

WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 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.

Mr SPEAKER: Hon Members, I am informed that our system is not working. We will have to try and speak loud enough for people to hear. That is the first problem, but it is recording. I hope the members are going to attempt to speak loud we would ask you to press so that it can record. I am also informed that if you cannot hear you can put on your earphones it will assist you hear.

We are also told that the air conditioner is not working, but at least we know that we are here to work. Somebody is working on it. We hope before we are through something better is going to happen.

Before we start as well, can I comment about yesterday's proceedings? I would want to urge members when somebody raises a point of order the speaker should actually stop until I give a ruling. You should not just proceed because it becomes difficult for me to stop you when you are talking. I think it is part of the rules, so people should stop until a ruling has been given.

Also, one would like to comment about that first point of order where names of two people were mentioned from Ngquza. Somebody raised a question as whether it was parliamentary or not. Definitely it was parliamentary, but it is also undesirable to mention names of people who are not here. We would urge members to avoid getting into that. Even if you speak well about a person or bad, it does not matter and if he is not here, if we can avoid that, such that our debate should just flow.

Like I also indicated, we should also respect the fact that we have allocated time to members. This thing that talks about freedom of speech, if somebody becomes irrelevant he actually is wasting his/her time and you will get your chance to respond to some of these issues. So for the debate to flow I would urge members to actually be tolerant, but at the same time I will not completely say do not do your normal things that you do in Parliament.

HOURS OF SITTING OF HOUSE

(Draft Resolution)

Ms B TUNYISWA-GQOBOKA: Mr Speaker, I move without Notice in terms of Rule 130 that despite the provisions of Rule 20.3 the sittings of the House commence at 10h00 on 25 February 2010 and 3 March 2010.

Agreed to.

QUESTIONS

For oral reply:

Mr R S STEVENSON asked the Premier:

- (1) What was the reason for the cancellation of the fleet contract for the province;
- (2) whether this information was available when the Joint Committee on Transport and Finance was assured, under oath, by the officials and the MEC responsible for Provincial Safety, Liaison and Transport in the latter part of 2009 that there was nothing wrong with the Phakisa fleet contract;
- (3) whether this contract was approved by the full Cabinet; if not, why not; if so, whether all the relevant information was available at the time?

The PREMIER: Thank you hon Speaker, if I am allowed to zoom straight to the response in the interest of time. Yes, there was a cancellation of the contract which was due to a condition which was precedent to be fulfilled by Phakisa and the reason for canceling the contract was that Phakisa did not meet that condition, as they are a private party and should have obtained financing from the financial institution, which they could not get such financing.

With respect to the second question:

The response is that at the time of the joint sitting of the Portfolio Committees on Finance and Transport during the month of October 2009, the Department of Transport was not aware of any challenges with the contract which have been awarded to Phakisa Fleet Solutions. The Department only became aware of this only on the 18th of December 2009.

With respect to the last question, yes, the cabinet approved the public private partnership concept including the consequent signing of that contract. Those are the responses, hon Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Is there any supplementary question? Hon Stevenson.

Mr R S STEVENSON: Thank hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Premier for the reply. My follow up question is; was there nothing in the contract that specified that Phakisa had the necessary financial strength to enter into this contract? Why it that only emerged after the contract

had been approved that they did not have the necessary financial strength to undertake the fulfillment of the contract?

Mr SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you again hon Speaker. Yes, there was that precondition and at the time Phakisa had met that condition, at the time of awarding. It is after – they claim it is after negative reporting that their funder withdrew the support.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. We move to Question No 2 addressed to the MEC responsible for education.

Mr C MARTIN asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed of any previously disadvantaged schools in the province whose monthly municipal accounts amounted to hundreds of thousands of rands; if so, (a) what are the names of these schools, (b) in which districts are they situated, (c) what total amount was owed by each specified school as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (d) what is the paper budget in respect of municipal services for these schools;
- (2) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to assisting these schools; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Thank you very much hon Speaker. The response to the question is a bit long, but it is in connection with the municipal accounts and debts owed by the department to the various municipalities in the province. The list has been developed as requested, so I would not go through the list; it is a very huge document.

On question 2: There are steps that have been taken. It must be noted that the schools are required by law to prepare budgets every year and present those to the SGB before the end of the year. These budgets must clearly indicate the amount of municipal services budgeted for as part of the expenditure and also income expected to be collected. Indeed it is clear that this has not been done in certain schools and schools therefore do not take the function for municipal services seriously. The districts do not also ensure compliance with the critical function. The budgeting by all schools in the Eastern Cape would be prioritised in the current academic year so that by the end of October 2010 all schools must have complied with the provision of the Act that require them to need their obligations.

At Nelson Mandela; we have established a task team which is led by the CFO of the department, together with directors in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage on the part of the Department of Education. We are having

monthly meetings of the task team that are taking place to report on progress.

The Nelson Mandela water and sanitation section is in the process of verifying all the metres in schools to ensure that readings are correct and should there be any discrepancies, these accounts will be amended and interest reversed where it has been charged. It is clear that metres in schools have not been read for a long time and needs have not been sorted out due to access to schools. A memorandum of agreement has been drafted to regulate the relationship between the Nelson Mandela and the department. One of the issues to be addressed in the memorandum of agreement is the leakages, block toilets etc. in schools. This will assist to keep the water consumption in schools at an acceptable level.

With respect to Buffalo City, the meetings have taken place with Buffalo City Municipality and monitoring of payments by schools has resulted in a decrease in amounts owed by Section 20 and Section 21 schools to about 819, 000 (that is the latest) which includes also the recent month. We are also monitoring schools reflected as independent schools in their list.

A task team has been set up as well in the BCM to deal with the reconciliation with the municipality and a lot of work has been done in that regard. The detailed information that is asked in Question 1 is made available and to go through it is going to take us the whole day, so it will be made available to the hon Member. Thanks hon Speaker.

Mr C MARTIN: Question 2 point 2 is just for clarity; is whether any steps have been or are to be taken for view of assisting? What I am trying to ask MEC there, is that the schools had have R800,000.00 accounts which are not tallying against the paper budget. Is the department going to assist those schools by paying the services, otherwise they will be disconnected?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: That is what we are reconciling with teams, with these municipalities because in certain cases you find that the billing has been incorrect, hence you find that there are huge sums of money that are claimed, but surely given the paper budget of some of the schools, they cannot be able to pay those debts so the department will have to, in one way or another, intervene and assist those schools.

Mr SPEAKER: If we can get the list hon MEC for our records, it would help us. Thanks. We are on Question 3 also for the MEC responsible for Education

Mr C MARTIN asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed of any inappropriate or unprofessional conduct on the part of principals or teachers towards parents of learners at schools in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality; if so, how many such cases (a) were reported and (b) had been investigated as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) what was the outcome of these investigations in each case?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: On the question from hon Martin: the incidents that occur in schools are normally first reported to the district offices and districts are expected to resolve such cases as soon as possible. Where districts are unable to resolve those cases, support from head office is sought.

There are no incidents from Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality formally reported to head office, but on enquiry on receipt of these Parliamentary questions the following information served with us in relation to the issuing of reports and learner admissions. The reports that are still withheld by about six schools were due the fact that parents have failed to fetch them and could not be handed over to the learners. The cases of non admission of learners that were reported to District Admissions Task Team were all resolved and placement for all learners was secured and listed hereunder the statistics for the learners who were admitted.

Grade 12 there were 10 learners;
Grade 11 there were 15 learners;
Grade 10 there were 19;
Grade 9 there were 30; and
Grade 8 there were 130 learners.

As there were no cases that were reported to the head office, no investigations have taken place on the question that is being raised by the hon member.

As there were no incidents reported once again, there are no statistics on investigations outcomes which is readily available. I must say hon Speaker that it is only now I have just been given a letter of compliant with respect to this; otherwise we have not received formal complaints other than the complaints that were received through the office related to admissions and the withholding of reports. Thanks hon Speaker.

Mr C MARTIN: Hon Speaker, it is satisfactory and the MEC can investigate the one that he did receive because it was given to his department, so if he can investigate that one it is satisfactory.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether any audit has been undertaken in the province to determine the number of underqualified and unqualified educators in the Foundation

and Intermediate Phases in the GET band; if not, why not; if so, what were the outcomes of the audit;

- (2) whether any comprehensive plan of action has been or is to be put in place with a view to addressing this situation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any factors other than the inappropriate qualifications of educators contribute to the low levels of academic effectiveness in these phases; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Hon Speaker, on Question 1: a notice has been undertaken in the province by our human resource planning section through Persal to determine the remaining number of under- and unqualified educators in the system. What we did we did not focus on the foundation and intimidate face but we focused on the whole system – that is the GET band, which is Grade R up to Grade 9 and FET which is Grade 10 up to Grade 12.

The outcome as at the end of 2009 the number of under and unqualified educators is 2,122 and there is a plan to upgrade under and unqualified educators.

The details are as follows:

- The database for the under- and unqualified educators currently remaining in the system has been compiled.
- A meeting with the higher education institutions was held on the 10th of February 2010 for the distribution of such educators so that they can be able to upgrade their qualifications.
- The unqualified educators with degrees and/or diploma without teacher qualifications will undergo a two-year part time postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) which has got 120 credits qualification.
- The under-qualified educators who are in RQV10, 11 and 12 will be enrolled for a three-year national diploma in education, which is called the NPDE programme, which has got about 360 credits. So the lower level of English – these are some of the additional challenges that have led to the challenges in terms of the low levels of academic effectiveness – the following are some of those additional challenges. It is low levels of language proficiency, especially in English which is used as a language of planning and teaching; the issues of multi-grade teaching which compromise the quality of teaching and learning and also the fact that related to that a number of educators teach more than one learning area which affects the individual's attention in the schools. That is the response to the question hon Speaker.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: Hon MEC, thank you for the detailed answers you have given me. Maybe I did not hear; I hope not. When do you intend upgrading the qualifications of these unqualified and under qualified educators? Thank you.

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: We want to start, hon Speaker that programme this year. As I have indicated earlier that on the 10th of February 2010 we were engaging all the three institutions of higher learning to deal with different categories because some of them they require the NPDE, others require another kind of certificate, but already we have engaged with the institutions of higher learning and we do have bursaries that have been set aside for that purpose in the skills development fund.

Mr SPEAKER: Hon members, can I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of hon Mrs Tshwete, member of the National Assembly? [Applause.] Thank you very much for being our guest. Can we continue? We are now on question 5. Question 5 is also addressed to the MEC for Education.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) How many educators in the province (a) were within the retirement band as per the latest EMIS, (b) had officially applied to exit the system at the end of the 2009/2010 financial year and (c) will be retiring due to age in each specified year from 2010 to 2014, per district;
- (2) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to (a) filling these anticipated voids and (b) minimising the impact thereof; if not, why not; if so, (i) what steps and (ii) what will the financial implications be in this regard;
- (3) whether there are any institutions in the province where prospective educators can become qualified; if so, (a) what are the names of these institutions, (b) where are they situated in each case and (c) how many prospective educators were studying at these institutions as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (4) whether there is a sufficient number of these institutions in the province to produce the required number of qualified educators; if not, what quantifiable plan is to be implemented with a view to rectifying the possible shortfall in educator numbers;
- (5) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to encouraging school leavers or any other matriculated adults, employed or not, to become qualified as educators; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Can I request hon Speaker that maybe this one I hand over to the hon member because it is a bit long, the response that is provided here, but it can be made available even for other members? I am suggesting that approach because it is about two and a half pages. It is going to take us very long to cover, but it is about the list of officials in the department that will

retire between – the question was between 2010 and 2011, but here we have just taken 2010 and 2011, although the question was also indicting 2010 up to 2014. So we have done that list here and also there are subsequent questions that are following. We have also tabulated all that response in the question. I am requesting that maybe we circulate instead of reading through it because it is too long.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: Hon Speaker, I am quite happy with the response from the MEC.

Mr R S STEVENSON asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) By what amount was each specified department projected to overspend in the 2009/2010 financial year as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what is the total projected overexpenditure for the province;
- (2) whether any savings have resulted from the austerity campaign; if so, (a) what savings were effected in each specified department and (b) what total amount in savings had been effected as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (3) whether all departments are complying with Treasury's instructions in regard to the austerity campaign; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the further relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: The first question relates to projected over-expenditure. The figures that I am using are as at December. I will just go through them because the issue was what the amounts are. For Health it is 1.6; Education 640; Local Government Traditional Leaders R22.3 million; Agriculture R10.1 million; Safety & Liaison R1.1 million; Social Development R136,000.00.

Elsewhere, if you require details about the breakdown of the source of those amounts, we can provide you with those details later.

The next question relates to the impact of – I am just summarizing – the impact of the osterity measures and requiring specific details on the saving. I think what I can say is that generally the details are contained in Provincial Treasury Circular No 7 of 2009 and the impact of it continues to be felt across the board. We cannot provide you with the exact figure as of now, but probably in the budget speech we will touch on the immediate impact of some of those measures.

The last point relating to the same issue relates to; are there departments not complying? Not according to our knowledge. Thank you.

Mr R S STEVENSON: Thank you. Enkosi Somlomo, umbuzo olandelayo. [Kuhlekwe.] (*Thank you Speaker, the next question.*) [Laughter.] My question relates to the HROPT process to the MEC. Were there any more monies been paid out under that process since November? Thank you.

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Not according to our knowledge. Remember that we reported that there is an audit process underway and we have taken a view that until that process is completed we could actually take a position moving forward. Thanks.

*8. Mr J C CUPIDO asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has been informed that (a) the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Eastern Cape Gambling and Betting Board (ECGGB), whose name has been forwarded to the Department for purposes of the reply, was in contravention of section 6 (b), (e), (f) and (k) and section 12(5) of the Gambling and Betting Act (Act 5 of 1997) at the time of his appointment as CEO and (b) contravention of these sections is regarded as fraud and corruption; if so,
- (2) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to rectifying this contravention; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) how many international trips for the ECGGB were undertaken by this CEO in (a) 2006, (b) 2007, (c) 2008, and (d) 2009;
- (4) whether any members of the ECGGB do not permanently reside in the province; if so, (a) how many and (b) what are their names;
- (5) what total amount in allowances and expenses was claimed by each of the members not permanently resident in the province in (a) 2007/2008, (b) 2008/2009 and (c) 2009/2010 as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Hon Speaker, the issue of possible disqualification of the CEO prior to his appointment and his suspension – whatever - the question relates to both the circumstances and the process forward.

Following his suspension, the CEO referred two matters to the CCMA. The first was for unfair and an unprocedural suspension; and the second, for failure to promote.

The Board lost both cases. As a result, the Board - on the former - was ordered to reinstate the compliance and licensing manager with effect from 1 August 2009 and pay compensation. The latter settlement was reached, culminating to his appointment as CEO with effect from 1 November 2009.

With regard to disciplinary process, the charges preferred against the CEO were subjected to an evaluation and the conclusion reached was that it would not be in the best interest of the Board to proceed with the disciplinary process.

The next question: The CEO was appointed on 1 November 2009 and has attended one international gaming conference and was part of the business delegation to the US recently - an investment delegation - during December 2009.

The problem with the next question - an issue is raised about permanent residence in the Eastern Cape. Of course the permanent residence is not defined. My response is that there are two members who work outside of the province namely Mr Majombozi and Mr Mabizela. One hails from Port Elizabeth - that is where the home is - the other one comes from Peleton. Unless the definition is different, as far as I am concerned they are residents of the Eastern Cape.

Thank you.

Mr J C CUPIDO: Thank you, hon Speaker. If I could possibly just get a reply in writing as well, MEC Jonas; if I could get a copy of your response please.

The MEC: The fee?

Mr J C CUPIDO: No, a copy of the response.

The MEC: Okay, we will do that.

There is one response that I missed, hon Speaker; relating to the Board fees. I would suggest that I will provide the hon member with the annual financial statements, because those are publicly declared. Thank you.

*9. Mr J PIENAAR asked the MEC responsible for Health:

- (1) Whether the forensic audit into the irregular dealings of the Director for Emergency Services whose name has been forwarded to the department for purposes of the reply, and who was suspended in late 2009, has been concluded; if not, (a) why not, (b) by when will it be concluded, (c) who was tasked to conduct this audit and (d) why was the Hawks special investigations unit not chosen for this purpose; if so, (i) when was it concluded, (ii) what did it reveal and (iii) why has this information not been made available yet;

- (2) whether the findings of this audit will be made available to the Portfolio Committee on Health or the Portfolio Committee on the Office of the Premier; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (3) what (a) was the total cost of this investigation and (b) amount was paid to the forensic audit consultant;
- (4) whether the investigation revealed that any aircraft businesses benefited in any way from these dealings; if so, (a) what are the names of these businesses, (b) what amounts were involved in each case and (c) on what dates;
- (5) whether the investigation revealed that any aircraft were sub-leased from a former mercenary, whose name has been forwarded to the Department for purposes of the reply and who was involved in a botched coup plot to overthrow Equatorial Guinea's president; if so, what are the relevant details?

UMPHATHISWA WESEBE LEZEMPILO: Enkosi Somlomo. Ningabuzi imibuza nibengathi aniqondi mhlonipheki uPienaar. Kuphendula mna ngoku. Ndime ngokucelwa nguMEC wezempilo. Ndiza kunika mhlonipheki Pienaar ezi mpendulo zibhaliwe phantsi zaze zatyikitywa nje ngeempendulo ezinikwe kule Ndlu yoWiso mthetho. *(Translation of IsiXhosa paragraphs follows)*

[The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH: Thank you Speaker. You must not ask questions pretending as if you do not understand hon Pienaar. I am responding to them. I am standing in for the MEC responsible for Health. I will give hon Pienaar the following responses that have been signed as suitable to be presented in this Legislature.]

The forensic audit in respect of the abuse of Fixed Wing Air Ambulance for purpose of attending the Confederation Soccer match was concluded. A consortium consisting of PWC not a provincial working committee but it is Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC). Sizwe Ntsaluba and Umnombo consulting consortium was appointed to conduct the investigation.

The consortium was appointed in terms of the existing contract with the department. It was not for the department to go outside and seek for those services, but they have an existing contract with these consultants. The matter has since been referred to SAPS. Unfortunately we cannot divulge investigation because the matter is sensitive so we have to wait up until the investigations are concluded.

On Question 9.2: The findings of the initial investigations can be made available upon request to the Portfolio Committee on Health or the Portfolio Committee on Office of the Premier.

Olandelayo umbuzo ofuna ukwazi ukuba intywenka yemali esetyenziswe phaya yimalini na?

Asizokuthetha ke ngeranti nesenti sakuyibetha ithi ngqo kwi persenti; sithi ngu 15% imali esele ibuyiselwe. Oku akukagqitywa. Siza kuthi xa sele lugqityiwe olu phando kuphindwe kunikezelwe iinkcukacha ezipheleleyo. *(The next question seeks to check the huge amount of money that has ben used there.*

We will not express it in rands and cents instead we will give it in a percentage form; saying 15% of the money has been recovered. This has not been concluded yet. When we conclude the investigation we will give you full details.)

The next question after this one: The investigation identified air craft business which may have benefited from the dealings. The aircraft businesses involved in the fixed wing air ambulance contract were National Airways Cooperation, Legend Aviation, Natal CC and Flying Ambulance (Pty) Ltd t/a Airocam, to an extent which any aircraft business benefited from these; that means the department is still contuing with the investigation in order to check the depth of this matter. The days of early irregular flights will be known when the investigation has been concluded, but as of now, investigations are in progress. The matter has not been concluded.

Next question: In executing its responsibility in the Fixed Wing Air Ambulance contract, National Airways Cooperation sublift the airplane from Flying Ambulance (Pty) Ltd where Mr Cross Stein is a director. However in view of all of full cooperation of NAC we hoped to conclude the final investigation and recover monies which were incorrectly billed by whoever who rendered services. In addition we must take that nine employees have been suspended and one employee is deceased and one has resigned. Eight that have been suspended will be having their disciplinary hearing in March.

The investigation is still on going and further action is still to be taken against more employees as soon as the department gets evidence.

Sonqena ukuleqa abantu ke singaqinisekanga ukuba bayiphethe na ibhola, kodwa aba babonaka ukuba bayarhanelwa yile nto bebekwa ecaleni.*(We do not want to charge people without having concrete evidence, but these are suspects that is why they are put aside.)*

Let me deal with flu that you have asked in Question 10:

The flu and fiver called H1N1. In November 2009 the province colated information, focusing on the target groups for H1N1 vaccine per district and verification has been done through district health information system, provincial health information system, STATS South Africa district managers, programme managers and targeting groups. Also,

1,847,000,155 specimens were sent to National Health Laboratory and they were confirmed as reliable specimen from the Eastern Cape. That means we are looking at the matter in order to check what will happen and when.

Health Education Programme and Health promotion are ongoing exercise of health. Visitors are advised to take H1N1 vaccines before coming to the Games. The National Department of Health is providing 7000 of vaccines. During April 2010, H1N1 campaign will be rolled out to targeted high risk groups, namely:

Pregnant women, HIV/AIDS positive children from 1-15 years old, with a CD4 count between 100 & 400 because they are vulnerable to get these diseases.

All vaccines will be provided by the National Department of Health.

Akukho mali iza kuphuma. Okwethu apha ephondweni yinto yokuba sancedise ngezithuthi kodwa ke eyona nto siyenzayo kukufundisa abantu ngesi sifo. Oku kuza kuqhuba ngenkqubo yephulo lokufundisa. Ilungu elihloniphekileyo liza kufumana impendulo ebhaliweyo. Ndiyabulela *(No money will be payed. Ours is to provide transport as a province but what we are doing mainly is advocacy to people about the disease. This will continue through awareness programme. The hon member will be furnished with a written response. Thank you.)*

Mr SPEAKER: Any supplementary question?

Mr J PIENAAR: Hon Speaker, I would just like to ask the MEC to pass over the hard copied information to myself. Thank you.

Mr J PIENAAR asked the MEC responsible for Health:

Whether any steps have been or are to be taken to ensure that his Department is ready to deal with the H1N1 virus in the coming winter, during the 2010 Soccer World Cup; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps, (b) when, (c) what amount will be budgeted for the vaccine to deal with this virus during the 2010/2011 financial year and (d) what are the further relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS (On behalf of the MEC responsible for Health): Ndizibethe ndazidibanisa, Somlomo. *(I have combined both responses Speaker.)*

Mr SPEAKER: Then let us move to Question 11 for the MEC responsible for Provincial safety, Liaison & Transport.

Mr D B HADDON asked the MEC responsible for Provincial Safety, Liaison and Transport:

- (1) Whether her Department incurred any legal penalty, unforeseen or otherwise, to third parties as a result of the cancellation of the provincial Phakisa fleet management contract; if so, (a) what amount or amounts are due to be paid out, (b) what are these payments for and (c) to whom are these payments to be made;
- (2) whether any disciplinary action has been or is to be taken against any politicians or officials for incurring these extra costs; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL SAFETY, LIAISON AND TRANSPORT: Hon Speaker, the question is whether the department incurred any legal penalty, unforeseen or otherwise, to third parties as a result of the cancellation of the provincial Phakisa Fleet Management contract; if so, what amount or amounts are due to be paid out, what are these payments for and to whom were the payments made. The response is that the known financial implications would be due to legal costs as a result of a court order that was brought by one of the companies that tendered. The legal costs have not been quantified to the fact that the process is not yet completed.

The second part is whether there has been any disciplinary action that has taken or is to be taken against any politicians or officials having incurred this incurring this cause.

The response is no there has not been any disciplinary action taken because the department is still awaiting the close out report from the attorneys. I think that is the response to 11, hon Speaker.

Mr D B HADDON: Thank you Speaker. Could the MEC tell the house whether this matter has been reported by the HoD or the Acting HoD to Provincial Treasury in terms of Sect 38 of the PFMA; and if so, when? Thank you

The MEC: Hon Speaker, the issue around the whole fleet contract is fleet for the entire province of the Eastern Cape. As a result the entire Council is involved in this and the Treasury is aware of all the processes of his contract.

Mr D B HADDON asked the MEC responsible for Provincial Safety, Liaison and Transport:

- (1) Whether any plans are in place to ensure the safety of passengers who use bus and taxi transport in the province; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to re-examining (a) all public buses and taxis in the province for roadworthiness and (b) all licensed public bus and taxi drivers and

operators in the province; if not, why not; if so, (i) what steps and (ii) when?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL SAFETY, LIAISON AND TRANSPORT: The question is whether any plans are in place to ensure that the safety of the passengers who use bus and taxi transport in the province; if not, why not, what are the relevant details?

The response is that the department is in the process of crafting the plans to ensure safety of passengers ferried by buses and taxis. The safety of passengers is dealt with into a two pronged manner more especially for the 2010 Fifa World Cup. Traffic Law Enforcement has started the process based on the National Road Traffic Act provisions whereby traffic officers will examine public transport for road worthiness and intensify law enforcement on all public transport vehicles.

All districts of the department in the province are crafting plans to cater for all the activities that will take place before, during and after the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Under the National Land Transportation Act there are specific regulations promulgated for 2010, whereby some guidelines have been given. The plans will be based on the guidelines which must be read with the National Land Transportation Regulations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup published on the 8th of December 2009 in the government gazette 32788, notice R1170, which is referred to as the regulation.

The second part of the question; whether there are any steps that have been or are to be taken with a view to re-examining (a) all public buses and taxis in the province for roadworthiness and (b) all licensed public bus and taxi drivers and operators in the province?

The response is: It is normal practice that during the festive session and the Easter weekend the department embarks on roadworthy campaigns where some days are put aside to examine public transport for roadworthiness.

The same steps will be taken during the aforementioned periods... The same steps taken during the aforementioned periods will be taken during the 2010 Fifa World Cup. Other than the ordinary steps taken in accordance with the provisions of the National Road Traffic Act, the department will apply the provisions of the National Land Transportation Act in line with the guidelines and specific regulations for the FIFA 2010 World Cup entailed in the government gazette.

As I have alluded to, roadworthy certificate in question will be a requirement for obtaining temporary operating licenses. The roadworthy certificate in question must be issued by an accredited testing station or by an examiner contemplated in SubRegulation 3 of the Act.

The second part of the response is: The National Road Traffic Regulation requires driver of vehicles used to carry the public for reward to have professional driving permits. The Operating Licensing Board is not required to check this and law enforcement will be applied during the event to check on the PRDPs. This implies that there will be no re-examination done for drivers.

Mr D B HADDON: Hon Speaker, I would like to thank the MEC for a very concise and a very detailed response; much appreciated. I also would like if there is any strategy in place to impound particularly Toyota Quantum vans that have been used as taxis and which are a danger on our roads; if so, what are the plans.

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL SAFETY, LIAISON AND TRANSPORT: It is a new issue that the member is bringing. However, this matter is under discussion currently because of what has been reported in the media. In terms of the legislation that currently stands, the specifications of the conversions of these plans, not all of them have been done in terms of the legal requirements as set down by the SABS standards and in terms of the law in terms of the conversion of these, so I am saying that the matter is being given attention currently.

Ms V MVENYA asked the MEC responsible for Local Government and Traditional Affairs:

- (1) (a) What amount was spent by King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Municipality on the switching on of the Christmas lights and (b) how many lights were switched on;
- (2) whether this amount had been budgeted for; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) what amount was spent on the function held afterwards to celebrate this occasion;
- (4) whether the amount referred to in paragraph (3) above had been budgeted for; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether the holding of such an event was a priority in view of the fact that KSD Municipality experiences constant power failures due to faulty infrastructure?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much hon Speaker. In the same order of not repeating questions:

The KSD spent R359,679.27 for the switching on of the Christmas tree and its ceremony which can be broken down as follows:

- R90,000 for erection of the Christmas tree and installation of new street bulbs around CBD.
- R269,679.27 for catering, entertainment, as well as transportation of people for the surrounding wards.

On (1)(b): There was one Christmas tree in the municipal garden which was switched on.

On (2), yes, this amount had been budgeted. This is an event that is hosted annually by the municipality. Therefore (3) and (4) fall away, because those questions are linked to the earlier question on the amount budgeted or not.

On (5), yes, as it also acted as a precursor to the 2010 build-up, as well as a confidence booster in the support of the KSD turnaround strategy. Your various political parties would attest to the fact that that municipality has tabled both in its own council and the various provincial departments of the provincial government for support, a turnaround plan. So we attest to the fact that it is necessary sometimes to create that confidence in the residence of the KSD.

The tree lights ceremony served as a platform once more to position KSD as a transformational organization which strives to be efficient and effective on service delivery. KSD has entered a race to become one of the base camps for the 2010 Soccer World Cups and therefore part of the activities of the day were to conscientise the community about the campaign.

Thank you very much hon Speaker.

Nksz V MVENYA: Enkosi Somlomo. Ndicela ukuqonda Somlomo ohloniphekileyo ukuba umPhathiswa ingaba akanalwazi na nge- R800 000 esetyenzisiweyo kwangolwa suku lwemibhiyozo yalo mcimbi wolayito lwezibane? Enkosi. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[Ms V MVENYA: Thank you Speaker. I want to check hon Speaker whether the MEC has any knowledge about the R800 000 that was spent on the day of the celebration for the switching on of the lights. Thank you.]

The MEC: Hon Speaker, the question was whether there was an after-party after the event, which could then be linked to what she is asking. And I said that question falls away, because there was no after-party, as is indicated in the answer. If there is a proof that that amount was spent, we would gladly investigate and come back to the House and report.

Thank you very much.

Mr J C CUPIDO asked the MEC responsible for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture:

- (1) (a) Which committee or body decided that Port Elizabeth would not lobby to become a 2010 Soccer World Cup host city and (b) who headed this committee or body;
- (2) with reference to her statement on 7 October 2009 that the province was in discussions with France with a view to that country being hosted in Port Elizabeth, (a) who was the contact person for France and (b) what are his/her contact details;
- (3) (a) what is the current state of readiness of the stadium in (i) Mthatha and (ii) East London for the 2010 Soccer World Cup and (b) what amount had been spent on each of these stadiums as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

UMPHATHISWA WEZEMIDLALO, ULONWABO, UBUGCISA NENKCUBEKO: Enkosi Somlomo. Isigqibo esi sibuzwa apha sithatyathwe sisigqeba solawulo sikarhulumente weMpuma Koloni, ngesizathu sokuba iNdebe yomHlaba kufuneka ibe yinto enabayo ephondweni ingapheleli ekoneni eyodwa.

Umbuzo wesibini, iFrance le yindawo ebendiyityelele ngeyoMsintsi kulo nyaka uphelileyo, apho ke njengoko besisonke kweli phulo lokugaya iqela elizazokudlala apha eMpuma Koloni kwezi ndawo bese zichaziwe zingeyoNelson Mandela Metro. Besizakuza ke sizama ukufumana iqela eliza kudlala apha. Xa bendityelele pha ndithethe nonozakuzaku welaseMzantsi Africa kwilizwe laseFrance ngento yokuba akanakusizakuzelela na kwiqela elinokuza kudlala apha. Kulo migushuzo ke khangе kubekho nto iphumayo kuba kucacile ukuba ela qela laphaya khangе libenawo umdla. Ngunozakuzaku woMzantsi Africa okwela lizwe endithethe naye. IBhayi ke le ibandakanywe apha embuzweni, hayi zange ndithethe ngayo. Amaqela aza kufuna amakhaya okulungiselela awakhangе adibane neBhayi. Ebeza kuhlala kwindawo yokuzilungiselela amaqela eBuffalo City naseMthatha.

Kulo mcimbi webala lokudlala laseMthatha ukuba linxa yiphi na ndiyaqonda into yokuba Somlomo, amalungu ekomiti angandincedisа kuba besiwaniкile amagosa ukuba mawahambe азityelele ezi ndawo njengokuba sekumbovu ukuba kudlalwe. Mandiyichaphazele into yokuba sibacelile abakhi bela bala into yokuba nge 31st kweyoKwindla malibe liyaqitywa. Basixelela ke ukuba zinokubakhona iintsuku nokuba zisixhenxe abasemva ngazo kodwa inkqubela yona ikhona. Kwimali enikezelwe kwiBuffalo City inkqubo ihambela phambili kakhulu. Ibala lokudlala lona ndiyanimema ningayokulijonga. Imeko yalo intle nezindlu zangasese, izindlu zokutshintsha zisemgathweni. Umsebenzi uyaqhubeka. Sicelile ke into yokuba makuthi nge 31st kweyoKwindla zibe sezigqityiwe ezi zinto. Namaqela afuna ukuza kudlala apha amana esiya kukroba apha eBuffalo City abone into

yokuba imeko intle ikhona inkqubela. (*Translation of IsiXhosa speech follows*)

[The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORTS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you Speaker. The decision in question was taken by the executive administration of the government of Eastern Cape for the purpose of spreading the World Cup throughout the province and not confine it to a separate corner.

The second question, France is a place I have visited in September last year, as all of us we were in a campaign to lobby a team that will play in the Eastern Cape in areas that have been mentioned not Nelson Mandela Metro. We were negotiating trying to get a team that will play here. During my visit I spoke to the Ambassador of South Africa in France so that he can negotiate for us in the team that will be playing here. We did not get a positive response from those endeavours because their team did not show interest. I spoke to the South African Ambassador in France. With regard to Port Elizabeth that has been mentioned in the question, I did not speak about it. Base camps for teams are Buffalo City and Mthatha.

With regard to progress with the issue of Mthatha stadium I think the members of the committee can assist because we asked them to visit the building sites since the tournament is imminent. Let me hasten to say that we have requested the building contractor of the stadium to at least complete the work by the 31st of March. They indicated that they might exceed that deadline as they are behind by about seven days but there is progress. With regard to the money given to Buffalo City a lot of progress has been made. With regard to the stadium I am inviting you to witness for yourselves. The toilets and change rooms are up to standard. Work is still in progress. We asked them to complete everything by the 31st of March. Teams that will be playing here have also visited Buffalo City and have noticed a lot of ground that has been covered.]

Mr J CUPIDO: Sorry hon Speaker, the hon MEC did not answer how much money was spent on the two stadiums up to dates. I do have a follow up question after that.

UMPHATHISWA WEZEMIDLALO, ULONWABO, UBUGCISA NENKCUBEKO: Imali echithiweyo kwibali laseMthatha ndiyaqonda amalungu ekomiti aya kuyingqina kuba yinto exoxwa oko ekomitini le mali. Ngama-R120 ezigidi kwibala laseMthatha, amalungu ekomiti ngamangqina kuba lo mbuzo ngumbuzo awubuza rhoqo. EBuffalo City ngama-R50 ezigidi anikezelweyo ejongene nezo ndawo ziza kuba yimbali sele egqithile u-2010. I-R20 yezigidi izawukwenza ibala laseBuffalo City. Lo msebenzi besele nditshilo ukuba unenkqubela encumisayo. Eshiyekileyo ijonge ezinye iiprojekthi eziyimbali engumzila. (*Translation of IsiXhosa speech follows*)

[The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Money that has been spent at the Mthatha stadium I think the members of the committee can bear me out because that issue is discussed in the committee. It is R120 million for the Mthatha stadium. Members of the committee are my witnesses because they always ask that question. In Buffalo City R50 million has been allocated to take care of legacy projects behind 2010. R20 million will be allocated for Buffalo City stadium. I have already indicated that there is progress in this project. Remaining funds will take care of other legacy projects.]

Mr J CUPIDO: Thank you hon Speaker. My supplementary question is, what is the full amount required to complete the project to the Mthatha stadium?

UMPHATHISWA WEZEMIDLALO, ULONWABO, UBUGCISA NENKCUBEKO: Umbuzo omtsha Somlomo, ndiya kucela ukuba awubhale phantsi ndiza kuwuphendula. (*Translation of IsiXhosa paragraph follows*)

[The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: This is a new question Speaker. I would like to request the member to write it so that I can respond.]

Mr SPEAKER: I hope you hear it from your system.

Ms K C FIHLANI asked the MEC responsible for Roads and Public Works:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by her Department and Eveready, a Metro-based company, with a view to (a) assisting with energy saving, (b) helping contractors to receive more competitive prices in the market and (c) minimising general job losses in the prevailing economic climate; if so,
- (2) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to achieving the objectives set out in paragraph (1) above; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) what further projects are anticipated with a view to ongoing implementation of this MOU?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you Speaker. Ndiphazanyiswa nguManyawuza apha. Ukuphendulula kumbuzo, ewe, ndiyawazi umcimbi lo wamalahle, ngokwezi meko zilandelayo. (*Manyawuza is disturbing me. In response to your question, yes I am aware about the issue of coal in respect of the following conditions.*)

Currently the department is busy trying to sort out issues surrounding procurement, as it is not permissible for us to procure goods under a sole source without going to the market. We are therefore at a stage of pondering the best mechanism of giving life and meaning and promoting local content. Eveready is therefore an Eastern Cape based company employing local Eastern Cape people.

We are also planning to facilitate the establishment of relationship between contractors and this company so as to enable contractors to buy products directly from them.

In principle the Memorandum of Understanding is credible and very much consistent with the provincial campaign of buying Eastern Cape products. It was therefore aimed – and protecting local jobs, supporting local industries to the MOU without compromising competitiveness and fairness of the government procurement regime, notwithstanding governments imperative of job creation.

In the view of the above mentioned initiatives, at this stage no further projects are anticipated until we get these initiatives in place.

Abasebenzi ke bayavuma nabo ukuba masikhusele imisebenzi. Linyathelo elihle eli. Ndiyabulela Somlomo. (*Workers agree that we must protect jobs. That is a good initiative.*)

Mr SPEAKER: Any supplementary question?

Nksz K C FIHLANI: Ndiyabulela, enkosi Somlomo. Masikhawulezise. Enkosi. (*Ms K C FIHLANI: Thank very much Speaker. Let us hasten. Thank you*)

DISCUSSION OF PREMIER'S OPENING ADDRESS

(Resumed)

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon Members, ladies and gentleman. Let me join other members to welcome the State of the Province addressed by hon Premier.

Indeed it was a very comprehensive account of what government has done from June 2009 and also an account of what will be done going forward. It seems that whilst the Premier was clear there are members who either did not listen or did not read the State of the Province Address.

Ndivile ke amanye amaLungu xa ebeme apha asuke angathi awayazi nokuba bekukhe kwakhona iNtetho ePhambili engoBume bephondo eyandlaliweyo. Ndiphinde ndeva amanye ephikisana. Nawo eme apha

athi khange kubekho nkqubela kwintetho ethwe thaca nguNkulumbuso ukusuka kweyeSilimela kowama-2009 ukuzokuthi ga ngoku. Yiyo ke le nto ndithi ibonakalisa into yokuba kunokuba abantu bebengamamelanga okanye khange bayifunde kwaphambi kokuba bazokuma apha kweli qonga. *(I have listened to some members which seemed as if they do not know that there was a State of the Province Address that has been presented. I have heard some opposing one another. They came here and stated that there is no progress that has been reflected by the Premier from September 2009 todate. That is why I say maybe some people did not listen or they did not read the presentation before coming to the podium.)*

The ANC prioritised crime and corruption amongst the critical priorities for the next five years. This is a commitment we made as the ruling party, not rhetoric as hon Mhlathi has alluded yesterday. To show this is not rhetoric already in this period from June todate department of local government has sourced services of the SIU to deal with issues of corruption in that department.. The same has happened with respect to Education. We have sourced the services of SIU to deal with issues of corruption in that department and they are working tirelessly to deal with those issues. It does not only end there. The Premier was very emphatic here that the Department of Health is also doing the same in acting against any forms of corruption in that department. Over and above that we have revived the Anti-Corruption Forum, which is led by hon Majodina and already we have held a number of meetings and we are in the process of reviewing the Anti-Corruption Strategy and also sharing the best practice as to deal with issues of corruption.

To say it is rhetoric, what the Premier has said, to us it is very, very strange because this is the kind of work that we have done already within a very short space of time because we have not even concluded a financial year from June to date.

Whilst there are challenges with respect to teaching and learning in our schools, we have acknowledged as a ruling party by prioritizing in education as well as a key priority. In this regard the President is saying education is not just one of the priorities, but it is the most critical priority of all the priorities that we have identifies as the ruling party.

It is therefore not true for the members who stood in this podium yesterday to say that quality teaching and learning is only taking place in the former Model C schools. If members have attended the release of the results and also the event where we awarded best performing learners, we awarded learners from all the forms of schools – former Model C schools and a number of schools in our townships and the rural areas. The best performers in the previously disadvantage schools performed at the same level and even above a number of former Model C schools. We have learners that have performed very well in the areas like your – we have learners that have performed very well in the areas of Mount Frere, in Nongekhe Senior Secondary, Bizana, in the deep

rural areas, getting... You have not analyzed and read the information that we have provided to you with respect to those results. Thomas Ntaba Senior Secondary in the rural areas of Mount Fletcher, the Skhenjana Senior Secondary here in Dutywa, your Dalindyabo Senior Secondary in rural areas of Mthatha, and a number of others are best performers in those rural areas. They are matching the standards and beyond the standards of the former Model C schools that have all the resources. Mind you, those schools don't have all the necessary resources, but they are able to perform at those levels.

Therefore it is not true that the quality teaching and learning is only taking place in those schools. We are not saying that there are no schools in the province that have got that biggest problem of poor quality of teaching and learning. It is exactly what we are doing through our interventions that we have placed when we were announcing the results. We also outlined clear plan to deal with cases where there is still a problem of teaching and learning and other challenges.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the interventions with respect to the challenges in education by stakeholders. I must mention hon Speaker that it is a bit worrying on the part of the department and on the part of government that some of the political parties they distribute information and materials that has logos of their political parties in the schools. If you look at the *Die Burger* of 23 February, one of the hon members, hon Haddon, was in one of the schools in New Brighton and shown there the files that were presented to those learners have got a DA logo. [Interjections.]

The Council of Education Ministers, just before elections took a decision that there should be no political meetings that are held in schools during school hours because we did not want schools to be affected in terms of their core business, which is teaching and learning, the circulation of material of political parties during schools hours and the political bill boards. That decision was communicated to all the stakeholders especially in the party liaising committees of the IEC that are chaired by the IEC in all the provinces at all levels during that period. What has been done by the hon member is against the spirit of that decision of the CEM to ensure that we have quality teaching and learning and schools are not affected by political instability that can arise from the circulation of such material, especially during the school hours.

The hon member, hon Galo, raised the concern on the effectiveness of the strategic framework. I am not sure whether he has been affected by the decision that has been taken. [Laughter.]

Uyivile, ebengaphathekanga kakuhle yiloo nto kwaye ibisenzeka izolo ke loo nto yokuthetha kwakhe apha. Into yokuba iMatatiele ayinanto iyidibanisa neKZN. Yeyalapha. [Kuqhwyatywe.] (*He heard it. He felt disturbed about that and it was announced yesterday when he presented*

his speech here. The fact that Matatiele has nothing to do with KZN. It belongs here.))[Applause.] That made him not to recognize the effectiveness of the strategic framework that was presented here in June by the hon Premier.

The hon Premier also went through all the strategic priorities and reflected very clearly the kind of effectiveness and the ground that we have covered in the intervening period.

Now we have not even completed a year as I have indicated, but huge progress have been made, so to say that there is no effectiveness in terms of the strategic framework that we have adopted as provincial government is really problematic

From June 2009 to date the Executive Council has adopted a number of strategic documents and frameworks to guide the implementation of the strategic priorities as we have agreed upon. Your public sector transformation framework, which is meant to strengthen the developmental state and also to improve the quality of services by ensuring that we have dedicated cadreship of civil servants that are loyal to the agenda of this government. That document has been adopted already to lay a solid foundation for a thorough growing transformation of society and also the delivery of services.

The communication strategy which has meant to profile the province and also the sharing of information between government of also our people is one of the documents that we have also developed to ensure that we improve our communication strategy and to improve our profile. The ICT strategy is one of the documents as well that have gone through the Cabinet within the very short space of time between 2009 and the time that the Premier presented the State of the Province Address. That is meant to improve the effectiveness of government systems and also the administration and that includes accessing of the ICT by the remote areas in our province, especially our rural areas – that includes your ICT in the health sector and also in the education sector in particular.

The rural development strategy is the latest that we have just adopted and members were invited to those pilot projects and Premier has gone at length expressing the kind of ground that has been covered and the commitment of government to roll out those prospectives that we have learned in the two pilot sites. Now we feel that as an ANC government we have turned corner and we have laid a very solid foundation to move forward to implement the agenda that was set for ourselves.

The current adoption and by the Office of the President of the outcomes-based model in terms of monitoring and evaluation of the work that is done by the government is also going to give more impetus in terms of monitoring the kind of work that we do and also improving the kind of planning that is required in government.

So in those few words hon Speaker, I want to merely support the State of the Province Address delivered by the Premier. [Applause.]

Mr N KULUTA: Hon Speaker, hon Madam Premier, MECs, Members of the House, officials and members of the public. I greet you all this afternoon in the name of clean governance for quality service delivery.

Let me also join other members and accept the State of the Province Address by the hon Premier of the province on behalf of the Congress, but I wish to respond with your permission hon Speaker, to the 2010 SOPA by the hon Premier of the Eastern Cape, with specific emphasis on health issues.

When one compared the SOPA of 12 June 2009 with the one under discussion and practicalities on the ground, there is a very little improvement with regard to service delivery in the Department of Health and in some areas things have gone from bad to worse.

The Department of Health has started this year with a shocking R1,8 billion over-spending, which was not the case in 2009 and the hon Premier kept quiet about this calamity in the SOPA for 2010. We wonder why this is not an issue with her, as it is a very big issue with the poor who will continue losing their loved ones in the hands of the Department of Health as a result of mismanagement of public funds, inefficiency lack of medicine and bad attitude by officials.

The House and the people of Eastern Cape would have been happy to be told how government ensures that the bad planning will not occur going forward.

The vacancy rate of all health professionals, including doctors ranges from 60% upwards. We would like to know whether government wants to continue with the status quo or how this challenge is dealt with once and for all.

Cope strongly suggests focused investments on human resource mobilization and retention. These young doctors who come out of institutions of learning will not work in health facilities that are without equipment and suitable accommodation.

The policy hon Speaker, on rural incentive allowance must be revisited, as you cannot say for example Mthatha urban is equally rural with Canzibe Hospital for purposes of this policy.

We were also curious to know from the Premier how government will deal with non-availability of medicine, which is worse at primary health care level and yet referral hospitals turn sick people away from those centres to go back to clinics where there are no medicines and doctors. In the majority of cases they die between those centres.

Cope fully supports the envisaged national health insurance, but our argument is that let us first make what we have work properly before millions of rands are poured into a good system whose implementation is not properly researched.

We still have community health centres that only operate from 08h00 to 16h30 in the afternoon instead of 24 hours a day; and an emergency services system that is so bad that people die waiting for ambulances on public roads, rural homes, townships and informal settlements. With adequate security hon Speaker, these centres must be opened 24 hours a day with immediate effect for clear reasons.

The hon Premier, in her address, should have given specifics about improving rules to health centres so that all health facilities in the province are accessible at all times, irrespective of prevailing whether conditions.

It is not enough for the hon Premier to judge promise that service providers will be paid within 30 days. That is what the law says anyway. What is of great concern is the fact that the Department of Health is withholding millions of rands for services that were rendered by mostly black-owned companies for more than four years in some cases. It cannot be correct that the Eastern Cape government is subsidized by the poor, when the hon Premier boasts that it is a propoor administration. How do we make sure that this counterproductive practice stops forthwith?

Yes, the relevant MECs will present detailed reports about their departments, but at least more thought and thorough investigations must be given to corruption in this particular department so that we do not witness a situation where a few officials are suspended but end up back in the department anyway when the department loses those cases after these people earn huge salaries for doing nothing.

As we speak most senior officials in this department are on contract employment and some of these contracts will come to an end in a couple of month's time resulting in a lot of uncertainty and lack of moral in the department. Hon Premier must ensure that people are employed on a permanent basis with binding performance agreements to ensure efficiency professionalism and clean governance in all departments. [Applause.]

Mr J PIENAAR: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, MECs, hon Members, officials and guests. I have heard quite a few State of Province speeches by the Premiers of the Eastern Cape since 1994 and since I have been a member of this House I have studied this State of the Province speeches and I know what had been said and I know what had been promised.

Hon Speaker, what the Premier said on Friday was that her predecessors said over and over every year – Madam Premier, you have inherited a

provincial administration neglected by a string of previous Premiers. Madam Premier as the Speaker of this House you showed us leadership and gave this House direction with a limited budget and under difficult circumstances when you were the Speaker of the House.

The only thing that could save our severe lack of service delivery is the fitful purpose of approach when you appoint staffs to administration. Service delivery in this province is compromised by bad administration. If it comes to administration in this province we are not even getting the basic rights. Take for instance the recent crisis we have reached with paying suppliers by the Department of Health. A letter early this month from a superintendent general of the Department of Health to a supplier states that the department is dealing with – and I quote “various internal issues pertaining to the settlement of supplier’s accounts.” He says group of accruals cause problems in terms of cash flow. I have worked both of my life in a finance department in one of the largest foreign companies to invest in this province and I had no problem translating that the Superintendent General of Health is trying to say that back decision making have schools that we have run out of money in this province.

Now this is atrocious and Madam Premier this is where I have to appeal to you to take responsibility, take control and intervene.

Madam Premier, as this Easter Cape we should both an open opportunity society for all. An open opportunity society is based on constitutionalism and the rule of law, where individuals are guaranteed rights and where independent institutions protect these rights and limited and disperse political power. In the open-opportunity society there is transparency and accountability assisted by free press and a robust civil society. An opportunity society is one where every person is given the chance to have improved their own circumstances wherever their circumstances may be. In the open-opportunity society the State has a duty to do for people what they cannot do for themselves; to assist them. An open-opportunity society mostly takes responsibility for their lives and use their chances flourish. They understand what taking control of their own lives in – infinity preverbal, to a lifetime of dependence on the State.

South Africa is not yet an open-opportunity society; it is not yet an open society because power abuse still goes unchecked and unpunished. Some people think they are above the law. We are not yet an opportunity society because too many people remain trapped in cycles of poverty, with furolistic prospect, relying on the State for grants and services. [Interjections.] What we need is to build an open opportunity society for all and also adopt a principle of fit for purpose approach where we identify where we need to go, hon Premier, and get the right people in place to do the job

Hon Speaker, let us go back to the Health Department in the current total mess they are in. Currently the reality is that suppliers throughout the Department of Health will only be paid in April. Some suppliers haven't been paid since January. So essentially the Department of Health wants them to go four months without payment, but they are expected to continue to offer services without income. Many suppliers are already battling a huge economic crunch last year. This is putting further financial strain on them and some might even be forced to close down.

In the meantime our ambulances are stranded in depots. We cannot afford petrol. The injured and the sick are left unattended next to the road or in the homes. Clinics and hospitals are not being stocked with enough medication. I am scared to try and calculate how many lives are lost and suffering caused by bad administration and bad decision-making.

Take responsibility for this. Stand up and say enough is enough. Let us get the basics right, Madam Premier. You over-poor, you over-sick and voted for us for the basic services in this province. I dare not think how many women who are raped will get to care and medication they need because of the incompetence of the department.

Mr Speaker, in Friday's speech not a single word was spoken of road maintenance. Do we realize that the backlog in road maintenance of this province is now more than R20 billion, R20,000 million? Do we realize that our roads have now reached the end of their lifespan? Do we realize that without roads we have not a life support system of our economy? We will not create jobs and will never grow out of poverty in this province. We need to maintain our roads. To start repairing roads now will cost four times more than it would have if we budgeted for roads maintenance when we need to do so. If you don't act Madam Premier, you will be remembered as the last Premier of this Eastern Cape who could travel on tarred roads. From here onwards we might as well rip up these roads and travel on gravel roads. The only words our Premier mentioned about roads in her speech, was the upgrade of 182 kms of gravel road with a new low cost alternative method. Do the members of this House know that this costs R1 million per kilometer? [Interjections.] [Laughter.] Do they know that this constitutes a R182 million upgrade of gravel road of this province where we need to spend on road maintenance backlogs R20 billion? This is a drop in the ocean.

Madam Premier, we need a Premier that can face up to these challenges, not one that follows in the footsteps of the failures of the past. Madam Premier, 51% of skill posts in the Department of Health has not been filled. That means that more than half of the people that are supposed to deliver services does not exist and the bad news doesn't stop here. R1.8 billion has been overspent on budget for Health in the Eastern Cape. I want to know who approved these payments. Every cent of R1.8 billion overspent is a contravention of the Public Finance Management Act.

Who has the right in this province to break the law so many times? Was it you Madam Premier who said go right ahead, go ahead guys, break the law, and just ignore the Public Finance Management Act? The law is not for us; we are in government; or was it you Madam Premier who approved those unlawful payments?

What I want to know where these people are and when will they brought to book. Will they face the music? Will they be held accountable? I bet my last bottom dollar that they won't. You see Mr Speaker, this government has created a climate in this province where officials are not being held responsible for their actions. When children die because of filthy water, the department finds nobody to blame. When money is spent unlawfully, a computer is blamed. I am saying enough of this Madam Premier; right decisions and not just decisions for the sake of taking them. Let us work with a plan. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Ms Z HLEKISO-THABANENG: Enkosi Somlomo. Xa ndiza kuhlomla kwingxelo-ntetho yephondo leMpuma Koloni isenziwa ngoLwesihlanu yiNkulumbuso yephondo.

Ndiza kuqala kwiSebe lezeMfundo. Ebesikulindele kwizinto ozithethileyo Nkulumbuso yephondo kokumalunga nabantwana ebebebhala iimviwo zokuxabangela ngowama-2008 abathe abazifumananga iziqinisekiso zabo ngenxa yengxelo enikiweyo phaya ephepheni ebelikhona ngomhla wesihlanu kwiDaily Dispatch nguMalusi. Siyabuza ukuba kubantwana ebebebhala ngowama-2009 bebhala isiGaba se-12 abantwana ebebengama- 60 000 kwaze kwabo bantwana kwaphumelela abangama- 30 494, siyabuza ukuba ke abantwana abangama- 29 803 besicinga ukuba uya kusixelela ukuba baphi na. Isizathu ke salo mbuzo wokuba baphi na, xa sijonga apha ephondweni asinazo izikolo zokugqibezela ibanga leshumi apha ezizezikarhulumente okanye ezoluntu ezithi zikwazi ukuthatha abantwana. Ezikhoyo izikolo zokuxabangela zizimele okanye zezabucala. Into ethetha ukuthi kubantwana abamakhaya ahluphekileyo baye bangakwazi ukuqhubeka okanye bakwazi ukuphinda balibhale ibanga leshumi bakwazi ukufunda okanye bafumane iziqinisekiso. Besicinga ke ukuba uya kuveza ukuba mhlawumbi athini na amalungiselelo okuzama ukulungiselela abantwana abasuka kumakhaya ahlelelekileyo abangakwazi ukuya kwezi zikolo zokugqibezela zabucala nezizimeleyo.

Ukwengeza apho besicinga ukuba uya kusivelisela ukuba kwenzeke ntoni na okanye ngawaphi amanyathelo aza kuwathatha okanye asele ewathathile kwisikolo iMsobomvu High eseGcuwa naseMthatha eZamukulungisa apho abantwana kwisiGaba se-11 bebephumelele basiwa kwisiGaba se-12 baphinda kwathiwa mababuyele emva kwisiGaba se-11. Apho lo waseMthatha ede wabe uyazibulala baze aba baseGcuwa babhaqwa xa bezibulala. Kwakhona besicinga ukuba mhlawumbi uya kusivelisela ukuba kwixesha elizayo iititshala zithini na okanye iSebe lezeMfundo lithini ngengxelo elolu hlobo. Ndinga ukuba

semka kulo mdudo wakudala. Sithi ababefunda kuthiwe siphumelele sonke kwa-A kulungiselelwa ukuba siyitye kamnandi iChristmas. Ukuvulwa kwezikolo siphinde sibuyiselwe. Xa umntu ekwisiGaba se-11 uphindiselwa njani emva? Bade bagxothwa ke aba baseMsobomvu kwakweso sikolo. Bakhululwa bahamba. Bendinga ukuba ngela xesha umPhathiswa ebeme apha uya kuveza ukuba kwenziwe ntoni na okanye athini na amanyathelo abawathathayo ngabo bantwana.

KwiSebe lezeNdlela nezoThutho siyavuma phaya siyazibona iindlela uzichazile. Besingalindelanga noko ukuba iindlela ngama-182 km kwiindlela zeli phondo ezingama-47816 km sibe thina ngalo mzuzu indlela ezinomlotha kweli phondo zingama-5 493km sishiyeke sinama-42041km. Into ethetha ukuthi ke uza kuba nama-182 oza kuwenza kulo nyaka.

Besisithi ke icebiso esinalo esidla ngokulithetha yonke le mihla sinqwenela olu hlahlo-lwabiwo mali ngakumbi apha ezindleleni nakwezothutho zijongwe kuba yeyona nto ibangela ukuba eli phondo ngakumbi xa ujonga kula Transkei yangaphambili ufumanisa ukuba sinemingeni kwiindlela. Besicinga ukuba uya kuvela nenani elithile kodwa ke siyabona phaya unaso isicwangciso seminyaka elishumi ohamba naso.

Xa sibuya sisiza kwiSebe lezoPhuhliso loLuntu sinecebiso elithi Nkulumbuso khawuthathe eli nyathelo ubulithathe kwelezeMfundo ukhe undwendwele ezi projekthi. Mhlawumbi ungayibona le nto ude wayibona kwelezeMfundo ngoku ubundwendwele izikolo. Zininzi iiprojekthi ezichazwayo ukuba aziphumeleli. Ungaboni mntu sowuyile. Kungabikho nto yenziwayo ngalo nto. Besicinga ukuba ungakhe ulithathe eli nyathelo ubulithathe kwelezeMfundo ulenze nalapha kwelezoPhuhliso loLuntu uhambele ezi projekthi ubone ezi zinto zidla ngokuchazwa. Mhlawumbi linganalo igalelo uhambo lwakho olungabhungiswanga. Linokuthi liyinyuse nemali karhulumente ingalahleki kungaziwa apho itshona khona. Kwizinto ke esinokuzikhankanya asinokuzikhankanya ngakumbi singenakuzikhanyela, siyibonile imisebenzi yakho kodwa ke likhona ithemba ubusinike lona kulo nyaka uphelileyo. Waveza uswazi owawuthe waliphakamisa. Uyazi ndisoloko ndilibuza yonke le mihla. KwiSebe lezoPhuhliso loLuntu malunga nabantwana abasezindleleni wawuthe uya kubetha. Khange sibone nto. Kumagosa asibonanga nto. Enkosi. [Kuhwatywe.] (*Translation of IsiXhosa speech follows*)

[Ms Z HLEKISO-THABANENG: Thank you Speaker. Let me join others on the state of the province address presented by the Premier on Friday.

I will start with the Department of Education. We expected the Premier of the province to reflect about the students who wrote supplementary examinations in 2008 and did not get their certificates because of the report that was released by the Daily Dispatch from Malusi. We seek an

explanation about the 60 000 students who wrote Grade 12 in 2009 and 30 494 of them passed. We were expecting an account about the whereabouts of 29 803 students. I raise this question of their whereabouts because when we look at the province we do not have finishing schools belonging to government or the public that can accommodate them. Finishing schools that we have are independent or private meaning that students from poor homes will not be able to continue or to repeat Grade 12 so that they can continue their studies or become qualified. We were expecting that you will reveal some preparations of trying to accommodate students from poor families who are unable to enroll in independent and private finishing schools.

In addition to that we expected an explanation about what is happening or which actions do you intend to take or you have taken at Msobomvu High School in Butterworth and Zamukulungisa at Mthatha where Grade 11 students who were promoted to Grade 12 have been demoted back to Grade 11. The student at Mthatha ended up committing suicide while those in Butterworth were caught poisoning themselves. Again we were expecting an explanation, in future, about action that will be taken against such teachers and what does the Department say in such a report. I think we have changed from the old order. We experienced a situation where we were told that sub-A has passed so that we enjoyed Christmas. When schools opened we were returned back to the same class. If students have been promoted why are they demoted back to Grade 11? Those at Msobomvu have been expelled from the school. They have been released. I thought that when the MEC was rendering a speech he would explain what happened or which actions have they taken about those learners.

With regard to the Department of Roads and Transport we acknowledge the constructed roads that have been mentioned. We did not expect a 182 km road out of the 47816 roads of the province while only 5 493 km roads of the province have been tarred. We are left with 42041km meaning that you will only construct 182 km this year.

The advice that we have which we always bring forward every time is that during the budget we need to pay attention more especially to roads and transport because those are the areas that are great challenges especially when you look at the former Transkei. We were expecting a number but we have noticed that you have a ten year plan that you are following.

Coming to the Department of Social Development the advice we bring is that the Premier must take the action she undertook in Education by unprepared visits to these projects. Maybe you can witness what you have seen when you visited schools. There are many projects that have been previously reported. Even if you visit there are no people. No action is taken for that. We think that it will be better if you can take the action you have taken in Education to monitor the Department of Social Development by visiting these projects to experience what used to be

reported. Your visit might have an impact. It may save government funds so that they do not vanish without accountability. We have mentioned your performance areas especially those that we cannot deny. We have noticed your performance but you have made a promise last year. You introduced a whip that you promised to crack. You know that I have been asking you time and again about the Department of Social Development. The issue of street kids which you promised to crack the whip to failures. We have seen no action against officials. Thank you. [Applause.]]

Mr M P GALO: Hon Speaker, Madam Premier, hon MECs, members of the public and the Members of the Legislature. The AIC is expressing disappointment, although not surprise, by the constitutional court judgment over the Matatiele demarcation saga. [Interjections.] It is common knowledge that the ruling party loyalists are deployed in all nerve centres of the State as gatekeepers. [Interjections.] The worrying factor though is the fact that our constitutional democracy is under a threat of political manipulation and dirty games. At the end, the poor masses of this country are the victims of the same democracy they are voting for every five years.

Coming back to the State of the Province Address hon Speaker, the AIC would welcome the establishment of disaster management infrastructure and services along provincial strategic roots. The AIC is proposing that the traditional councils should also be identified as service centres in this regard.

On corruption hon Speaker, perhaps we heard a lot about commitments in fighting corruption, anti-corruption units so on and so forth, but the fact of the matter is that corruption continues to cripple the State and is perpetrated by the politicians in high echelons of the State, taking into account Busasa and its subsidiaries like Phakisa, senior civil servants included.

Perhaps the government should consider other options of dealing with corruption, like the blacklisting of the culprits for them not to be able to get employment in our country, unable to do any business in the country and furthermore their bank accounts be frozen. That would be a though approach to deal with corruption in our view.

With those few words hon Speaker, I would want to thank you. It seems as if from now onwards I am divorcing the name or the clan name “Khabazela”. [Laughter.] I am going back to “Khambule”. Icala endinokulikhetha Somlomo ohloniphekileyo, ke ngoku inokuba kukuzibandakanya nale nqwelo yabaThembu. [Kuhlekwe.] Licala endinalo ke elo kuba ke noko lona seliza kuvula ibhanki kweli laseMzantsi Africa. Enkosi. [Kuhwatywe.] *(The option that I have hon Speaker is to join the Thembu crew. [Laughter.] That is the only option I have as they are about to open a bank in South Africa. Thank you. [Applause.]*

Mr A S WOODHALL: Hon Speaker, Madam Premier, MECs, fellow MPLs, colleagues and guests. I wish you all a very good day.

Madam Premier, you addressed the people of the Eastern Cape in order to look back into 2009 and to look forward to 2010 and the reality is where we are now and I would like to discuss that reality. In Fast Facts January 2010 an article, “the Public Sector faces a skills black hole” tells of shortages in all public sector areas – from health, emergency services, education and so on, including the Defence Force.

In the Premier’s Address we were told that strengthening education and building at skills on human resources base remains focused. Cope agrees. However, we want to see a more vigorous approach filling the skills vacuum. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs report for 2009 also tells us that there is a serious shortage of skills, threatening service delivery in particular at municipal level.

We support the fact that 2013 the unemployed youth in the Eastern Cape have completed the first phase of the provincial strategic skills programme. It is an excellent programme, so long as those young people do indeed get sustainable employments. The 150 who were being absorbed into Public Works as trainee artisans are indeed fortunate. We would like to know if this figures a yearly figure; will it be a new intake benefiting each year.

In the 2009 SOPA a commitment was made to enroll a thousand young people in the National Youth Service Programme. In 2009, 500 were recruited under the 2010 and under the 2011 financial year another 500 will be recruited. Is this to be the total number for the term or is the target and for how long is the programme to be benefit young people?

Madam Premier, I would like to know how many people are benefiting from the Departments of Education’s partnership with MBSA/Daimler in Germany and what plants they are in the future.

The provincial bursary policy for tertiary education benefit students with identified scarce and critical skills, but it doesn’t benefit students already studying these subjects, facing as we speak the probability of becoming dropouts through not having the finances to continue. There are about 700 students at Fort Hare alone who are facing this situation. The front page of the *Daily Dispatch* on Tuesday, 9 February describes “students are drowning in a sea of debt”. How many are benefiting from the Provincial Bursary Scheme in the current financial year and how many will be in 2010/11? It is a waste of resources, both for students and our tertiary institutions if students drop out due to the lack of funds. Too many will already be unable to pay the loans through an employment. Cope supports bursaries, which leads to employment and further research academically.

The 2009 Grade 12 pass rate of 51% we agree is not where it should be. In 1994 the rate was 57%, in 2003 it was 60%, 2006 it was 59%, 2007 it was 57%. Yes, in 2009 it is in the right direction, but only just. Forty-nine percent of learners fail the Grade 12 examinations and the opportunities for those 33,398 learners are very limited. This does not include the Grade 9, 10 and 11 dropouts. They tend to go to private schools for which they do not have the fees. They go FET colleges where there is shortages of skilled educators or are left with no real alternatives, not that one would accept. We are failing too many of our young people. Cope calls for a re-opening of teacher training colleges, nursing schools and revitalizing the agricultural colleges in the Eastern Cape.

We enjoyed a very good SOPA on Friday. We assume that emerging caterers were used. We would like to know which emerging caterers and how many benefit from such events like these and how they are selected. It is a good programme.

In order to meet the financial needs of filling the skills gap, we suggest that government revises their approach in using service providers. The opportunity cost of doing this may release funds which can be channeled to provide more bursaries. We are not proud of replacing 62 mud schools in a year when there are roughly 350 still to be eradicated. When were these 62 rebuilding projects begun and are we sure the 40 will be finished on time? The programme to eradicate unsafe schools is taking too long. The department itself agrees it is not meeting the original targets and when the government led by the ruling party wake up and seeks out the funds for a national project to eradicate all unsafe schools? In the Eastern Cape we have the greatest number and so we must initiate and vigorously change these schools into safe and well designated and well built schools once and for all. Maybe Mr – I won't mention names – and others would donate funds? Well built schools in the rural areas should be prioritised as part of the rural development plan.

Buffalo City is hoping to host Algeria as a training city. Which parts of the city did they visit when their representative described it as a very clean city, or is there a warn of special cleanup? Anyone who lives in Buffalo City knows from firsthand experience that the ruling party led municipalities are failing in its service delivery and waste collection, without naming other topics. Buffalo City is drowning in a sea of waste. [Interjection.] Just drive around and you will see it. The residents are very angry for paying for a service that is failing to deliver. Cope believes that recycling and imaginative use of waste needs to be part of our economic development. We are missing a huge economic opportunity. For example, garden waste centres provided by the municipalities could produce compost to sell to farmers and gardeners. This would generate revenue and create sustainable jobs. There is already plenty of research on waste recycling. There is a hotel in Cape

Town that is dealing with its food waste by cultivating worm farms, which in turn produce manure which is used to cultivate vegetables.

The Constitution of South Africa states that Local Government is to provide sustainable services, social and economic development and a safe and healthy environment. Cope supports this.

Buffalo City, led by the ruling party, is failing in all these areas. [Interjections.] The 2009 reports by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs states that key themes emerged in the assessment concerning scarce skills in municipalities. [Interjections.] A lack of political leadership or political interference and patronage. The report also refers to inappropriate or irregular appointments. Cope calls for the filling of posts in the Legislature as an opportunity to demonstrate a professional approach by filling appointments quickly and efficiently, with well qualified and suitable people, without political interference and patronage. I thank you very much for hearing me this afternoon. [Applause.]

Nksz V MVENYA: Sekela Somlomo, phambi kokuba ndiqalise ukuphendula intetho kaNkulumbuso mandiqale ndiyiveze into yokuba ezinye izinto uye athi xa ezithetha ndiqonde into yokuba hayi le ayicingi ayizukwenzeka. Umzekelo udla ngokuthi akamfuni umntwana ohleli ekhaya ngenxa yokuba enganazo iintlawulo zesikolo. Ndiye ndiqonde ukuba hayi noko andiqondi ukuba angakwazi ukuyenza ke leyo into. Kodwa mna ndithe makhe ndiyivavanye ukuba ingenzeka na loo nto. Ndiyafuna ke ukuyazisa ke le Ndlu into yokuba kukho abantwana ababini endaye ndabasa phaya kuye ebebengakwazi ukubhatala iintlawulo zesikolo kwaye bengakwazi ukufumana iziphumo zabo. Uye wathi ke ndakubasa kuye abo bantwana batsho bakwazi ukuba baqhubekeke nezifundo zabo.

Nkulumbuso, ndithe xa bendimamele intetho yakho ngoLwesihlanu kwakhona into ebendiyilindele ukuba uza kuyithetha phofu nabanye abantu endiqonda into yokuba bebeyilindele. Lo mcimbi wembalela ufumene iphondo kabuhlungu. Khange uvele ke kwintetho yakho kulo mcimbi wembalela. Kukhona ke noloyiko lokuba phaya eMetro kungangabikho manzi ngeli xesha leNdebe yeHlabathi. Ithethe ukuthi ke loo nto sinentlekele esinayo apha ephondweni.

Umzekelo, iphondo belifuna i-R1.3 yeebillion ukuhlangabezana nembalela. Kufumaneka kuphela i-R68 yezigidi. Into ethetha ukuthi ke urhulumente unoxanduxa lokuba ajonge ukuba kuza kwenziwa ntoni na ukukhawulelana nale mbalela sinayo. Xa sinembalela elolo hlobo ithetha ukuba kwa olu phuhliso lwamaphandle lwalapha ephondweni aluzokwazi ukuba luphumelele kakuhle kuba kwalona luxhomekeke apha ekulimeni.

Ndiphinde ndize kumcimbi wemisebenzi obuthethe ngawo uncoma ukuba ugqithiwe umda ongama- 60 000 ngoku iye yangama- 78 000.

Ndinayo ke into eyikhalazelayo le nto ngoba kaloku awunakuze uthi yimisebenzi xa kungekho kuhlolwa kokuba ivelisiwe yangama-60 000. Ngubani oqinisekisileyo into yokuba aba bantu kula misebenzi ivelisiweyo babhatelwe. Xa abantu bengabhatelwanga kula misebenzi ukutsho ukuthi asinakuyibiza ngokuba yimisebenzi loo nto leyo. Ngubani oqinisekileyo ukuba le misebenzi ivelisiweyo aba bantu bayinikiweyo ingaba bayayenza na la misebenzi. Uza kufumanisa ukuba xa ujikeleza ufika kukho abasebenzi abanxibe ezi zinto ziorange egeyithini besithi bayakhala zange babhatelwe. Wemka unokhontrakhi engababhatalanga. Ixhaphakile ke loo nto apha kweli phondo lethu. Iyafuna ke Somlomo ohloniphekileyo ijongwe into yokuba le misebenzi xa ivezwa iyalandelwa na kuqinisekwe ukuba nyhani le misebenzi ingaba ithi itshintshe ubomi babantu abahluphekileyo na.

Okwesithathu Somlomo ohloniphekileyo, la macebo abekwe nguNkulumbuso osibhozo mahle ona, kodwa axhomekeke kumagosa bona bantu bangabazalisekisi. Yingxaki ke Nkulumbuso xa ndifika kulo mcimbi into ethetha ukuthi kunzima kakhulu apha ephondweni lethu kumcimbi wokungasebenzi ngenkathalo kwamagosa. Eli gama lithi imigaqo iBatho Pele likhona ezincwadini kodwa alisetyenziswa. Ndiza kunika imizekele Nkulumbuso ohloniphekileyo. Kunzima kuthi thina malungu eNdlu yoWiso-mthetho andazi ukuba kubeka phi na kwaba bantu baphaya ezantsi. Kunzima ukugqobhoza kwamanye amasebe apha usiwa phaya usiwe phaya ulilungu leNdlu yoWiso-mthetho. Kwade apha kum kwathiwa sikruqukile yinto yakho Mvenya. Andiyazi ke ngoku ukuba yintoni into yam ngoba mna andizimelanga ndimele umntu ohlelekileyo ophaya ezantsi andisebenzi nto yam. Ngelishwa ke amagama awabizwa ke apha andizikulibiza igama, kodwa ke yona loo nto yenzekile.

Kuphinde kubekho isebe ekunzima kakhulu ukugqobhoza kulo. Eli likamhlonipheki uQwase. Yena akalogosa ndingambiza. Kunzima kakhulu ukugqobhoza kwela sebe. Ayadikwa amagosa aphaya nguMvenya ngoba kaloku usuka kwingingqi yabantu abasokola kakhulu abasoloko beneengxaki ezifuna ukuba kuyiwe phaya kwela sebe. Kukho oomakhulu beminyaka yoo-1924 abangekafumani zimali nangoku abaphuma kudala kwinkqubo yezemfundo. Kuthiwa amaxwebhu abo awabonakali. Xa uquqa phaya kuthiwe iyadika le nto kaMvenya. Andisebenzi nto kaMvenya kuphela apha. Andizelanga Mvenya apha.

Kukho iititshala ezingabhatalwayo ngapha emagqaleni. Kukho iititshala ezisuka ngapha kooLusikisiki zize apha zizele ingxaki yazo apha esebeni. Xa zifika kuthiwe hayi umntu otyikityayo akakho jika ubuye ngomso. Kuphi naphi eLusikisiki? Uza kuyithathi phi imali. Akutshiwo nokuba nantsi indawo yokulala makalale aze aphinde avuke abuye ngomso. Ujikela umtyikityo qha kuba kusithiwa lo utyikityayo akakho. Seyikhe yenzeka ke nalapha kum loo nto Nkulumbuso. Kwathiwa kum igosa elityikityayo alifuni kutyikitya ze ndibuye ngomso, ngoku ndililungu leNdlu yoWiso-mthetho. Imbi kakhulu eyokuba kwela sebe ndithetha ngalo akugqobhozeki. Noonomyayi

abaphendulwa Nkulumbuso. Akuphendulwa nomyayi kwela sebe lezemfundo. Nditsho mna nkqu umPhathiswa akamphenduli unomyayi wakhe. Kunzima nomyalezo omfutshane akawuphendulu nawo.

Nkulumbuso ohloniphekileyo izicwangciso zokusebenza bayazama bazenze bazidlulisele koonontlalo-ntle ngokubanzi. Oonontlalo-ntle bajikele ngaphaya bazithathe ezi zimvo ziyokuzisetyenziswa kwezinye iindawo. Zingasebenzi kule ndawo bezifanele ukuba ziphuma kuyo. Yile nto ke ndiyithethayo yokuba ukusebenza okungenankathalo kukhona apha kweli phondo lethu okusibuyisela emva. Siseza kuyibethelela ke le nto yenkqubo yokuphendula ngesenzo ibalulekile kakhulu.

Inga abaPhathiswa bangayiqonda into yokuba kutheni le nto kufuneka bephendule ngezenzo apha kwiNdlu yoWiso-mthetho. Xa sibuzo imibuzo bangenyukelwa zizinto ezishushu apha ngasemva apha ngasemqolo ubone ukuba banomsindo. Xa bephendula imibuzo bangabinenkani. Siyayicela ngoba apha kufuneka bephendule ngezenzo. Kufuneka izindululo zizalisekise apha ngokuthi sibuze le mibuzo. Inkqubo yokuphendula ngomsebenzi siseza kuyibamba. Umhlonipheki uGqoboka ebekhe wathetha apha ngento yeendidindidi ezikwiANC. Siyaphazamiseka mhlonipheki Gqoboka ngoba kaloku uMalema yena wathi mhla abantu beyishiya iANC besiya kwiCope wathi baza kuhlwempuzeka kuba bashiya iANC. Xa ufuna ukutyeba yiya kwiANC. [Kuphawatywe.] (*Translation of IsiXhosa paragraphs follows*)

[Ms V MVENYA: Deputy Speaker, before I respond to the presentation of the State of the Province Address by the Premier, let me reveal that when she pronounces on some positions I am tempted to think that some of them will not be fulfilled. For an example she used to state that she does not like children who are staying at home because there are no school fees. I am tempted to think that she is unable to do that. I have decided to test whether that is possible. I want to inform this House that there are two children that I have sent to the Premier who were unable to pay their school fees and were unable to access their results. When I brought the matter to her attention those children were able to proceed with their studies.

Premier, when I listened to your speech on Friday I expected that you will talk about this and other people were expecting the same. That is the problem of drought is severely affecting the province. You did not address the problem of drought in your speech. There is a fear of the unavailability of water in the Metro during the World Cup. That means we have a disaster in the province.

For an example the province needed R1.3 billion to deal with drought. We received only R68 million. That means the government has a responsibility of devising means of dealing with the drought that is affecting us. When we are affected by the drought of this nature that

means rural development will not yield the required results because it entirely depends on land cultivation.

Coming to the issue of job creation you have raised commending that the limit of 60 000 has been passed to 78 000. I have a concern about that because you cannot say these are jobs while there is no monitoring as to who has produced the 60 000 and who will ensure that people in those jobs will be paid. If people are not paid in those jobs we cannot regard them as jobs. Who ensures that people given the jobs are really performing their functions? When you go around you notice workers who are wearing orange clothes at the gate complaining about not being paid. That is common in our province. That needs to be considered hon Speaker so that when jobs are created there is monitoring to ensure that these jobs will really change the lives of poor people.

Thirdly hon Speaker, the eight strategies outlined by the Premier are good but they depend on the officials since they are implementers. That is a problem Premier when I look at this issue meaning that in our province there is a lot of inefficiency in our officials. The Batho Pele principles appear only on paper and are not adhered to. I will bring some examples hon Premier. It is very difficult to us as members of the Legislature and I just imagine how difficult it is to people at the lower level. It is difficult to make a breakthrough in some departments as you are sent from pillar to post being a member of the Legislature. They even told me that they are tired of my interruption. I do not understand what belongs to me because I am not doing my personal issues but I represent the poor at the lower level. I am not considering personal issues. Unfortunately I cannot mention names as that is not allowed but that has happened.

There is also another department that gives us tough times. That is the department that belongs to hon Qwase. I can mention him since he is not an official. It is very difficult to make a breakthrough in his department. Officials there get tired of Mvenya because she comes from a constituency of the poorest of the poor who always have problems that need to be brought to that department. There are great grandmothers of 1924 who have not received their pensions and were out of the education system for many years. They are told that there is no documentation or their files are nowhere to be found. When I keep on inquiring they say I am bothering them. I am not doing my personal thing. I am not representing Mvenya here.

There are teachers that were not paid in the remote areas. Some come from as far as Lusikisiki for various problems in the department. On their arrival they are told to go back and come the following day because the signatory is not at work. How far is Lusikisiki and where are they going to get the money? They do not even offer accommodation so that they can come the next day. You are turned back because of a signature since the person to append it is absent. I have experienced that Premier. I was told that the official responsible for signing refuses to sign so I must

come back the next day although I am a member of the Legislature. What happens in that department is bad. Cell phones Premier are not answered. I want to talk about the department where you cannot make a break through. Cell phones are not answered in the department of Education. Even the MEC does not answer his cell phone. He does not respond even to the sms.

Hon Premier, students drafted their business plans and submitted them to the Social workers. Then the social workers get behind the back and take those ideas and use them in other areas. They do not use them in their rightful place. That is why I say there is inefficiency in our province which brings us down. We will always emphasis on the agenda of accountability which is very critical.

May the MECs consider the issue of accounting in the House. When we ask questions they must not be furious or get hot under the collar. When they respond to questions they must not be arrogant. We are appealing to them to account. We must implement the resolutions. By asking questions the agenda of accountability will be more strengthened. Hon Gqoboka talked about a multi class in the ANC. We get confused hon Gqoboka because Malema said when people left the ANC and joined COPE; they must know that they will get poor for leaving the ANC. If you want to be rich, join ANC. [Applause.]]

Mr M M MHLATI: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs and hon Members. The UDM supports the project in Qumbu. We are fighting the project in Qumbu, but the concern of the UDM is the question of the sustainability of the project.

Ngexesha likamhonipheki uMamase zininzi iprojekthi awayezenzile apha. I-ANC inesiqubulo esithi apho ihamba khona ishiya umzila. Into emasizibuzeye yona ke ngoku yeyokuba, ukuba ishiya imizila iphi imzila eyayenziwe ngumhlonipheki uMamase? Ingaba le mizila ibhalwa esantini apho kuza kubuya amaza xa ulwandle lusiza luyicime yonke le mizila ingabikho? Into esiyifunayo Nkulumbuso kukuncediswa kwabantu hayi ukwenzelwa kwabantu. Ngexesha likamhlonipheki uMamase balinyelwa abantu abafuna ukuvuna. Umbona wabolela pha besithi hayi yiza nomatshini uzokusivunela. Yenza ke loo nto abantu baxhomekeka kurhulumente ngayo yonke into. Babengoohata abantu kuthiwe hayi urhulumente makeze nento yakhe.

Abafuni ukuhlakula ngoku kwezi ndawo zilinyiweyo. Bathi urhulumente makeze namayeza azokufaka amayeza okubulala ukhula. Asibakhi abantu bakuthi ngaloo ndlela. Makubekho into abayenzayo ngamandla abo. Kaloku sinikwe amandla nguYehova, wasipha amandla. Amandla kufuneka asebenze. Kufuneka kubekho indawo asetyenziswa kuyo. Wasipha nengqondo ukuba sikwazi ukucinga. Mabayisebenzise abantu mabayeke ukuxhomekeka kuyo yonke into. Mamela, amantshontsho bawanikiwe. Ingaba urhulumente uza kuthenga ukutya kwamantshontsho ngokungenasiphelo? Kufuneka kubekho ixesha

elisikiweyo lokuba uwanikiwe amantshontsho. Athi akukhula la afikelele kwisigaba sokuba athengiswe ufumane uze uwondle ngokwakho. Mababenoxanduva abalwenzayo abantu.

Kule yokwaxhiwa kwezindlu zeenkosi siyancoma kodwa ke Nkulumbuso kudle imali eninzi ukwaxhiwa kwala ndlu, intle. Ingxaki ezinayo iinkosi yimisebenzi noxanduva lwazo. Asikwazi kuza nazo kude kube ngoku.

Siyile KwaZulu kulo nyaka ungapha kwalo uphelileyo siyokukopa ukuba benza njani. Kaloku iKwaZulu seyiphala phambili kuzo zonke ezi zinto. Seza nazo kodwa apha ekhaya azilungi. Lonke olwa lwazi size nalo lusahleli ezitafileni. Akukabikho nto yenziweyo.

Masiye kule yeenkosi engokutshintshwa kweenkokheli zemveli. Naleyo inqubo ayihambi kuyaliwa ngoku. La madabi enu Sukude awapheli. Niwafaka nakwizinto ezincinci. Kwezi zinto zeenkokheli zemveli nje ukuba konyulwe nifaka le nto yezinkampu zenu. Ndathi apha xa ndithethayo ndangathi ndithetha into engekho. Uyabona, amaziko olawulo akwiintloko ezimbini ayamlimaza urhulumente. Ndisaphinda ndiyatsho. Aba ke bathi batsala amandla ngaphaya kukaNkulumbuso kuba sendibona ukuba uNkulumbuso niyamjika ngoku abeyintloko yezolawulo ephondweni. Bakhona aba batsala amandla ezopolitiko. Aba bagqiba izinto ekufuneka athi xa ethetha amane ejonga egxalabeni.

Ewe kaloku, ubekwe kumhlaba omncinci kakhulu. Nilinde nje ukuba awe kuthiwe hayi ke ulibhudile elo bakala. Lelokuqala elo. Asiyondlela ke leyo. Xa eyiNkulumbuso makakwazi ukuba ajongane nezinto nezingepolitiki. Angathi akazukuyithatha le into kuba uza kugxothwa. Mazilungiswe izinto ke madoda. Nditsho kuni nina nitsala amandla ezezipolitiki.

Iziniki-maxabiso siyavuma ukuba mazizame ukulungiswa. Eyona nto siyicelayo kule nto yeziniki-maxabiso Nkulumbuso yeyokuba urhulumente makabe nendlela yobalo-zindleko yakhe ayenzayo phambi kokuba kuyiwe kwiziniki-maxabiso. Yazwiwe ukuba esi siniki-maxabiso ubalo-zindleko olusezantsi lwaso yile mali, ephezulu yile. Akuzudlulwa apho. Nokuba ke uyeza ke umntu yaziwe ukuba amaxabiso karhulumente eme ndaweninye yimali ethile awazukudlula phaya. Hayi le nto kuba ngoku kunyuswa amaxabiso angahambelani nomsebenzi lo uzawukwenziwa. [Kuhwatywe.] (*Translation of IsiXhosa paragraphs follows*)

[During the reign of hon Mamase there were many projects that he had established. The ANC has a slogan which states that whenever they go they leave a legacy. The question we need to ask ourselves is, if they leave a legacy where is the legacy that has been left by hon Mamase? Do we write this legacy on sand so that when the waves come they wash them away leaving no traces? Premier we are appealing for the assistance of people not doing things for them. During the time of hon

Mamase land for the people was cultivated and people did not want to reap. Maize became rotten because people demanded reaping machines. That made people to depend on government for everything. They became helpless and were only expecting the government to bring services to them.

They do not want to hoe the cultivated lands. They say the government must bring chemicals to destroy the weeds. We are not assisting our people by doing that. They must do something using their own energy. God gave us energy. We must use the energy. There must be a place where we use it. He gave us the brain so that we can be able to think. People must make use of it and stop depending for everything. Look, they have been given the chickens. Will the government buy the chicken feed perpetually? There must be a time frame stating that at this time you have been given the chickens. When they reach a certain stage you have to sell and feed the other ones yourself. People must take responsibility.

With regard to the building of the house of traditional leaders, we commend you but, Premier that fancy house was too expensive. The problem with the traditional leaders is their functions and responsibilities. We did not come up with them up to now. We have visited KwaZulu last of last year to copy their approach. In fact KwaZulu is well ahead with regard to all these issues. We brought those findings here but they did not fit. All the information is still on the table. Nothing has been done.

Let us come to the issue of change in the traditional leadership. That process is stalled because of infighting. Your battles Sukude are endless. You bring them even in light issues. With regard to the election of traditional leaders you bring your camps. I talked about that but to people it seemed as if I was out of order. You know, the two centres of power are detrimental to the government. Others say they are wielding power behind the Premier because I have observed that you are converting the Premier to become the administrative head in the province. Others are wielding political power. They decide on matters so that she must consult them while discharging her responsibilities.

She is walking on a tight rope. You just wait for her downfall so that you will be able to say she has missed a step. That is the first one. It is not the way to go. If she is the Premier she must be given space to look at other matters and those related to politics. She must not be selective for the fear of being burnished. You must bring your house into order. I am referring to those wielding political power.

We agree that the tender process must be reviewed. What we are requesting Premier is that the government must have a mechanism of looking at the costing before submitting for tenders. In each tender the highest and lowest prices must be known. There must be a limit. Even if a person submits a tender the pricing of government must not change. It

must be at a particular price range. It must not be what we witness because prices are inflated and are not related to the actual job to be performed.[Applause.]]

Mr M MAKUPULA: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is my privilege to stand in front of this hon House to lead the ANC views on the discussion of the State of the Province Address which took place on the 19th of February, last week Friday.

I must upfront, hon Deputy Speaker, extend a sincere word of apology for not showing up when my name was called. I can only indicate that necessity knows no law or rules and that when the call of nature arrives you just have to respond accordingly. [Laughter.] Therefore, I really, really apologise without undermining the proceedings of the House. Also extend a word of gratitude to hon Mahlubandile for being able to come in quickly.

With regard to the SOPA Address, obviously the ANC welcomes the Premier's Address to the province last Friday. We view SOPA as an annual action plan for 2010 to implement the ANC Manifesto in this current term.

In supporting SOPA 2010, we would like to raise a few areas of attention that we think will assist in taking forward the SOPA.

The first area to take note of would be the new mandate from the general elections of April 2009. The ANC Manifesto has brought about a new mandate to government this current term – your planning commission, your monitoring and evaluation, rural development strategy, national youth development agency, women & children's ministry and reconfiguration of departments. Surely this is a daunting challenge, looking at what has been happening at national level and the fact that South Africa is a unitary country, surely the expectations are that provinces will surely conform to such development. It is in that context therefore that I say surely these are daunting challenges for all the provinces in the country.

We must therefore appreciate the reflections in the SOPA that have been made by hon Premier that have outlined progress since the new term into office. It does not need any mention the fact that when the Premier in 2009 came in, she made a call that by the time we get to the next financial year the rural development strategy will be in place. It is with great appreciation that the rural development strategy has been adopted; and a number of other areas that we think much ground have been covered on.

In fact it surely not an easy responsibility to take forward such a new mandate; it needs collective effort; it needs everybody to lay a hand to ensure that we take forward and realize that mandate. This new mandate, which is essentially a transformation agenda, brings us to the

area of work, the first area of work that I would like to speak on – capacity of the State.

Surely it is a plethora of new areas, shifts that have come around that necessitate that would pose or ask ourselves some honest and critical questions. What is the environment within which the new mandate should be implemented? Is the State machinery ready for the new mandate? Are the officials of the Provincial Government ready to do this work? Surely, in the light of the major developments and the state of the machinery that we have, surely there is a lot of work to be done to ensure that we are ready to carry out the new mandate. This amongst other things would include doing the following:

Realignment of functions; reconfiguration of departments - that would include even doing some reconfiguration even within the departments. You just imagine for instance a concurrent competence like Education where at a national lever now you have two departments – higher education and basic education. When resources arrive in the province there is a single department called Education, but it must be positioned to such that resources of higher education go necessarily for higher education related matters. This is the kind of work that we should take into account as we are trying to move forward in implementing the new mandate. The sooner we engage on these areas of work, the better. We have to confront these areas, engage them collectively and find the best repositioning of the state machinery or even government to ensure that it discharges its work.

On top of this we must ensure that the ground has been cleared for the new mandate and Premier, with due respect, I would like to say outstanding reports – forensic investigations, full nutrition even agriculture – these matters cannot be allowed to be a burden on the new term. They must be cleared. It is in that context that we are making a call that we are looking to providing this House possibly with reports that will indicate the finalization of such investigations so that we know that we close a chapter; we start on the fresh mandate.

The second are of interest that is where we are looking at is the whole question of Rural Development Strategy. We note with appreciation the launch of the Rural Development Strategy and the pilot that has been rolled out at Mhlontlo. We also take joy in noting that reports indicate that within this short space of time the quality of lives of people in that area have been changed. This is what we welcome and we are looking forward to the fact that when MEC Sogoni stands here to indicate the rollout of the plan, he is going to be able to indicate to the province in which direction will be moving.

Let me reaffirm the obvious - that rural development is broader than agriculture. The Department of Agriculture and Rural development might be the lead department; however, all the departments have got a role to play. Related to this matter is the critical question of land reform.

You see Premier, by enlarge when you interact with officials and generally in the province, when people speak about land reform they always think of only restitution, land claims, but land reform goes beyond land restitution; it includes land redistribution; it includes the tenure system. These are areas that we think must be looked at broader than reinstatement.

This broader approach allows us therefore to temper with the colonial land partens and transform structure of our economy. The impact of land reform must be felt by the ordinary people in the province. That is how we are going to measure it. I will leave that area.

The next area would be the area of human resource development/skills. We must also welcome the review of the Bursary Policy by EXCO, as an Endeavour to improve access to teacher education and to endure that the policy addresses the plight of the poor and the disabled. If I take from Premier's input in the State of the Province Address, she goes on to say, I open quotes:

Hon Speaker, strengthen education and building skills and human resource base remains one of our key focus areas in this term. Of critical importance is that society must take responsibility for education of their own children.

That is a very profound statement. That statement is pregnant with quite a number of things that we must take forward. We must carry on board everybody on the review process and implementation of the revised bursary policies. That would include the Legislature having access to that revised bursary policy and other stakeholders of education so that when it can be easy to make this difference in the lives of our ordinary people, everybody is part of the process.

The development of human capital is the basis of prosperous society and human capital is decisive. You know hon members, you can buy a car, computer, you can buy technology, but you can never buy an engineer. You can never buy a doctor or a teacher. You have to make serious efforts in investing over time to develop such a human being. That is why in human capital is decisive; it runs beyond financial resources.

You have to make serious efforts in your investment overtime. We are looking forward to this engagement around the processes of the bursary policy.

The second last area before I sit down; the impact of the global economic recession. With almost 1m jobs lost in the last year, 2009, and with unemployment rate – well this is a contented numbers I know, the whole question, but combining both the official definition and the expanded definition of unemployment, I could safely say unemployment rate in South Africa runs between 20% and 30% of the economical active population. It is clear that there is simple no realistic prospect for

millions of poor people to get jobs in the formal sector in the next foreseeable future. This is further compounded by the structural and systemic challenges facing the South African economy.

Furthermore we must recognize that millions of our people are engaged in solidarity selfless co-operative survivalist activities in the face of the brutal capitalist system. Millions of our people are involved in street hawking – , taxi driving, I do not want to use this word but I miss the proper one “bush mechanizing”, imigalelo (*stockfel*), self-employed projects, umasingcwabane (*burial society*) and co-operatives. We must not read this reality with contempt as we often do, instead we must really empower that reality.

The Expanded Public Works Programme work opportunities might look inferior, through you hon Deputy Speaker to hon Mvenya in particular; they might look inferior, they might look temporary, but they make a big difference to a person who has been sitting at home without knowing what to do; where will he/she get the next meal? We must never undermine such efforts. We must strive to consider instead getting to efforts of how do we try to make these jobs permanent because in the light of this current economic situation where big companies are reluctant to come and invest in South Africa to create jobs, what options do we have? Must we fold our arms? We cannot. The major weapon that our people have is their vote. They voted us into government and the monies that are taxed from them are their instrument. We must listen to them as what is it that must be done about their money and not to everybody, not to any other person. We must listen to our people who must tell us what must be done with their money; their only weapon in this crisis that we are facing.

Co-ops in particular are community-based structures. They are structures of democratic control by their own members. They decide about what to do and how to do it. You know, when our people get into burial societies from a distance you might laugh; they have got old tents, deformed chairs, but the beauty of the thing is that they say with our individual R100 or R80 that we pop out every month, we will decide about what to happen about that money. When one of our members passes away we will make sure there are four sheep bought, there is a tent, and there are chairs without getting sponsors from any other body but by utilizing our own money. These are very important principles that we must never undermine.

As I wind off hon Deputy Speaker on the question of co-ops, I want to say Premier once again in, in one of the interactions of the portfolio committee and the department, ECSECC indicated to us that they have completed an audit of co-operatives in the province. I think we would appreciate getting access to such a document, just to get a sense what is the state of affairs with regard to co-operatives in the province.

In conclusion, in these trying and testing times you must always remember that the greatest asset that South Africa has is her own people. We must have faith in our people. We must trust them. We must learn from their ordinary daily experiences. We must always recognize that people may not be equal in terms of features, whether you talk height, or colour of the skin or size of the body; they might not be equal, but people are equal with thinking, they are equal with feelings, they are equal with aspirations of a better life. Everybody in this planet wishes to leave a better life, whether you talk rich or poor, all of them they aspire to leave a better life. That is the strongest weapon that we have. At all material times that is where we must gather our strength from. With the people on our side, despite the formidable challenges that we are facing as a province, I believe that we shall overcome. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, mam Tshwete umkile ngoku, our Officials present, noko oHOD bethu baliqela namhlanje. Let me appreciate that. Our guests.

Let me welcome the opportunity to address this house once more, hon Deputy Speaker. I think the inputs from various members, well having listened and tried to take much notes as possible, serve most of the time as enrichment. A number of members have contributed quite positively to say this is our advice in this area, which I appreciate so much.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to also appreciate the input from hon Thunysiswa. She was quite in depth in terms of her analysis of the stage at which we are and in emphasizing that the struggle continues. [Applause.] I think that I cannot agree with her more in her analysis. Liyinene eli lithi ivili lisajikeleza. Ukuya phambili okwethu kukoyamana ngamagxalaba ekuliqhubeleni phambili. Ndiyayibulela ngegalelo lakho mhlonipheki uTunysiswa. *(It is true that the tide is turning. In moving forward we need to join hands together and push in unison. Thank you for your input hon Tunysiswa.)*

Regarding the Planning Commission, I thought I touched a bit on it because one needs to understand that we live in a unitary state and therefore we wouldn't want to find ourselves in a situation where our actions at provincial level are not in tandem with what is happening elsewhere. We note that other provinces have gone ahead with their own ideas on how to move with respect to the Planning Commission, but as a province we feel that it is equally important to ensure that in whatever we do we move along with the people of the province in one understanding.

Mandikhumbuze amalungu ahloniphekileyo ale Ndlu. Ndikhe ndathi ndibuza umbuzo wokuba phaya kula nto kuthiwa iMbasa yeSizwe yeli phondo kukho umyalezo phaya ezantsi obaliweyo. Uthini la myalezo? Ndiyibuza ke noko ebantwini endicinga ukuba banethuba bengabantu abayibonayo la Mbasa yeSizwe. Ummangaliso endibenawo ababikho abayaziyo ukuba ithini. Ndiyabawela ukuyivavanya apha hayi eyeNdlu

yoWiso-mthetho le kaRhulumente. Ndiyakunqwenela ukuyiva apha kumalungu ukuba ayayazi na? Ndinga ukuba ufakano-milomo lwenziwa ekuqulunqweni kweMbaso yeSizwe kodwa ke ukwenzela ukuba ndingamoshi ixesha lam Sekela Somlomo ohloniphekileyo, ekwenzeni umsebenzi wethu sikhokelwa sisihloko esithi “development through unity”. *(Let me remind the hon members of this House. I once asked about a message written on the Coat of Arms of the province at the bottom. What is that message? I have asked this question to people whom I thought have seen the Coat of Arms for several times. To my surprise, none of them was able to tell me. I am tempted to do the same to that of the country not the one for the province. I think consultation again did take place at the development of the Coat of Arms, but to avoid wasting my time hon Deputy Speaker, in discharging our responsibilities we are guided by the theme that says “development through unity”).*

The Coat of Arms of the province states that and therefore in whatever we do developmentally, we will try by all means to ensure and enforce that notion of development through unity. Therefore, against that background of the consultation process it is to try and ensure that we move in unison.

Again hon Chief Whip in the debate yesterday emphasized an important point, hon Kwelita, the point that we must read as hon members. I think it is a point that we must always keep at the back of our minds, particularly when we are going to come and debate here. We would not want to come here to waste time and repeat that which was said. Let us engage on more new ideas as a way of enriching the debate.

It was quite interesting yesterday as I watched and listened in fact to both hon Kwelita and hon Stevenson. Hon Kwelita comes and say Premier, you have missed an opportunity, you did not address the economic issues and economic situation of the province and immediately follows hon Stevenson and he goes on to say the Premier, did touch quite well on the issues of economy and he quotes what the speech says. I was saying this is an interesting development in the politics of the province because you would expect at times that opposition parties would say, even if it is an incorrect statement, but they would say it in one voice. Now it becomes interesting when the two are contradicting each other.

Therefore hon Kwelita, we addressed the issues of the economy of the province. In fact, I went back to the speech and I thought let me probably quote what you were saying about unemployment on page 7. There is a whole paragraph dealing with the economic environment we find ourselves and that as a province we have not been spared a moment in terms of the job losses – a whole paragraph is dealing with that. So if you are looking for the figures as hon Makupula was raising here, for me the issue is neither here nor there; the numbers, one job loss is one too many and therefore to come and want to emphasize by showing

members, particularly in a sore point area as unemployment is a futile exercise. What we must accept is the fact that yes we have experienced huge job losses and we must do something about it. We must find alternative means to address that. I thought we did just that in the speech.

Hon Galo, maybe let me welcome you home. [Laughter.] [Applause.] You know, people say there is no place like home; there is no place like home. Always keep that in mind because you will realize with time that in fact we live in one South Africa. For me that exercise is a useless futile exercise.

In fact, it is a complete waste of resources. For people who go to court and those who defend such things in court because what applies in a unitary country are the national policies. If there is dissatisfaction with respect to the quality of services, wherever you go you will find that challenge. The other day on TV it was roads in the Free State province, this morning it was Vuyo complaining about a place he broadcasted in on Friday last week about roads. Wherever you go South African challenges are South African challenges; wherever you are you will find those challenges. What is important is how we deal with those challenges, which takes me to the point on roads.

Others want to address that point on mathematical or arithmetical mode and I want to address that point first on the basis of what is obtaining in this province, the realities of the province that when I use the figures there I was trying to display the extent of the challenge so that we all understand. To say in ten years this is where we would want to be, then that is an indictment on us to act such that in 10 years' time we are where we would want to be – the 80/20 environment. Therefore, yes, we are leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that first we attract as much as possible finances from national departments to deal with the backlogs of the province. We have made a case as a province for the review of the funding model because we believe that in the current funding model we will not be able to achieve what we would want to achieve at the pace and we believe also that we can never be compared equitably with any other province.

Remember, we started dealing with roads that were tarred on paper, but on the real road then there was no tar, particularly in the eastern part of this province and therefore whether we accept that or not it remains a reality; that whilst other people were starting at a level of normal things, we were starting from a position of abnormality. We do not want to stay there; it is not in our interest to justify why we are there. We do want to be there. We have no reason therefore to justify why we are there. The reason we have is to get our people out of that environment, to an environment where they can equally compare equitably with all other provinces and hence our business case.

I specifically attended to the question of mud schools and the backlog with respect to the mud schools, by saying that either if by the time the budget is pronounced, our negotiations with national Government are concluded. The MEC for Finance will make the pronouncement, but we are expecting that by the time the MEC for Education presents his policy speech, by that time we shall know what we are doing about the mud schools because we have presented a business case, we have made proposals to national Government and there have been engagements. The only thing that is remaining is a signed agreement. It would become irresponsible of us to say before there is that agreement we make public pronouncements because then if anything goes wrong that comes back to us to say you were lying and therefore please await at least the MEC's policy speech.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the same approach we would want to deal with the roads, but as a starter we are saying national departments that have a responsibility to implement programmes and projects in the province, we engaged those departments. We have engaged the national Department of Transport. There are proposals there on which road they must contribute to, but it would be against irresponsible of us to stand here and pronounce when they have not pronounced. Remember national departments as well must stand in front of Parliament to say this is what they would be doing in province A and this is what they would be doing in province B and therefore we must give them that space. When we indicate that we are engaging with them it is to try and say we are not folding our arms and we are looking at the alternative means of accessing funding. We are also engaging private sector. We are engaging international donors. We are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the priorities we set ourselves, we are able to meet by the end of this financial year.

UBhele ke, akakho apha, kodwa kulo mcimbi worhwaphilizo ndicinga ukuba mibini imihlathi ethetha ngorhwaphilizo. Mhlawumbi ke bekufanele ukuba ndide ndithethe isintu naphaya. Ndinga ukuba ndizamile ukuyenza loo nto. Mhlawumbi ke ngendisibhalile esi sintu ukuze sivakale kakuhle. Ndikhumbula ukuba ndide ndammisa uMphatiswa wezeMpilo, gxebe uHOD omtsha weSebe lezeMpilo, kuba ngokuqinisekileyo ikhona inkqubo axakeke yiyo esebeni ukuqinisekisa ukuba siyawasusa amagosa anorhwaphilizo esebeni. [Kuhwatywe.] *(Bhele has gone out, but with regard to the question of corruption, I think there are two paragraphs that deal with corruption. Maybe I was supposed to explain it in IsiXhosa. I tried to do that. Maybe I should have written it down in IsiXhosa so that it can be clear. I remember mentioning MEC for Health, I mean the new HOD for Health because precisely there is a programme that he is busy within the department to ensure that we rid the department of corrupt officials. [Applause.]*

The reason why I was referring to him specifically is because we are working quite closely to ensure that we rid that department of corrupt officials. We emphasized when we were referring to that again on the

question of we want to stabilize the HoD positions because once there is no person responsible and accountable to drive your programme administratively, you are in trouble. Therefore it is against that background that now we will see stability there. We have set timelines that we would like to go into the new financial year with HoDs in all departments. I have just signed one yesterday DEDEA. We are continuing with that and by the time the financial year comes we would not want any department to be without an administrative head to ensure the accountability we all look for is realized. [Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, Local Government turnaround strategy: Bhele is quoting me on *Umhlobo Wenene* on Saturday morning when he says we are not going to dirty our hands with issues of politics. I wanted to share with him that I have actually written to the editor in-chief of *Umhlobo Wenene* because the interview that I had with that radio station was edited to a point that they left the explanation on what we are doing about Local Government out and emphasized or picked up the part that says that we are not going to dirty our hands.

What we were explaining there is that we cannot as provincial leadership be embroiled in local politics. We live local politics. As the Executive Council, our mandate is to ensure good governance. Our mandate is to assist local municipalities to live up to their constitutional mandate. We are poising provincial departments of Local Government/Treasury in order for them to be able to assist local municipalities where there are challenges because when this House has to debate intervention in Local Government, the first test is have you assisted. Now if you have not assisted, you will not be able to intervene in terms of Sect 139(c). My response therefore was to that effect; that in fact we are arranging and we are working to ensure that the responsible departments are poised to assist Local Government so that if as and when they are unassisstable, we are therefore able to intervene decisively.

Mischievously the reporter covered the portion that say we will dirty our hands with municipal politics and closed the debate. That was so mischievous, so unprofessional and I am taking that issue up because in an environment where you would want to ensure that there is development through unity, at all time you must responsibly and therefore I cannot leave that unchallenged, I am challenging it.. [Applause.]

Our commitment with respect to paying service providers: I made examples. I said hon members here used to come with letters and have been writing and I said those letters are no longer coming. I want to see the person who can come to me and say he or she has brought a letter yesterday or he brought a letter of complaint a day before yesterday. I do not know he and I did not see him and therefore to me that is one way to test the proof that we have worked so hard this year to ensure that we pay our service providers timeously. Uyabona ke xa umntu eza kuma

apha athi kukho umntu ebengabhatalwa kangangeminyaka emine. Angasixeleli ukuba bekusenzaka ntoni phakathi kwelo xesha. (*You know, if a person can stand here and say there is an individual who has not been paid for four years. He is not telling us what was happening in between that period.*) There is recourse to anything – where is a creditor and a debtor, there is recourse in that arrangement.

Xa umntu ezakuma apha athi umntu ebengabhatalwa kangangeminyaka emine, wenzeni malunga noncedo olubonelelwa ngokomthetho. Ndiyayifuna ke le nto ithi masingathi xa sisebenza sigalelane amanzi, masizame ukukhuthazana kubaandisebenzeli siqu sam, ndisebenzela abantu abasithume sonke ukuba sibelapha. Akekho umntu ovele wehla emthini apha; sonke siyokucela ivote ebantwini kwaye esikwenzayo makuhambelane noko ngamaxesha onke. Kukubanoxanduva ke into endiyimisayo kwinto esiyithethayo kwaye kufuneka senze into esiyenzayo ngentembeko. (*If a person has not been paid for four years what did he do in terms the recourse provided for in law. I want to say that when we come we must not discourage one another. Let us encourage one another because it is not about me; it is about the people who send all of us to be here. Nobody just came from nowhere. We have campaigned for votes from the people and what we do must talk to that at all times. I appeal for responsibility in all that we say and we must do what we do honestly.*)

Which means hon Mvenya that when you experience the kind of challenges where officials are rude, where officials do not respond, where officials did not do what is expected of them; as a public representative I expect you to report in writing to me. I expect that. I really expect that. This will mean when you come here you will say I wrote to you Premier, there is no change. I am appealing to you on this and I am requesting it from all members, without exception.

I think the question for sustainability of the Mhlontlo project: Hon Sogoni will be sharing that in detail. I tried to brief the House and the people of the province in detail what it is that we have done and I indicated that when we went to inspect there were some challenges that were reported and by now we know where the weaknesses are and we will deal with them as we roll out the plan. I expect again even then that the hon members, as way of oversight, as part of constituency work, after that pronouncement is made to keep your eye – that is what oversight is all about – and where there are weaknesses, report to us. I think that our ability to change the picture around in the province will come as a result of each one of us playing his/her responsibilities in a diligent, honest and fair work.

Hon Makupula you are raising the question of investigations. What comes to mind is the nullification of the Pillay Commission in court. Where do you take that to? If the court says this document is null and void, where do you take it to? It is null and void; that is the pronouncement; you are unable to get beyond, but there are others that

you are referring to; the nutrition programme. I must say that that was my area No 1 of interest and with respect to the Office of the Premier, where one would have expected that investigation to have resided; records do not indicate anything to the effect that the Office of the Premier was involved as a department. The reports on further scrutiny thereof were indicative of the fact that now it was a programme of the core staff and therefore when they left, they left with it. Where do you begin?

We went to Education to say Education, you were investigated according to the reports we have; how far did you go. Other officials say no we do not know that report, others say yes we do and when you get that which is claimed to be a report you get two conflicting reports. Where do you begin, where do you end in dealing with that situation? You are forced to kind of think what it is that we wanted to achieve with this. For me, the primary issue is that we want monies that are allocated for the purposes of ensuring that those kids whose parents remain poor or unable to make ends meet those kids are able to be fed at school. That is the primary role, so you put your focus on saying whilst there is this up and down on the reports let us get the system right in the meantime. To say how do we go back to get to where there were investigations in the past and where they are currently; that must be work done on the side, but the primary focus must be to ensure that whatever it is that went wrong does not recur and therefore focus on getting your system now right..

I am saying that there are those still investigations that truly become so difficult to really lay your hands on in a manner that assist you to go to core of the problem – that person who has been responsible for the kind of accusations and allegations that had been raised in the past. That work we will do on the side, but our main focus is to get the system going and to get the system right.

Hon Deputy Speaker, with respect to Health: As I was indicating here that a number of steps have been taken already now that there is somebody accountable in the department and I got a report that officials left the department immediately when the kinds of investigations started. They just resigned, but that does not mean that when they have resigned it is the end of the story; it is not. [Applause.] For me it is a positive step that seeks to say we are going to work diligently to ensure that he/she who is corrupt feels the pinch and goes; knowing that he has no place. I have used the term, “he does not have a place in this government”, and they get out of the system on their own.

Over and above that, others are subjected to disciplinary processes. Their cases are scheduled to take place now in March. I am not referring to matters that will be investigated for a long period, whilst investigations are continuing on this side, the system of getting the accountability systems in the department right is also taking place alongside because we would want to ensure each one is responsible and

accountable fully for the area of work he is employed for, so there is that cleanup that is taking place. Same applies to Education. There is cleanup that is beginning to take place. We were told that some people are restless. We will deal with that, but we cannot continue to have people who are not prepared to keep up with what this government stands for – clean governance. Such people will not be employed; they do not have jobs.

Hon Woodhall, oh, she has gone, but let me indicate that the question of skills; we raised the issue of skills shortage and we indicated what it is that we are doing. In fact, so far as it affects Education, we pronounced on what steps we are taking, both long-term and short-term. One does not really know what it is else that one has to say. I emphasized when we were dealing with health the question of medication and we said as we deal with the corrupt elements in Health, we will work tirelessly this year – I was very specific to say this year – to ensure that clinics have types of drugs according to their category of medicine distribution. We still maintain that. We are going to do that. It becomes worrisome when you go to that level of commitment and people come around and say you have not said anything. You then wonder, were you speaking to these people; were speaking to whom?

Ibalulekile ke le nto yokuthi simamelane xa sithetha. (*It is very important to listen when we debate*)

Hon Deputy Speaker, before I sit down, let me state that we have set priorities for ourselves and those priorities were informed by our Manifesto. If there is any time that we will live up to that Manifesto it is this term. If there is any time that we are sure to live up to that Manifesto, it is this term.

An HON MEMBER: Last chance!

The PREMIER: It is not a last chance! We will prove it to you next year that it is not a last chance. [Interjections.] In the Eastern Cape it will take centuries and centuries; in the Eastern Cape it will take centuries and centuries because each time we will make it difficult for any party to campaign successfully because we will work harder and smarter. [Interjections.] No, we are not. We have been sent by people to ensure that we change their lives and we will focus on that, truly. We will leave petty politics behind us and we will concentrate and focus on the Manifesto and the mandate. That is what we are here for and that is what we are going to do because we have a bigger duty and responsibility; that of ensuring that South Africans live up to the principles of a national democratic revolution. [Applause.]

That means we are sure to arrive at an instance at some point where we will be saying yes South Africa is non-racial; yes, South Africa is non-sexiest; yes South Africa's people are out of poverty, they are

progressive. We will arrive at that point one day and we will make it difficult for anybody to campaign successfully. That is the fact.

Therefore hon Deputy Speaker, before I take my seat let me welcome the debate by the hon members and assure them our commitment as the Provincial Government to ensure that we work with our communities, we mobilie them behind our programme. Hon Mhlathi said we must not work for them and I wanted to say I wish he was there to witness that they are doing it for themselves. All that the department is doing is to give them support information not to say we are doing it for them. Bonke bayazenzela. (*They are doing it for themselves*)

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to thank the hon members of this House for a fruitful debate and discussion.

I thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 17:25.