugie-Maclear forestry cluster, with a particular focus on the former Transkei; and sixthly, addressing red-tape bottlenecks that constrain investment.

The trends in the Gross Domestic Product by Region (GDP-R) figures over the past five years suggest that the province has experienced growth in line with the national average of above 4% per annum. The automotive sector, in particular, performed very well, supported by the Government's Motor Industry Development Programme. During this term of Government, the automotive sector in the province attracted investment in excess of R3 billion.

The current global financial crisis has triggered a sustained and negative impact on the buoyant growth of the real economy. The automotive sector is particularly affected, and will require innovative partnerships between the original equipment manufacturers, component suppliers, Government and labour to mitigate the impacts. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Provincial Government has decided to allocate additional resources to the Coega Development Corporation for the further development of the Automotive Supplier Park.

As will further be confirmed in the budget allocations, the Government's counter-cyclical fiscal strategy will see significant public spending on infrastructure and social services over the next three years. This will shore up the economy in the face of the global economic crisis.

The Provincial Industrial Strategy identifies concrete measures to diversify out of the dependence on the automotive sector into other priority sectors that create sustainable employment opportunities, including tourism, agro-processing, and forestry and timber. The strategy promotes co-operatives and broad-based empowerment, and various efforts that affirm beneficiation.

In addition, stronger alignment with the National Industrial Policy Framework as well as the Local Economic Development plans of local government is critical to optimize the impact of our industrial strategy. Also important will be to upgrade the capacities of our economic

services departments and entities in line with the objectives of a developmental state.

At the core of Government's approach to stimulating the economy are the continued efforts to link investment in infrastructure with economic development. It is in this context that we must view Provincial Government's multi-billion-rand programme of upgrading provincial roads during this term.

Phakathi kweendlela esizenzileyo kweli phondo, yindlela edibanisa iMount Fletcher neMaclear exabise isigidi esingama-R411 [Kuqhwytywe.]; indlela edibanisa iDutywa neNgcobo exabise izigidi ezingama-R378 [Kuqhwytywe.]; Indlela edibanisa u-N2 neKei Mouth exabise izigidi ezingama-R221 [Kuqhwytywe.]; indlela ephakathi kweRhafu neJansenville exabise izigidi ezingama-R26; indlela ephakathi kweDyoki naseLangeni exabise izigidi ezingama-R500; indlela ephakathi kweQonce neDike exabise izigidi ezingama-R200; indlela edibanisa iSterkspruit neTele Bridge exabise izigidi ezili-R132; indlela ephakathi kweCala neLady Frere exabise izigidi ezingama-R381; kwakunye nendlela ephakathi koMthatha naseQokolweni edle urhulumente izigidi ezili-R138. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[Key road infrastructure programmes that have been completed in this province include the Mt Fletcher - Maclear road at a cost of R411 million [Applause.]; the Dutywa - Ngcobo road at a cost of R378 million [Applause.]; the road from the N2 to Kei Mouth at a cost of R221 million [Applause.]; the Graaff-Reinet to Jansenville road at a cost of R26 million [Applause.]; the Ugie - Maclear road costing R500 million [Applause.]; the road from King William's Town to Alice costing R200 million [Applause.]; the road from Sterkspruit to Tele Bridge at a cost of R132 million; the Cala - Lady Frere road costing R381 million, and the Mthatha to Qokolweni road costing R138 million.]

Social considerations have also informed our infrastructure programme. In this regard, roads have also been built to improve access to hospitals and clinics, such as Holy Cross and Sulenkama health facilities.

Understanding the direct link between isolation and poverty, Provincial Government is continuing to provide access to rural communities who have been hampered in their daily activities, by upgrading previously impassable roads. The Government has spent R400 million on this programme of upgrading impassable roads. However, the challenges of poor road infrastructure in our province remain vast and impact negatively on local communities as well as potential investments. Provincial Government has a 10-year plan to upgrade 80% of the provincial road network and move from gravel status to surfaced or tarred status. With additional support from the national Government, the province will be able to meet this target sooner.

Major infrastructure developments such as the Industrial Development Zones and roads have resulted in major domestic and foreign investments in the province. The two provincial Industrial Development Zones, initiated and supported by Government over the past two terms, have demonstrated their capacity to attract investment as evident in the investor commitments of tens of billions of rands.

In the north-eastern forests of the province, the Steinhoff investment in a R1,5 billion pressed wood facility was facilitated by Government's spending of R148 million over and above the R500 million spent on the construction of the Ugie-Langeni road referred to earlier. Apart from that road, we have also refurbished the Kei Rail at a cost of R93 million, resulting in increased mobility and accessibility for rural people at affordable rates. On the strength of this development, Government is looking at further possibilities of freight links for growth sectors such as timber.

Provincial Government, working with Buffalo City, business and other relevant partners will continue lobbying both national Government and the National Ports Authority to invest in the expansion of the East London port to unlock throughput bottlenecks and widen opportunities for trade

Madam Speaker, the unemployment rate in our province fell consistently during the past term: down from 27% to 23%. However, these gains are beginning to be reversed by the current global financial crisis, with unemployment rising over the past two quarters.

The Government's Expanded Public Works Programme has played a critical role in creating employment opportunities, especially for youth and women. The Eastern Cape EPWP programme has consistently ranked second in the country over the period 2004 to 2008 despite having a very small operational budget. During this period, over 212 000 employment opportunities were created by public bodies in the province, exceeding the target of 176000, and more than 50 000 people have been trained. Government is committed to replicating these successes through the Phase 2 roll-out of the EPWP, which is expected to improve on the programme through the creation of more sustainable jobs.

I shall now turn to the Small Enterprise Sector. Provincial Government, with a great degree of success, uses State procurement to build the co-operative and SMME sectors. As an example, in this financial year alone, through the ECDC, Government has so far disbursed R95 million in loans to the emerging contractor programme and another R114 million advanced as loans to SMMEs. R50 million worth of the SMME loans were in support of the Department of Education's school nutrition and scholar transport programmes. Owing to the success of this programme, a further R100 million has been set aside for loans to SMMEs supporting school nutrition in the next financial year

We are also pleased to report that Provincial Government has approved the Provincial Co-operative Strategy, which envisages the establishment of a co-operative development fund. This will be implemented in the next financial year. [Applause.]

With regard to rural development and agrarian transformation, as one of our strategic priorities, Provincial Government provided support to the commercial farming sector by providing infrastructure, and in partnership with this sector, resources were provided to enable ownership by worker groups. Living examples of this are the pineapple farming that is taking place in Peddie; chicory farming in Alexandria; the citrus on the banks of the Kat River and at Addo; the fruit farmers in Langkloof; and the paprika farmers in Keiskammahoek.

Government has also initiated an agri-park at Duff Mission in Dutywa, which will comprise a processing facility, cold storage facilities and an irrigation system. The unit is one of our outstanding efforts to ensure food security

To date, our boldest rural transformation initiative is the establishment of the Mzimvubu Development Zone, where ASGISA (Eastern Cape) has been operational since the beginning of this financial year. We have achieved the following in this programme:

- A total of 6 000 hectares, targeting mainly areas that had not been cultivated for more than 20 years. This land has been planted mainly with maize at Ongeluksnek in Matatiele, Tsilitwa, Etwa, Sulenkama, Gqwesa, all in Qumbu, and at Theko, Zingqayi, Thanga, all in Butterworth.
- In partnership with the National Development Agency, Chris Hani District Municipality and the national Department of Agriculture work is being finalised to purchase 6 000 livestock, as part of the livestock rural commercialisation programme. This is in support of the Land Redistribution for Agriculture Development (LRAD) farms co-operatives covering 74 farms, and these include Tsomo Valley, Ithemba Farmers, Umthombo and Cikirha Ntungelo Co-operatives.
- The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is currently conducting a feasibility study at a cost of R9 million on the development of the Mzimvubu water resources.

In 2008, Provincial Government convened the Provincial Land Summit in Mthatha to foster partnerships and achieve stakeholder mobilization in an attempt to resolve the complex issue of land reform. Following this summit the provincial Cabinet institutionalised the establishment of the Eastern Cape Land Working Group, ECLWG, to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Land Summit resolutions

Madam Speaker, I will now sketch a brief picture on progress made in the delivery of social services. The Provincial Government's programme to provide services to the 6,5 million people of the Eastern Cape has seen a figure of approximately R120 billion being spent during this term. Eighty percent of this budget was allocated to social services, including health, education, housing provision as well as the social safety nets. Indeed, this pattern of fiscal allocation is in line with the intentions of Government policy, to widen access to social services and migrate our population from grinding poverty. However, there is a need to continue to make efforts to strike the correct balance between expenditure on economic development and the social services budget.

The effect of our social spending programme, Madam Speaker, is that the province has eradicated 98% of the informal settlements. We are now left with only 2%. [Applause.] The 2% constitutes 1 400 buckets in Tarkastad and Indwe, in the Chris Hani District. We know this is unacceptable and in this regard we are working with DWAF and the district municipality to ensure that the remaining buckets are eradicated soon.

We have also provided households with access to piped water. The number of households with access to clean water has reached 71%. Notwithstanding this progress, we are equally concerned about the bulk water and sanitation infrastructure that is in a state of decay, particularly in the small towns of the former homelands. We have recently experienced incidences of sewage spillage and evidence of waterborne diseases in areas such as Ukhahlamba. Provincial Government is working closely with DWAF to finalise the plan and the costing of resources needed to intervene in these areas.

Madam Speaker, housing delivery remains one of the most vexing challenges in the province. However, over the past few years the province has experienced a number of limitations with respect to project management, governance, the quality of housing units, as well as underspending on the housing conditional grant. In response to these challenges, the Provincial Government has a stand-alone Department of Housing, aimed at fast-tracking the delivery of quality houses for the people of the province. This move, coupled with the accelerated housing delivery plan of Government, resulted in the delivery of 10 136 houses between March and December 2008. An additional 10 000 units are nearing completion, thus making us confident that we will surpass our target of 15 000 units by the end of March 2009.

With regard to social grants, while the number of grant beneficiaries was R1,3 million in 2004, this number had increased to 2,3 million by 2008, largely due to the increase to 14 years in the qualifying age for the Child Support Grant and the lowering of the pension age for men to 63. We are pleased to note that from 1 April 2009, men at the age of 60 and children at the age of 15 will also qualify. [Applause.]

While the social security nets have impacted positively on abject poverty, we are aware that this is not a sustainable measure. In the period ahead Government will work to intensify the implementation of the Provincial Anti-Poverty strategy and related interventions including massive food and eco-tourism, all of which are aimed at creating opportunities for active economic participation systematically to reduce overdependence on social grants.

The Provincial Government has moved to widen access to education for the young in our province. As a result, nine out of ten children in this province are in school. This is due to a range of measures put in place by Government, including providing safe and reliable scholar transport for children living more than 5km from schools and increasing the number of no-fee schools. To further create an environment conducive to effective learning and teaching, the Department of Education now feeds more than 1,3 million learners every day with cooked meals provided at more than 1 000 schools, including 82 farm schools across the province.

Government has also finally improved its performance with regard to the provision of learner and teacher support materials. This has been achieved through improved relationships with publishers, a dedicated project management office, and better management of the supplier value chain. As a result, in preparation for the 2009 school year, stationery was delivered to all schools by the end of October 2008. [Applause.] Moreover, textbooks were provided to 95% of schools by the time schools opened in January this year. [Applause.]

However, we are also aware that we have not made much progress with the programme of eradicating mud schools and replacing them with proper structures. It was only during the past four months - between October 2008 and today - that this programme delivered 28 schools to replace mud structures that have been in existence for years. This is the first time in this province that we succeeded in building 28 schools in a period of four months. [Applause.]

The provincial performance with respect to Grade 12 results in 2008 is one of the stark reminders that we need to work harder to improve the quality of education. Government recognises that our efforts should be directed at addressing the functionality of schools, including promoting the culture of teaching and learning, and improving infrastructure, as part of the learner attainment improvement strategy. In addition, Early Childhood Development programmes implemented by Government constitute a critical intervention in laying the foundation from an early age of human development. The mobilisation of all stakeholders in support of this quest also requires our immediate and focused attention.

Madam Speaker, the Government has committed itself to improving the quality of education. In September last year we approached the national Government with a view to asking them to come and assist us in turning the Department of Education around in the Eastern Cape. We now have

their in-principle approval to come and work with the provincial department on the programmes that we have started, particularly focusing on corporate services and financial management systems in the department.

Allow me now to turn to Health. As we have stated, our objective is to improve the health profile of the people of our province. We know that in this area the huge health needs of our people still require urgent attention, and the expectations of our people are not unreasonable.

Significant strides have been made in addressing the infrastructural needs of both hospitals and clinics. We built two hospitals during this term: Madzikane kaZulu Memorial Hospital in Mount Frere and Port Alfred hospital in Port Alfred. Moreover, 49 new clinics were built during this period. [Applause.] Alongside these, six new community health centres have been built at Mount Coke, Dimbaza, Dutywa, Ngcobo, Sada and Nontyatyambo. The Public/Private Partnership model applied in the building of the Port Alfred Hospital is a shining example of what Government and the private sector can do together, and it was very clear that this is a programme we may want to replicate elsewhere as well. [Applause.] A further 397 hospitals and clinics have been upgraded during the term.

The Government is concerned about the increasing prevalence of communicable diseases such as HIV/Aids and TB. For example TB incidences in the province increased by 30,4% between 2004 and 2007. While TB is curable, some of the complicating factors in the fight against this disease are its relationship with HIV/Aids and patients who do not comply with their prescribed treatment. We are, however, encouraged by the notable progress in OR Tambo district which has achieved a 73% cure rate, exceeding the 60% target that we set ourselves in the province. [Applause.]

With regard to Multi-Drug-Resistant TB, we have provided 80 additional beds at Marjorie Parish Hospital. With regard to HIV/Aids, although the rate has increased, we have improved access to antiretroviral therapy care and made dual therapy available in health care facilities as part of the Government's programme of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV. Today 66 000 have been enrolled in this programme at 74 accredited facilities throughout the province. Hon members will recall that we had set ourselves a target of 70 000 people on this programme by the end of March 2009, and we believe we are within reach of meeting that target.

We concede, however, that the fight against HIV/Aids and drug-resistant TB is yet to be won. The magnitude of the problem dictates that we need to sustain our partnership with all stakeholders, including traditional leaders and faith-based organisations. Equally, family members have a critical role to play in this regard.

Amayeza awafumaneki kakuhle kumaziko ethu ezempilo. URhulumente ngoku ugqibezela inkqubo esinokwenza ngayo indibaniselwano necandelo langasese ukuqinisekisa ukuba le nkqubo yokuhambisa amayeza iqhuba kakuhle. *[People are not getting sufficient medication from our health institutions. The Government is now concluding a process of forming partnership with the private sector to ensure that the process of transporting medication proceeds smoothly.]*

Often it is not a case of our not having drugs; in most instances the drugs are at the depots. The difficulty lies in ensuring that these drugs are at the right point at the right time. We realised that we needed to deal with those inefficiencies and we are about to finalise that plan.

Ukunqongophala koogqhira nabongikazi bokusebenza ezibhedlela naseziklinikhi ngomnye umba okrwempisa intloko. URhulumente ke wenza konke anakho ukuzama ukwandisa izakhono ngokuthi athathe inani eliphezulu labafundi kwiikholeji zabongikazi nangokuqeqesha oogqirha abaninzi. *[The shortage of doctors and nurses to serve in public hospitals and clinics is also of major concern. The Government is actively working to expand skills by increasing the intake of students at nursing colleges and by training more doctors.]*

Expenditure on health professional training at universities more than doubled in 2008, increasing from R45 million to R96 million. This is funding 600 medical doctors studying at universities across the country, with more than 300 having graduated between 2006 and 2008. The Government is also supporting more than 200 nursing students at various universities, with more than 3 400 students enrolled at Lilitha nursing college in 2008 and a further 1 600 expected for the 2009 intake. I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of the Tunisian and Cuban doctors who are working in our province as a result of South Africa's partnership with these countries.

Madam Speaker, it is a matter of concern to Government that the incidence of criminal activity has negatively affected our communities in recent times.

Sokhumbula ukuba phaya eMbizana kukhe kwehla isihelegu sokubulawa kwabantu abangoomama. Kwakhona sokhumbula ukuba eso sihelegu sokubulawa kwabantu sibuye sehla eGcuwa kwakho nento ebibizwa ngokuba yiKei Ripper. *[We will remember that there were brutal attacks on women in Mbizana. We will also remember the senseless killings that took place in Butterworth, as well as the case of the so-called Kei Ripper.]*

We are happy to say that the law enforcement agencies of our country have moved with speed to calm down those situations by arresting people in these instances.

Community mobilisation in the fight against crime remains a priority. We work with Community Policing Forums, and this programme has responded well to the issue of abuse of women and children. We have established mobile victim support centres at 25 police stations and four outreach centres throughout the province. This programme has also trained more than 1 000 community members in victim support and empowerment and close to 700 police members in handling domestic violence incidents.

Within the ambit of our Safer Schools Campaign, Provincial Government is working in partnership with the South African Police Service to ensure the safety of our learners and teachers, protection of State property and campaigns against substance abuse. However, we acknowledge the slow progress in the implementation of the school fencing programme and this programme, particularly that of fencing schools and this we know will require greater attention in the coming financial year.

Today we are left with 482 days to kick-off in the 2010 FIFA World Cup. We are excited that significant progress has been made with the development of stadia in Nelson Mandela Bay, Buffalo City and Mthatha. Provincial Government has so far invested R50 million in the refurbishment of sports facilities in Buffalo City, and R100 million for stadiums in Mthatha. The Nelson Mandela Bay stadium is set to be completed a year before the 2010 kick-off, while in the next financial year the MEC for Finance will confirm here the allocations that we are making to take the Mthatha stadium for the next phase. These facilities are not only aimed at supporting South Africa's successful hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, but they will also provide a lasting legacy for generations to come well beyond 2010.

Current estimates indicate that 29 000 beds are needed in the host region within one and a half hours travelling time from the Nelson Mandela Bay stadium. More than half of these beds are already available and we also note that there are initiatives by the private sector to build new accommodation, as well as the grading of the non-hotel establishment that is being facilitated by the Eastern Cape Tourism Board and the Metro's home-stay initiative. The Government is confident that there will be more than sufficient accommodation in 2010.

Delivery of a modern public transport system is also part of the 2010 FIFA World Cup legacy we are intending to create. When the Executive Council discussed issues relating to the incident that took place in Port Elizabeth with the Bus Rapid Transit System, we took a decision that it is not acceptable that there should be violence that affects communities and commuters in that area, including the destruction of property. We had to take the firm decision not to stand aside anymore, but to get in there and make sure that we engage with the parties in defence of the interest and the rights of commuters. We will not abdicate our responsibility to uphold the law and maintain order! We will not

compromise the rights of citizens to safe and affordable transport!
[Applause.]

As a result of this, Madam Speaker, late yesterday Provincial Government together with the Nelson Mandela Metro - our leadership there in the structures of the movement - together with the taxi operators, met and agreed that it was not in the interests of the commuters of Nelson Mandela to continue with the strike, and the strike was therefore suspended. [Applause.]

I will now focus on the state of governance and public administration. In this sector, the focus of Government during this term has been on improving the organisational capacity and effectiveness of the State. This has entailed addressing skills and capacity deficits within the public sector and the broader economy and creating a service-oriented Public Service. Also key has been the advancement of integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation, ensuring financial management and fiscal reforms.

Integrated governance and the macro-organisation of the state, including support to municipalities through the Five-Year Strategic Agenda for Local Government has been the hallmark of our interventions. In this regard, municipal support intervention through the Provincial Treasury and the Department of Local Government and Housing is beginning to yield results. The Department of Local Government recently received recognition at the National Vuna Awards in the area of municipal support in the whole country.

Notwithstanding these successes, Provincial Government is concerned about evidence of weak governance which has made it necessary for us to consider potentially drastic interventions in some municipalities. The incidences of poor governance and instability in such municipalities as King Sabatha Dalindyebo, Mquma, Mbhashe, Amahlathi, Buffalo City, Sakhisizwe and Koukamma are a case in point. You will also observe, Madam Speaker, that the MEC responsible for Local Government is not with us here. It is not because they are undermining the House; it is because we told ourselves we wanted to make sure that our presence in restoring stability in these municipalities was felt and it could not be delayed any further - it had to happen now. [Applause.]

The engine which drives the work of Government is the Public Service, which currently comprises just over 137 000 public servants in the province, including educators. Over the reporting period we increased the number of public servants through appointments from the 58% that was reported in 2004 to the 72% that we are currently at now. The number of females in senior management services of the Public Service has increased from 24% to 33%. [Applause.] More work still needs to be done to improve the numbers of employees with disabilities from the current 0,2% to our target of 2%.

With regard to skills development, we have trained more than 46 000 employees across a range of critical competencies in the Public Service. Moreover, we have placed 950 unemployed graduates across various departments.

It is pleasing to note that the introduction of this young cadre of public sector professionals has enabled our province to make a meaningful contribution to introducing new talent into the administration whilst affording the young graduates an opportunity of first-time employment experience. However, further improvement in the administration of this policy will still be required moving forward.

To date almost 3 000 learnerships have been awarded since 2006. We place our children in local government, in the IDZs and with other strategic partners of government.

Further, in the area of skills provision and development for the benefit of the economy as a whole, Government expended R272 million on bursaries, which covered 13 000 students. [Applause.] Through the provincial JIPSA initiative, 1 000 young people are participating in learnerships and a further 200 graduates have been placed in internship programmes in the manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure development sectors.

Government's investment in the province's Further Education and Training Colleges is an important pillar in the development of skills in our economy.

Madam Speaker, with regard to provincial finances, we started this term, as we know, with an overexpenditure of R623 million and a bank overdraft of R744 million. This was further exacerbated by the fact that the main budget appropriation for 2004/05 included a budget deficit of R563 million. The prudent financial management and austerity measures which were implemented in the first two years of this term saw a steady improvement in our finances and improved co-operation between departments and Treasury.

Since 2005 the province has maintained positive cash balances, allowing expenditure to increase from R21 billion in the 2005/2006 financial year to R31 billion in the 2007/2008 financial year. Indications are that this positive outlook will continue in the next MTEF cycle, with expenditure expected to have doubled in the next three years. While expenditure has been very close to budget most of the time, some lessons were learnt from the 2007/2008 financial year, with significant underspending resulting in more than R500 million being suspended from our budget.

It is pleasing though, Madam Speaker, to note that in the current financial year expenditure has significantly improved, even from the most challenged sectors such as housing. While expenditure continues to improve, as Government we also understand that we must double our

efforts to put systems in place to measure the impact of the expenditure on service delivery and assess whether we are closer to achieving our development goals.

In the area of the audit outcomes, again I am pleased to report improvements. In the past financial year five departments received unqualified audit opinions. This is the highest number since 1994, and clearly reflects a significant improvement over the past four years since 2004/2005. It is encouraging to note in the recent municipal audit outcomes that similar trends are beginning to be seen in the local government sphere. However, Government is concerned about the perennial failure of some of the big departments, notably Health and Education, to achieve unqualified audits.

The Anti-corruption Unit was established in the Office of the Premier in 2006 and through the work of this unit we can now proudly report that to date 411 incidents of corruption in Provincial Government are under investigation and a substantial number of these have been referred to law enforcement agencies. In addition, the unit has trained 312 officials across Government as ethics champions. For these efforts this unit has been recognised as a model of excellence by the Ethics Institute of South Africa.

Madam Speaker, in its quest to achieve service delivery excellence the Eastern Cape Government has initiated various interventions to improve the effectiveness of the Public Service. These include the Balasela Programme, which has proved to be an effective tool in progressively achieving service excellence by identifying and addressing, through Service Delivery Improvement Plans, the internal efficiency issues that have an impact on service delivery. Through this process Government has identified and recognised best practice examples in the Public Service.

As Government we continue to improve our engagement with the citizens as part of our efforts to deepen democracy and participatory governance. These initiatives include the Presidential and Ministerial iimbizo, Executive Council outreach programmes and the Legislature's "Taking Parliament to the People", and they provide opportunities for unmediated interaction between the citizens and their Government. However, there is a need to pay more attention to addressing the issues raised in a systematic and co-ordinated manner and improve feedback mechanisms to communities.

In addition, the Thusong Services Centres programme was intensified in an effort to improve access to Government information and services. To date, 13 Thusong Service Centres in the province are operational and a further three are due to be launched before the end of March 2009 at Nophoyi in Alfred Nzo, at Burgersdorp in Ukhahlamba, and at Esilindini in Chris Hani. We believe that we are within reach of the national target of one Thusong Centre in each local municipality by the year 2014.

On issues of co-operative governance I would like to highlight that we have noted the challenges that relate primarily to intergovernmental relations sometimes compromising service delivery, including issues such as the provision of health services at the local government level. We have also noted that there are municipalities that continue to be owed monies by departments of Provincial Government, and we will make sure that the IGR Summit will be held to address all these matters later this year.

Madam Speaker, in the course of this term, and particularly last year, the ANC, in exercising its leadership role of Government and society, was the first to acknowledge that, notwithstanding the achievements I have referred to, major challenges still exist.

It became clear that there was a need for intervention to speed up service delivery and address inefficiencies, particularly in Health, Education, Housing and Local Government. The Service Delivery Acceleration Plan was introduced, and without appearing boastful, Madam Speaker, I wish to report that the main achievement of this intervention has been to bring about stability in Government and refocusing leadership in Government on developing plans to implement Government programmes faster. This work also afforded us, as Government, an opportunity to actively engage with the stakeholders of the province, thereby firmly embedding government among the people.

I feel proud that none of the leaders from this province can stand up and say they do not know what is happening in the Government sector, because as Government we went all out in July, August and September of last year to consult the leadership of this province. We consulted leaders from local government, traditional leaders, faith-based organisations, labour organizations - all of them. We told them what work we thought we had to do, and we asked them what they thought. We all concurred on what might help to take the Eastern Cape forward. Therefore, thank you very much, leadership, for your contributions. [Applause.]

This plan called for the streamlining of service delivery focus areas, prioritising those that have the greatest impact on improving the lives of the people of the province. Through this short-term intervention we can proudly report that during this short period - remember, we have already indicated that it has never happened before - that by 31 October of a particular year all the stationery and 95% of the textbooks will have been delivered to schools. [Applause.]

We have also recorded widened access to the School Nutrition Programme. The reality is that the footprint of the no-fee schools programme has been increased. There are many households that could not afford to pay school fees, but the ANC Government has provided those households with relief. [Applause.]

We have also begun to improve the functionality of the health facilities, with shortened waiting times at our hospitals, clinics and health centres due to the piloting of the down-referrals system, queue marshalling and the introduction of 24-hour security at our health centres.

Siphindile kwakhona phaya kwicandelo lezigulana zangaphandle senza kwakho ugqirha okhoyo oza kujonga abantu ngoku basalindileyo, abancede abanye, abanye abadlulisele kwiindawo ezifanelekileyo. [Kuhlwatywe.] *[Again, we have introduced doctors at out-patient and casualty departments to help people while they are still waiting and to refer others to the relevant places. [Applause.]]*

We have improved access to HIV/Aids treatment. As we speak, we are at 66 000 of a target of 70 000, which we think we will be able to meet by the end of March.

At Marjorie Parish hospital for Multi-Drug Resistant TB we increased the number of new beds to accommodate those patients. We have begun to improve the system of drug supply management. We have also improved the pace of delivery of houses. We are not telling lies when we say that the provision of 10 136 houses between March 2008 and December 2008 has never occurred at any time in our history. This is the first time we have been able to deliver that number of houses in such a short period. [Applause.]

However, this work though has also brought to the fore some of the weaknesses in the functionality of Government departments and exposed, in particular, planning, co-ordination, monitoring and reporting failures.

Mhlawumbi ndiza kuba mde ke Somlomo kulo mba. Kaloku ngokuya besithunywa ngeza nyanga zisibhozo bekusithiwa masiyokwenza le nto. Kufuenka ke xa sinika ingxelo ngayo singangxami. [Kuhlekwe.] Enye yezinto ebeziyinxaki ngamasebe karhulumente asebenza ngokungathi aziphethe kodwa, zingakuxelela zonke iintloko zamasebe, bazive bephethwe ngendlela abangazange baphathwe ngayo ngaphambili. [Kuhlekwe.] [Kuhlwatywe.] Ngenxa nje yombuzo omnye othi, 'mhlekazi khawusixelele wenze ntoni'? Kutheni ungayenzanga leya? Bathi ke ukuba bayasiqumbela, baqumbe kodwa umsebenzi wona sibe siwufuna. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[I might spend some time on this issue, hon Speaker. When we were given a mandate over a period of eight months, the mandate was very clear. Therefore when we report on that mandate, we need not hurry. [Laughter.] One of the problems with the Government departments was that they handled issues as if they were not accountable to anyone. But I can assure you that all the heads of departments can tell you that during the period of intervention, they were managed in a manner that they had never experienced before. [Laughter.] That was because of just one

question we asked, namely: Please tell us what you did; and if you did not do something, why you did not do it. We did not care even if they became angry with us; the bottom line was that we needed the work to be done.]

Madam Speaker, in keeping with our earlier undertaking that we intended to use the period of this intervention to prepare for the next term of Government, I am pleased to report work has started in strengthening the capacity for planning, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of the work of Government. This includes the institutionalisation of better management by the Office of the Premier and of the accountability of heads of departments, because they are the people who are authorized to administer the departments

Sele besazi ke ukuba sithe sakugqiba ukwenza esa sicwangciso sathi kubo isakhono sokusebenza kwabo siya kujongwa ngokwendlela abaqhube ngayo kwezi zicwangciso zitsha. Bayayazi loo nto kwaye bayayazi nento yokuba umntu xa ethe wasilela ukuhlangabezana nemihla ebekiweyo, kuphelile ngaye kwelo sebe akulo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[We told them after the completion of the plan that their performance management would now be done in terms of these new plans. They know that, and they also know that if they fail to meet the prescribed targets, they will be dealt with in their respective departments.]

Informed by the slow progress in our work to transform traditional leadership and institutions to expand the representivity and improve functionality, Government will pay particular attention to the renovation programme for traditional council offices as well as the finalisation of the election of traditional councils immediately after the forthcoming national and provincial elections.

INdlu yeeNkosi iyagqitywa ngoku kwaye sizimisele ukuba siyivule kwakamsinya. Phaya ezinkosini siye saqaphela into yokuba kukho ezaa nkosi zisemazantsi. Ezo nkosi zona azinyuselwa imivuzo yazo njengokuba ezinye zinyuselwa nje. Apha evekini siye sathatha isigqibo singuRhulumente, sokuba nazo ezi nkosi ziphaya ezantsi, abanye ke bazibiza ngokuba zizibonda, mazinyuselwe imivuzo. Nazo ke ezo nkosi siyinyusile imivuzo yazo kule veki. [Kuqhwyatwe.]

Sibuye saqaphela kwakhona ukuba eza nkosi zingabuyelanga kwiNdlu yeeNkosi emva konyulo, ziye zaya kuhlala emakhaya zingaphethanga nto. Kukho ke inkqubo esiye sayiqulunqa phaya ebizwa ngokuba ex gratia payments, sayi-approver esiye sayamnkela. Ngokwale nkqubo ke, nabo baza kubuyekezwa njengamalungu ebesebenza kwiNdlu yeeNkosi engaphambili. [Kuqhwyatwe.] (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[The Provincial House of Traditional Leaders building will be completed and opened soon. We also noted that among the traditional leadership there are those chiefs who are at a lower level. Those chiefs do not receive salary adjustments. During the course of the week we discussed the matter as the Executive Council, and we decided that the lower ranking chiefs, also known as headmen, must receive salary adjustment as well. Their salaries have been increased this week. [Applause.]

We also noted that the chiefs who did not make it to the House of Traditional Leaders after the election retired from traditional leadership empty handed. We then developed and approved a programme of ex-gratia payments for them. In terms of this programme the chiefs who did not return to the House of Traditional Leaders will be reimbursed as former members of the House of Traditional Leaders. [Applause.]

It is our belief, Madam Speaker, that in the medium to long term, the Eastern Cape remains well positioned to attract local and foreign investment to the region, and we are confident that we will achieve above 4% growth by 2011, given our logistics capabilities, our low operating costs, and competitive advantages in the automotive, fabricated metal components, agriculture, leather processing, chemicals and tourism sectors. We believe that these programmes will help to crystallise our response to the impact of the global economic crisis, and that working together with trade unions and industry we can mitigate its impact on the provincial economy.

Besisele sitshilo ke ukuba siza kuqinisa laa msebenzi wokwenza ibala lemidlalo eMthatha njengenxalenye yomsebenzi ka-2010, kwakunye nomsebenzi wokwakha ngokutsha izikolo zodaka kwiSebe lezeMfundo kunye nalo msebenzi wokwenza ukuba kubekho ugutyulo olufanelekileyo kwiindawo ezihlala abantu bakowethu. Nokwenziwa kweendlela nako siza kukuqwalasela. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[We have already alluded to the fact that the Government will continue with the construction of the stadium in Mthatha as part of the 2010 FIFA World Cup legacy, the eradication of mud schools and the provision of decent sanitation. The construction of roads will also receive attention.]

As Government we are concerned about the worsening drought situation across the province, especially in areas such as Cacadu, Chris Hani, Ukhahlamba and Nxuba, and this is impacting negatively on our efforts to improve food security, address water quality and supply issues, placing many of our people - particularly farmers - under unbearable hardship. We are attending to this challenge, hon Trollip. You will remember that we have some money that we allocated for drought relief, but we have had to go to the CASP budget and do a bit of reprioritisation to ensure that we identify resources with which we can intervene and put boreholes in place where they are required.

I would like to move with speed, hon Speaker, and deal with my concluding remarks. You will note that these interventions that we have made - and continue to make - are against the backdrop of the global economic crisis and therefore must, in turn, contribute towards building the resilience of economy. Once again, the collaboration of the key social partners – Government, business and labour - will be the cornerstone of our strategic response.

With regard to the social sector, we have indicated that we will not start new things. We will continue with those efforts that we have seen can lead us to success - in education, in health, in housing and in other areas of social services. We have already indicated that the focus there will be on improving the culture of teaching and learning, making sure that we roll out Government's anti-poverty campaign, improving the footprint of comprehensive primary health care and accelerating the delivery of quality services. Provincial Government has taken a decision to allocate and ring-fence additional resources to tackle the accumulated payment backlogs in the Department of Health. The MEC responsible for Finance will give the details when he presents his budget.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, it is our belief that an objective assessment of the Government's 15-year and 5-year reports will, without doubt, reveal that a lot has been achieved and yet more still needs to be done. This enjoins us to deploy our collective vision in our commitment to entrench democracy, to promote growth and development, improve equality of opportunity, root out hunger and disease, and protect the marginalised and the poor.

Phambi kokuba ndihlale phantsi Somlomo, ndivumele ndikhe ndithethe ke ngoku okwendoda yangapha eLubhacweni. [Kuhlekwe.] Mna ndiyambulela uNksk Sogoni ngenkxaso andinika yona. [Kuqhwyatywe.] Ndifuna ukuba nawuphi na umntu ongutata okhoyo apha azi ukuba nokuba inkxaso uyayifumana kwakhe kodwa ingaphantsi kule ndiyifumanayo mna apha kuNksk Sogoni [Kuqhwyatywe.]

Mna ingummangaliso inkxaso endiyifumene kwi-ANC nabahlobo bayo. Futhi ukuba bendinokubuzwa ukuba ndakohlukana nini na ne-ANC, bendiyakuthi asoze nanini na. Andikholwa ukuba ukho umbutho onokuthi usakubeka umntu, umlandele ubuza ukuba uphila njani. Ungaya kula mbutho kaMnu Trollip nakulowa kaMnu uMhlathi angekhe uyifumane loo nkxaso.

I-ANC ekhokelwe nguStone Sizani kweli Phondo, i-ANC ekhokelwe nguJacob Zuma indinike inkxaso engummangaliso. Mna ke andingomntu uxokayo. UGwede Mantashe, uNobhala-jikelele we-ANC ufona iveki neveki abuze ukuba laa nto sasithe mayilunge eMpuma-koloni kuxa iphi na? Yeyiphi ke enye inkxaso onokuba ufuna yona? Ndiqinisekile Mnu Trollip ukuba uHelen Zille wena akakufoneli qho ngeveki! (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[Before I sit down, hon Speaker, allow me to speak as a man from Lubhacweni. [Laughter.] I am very thankful to Mrs Sogoni for the support that she gives me. [Applause.] I would like every man present here today to know that even if he receives support from his spouse, it cannot be compared with the kind of support that I enjoy from Mrs Sogoni. [Applause.]

The support that I receive from the ANC and its Alliance is wonderful. If somebody were to ask me when I will leave the ANC, I would respond that I will never at any stage leave the ANC. I do not think there is any other political party which, after having deployed its members, makes a follow-up and tries to check if there are any challenges. I am convinced that you will never get such support from the political party of hon Trollip or from that of hon Mhlati.

The ANC, under the leadership of Stone Sizani provincially and Jacob Zuma nationally, gives me a wonderful support. I am not a liar by nature. Cde Gwede Mantashe, the ANC Secretary-General phones me on a weekly basis and checks progress on our mandate in the Eastern Cape. What other support can you ask for? I am sure, hon Trollip, that Helen Zille does not phone you every week!]

I have already thanked the stakeholders and leaders of the Eastern Cape. I do not think we have had the kind of support in many years such as that we are currently enjoying in Government today. Therefore we say thank you very much to the people of our province. I must also thank the hon members of this House. The members of the Legislature never failed to tell me at all times that I have their support. They also supported my colleagues in the Executive Council.

Ukuba iselula kaMnu Makupula, lo ungunsihlalo wala Komiti yeOfisi yeNkulumbuso nekaNksk Hope Malgas zihlawulelwa imali eninzi, kufuneka kwaziwe ukuba sukuba befowunela kum. Ndiyabulela kakhulu boogxa bam ngenkxaso yenu. [Kuhqwatywe.] (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[If the cellphone bills of hon Makupula, the Chairperson of the Committee on the Premier's Office, and hon Hope Malgas are high, we must know that it is because of the calls they made to me. Thank you very much, colleagues, for your support. [Applause.]]

I would like to point out that - for whatever reason - hon Trollip and hon Mhlati became my friends. There was also hon Mkabile, who used to sit over there. We will have to establish what happened to that hon member. However, many people are beginning to realise that anything that involves progress is within the Government of the ANC. [Applause.] I do not know as yet the detail, but I suspect that it will not be a surprise if Mr Mkabile has realised that his PAC will take him nowhere and has

decided to join the ANC Government! [Applause.] I am told that he left the PAC some time ago and that he has also left his new party now.

Madam Speaker, I call upon the leaders and masses of our people to work with Government and to play their part in the realisation of our social compact to restore human dignity for a prosperous Eastern Cape. There are visitors here from Lubhacweni, my birthplace. They have come to check whether I have not embarrassed them. And I guess they will go home proud because they know that the ANC is proud of me. [Applause.] I say so, convinced that our success in moving forward depends on our all working together!

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Performance by Praise Singer.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. I understand that hon Mhlati will be moving a motion. You are afforded the opportunity to do so now, hon Mhlati.

APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT DELEGATE TO NCOP

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M M MHLATI: Madam Speaker, I move in terms of Rule 34.1 that the House resolves to appoint Mr Kwandiwe Toni as a permanent delegate of the Province of the Eastern Cape in accordance with sections 61 and 62 of the Constitution.

Agreed to.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WELCOMING

The SPEAKER: Order! I will now go on to acknowledge first our sponsors - people who bring us money! We thank Mr Mbanga from Vodacom for entertaining members and their guests last night. We are really very thankful to Vodacom for that contribution which has been made possible by Mr Mbanga in influencing Vodacom to do so. [Applause.]

Sisakube siphumile apha siza kufumana into esiwa phantsi kwempumlo kwaye futhi namhlanje siqinisekile ukuba asizukuphoxwa mntu. Igalelo elikhulu loko kutya ke lwenziwe yiFirst National Bank ngomlomo nobuchule bukatata uMbalekwa [Kuqhwytywe.] Siyabulela kakhulu kwiFirst National Bank ngokuthi gqolo isoloko isihombisa, isikhusa umhlana.

Imibutho ke yonke emelweyo kule Ndlu yoWiso-mthetho imenyiwe. Njengokuba nibaninzi kangaka nje kuqalwe ngayo. I-ANC ekhokelwa kweli Phondo ngutata uStone Sizani imenyiwe. I-DA enkokeli yayo

ekhoyo apha nayo ikhona. Inkokeli ye-UDM neye-APC nazo zikhona.
(*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[We will now move out of the tent and be directed to the venues where meals will be served. We can assure you that there will be no disappointments this time! The larger part of the contribution for the meals was sponsored by First National Bank through the efforts of Mr Mbalekwa [Appaluse.] We are very thankful for their continued support.

All the organisations which are represented in the Legislature were invited. That is why we have such a large number of people who have attended this occasion. The ANC, which is led by Cde Stone Sizani in this province, has been invited. The DA and its provincial leader are present. The leader of the UDM and the leader of the APC are also present.]

Let me also take this opportunity and announce that after the departure of hon Mkabile who has resigned to join one of the departments as a public servant, we swore in hon Gcanga as the APC member replacing hon Mkabile. Hon Gcanga, you are welcome. [Applause.]

Kumalungu eNdlu yoWiso-mthetho asungulayo ukuzimasa ukuvulwa kweNdlu yoWiso-mthetho njengamaLungu eNdlu yoWiso-mthetho, nguSihlalo wePhiko lamaNina weANC kwiPhondo leMpuma-Koloni, umama uMvana. Wamnkelekile mama uMvana. Elinye laloo malungu nguNks Mabandla olilungu lesiGqeba le-ANC. Ilungu lesithathu laziwa kakhulu kula mbutho wamabomvana ilungu elibekekileyo uMlomo.

Malungu abekekileyo, njengoko ilusuku lwenu lokuqala olu lovulo yeNdlu yoWiso-mthetho, namnkelekile kwaye siyathemba ukuba niya kuzonwabela iingxoxo zeNdlu yoWiso-mthetho yeMpuma-Koloni kwezi veki zimbalwa zilandelayo.

Masibuye ke ngoku sithi phakathi kwethu sinoKumkani uZwelonke Sigcawu omelwe apha nguAhlangene, yena ungxengxezile. Ukhona ke uKumkani uZweelenkosi Mathanzima; ukhona phakathi usihlalo weNdlu yeeNkosi yaseMpuma-Koloni ubawo uNgangomhlaba Mathanzima ekhatshwa lisekela lakhe, uNkosana uBurns-Ncamashe, bahamba negqiza labo ke phaya kulaa Ndlu yeeNkosi. Kwicala lezomthetho sinaye uMongameli weeJaji uJaji Somyalo namasekela akhe abambeleyo uJaji Dlodlo noJaji Petse bakhathshwa ke nanguJaji Sangweni. Nabo siyabamnkela. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[Among the new members of the Legislature who have attended the Official Opening of the Legislature for the first time as members of this House, is the Chairperson of the Provincial Women's League of the ANC, hon Mvana. You are welcome, hon Mvana. Another member is hon Mabandla, who is a member of the Provincial Executive Committee.

The third member is a member that is well known within the circles of the SACP, hon Mlomo.

Hon members, as this is your first sitting, you are welcome, and I hope you will enjoy the remaining few weeks of debates of the House in the Eastern Cape Legislature.

Again, among us we have King Zwelonke Sigcawu who is represented by Ahlangene. We have King Zweleenkosi Matanzima; the Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders of the Eastern Cape, Nkosi Ngangomhlaba Matanzima and his Deputy, Prince Burns-Ncamashe and their entourage. From the judiciary we have Judge-President Somyalo and his Deputy Judges, Judge Dlodlo and Judge Petse, accompanied by Judge Sangweni. We welcome them.]

We also have a number of high commissioners in our midst. From the British High Commission we have Commissioner Paul Boateng; from the Botswana Consulate we have Mr Gaseitsiwe; from Mozambique we have Mr Cesar Gouveia; from India we have both High Commissioner Bhatia and Consul-General Mr Rakesh Malhotra. [Applause.] We hope they have enjoyed our company and we look forward to working with them.

Akhona ke namalungu ethu asuka kwiPalamente yeSizwe. Bakhona ooSodolophu nooSomlomo boomasipala. Angekhe ndibe ndigqibile ukuthetha ndingayikhankanyanga iOfisi yoMphicothi-ncwadi, utata uSinga Ngqwala osoloko esixhasa. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[We also have our members from the national Parliament. We have the Executive Mayors and the Speakers from our municipalities. I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the presence of the Office of Auditor-General represented by Mr Singa Ngqwala, who always supports us.]

We acknowledge all the Chapter 9 institutions represented here. We also have in our midst the new Public Service Commissioner, Mr Mafanya. [Applause.] The community-based organisations, Cosatu, Disabled People of South Africa - all are represented. The South African Council of Churches and other religious leaders have been invited. The business organizations are also invited and are in attendance. I usually say all the COCs – the Eastern Cape Chamber of Commerce, the National Chamber of Commerce - all the COCs are here.

Ndiyanibulela ke nonke bantu bakowethu kuba sonke sibalulekile ngolu suku lwanamhlanje. Ndibulela ubukho benu obububungqina bokuba ngenene leNdlu yoWiso-mthetho yindibano yabantu. Ngoku ke ndiza kunikezela kuNobhala wale Ndlu uMnu Mpahlwa enze ezakhe izibhengezo. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[I thank you all because we are all equally important on this day. I thank you for your presence, which is proof that the Legislature is really a people's assembly. I will now hand over to the Secretary for the Legislature, Mr Mpahlwa to make his announcements.]

The SECRETARY TO THE LEGISLATURE: Thank you, hon Speaker - a few announcements. We would like to request guests and VIPs to remain behind while the Speaker and the Premier leave the Assembly. Secondly, the members will then leave after that for a photo shoot outside. Thereafter the guests will be ushered by the ushers to the luncheon, which will be served in this tent. There is also another tent - to which directions are indicated - for the other guests.

There are bathrooms behind me here for the guests and members if they want to use them.

Hon Speaker, we would also like to announce that in our midst we have the Secretary to the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, Ms Nerusha Naidoo. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Welcome, Ms Naidoo!

That concludes the business of the day. The House will adjourn until Monday, 16 February at quarter past two at the usual place, the Good News Centre. Thank you.

The House adjourned at 11:45.