

TUESDAY, 1 JUNE 2010

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

The House met at 14:15.

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

BUS ACCIDENT NEAR DE DOORNS

(Draft Resolution)

Mr D B HADDON: Hon Speaker, I move without notice in terms of Rule 131 that the House, noting that on 5 May 2010, 28 passengers died and several others were seriously injured in a bus accident near De Doorns in the Western Cape; the bus in question was allegedly from a company in the Eastern Cape; there is an ongoing trend of fatal bus accidents with buses traveling in and from the province;

therefore resolves as follows that:

- (a) safety checks be intensified by the province on all buses entering and exiting the province; and
- (b) these checks on buses be done on identified road routes leading into and out of the province as close to the provincial border as possible, as well as within defined routes within the province.
- (c) the MEC for Transport engage with the Passenger Rail Association of South Africa (PRASA) to expand rail commuter choice and safety as an alternative to bus transport;
- (d) the results of the bus check and engagement with PRASA be presented to the Portfolio Committee on Transport on a quarterly basis;
- (e) report-back on a quarterly basis on safety checks be presented to the Portfolio Committee on Transport.

Agreed to.

CONDOLENCE

(Draft Resolution)

Mr C H MAXEGWANA: Hon Speaker, I move without notice in terms of Rule 130.6 that the House, noting with sadness the passing away of the mother of hon Ms V Mtongana -

- (a) expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences with the family, friends, colleagues and comrades of hon Mtongana; and
- (b) wishes strength and support to the Mtongana family during this difficult time.

Agreed to.

Mr C H MAXEGWANA: Hon Speaker, I must also say that umama kaZinziswa Mthongana was laid to rest on Saturday and the farewell of his life was of high note. Members attended.

Thank you very much.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The 47th Africa Day was celebrated on 25 May 2010. This important day should receive more prominence to celebrate Africa's diversity and success and to highlight a cultural and economic potential that exists on the continent of Africa. (Mr C H Maxegwana)

Mr C H MAXEGWANA: Hon Speaker, hon members, departmental officials, distinguished guests, I greet you all on this important day, the day of children of the world and the Africa Day.

One of the greatest gifts from God to mankind is to bear children. Today is 1 June, a day each year that is recognised internationally as Children's Day. Under the humanitarian auspices of the United Nations a declaration was compiled to protect the children from wars and conflicts, from being contracted to military exploitations and dangers, abused, exploited and exposed to child labour, from hunger and famine. It is for this reason that children have been given certain mandatory rights such as compulsory education, care or foster care for proper upbringing. Good health is among recommendations of forming proper upbringing for our children. Adversities such as abuse domestically, environmentally to children is constitutionally administered by courts of law, hence Children's Court was set to ensure fundamental protection of children.

Many unfortunate relapses have taken toll of children in matters like child trafficking, to make sufferings to young children and it is for these

purposes that the State institutional organs erected protection services. Even in countries intelligence units bear protection.

We remind ourselves that children are tomorrow's custodians; they are pioneers of the progress and parents of the future and have to be treated as such. Let's embrace these principles of guarantee to safety of children at whatever cost, as long as it is for their good and prosperity. We salute our children and pray with them in thanking God for the wonderful gift of this creation.

Today is Africa Day. This has been a great splendid part of the world, no wonder en route to the east Persia could not be utilised. The African dynamics that happen today to be world topics seem to be underlined by erratic connotations that depict the continent as dark sector of the world.

Colonial powers did manage to erode this continent, but could not expedite its human resources, which have been the brain power for its liberation. Plunder – yes it was, but this continent would not rid itself out of foreign debt. Yet its national resources dwell much in international markets, leave alone its agricultural fruits. We could go on specifying which of these products until coming to its raw material, but this 2010 coming gesture is not about material things; this is composed of its humanity. It is exactly what this is about.

We have been slave resources taken to every corner of the world, yet powerful statesmen have emerged: the likes of Nkrumah, Madiba, Nyerere, Sisulu, Tambo, Cabral, Kaunda, Mugabe and Gaddafi.

There are still a lot of achievements that have to be protected, not by great names, but by Africa's peoples and their sufferings. Perhaps in days to come we could forget about names and concentrate on developments of peoples who really suffer and yet bring about votes of political dynasties.

We have been educated by fabulous writers, the likes of Shakespeare and others. Nobody wants to acknowledge these great writers; and these are from Africa. In Addis Ababa in Ethiopia in 1963 an idea was presented for the formation of the African organisation, which is what brings together here today all of us. It was baptised as the OAU, the Organisation of African Unity, it consequentially being to protect each other as sovereignties and an abolishment of transgressions in the world. The mandate of the OAU had to be respected by the United Nations and all other world political blocks. What ought to be done is specified by the words of Kwame Nkrumah:

The peoples of the colonies know precisely what they want; they wish to be free and independent.

Gone are the days when measures used to be determined by the African ways or stories told by the African time because the depiction will be

that it was better during the presence of the colonial masters. There can be no Africa if we cannot mention its liberation from the colonial yoke. This is just one item...which careful consideration and understanding and refrain from a dogmatic explanation that what the African people have been labeled as atheist, rudimentary, cannibal etc.

The call "Africa awake" was the buzz word of the era when all Africans had to rally around the defence of their territories and their dignity; and to this caution it is still a big demand, lest to forget that our Creator is with us, we shall not be vulnerable to perish, nor our children and great grandchildren and their children. Africa is a continent which has been at the centre of geographic continental drift and has its own distinct geographical qualities, its own volcanoes, misty mountains, rifts, big rivers; it has pyramids and iconic features of some of the wonders of the world.

This is a great continent and shall remain one of the places which need preservation and nurturing of its potential. [Applause.]

Mr S N KWELITA: Thanks very much Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order hon members!

Mr N S KWELITA: I don't have sufficient time to respond to all questions raised. [Laughter.]

Let me, hon Speaker, as part of participating in this debate, start by supporting what was raised here by Chief Whip on the Children's Day. Maybe it is important for us to then say we should use this day to evaluate to what extent in our province have we managed to deal with the rights of children. I know that there are a number of children who should be at the Early Childhood Development Centres who are not attending those centres in our province. I know that there are children who should be a care which the hon Chief Whip has highlighted here, in particular the foster care in our province, who are unable to receive that. I know that there are children even in our province who are at the age of school going age, who are unable to find schools, some on the basis of being excluded on the basis of the area from which they come from. It is for this reason that I would then urge us to then say, starting from this year let us begin to look at this day and begin to say what does it mean for us as a province and discuss the issues that affect children in this province.

Secondly, on the issue of Africa Day, let me remind this House of the historic discovery in our own country of humankind and human history, which is human treadle. Again, in this regard we are reminded that what we find as human species around the world comes from this continent. It is for this reason that we should be saying boldly that the Africa Day should be celebrated not only by us from Africa, but by the whole world because what we have in the world as human being today is what was saved during that time and only coming from Africa.

The second area I would want to raise when it comes to Africa Day is the issue of how far our continent has travelled. Looking again at the history of slavery, looking at the issue of colonialisation, we find that our continent has travelled a long way. We are at the point where all two forms of colonialisation have been destroyed in our continent. The challenge... [Interjections.] Well, remember that there was what was called the settlers colonial, which applied to countries like ours where colonialists even stayed in those countries. [Interjections.] No, I am saying they stayed in those countries. Again there were those countries which they colonialised administratively, so we know that we have managed to travel that long way. [Interjections.]

We need to be able to deal with the interpretation and discussion of democracy in our own country and also in our own continent. We know that that in Great Britain you don't have the limitation when it comes to the holding of the office of the Head of State in that country and it is still not defined as undemocratic. Again we know that not once there was just a recent election in Britain where we have been invited to go and observe those elections, whether they are free or fair. I am saying these are the issues about democracy in Africa because whenever there is going to be elections there must be observers that come and observe our own elections. I am saying those are the issues when it comes to democracy.

We need to deal with the issue of development in Africa and also the development of the economy. Again we are seeing here that when it comes to raw materials that are being produced in Africa there is little that is being done to ensure the processing of those can generate the economy of this continent. It is very important as we celebrate this day to look at how we can revive the economy, how we can ensure that there is democracy.

I rise here to support this important day, a day which the whole world should be celebrating, based on the reasons I have mentioned. [Applause.]

Mr R S STEVENSON: Hon Speaker, 50 years ago - in 1960 - 18 African nations attained their independence from colonial rule. And on 25 May 1963 in a gesture of unity and commitment to the ideal of African liberation, 32 independent African nations at that time formed the Organisation of African Unity, today known as the African Union.

Africa Day commemorates the formation of these organisations and also the hope that all African states can unite in a common purpose so that the welfare and well-being of the people of Africa can be assured.

We are here to remind ourselves of the dream that we have of progress and prosperity for our continent. In South Africa, with the advent of the World Cup, we can truly celebrate this magnificent occasion and

reaffirm the ability of an African country to host such a prestigious event. It is therefore an achievement not only for South Africa, but for all of Africa. Today at 9.30 am another important milestone in this great event was crossed when our final squad of 23 was announced. We are excited about what this event is already doing for nation-building in South Africa. Whoever would have thought one would have seen the Bulls in Soweto?

It took South Africa a long time to become part of a free Africa; therefore Africa Day is an important day, as it reminds us to reflect on how far we have come and where we are. We need to remind ourselves that a free Africa is not just there to replace one elite with another; it is not just there to enrich a few at the expense of many; it is not just there to help a faction at the expense of the whole; it is not just there to ensure service to self above service to the people. In this context the words of the then Chief Justice, Arthur Chaskalson, at the third Bram Fischer Lecture in 2000 are appropriate.

Too many of us are concerned about what we can get from the new society; too few with what is needed for the realisation of the goals of the new Constitution. What is lacking is the energy, the commitment and sense of community that was harnessed in the struggle for freedom.

Can it be said that the same energy and commitment exists in South Africa today to bring about change in our country that existed at the time when South Africa was struggling to become a democratic State? Or has it been replaced that fiery commitment, or has it been replaced by greed, factionalism or self-service, has loyalty to a political party being placed higher than accountability to the people? If those values continue to poison our value system to the extent they have then our whole value system will become totally corrupted.

We need to show the rest of Africa how accountability can be entrenched. We need courageous leadership who can act without fear or favour. To my many friends in the Communist Party who seem to be on the rise, let me remind them of the words Mao Zedong – that is Mao Tse-tung for those of you who are not familiar with that pronunciation – who said:

To let things slide for the sake of peace and friendship when a person has clearly gone wrong and refrain from principled argument because he is an old acquaintance, a fellow townsman, a schoolmate, a close friend, a loved one, an old colleague or a subordinate, or to touch on a matter lightly instead of it going into it thoroughly so as to keep on good terms, the result is that both organisation and the individual are harmed.

Many countries have been harmed in Africa. It is interesting to note that 36% of the region's population live in economies that in 1995 had not regained the capital income levels achieved before 1960.

In South Africa we do not want to go the route of failed states. The closest illustration is that of Zimbabwe, which has shown how fast an African country can travel from relative prosperity to the state of a basket case. Today in South Africa we still have people calling for nationalisation of the mines, as if trillions of rands can be found when we cannot even find money to fund our schools, hospitals and clinics. It is ludicrous and dangerous populism.

Democracy is constantly subverted and under threat in Africa. Human rights abuses are widespread; poverty, hunger, deprivation and poor education are constant companions to the majority of people. So it is up to us to give leadership to the rest of Africa because we have not only one of the finest constitutions in Africa, but one of the finest in the world.

I wish to conclude with the words of former President Nelson Mandela who said the following in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech:

We live with the hope that as she battles to remake herself, South Africa will become like a microcosm of the new world that is striving to be born. This must be a world of democracy and respect for human rights; a world free from the horrors of poverty, hunger, deprivation and ignorance. Relieved of the threat the scourge of civil wars and external aggression and unburdened of the great tragedy of millions forced to become refugees.

Hon Speaker, the DA associates itself with the discussion on Africa Day. [Applause.]

Mr J BICI: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs, hon members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

The UDM would like to reiterate the previous speakers' sentiments regarding the embracement of the importance of the Children's Day.

Africa Day is a day which is celebrated and honoured all over the world. UDM is proud to be amongst the participants in the commemoration of such an august event.

On 25 May 1963 independent African States signed a founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, thus establishing the Organisation of African Unity.

The SPEAKER: Two minutes, hon member.

Mr J BICI: The establishment of the OAU led to the creation of African economic community. In 2002 the OAU became African Union. In many African countries, Africa Day is observed as a public holiday, so we wish one day we will also embrace that as a public holiday in South Africa.

The UDM supports the idea of discussing the Africa Day. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M P GALO: Hon Speaker, the AIC is joining other speakers just before me and also believes that African Day which falls on the 25th of May annually is the official day of the African Union and marks African unity. It is an opportunity indeed to celebrate African diversity and the success and to join Africans around the world in highlighting our cultural norms and values and social energy of the continent.

Hon Speaker, the AIC supports the standpoint of the [inaudible] government, more especially on gay and lesbian marriage because the AIC believes that this is just taboo, which has nothing to do with the human rights. [Interjections.] The practice is alien in our beloved African continent, which is why the AIC has launched a R1 million signature campaign on 22 March 2010 to call for a referendum to challenge the civil...

The SPEAKER: Time up, hon member.

Mr NGALO: ...of 2006...

The SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr NGALO: ...which was passed against the will of the people in this country on 14 November 2005. [Time expired.]

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, members present of this House, senior managers present, comrades and friends, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. I am honoured to be here today to reflect on the celebration of the 27th Africa Day, which this year was celebrated under the theme "Working together for integration and development".

Today is significant for me in many ways and I would like to highlight the significance on the backdrop of the 2010 FIFA World Cup which kicks off in 10 days' time. I am highlighting the World Cup as it has shown the world that South Africa and indeed Africa is capable of achieving anything that any country in Europe, America and anywhere else in the world can achieve.

The President of FIFA, Dr Sepp Blatter, was here in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality on Sunday, and he expressed his satisfaction with what we have been able to achieve between 2004 and now when we won the bid to host the World Cup.

I quote his words, as follows:

South Africa is ready to give the world the best World Cup ever.

[Applause.]

Hon Speaker, as we reflect on Africa Day it is my solemn view that Africa has been ready since the 19th century to take on the worst of the world's challenges. However, our history of colonialism, apartheid and disenfranchisement has meant that we are not in a position to take a leading role in achieving this.

When on 25 May 1963 leaders of the 32 African independent states signed the charter for the establishment of the organisation for African Unity, their vision was for Africa to take collective effort in dealing with these challenges. We all know in our own customs and values self determination was harbored and looked upon with scorn as it did not reflect the sense of humanity and collective approach with which Africans dealt with matters affecting them. Africa Day should thus be a constant reminder to all of us that we are Africans and should be approaching issues of African development from a unified African perspective.

Through the 2010 FIFA World Cup the expediency with which we have managed to deliver on the expectations of the international community, we have proved beyond any reasonable doubt that indeed when we are working together we really and indeed can achieve more. We have also proved as Africans that we are capable. If one were to ask of any lasting legacy of the World Cup to the millions of impoverished Africans, I would say that we have been able to show the world that in a cohesive manner we can deliver. Secondly, South Africa has never been as united behind our national flag with such growing sense of patriotism and nationhood as now.

Hon Speaker, as we look into the documented history of the Organisation of African Unity, the precursor of the African Union, whose main objective was the decolonialisation of Africa, the people of Africa within the framework of the OAU charter took a conscious and deliberate decision to wage a united struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Our fellow Africans, in collaboration with progressive forces in the world, steadfastly supported our liberation movements as we fought to end the cruel system of apartheid in our country. It was in the placid of African unity that apartheid South Africa became internationally isolated from the 1960s until its demise in the 1990s. We recall with pride and gratitude the role of the frontline States, whose leaders and people were at the forefront of this campaign and we subsequently went on to form the SADC – the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, which is SADCC – which then

was transformed thereafter to SADC (Southern African Developing Community, the regional organisation as we know it today.

After all these years Africa Day celebrations present us with a golden opportunity to take stock of the continent pursuit towards the realisation of a united, peaceful and prosperous Africa. We need to be reminded that recently we undergone a process of the African peer review mechanism and in July this year our President will be tabling for the second time the report, the South African report on APRM. The themes for APRM this terms are economic governance and management – the first one; the second one corporate governance, the third one socio-economic development, and the last one is democracy and good governance.

As a country our report is almost ready. As the province we have participated in the process of drafting that report. This indicates that we all have a role to play and in fact it has been proven by the recent events that it is within the realm of possibility that indeed as a country we can go quite far.

On the points raised in the debate, hon Kwelita raises the question of Early Childhood Development. I would like to share with him that I am from his neighbourhood, Mzamomhle, where community, churches, business, government, worked together and built an Early Childhood Development Centre which today was being handed over to government so that it becomes part of the Department of Education programmes. That to me is an indication and a commitment by both communities and government to ensure that Early Childhood Development becomes key in the process of nation-building because we have a belief that if we strengthen education at that level you build the future of our children and you build the future of our nation. [Applause.]

I would be interested in that debate hon Speaker on democracy because democracy means a lot of things to a lot of people. If an ANC member speaks about democracy and debates that with a member of the Democratic Alliance, despite that they all will be talking about democracy, but when it comes to the real theory of democracy it is when you see that in fact it means a lot of things to a lot of people, but we are committed to the democracy we fought for as the African National Congress. There is the democracy that involves people from themselves in the day-to-day governance and running of government business.

It is interesting to hear the hon member proposing a public holiday and not in so long a distant past the issue of the number of holidays in South Africa was the issue. Whilst politically that would sound good, but the question is whether it is in the best interest of the country at this stage, especially if we have so much holidays. We therefore must, in debating that, be prepared to sacrifice some of the holidays. We need to understand that the number of holidays we have, we enjoy as a country, was arrived at as a result of so much compromising and negotiations that

took place for us to be where we are. What I would say is that we need to observe this day in various ways, as we observe all other days. We observe family days, we observe children's days, we observe a number of other days which are not necessarily public holidays, but we respect them and observe them with pride.

I would want to say that yes in the development of the African continent, South Africa is playing a huge role and I think it is without fear of contradiction that I can stand proudly here and say I am proud to be a South African, playing the role that we are doing as part of the peoples of this continent.

Mr Speaker, thank you for affording us this opportunity to participate in the debate. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

APPROPRIATION BILL (EASTERN CAPE)

Consideration of Vote 1: Premier's Office

Mr M MAKUPULA: Hon Speaker, members of the august House, members of the public. It is my heartfelt gratitude to stand here today and table the report of the committee on the Office of the Premier, Vote No 1.

Indeed it has become a tradition in the Legislature that this is a vote that always starts in as far as committee reports and I take it that today is no exception.

The first thing that I must indicate is that with you members, separate from the ATC there is an attached separate document. This is the one I will be speaking to. I really apologise for that. These technical glitches at times tend to catch up with what we would desire or want to do.

Hon Speaker, let me, with due respect, not deal with the first page: terms of reference, method of work, budget allocation. These are straightforward matters.

On the general observations, which is the next page, it would seem they are not paginated, but the next page is general observations by the portfolio committee. Even there, on behalf of the committee, I will not be spending much time on that, except just to highlight key message. In 4.1 the key message is that the operational plan is not according to the Legislature prerequisite for a department to develop when they are presenting or submitting to the committee. Equally it is very important because it gives the breakdown costed quarter-by-quarter and essentially that is what we are trying to lift there. Related to that would also be your APPs, which this time did not even reflect the costing, so I won't be spending much time the recommendations.

Let me shoot to the next page, page 1 and focus on findings and recommendations. The first finding that we make as a committee is that:

Programme 1: Administration

Findings:

- (a) The re-engineering process of the department is actually used as an excuse in the delay of implementing the department's work and affects, among other areas, the filling of vacant posts.

We think that whilst you are re-doing your department you can't be sure how many people you want to employ –that is effectively what we are saying.

- (b) The department is paying quite a lot of money on lease of property for office space. This expenditure has been incremental over the past financial years and is projected to increase every year.

For your own information you can go to the White Book and turn to pages 79 and page 82.

- (c) There is still over-reliance on consultants and outsourcing services by the department, as reflected in the budget allocated to these service providers.

Once again go to page 79 and 82 of the White Book.

- (d) The department makes no contribution to the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Recommendations

- (a) The department should unpack what the re-engineering process, entails and how long it will take for completion.
- (b) The department should come up with a province-wide long-term plan to address space challenges in which it should map out cost-saving considerations and value for money, as well as relief in respect of leasehold costs.
- (c) The department must provide the committee with a plan to build human capacity within the department in response to the question of outsourcing of consultants.
- (d) The last recommendation on Programme 1: We think that the department must lead by example in adhering to the Expanded Public Works Programme of the government. All department are obliged to set targets for EPWP and the OTP must do as much.

We think that Premier, we are not – through you Speaker – we are not satisfied how the department has handled the matter. It just says we are working on learnerships; we don't have targets; whilst our understanding is that every department has a contribution to make in the EPWP.

Quickly, on Programme 2: Institution Building and Transformation Findings:

- (a) Despite the existence of proper tools in place (case management database), the provincial government is still not displaying enough capacity to prevent or deal with cases of fraud and corruption as indicated by escalating cases of fraud in the provincial and local spheres of government.
- (b) The programme TODCOS does not have adequate capacity to support and enable the provincial departments to carry out their mandate effectively.
- (c) The shared legal services unit is perpetually losing litigation cases against the State.
- (d) There seems to be no transport policy, leading therefore to loopholes in the Fleet contract and thus resulting in government losing a lot of money that is supposed to be claimed by the government in non-compliance by the service provider. The most serious weakness in this contract is the predominance of the service provider in its management.
- (e) The Thusong Service Centre Model is seriously flawed and poorly implemented, leading to the confusion and duplication in provision of government services.
- (f) The committee acknowledges the explanation provided by the department, but it is not convinced that the inability of the department in the provision of ICT services and connectivity province-wide is mainly attributed to cost pressure of servicing SITA service level agreements.
- (g) The last recommendation is three-legged: There are serious bottlenecks regarding issuing of bursaries in the province, including:
 - There is no standard procedure and mechanism in the administration and implementation of bursaries among provincial departments.
We have the central bursary policy in the Office of the Premier, but we have individual bursary policies from line function departments, which seem not to be talking to each other.
 - There is still no proper plan for placement of all graduate beneficiaries into employment.
 - The Office of Premier is not doing enough in terms of reaching out to the marginalised communities with respect to information required by learners for entry into higher education institutions.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department must review the existing strategies on fraud and corruption and close the potential gaps in the policies to transform the landscape of anti-corruption and fraud in the province. The department should consider engaging different stakeholders in the province and reprioritisation of fraud and corruption.
- (b) The OTP must strengthen its endeavours on building capacity on TODCOS so that it can enhance its support to provincial departments.
- (c) The OTP must provide the committee with a plan to turn around the question of State litigations.

The government must develop a transport policy that would reconsider whether this service cannot be provided and managed by the government again. The department should also spell out its envisaged approach to:

- address the existing contract bottlenecks, including predominance of the service provider in the management of the contract; and
- to take vigorous steps to recover monies lost by the government as a result of non-compliance.

We think Premier this is another critical area that the department should consider because we believe that before outsourcing, transport is a core function of government, especially under the Department of Transport.

- (e) Given the dire need to strengthen municipalities against the backdrop of proliferation of structures of the government (for example community development workers, ward councilors, ward committees) you can go on, to Thusong services centre. These are all bodies revolving around delivering services at the local level which seem to be providing the same service. The committee calls for the provincial government to review the need for the existence of Thusong service centre models. Surely we are not saying do away with Thusong service centre, but make a review, determine their value; which ones are more effective and what can be done best in the context of taking into account the various areas that are doing more or less the same work.
- (f) The committee recommends that the Legislature convenes a meeting with SITA and Heads of Departments to discuss the issue in plenary; remove the committees, its Heads of Departments because we believe SITA is a State entity under Public Service Administration. It has two legs in its functions – mandatory and non-mandatory areas – that it must assist departments. So we think that all departments would be affected by this and hence we are making this recommendation that this matter must be taken at the plenary level.

- (g) The department must enhance its coordination so that there are common grounds on the provision of bursaries among the provincial departments.

The department must consult with the public and private sectors to secure employment opportunities for graduate beneficiaries.

The department should come up with a plan to disseminate bursary information to those marginalised communities that are not easily accessed.

The last programme, Programme 3: Policy and Governance

Findings:

- (a) A draft Provincial Planning Commission conceptual document has been approved by the Executive Council and is ready to consultation. In the same breath; plans are underway for the appointment of commissioners by the Premier.

This is what the department was telling us, hon Premier. We were wondering; this is a process you as the Cabinet approved processes to consult on the document itself, the conceptual document, simultaneously there are appointments and we couldn't understand that and hence you will take note of the recommendation.

- (b) Even though a stakeholder engagement strategy is underway, the department's approach to policy formulation does not fully engage the relevant stakeholders. We think on this one the Planning Commission processes themselves, the PGDP review and update, we think these places are instructive on this one.
- (c) IGR relations protocols have been developed in order to realise the smooth implementation of the IGR strategy.

Public Entities:

I think what we have done, we have done all the findings, including Programme 3 and the entities, so we will deal with the findings of the entities then move to recommendations for all.

Public Entities under ECSECC:

- (a) There is still a grey area and overlap with regard to the respective roles of the department's planning and policy branch and ECSECC. ECSECC is also responsible for many functions. ECSECC is keeping funds for Eastern Cape AIDS Council for instance, ECSECC is providing secretariat support to JIPSA, but it also gets involved in transforming JIPSA into an HRG Council.

ECATU – there is just one finding:

- (a) ECATU is part of merging processes with the Rural Development Agency

The SPEAKER: You have two minutes, hon member.

Mr M MAKUPULA: Thank you very much, Speaker.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department should provide the committee with a detailed report of the consultative processes leading to the draft, as well as a report on consultative processes before the appointment of Commissioners.
- (b) Involvement of public and private stakeholders is crucial in order to reach common consensus when formulating policies, plans and strategy that have long-term implications for the province. The department must provide the committee with a plan outlining the stakeholder involvement.
- (c) The department must submit the IGR protocols for consideration by the committee. The department is requested to present the IGR in the House for deliberation by all affected parties.
- (d) The department should fast-track the review of its public entities to mainstream the responsibilities to prevent duplication of roles.
- (e) The department should present to the House the status progress with regard to ECATU and its integration into the Rural Development Agency and its processes.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the department for the opportunity of engaging each other on this oversight period. It was not easy. I want also to thank the members of the portfolio committee for their unwavering support in the committee to make sure that we deliver quality work. Lastly, I must thank the support staff of the Legislature. I know at times things were quite tough, Vicky and Lindelwa, but overall we have managed to develop this report.

I therefore place the report in front of the House, hon Speaker.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the other report; hon Gqiba.

Ms N GQIBA: Hon Speaker, allow me first of all to greet the Premier, umama, iNkulumbuso yephondo leMpuma-Koloni, i-Cabinet ngokubanzi, amalungu ePalamente, DG, departmental representatives and the community members. Ndinibulisa nonke ekuseni nje, kungenjalo emini emaqanda egameni leNkosi uYesu Kristu, Amen!

Hon Speaker, I will just leave terms and reference, and method of work, I will go straight and report on the budget and also findings and recommendations.

Budget for the Office of the Status of Women:

First of all let me indicate that the SPU as a component, the budget is reflected in page 2 for each and every programme, ndiza kuripota kuyo.

Office of the status of women i-budget is reflected for 2010/11.

Office on the Status of Women

The budget is as reflected for 2010/11. We have an increase of 44.7% compared to the previous year.

The findings of the Office of the Status of Women:

- (a) The employment equity target for the province currently stands at 34.2%.

The corresponding recommendation is:

- (a) As the committee we are saying the Special Programmes Unit should work with Transversal Organisational Development and Consultancy Services Unit (TODCOS) in the Office of the Premier, to develop strategies that would assist the departments in meeting the targets.

Office on the Status of Disabled Persons

Budget allocation is as reflected – R3.871 million – an increase of 46.5% in comparison to the last financial year.

Findings:

- (a) The employment equity target for people with disabilities currently stands at 0.24%.
- (b) Government buildings in the province are still not accessible to people with disabilities.

The recommendations are as follows:

- (a) The Special Programmes Unit should work with TODCOS unit in the Office of the Premier to develop strategies that would assist the departments in meeting the target.
- (b) The Office on the Status of Disabled Persons should finalise their audits in accessibility of government buildings and ensure that departments comply with access to buildings; therefore quarterly reports should be provided to the committee by the end of July this current year.

Office on the Rights of the Child and the Elderly

Budget is as reflected and also included in that office is a budget for Youth Desk, for the compensation of Youth Desk – former Eastern Cape Commission employees.

Percentage for the increase; 48.69% in comparison with the previous year.

Findings:

- (a) The Provincial Strategy on Child Trafficking has not been finalised, as it is still in a draft form. This is a matter of concern considering that the Soccer World Cup is nearby.
- (b) The strategy on the coordinated response for the abuse and killing of children and older persons has still not been finalised.

Recommendations:

- (a) The Provincial Strategy on Child Trafficking should be finalised as a matter of urgency before the start of the Soccer World Cup and the document should be submitted to the committee within 30 days.
- (b) The strategy around the coordinated response on killings; the recommendation is; the strategy should be finalised as a matter of urgency as these killings and crimes against children and elderly are occurring almost daily.

Youth Desk

The findings are as follows:

- (a) The committee found that the concept document for Youth Day activities – that is 16 June – has not been finalised. This is a matter of concern, considering that the Youth Day is just two weeks away.
- (b) Considering that the Youth Desk in the Premier's Office has recently been established, there is no plan in place to level the working relations with the National Youth Development Agency.
- (c) When it comes to the awarding of bursaries there is no clear strategy in place of how the information reaches youth in the rural areas. Advertisements are placed in the *Daily Dispatch* and other newspapers which are not readily available in the rural areas.

Recommendations are as follows:

- (a) The concept document for Youth Day must be finalised as a matter of urgency and the document should be submitted to the committee within immediate effect.

- (b) The Youth Desk in the Office of the Premier should provide the National Youth Development Agency by 30 June 2010.
- (c) Around dissemination of information for bursaries: The Youth Desk in the Office of the Premier should have a meeting with all school principals in the districts and the Metro and supply them with bursary application forms from various provincial departments. The Youth Desk is further task to provide stakeholders with information on NSFAS. This should be done by 30 July. .

General findings:

- (1) The committee found that there are no clear lines of communication between the Special Programmes Unit in the Office of the Premier and the departmental Special Programmes Units.
- (2) The employment equity targets have not been met either for people with disabilities or for gender equity. This shows that there has been very little or no improvement since the previous financial years.
- (3) The Office of the Premier is undergoing a re-engineering process.
- (4) The implementation of all institutionalised days' events will be managed by the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture.
- (5) The Department of Social Development is the only department that has a youth directorate and in other departments there is only one person responsible for all issues in the entire department.
- (6) The departmental Special Programmes Units are in many cases not adhering to their mandate. This is largely due to their location, staff challenges and insufficient budgets.
- (7) There are many challenges facing the designated groups, as they are not being comprehensively reported on and addressed by the departmental Special Programmes Units. This is partly due to the fact that the Special Programmes Units are not located in strategic units within the department. This is not in line – the committee is saying – this is not in line with the provincial and national policies.
- (8) The fact that Heads of Departments are not attending Standing Committee meetings is a matter of concern, as it indicates that the Special Programmes Units are not being taken seriously. Only two Heads of Departments, namely the Department of Local Government and Provincial Treasury, attended the meeting on 25 May 2010 is a matter of concern.
- (9) The majority of the staff in the departmental Special Programmes Units have not received adequate training in relation to Youth, Elderly, Children and People with Disabilities.
- (10) There is no uniformity when it comes to what the departmental Special Programmes Units' mandates are.

- (11) Most of the department's bursary policies cater for internal staff members only.
- (12) The departmental Special Programmes Units do not have research units that could assist in informing their action plans.
- (13) The departments do not have reports on the funds transferred to municipalities in support of designated groups.
- (14) The Office on the Status of Women is not reporting where it is supposed to as reflected in the Provincial Policy Gender Framework.
- (15) The Eight Point Plan principles are not included in the Heads of Department performance contracts.

General recommendations:

- (1) The Office of the Premier's Special Programmes Unit should invite the national Ministry on Women, Children, Elderly and persons with Disability and SPUs from all provincial departments to a workshop where the national Ministry will be afforded an opportunity to address the provincial SPUs on matters affecting designated groups. This should be done before the end of July 2010.
- (2) The issue of employment equity targets should be the main priority in all provincial departments and the Special Programmes Unit in the Office of the Premier should, as part of their re-engineering process, work closely with the TODCOS unit to address this issue. A plan of action should be sent to the committee within 30 days.
- (3) The Office of the Premier should provide the committee with a progress report on the re-engineering process within three months.
- (4) The Office of the Premier should provide the committee with a progress report on the re-engineering process within three months.
- (5) The Office of the Premier should ensure that the Special Programmes Unit only provides strategic guidance to the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture on the institutionalised days' events. The Office of the Premier should ensure that there is proper coordination and consultation on allocation of venues for institutionalised days.

The SPEAKER: Two minutes, hon member.

Ms N GQIBA: Thanks.

- (6) All the desks that seek to address the plight of the vulnerable groups must be established in all provincial departments. Each desk should have at least one person responsible for it in order for service delivery to be fast-tracked.
- (7) In line with the Provincial Gender Policy Framework, the Office on the Status of Women should be a directorate and report

directly to the Director-General and the Department Gender Focal Points should report directly to the Heads of Department so as to enable them to participate in all key decision-making structures. Ziyeke ukuba ezinye zibekwa-supply chain, ezinye zibe-Office of the MEC, ezinye zibe-Office of Research

- (8) The Office of the Premier should conduct an audit to ascertain the training needs of the departmental Special Programmes Units and training workshops and courses should be arranged.
- (9) The committee resolved that the Office of the Premier should, in conjunction with the Ministry on Women, Children and People with Disabilities, meet with all the departmental Special Programmes Units, MECs and Heads of Departments and formulate a mandate that is relevant to all departments.
- (10) The committee resolved that the Office of the Premier should review these policies so that the plight of vulnerable groups; women, youth and people with disabilities are also addressed and also awarding should reflect representativity of all Eastern Cape citizens.
- (11) The department should provide the committee with detailed reports pertaining to funded projects in municipalities that seek to address the problems faced by designated groups within 30 days.
- (12) Lastly; all Heads of Departments' performance contracts should include the Eight Point Plan principles.

I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Now it is questions for the committee members, questions of clarity. They are all combined in these 10 minutes.

Mr D B HADDON: Chairperson, thank you. Referring to finding 6.2 under (e) about the Thusong Service Centre model being flawed; could the committee tell us how many such Thusong Service Centres there are and what the problems are of implementation?

Ms V MVENYA: Kwi-Premier's Office Portfolio Committee, ndifuna nje uku-understand (a) ukuba sithini isizathu sokuba kubekho i-engineering kwi-Premier's Office.

Kwi-Youth Portfolio Committee; ithini imandeyithi ye-Youth Desk apha kwi-House yayichithiwe i-Eastern Cape Youth Commission, but nisathetha nge-Eastern Cape Youth Commission staff. So khanizame ukusicacisela apho.

Enye i-question hon Speaker; ingaba sithini isizathu sokuba eza-HoDs zi-athende zibembini qha kula-Committee meeting yenu, Kulento ye-equity target kwi-34%; ngeyiphi eyona Department iyi-culprit?

Kutheni u-OSW engaripoti kule ndawo ebefaneleke ukuba uripota kuyo. Uripota phi ngoku? Kuba nithi kwiripoti akaripoti apho bekufanele uripota khona which is ku-DDG. Enkosi Chair.

The SPEAKER: Would the committee please respond.

Mr M MAKUPULA: Hon Speaker, on the first one on Thusong Centres - according to records of the department there are 11 Thusong Centres, but we gathered that through our visiting them they are more than that; they are more than the official number as reported in the office, so it is an area that we think that should be followed in terms of determining how many are there.

Problems flowing from Thusong Centres very generally: They are a combination, but at the key is that the business plan of establishing Thusong Centres as determined by the Presidency could not make it much clearer; who is supposed to be funding Thusong Centres. So now they end up everybody being a gentleman's understanding of French agreements; there is nothing committing to say, so there are a variety of departments. Those who feel it is important, you will find them there; others you will not find them there; and the whole question of staffing in terms of management of the Thusong Centres. I am just highlighting too as a plethora of the...

On the re-engineering process; generally this concept, this is what we are grappling with as the committee because re-engineering always emerges when you ask questions; no, no, we are unable to do that because of the re-engineering process. When articulated it would seem it is a process of re-shaping the department to be ready for the new mandate, but we have never laid our hands on a clear document that says re-engineering process, these are the features, 1, 2, 3 and this is when we expect to complete the process and hence we are making that recommendation; that the department must give us what is entailed in re-engineering and at what time is it expected to be finished.

You are talking new mandate planning processes that are still coming; where are they with regard to, in relation to the planning commission, I mean the re-engineering process. Thank you very much hon Speaker.

Ms N GQIBA: Hon Speaker, my members will assist me. I will take the question around reporting of the manager: OSW. The national policy, together with the provincial policy on gender policy framework is saying the manager for the Office of the Status of Women should report directly to the DG.

It is clear about that, but the manager responsible for OSW, kwiripoti yakhe is saying she does not report to the DG. Bendizama ukuyibeka ngolo hlobo. Why siyibeka apha siyikomiti yi-frustration that as a committee amandla e-department awekho kwi-managers ze-Special

Programmes Unit. Yet kuba beripota ku-DG straight even uyabavayitha o-HOD with amandla e-ofisi ka-HOD ebezakuba instruct (tha) ukuba babekhona. So that we are able to get everything in terms of understanding i-progress report. So la-point siyibekayo in terms of the organogram yiyo engathi ingayivayoleyitha le-programme izinto azihambi kakuhle. Enkosi.

The SPEAKER: Other members.

Ms K C FIHLANI: Hon Speaker, I will take le-question ye-mandate of the Youth Desk *vis-à-vis* NYDA. I think because the NYDA is of the national competence and it reports directly to the National Assembly, to Parliament, then there must be no vacuum on the youth issues, hence we talk of the Youth Desk that will coordinate all the youth activities within the Eastern Cape within the departments, which can be located within the Office of the Premier. There has to be a link with the National Youth Development Agency on that.

Then the reasons of the HODs, of the non-attendance of the meeting of the 25th of May which was here in the House; firstly let us say let us appreciate those two HODs – the one of Treasury and the one of Local Government that were able to attend. The others, they had reasons from their various departments and they had written – they were written apologies. Some of them there were no apologies, of which we say we think that – that is why we say this programme ye Special Programmes Unit is not taken seriously by some officials of the highest offices of the departments. Thanks Chair. Thanks hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think your time is almost up because you are left with 37 seconds.

Ms N GQIBA: Okay. Around the report; hon Mvenya is saying former Youth Commission, which means they are no longer Youth Commission officials. Enkosi.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. We will now move to questions of clarity to the Premier.

Ms V MVENYA: Thank you, hon Speaker. I-question yam ku- hon Premier yile ye-location ye-SPUs kuthiwa zihleli nandawonina, ezinye ziku-HOD. Ngokomthetho bekumele ukuba zi-alokheyithwe phi? Kutheni zinga-alokheyithelwanga kulo ndawo ke zifanele zi-alokheyithelwe kuyo.

I-question yesibini why i-province iseku 0.2 percent on people with disabilities. Eyokugqibela kulento ye-non attendance ye-HOD's kwi-meetings zala komiti ingaba wena as u-Premier ngalonto ngoba lento ibonakalisa eneneni ukuba lento ye-SPU's ayithathwa serious liPhondo. Enkosi hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon member.

Mr X A PAKATI: Hon Speaker, my question is with regard to the grey area and overlap on ECSECC and the planning and policy branch of the department. How does this thing arise hon Speaker because my understanding has always been that the responsibility of ECSECC is policy research and social compacting and as such all these other functions are not necessarily part of policy research; the issue of Eastern Cape AIDS Council and JIPSA? Where does this grey area arise from because my understanding is that the mandate of ECSECC is not the same as these other institutions that are quoted here? Thank you.

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, on the first question from hon Mvenya on the location of SPUs, this House, some years back, took a resolution to say that SPUs must be located in the offices of MECs for direct reporting and in the operation of that resolution indeed that took place because in most – subsequent to that resolution being taken – in most departments that did take place, but as departments evolve and formulate their organograms, some made those changes. We must also say that we, ourselves as members of this House, had picked up problems in that whilst we had agreed that SPUs to report to MECs it became clear in subsequent committees that in fact time was a challenge for SPUs to be able to report to their Executive Authorities and hence in the evolution of departments as they work, then others would locate the SPU in the office of the HoD, others in various sections as they deemed fit.

I must say that for me, for as long as we place SPUs in positions where they are influenced with regards to their mandate, is not effective, we will always complain and the re-engineering process in the Office of the Premier seeks to address some of those concerns because currently because of that changing and changing and changing as the department evolved, the SPUs in the Office of the Premier, report elsewhere in a directorate. It doesn't matter how hard you try; if they are not where policy evolves they will not be influential, they will not be able to make the desired impact and policy does not necessarily evolve in the Office of the Executive Authority; policy, the people who write policy are your DGs and either DDG at the level of the Office of the Premier and HoDs in departments. So until we locate them where policy evolves; that is when they will be influential.

That takes me to your next question on targets; why we are not meeting targets, be they of disability or gender; this point ndiyayoyika because even there we haven't – we must be realistic there. We must be realistic there. Wherever you go – in any province, in any department – we are not meeting that target because first how the recruitment process itself is not conducive or does not take into consideration those targets that you must meeting. We have gone as far as saying when reports on appointments are done; if there is a recommendation to the Executive Authority it must reflect that as I am motivating for this manager, this is what the impact of this appointment is going to be on either the gender

or disability targets of the province. That has now been made a requirement, but generally in the guidelines of recruitment that are there, that is not there; it is just an initiative that we are taking as a province because I tried it here and it worked a bit and we are saying let us try and enforce it and therefore it must follow the policy prescripts. Hence I am saying locate SPUs where they will be able to influence policy formulation.

On the last one from hon Pakati on the grey area on ECSECC - I do want to say that yes that is what the committee says that there is a grey area. For me there is no grey area. ECSECC is an institution of government which was set up for specific purposes – policy research and coordination of stakeholders. The policy unit in the department is charged with ensuring that administrative policies are engineered. For me there is no contradiction there, or there is no grey area. The fact that ECAC, its finances – because ECAC is an independent institution – ECAC is an institution or an entity whose Board is chaired by the Premier. ECSECC is also supposed to be chaired by the Premier. All that was done in the past was that because ECAC had problems with respect to funding and managing the funds; that responsibility of managing the funds was given to ECAC, trying to avoid duplication or limiting the already limited funds of ECAC at the time because it had a very small budget at the time and therefore that responsibility was given to ECSECC to manage just the funds of ECAC.

We have already said that that anomaly must be addressed and hence, as part of the whole structure of the office of the Premier, we are looking at how do we fully capacitate ECAC to be on its own and manage its own funds, but that is going to require funding. So it is more of a transitional measure, but that has taken too long because for me that by now should have been addressed, but again the reasons for that long – that it took too long – is because of the funding elements; that when you have a separate funding model you then would have to fund even the higher people who would manage this on your behalf, yet you have the capacity in ECSECC. The work of ECAC is done by ECAC.

Mr N KULUTA: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs, colleagues and officials, I greet you on behalf of Cope! [Laughter.]

During this historic month of the Soccer World Cup in South Africa, I wish to comment on the abovementioned report by the Portfolio Committee on the Office of the Premier. We fully concur with the findings and recommendations of the report. That is a culmination of hard work by our coordinator, researcher, chairperson and indeed members of the portfolio committee in which we all strive to highlight strengths and shortcomings of the department, with a view to constructively critic the department to ensure effective oversight.

Before I sit down, hon Speaker, I would like to reiterate some aspects of the report for the sake of emphasis. Up until now nothing has been done

practically about the plight of the mentally challenged citizens of our province, despite acknowledgements by the Premier's Office that this most vulnerable section of the society remains unprotected and yet our government is a declared caring government. It is such a shame to see in the streets of Mthatha in full view of children and women and elderly mentally disturbed men walking down the streets without even a piece of cloth covering his whole body. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] We appeal to the department as a matter of urgency, hon Speaker, to work hand-in-hand with the Department of Health, Social Development and Police to ensure that these people get all the assistance that they deserve, including providing them with decent shelter and security. What happened to those centres that used to care for these people?

Kamnandi apha akukho mntu waseBhofolo. Sikhule apha sisazi ukuba eBhofolo kusemagezeni, sikhule sisazi into yokokuba eKomani kusemagezeni. Because all those centres used to care for those people. NaseMzimkhulu ke njengokuba uhon speaker esitsho phaya. Hon Premier, we appeal to the department to ensure revival of those centres and build more where necessary.

On the question of fleet management we are suggesting that instead of chopping and changing service providers the department should simply return this function to the Department of Transport, as the continued privatisation of this function is unworkable with severe financial consequences to the Eastern Cape, especially the Department of Health. Bringing back this function to the government will ensure so many decent permanent employment opportunities to the unemployed masses of the people of this province, instead of just directors of Fleet Africa who are the only beneficiaries of this arrangement.

The vacancy rate is still critically high, leaving the department relying heavily on consultants and yet this practice costs the taxpayers so much. And kulento ke idibene nokubuyiselwa kwale-function to the Department of Transport. The Eastern Cape Government boasts on paper and in rallies to be pro-poor and pro-worker and yet when this function was privatised a lot of workers lost so many jobs. We are saying this is why it must be taken back so that government runs those government departments again and employ those mechanisms and stuff like that.

An immediate filling of these posts will to an extent address the challenge of unemployed graduates and other skilled people who are roaming the streets. The Office of the Premier must build enough capacity in the Shared Legal Services Unit and TODCOS to ensure effective legal and administrative guidance to other departments, as the lack of capacity in these units leads to departments losing a lot of litigation cases at a very big cost to the taxpayer.

The majority of our children in the Eastern Cape still cannot access tertiary institutions due to unavailability of funds and that puts a lot of

demand on the Office of the Premier to take the bursary policy reviewal question seriously and ensure that this information is available even at the lowest level of our society, including councillors. There is no transparency at the moment in this regard.

Kulento ke idibene nale-bursary policy; we are saying le mali isuka from the Premier's Office iyakwa-NEDFAS, ekugqibeleni lamali iphela ingeyo-bursary iphela iyi-loan because those poor children must pay that money back. We are saying the bursary policy must be clear, ibeyi-bursary policy, not a loan.

Lastly, we need to know details of the much talked about re-engineering process of the Office of the Premier for us to understand how it will impact on the service delivery and we need to know clear deadlines about the formation of the Provincial Planning Commission, as we believe that the finalisation of this process will go a long way towards assisting government in planning and coordinating activities of the various departments to ensure effective quality service delivery.

On the question of Thusong Centres we are saying the department must re-look at the question of the location of some of these Thusong Centres because once you have these centres in towns they lead to a duplication of services. You get a situation where there is a police station five metres away from the Thusong Centres and at the Thusong Centres there are police who are doing the same services that are being done at the police station. We don't think that is the original purpose of the formation of these Thusong Centres.

We argue that as you go around, you go on strengthening municipalities, you will end up not needing this model. This model must be phased away with, as all this information and services will be available from our municipalities.

I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr J PIENAAR: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs, members and guests. Members will know that our former Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, is now the driving force behind the National Planning Commission, but we cannot sit back and wait for him to start the engines.

At provincial level we can take initiatives to get regional planning initiatives where real power that will make real changes for our people. If we take into account that one of the major challenges will be to identify areas of need, to coordinate interventions and to bring about real change then this is an initiative this province desperately needs.

In this province we have seen 180 babies died in hospital in Mthatha this year alone. We see a lack of ambulances and emergency operations. We see under-spending, under-funding and accruals where suppliers are not being paid year after year. Only in Health we sit with close to a

billion rand of accruals of last year. Working on strategies to prevent these problems is something we need to take responsibility for and seeing that it will be a function for the Office of the Premier, we need to see leadership in this.

The Provincial Planning Commission will only succeed if we see political will coming from right from the top, but the work of this Commission should not stop work in identifying shortfalls. Coming up with strategies and then trying to rectify it. It should also work proactively. It should set strict measurable performance agreements that should be adhered to. This will ensure that value for money, performance, of course identify culprits; culprits who are soaking up the sun on the gravy train without performing or delivering services to the poor and the needy. We need to be aware of the areas where the Office of the Premier is failing the poor and needy.

Take the current programme to award bursaries is only one example. At the moment it is not functioning properly. The right people are not being empowered and the failures are greater than the successes. What we need is a political will to overhaul the current system. We should be issuing vouchers to hardest working school leavers on various criteria. They could then redeem these vouchers at the university, technical college or other institutions of higher learning, or they could use it as start-up capital to start a business as entrepreneur, learner skill to buying goods to start a business.

We need to encourage entrepreneurship to overcome poverty and create jobs. An education without a job is worthless. Look at the thousands of graduates out there who cannot find a job. With the right political will, massive contracts can be broken up into smaller ones to benefit all seven regions of our province. The massive Fleet Africa contract springs to mind immediately. As contracts that was brought into existence a few years ago is R750 million per annum and has grown to R3 billion of the taxpayers' money this year. How was this possible for this to happen? Is this value for money? Certainly not. We are paying Fleet Africa R19 800 per month for a little Chico Golf. We are paying more than R45 000 per month for one Toyota Hilux converted into an ambulance by Fleet Africa.

We can buy these vehicles, convert them into ambulances and operate them at a fraction of the prices and we can get our own jobless graduates and skilled youngsters that we have empowered through our own voucher bursary system to run the administration and maintenance of our vehicles. Why outsourcing this massive contract to a group we know nothing about outside of our provincial borders? Who are benefiting from this?

I am sorry but before these questions are answered I cannot just see how they can justify not bringing these contracts and jobs back to home soil, the Eastern Cape. Let us unbundle this massive contract. Let us break it

up in several regional contracts run by our own people at a fraction of a price and let the Planning Commission coordinate this. We need to do much more to inject progress and jobs in our own province. We need to do more to market our province.

Just the other day on the front page of the *Herald* I read a report that Port Elizabeth's chances of hosting the lucrative champion league 2020 cricket series hang in the balance because of the team of businessmen in Johannesburg are concerned about it. This is contrary to the initial statement released on February 19th which states that the two finalist of the Standard Bank Pro 20 Competition would qualify as host. The Warriors and Highveld Lions contested this Pro 20 Final which was won by the Eastern Cape franchise. The February statement has since been withdrawn by Cricket South Africa. We are going to lose this opportunity.

What we need is a proper lobbying unit that can strategise and represent our province and cities and national and international level to secure events and tournaments for our province. Without such a unit we will be outgunned by the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal again and again. We cannot send boys to play in the circle of men. [Interjections.] Port Elizabeth come up with available plan to promote Port Elizabeth as water sport capital of Africa, its market strategy work and secure great events, bringing international yachtsmen and the like to the city. It worked because the marketing plan and a lobby unit were in place.

If our Premier wants to be remembered as a successful Premier other than the string of failures ahead of her, she will have to bring such a lobby unit to life. We need then to look after our total provincial marketing plan and to coordinate the plans with our region. Take the lovely town of Uitenhage; it can be marketed as the one place in South Africa where young people can make it big and learning the trade of auto manufacturing. It should be the hub where youngsters with vouchers from the Premier's Office were gathered to be trained in the auto trade where they will have secure jobs with Volkswagen and the like, at the tyre bubble of auto supply trade surrounding area. If we don't think big we will remain small. We will continue to be the boys being bullied by the men.

Mr Speaker, in closing I need to point out one more embarrassing statistic that draws a shadow of the Premier's Office. The Zuma Hotline is not so hot. Responses rate to calls in this province is only two percent. [Interjections.] What I mean is that I will have to make 50 complaints or raise 50 questions on the so-called hotline and maybe get one response.

Mr M SOGONI: Hon Speaker, on a point of order: I consider it disrespectful and unparliamentary for the President of the Republic of South Africa to set up an official Presidential Hotline and here it is

referred to as the Zuma Hotline. There should be a difference surely between a Presidential Hotline and a Zuma Hotline. May I ask therefore hon Speaker that the member understands that he is out of order and he must withdraw that statement?

Mr J PIENAAR: Thank you, hon Speaker. I withdraw the remark and I will replace it with President Zuma Hotline. In fact, it is not so hot. The response rate to calls in this province is only two percent.

The SPEAKER: Are you replace it with "Presidential Hotline"?

Mr J PIENAAR: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr J PIENAAR: Hon Speaker, either we re-brand it as a cold line or we get ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Continue, hon member.

Mr J PIENAAR: Thank you. Telling people that their questions will be answered - as our President did - and then not doing it, is tantamount to corruption, which is about the only thing we excel in this province. We have no overall strategy to combat corruption. [Interjections.] We have to co-ordinate plans against corruption. [Time expired.]

Ms Z HLEKISO-THABANENG: Somlomo, I-UDM iyayixhasa iripoti yekomiti ene-increase yebhajethi engu-4 percent we-department OTP. Iyixhasa ke imangalisiwe zi-decreases eziye zenzeka kwibhajethi ezikhoyo phaya. For instance kukho i-decrease yebhajethi engu-R10 million kwi-policy planning and monitoring reporting. Xa ke noko iya isenyuka ibhajethi kubekho i-decrease kwezinye i-programmes siyi-UDM asinqwali ncam.

Kuphinde kubekho i-decrease of 0.22 percent ...nayo lonto asiyaqwalileli. Xa kusithi izinto zithi zikhona zibhajethelwe ziphinde zibuye umva. Lonto isinika ukuba kukho okungahambi kakuhle okanye ukuqhwalela okuthile okwenzekayo.

Uphinde phaya ku-programme 3, u-50 percent ka-programme 3 oyi-R78.7 millio kula programme iya kwimivuzo yabasebenzi. Esisithi ke thina noko inkulu xa kunokude u-60 percent kwi-programme ibengowemivuzo.

Kuphinde i-one third kwaphaya ku-programme 3 engu- R45 million yenzelwe i-goods and services. Kulo one third we-goods and services kuthathwe u-56 percent which is plus/minus R28 million. Kubhajethelwe ukuba kuzakubhatalwa i-consultants, agencies i-outsourcing of services. Into ebangela ukuba siyi-UDM sibe asihambisani nalento hon Phakati i-primary focus ka-OTP is to

address the lack of leadership skills in the Department. Apha bekungafanelanga ngala maxesha, kule minyaka sisathetha ngokuba kukho imisebenzi ezaku-outsourced (swa) ekubeni u-OTP inguye one-bursaries, ufanele ukhlala phantsi ne-Department of Education bajonge i-skills okanye zonke izinto ezinokuthi zancedise. Bayabona, bayazi ukuba i-shortage iphina. As long as ingekabiko into yokokuba u-OTP kweli candelo lidibanisa i-bursaries ahlale phantsi ne-Department of Education. Sakusoloko sikhala nge-shortage of skills yonke le mihla.

U-Premier ke udla ngokundiphendula apha ndiyithetha lento ye-bursary mhlawumbi sukube engandiva kakuhle. Ndiyavuya kuba iyavela naphaya kwiripoti yakwa-youth into ethetha nge-bursary. Xa sithetha nge-bursary thina siyi-UDM sinombono apho i-Department yakwa-Education no-OTP behlala phantsi beplena kwaziwe ukuba kwi-skills esithile kufuneka abantwana abathile okanye abanga. I-Department yazi ukuba sikhupha ngoku itishala ezinga nezinto ezizakunideka. Singathi sibuzwa ngoku u-OTP balindele ukuthatha abantwana bangaphi kwi-faculty sizibize zonke asingekhe siyifumane impendulo Kuba bengayazi naba babanike i-bursary ukuthi bangakanani na.

Sisoloko siyikhalazela ke into ye-bursary singatsho ukuba i-bursary ayikho. As long as singayazi ukuba ifunyanwa phi na, kukangakanani kwaba bantu baphaya. Sithi ke thina siyi-UDM ngokuya besifunda besisithi ngoMeyi/Juni ikhona kwi-notice board echazayo ukuba i-application forms ziyafumaneka ezikolweni.

U-Premier uthethe kakuhle kwi-policy speech yakhe ku-page 5 kwi-paragraph yokugqibela ethetha nge-R81.3 million esithi izakuncedisa kwinto edibana ne-ITC. Besinombono ke sicinga ukuba kukho o-Alfred Nzo, kukho iindawo naphaya koNgcobo apho inga-aseswa noku-aseswa into ye-network edibene nayo nayiphina into. Esithi uyakuthi apha bonke abantu beliphondo bakwazi ukuzibona i-Government services. Ulothuko sithe xa sihlala phantsi ne-department safumanisa ukuba lento kuthethwa ngayo ngoku ayikho ngala ndlela uyibeke ngayo kwi-policy speech. Ithetha ngokuba ngoku kuzakulungiswa i-departments, kuthethwa ngoku ngeBhisho akuthethwa nto nge-rural ukuba ungakhe ufunde u-page 5.

I-corruption ingayinikwa la-R4.9 million, iyinikwe i-anti corruption but singekazifumani i-reports kwi-department ezithile like u-Social Development apho kuye kufumaniseke ukuba i-project ziye zingahambeli ndawo ezinye zingaqali kwa ukuqala kodwa ungaze ufumane ukuba kukho ubani ode wabe ubizelwa emthethweni, uza ngaphambili. As long as zonke i-departments zethu zisisiwa ngabantu ezinkundleni zomthetho kungabikho nenye into eyenzekayo. Okanye ndakukhunjuzwa ukuba lalike eliphondo okanye uRulumente yayikhe yakhona ayiwinayo i-case, I-UDM ke iyayixasa le report.

Enkosi. [Applause.]

Mr M P GALO: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, the AIC is worried about some of the findings in the report, more especially in Programme 2, if you take into account your finding (b) and (g), where finding (b) indicates the programme, that the programme TODCOS does not have adequate capacity to support and enable the provincial departments to carry out their mandates. As a result, the provincial departments are functioning as NGOs with fancy annual operational plans and APPs, with thumb sucked performance indicators. One will reflect on that hon Speaker when we are debating the reports of the affected departments.

What we wanted to highlight here is the fact that if the OTP is failing to provide leadership in this province in terms of good responsive and effective governance, I have no doubt in my mind that come the next financial year we shall find ourselves debating the same weaknesses instead of praising ourselves on the progress made in the betterments of the lives of the people in this province.

Maybe we need, Comrade Pakati, to limit the in-fighting within the ruling party. [Laughter.] Because if you continue fighting about who is going to take the position of the Deputy Speaker, the person whom we have observed that she has rendered good services in this Provincial Legislature, but if you will spend time fighting about those positions – we want this one; we don't want this one – you are not going to provide leadership in this province. So I am saying we need to focus on real issues. [Interjections.] We have to focus on real issues, not infighting.

This is not the ANC of the time of Tambo, Moses Mabida etc etc; this is another ANC.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms F NKOMONYE: Mandibulise hon Speaker, hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council ezikhoyo, hon committee, hon members ezikhoyo apha endlini namhlanje, DG ne-senior management, key stakeholders ne-staff ezikhoyo apha eLegislature, mandibulise ngale emva kwe mini.

It is always a pleasure and an honour kum xa ndithetha on behalf of the African National Congress. Ayingabo bonke abantu abanexham lokuthetha nge-African National Congress njengombutho omkhulu. [Laughter].

Namhlanje hon Speaker, it is important that we acknowledge namhlanje kuba siselebreyitha usuku lwabantwana, the International Children's Day, i-celebrate(thwa) ke under the theme ethi "All Rights, All Children". Ukubangaba benikwazi ukucula njengam bendiyakuthi masicule lengoma ithi: "We are the world; we are the children", but sizakuyicula ngenye imini xa sele nikwazi ukucula . The essence of the song says we need to make a brighter day for the kids and then it starts with us; we need to make the environment yokuba ukukhula

kwabantwana kuyilonto sifuna ukuba ingomso labo libelilo. When you nurture children, you nurture society, so kufuneka sibakhathalele abantwana namalungelo abo. And one of the things esinokukwazi ukubakhathalela ngayo abantwana kukuqinisa iziseko zemfundo yalapha e-South Africa kwakunye neyalapha e-Eastern Cape.

Xa i-Freedom Charter yayisithi “Doors of Learning shall be Opened”, yayingathethi the physical doors kuphela, yayithetha i-access to education. So kufuneka siqinisekise ke ukuba njengoRhulumente ophethayo nazo zonke ezi-political parties ziphikisayo zine-responsibility nazo yokuqiniseka ukuba i-access to education iyenziwa ukuba wonke umntu makafikeleleke kwi-education.

Somlomo, namhlanje ziyi-9 iintsuku ezishiyekileyo before kubekho i-take off e-soccer city. And namhlanje siyazingca njenge-Mpuma-Koloni kuba we are more than ready to take the world into our own hands and host it. [Applause.] Siyayazi ke hon members into yokokuba ukwamkela kwethu ilizwe kune-advantages ne-disadvantages. One of the advantages kukuba unomnotho wase-Eastern Cape uzakukhula nje kancinci and benefit abantu base-Eastern Cape. But we must also note as well that kukhona abantwana abancinci that we need to protect against the human trafficking. So we need to protect those that cannot protect themselves.

Hon Speaker, nje nge-ANC manditsho kuqala ukuba siyayamkela siyisapota le-budget ka-Vote 1. Siyanowuta ke into yokuba kukhona abantu – mandiqale ngalento ukwenzela ukuba ndize kungena kakuhle kwi-speech sam, U-Hon Stevenson uyathanda ukuba ndiyathanda ukulwa no-hon Pienaar, Uyandichukumisa uHon Pienaar everytime ndisiza apha, Unayo indawana engathi akakayizinzisi apha entloko kuye into yokokuba asisekho na-ready to govern siyalawula ngoku. U-disrespectful to the President of the ANC, and not only to the President of the ANC; the President of the country.

One of the ways esiqinisekisa ngazo ukuba abantu bayalawula kunye nathi, lento yokokuba bapatisipeyite abantu in the processes ze-democracy is to establish a hotline so that they voice out izinto ezibadlayo ukuze thina njengamalungu ePalamente nabantu abenza umthetho sirisponde to the needs. And ufika apha yena uthi la-hotline is not hot and yeka-JZ. That is disrespectful. And indenza mna ndibene-feeling ethi akakholelwa ukuba umntu omnyama anganento ayenzayo, Akathethi nto xa uHon Pienaar elapha nge-disrespect eyenziwa eNtshona-Koloni. Apho i-toilets zenzelwa abantu abamnyama because you will never find these toilets kwi-surbubs nakwi-white areas, zenzelwa abantu abamnyama zize zingabinazo iingcango. And I call into yokokuba uHon Pienaar understand we are not ready to govern; we are governing and we need to be respected as the government of the day.

Central to the building of a developmental State has been a process towards the creation of the Planning Commission. This Planning

Commission and Monitoring has been initiated in order to build strategic coherence within government and ensure that the State provides services in an effective and strategic manner. Siyayazi hon Premier, through you hon Speaker, that it has been a commitment of the Eastern Cape Government to establish a Planning Commission, and as the ANC we appreciate that because it means the planning that we do will be integrated and will be effective, if it is in the sense of being planned and monitored. Siyayazi ukuba i-Eastern Cape has got challenges like any other province. For instance, as the ANC, siyivuyisha lento yokokuba kubekhona i-challenges kwa Health, i-challenges in Education, as a sign that calls for the effectiveness okanye ukuba yi-take-off yale-Planning Commission because ezinye izinto zenziwa yi-poor planning as a result kubekhona i-problem in those government departments.

But also kukhona enye i-priority e-Eastern Cape ethetha ngokwakhiwa kwe-state. And if we are saying we must develop a developmental State, it means we need to transform because the political will might be there to transform the State, but if we have an administration that is not ready to implement our political will then we are not going anywhere. Therefore what we are saying is that the process of building a new public sector cadre, forms part of the major task for creating a developmental State. The kind of cadre that we need in a developmental State is the one that responds to the needs zababantu bangakwaziyo ukukhumsha bahlala ezilalini abathi “ukufotokopa kuku kopa-kopa” But akufunekanga bahlekwe abo bantu, those are the people that need to be assisted. And akekho omnye umntu ozakuncedisana nabo bantu ikwazezi-officials ziqashwe nguRulumente ziqashelwe lonto.

The ANC is committed to transform the State in the manner that benefits our people. Asinayo ke room yoku-alawa abantu abazakugezela abantu abadala bengabancedisi. Similarly, we will have to attend to the improvement of the State machinery as a sustained basis so that it is both responsive to the needs of the people and accessible to these masses. Amongst other things this requires that those who serve within the public service should have the necessary skills to provide the required goods and services, as well as commitment to serve the people. Njengokuba bendisele nditshilo.

The Freedom Charter similarly addresses the important issue of equality in our society. It therefore says “all shall enjoy equal human rights; all national groups shall have equal rights” and also states that “all shall be equal before the law”. Hon Speaker, ikhona into ewukhathazayo umzi wase-Eastern Cape, the management of the fleet. Njenge-ANC sikhokele in the society and we have the responsibility to say xa into ingahambi kakuhle ayihambi kakuhle and therefore masiyilungise ngolu hlobo. It remains our responsibility, asiyo- responsibility ye-opposition parties lonto leyo. So the ANC is convinced that this issue of fleet management of Fleet Africa contract is one of the areas that needs a closer attention or an urgent attention. The organisation is not particularly happy with the management of fleet in the Eastern Cape

because this management of fleet in the nature that it is being managed, it delays service delivery. A case in point - in the Department of Health kubakhona i-shortage ye- ambulances and that ine-impacts ekuzisweni kwenkonzo kubantu bakuthi. Into esiyithethayo ke siyi-ANC sithi u-hon Premier and the Cabinet, they must look into resolving this issue before it turns out ngokungathi it is a strategy yokuba kumilkwe u-government ngabantu abakwazi ukuthi ba-provayide i-services to the people.

Second last Deputy Speaker, in the issue of NYDA... [Laughter.] siya-appreciate(tha) that the Eastern Cape has managed **XHOSA** Eastern Cape Youth Commission, but siyacela sinqwenela into yokuba ngase i-process le yokuba ku-establishwe i-NYDA niyincedise hon Premier, ukwenzela into yokuba abantu abatsha they are not found wanting xa bezisa i-needs zabo ku-government.

Kulento ye-public entities; siyanqwenela siyi-ANC into yokuba ngase ezi public entities those ezifumanisa ukuba zine-mandate okanye i-responsibilities ezifanayo ngase zidityaniswe such that we get a more focused effort in terms of addressing le mandate yazo okanye i-responsibility yazo. Because if they are scattered all over you will then find a situation apho abanye bathembiselanayo khona ukuthi it was supposed to be done by so and so and at the end of the day it doesn't get done.

I-ANC njengombutho omkhulu iyayibulela into yokokuba niyinike ithuba lokuxoxa. Itsho isithi iyayivuma into yokuba mayinikwe u-Vote 1 ibhajethi ukuze iqhubeke i-implimente ii-programme zayo.

Enkosi. [Applause.]

Ms N NDABENI: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs present here today, hon Chief Whip, hon Members of the House, officials present here today, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all.

Hon Speaker, Cope , as a patriotic opposition, iyayi sapota i-budget votes.

The mandate of Special Programmes Unit is to oversee the mainstreaming and social inclusion of children, youth, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, but hon Speaker when we were doing our oversight it became clear that the centre does not hold. The unit is far from fulfilling its mandate. The unit was found wanting on what role it is supposed to play in ensuring that the mission or the mandate of the unit is achieved. This in turn affects the operations of the Special Programmes Units in the departments, as the Office of the Premier does not provide guidance to them. Some departmental SPUs does not have a clear understanding of their role and what is expected of them. This, hon Speaker, has a negative impact not only on the performance of the provincial government, but to our communities as

well who have no other hope but the government through the implementation of its policies.

We commend the establishment of the Youth Desk, as we believe that it is a step forward towards ensuring that the needs of young people of this province are taken care of. We believe that this Desk, in ensuring that all departments have integrated frameworks and policies with respect to youth of the province, will also guard against discrimination of young people because of political affiliation, as it was the case in Nkonkobe sub-region when the preparation process towards hosting a Youth Imbizo that including signing up of young people with the intention of affording them opportunities for learnerships and other skills was done. A letter was written to the Office of the hon Premier with only acknowledgement of receipt, with no response up to date. We hope that this Desk will assist and respond when such matters occur. We also hope that this Desk will deal and provide guidance to government departments with Youth Desk, but not dedicated personnel and budget to deal with youth matters.

Hon Speaker, it worries Cope that the NYDA has not yet established the provincial structures as one of its responsibilities is to strengthen implementation capacity on youth development at provincial level. As the Congress of the people, we request that this must be given priority because with no services specifically designed for young people the youth of this province continue to suffer and with no hope.

We would appreciate that... [Laughter.] We would appreciate if it will be functional before end of July 2010. We therefore ask that the Board for the Provincial Chapter of NYDA should also appreciate the working multi-party democracy, including geographic spread, gender, rural and urban divide and people with disabilities, Ingajongi only kweli cala le-ruling party.

Today we are nine days to the start of the historic event – FIFA World Cup – in which young people have been involved in making sure that this event is a success. As a young person myself, I am aware that even our province, we have a number of youth volunteers which as Cope propose that they must not only remain in the database of the province, but the province should give those dedicated youth learnerships and bursaries as part of youth development and as well i-World Cup legacy so that bakwazi ukuthi after world cup igqithile bathi sibhenefithe this and that.

We have noticed that eTholeni ziphinde zavuka eza-killings bezisenzeka phaya, zi-affect abantwana, abantu abadala and especially omama. Icacile hon Speaker that iya-increase(a) lento yokubulawa kwabantu apha kwi-province. We appeal that this House must guard against empty promises that are made to our vulnerable communities and we are saying that the office that should go to a fact-finding mission and encourage or enforce relevant departments to conduct community awareness programmes rather than being reactive. We are saying if ever

ezi-killings zinento ebangela ukuba zenzeke, like amagqirha ndenza umzekelo, amagqirha athi u-so and so ligqirha. I-office ka-Premier mayifumane indlela yokuba ezo zinto zinjalo zi-adreswe. Singasoloko sisiya kubo only xa kukho isikhalo and sifike kubo sisithi silila nani akuhlanga lungehliyo and sakumka phambi kwabo silibale ngabo. Siphinde sothuke mhla kwaphindwa kwathiwa nasi isehlo sehlile.

Currently in the province we seat with 0,24 [Interjection]zange nisibize of personnels with disabilities and this clearly shows that we are still far from reaching the targeted two percent. The office that directly deals with persons with disability must ensure or enforce the government departments to comply. It must ensure that when the others are crafted, do specify or encourage the people with disabilities to apply, for example, most of senior management positions require a driver's licence and this certainly affects this sector negatively and thus discriminatory. The unit within the Office of the Premier must insist in ensuring that all government buildings are accessible to all people with disabilities.

In conclusion, Cope would like to congratulate the 23-member team for Bafana-Bafana that was announced this morning. We wish them all the best.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr J C UPIDO: Hon Speaker, Madam Premier, hon members and guests of the House, last week the Portfolio Committee for Youth, Gender and Disability adopted the report that was tabled today, according to this excellent work done by the committee and the quality of the report. Since then I have learnt via the Legislature grapevine that I am expected to give a happy-go-lucky speech today. Unfortunately I can't do that. I cannot do so.

The committee report on the Youth, Gender and Disability is a gloomy document with an even gloomier reflection on the Office of the Premier. For years this Legislature has listened to the same complaints about the fact that this section of the provincial administration just can't get itself going. I think that any representative of the youth and of women and of the disabled community will agree with me that they remain marginalised and are mentioned in the Legislature as a necessary nuisance. It is with sadness that the Democratic Alliance has to say that it has no choice but to fully support this cheerless report. I would suggest that this House assists that all MECs, Heads of Departments, Programme Managers, read this report from beginning to end and with the necessary seriousness it deserves.

Let us have a look at a few issues contained in the report, which should be a wakeup call for this Legislature and its mandate of oversight. While the government spends thousands of rands, nay, millions of rands to pursue private companies who do not adhere to equity measures, we

find that the employment equity target for the province itself is currently 34.2%. The employment equity target for people with disabilities currently stands at 0.24%. Government buildings in this province are yet to be accessible to people with disabilities. Having a wheelchair ramp does not alone make the building accessible to people with disabilities. There are far more corrective measures that need to be taken.

We read the newspapers daily how angry protestors are taking out their frustrations in their communities through violence and protests. They remain disenfranchised because they cannot be afforded enough and well thought enough through opportunities. How can we afford more opportunities when it remains a fact that in most departments in this province bursary policies cater for internal staff members only? What is the reason for SPUs then? The DA believes in expanding choice, not contracting it. In an opportunity society that values individual freedom, the State's role must be to facilitate, not direct activities of citizens. If it provides services it must seek to expand choice, not determine choices. In other words, the free independence and active individual is at the heart of the open society, both in determining the opportunities required and taking advantage of them.

On this point I would like to highlight the reality in this report that this entire directorate is not doing its job. The report makes the points that there are no clear lines of communication between the Special Programmes Unit in the Office of the Premier and the SPUs in other departments. This is nothing new. It has been a complaint for years. Every year we put it in the report and nothing happens; the next year we put it in the report and I can guarantee you it will be in the report next year.

It is time that the whole SPU system is re-worked so that they can do more than hand out pamphlets, caps and T-shirts. SPUs are not event planners. They have been specifically mandated to address the specific issues affecting youth, gender and the disabled. In these sections of our communities that were not deemed important, I cannot imagine why they were granted their own directorates.

In this report we are again bombarded with the legacy of the Youth Commission and the establishment of a Youth Desk in the Premier's Office. The fact is that this unit has not managed the simple task of organising Youth Day. Surely with expertise of a Youth Desk and the former members of the Youth Commission such a task should not have been a hard one. R5.8 million for the compensation of the EC Youth Commission; and what do we have to show for it this year; nothing! A billion rand was budgeted nationally for the National Youth Development Agency. We are yet to see any positive reports of their projects that are supposed to benefit the youth of this province.

The committee found that the provincial strategy on child trafficking has not been finalised. What does this mean to you and me? Other than the expected threats of abduction in large cities, the host cities, like Port Elizabeth, there is a very real chance that because organised groups of human and child traffickers are aware that security in host cities have been upgraded and have been significantly increased, with extra policing, extra cameras, etcetera, they will be targeting smaller towns like East London, King William's Town and Mthatha. Think about it. Port Elizabeth will have an increased police presence. Where will these extra officers come from? Not having a finalised strategy means only one thing; we are not prepared. This all points back to the ongoing problems not only with the Office of the Premier, but with the provincial administration as a whole that the time for strategising can no longer be an excuse. The time has come that drastic action is taken to get officials to either do their jobs or get out. The main calling of a civil servant is service to his community and fellow citizens.

The DA supports this report.

I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms Z HLEKISO-THABANENG: Somlomo, kwi-budget yakwa-Gender ene-increase engu-44.7% i-UDM iyayixhasa. Iyixhasa ke isithi ingase ke kwi-events ezimane zisenziwa yi-department u-Youth Gender and Disable kubonakale ukhona umehluko, Kuba ikakhulu apha kwa-Youth Gender into ekujongenwe nayo zi-events. Omnye umntu ngelinye ixesha angayithatha mhlawumbi ngendlela engavakaliyo but inako ukusincedisela ukubonakalisa ukuba uRulumente ubakhathalele abantu ngokwemfuno zabo nendlela ezahlukeneyo,

Kodwa ke bayeyilile ke uYouth Gender ukusinika kanye-kanye u-June 16 kuba sele elapha. But asilahlali sandla siyi-UDM sithi mabaphakamise bangenzi njengeminyaka edlulileyo. Kodwa ibe ludano kuba i-June 16 yeyonanto yaziwa ngumntu wonke but akaveli phaya ukuba kwenzeka ntoni, ngeziphizinto ezizakuchithwa kodwa asitsho ukuba akungenzeki nto.

Siqale ukuva ngo-2004 ukuba i-world cup iyeza apha eSouth Africa kodwa xa ufika apha ephondweni kwizinto ezidibene ne-child trafficking, into edibene ne-strategy yokuba aba bantwana bancediseka njani ukuba balumke. Akukhonto itshoyo, asinanto ibambekayo sishiyekelwe ngezintsuku zisithoba ibe iyaqala i-world cup. Ithethe ukuthi ke njengokuba abantwana bethu bekoluxhaphazo bakulo ithethe ikuthi lungangaphezulu okanye lungangeneno. Kuba ke akukhonto isibonakalisayo phaya kwa-Youth Gender ukuba kwenzeka ntonina kanye. Nokubulawa kwabantu abangomama okanye nabantwana kuya kunyuka ngokunyuka apha kwi-province ingakumbi xa ujongwa kweli cala le-former Transkei. Siyi-UDM ingase uRulumente angakhe ahlale phantsi kwi-national level, mhlawumbi ke uzakube e-infonywa zizinto ezisuku kwi-provinces, siyagalela ebhayini niyakuchola ke ukuba

niyachola okanye ningacholi. Ukuba singakhe sibuye isigwebo sentambo okanye ukuba kungakhe kunyuke ukutshajwa kubantu abathi babulale abantu ingakumbi abantwana. Asitsho ukuba mayenzeke namhlanje kodwa ingase ibeyinto enokuthi ijongwe nguRulumente ukuba abantu abafayo ngabantu abangakwaziyo ukuziphindezela kumaxhoba, ngabantu abangakwaziyo ukuthi bazidifende kwabo bantu babahlaselayo. Angekhe ke iphele lento kuba uRulumente, umntu uyabanjwa namhlanje ngomso uyaphuma. Kuyangcwatywa kulamzi yena ubukele uhleli ecaleni kwendlu kowabo. Ziyenziwa i-petitions abantu bayamatsha baye nasezi-court but ekugqibeleni uphele ungayazi nokuba ezi-cases ziphelela phina. Zininzi i-cases esithe sazi-athenda nathi siyiPalamente kwi-womens caucus but ngoku asinakuxelela ukuba kwezinye kwenzeke ntoni na.

Kumbandela we-Youth Commission okanye i-former Youth Commission hon Mvenya, siyi-UDM thina asibonanga mzila oyishiyileyo kodwa singa singathi ke le izayo into ingase ibe ilungiselelwe. Xa sijongayo ngoku akukabikhnto ibonakalisayo ukuba intsebenziswano izakuthini na. Urulumente ke akukhonto ironko ngokuqala izinto kodwa into enganiki mfanekiso usengqondweni kukuthi – kukuhlala phantsi kuqalwe kuplenwe ukuthi lento izakwenza le nale, Xa kuthi ke ngoku xa sele ifikile kubekhona yenziwayo, ayifani nokuthiya umntwana igama kuthiwa usakuthiywa sisakumbona ukuba uyakuba yintombazana okanye uyakuba yinkwenkwe. Umntwana kula maxesha akhoyo waziwa engekaveli athiywe igama. Ingase kunganjalo ke.

Enkosi. [Applause.]

Mr M P GALO: Hon Speaker, hon Nyusile, in 1993 Cde Harry Gwala said and I quote:

The ANC has defeated all its enemies inside and outside the country, but the only enemy that will destroy the ANC is ANC.

So perhaps we must be given timelines as to when the budget for the Youth Desk will be reviewed and finalised and as to how long the OTP will take in its re-engineering processes. Maybe the OTP must indicate on that. Further, we need to be told as to when the National Youth Development Agency will establish its offices in our municipalities in this province because we were gathered here when uLungisa engazi engazi nokuba u-busy ubanga isikhundla sika-President we-ANC Youth League. But akadilivi kwi-promises zakhe uyaphela unyaka-mali ngoku. Sele sibadala ke Somlomo asifuni ukuzoku-adreswa apha sigcwaliselwe ngabantwana abagezayo, bathethe-bathethe bagqibe baphume bangazenzi ezo zinto.

Sicela ke wenze i-follow up hon Premier. Sifuna ukwazi into yokokuba ezi-National Youth Development Agency offices zizaku-establishwa nini ngomasipala. [Time expired.]

Mr M DIMAZA: Hon Speaker, on a point of order: Even if the previous speaker's time has expired, we need to correct and start to educate some of the people, even if ezinye izinto zibenza abanye baqhwyelwe izandla unnecessarily. It is un-parliamentary to say abantwana abagezayo, especially during this when we talk about Children's Days and so on. So these are some of the things that are going to help and cause people to develop further, not to be excited.

Mr SPEAKER: Let us proceed. I think that has been noted.

Ms N T XHANTI: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, hon Premier of the Executive Council, hon Members of the Provincial Legislature, government officials and our parliamentary visitors, ladies and gentlemen. In the name of our glorious movement, I greet you all.

Perhaps let me start by, ndiyamkele i-report ye-budget ka-Youth, Gender and Disabled. I want to begin by quoting Dr Martin Luther King Jnr, one of the greatest civil rights activists. He says:

An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualities concerned to the broader concerns of all humanity.

We are here today because we cannot claim to live in a democratic paradise whereas as a section of our own citizens have not fully enjoyed the democratic gains others have tasted. Like Dr Martin Luther King Jnr, we have to constantly ask ourselves have we lived the kinds of lives that we have been able to bring a positive social change. Our society is still faced with challenges with regard to the issue of child poverty, youth underdevelopment, human abuse, exploitation and oppression.

There is a belief which says all kids need a little help, little hope and somebody who believes in them". I want to add an say all vulnerable groups need identical help – "little hope and a society that engenders sense of trust and confidence in them". As this government led by ANC who have developed good policies to bring about positive change in the lives not only of children, but to create a conducive environment where our children can grow with hope that everything they wish to become, they will indeed realise it.

It is my view that none of the intention to deliver basic social needs are capable of attainment unless proper grounds is leveled from which our children grew and develop. This in simple terms means children must be allowed to be children; they must play; they must feel safe and loved. Ndicinga ke all as Members of Parliaments, we do have a copy of the Children's Act, Act 8 of 2005. If we don't have it, I think mama uGqiba kufuneka sibanikile.

We need to strengthen, uphold and mobilise families and communities towards a greater responsibility regarding the care, protection and development of children. We realise that we cannot continue to fight for the rights of children without looking at the most basic and critical unit, a society which is a family. Siyayazi ke u-government we-ANC can do nothing if you as a parent awuthathi nxaxheba ebomini bontwana wakho. We have a problem today that our kids are involved with sports, but we do not accompanying them in terms of watching them when they are playing with other teams – that means giving them support – but we expect Government to do more, but government cannot do that without the assistance, iqala apha endlini lento.

It is my strong belief that if we want to protect our children, we need to put to our efforts on the creation of positive family structures where children come from and as the key role-players we have to integrate our efforts to make vulnerable groups a cross-cutting concern, upscale our implementation drive and march shoulder-to-shoulder in ridding our society of all sorts of criminality and corruption. Remember, a rand spent which fully robs a vulnerable person a service.

Hon Speaker, women continue to live in poverty despite being a numeral majority of our population. We must therefore learn to harness this strength into a collective power for the reconstruction of development of our lives and that of a society.

In closing hon Speaker, today marks the beginning of South African Youth Month, International Children's Day, Child Protection Week, the End of Child Protection Week in remembrance of the generation of 1976. Our government has set aside this month in the South African calendar to show to the youth of this country that this country and this government cares about the youth and South Africa honours the power of your courage, the power of your voice and power of your action. Our government has further demonstrated its commitment by investigating in a number of initiatives geared towards to the youth development, hon Galo. As the ANC, we hold that it is not confusing and demobilisation of our people that will bring a better life for all; it is only when we are working together that we can do more.

Oliver Tambo once said as members of the ANC we must together with people in fact have to solve all problems that serves to slow down the progress of the struggle, provide a clear perspective of where we go from here and translate that perspective into a practical programme of action.

I think I need to respond to hon Ndabeni. She has mentioned of empty promises for vulnerable groups. I just want to remind her into yokokuba as from last year our President has made sure that there is a Ministry on Youth, Women, Children and Disabled that is led by Minister Noluthando Mayende. Ezo-efforts ke besixelile into yokokuba our government care about vulnerable groups or designated groups. Ndine-

worry ke uhon Kwelita, while she was talking ngexesha bekuthetha iOffice of the Premier, I just wanted to remind him because he was the former MEC wakwa-Social Development; just to remind him that ANC is the custodian of the Children's Act, Act 38 of 2005; just to remind him that it is the ANC who made sure kula-Act into yokubana ndimkhumbuzo nge-care and protection of the children, I mean, iprogramme that uyayazi into yokuba na ngenye ye- programme zakwa-Social Development and ziyi-part and parcel ye- Children's Act. Just to quote you from the Children's Act; that is why I said all members must have that copy and you will see that ANC is on track because the policy is talking exactly kwi programme ya kwa Social Development. Perhaps one of them is to provide partial care, so... [Interjections.] No, no, I am just reminding the former MEC. If you can remember, he has raised the question of yabantwana. He has mentioned into ye early childhood, but mandimkhumbuze kaloku. Uyayazi into yokuba there are programmes ezi dilishana ncakasa ne-care and protection of children.

Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, let me at the outset appreciate the work done by the committee and members of the committee, as well as officials from the department because that kind of work helps to keep us on our toes. Let me start with the report on the OTP.

The question of the operational plan will be dealt with and I will make sure that by the time the responses to the House are submitted that would have been also submitted.

I would want to use my time trying to explain the key areas of focus, one of them being the engineering process. We will all recall that with elections came a new mandate and that mandate necessitate certain issues to be dealt with differently and therefore the process of re-engineering has been started already in terms of engaging workers, engaging managers; everybody would be affected in the Office of the Premier because we would want to make sure that we deal with the inherent challenges that come with any re-engineering or transformation challenges because at times re-engineering, once you call those names, people start thinking about job losses and the like.

Therefore it becomes important that we have a thorough understanding for those who would be affected because it is a departmental issues, but it is intended to position the Office of the Premier to be able to discharge the kind of responsibilities that this House has pointed to weaknesses on. Firstly, one glaring example is SPUs. If we continue to have SPUs structured in the organogram of that department in the manner they do, that finding will continue coming and hon DA – hon Cupido – we will always deal with one finding year on year and re-engineering is trying to deal with that once and for all. We would want a functioning SPU properly located and capacitated to deliver on its mandate and therefore I would want us to understand it in that fashion. To make a hastily done

thing is not going to assist also because if we do not track carefully on how we manage it moving forward, we run the risk of misinformation or, yes, poor coordination and we wouldn't do that. We want a properly run process which will take care of all the weaknesses in the structure and the arrangement of the office as it stands.

There is actually a work plan on what happens when. At least the last time I was with the officials in terms of monitoring that work plan with regards to re-engineering, they were within the timelines as set. But maybe DG so that we take away the concerns and the fears, the work plan also must be shared with the committee. It would be also interesting and important that when we do so, when we do so, when we share that kind of information it is handled with the necessary care, as I have alluded to, the frustrations that come with such processes.

Also, when we have given the committee information it becomes important for us so that we are also motivated, to at least have a sense that the committee has looked into the information because the repeated comments on the question of bursaries, to me reflect that even though we have shared our reviewed bursary policy, which was adopted by the Executive, it does appear that even the members of the committee, as they are debating, they didn't go to that bursary policy because if they had done so they wouldn't be raising the kinds of issues that they do. [Interjections.] Some – okay – as I am saying some; some of those members.

If you have read that policy you would understand the process that comes about as a result of that policy. The processes of ensuring that first we are saying each year between May and the end of July, officials from both the Department of Education, all tertiary institutions in this province and some coming from outside this province, participate in exhibitions and they go through all the districts, invite all Grade 11 and Grade 12 learners and they share with them what possibilities are out there when you finish your Grade 12 and the forms you are talking about, they are shown, they are available because the tertiary institutions themselves become part of that exhibition.

It is also clear what this is revealing is that we possibly are not communicating enough, which I would urge again the Office of the Premier, as you go around the province, write to constituency office, submit your programme to the portfolio committees so that members know that on day X you are in area A and this is what you are doing. I believe that would go a great length in terms of addressing the weaknesses in the communication.

Our problem, which I would urge again members to assist us with, is that even though those exhibitions are held, our own children simply do not apply until there... There is some mindset that a person will only apply when I see my Grade 12 results. At that time it is too late. At that time it is too late. Despite that this exhibition takes place between May

and July, our kids simply do not apply and you become their representatives indeed in January next year and February next year. You do not play a proactive role in your own constituency work to strengthen those attempts that are being done by departments. They only come to the fore when results are out to say this child has passed so well; we cannot allow that angayi eskolweni, which truly is fair, but again let me remind you; it is members of this House – earlier when we were debating the SOPA – who were commenting the Office of the Premier for having availed bursaries. Today they are dealing with something else they have forgotten. I would want us to stay true to what we do; stay honest to what we do because we debate this bursary issue is like there has been no work, nothing that has ever happened and I don't think that is a correct reflection on what has happened. So I would urge the hon members to assist us in our endeavours to assist our communities.

Again, with respect to the mentally challenged communities, I think I have addressed this in the committee myself and I am still raising it again in this House that yes the matter of mentally handicapped people is a matter of serious concern and government, the Department of Health in particular because that is the domain of the Department of Health – I explained in the committee that there are laws that protect those very people and those laws say you cannot put them in an area that is a risk to themselves and there is a model of a ward that must keep those people.

I made an example of the hospital in Uitenhage which has just been renovated to accommodate the mentally challenged people as well. We were saying that is a programme that we are going to, as we renovate and upgrade hospital, we are going to do the same in all where we can. It would be incorrect to say there we don't care. We do care. The fact that government would go that extra mile to ensure their safety once they are in our own custody. I would invite members to actually go and see that ward in Uitenhage. Those members who attend our activities would attest to that; they have seen the ward I am talking about.

Let me deal with the question of child trafficking, especially around 2010. Where is hon Thabaneng? I would hate to speak about this without her being here, because I would want her specifically because of the mindset on death sentence; I want to address that directly with her in her presence, but I will say she will get it from the Hansard. I would want to say that there is a saying or the words of one of the elders, one of the leaders, Mahatma Gandhi. He says:

An eye for an eye will render the whole nation blind.

Now if we say people who commit violence crime against children and women mababulawa, we are treading on an eye for an eye environment, which is in contradiction with our noble principles of nation building and therefore I would want us to even stop thinking about the word death sentence if we truly are representatives of the people, who have

the interest of the people at heart because when it is done ngu umntu – mandi thethe ngesinto lento – xa lento imbi yenziwe ngo enye umntu ku balula ukwasebensiza la ma gama, kodwa umhlingwa umntana apha kwendlinini owenza into embi emntwini uba uqhala utata uthi uyufuna iqwetha umkhusele because that is a natural human reaction.

We don't want that. We are not interested in desegregating our communities. We are interested in building our nation. The death sentence was there in the past; it has deterred nothing because we wouldn't be talking about the levels of violence had there been the effect of the death sentence being a deterrent. I want to say that we should stop even thinking about the words "death sentence", because as a nation those words are not going to take us anywhere. Let us think of what we contribute as individuals, as families in building our nation. What is it that we do at home that will mould children, young people, who would not dare do evil to others? That is parenting. Let us play us our role as parents at home. Let us governise our communities to play their roles at home and just stop thinking about those issues that are not going to assist us anywhere.

Mr Speaker, there is also an issue here about the Office of the Premier and EPWP contribution. You know that statement worries me so much because then it reflects again that when we talk these programmes, EPWP; what is it; what is it for; and in relation to the Office of the Premier what is it that the Office of the Premier is charged with. The Office of the Premier is not an implementing department; it is a more a policy coordinating leading department, providing leadership and therefore we cannot expect EPWP in the Office of the Premier in the manner that all other service delivery implementing of departments do. That little we can do insofar as taking school leavers, accepting them in learnership and giving them experiential training on the job, but we beyond that we don't have massive programmes that would contribute to the EPWP programme massively.

One thing I did not refer to when I was speaking about child trafficking was the whole notion that in fact just last week, in the past two weeks or so, the Department of Social Development has been moving from school to school, educating learners, as part of its programme because lento ye child trafficking, child safety, rests with that department. They have been going from school to school, speaking to educators, parents and learners, but again maybe it is because we don't communicate these programmes, I will assume, but education, wherever we are, wherever we speak to communities, educating communities about the dangers and the risks in child trafficking is ongoing work. Perhaps, hon MEC, each time you have these programmes please communicate not only with your portfolio committee because then other... Social Development for instance has communicated with that portfolio committee. The one of the Office of the Premier won't know or other members wouldn't know. Let us find a way to communicate these programmes, especially those that are implemented amongst communities, let us communicate them

such that all members are aware of what we doing where and why. I think that will assist us a great deal. It must not only be limited to your specific portfolio committee.

That takes me to the question of fleet management. It is the Executive Council's decision when confronted with the challenges of the fleet management when the contract was expiring because everybody seems to forget that this Executive Council now came into office at a time that contract was almost done. That has been work of the previous Executive Councils, but as the Executive Council, having looked at what are the pros and cons of this agreement we are faced with, took a conscious decision to day Department of Transport, in principle we are taking a decision that fleet will be in-sourced; in-sourced meaning government will supply its own fleet itself and manage it itself.

That decision has been taken. The Department of Transport was given a responsibility to work out the modalities of how we are going to do that. That can never be implemented overnight. It cannot be. You cannot, if you had outsourced work and simply overnight take a decision to say I am stopping today because you will have nothing tomorrow. Therefore this is a transitional arrangement towards in-sourcing. I think we need to make that clear because that decision was taken already last year. All that we are doing now is to work out modalities of implementing that decision.

Hon Speaker, I am trying to look for anything I have not responded to. In terms of the resolution as I understand them is that responses to the recommendations would be submitted within 30 days.

In closing, let me say that the government in this province is determined to deal head-on with all challenges that it meets along the way to ensure fulfillment of the mandate given to us when we were voted, when the ANC actually was voted into power this term. We are working flat out. We are amongst the communities every day. You will find us in our offices giving leadership. There is no reason whatsoever for the people of this province to feel that there is something that is not going on right. All the issues that you are raising as members, some of you are raising because you have heard somebody speaking about them; it is issues that we are dealing with head on and we would want to resolve all of them to see that what the people of this province sent us to do, we do without fail. That we are committed to doing.

You know, somebody was talking about education and earlier on I was reflecting in this House what we are doing about education and probably let us say that with respect to corruption; that budget is for us to drive the programmes of anti-corruption. The anti-corruption forum is chaired by hon Majodina. That small amount of money is for coordination of work. The actual anti-corruption work is done by the responsible departments. Bayaqhekezwa ke phaya kwa-Education trying to steal information away, kuba beve kusithiwa kuza i-SIU, ba- late because the information sele ingakuthi. All that the SIU now will come and do is to

tell you ukuba nantsi into esiyifumeneyo nngawe. They can qhekeza and qhekeza that is not going to – we are not going to lose any information. Information and evidence is already with us. Those almost 2,000-plus people will find their way out of government. That we are determined to do and we are going to do precisely because of the commitment to deal with corruption in the manner in which it deserves. Siza kwenza umzekelo phaya kwa-education, siyaya nakwabanye. We want to indicate kwabanye ukuba this is what is going to be the order of this year. Siqala ngo-Education because Education uses a lot of our provincial funds and we cannot rest and we cannot allow a situation where those funds that are intended to build the future of our children, the future of our nation, to be abused by criminals mascarding as public officials. We will not allow that to continue. We are going to deal with them ngokwenja idila nethambo, ngabula ongesekhoyo utata uTswethe.

I would want to say to the members of this House that on the issue of litigation that has been raised in the report, similarly there is a committee working on analysing those cases, seeing which ones can we deal with, settle out of court, close them; which ones need investigation because even those cases themselves there is a lot going wrong even in the cases themselves. So we will investigate those, apho abantu bathenganayo ukuba hamba uye kukhalaza uyizise kum.

We know about those things, sizokubaxela phaya kweza-associations zabo bacinywe ezincwadini. I think umzekelo sele ukhona phaya eKomani. We will continue to work tirelessly to deal with the challenges ze-fraud and corruption. Oku kwekwethu kukubambisana xa sisenza lonto siyazi ukuba akuleqwa bani koko kulungiswa ukuhlala.

Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

Report adopted.

APPROPRIATION BILL (EASTERN CAPE)

Consideration of Vote 8: Agriculture

Mr P NKAYI: Thank you, hon Speaker. Good evening members. The report is on page 34. Hon Speaker, with your permission I move straight to page 36 and start with the findings and recommendations.

Programme 1: Administration

Finding:

- (a) With regard to labour relations, the department is vulnerable to outbreaks of unrest because of poor management of labour relations between staff and management.

Recommendation:

- (a) The department must submit a report to the committee within 30 days on how it plans to remedy labour relations problems going forward.

Finding:

- (b) The department has no funding for the construction, renovation and upgrade of office accommodation and is now conducting a province-wide office accommodation audit.

Recommendation:

- (b) The department must submit a report to the committee on the progress made in the office accommodation audit within 30 days.

Finding:

- (c) The legislative process of repealing the ECRFC and ECATU Acts and the establishment of the Rural Development Agency is expected to be completed by February 2011.

Recommendation:

- (c) The department must, within 60 days, submit a progress report to the committee on the planned legislative process regarding the establishment of the Rural Development Agency.

Finding:

- (d) The Special Programmes Unit has been given the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the participation of designated groups in the department's agricultural programmes.

Recommendation:

- (d) The department must report to the committee within 30 days on how the SPU will carry out its new functions.

Finding:

- (e) The department is making excuses about accruals for delayed transfers to its entities.

Recommendation:

- (e) The department must make a commitment to prioritise all its entities in the payment of transfers regardless of the condition leading to its accruals.

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management

Finding:

- (a) The shortage of engineers at the department continues.

Recommendation:

- (a) The department must demonstrate its seriousness by learning from other initiatives, e.g. Department of Social Development on social workers and the Department of Health on Paramedics who have recruited from previously disadvantaged communities and assisted with bursaries. We also urge the House to summon government to provide answers on human resources development as a provincial priority.

Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development Services

Finding:

- (a) The manner in which the auction of the equipment at Ncora Irrigation Scheme was conducted was irregular.

Recommendation:

- (a) The Department must institute an investigation into the matter and report to the committee within 30 days.

Finding:

- (b) The department is reviewing its tractor distribution model to communities as a result of conflicts.

Recommendation:

- (b) The department must submit the new tractor distribution model within 30 days.

Programme 4: Livestock Development

Findings:

- (a) The insufficient budget for this programme is going to halt the construction and renovation of dip tanks and this will have adverse health effects on both animals and humans.

Recommendation:

- (a) The department must intensify negotiations with Treasury, highlight the problem and lobby for more funds.

Finding:

- (b) Generally, farming communities perceive the medicine provided by the department to be ineffective.

Recommendation:

- (b) The department must improve its services and must constantly engage communities of awareness programmes.

Finding:

- (c) The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, together with the Department of Health, have responded swiftly to create awareness and also take preventative measures regarding the outbreak of Rift Valley Fever.

Recommendation:

- (c) The department must intensify the campaign.

Finding

- (d) There is a policy gap with regard to the regulation of the movement and transportation of animals, in particular rural transportation which increases the risk of stock theft and also poses health challenges to both humans and animals.

Recommendation:

- (d) The department must address the policy gap by effecting proper legislative amendments in the Act concerned.

Programme 5: Technology Research and Services

Finding:

- (a) The department has embarked on the research projects in communal areas. The research is focused on a new planter, compost use and integrated disease management.

Recommendation:

- (a) The department must submit a progress report to the committee on the progress of the communal research programme within six months.

Finding:

- (b) The reduction of the budget from R18 million to R8 million will lead to reprioritisation of discontinuation of some of the projects.

Recommendation:

- (b) The department must intensify negotiations with Treasury, highlight the problem and lobby for more funds and also find alternative sources of funds and create partnerships.

Programme 6: Entrepreneurial Development

Finding:

- (a) In the establishment of Agri-BEE ventures and partnerships, manipulative and fraudulent activities are rife.

Recommendation:

- (a) The department must improve its procurement policy to minimise the risks posed by fraudsters.

Programme 7: Structural Agricultural Training

Finding:

- (a) The slowness in repealing the 1991 Fort Cox College Decree is hindering the national Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) from providing the college with administrative, financial and technical support.

Recommendation:

- (a) The department must, within 30 days, report to the committee on the plans to repeal the 1991 Fort Cox College Decree.

Finding:

- (b) Fort Cox College continues to receive insufficient budget and as a result the college has recurring accruals.

Recommendation:

- (b) The department must engage Treasury and highlight the plight of the college to appropriate funding.

Asgisa (Pty) Ltd

Finding:

- (a) Asgisa is currently focusing on the former Transkei because the mandate given to them was explicit with regard to the focus on the region.

Recommendation:

- (a) Government must revise the mandate. It is very bad.

Finding:

- (b) On project monitoring, Asgisa has clustered projects according to the areas of operation and there is a project manager for each cluster.

Recommendation:

- (b) The department must encourage Extension Officers to work closely with Asgisa Project Managers.

Thank you, Speaker.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you, hon chairperson. We will now take questions of clarity from members to the committee.

Mr C MARTIN: Deputy Chair of Chairs, I just wanted to find out when it comes to Magwa. There is this challenge always in Magwa when it comes to diversification from the tea to something else, but before we get there Madam Chair; how much was actually given?

The other one that I wanted to find out; did the department interrogate – did the committee interrogate the department for the usage of this tea? If a person takes Madam Chair, if I might elaborate, is that I don't think – that is government money (No1), government resources, and if you look at those people that are buying the Magwa tea; is government included in that, the departments, the municipalities, the Legislature; are they are market for Magwa?

Ms K C FIHLANI: Sekela sihlalo wosihlalo, mhlawumbi ke kulena yaseMagwa uhon Martin unokundikhavarisha kancinci kulena in-market because you hear ukuba i-tea is not marketable and all the staff, ube ubona ukuba zikhona izinto ezikhoyo nemveliso. Yilento ye-role mhlawumbi yezi-departments mhlawumbi both ...Economic Affairs ...nakundilungisa ke sihlalo ukuba ndiyayiphazama. In there, there clear role because we understand into yokokuba u-Agriculture ufaka imali phaya eMagwa kodwa in terms of decisions ibe ilele kwa-ECDC noba ikwa-Economic Affairs. So I am saying ikomiti ikhona na into eyixoxileyo ngalonto by clear lines of communicaion.

Okwesibini mhlawumbi when you talk of ezi zinto zino-enterprenial – andiyazi into yokokuba yintoni na la programme kodwa ikhona i-programme obuthetha ngayo apha comrade Chair, lanto ino BEE. Bakhona abantu abangamafama akuthi ababhenefithileyo ngoku esinokuthi banoku-asistwa yi-department, Thanks Chair.

Mr J PIENAAR: Deputy Chair of Chairs, my question is: Is the committee aware about the serious drought in the rural farming community of the Eastern Cape? If not, why not; if so, what did the committee not recommend any findings to deal with such disaster in our province?

Mr R S STEVENSON: Chairperson, my question to the committee relates to farmer support and development services. Are there sufficient extension officers in this province to assist the emerging farmers who are the beneficiaries of land reform? If so, is the committee satisfied that they are actually doing their job in assisting these emerging farmers so land reform can be a success in this country?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you, hon members. Would the committee please respond.

Mr P NKAYI: Deputy Chair of Chairs, obviously everybody knows the problem of drought in the Eastern Cape. We also know, like anybody else. I think when we talk about this issue of drought we were saying that focus was only given to the western side of the province and we are saying the department must look at the whole province. I think you remember that.

With regard to extension officers: There is still a significant shortage of them, but I think there is a programme to train and re-train them and also to recruit more. I think the MEC is going to talk about that. In our last report we did talk about that – how many they are short and so on.

The rest of the questions really are good for the MEC. For instance the Magwa; I know many members have asked about Magwa. We had a petition from Magwa and before we could go there to attend to the situation the practitioners said no, please don't come because the MEC – both the MEC of Agriculture and Rural Development, and MEC for Economic Affairs are coming back to attend the situation. So the MEC would be able to answer that question, including the rest of the questions because I think in terms of the layperson information I think they should have...

I think one question – uhon Fihlani asked how much money was given. It think it is around R20 million. The MEC can confirm that. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Can we check with other committee members whether there are any other responses.

Mr M NYUSILE: Chair, I think the hon chairperson of the committee actually managed to cover some of these aspects, but I think I want to talk to this Magwa problem, part of it, because I don't want us to be seen as the committee that we are running away from this Magwa problem. In the last term of this institution our committee had a very comprehensive session where we were discussing problems that are emerging in Magwa because on a yearly basis government is pumping up R30 million and we are saying this is not going to help our government going forward.

At the end of the day that institution must be able to sustain itself. One of the things that we discussed out there was the fact that what are we doing as Members of Parliament to actually talk to other government departments to use that Magwa tea in all the government departments so that we don't go outside and buy other products whilst we have our own product that we can see to it that we sustain.

We even went further to say we want Dohne as our research station to assist us in actually looking whether there is no other product that we can use to see to it that at least – because some of the challenges of tea, which I think the MEC will talk about, is the fact that there are huge costs, running costs of that institution and if you are to export it you will have a burden and as a result some of the countries that are supposed to assist us are actually buying the Kenya tea.

I am saying the efforts to see to it that government departments are buying this tea is a matter that is there; it is a matter that the committee have discussed. I think it is high time now that as the committee we might come up with some resolution of some sort that will be endorsed by this House to actually compel these government departments to carry out that... It is a matter that I think as the committee we have discussed. Emerging farmers: what assistance in terms of the land reforms:

There are huge emerging farmers that are being assisted by the department. You know, remember some farms that were funded by the Land Bank, that some of them were unable to be productive and I think the department was able to have a rescue plan to actually assist those farmers. So there are, there are, because we don't want our people to become emerging farmers the rest of their lives; we want them at some certain stage to be elevated to the level of commercial farmers. So there are programmes in the department that actually assist that.

I think you will be able to be assisted on the issue of the drought by the MEC.

Thank you very much.

Mr D NEER: Chair, on this issue of extension officers I want to point out that it is not just about employing the warm bodies; it is about

resourcing them because it is pointless employing a person when you don't have resources for this person to be able to work properly and effectively. So it is about vehicles, it is about cell phone because they work in very remote areas; that is why the chairperson was highlighting the question of the budget. I think Treasury is aware because that has an impact on human life, as well as the animal life because if you cannot have those extension officers reaching the community and participate in social mobilisation for any diseases then you are creating a problem. So it is very crucial that the department be funded to be able to employ those people and resource them.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you. Are there any questions to the MEC?

Mr M QOBOSHIYANE: Deputy Chair of Chairs, ndifuna nje ukuqonda kuMphathiswa ukuba basekhona na onodiphu phaya ezilalini? Ubalo lwemfuyo lona lusaqhuba na nokutofwa kwegusha njengokuba besikhula kusenzeka? Live stocking to determine the exact number of livestock in all the rural areas of this province.

My last question: Are there relations and functional agreements between the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in this province when it comes to the product and marketing and packaging of the tea from these tea estates because we cannot deal with this matter for the last 10 years and we don't have a proper solution.

Lastly; is this worker ownership, private equity and lesser state role in the tea estates the best model for this province, so that we avoid what we are seeing each time each year in all tea estates in this province?

Mr M MAKUPULA: Deputy Chair of Chairs, the committee is picking a recommendation on a finding that the department is making excuses about accruals for delayed transfers to its entities and it calls for a commitment from the department. Now the committee is no more here, so we will redirect to the MEC. A commitment is just a promissory statement. I can stand here and say I commit that I will do that. You would have needed a plan that indicate what is going to happen, when, and this is what we think the MEC must give a sense of a clear commitment. The committee was much a bit, although it was clear in trying to ensure that matters are followed.

The second area Chairperson that is of interest to me would be, I think I it is page 38 of the committee report; now I base the question on this. The department is reviewing its tractor distribution model and I just wanted to check what led the department to review that model. Obviously you make a review based on experience that you gather observations that you make.

Then this one is quite critical, hon Deputy Chair of Chairs; it is page 39. It is captured by the committee as in page 39 that of insufficient budget for the programme going to halt the construction and renovation of dipping tanks. Dipping tanks are critical instruments in ensuring that the bank of a rural person is secured and you the bank of a rural person is kraal. The last thing to do is to deprive animals dipping. Now my concern MEC is that even last year the department decreased the money for dipping material, let alone the fact that the dipping tanks are in crisis. Infrastructure has collapsed and communities are putting woods for themselves. The dipping chemicals, if I can put it like that; last year the department reduced the money from what was budgeted for.

This year in the policy speech the MEC talked about 65, something that I was quickly working out arithmetic, was 13 x 5 over a period of five years and I was just wondering, just in a place like Willowvale with 49 dipping tanks that are crisis, the material is not being there. I just urge the MEC and the department – this one is not a question – can you please prioritise this area? Can you please prioritise this area Zulu? Please mntakwethu maan ziyafa iinkomo nezilwanyana phaya. Worse, Deputy Chair of Chairs, is that in places along the coast surely the concentration of the chemicals that we use will differ from geographic area to another. Tick resistance differs geographically. Moving away from my point is that indeed you must increase the money. Thank you.

Mr J PIENAAR: Deputy Chair of Chairs, the Premier allocated R20 million for rural drought relief. Half of that money has already been spent via vouchers to these farmers and the co-ops have not been paid for the last five months, the co-ops where the farmers take their vouchers to, to get the necessary assistance. Can the MEC explain why the payments have not been made and will there be a second round of that allocated amount to the assistance of these farmers?

Mr X E NQATA: Deputy Chair of Chairs, I wanted to ask the hon MEC as to what are the timelines for the establishment of the new entity, the Rural Development Agency. I am asking this because the committee is saying that the mandate of Asgisa will have to be looked so that the extended does not work only on the former Transkei. That is why I am asking these timelines. What would be the point of focusing on extending its mandate instead of sweeping up the establishment of the Rural Development Agency? Thanks hon Chair.

Ms K C FIHLANI: Sekela sihlalo wosihlalo, bendifuna ukutshekisha kulento ye-rural development agency ukuba sele indawoni na. Ngoba ukuba ndikhumbula kakuhle uMEC ngeliya xesha le policy speech wayethe ngokudityaniswa kwazo zonke ezi entities. So indawoni ngoku lonto leyo. Mhlawumbi ke uhon Qoboshiyane undibethe emlonyeni kulento yonotofo sihlalo. Kuba besikhula kubuzwa ukuba zingaphi iinkukhu ekhaya apha. Kukho umntu ongena indlu nendlu afike abale ukuba ezi zinto zingaphi. So I am saying andazi nokuba zezi-extension officers ke ngeli gama lesilungu. Mhlawumbi ukutshekisha

ukuba iyakwazeka na lonto na kuba zezona zinto zikwaziyo ukufikelela kubantu bakuthi phaya emakhaya ke ezo. Enkosi.

Ms B TUNYISWA-GQOBOKA: Sekela Sihlalo, mna ndifuna ukubuza ukuba basekhona na aba bantu kuthiwa ngonomakhaya? Ndifuna ukongeza ke kulanto yonodiphu.

Okwesibini ndifuna ukuva i-comment ka-MEC uZulu kulentoithi; kukhangeleka ngathi i-departments including nalena xa ndimamele lento yokushota kwale budget yediphu. I-officials i-tendency kukuba zibhajethe yonke enye into but eyonanto iyi-priority kwi-ruling party kufuneke yona izokucelelwa apha ibe yinto nje egqithayo. Yi-observation ndifuna ukuva i-comment yoMphathiswa.

Eyokugqibela, masikhe siphindwe sicaciselwe Zulu ngubani lo u-owuna iMagwa? Ukwenzela ukuba sibe ntanganye in terms of information.

Enkosi.

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs and members, may I ask, with your permission, that when I do address the House I deal with the questions?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much. That assists a lot. Thank you very much.

We will now have inputs from political parties.

Mr M W NTENJWA: Chair of Chairs, mandibulise ku-Premier in absentia, iMembers of the Executive Council, all members and abantu ngalemva kwe mini, ngelihle igama leNkosi yam uYesu Krestu, Amen! Chair of Chairs, incwadi kaMateyu 5 uvesi 7 kucebisa uYesu uthi; “uyabona jonga umqadi oselisweni lakho phambi kokuba uye kumqadi osesweni lomzalwane wakho.” [Laughter.] Ibalulekile ke lonto Chair of Chairs.

Ngexesha lokwakha uNehemiya wayenengxaki yoSanabhalathi noThobiya.

As Cope we support this report and we support the budget. However, one point that we would like really to emphasise is the question of a rural development. On this issue of rural development we believe that the notion of rural development and urban renewal talks to the same conception of underdevelopment. The two terms are broadly used to describe and characterise settlement geography. In the main they refer to people who find themselves in the periphery. When you look at the socio-economic profile of persons living in rural areas and urban renewal nodes, in the main they are the same. There is therefore a direct connection between rural development and urban renewal.

The point emphasised here MEC is that it would have been good if piloting rural development when taking advantage of the infrastructure that exist in these areas. If you are going to have a rural development programme in an area like Butterworth, already you have an infrastructure in Butterworth that would support your rural development programme. If the rural areas are producing the rural staff that is the back desk that pushes that kind of a produce to the front desk, which would be your industrial area that already exists there, but if you are going to have a rural development piloting in an area where you have a problem yendlela, amanzi and many other things, so your chances of understanding, of coming with a win/win kind of a think in rural development are very slim, so I would view is that it would have been good if we have taken an advantage yezindawo.

Take the Mthatha area, the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality; they are having a master plan that talks to a number of things and if you have a corridor approach that would have assisted not only the lifting of that area kule R5 billion that has been committed by the President, but it would have assisted more even the rural development programme because the big thing of rural development sithi thina kufanele ukuba ibonwe njengamawele ne-urban renewal programme. If umzekelo kukhona this neighbourhood programme that aspire in the Amathole area is assisting ngayo kwaba masipali, it would have been good if that programme ayenziwa in isolation of the rural development.

The reality is there is this Transkei Rural Reserve Fund which was coming from lento ka-TDC. Again we are saying those are resources that should have been assisting this programme ye rural development. I know there is serious debate in rural development, whether you want to keep abantu basezilalini behleli kweziya ndawo bahleli kuzo na okanye ikhona indlela of assisting these people to integrate because if you are going to have this human settlement as a programme, so pull all those together such that it is easy for those who are in rural areas to interact/interface with rural and the produce that comes from rural areas to find way to the urban areas.

The Rural Development and Urban Renewal policies should complement each other. In the absence of these complementaries, urbanisation is likely to continue unabated and the results of interventions targeted at sectary juvination are unlikely to realise the intended impact and outcomes. The point here is that abantu abahleli ezilalini bazibona njengabantu aba-deprived. Kubo ukusuka ezilalini babheke ezidolophini, bakhe amatyotyombe it is the result that kungekho zinto to assist them kubekho ubomi kwezindawo bakuzo.

So this issue of rural development cannot be limited to this thing of agriculture, particularly come with a profile of this community. I know in one municipality there was a commitment by Eskom to put in electricity, but their programme now, they have backlog of three years.

They are not moving for whatever reason. The water backlog, the sanitation that was firstly piloted have not been done, so that does not assist rural development.

It is our view therefore that planning should be integrated and integrate a policy and programme implementation. For example, a corridor approach should be adopted in the context of rural and peri-urban settings. The model of integrated planning should be taken to its logical conclusion. It cannot and should not be left with the municipalities. Alignment should not only be at the level of planning; it should be at policy development and implementation as well.

The interventions made in rural areas through Asgisa should embed the principles of integration, growth and development, and sustainability. These interventions should be for both subsistence and commerce.

In the context of the above statement what would you do with surplus produce if there is no market? So we are saying kulento ye- market; if you are having markets esivulwayo that people are able when they have produce.

Umzekelo ukuba abantu bachebe uboya begusha zabo yeyiphi indlela enokwenziwa khonukuze bangaqhatha. Abantu bakuthi bayaqhathwa ngobuboya. Ufike abantu kwezindawo without sorting obu boya babuthathe babanike i-penauts. So abantu bakuthi basebenzela emlonyeni abakwazi kuyibona i-income ngezinto abanazo.

The meaningful results of city rejuvenation programmes can only be celebrated and sustained in government if government embarks on real rural development programmes that are aimed at improving the lives of the rural poor where they live. Such interventions must not be made purely for political expediencies just like the Mhlontlo pilot programme. The Mhlontlo pilot is unlikely to succeed if the following issues are not addressed: in the context of the province policy and planning framework; what are the intended outputs and outcomes of the project; what has informed the development of these outputs and outcomes; are there any baseline studies that have been conducted before the implementation of the pilot; if yes, who and how were these conducted; where is this information? We didn't know that these were never done, given the fact that these indicators what have been the basis of formulating indicators and targets; how is the impact going to be measured.

For instance, if you do not have the health profile of the area how are you going to measure your health intervention in that area at the end of the project of this pilot? Again, what is the philosophical and knowledge base of our rural development strategy? To what extent are we building and enhancing indigenous knowledge systems in the course of working on these projects? Who is learning in this process?

We are saying MEC this thing ye rural development should not be taken only for purposes of ukuthetha ngayo. We need to understand exactly what is it that we would like to see; what is it that the Eastern Cape that is dominant of rural; and you should be having programmes that are more than just active projects that would talk of the number of eggs, the number of iinkukhu ezibekhona kula mizi mibini, mithathu but what is it that you can do that would benefit. I hope this reconsideration of the Eastern Cape Government would talk to these things and yield results because we need to see more of impact kwezi zinto ezi.

Lastly, the management of this merger process is very key and important so that at the end of the day this vaguely Rural Development Agency is able to drive these programmes.

Thank you, Deputy Chair of Chairs. [Applause].

Ms V MVENYA: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, andiyazi ukuba sizakuxoxa ntoni na kwi-department enebhajethi encinci kangaka. Kwi-last financial year before adjustment le departmet yayinikwe i-R1.08 billion kulena i-fancial year yafumana R1.05 billion into ethetha ukuba i-increase ngu-R94ms kuphela. Ujonge kwi-medium terms estimates for u-2011/12 i-difference ngu-R80m kuphela.

Mhlawumbi ke lanto ibangela into yokokuba u-Department of Health abenebhajethi engaka yinto yokokuba kuyaziwa ukuba uzakusebenza. Ngoba xa ingaka ibhajethi apha kwa-Agriculture enyanisweni izibhedlele zizakuba busy. Ngoba kaloku xa i-province iyonke ifumene i-dip tanks eziyi-9 abantu bazakugula ngoba lento ayichaphazeli izilwanyana kuphela. Eziya zilwanyana xa zingakwaziyo ukuncedakala abantu bazakuzibulala eziya zilwanyana kuba bengendlela yokuzinceda bazitye, bagule ke ngoku.

U-Government uza ne-strategies ezihle ezininzi kodwa zinceda ntoni ezi-strategies xa ibhajethi ingazokuzilandela ngoba azilandelwa. Umzekelo i-Fort Cox ibize ku-adresa i-shortage ye-skills kodwa u-Fort Cox ufumana R21 million kulo nyaka, Kwiminyaka egqithileyo ebedla ngokufumana even less than 45 percent yebhajethi ayicelileyo. Uyayazi ukuba phaya e-Fort Cox i-officials zifumana nje i-salary azinayo i-pension fund, azinayo i-medical aid ayiphumi ngenxa yokokuba ibhejethi ayikho kwa-Department of Agriculture. Lonto ke ayisincedisi kulento ye-shortage of skill. Ayibethi nje la institution neza-students ziphaya ibetha nje lilonke jikelele. Urulumente ke kuza kufuneka ukuba adisayide ukuba i-Fort Cox iyafuneka na okanye ayifuneki kungadlalwa ngabanatu base-Fort Cox.

For i-disaster kule province sifumene nje i-R8 million kucelwe i-R27 million kodwa eliphondo kudiklarishiwe into yokokuba line-draught Sizakuyenza njani ke lento leyo xa ibhajethi incinci kangaka. Kwezi strategies zikaRulumente kukho no-asgisa ojongene ne-former Transkei eyona i-poor. Ufumene i-R100 million ufuna R160 million uzakuyenza

njani lento. Zezi-strategies sithetha ngazo into yokokuba enyanisweni ezi-strategies ayizizo ingekho ibhajethi ezilandelayo.

Lento iya ekubeni si-aplayishele i-overspending, le yi-automatic into yokuba ezinye i-department zizaku-overspend ngoba imali yazo incinci i-operations zingaphezulu kwemali yayo. Umzekelo ombi kakhulu kukho i-district apho ungakwaziyo nokufumana i-official kwi-phone ngenxa yokuba i-cellularphone bills azibhataleki kule department. Ungangena kwi-offices kwi-former Transkei ujong imeko kweziya offices akukho mali nakulo nyaka yokuba makokhiwe i-offices, akukho neyokuba kurenoveyithwe ezikhona kuthiwa imali ekhoyo yanele nje ukuba kwenziwe i-assessment, i-assessment andiyazi ukuba yeyokuthini na.

Kukho lomcimbi we-rural development awunamali okwayo, sesinye i-strategy ke eso. And xa uthetha nge-rural development awuthethi nge-farming njengokuba esitsho uhon Ntenjwa. Kufuneka kuye kujongwa neziya venkile zindala ziphaya ezilalini ukuba azinakho ukuba zivuselelwe ukwenzela ukuba kukho ibhanki, kubekho ne-petrol stations ukuze kuthiwe abantu basezilalini nyani bayadivelopha. Kuthiwa ke le department iya-co-ordinator ayiyo line department kuphela ikwayi-co-ordinating department kodwa akukho yokwenza lento. Ngoba kaloku kulento kunyanzelekile ukuba nakwezinye i-departments kuqinisekise into yokokuba nazo ziza nezinto zizekugalela kule rural development ize noRulumente.

Kwathina siyikomiti sibethwa ezindawo – kuba siza kuyenza njani i-oversight ebantwini abangenamali uzakubuzwa ntoni emntwini ongakhange umnike mali. Kwathina siyamoshwa kulo msebenzi wethu. Xa ndisiya ekugqibeleni iNcorha imbi, uMEC makakhe angenelele kulomcimbi waseNcorha, ENcorha kuthiwa makuthengiswe i-equipment engazokwenza nto kulento yenziwayo ngoku. Kuyasuka i-official ethile ithi ithengisa kwanto ephaya nale izakusebenza. Iyakhontradiktha ke lento ngoba kwelicala i-department ine-R26 million for i-irrigation schemes. IR25 million iya eNcorha, into ethetha ukuthi iNcorha ifumene kakhulu. Kodwa ukuba uyaqwalasela omnye uyarhuthula ngapha ezantsi uyakhupha uyathengisa le equipment izakusetyenziswa. Kuyadlaliswa ke ngoku apho kuba siyakhala sithi imali ye-department incinci kukho ekudlalwa ngayo ngapha eNcorha. Kufuneka kukhe kwenziwe i-investigation ke MEC ke phaya ukuba kwenzeke ntoni, ithengiswe ngubani le-equipment, eyithengisele bani ngamalini, yayiyimalini ngaphambili.

Kubekho lomcimbi we-shortage ze-engineers, uRulumente yena kuqala unezi-PGDP's zakhe phaya. Makakhe ajonge ukuba zithini na i-priorities zakhe phaya ne-shortage ye-skills especially apha kwi-engineers sikruqukile kukuthetha into enye. Andazi nokuba uhon Dimaza akazokuthi mhlawumbi ndithetha ecaleni na xa nditshoyo.

Siyayisapota siyi-DA le report kodwa yona ibhajethi asiyisapoti.

Enkosi hon Deputy Chair of Chair. [Applause.]

Mr J BICI: Chair of Chairs, hon members, R1.5 billion is too small for this department and UDM will always continue making a clarion call about the importance of agriculture in this country, especially this province. This province is rural and one of the ways of developing this province is by going to the lands.

The maintenance of the department's budget is manifested by the inconsistency of some of the programmes, e.g. massive food sustainability is inconsistent; revitalisation of irrigation scheme programme is financially constrained, hence one scheme per financial year; the collapse or suspension of Akgisa programme for farmers in the Sakisizwe Local Municipality. Those are the manifestation of the constraints this department is facing. We hear now and again a talk of women and youth in agriculture, but the department does not seem to have a budget for women and youth.

The UDM is pleased that the department is recruiting more extension officers and officers with scarce skills, but the extension officers must be visible amongst the farmers. They must not sit in the office. The department, however, is not clear as to how it is going to recruit these extension officers and these skilled farmers. Consequently one is not able to understand how this will be achieved.

Programme 2 comprises, amongst others, of land reform, farmer support, food security, agriculture research and technology development. UDM is concerned that the budget for this programme dropped from R108 million in 2008, in 2009/2010 to R89 million in 2010/11. The logic behind this is illogic. Land reform for instance has been at a toyi-toyi space for a very long time. How does the department expect to complete land reform if it decreases budget every now and again? How does the department expect to support farmers and ensure food security if it decreases budget every now and again?

The same, hon MEC, applies to Programme 4 as it has been indicated. Kodwa ke Zulu, sithi, uthi umthetho okanye ithi into: cut your suit according to the cloth you have, so you have no alternative but you will have to use the meagre sources, but don't come and tell us about accruals. I have a problem with the word accrual because to me I don't understand it, so I am sure you won't come. Be that as it may, you have no other alternative. UDM supports the budget. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M M PETER: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, hon Members of the House, Madam Premier in absentia, MECs present, it is indeed a great pleasure to participate in this debate which seeks to interrogate and analyse the annual programme of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. This debate takes place in the second quarter of the

year, which has been declared as a year of working together to speed up service delivery, or a year of action. The Provincial Lekotla developed a clear directive on implementation of ANC mandate on rural development in this province. Our vision as we lead government is that everyone, every citizen, especially those in rural areas must enjoy a better quality of life and we continue to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people as defined in the reconstruction and development programme.

The nature of the ANC government as it is defined by the second national conference is a developmental state that is able to intervene in the economy in order to achieve equitable growth and deal with challenges of unemployment and under-development. This is based on the principle of participatory democracy in which the people as a whole, especially the poor, are mobilised to actively participate in government programmes that seek to change their lives for the better.

The Eastern Cape Province is still confronted by high levels of poverty and this is confirmed by the community survey which was conducted by Statistics South Africa in 2001 and 2007, which indicates that the South African population increased from approximately 4.8 million in 2001 to 48.8 million in 2007. Over the same period the Eastern Cape population estimated to have increased by 200 000, from 6.3 million to 6.5 million. However, the provincial share to the national population has shrunk from 14% in 2001 to 13.5% in 2007. The province still has relatively large population living in the rural areas, with an urbanisation rate of 39% and the remaining 61% of the total population in the province reside in rural localities. Some 47% of the Eastern Cape population can be categorised as poor.

Analysis of poverty that were collected in 2006 indicate that a minimum of R881.5 million would be required per annum to eliminate poverty in the province. These levels of poverty in the province are a consequence of centuries of under-development and exploitation consciously perpetrated on the majority of the people which had its most destructive and enduring impact on the provinces, such as the Eastern Cape. Consequently the structural faults that characterise the apartheid economy remain with us even today.

The apartheid era left a legacy of social and economic infrastructure that was unintegrated, environmentally safe of poor quality and unequally distributed. The interest of white communities, business and security considerations influenced the infrastructure programmes for the benefit of the minority communities, as a result there was little or no reference to the needs of the poor and rural agenda. The rural development programme which cuts across all departments seeks to address these imbalances. The ANC is already counting on good progress which has been made in the provincial pilot site at Mhlontlo Municipality in the OR Tambo District. The pilot project which has been undertaken in this fight is now yielding positive results as it is subsequently denting

poverty in this area. The programme is expected to roll out across the province with lessons learnt on how to fast track this rural agenda.

The success of this programme in the province confirms that the ANC is the sole leader of the people in this province, with no alternative government, as it is dreamed in some quarters because those who wish to be the alternative to the ANC, their parties are crumbling almost daily. [Interjection.]

On Ilima - this has proved to be a successful intervention programme especially in rural areas, as it assists farmers with feeds, fertilizers and mechanisation support to reduce enough food, but MEC we need a clear strategy on distribution of mechanisation support to farmers.

On extension officers - hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, sonke phaya ekomitini siyayazi into yokokuba i-target ye-extension officers ezifunwa yi-province is about 3,000, but asinakubanazo bawo uBici ngonyaka omnye ngenxa ye-problems zemali. But siyazi sonke ekomitini ukuba kule financial year sizakuba nazo i-extension officers esizifakayo eziyi-55, sigqubeke njalo progressively but xa sifika kwi-House we pretend as if ezi zinto azikhange zi-intarogeyithwe sikwazi ukuzibeka ngendlela eziyiyo. I am representing an ANC government here. [Interjections.]

On the Rural Development Agency: the ANC is anxiously looking forward for the establishment of the Rural Development Agency which we believe that it would serve to support the mandate of the newly formed Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in discharging its responsibility. We believe that the primary role of the Agency will be catalytic, with an emphasis on planning, research, project packaging, facilitation, project management and implementation of priority programmes.

In conclusion, as the ANC we are committed to the people's contract to advance the vision of the Freedom Charter. Thank you. [Applause.]

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, my colleagues in this House, hon Members of the Legislature, nam ndiyabulisa ngale njikalanga. Ndiyafuna ukuba ndicele ukuba uhon Peter kungathiwa kutheni ezenza ngathi u-riprezenta i-department. Amalungu kagalela ebhayini aqhuba olo hlobo.... [Laughter.] Athetha ngokufana when it comes to policy positions of the movement. Lento bendizakuyithetha yilena uhon Peter sele eyithethile.

I wish to add my voice, hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, in support of Africa Day, the International Children's Day, as well as hon Mnguni congratulate Bafana-Bafana for their current form. I think today is better than yesterday. [Applause.] I also wish to thank the committee

for the report processed and I think Deputy Chair of Chairs we have pointed out to the hon chairperson of the committee there might just be slight issues on the figures that we will work with the committee to do some minor corrections, but the report indeed we support, as well as the department; we commit ourselves to implementing the resolutions as would come out of this House.

I would wish to just go through some of the issues I wanted to raise with the hon members here. Again, hon Peter, correctly laid the basis for the kind of issues that we would want to share with this House. Ndifuna ukuqala nje ndikhawuleze kweziya areas beziyimibuzo. Ndimvile ke uJola phaya emva uthe akuzokubakho follow up.

The issue yase Magwa; again I wish those hon members of this House who, through their weight and support behind the efforts that we were putting into the work of trying to make sure that we resolve the labour problems that were in that institutions over the past few months. As you might be aware there has not been effective work taking place at Magwa for some time now and that degenerated in some acts of violence, but ultimately the issues were resolved in the past week and on Friday an agreement was signed by both labour and management or the leadership of that institution as represented by the Board. [Applause.]

Therefore Magwa has gone back to normality now. Of course the department had to go back because as hon members have said here, we have always supported Magwa and we told ourselves even this time around we will not leave Magwa to collapse. We again went back to our ports and scraped there and got something like R3.6 million to facilitate the settlement of the dispute that was there. That is the extra mile that we are talking about because if we were not to do that a number of those families would go without food because some of the workers that are at Magwa are in themselves breadwinners. Now the collapse of that institution would spell disaster for that area.

I also take the concerns that hon members are raising here about, for example, who owns Magwa. It is a very complex question, but the reality is that the land where Magwa is, is owned by what we call the Community Property Association, the people who won the land claim, won their land back through the land claim processes, but those are not the people who are operating the plant, who are conducting the business and therefore part of what we must do is to form and construct that relationship – what must be the relationship between the owners of the land and owners of protection that is taking place there. Government is not owning Magwa.

You would recall that in the early 2000s Magwa's ownership was transferred to the workers there, but that approach did not succeed. Provincial Government came in by way of support because the operations were collapsing. That support has assumed the status as though Provincial Government owns Magwa. ECDC was charged with

the task of overseeing the revitalisation of Magwa and if you were to ask today I would tell you that the authority at Magwa is a Board that was put in place by ECDC as agreed upon between the workers at Magwa who owned the plant, as well as Provincial Government, but by the year 2007 I think again Provincial Government took a decision that in fact we need to put the Department of Agriculture at that time in charge of that situation, but I think we have been slow in operationalising that. I am saying therefore there is that outstanding issue which is going to clarify the roles, including what the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs have to do because the issues that relate to marketing of the tea, the issue that relates to trade, the tariffs, all those issues are issues that that department has to help with, but at the moment we are not there.

Yes, there are market issues there, but even the production is not at the level where seriously you could talk market issues. The infrastructure at Magwa is not at the point where you could say you are expecting production. I am saying we need to deliberately as government assist that estate – we are linking Magwa and Majola here together – assist that estate to be productive, deal with issues of infrastructure, deal with issues of inputs, deal with issues of management. That is what over time we need to be dealing with. We have already indicated to the committee that the discussion has come back to the table of the diversification of crops in Magwa because we think that is the only way to go. Tea alone is not going to be helpful, but now we are just discussing those things and seeing how best are we going to fund that.

I am therefore saying the money that is going to Magwa and Majola this financial year is R20 million, but as I said we were supposed, if we had money, we were supposed to put in there R42 million. You can see then if you fall back from R42 million to R20 million you should expect that there is going to be a problem. I am then saying that that is how we intend to deal with that Magwa situation.

On the issue of the Agri-BEE: this is a very difficult programme. Honestly, we have not performed well on this programme. I am not talking about the province; I am talking about nationally. Agri-BEE has not worked the way in which it was anticipated and there is a re-look nationally on how do we rejuvenate this programme.

Effectively what is happening here is that communities are being robbed. You get some of these partners who go to engage communities who own the land. There are these activities that are going to take place there. You find that the share to the community becomes very minimal and the major chunk gets taken away by these investors to these communities. We are now standing on the side of these communities and we have said that if we are to fund these operations we need first to satisfy ourselves that the community is going to be the major shareholder in the partnership so that it is not a situation where people just rip off communities and run away in the end.

I am therefore saying that we cannot stand here and pride ourselves to say farmers have really benefited out of that. Whether you go to our irrigation schemes where we are partnering for example with – to make sure that those irrigation schemes function properly with Amahlelo and so on and so on; that is our point of departure. Whether you go to the Makademia project; we have tried to intervene to put those measures in place.

On drought - well, I think again the record speaks for itself. We are witnessing the worst drought ever in this province, but unfortunately what is not coming forth is money to respond. Remember in 2007 there were floods in the Koukamma areas. We have not been able to respond to those floods. There is now drought. Again we are not able to respond to this. I think you would appreciate that – that is what we presented to this House as part of the policy speech – the province is just constraint. We depend on a conditional grant that comes with the assessment work that gets to be done and you ask for money. We have done all those things, but if money is not flowing what else can you do?

Now I am saying then that we have discussed these issues with the Minister and I think there is supposed to be some checking up of the operations at that level, but I must indicate to this House the fact that there is no money in the province does not suggest that there is a lot of money nationally. Even there, there are constraints and therefore we are trying to work within those kinds of constraints.

On the extension services of the department – again, I think explanations have been offered here. Again hon Peter did that. The extension services are not at the level we would wish to place them; very far below that level, but the skilling, the re-training, the addition of more numbers of extension officers; now there is even – and equipping those extension officers – there is even a new programme now that nationally is being introduced, called Smart Pen, a programme that will make sure that extension officers can be easily monitored. I just hope that that programme, when it gets to be operational, it will work without any glitches because part of the problem has been you are seated here in the offices of the department, you don't know where exactly where this extension officer is at a particular time. You cannot monitor those activities and those movements. I think they are trying to make sure that we are able to do that. The extension recovery programme is intended to make sure that we recruit extension officers from that fund; we train extension officers from that fund.

Hon members, I think the reality as you have said here one after the other; if you were to take away the compensation of employees from the provincial allocation basically you are left with no money. The only money that we are using to deliver services in this department is the conditional grant.

Sibonda, noMntungwa uyibuzile le dipping and I think many of the hon members were asking about this. The reality is that in our programme dipping continues. You would also recall if you pick up our annual report and we are also stating that for this financial year, vaccinations will also be continuing; the counting of livestock will also continue, but what we are talking about here which is an issue is what members were raising here. You have those plans. Do you have the money to support those plans? The reality is that we are struggling in that regard. We have communicated to the Head of Department.

I forgot to introduce to the House, hon Deputy Chair of Chairs – ndise ndabona uSpeaker esithi ngoku andisaqinisekanga – the new Head of Department where I come from, Mr Glen Thomas. [Applause.] Mr Glen Thomas is formally the Director-General of the Department of Land Affairs, but he left service at that level in 2007; now came to join us here.

Now we said to Glen it is going to be important that we do reprioritisation in favour of this dipping because maybe with the constraints that are there, there are certain things in any event we are struggling to provide, but dipping, we cannot afford not to dip those animals in the form of our livestock. I am saying that therefore hon members, I stand here to put in front of this House that man to say we will try our best to ensure that dipping does take place.

With regard to the mechanisation policy, hon members will remember we said here in the policy speech that the main reason we are reviewing that approach we were following, there may be others, but the main issues have been that it has become clear to us, you will not afford in the near future to distribute these tractors to all those who aspire to be farmers. Secondly, there are feuds, there are tensions that have developed in our communities. Now our approach is an approach that says we are going to because part of what we have identified in this is that the province has struggled and indeed I think you will find the same phenomenon nationally, has struggled to graduate our subsistence farmers to commercial farmers.

Now part of what we are saying is that in this policy we will go onto a process where we must incubate those farmers that we wish to graduate from subsistence to commercial and those will be the farmers that we are not going to do this thing of supporting this year and not supporting next year; supporting that other year and not supporting that other year. It is going to be incubation that is going to go with ensuring that those farmers are provided with equipment, as an example, mechanisation – are provided with seeds, are provided with fertilizers, are provided with mentors, are provided with extension officers, market – they are assisted with access to credit; access to market; on an ongoing basis. [Interjections]

Hayi kaloku mama ndithi into esizakuyenza ngoku instead of wanting to doing lonto kumntu wonke because we cannot achieve that, ngoku sizakuba targeted, sizakuthi umzekelo, eOR Tambo, we can only afford two and incubate those two for a longer period of time. Ndithi ke ngoku to those farmers we will be able to distribute the equipment, but to the rest of our farmers we are saying the approach now we are taking is that we will pull the tractors in the government garage kind of a setup and be able to service our substance or emerging farmers in that manner. Remember mos besisithi apha even the government fleet mayibuye, ngoku sithi ne tractors kufuneka zibe sezandleni zikarhulumente because part of the issues now no Auditor-General...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Ndikupha nje an additional minute kule injury time yakho.

The MEC: ... ngubani lo ngoku u-owuna le equipment because it remains a feud issue. I am then saying Mkhuluwa sizakuyiprizenta i-report in terms of the work that we would have done, but that is the approach that we are taking.

Ndiyacela ke hon Deputy Chair of Chairs ukuba ezinye zezi-issues bezireyizwa apha sizakuzikhavarisha kula report that we need to feed to the committee. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much hon MEC.

Report adopted.

APPROPRIATION BILL (EASTERN CAPE)

Consideration of Vote 6: Education.

Mr M MRARA: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, hon Premier in her absentia, Members of the Executive Council, the MEC for Education, Members of this House, officials from the Department of Education and officials from this Legislature. Mandizibulisele nam ngobu busuku.

I am contesting time here and therefore I will be very selective in my reporting. In page 43 to page 56 is the report to be tabled in front of this House. My approach would be to focus on Programme 1, Programme 2, then go straight to findings to other remaining programmes, including the general findings.

This department was allocated R22,679,786 billion, the biggest budget which amounts to 51% of the overall provincial budget, so it is a department that sits with the lion share quantitatively in relation to its challenges.

I am not going to take you through the table. You, at your own time, can peruse the figures. I will go straight to Programme 1 in page 45.

Programme 1: Administration

Findings:

- (b) The department is faced with a challenge of non-reporting district directors and this practice contributes to adverse audit opinion.
- (c) In this financial year the department intends to train all head office staff that are below senior management level through the skills levy, since they do not have the required qualifications and competencies needed by the department.
- (d) The department does not have a retention strategy for educators in rural areas and this leads to the department losing experienced educators.
- (e) The department does not have a plan of accommodating educators, especially those in rural areas.

Recommendations:

- (b) The department must strengthen district directors by providing them with an opportunity to acquire the necessary skills through professional development initiatives to reduce non-reporting and possibilities of the issuing of adverse audit opinion.
- (c) The department must furnish the committee with a report within 30 days after the adoption of this report on how it intends tapping into the R69 million skills levy fund which is transferred to Treasury.
- (d) The department must furnish the committee with a retention strategy for rural teachers within 30 days after the adoption of this report.
- (e) The department must work closely with the Department of Human Settlements and other relevant stakeholders in order to solve the challenge of accommodation for teachers in rural areas.

Programme 2: Public Ordinary Schools Education – the most important programme, which sits with plus/minus R18 billion. R18 billion is spent on this programme.

Finding:

- (a) There is no monitoring and evaluation strategy in place as far as the School Nutrition Programme is concerned.
- (b) The budget for the SNP for 2010/11 is insufficient; funds budgeted for the programme are less than the demand to serve beneficiaries identified. The department has already cut the number of days to feed learners who are supposed to benefit.
- (c) Due to quintile contestation, not all learners will benefit from the SNP Programme.

- (d) There are 120 schools that have not yet received their transfers in the last financial year. These schools did not fill in form 1401. The department does not have any plan in place to speed up this matter and as a result schools are left disadvantaged.
- (e) There are departmental officials who did not comply with the implementation of the decisions taken by the head office.
- (f) There are 950 meal servers that are owed stipends by the department for the month of August 2009 to March 2010, amounting to R12,253 million.
- (g) The department does not have a database for learners who qualify for exemption fee.
- (h) Some of the schools still have a challenge of toilets and this poses a health hazard to both learners and educators.
- (i) The non-monitoring of scholar transport and unaudited routes poses a serious challenge to the department.
- (j) The budget for scholar transport is once again insufficient for this financial year and the department cannot give a satisfactory explanation for the increase of R153 million for this item, which will only benefit 1,722 more learners.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department must indicate how it intends to strengthen the monitoring process for the SNP.
- (b) The department must strictly adhere to norms and standards in terms of budgeting for the SNP.
- (c) The department must prioritise the issue of quintile contestations prior to loading the budget because this disadvantaged schools.
- (d) The department must furnish the committee with a report within 30 days, explaining when these schools will receive their monies.
- (e) The department must apply serious disciplinary measures against departmental officials who are not complying.
- (f) The department must furnish the committee with a report containing a plan to pay the said backlog.
- (g) The committee must be furnished with a database of all learners who qualify for exemption fees within 30 days.
- (h) During the current financial year the department must ensure that all schools do have properly constructed toilets.
- (i) The department must ensure that the activities contained in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Transport regarding establishing monitoring mechanisms are implemented. The R20 million that is supposed to be set aside for the appointment of Supervisory and Monitoring Firm should be utilised accordingly.
- (j) The committee must be provided with a clear report regarding the scholar transport budget and the challenges facing this programme.

Programme 3: Independent Schools

Findings:

- (a) The department does not have a monitoring strategy for independent schools – schools are registered fraudulently and some schools belong to departmental officials.
- (b) The department managed to register 165 independent schools and funded 107. This is due to lack of meeting the required standards by schools and the high failure rate.

Recommendations:

- (a) The Department must furnish the committee with a report explaining how it intends addressing this issue and what measures have been taken against officials who are not complying with the department's rules and regulations.
- (b) The department must urgently audit the independent schools and be left with schools that are officially registered. The department must take appropriate corrective steps against officials who own independent schools.

Programme 4: Public Special Schools

Findings:

- (a) The department does not have an exit policy for the various handicapped learners and there is no tracking system of these learners.
- (b) Bhisho Youth Centre is not yet being utilised – it is waiting for the sister departments to reach an agreement with the Department of Education.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department must formulate an exit policy and tracking system for physically handicapped learners.
- (b) The department must meet with the sister departments, as this issue has been raised on numerous occasions by the committee. The department must report to the committee within 30 days after the adoption of this report.

Programme 5: Further Education and Training

Findings:

- (a) FET Colleges do not have capacity to carry out their human resource responsibilities.
- (b) Quality assurance of documents was not done properly because there are many discrepancies, especially with regard to figures that do not tally.

- (c) The department does not have a database of unemployed graduates and unemployed educators within the province.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department must speedily capacitate FET colleges to be able to carry their own human resources responsibilities without relying on the province.
- (b) The department must ensure that quality assurance is done properly before documents are printed and circulated.
- (c) The department must urgently compile data and provide the committee with a database of unemployed graduates and educators.

Programme 6: Adult Basic Education Training

Findings:

- (a) District offices are not aligned according to local government district demarcations.
- (b) ABET educators are not trained accordingly to meet the needs of the beneficiaries who are, in the main, the elderly – they have been generally trained to teach in the mainstream schools.
- (c) An amount of 37% is still owed to ABET practitioners since 2007. This translates to R133 million and is not budgeted for in the 2010/11 financial year.
- (d) The department does not have a database on the exact status of adult illiteracy in the province.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department must follow the local government district demarcation in this financial year in order to cut budget constraints.
- (b) A suitable curriculum for ABET learners and training for ABE educators must be prioritised for this financial year and the department must submit a report to the committee in this regard within 30 days after adoption of this report.
- (c) The department must furnish the committee with a plan regarding the payment of R133 million owed to ABET educators.
- (d) The department starts compiling a database on adult illiteracy in the province and submit a report to the committee within 30 days after adoption of this report.

Programme 7: Early Childhood Development

Findings:

- (a) The ECD practitioners are not incorporated by the department into the staff establishment of the schools at which they are located.
- (b) There is no institution in the province that trains ECD practitioners.
- (c) There are primary schools which do not have Grade R classes due to the shortage of space, especially schools with mud structures.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department must speedily incorporate ECD practitioners in the staff establishment of the department in order to retain educators.
- (b) The department must engage with provincial higher education institutions to resolve this matter and should take drastic steps to resuscitate teacher colleges that will cater for this training.
- (c) The process of mud school eradication must be fast-tracked in order to build new structures that can accommodate Grade R classes.

Programme 8: Auxiliary Services

Findings:

- (a) There seems to be a challenge when it comes to common examination, where schools are supplied with one question paper and one memo. It becomes the responsibility of each school to make copies for its learners.
- (b) The department apportioned R69 million from its 2010/11 budget for skills levy to Treasury. It is not clear how this money is going to be utilised and how it will be overseen.
- (c) There is no senior manager for the HIV and AIDS programme and this derailed the programme.
- (d) The department is faced with a challenge in respect of promotion and progression at schools.

Recommendations:

- (a) The department must ensure that all schools are supplied with high quality photocopier machines and enough papers to make copies.
- (b) The department must furnish the committee with a clear report on how skills levy funds are utilised and submit a report to the committee. Further, the committee is demanding a list of all beneficiaries for a period of three years.
- (c) The department must speed up the process of employing an HIV and AIDS senior manager and submit a report within 30 days.

- (d) The department must make sure that the existing assessment and promotion policies are followed to the letter by schools – schools need to be guided on the implementation of these policies.

General findings:

- (1) The department faces the challenge of not having clear monitoring strategies in its programmes.
- (2) On the basis of committee visits the department, the committee observed that the general state of education in the province is collapsing and this needs urgent attention – particularly when it comes to its fiscal arrangements.
- (3) The committee observed that in the last financial year the department did not make an impact on the eradication of mud schools. The committee is not sure how many mud schools have been eradicated.
- (4) The Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Sport and Education should be revitalised because teachers continue to finance sport and cultural activities at their schools. These departments seem not to be working together.
- (5) The department has not yet appointed a Head of Department; they indicated that the post would be filled at the beginning of this financial year.
- (6) The department apportioned R69 million from its 2010/11 budget for skills levy to the Treasury. It is not clear how this money is going to be utilised and how it will be overseen.
- (7) The committee discovered that there is serious mismanagement of funds and unaccountability at FET colleges – especially at Ikhala College in Queenstown and King Hintsa College in Butterworth.
- (8) There are independent schools instead of government offices occupying government buildings.
- (9) The committee observed that in areas of no-fee schools, private schools are charging exorbitant school fees, contrary to the department's policy prescripts.
- (10) There are independent schools that are operational and funded by the department; the department seemed not to be aware of these.
- (11) Officials of the department are not attending activities of the Intergovernmental Relations Forum; there is a lack of commitment from the department in this regard.
- (12) Not all pensioners received their old age pensions from 1994 to date.
- (13) The committee discovered that scholar transport routes were not audited, which total R640 million. For example, the committee is not clear how much is owed to ABET, section 20 schools, SNP and scholar transport and how much exactly was overspent.
- (14) There seems to be a challenge when it comes to designated group and equity employment processes.

General recommendations:

- (1) The department must strengthen its monitoring strategies in all programmes.
- (2) The department must embark on internal forensic and internal disciplinary procedures. The process must start immediately after the adoption of this report and the committee must be furnished with a progress report on the investigations within three months.
- (3) A proper audit of all plank, mud, zinc and prefabricated structures must be done and be quantified within 30 days and a report must be made available to the committee within 30 days.
- (4) The department should engage with the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture and it must see to it that schools are properly funded for sports and cultural activities, as they are also important extra-curricular activities that impact on the total well-being of learners.
- (5) The Head of Department must be employed as a matter of urgency, given the challenges faced by the department.
- (6) The department must furnish the committee with a clear report on how the skills levy with Treasury is utilised and submit a report to the committee. Furthermore, the committee should demand a list of all beneficiaries for the past three years.
- (7) Thorough investigation must be done at all FET colleges before handover to the Higher Education Sector.
- (8) The department must deregister all independent schools that are housed in government buildings. Education and other government offices must be housed in government buildings.
- (9) All independent schools should comply with the objectives of the government, especially when it comes to the no-fee school policy pronouncement. The MEC must also take the matter to the national office to get direction as to whether the department can stop independent schools charging school fees in no-fee school areas.
- (10) The department must furnish the committee with a list of all independent schools that are operational and schools that are funded by the department.
- (11) The department must play a more serious and committed role in matters of IGR so that they input accordingly in all IDP matters.
- (12) The department must provide the committee with a database of all pensioners who are not paid their pensions from 1994 to date.
- (13) The committee must be furnished with a clear detailed report regarding scholar transport.
- (14) The committee must be furnished with a report on accruals with clear details within 30 days.

- (15) The department must provide the committee with a clear plan for this financial year on how it is going to take on board the designated groups to achieve its equity targets.

Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, we want to thank departmental officials, the members of the committee, for work well done, but I think it is important as I sit that we invite the attention of every citizen in this province to actually pay attention to the workings of this department. Currently schools are trying their best to hold the fort so that they deliver the service that is expected from them, but the administration, particularly here at head office, leaves much to be desired.

The fact that there were a series of burglaries within a week and also the statements raised on 24 April by the Head of Department himself to say top management is corrupt to the core, was a grave concern to this committee and I think that is a challenge to all of us because education is a societal matter and it needs attention and therefore when we are recommending that this department deserves that we undertake serious investigation – and we are pleased that the Premier of the province has actually detected the problem and as such is embarking to this particular programme because we believe that the budget given here might look big for the department, but challenges on the ground are massive.

There are serious backlogs here, kunezikolo nyani ezinida attention like iLusizi phaya kuCentane besiyibone kwi-TV recently and many other schools that are a challenge. So the whole notion of infrastructure remains a challenge and we want to acknowledge that there are negotiations that are taking place, led by MEC and the MEC for Finance to see whether they cannot get more resources from National Treasury to build more schools. We are waiting for that. That must be understood that the committee has got a direct interest, so that once we secure those funds they are integrated in the budget of Education so that the committee plays its rightful role of making oversight over such funds.

There is no way that we can allow parallel processes and therefore we want to acknowledge that there are serious challenges confronting the department and some are manmade and are some are just problems of transformation that we are confronted with in the Department of Education. With those few words, thanks Chair. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Questions to the committee?

Mr C MARTIN: Chairperson, I just first wanted to find out on page 46, if you look at Programme 3 the budget column. In the budget column, public primary school, the totals there; I think there is definitely not something right with the totals there, so if the committee can maybe explain it; it is right those totals; if you look at 2009/2010 and you look at the budget for 2010/2011, on that one.

Then on the second one, the one on also page 46 (d), the 120 schools that have not received their transfers in the last financial year. We just need some clarity there. Are these schools going to receive this year's transfer as well as last year's transfer; and wouldn't there be budgetary constraints if that actually takes place.

Then page 47 – if you look at page 47 Madam Deputy Chair of Chairs, under recommendations, “the department must furnish the committee with a report containing a plan to pay the said backlog.” If you read that with your finding then I would want to know what was the reason for non-payment of these 950 meal servers since August 2009 till end of March 2010.

Then also Madam Deputy Chair, page 49: I would want to know when it comes to the in-school sport and culture. Was because of looking at 2010 World Cup Programme, was this money also supposed or was it used for massification mobilisation towards the 2010, and also what is that money supposed to be used for when it comes to in-school sport and culture.

Ms P T MPUSHE: Thanks hon Deputy Chair of Chairs. Umbuzo wam Deputy Chair of Chair ukulento ithi has the committee engaged the department on the special school that is in Flagstaff that has not been receiving food for six months?

Secondly, does the department have a plan for Grade R learners who do not qualify for scholar transport due to the fact that they do not meet the required kilometres, but they get to travel in dangerous areas to school and this area is a new area?

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Do you want to mention the area, hon member?

Ms P T MPUSHE: I think it is Hillside in Nxuba Yethemba.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much hon Mpushe.

Mr M DIMAZA: Enkosi Deputy Chair of Chairs. Umbuzo wam uphaya ku-page 48 that is finding (b) and I want to concentrate mostly on the recommendation. Does that particular recommendation suggest that there are more than 165 independent schools in the province? That is the first thing.

The second question again in the same page is around what is contained where you will find out that 107 schools were the ones that were funded by the department's independent schools. I just wanted to check what about the 58 independent schools that were not funded by the department. Does that mean those 58 are going to be treated in the same way as the 120 that is reflected on page 46?

Mr J PIENAAR: Chairperson, on the scholar transport: I would like to know from the committee what progress is made in respect of the modification of these bakkies to transport scholars. There were plans to modify these bakkies to give the community an opportunity to transport the scholars safely to their destinations. What progress has been made on that?

Mr D B HADDON: Thank you, Chairperson. With regards to page 50 to finding 3(a) and recommendation 4(a) on Programme 5: Could the committee tell us how is the department intend capacitating these colleges when there is no budget allocated in the current financial year for human resource development? Thank you.

Mr P J MNGUNI: Sekela sihlalo wosihlalo, ndifuna ukuqala phaya kwikhasi lamashumi amane anesixhenxe ndicele ukubuza ukuba lomcimbi we-scholar transport phaya xa kusithiwa yi-R153 million kusitsho ikomiti isithi ayanelanga. Ithetha ukuthi ikomiti phezu kwale budget sele ingu-fifty one point something percent of the provincial budget nithetha ukuthi mayivele phi okanye makuphinde kuye kucuthwa ngakumbi, ayiyikuphela le budget yeli phondo iyeyezemfundo kuphela. Noxa ndiyithanda imfundo kodwa ndifuna ukuva kakuhle.

Ikhona nenye into endicinga ukuba ibalulekile 54 (item 4.a) kulanto yokukopwa kwamaphepha emviwo. Ngoku ikomiti recommend ukuba makubekho high quality photocopying machines. Ndicela ukuza ukuba isiseko sale recommendation asithethi kuthi izikolo zonke zinemibane na? Andiphikisani naso qha ndifuna sive kakuhle into yokokuba sityhile kwikhasi elinye na ukuqonda iphondo lethu.

Ndigqibele ke sihlalo ku- 55 – ndifuna general finding 12.4 kwikhasi lamashumi amahlanu anesihlanu ndithelekise ke ne-general recommendation kwikhasi elilandelayo 56. Xa uqwalasela apha kuthiwa kuya kufuneka kuyiwe ku-engeyijwa iSebe lezimidlalo, ulonwabo, ubugcisa nenkcubeko – that is 13.4 xa uku-56, ukwenzela into yokokuba kuze kuthi kubekho imali enokuthi ifumaneke, ukuba ndisiva kakuhle esiya silungu for ezemidlalo nenkcubeko. Ngoku ndicela ukuqonda into yokokuba ibikhanyile na ithe tha na kwikomiti into yokokuba kwa elasebe lezemidlalo nenkcubeko alinaye no-5 percent webhajethi yesebe lezemfundo not at all. So inokuba mhlawumbi kurikhomendwa ukuba eliya sebe lezemidlalo makuyiwe kulo mhlawumbi livele phi lona ngokuncedisa lo mcimbi? Enkosi

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Would the committee please respond. You do not have much time to respond.

Mr M MRARA: Deputy Chair of Chairs, the first question relates to 120 schools backlogs. The recommendation is informed by the fact that the interaction between the Department of Education and these schools could not meet the requirements that were expected by the department.

There is a particular form that is being filled in order to assess or to get your transfers as individual schools and these schools could not meet those requirements. The response from the department was that this process currently is underway, the transaction to those individual schools that were owed that money. Yes by law we cannot disadvantage those schools because what was not transferred in the last financial year was due to those schools and even this year it is the same.

The other question relates to – mhlawumbi mandisele ndiyidibanisa nale yokugqibela kahon Mnguni, lento ye school sport, utilisation of funds. We acknowledge as a committee that there is under-funding or under-budgeting for extra curricula activities in schools and si-infonywa yinto ethi i-joint planning and partnership between the two departments might be able to alleviate the pressure. For that matter there is a memorandum of understanding between the two departments, but it is just that the monitoring yazo, the memorandum of understanding was not up to scratch and we are saying ke ngoku makuphinde kubuyelwe kula memorandum of understanding kutshekishwe ukuthi in terms of the joint programmes between the two departments because both departments are sharing the same kids in schools and that is what informed the committee. It is the common responsibility and the common objective of learners to be active in their extra curricular activities.

SNP – No food. I am sure this one I will leave for the MEC to respond to, about the school at Lusikisiki.

Scholar transport: Combine it with the modification of the transport as raised by hon Pine. We know there was such a thing of converting the bakkies, but currently where we are referring; there is a joint discussion between the Department of Education and Department of Transport to determine all transport-related challenges and were informed by those debates, for instance the question of roads, question of licensing and we think that is coming closer to what you are posing. As far as the question of utilisation of bakkies ke, I am sure the relevant MEC will be able to assist. Currently we are referring to the partnership and the joint discussion between the Department of Education and Department of Transport in relation to the quality of transport that is provided for these learners.

Ms B TUNYISWA-GQOBOKA: Deputy Chair of Chairs, the question raised by hon Dimaza; the difference, the 58 schools that were not registered; the reason there is that they were not registered or funded due to the lack of meeting the required standards. Thank you.

Ms X E NQATA: Thanks hon Deputy Chair of Chairs. I just want to clarify on page 48 on recommendation (i). It is referred that R20 million will be provided to the Department of Transport for the appointment of a firm. I think there is a mistake that has been made in writing that one because the money is provided to the Department of Transport in order

to perform functions of verifying roads and inspecting vehicles. As to the modalities, how that is done, is not in the memorandum and therefore we cannot open a gate for outsourcing ourselves.

Ms K C FIHLANI: Enkosi Sekela Sihlalo wosihlalo, I think mhlawumbi yilena kahon Dimaza lena ine-registration ithi - does it mean that there are more than 165 independent schools. Kucacile ke ukuba yilonto esithe i-department must provide the committee ngoba siyayibona nathi, siyayirhanela lonto ukuba there are more than that, independent schools ezikhona apha, ngoba ininzi lento ingazokuhamba kakuhle. Enkosi.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: I think the question pertaining to hon Dimaza, I have made some notes. Independent schools are only subsidised when they fill the void, where there are no other government schools. So if there are government schools within three kilometres then those schools will be registered but not subsidised because they are government schools. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much. Thanks to the committee. The committee's time is up.

Mr D B HADDON: Chairperson, sorry my question was not answered pertaining to the FET colleges.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Okay. I was about to say that the MEC will assist us with the outstanding questions because of time. Can we add more questions to the... I hope the MEC has noted the questions that have not been answered. Can we ask more questions to the hon MEC?

Mr M MAKUPULA: Thank you very much hon Deputy Chair of Chairs. Mine would just be not specifically on this report MEC, but generally; matters that are continuously needing attention. You would recall in the previous financial year I asked specifically regarding the fact that many of our children are unable to cope at matric level to express themselves, just not only in Xhosa, but in English as well. Now I was asking what happened to what used to be called mental reading and writing lessons; and your response was that you are considering bringing that back. How far are we with that because it is going to go a long way in assisting us?

Secondly, the literacy campaign; I believe Deputy Chair of Chairs if we are to make a difference in society there can be no progress without education and the challenge facing South Africa is that we must produce and produce and produce human capital development. Now within the programmes I am not sure where is literacy being handled. I used to meet with people who are going along in the afternoons, popping in homesteads, bringing together the old ladies and giving them some classes. Are those people as I learnt were not necessarily under the

Department of Education. We must go beyond ABET and ECD. We must involve almost every interested people in rolling out the literacy campaign.

Deputy Chair of Chairs, there is a funny arrangement. I don't know whether it is part of that concept I was always having a problem with, Peter Morkel. I was asking myself why did we discuss this thing. I am a member of the ruling party. I sit in conferences. I have never been in a conference that discusses something like a Peter Morkel Model, something that says if you have 300 students you deserve 10 teachers regardless of the strings.

Here is the problem. I don't know if it is part of Peter Morkel; that which says what is due to a principal depends on the number of children registered in that school. This thing is causing havoc. Principals are raping kids in increasing numbers because this is associated with incentives. The burden that is shared on the meagre resources of the school, those unfortunate educators there, shame, ozisizelayo yilento izakwenzeka yokunyuswa kwamanani. Yintoni le yayisenza lanto? What causes that thing? Yintoni lento kungabuyelwa kwindebe endala? Because izikolo ezininzi ziza kuvalwa because ezinye zibelwa abantwana ngo-principal abaqhubayo. So I am saying it is an anomaly that thing. It is actually killing education. I don't know whether it is part of Peter Morkel, but when we are reviewing Peter Morkel and its elements zize kudisikhaswa by the public and not see them as just policies esingazaziyo apho zivela khona. Enkosi.

Ms N GQIBA: Chair, recently SABC TV1 reflected on a coverage around a school in Centane by the name of Elusizi. My question therefore to the MEC is for a plan in place to rescue the community there around the school.

Secondly Chair, there is general finding No 11, Chair; is to affirm that finding. It is a disgrace, Chair, when the Department of Education is invited by the communities to give clarities or account on areas ezi nida iDepartment of Education to attend. For instance, the Shova Kalula Bicycles. Recently in Centane we had an event of launching the constituency office. The Department of Education was invited at a provincial level and also at a district level. It never turned up whilst the community was waiting for it. It is a disgrace and I am affirming this because the MEC needs to look on this.

Mr J PIENAAR: Deputy Chair of Chairs, could the MEC indicate the progress of the South African Special Investigation Unit on the R100 million school nutrition fund? Lastly; what outstanding amounts for 2009/10 accruals; does it have an effect on this budget for this financial year and what programmes will be compromised because of these accruals of last financial year?

Mr P J MNGUNI: Deputy Chair of Chairs, my question to the hon MEC revolves around the whole fuss about scholar transport. Huge, huge amounts of money are spent on this; whether it was a properly thought of concept instead of for instance R153 million which is an increase just in this year; instead of building schools so that those scholars are nearby schools, which is a lasting legacy than transporting them thereafter and reaching few people who may hypothetically have very corrupt relations with school principals and all that and all that just being money spent and being wasted to convince the House, Chair, of the need to continue in that trend.

Secondly, to check if those schools that are – do you call them what – section – those that are funded by government entirely, Chair – to check if the money ultimately reaches schools in time because you find that activities cannot continue because the money has not yet – whether you call it grant or subsidy – has not yet actually reached schools.

Lastly on the school sports, that the hon MEC may help to really explain what the vision and the understanding and what is the current model being implemented there, summarily and roughly, Chair. I would rather we stick to policy issues than on technicalities. We are not an appeals committee as Parliament; we are really more on the strategic direction of the country. Thank you.

Ms Z HLEKISO-THABANENG: Owam umbuzo uthi ingaba i-department inayo na i-plan for aba bantwana bafeyila u-Grade 12 because azikho i-finishing schools ezi-public, i-finishing schools ezikhoyo zi-private nezi-independent apho ke kufuneka kuye abantwana abakwaziyo ukubhatala. Ingaba ithini i-department ngaba bantwana bona bangenayo imali yokubhatala kweza-private or independent finishing schools?

Mr C MARTIN: Thank you, ma'am. For me it is only the one on page 48. The challenge that we have there Chairperson, if you look at the finding (b), it says: "the department managed to register 165 independent schools and funded 107." Now this is important. This is due to the lack of meeting the required standards by schools and the high failure rate. Now the challenge that I have is that Chairperson are we not leaving these learners to their own devices, actually their right to education, proper education and all those types of things? Shouldn't they be referred rather? If they fail it means they should have been referred to the right relevant public schools. The qualifications coming out of there will it be acceptable by standard?

Then the last one Chair is just the priority list from the MEC's side for building of schools. Schools have been visited by the MEC and others, like Boysen's Park High School, Jubilee Park Plankies School. Commitments were made to those schools. Are those commitments going to be realised and honoured in this financial year?

Ms V MVENYA: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, my question is related to hon Mnguni's question. There are these section 21 schools that are given money by the department. How are these schools assistance in terms of financial management; and how are they monitored; and finally how do they account for these monies that are allocated to them by the department? Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Hon MEC, would you mind dealing with all these questions when you speak at the end? Thank you very much.

We will now have inputs from the political parties.

Ms A S WOODHALL: Good day, hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, hon MEC, members and officials from the department. 3.1 million people or 46.9% of the population of the Eastern Cape is below the age of 19, which means that education has a pivotal role to play. Those who are involved in education have the responsibility of providing the means to develop the potential of these young people.

The Eastern Cape Department of Education admits to a dropout rate of 30% by Grade 12 and these statistics actually have a major concern and the crisis in Education cannot be ignored. I think we would all agree with that.

Planning for the future in this province we must do now. A better education system surely enables those who are entering the workplace or tertiary education being failed. We want them to be responsible citizens and know how to run their own lives. We must not fail them. We must ask ourselves what initiatives can be taken now for the 30% who drop out and this applies to the learners of today and those 19 years from today. We look at the education budget for 2010/11. We notice that 80% of that budget is for the compensation of employees. This leaves very little for infrastructure, learning materials and maintenance of property. We welcome an audit of all schools and the staff components in relation to class numbers and class size. There should be a proper record kept of this at all times and which is regularly monitored and in fact the same audit of employees should apply to the administration. We never have a complete picture.

It is commendable of the department to consider rationalising staff so as to fill posts from the existing complement. It can be a sensitive issue, but value of money applies to personnel as well as goods and services. Now infrastructure remains a problem that is not filled by this budget. The MEC has recognised in this policy speech a need to source funding that will deal with the backlogs once and for all. It is not part of this budget. The amount referred to is not in the White Book and we do commend the MEC for trying to deal with this problem, but we really do ask for what is a reliable figure that we are targeting to deal with the

backlogs for infrastructure and how much is really required to clear this backlog in a shorter time as possible.

The question of goods and services expenditure not matching budget looks like to be repeated and if the items that are needed fit the budget, we need to make sure there is a projection of the items required. We talk about cutting our suite according to cloth we have. Money we do not have must not be spent.

The huge problem with scholar transport and the lack of management that tenders were not awarded in time for the new financial year; we do commend the new agreement and coordination with the Department of Transport and we trust that this will be monitored sufficiently to avoid heavy over-expenditure.

The problem of school nutrition has still not been resolved. That is another leaky thing for expenditure by the Department of Education.

The department should be ensuring that those rural and township schools which are under-resourced even today are brought up to the standard that we all aspire for – there are schools and children must attend them. That is the real challenge. We are dismayed by the small number of schools to receive a library in this budget. There is a need for partnering with NGOs and interested organisations to target all schools without a library. Imaginative ways to achieve what we want must be sought. Basic literacy is the foundation for learning, which libraries and books and other media are as essential as textbooks. I am glad you agree.

Should we accept this budget on the basis of the comments that I have raised? Is this budget realistic? Will costing be effective in financial management be done this year? It needs to be done speedily so that we have the advantage of it this year and not next year.

I thank the department officials for supplying details of the decentralised budgets to districts. We believe that this will create more accountability. There is a need though for the role of the head office to be clarified. Monitoring must still be carried out. Value for money is a responsible concept that can be applied in all aspects of the department's activities. We are aware of the challenges surrounding corruption, fraud and mismanagement of finances in this department.

It is commendable that the process of investigation is underway. We are also aware there are serious attempts by perpetrators to cover up. Please do not let this process fall by the wayside and stop those who are siphoning off pressures resources. The squandering, the common inheritance of our children's education. The whole of society suffers when learners are short changed. The Special Investigation Unit has been called in by the department and we await the results of all the investigations very anxiously, not as anxiously as those who are guilty.

We would like to know what is happening in the department and what is being done to stop those who indulge in corrupt practices from continuing. The possible R12 million that was referred to in the Herald on the 10th of May could have been used to build a school and replace a mud structure.

We reluctantly support this budget as it is far too small, but also we have reservations about the best use of the monies involved.

The many problems in delivering a good education to all learners are not all to be solved by just increasing the budget. The way in which we do business can lead to an unqualified audit report. MEC, we do recognise the efforts of yourself and the officials who are making efforts to turn this department around and we look forward to a kick-off of an excellent educational service. That is our goal. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, it is indeed an honour to respond on behalf of the DA on the Education budget and policy report. Once more hon members the Eastern Cape Department of Education has been appropriated the largest cut, namely R22.679 billion of the total provincial budget.

Again the question arises, hon MEC, what financial control and auditing mechanisms has the department in place to monitor the budget and ensure tight, prudent, efficient and effective expenditure? Financial control is and remains the driving force of this department. It is for this reason that the DA only supports the committee report and not the Education budget report. [Interjections.]

Other reasons for not supporting the budget report are, but not limited to the following: most of the figures presented by the department are not reliable as it keeps on changing; the accruals are like waves with no absolute certainty as what the amount for accruals should be. The department has provided the committee on 21 April 2010 with an amount of R495.702 million as accruals, whilst early responded on 16 April 2010 that the overall unaudited expenditure for the last financial year, 2009/10, amounted to R639.19 million as at 31 March 2010.

This type of information hon MEC is clearly confusing, suggesting that we either have inadequate financial systems in place, or inefficient officials not performing as expected. It is also not clear whether accruals of R111 million which was incurred due to the non-payment of service providers for the school nutrition programme from January to March 2010 has been included in the above accruals. That is still unclear. The department has only up till 29 April 2010 managed to pay R13 million of this R111 million.

The department also owes meal servers as at 29 April an amount of R12.3 million for services delivered from August 2009 to March 2010, due to financial constraints. The 9,500 meal servers and not 950 are still

waiting for the R600.00 as a stipend per month to be paid to them. The department has cited the necessary documentation to effect payments have not been handed in by schools. [Interjections.] Okay my friend. There are temporary and substitute educators still waiting to be paid, even 2009 Grade 12 markers. A number of schools have not received the 50% of the allocated funds, resulting in unnecessary hardships.

Section 20 schools – let me explain to you what it is – it is schools whose finances are managed by the department – have had their unutilised funds withdrawn, resulting in these schools not fulfilling their mandates. Day-to-day maintenance could not take place, nor could the necessary learner and teacher support material be purchased. One hundred and fifty-one Section 20 schools were affected in the Port Elizabeth district alone. An amount of R11.9 million was budgeted for these schools as per the norms and standards funding, while R5.5 million was withdrawn during August of last year as a result of projected over-expenditure. That is not fair hon MEC.

The policy speech delivered by the MEC for Education, the hon Qwase, does not lend it to revolutionising the education system. The more this Education Department intends embarking on critical initiatives to deal with the root cause of poor learner performance in literacy and numeracy, the more things remain the same without measurable targets being set or achieved. Too many of our educators in the foundation phase are unqualified or under-qualified, resulting in a detrimental impact in learners not attaining the required levels in numeracy and literacy. It is unacceptable that the personnel to non-personnel expenditure is at a ratio of 84 to 16, compared to the national norm of 18 to 20. Ominous rumbling to discontent is surfacing because schools are denied better learner/teacher ratio as a result of over-supplied personnel in non-critical positions. No indication was given as to how this spread amongst personnel will be rectified.

The MEC correctly referred to the non-compliance and adherence to the legally stipulated seven hours of instruction. Unfortunately no solutions were given as to how compliance to the seven-hour rule will be effected. Many of our disadvantaged schools have on average only three and a half hours of schooling per day. In its 2009/10 budget and policy speech the MEC for Education has allocated an amount of R8.4 million for Maths, Science and Technology Education Academy to be established before the end of 2009. An amount of R15 million has again been allocated for this important initiative which, according to the MEC, will be fully operational this year.

This academy is to spearhead teacher development and capacity building. Unfortunately hon MEC, expectations have been created, but not fulfilled. It is appreciating to know that the MEC envisaged 976 classrooms to be built by the end of this financial year, whilst the continuation of the reduction of inappropriate structures, mud structures, plankie schools, zinc schools are taking place fitfully. The Democratic

Alliance has reliable documentary information where it is indicated that there are 1,576 schools within this province, of which 4,838 mud classrooms are attached to it. It will be interesting to hear from the MEC how, when...

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: You have one minute left.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: ...inappropriate structures his department intends eradicating, as no plan was alluded to in his speech. The MEC also indicated that his department intends to increase the Grade 12 pass rate by 12% to 60% at the end of 2010 academic year. It is indeed a commendable forethought, but the chances are infinitesimal. No learner can learn without adequate and appropriate text books, therefore achievable outcomes will be difficult to attain. Too many of our learners are sharing text books or do not have access to these much needed resources and our school infrastructure is collapsing, resulting in parent withdrawing their children from these schools for safety and hygienic reasons, as are the cases at Westend Primary and George Smit in the Port Elizabeth district. The majority of our learners are bereft of adequate resources and opportunities for a brighter future. [Time expired.]

Mr J BICI: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, when we stand here we are doing oversight, so nobody should really be worried about what we say because this is what we are trying to correct from the departments. [Interjections.]

Although the department received the highest or the biggest share of the budget, that is R22.6 billion, the MEC feels that it is still going to struggle after offsetting the accruals. I said in the morning I have a problem with these accruals. This department to me seems to be in great trouble and we need rescues, we need processes to rescue this department today, not tomorrow. [Interjections.] How do you have a department with departmental officials doing business with the same department and not even declaring that they are doing business with the department and nothing is being done by the department to these officials?

The Department of Education is sitting on a time bomb and it can explode any time. For instance, in Queenstown – I have a proof – in Queenstown the supply chain department or section ordered furniture for plus/minus R500,000.00 and the payment was effected. The furniture was never delivered. Nothing is being done about that. [Interjections.] In Queenstown a senior official was expelled or chased away by a certain union. That official – it is three years now – that official is drawing salary as we speak. It is three years ago. A teacher union disrupts exams for Grades 3, 6 and 9 and nothing has been done. [Interjections.] Nothing has been done.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Order hon member.

Mr J BICI: Oh.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Is that a question?

Mr J BICI: Uthini Majodina? Khawulezisa kaloku utya ixesha lam ngoku.

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon member, I am the chairperson of Anti-corruption Forum. Does the hon member have any proof that he can hand over so that I can follow-up on the issues that he is raising?

Mr J BICI: I am not going to respond to that. [Laughter.]

It is promises, promises, promises. In June 2007, former MEC Makgato declared no more mud schools in the Eastern Cape by 2009. It is more than... It is worse than mud schools; it is shack schools. It is worse than that. [Interjections.]

Ukuqhekezwa kwe-office zesebe imihla nezolo eZwelitsha akufuni ngcungcu nangcungela yamcuphi okanye nkunqela yexhwele ukubona apho lifele khona ithole okanye apho umhlola ukhoyo.

That is very easy, hon Majodina.

The UDM has it as a fact that service providers are owed well over R500 million. That is a fact. The MEC was sitting with service providers this morning. They were demanding their money this morning. [Interjections.] The meal servers are owed well over R12 million. These meal servers are old mamas, abalala ngamanzi beqamelele ngenyembezi but ba-owishwa i-R12 million yonke by this department; why? [Interjections.] Ndiza kubosula. [Laughter.]

HIV and AIDS is a scourge we are going to have to live with. It is therefore UDM's fervent contention that HIV and AIDS must be prominent in the department's programmes. It must not just be mentioned in passing, mam Majodina. It must be there. It is there. We have to make sure that it is in our programmes.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: The hon member has one minute left.

Mr J BICI: Oh, one minute. I think now that the Chair says is over, then I think I must reluctantly support the budget. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms B TUNYISWA-GQOBOKA: Thank you, Deputy Chair of Chairs, protocol observed. As we celebrate the Children's Day today, the ANC wishes to remind the House that before a product can be manufactured, four factors must be available. Those factors are the basic resources needed to produce the product. That is the output. We are talking about raw material, labour, capital and entrepreneurship. The same applies with the public service, as they are key factors. They are key factors needed in order to run public administration properly. Planning and in this case to provide quality education in the Eastern Cape, organising that is it is necessary to organise the necessary resources for the implementation of the objectives. Budget; as we know that this financial year our budget is R22 billion. We need personnel, we need management to manage all these eight programmes and we also need controls to oversee implementation and ensure accountability of those given responsibilities.

The strategy and tactics of the ANC, as adopted by the 52nd national congress held from 16 to 20 December in Polokwane talks to the central objective of social policy, which should be to preserve and develop human resources and ensure social cohesion. This will be achieved through enhanced public infrastructure.

Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, uPremier, uMphathiswa wezemali, uMphathiswa wezemfundo, basithembisile apha into yokokuba kuza kumobhalayizwa i-finances ukwenzela into yokokuba ku-adreswe ezi-challenges ze-infrastructure ingakumbi the mud schools.

As the ANC we believe that we must be given progress reports so as to prepare for our oversight function. Kuza kufuneka nisixelele Hlubi ukuba nindawoni kulento yokumobhalayiza i-funds for le infrastructure.

The second one that was identified phaya ePolokwane is efficient systems. Our systems in the Department of Education ngokuqinisekileyo kune-problem. I think as the ANC we are saying there is a problem in terms of the systems and I think hon MEC as the ANC you need to take us in confidence, utsho ukuba what is the plan of the department.

The third one is the requisite personnel. Do we have the necessary personnel to do the job? As the ANC we do not accept that after 16 years there is still personnel who do not have the required qualifications and competencies needed by the department. Asingabazi kulonto. Inxaki yenu yinto yokokuba nicinga ukuba zithethwa nini, thina siyazithetha as they are. We know our challenges.

Does the department's organogram talk to the challenges that are faced by the department? Nalapho we are saying as the African National Congress, we need to be decisive. We can't have an organogram ekukhonsalthwa for more than a year and we don't take a decision. We cannot have officials ezi zaba ne-ipreference yokuba i-organogram

kufuneka ime njani na. Sithi i-organogram should talk to the challenges of the department.

As the ANC we are very concerned about Programme 2. As you know that this is the core function yale-department and there are lots of funds that are in this department. If you are talking about public primary schools, the public secondary schools, the professional services, in-school sport and culture; I think the hon MEC must share with us ukuthi who is responsible for the sports fields and other related sport matters. We are raising this ins the context ye spirit sika-2010 and beyond 2010. As African National Congress we are saying ngoku ngeli xesha kanye si-busy sithetha nge-sport. When the international community is at home masithethe what is the plan because if you are talking about abantwana ne-sport, ndifuneka baqala esikolweni. We cannot emphasise youth sport. Kufuneka baqale phaya besebancinci. So that is why for us it is important, indaba ye- sport.

The college lecturers' case is still a problem. We are concerned as African National Congress if its officials keep on talking about national agreements that have never been budgeted for.

Sifuna ke apha ukuba nikhe niscacisele ukuba lento ye-acruals iphela nini. What is your understanding as a department because ukubangaba siza kuhlala kule meko ithetha into yokokuba Deputy Speaker, sizakuhlala kule meko iphele le 5 years.

If you look at the management, yes, just LTSM, just LTSM, we have been asking the department ukuba why does the budget for the text books inga- reduce, instead it increases each and every financial year. If you had a retrieval policy that is clear, bekuzakwenziwa enye into ngala mali yeza-text books. It is just a question of teachers managing into yokuba abantwana babuyise iincwadi ekupheleni konyaka. We cannot buy text books as if we are buying stationery. If you look at the budget ye public primary schools iyadleka ke imali phaya.

I think it is important to also ask the hon MEC just to take us through those reports, the investigation. We need a comprehensive report on litigation cases and the performance of the centralised legal section. I think we need to know what they are doing in that section. Also, we need a plan that is to be developed in order to make sure that the following programmes do not affect the core business, lena ke i-teaching and learning. Where they are talking about the LTSM infrastructure, scholar transport and school nutrition programme, I think we need to find a way of dealing with those issues.

The April 2010 statement by the Acting HoD, hon MEC, was a concern, especially by the African National Congress that the department is rotten and corrupt and its own officials are corrupt. I think you need to just explain to us because we have a responsibility – African National

Congress akukhonto iyoyikayo. If there is something wrong we are going to address it and we are sure that it is going to be rectified.

Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, iindlebe zethu njengamalungu e-African National Congress in this House, zingxolelwa ngamazwi awakhe athethwa by one of our prominent leaders esithi:

Comrades, I ask you never to take the masses for granted, for it is them that will adjudicate when we forget that the resources at our disposal are for their well-being. It is them that will judge if we have utilised these resources prudently to their benefit. Not only the bureaucratic [inaudible] – that is the capitalist class that depends for its existence and survival on the State through tenders, corruption and so on. [Inaudible] that is a front, a public face or a representative of the real [inaudible.]

We should not be shy to make the public and officials and in particular to understand that issues like feminisation of poverty, when women personally fight poverty, when women carry the burden of poverty in a patriotic society, needs to be addressed through a developmental state attitude, an activist aid that intervenes decisively in the economy, with a generally progressive agenda, for instance Deputy Chair of Chairs, decent work. Singayithetha ingathi yindlalo what we have achieved as the ANC. We know there are mistakes; we know there are challenges, but at no stage before 1994 apho you had ECD practitioners ezazibhatalwa. The Department of Education, through the ANC policy, [Interjections]uqale nge- R350.00 ebhatala ECD practitioners, those women thina in the capitalist society esithi bane right yokunasa abantwana bengabhatalwa. Si promota into ye unpaid labour during i-period yokulawula kwabanye benu apha, but after that akhange ime i-Department of Education yenyuka yabanika i-R3 500 now

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: One minute left.

Ms B TUNYISWA-GQOBOKA: ... we are talking about R5,000.00 for ECD practitioners. [Applause.] We are saying they must on implementing le policy of the co-operatives. We know that there are co-operatives that are being trained. We know that there are bread cutters that need to be paid. As the ANC we are saying that they must be paid. You know, ezi prophets of doom that are saying they are in possession of documents, mabahambe mabaye kuripota e-police station i-crime, because thina we are going to do that because we know that ukuba kukho amasela phaya kwa-Education, sifundisiwe yi-Palama – ukubiwa kwe-computer does not mean i-evidence iphelile. Kukho lanto kuthiwa yi-main frame. The information is there.

And we are saying Deputy Chair of Chairs i-environment ye quality ye education iza kuba right xa ku-adreswe ezo zinto.

The ANC supports the report. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Good evening Deputy Chair of Chairs, Members of the Executive Council, hon members, officials of the department, ladies and gentlemen.

If you look at the number of questions that have been posed, the number of issues that have been raised, it will take about two days to deal with all of them, those questions extensively. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] So firstly I want to... I want to start with the issue of one of the critical areas and the critical priorities that the ANC has set for itself; that of dealing with corruption and crime. As early as September last year, October last year, we have written to the SIU as the Department of Education to start with an investigation on a number of areas within the department and they have collected all the necessary information, as hon Premier has indicated here. That process now is at the stage – the investigation is still continuing, but it is at the stage now of the President signing the proclamation, which will give the SIU all the power even to subpoena any official when they begin now to act on the people. That letter has been signed by the MEC and the Premier of the province and it was sent about two weeks ago to the President's office.

With respect to the fraud that has taken place within the department, especially in the past three weeks which was detected, the crime unit within the SAPS and the Hawks are working on that. What we are dealing with now is to ensure that we strengthen the IT system and the security system within the department. We have discussed those issues with SAPS and those areas that require strengthening to curb the continued fraud that is taking place that is through the systems of the department.

I don't want to get into detail. I just want to leave the process to say that is how far we have gone and we don't want to really conduct some kind of a disciplinary hearing or an investigation in the public in case we mess up the whole investigation and we don't like that kind of a situation, but I just want to say to hon members that there is a lot of ground that we have covered so far now. The Hawks are there, the SIU is there; it is just these minor things to be sorted out and we are waiting action from their side and we don't want to preempt what is going to happen. At the same time we don't want to paint all the officials with the same brush. We want to await the outcomes of that investigation and the outcomes of those investigations and the action by the police will point directly to the affected managers because at the same time if we paint them with the same brush we are likely to demoralise even those that are doing the sterling job for the department and for government. So I just want to leave that aspect at that level.

Because of the fraud that has taken place within the department there has been a delay because of the measures that we had to put in place in conjunction with the Provincial Treasury that before any payment is processed a lot of reconciliation and verification must take place and it has even tended to delay now even payments to these service providers.

We were supposed to have completed all the accruals by end of May and we were set to meet that targets, but because of those measures that we have put in place to ensure that no continued fraud again because they defrauded the system, there are fictitious schools that are put in place there, fictitious account numbers and all those things for the schools, so we had to go into detail and ensure that in the case where there is a ECD reduction in the bank we go to that school and they sign 1401 form to ensure that we get the direct information and the latest information about details of that school. So that has caused a lot of problems in terms of the payment now of the service providers in the process. We have convened a meeting with the service providers and we have briefed them thoroughly on the predicament that we find ourselves in.

The issue of the accruals, hon members, is a matter of great concern and it is an indication – I want to say it upfront – that it is an indication of poor planning and also a poor financial management. We must not beat about the bush about that. It is an indication of poor management and also poor financial management and we want to work on that aspect. As a result of that the Executive Council has assigned the CBC to work with the departments that have, like Education and Health, in dealing with the problems that are leading to over-expenditure and problems that are leading to huge accruals in those two departments. So we are working on a plan that will try and rescue this thing going forward. On the mobilisation of funds for the infrastructure backlogs:

After the Executive Council outreach last year the Premier's Office commissioned a study on the backlog of infrastructure in the whole province, not only in Education, but in all the departments, including Local Government. The preliminary report gave us a figure of R173 billion of infrastructure backlogs in the province and Education alone is R28 billion. If you look at the current funding model, which is plus one billion as from the last two financial years or one financial year it means it will take more than 20 years to deal with issues of backlogs in the province if all other things remain constant; there is no change in the price of material and there is no change in the labour costs and all those things; will take more than 20 years and that is the reason why we felt as the Executive Council that we need to pursue vigorously the engagement of National Treasury on this matter to ensure that we get additional funding in the same way we have dealt with issues of 2010 infrastructure.

We must adopt the same approach. In the Council of Education Ministers, which is the MINMEC of Basic Education, we have taken that position that the issue of social infrastructure, especially in education, must be dealt with in the same way that we have dealt as government with the 2010 infrastructure. If we must have to go and borrow we must do so because if you don't build a school at R5 million today that school two years down the line is about R7- or R8 million, so to delay the construction of those schools and dealing with the backlog now we are creating more problems for us in the future. So as a

province, although at a national level we have taken that decision, the Province of the Eastern Cape has led the whole, even the national department with respect to this initiative and today the MEC for Finance, hon Jonas, they were presenting our proposal to the National Treasury and to the Budget Council. We will hear from hon Jonas when he comes from Germany on the developments of the discussions that unfolded in that meeting today.

So we are taking the issue of mud structures very seriously, and that proposal was tabled to the National Treasury today and the Budget Council which involves all the MECs for Finance and also the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Finance. It was presented there today and we are the only province that has led all other provinces in terms of putting forward a proposal on this matter.

On the issue of scholar transport, we started scholar transport we started at about 250 and already if we compare it with Western Cape, Western Cape was already at around 300 and when you compare the two provinces in terms of the scholar transport demand, you cannot compare them because of the financial constraints within the province even when we started scholar transport. Even on the first year when we introduced scholar transport there was over-expenditure on scholar transport and the following year it was even less than what was allocated in the first year, so which means that you will have more over-expenditure than the previous year. That is how this thing has been continuing.

The current R384 million that has been budgeted for scholar transport is also having to take care of the over-expenditure that has taken place last year, but we are trying to address and arrest that problem through the collaboration with Department of Transport in terms of the cleaning of the routes and also the verification of the numbers of learners that must be transported because what we had, we had a lot of insufficiencies within that system. You are transporting learners from Bhisho to Zwelitsha. Learners from Zwelitsha are studying in Bhisho and because it is more than 7kms in between they qualify, but we are not supposed to be doing that. We are not supposed to be doing that. They are supposed to be attending that side and those are supposed to be attending this side and we are not supposed to transport some of the learners. Some of the learners because they are going to travel 3kms which does not qualify for scholar transport, they move 2kms backwards and increase the figure of learners that are going to be transported, and they qualify. If they take 2kms backwards they now qualify because now they are supposed to travel 5kms. That is what they do and in the process increase the number of learners that are supposed to be carried.

So there are unnecessary corrupt things by everybody, so what we have done, we have issued that tender which is likely to assist the department in managing the inefficiencies in terms of managing the whole thing. So we are issuing that tender in June, so that by July when we re-open

schools we have a new tender that we can be able to manage effectively and properly with the assistance of the Department of Transport.

Before I sit down, hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, I also want to reflect on progress made, because whilst we do have challenges in the Department of Education, we are not shying away from the fact that we have challenges, but I don't want us to project a very bleak picture which can demoralise those people who are doing their level best, especially with respect to core business of the department, which is teaching and learning. In that front I am very confident that the department is in the right direction.

This year we started extra classes, Saturday classes, as early as in January. Hon members will agree with me that when you move around the province on Saturdays it is as if it is a school day, especially for Grade 12 learners. You see uniforms throughout the province. We have created that culture of teaching and learning. We have succeeded in creating that culture of teaching and learning in our schools. Secondly, we are almost about to complete the launch of the quality learning and teaching campaign in all the districts and the establishment of the district education fora where stakeholders can be able to participate and monitor closely whether teaching and learning is taking place, whether the problems that members have raised here with respect to a number of issues, are being dealt with by our districts.

That forum, the district education forum, is a critical platform for society to monitor the kind of programmes that we are putting in place as the Department of Education. We are almost there in terms of the establishment of those. We started to train from 9 March in all the learning areas that are key subjects – your Maths, your Science, your Accounting, your Geography, your English – we have started with the content gap training amongst educators from 9 March and that is continuing. We started in February up to 8 March with the leadership training for the 494 schools that have performed below 60% in the province, with leadership and turnaround strategies for those schools.

The Minister was here on Tuesday last week and on Friday, visiting schools in PE and visiting schools in Uitenhage, to look at whether the programmes that we have put in place as provinces, we are implementing them to the latter. He left there confident that in the Province of the Eastern Cape he is very confident that indeed what we said we are going to do, she felt that indeed the schools are on top of the situation.

There are other challenges that you have raised here; infrastructure challenges, issues of shortage of text books in certain schools and all that, but in terms of the teaching and learning and the commitment of educators and the support that they are getting from subject advisors and EDOs that was reflected in those schools, but it is the schools

themselves not by district officials, but from the schools themselves, which is an indication that we are covering a lot of ground.

What is pleasing, hon members, is that over these holidays which is going to be longer, we have winter schools in the province, about 176 centres, starting from the 14th of June up to the 2nd of July. We have also, in collaboration with AVUSA, which is the Dispatch and Herald and other papers, provincial papers, we have a collaboration with them and last week we circulated a supplement which is dealing with questions and answers for all the key subjects – your Maths, your Maths Literacy, your Physical Science, your first additional language, your Geography, your Accounting – I cannot remember whether History is there. It is only Geography that is not there in that supplement. We are working on that one as well. We have also printed 71,000 copies for each and every Grade 12 learner in the province, which have been circulated to all schools. We will be dealing with that in the winter schools. We will be dealing with that supplement for each and every learning area. We will be having remedial programmes for those schools that have not moved in step with the pace letters that have been sent out in terms of the 60% coverage. They will be dealt with in those winter schools as well.

The examiners' report which is issued after each and every examination will be discussed there because it outlines weaknesses of the learners in answering certain questions in dealing with certain issues in terms of the different learning areas will be part of that issue, of that winter school.

We would like hon members to assist the department in terms of mobilising our communities during this period. We have material that we have produced for Grade 3 up to Grade 11 that they will have to work on over this period because if you are going to have the five weeks holiday, learners by the time you get them in July they will be rusted, so we have prepared material which has been sent to schools for learners to work on, from Grade 3 up to Grade 11. That will be made available even to members before the end of this week so that members can have what we are talking about.

Lastly, we are working as the national Department of Basic Education on a long-term plan for basic education and we now talk about schooling 2025 because we want to take a long-ranged planning for education. This thing of planning for five years is not going to assist us at all if as a country we are to be competitive and we are to address our problems and challenges that make us not to be competitive even continentally. So that schooling 2025 will be finalised in the next CEM next week and then after that it will be open for engagements and for comments by the public and with a view that by July/August we are done with that schooling 2025, which is going to be our vision and plan for basic education.

In those few words, hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, I want to thank the members of the committee and the members at large for the questions that they have posed. Those questions are going to assist the department in terms of dealing with the pertinent issues that members have picked up. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much hon member. Can I just advise that members should forward questions to the department for written responses.

Mr J PIENAAR: Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs, we have put questions to the MEC in the House and we would like the MEC to respond so that we can have a follow-up. These are important questions to assist the department going forward.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Hon members, the MEC has tried to respond to some of the questions, but with regard to those that are still outstanding, I would appeal to members to have them written to the department so that they can get written responses. I don't think that is impossibility. Hon MEC, can you respond in writing to the questions that the members raised? Do you still have the questions hon MEC?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Hayi ukuba i-members azifuni kugoduka ndingaziphendula ezi-questions. [Interjections]

Because I have indicated at the beginning that the number of questions are a lot and it will take a long... Unless you are going to afford me kuzo zonke ezi ntsuku zilandelayo ukuba u-Education akhe anikwe ixesha ndiqhube nazo iveki yonke, I don't have a problem with that.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Hon MEC, would you mind responding to the questions without the members asking them again in writing?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: I am comfortable with that.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much.

Report adopted.

The House adjourned at 21:00.