

WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2010

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

---

The House met at 14:15.

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

**QUESTIONS**

*For oral reply:*

*Premier:*

\*1. Mr D B HADDON asked the Premier:

- (1) Whether any provincial departments either paid for or received Fifa 2010 soccer tickets by means of taxpayers' money; if so, (a) how many tickets did they receive and (b) what is the total monetary value of these tickets;
- (2) whether she will be instituting any disciplinary action against defaulting departments and officials in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any officials will be criminally charged in view of the Auditor-General's directive to all Government departments in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The PREMIER: Madam Deputy Speaker, the response to the question is as follows.

Yes, there is one department in the province that has done that, which is the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture. They did procure tickets for three games in the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, utilising departmental 2010 mobilisation budget. No other department paid or received FIFA 2010 Soccer tickets by means of taxpayers' money. Those tickets were 226 – 41 for the Ivory Coast versus Portugal match, 68 for Slovenia versus England and 117 for Uruguay versus South Korea.

The monetary value of the tickets was R278,844.00.

There will be no disciplinary action being taken because, or will be instituted because the decision to procure was informed by the request from FIFA Local Organising Committee to the Premier and the MEC for the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture to create opportunities for youth, particularly those from districts outside Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, which was the host city, for such use to attend and participate in the World Cup activities. That is in accordance with the functional responsibilities of the department, which has to ensure that they facilitate mass mobilisation of youth to participate in sport.

Therefore, with regards to the question as to whether that there would be officials criminally charged; no there won't be because no law was transgressed and the procurement was declared to both the Auditor-General and to Treasury.

\*2. Mr C MARTIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Whether there is any provincial service charter with which the various Government departments have to comply; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she has been informed of the long turn-around times in departments in respect of e-mail, letter or general communication enquiries relating to matters of service delivery; if so,
- (3) what recourse do (a) the public and (b) public representatives have if they do not receive responses in time, as per provincial service charter?

The PREMIER: Madam Deputy Speaker, with respect to the question from hon Martin on whether there is any provincial service charter, the response is to the effect that all departments in the province do have service charters, which set out that sector specific service standards. A provincial service charter is also in place, which integrates all sector departments' service charters and is available in a form of a booklet. The Office of the Premier is in the process of supporting departments to review their standards currently.

With regard to the second question on the turnaround time, the Office of the Premier has realised the need to collate information about the implementation of service standards and as I said earlier we are now assisting and strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for that purpose. This would enable Executing Authorities to receive reports and be aware of departmental performance. However, a number of initiatives have been embarked upon to increase government's responsiveness to the public. The Office of the Premier has assisted departments to set up help desks and public liaison initiatives to deal with queries from members of the public. These are managed by respective departments. There are also ongoing initiatives to capacitate

departmental officials to implement the Batho Pele Principles, as well as inform the public of the service charter through the “know your service rights campaign”.

The third part of the question relates to the recourse for the public and for public representatives. The service charter sets out the redress mechanisms in the event of complaints about services as follows:

- The redress: We will offer an apology, a full explanation or a speedy and effective remedy if the promised standard of service is not delivered.
- We will also respond to complaints made by citizens in a sympathetic and positive spirit within a reasonable period.

With regard to complaints about services, the charter states as follows:

- If you are unhappy about the treatment you receive from any government official you are dealing with, you may raise your concern directly with the officer concerned, you may inform the officers at the customer care centre in any department, you may write or speak to the Head of the specific office, be it an HoD or an MEC.
- If not satisfied you may also write to the Premier.
- There is also the Presidential Hotline available for such.

Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

\*3. Mr C H MAXEGWANA asked the Premier:

What progress had been made by the province towards achieving the millennium goals relevant to it as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The PREMIER: Madam Deputy Speaker, with regard to the progress made by the province towards achieving the MDGs, we need to clearly state that the MDG’s set eight targets as follows:

- Goal 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger;
- Goal 2: Achieving universal primary education;
- Goal 3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women;
- Goal 4: Reducing child mortality;
- Goal 5: Improving maternal health;
- Goal 6: Combating HIV and AIDS, TB and other diseases;
- Goal 7: Ensuring environmental sustainability; and
- Goal 8: Developing a global partnership.

For each target Madam Deputy Speaker, we have responded in a manner that is quite detailed. I would request that I give the response on the details in writing to the hon member and here is the response.

\*4. Mr X E NQATA asked the Premier:

Whether she has been informed of any innovative and creative ideas implemented by departments within the past six months with a view to improving service delivery in the province; if so, what are the relevant details?

The PREMIER: Deputy Speaker, I would respond in the affirmative to say: Yes, the Premier is aware of innovation practices that are being introduced and implemented by provincial departments. The provincial hosted a national innovation event in collaboration with the Centre for Public Service Innovation, which is part of the Department of Public Service and Administration on 18 and 19 February of the current year.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Transport were recognised by the centre and won innovation awards as a result of innovative projects in this department.

The Department of Transport won the award for the Best Practice Balasela Programme and the Department of Agriculture won the award for the Honeybee Keeping Project, where farmers produce and sell honey.

Furthermore, the province has in place a strategy for innovation and knowledge management which has recently been revised and is currently in the process of being approved. The revised strategy has got four phases, which aim to assist provincial departments to become a best practice department, a learning organisation, an organisation practicing incremental and radical innovation, and a smart organisation.

Deputy Speaker, further details are provided in writing.

\*5. Ms P C SAMKA-MQUQU asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed of any Education offices in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality whose electricity had been disconnected due to non-payment as at the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether this has had any impact on service delivery; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether this situation was brought about by poor planning or budgeting on the part of his Department; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, on the first question by hon Samka-Mququ:

The electricity supply to the Port Elizabeth District Office was disconnected for a period of a week during June month 2010, due to the non-payment of municipal services by both Section 20 and Section 21 schools. This has had an impact on the delivery of services as the processing of payments, appointments and all other payments were delayed. The backlogs created during this period have since been eradicated.

The situation was brought about by the failure of both Section 20 and Section 21 schools failing to pay for municipal services. The district office has set up a task team which will peruse the monthly municipal accounts of schools and hold one-to-one meetings with the principal and SGB chairpersons of all the affected schools with high accounts, especially those with high accounts.

They will also ensure that each school has mechanisms to control consumption, especially electricity and also of water, given the leakages in some of the schools and some of the schools that are leaving the electricity on. So we want to ensure that they put mechanisms in place to control that consumption and to have dedicated persons to read meters and analyse the consumption rates because sometimes there is, in the engagement with the municipality, there are differences as to, especially around the analysis of the consumption rates. So we are suggesting to them in the area of PE that there must be that person within those schools who is going to be focusing on those issues.

\*6. Mr X E NQATA asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed that the learners at West End Primary School in Port Elizabeth did not write June examinations because the school buildings were unsafe; if so,
- (2) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to (a) ensuring that these learners are able to write examinations and (b) repairing the school buildings; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: On this one hon Deputy Speaker; yes I was informed about the situation at the school, the West End Primary School, and steps have been taken to remedy the situation. All the repairs, which were the bone of contention, have been done by the district officials and the school went further to hire a private contractor to fix electricity and plumbing in the school.

The learners did write their examinations because it had an effect on the writing of examinations, the problem ye infrastructure there, but after that intervention the learners were able to write, but after the June holidays. They started their examinations on 14 July 2010 and their results were supposed to have been ready by the first week of August.

So they did write. That was a contingency measure that was put in place to address that problem.

\*7. Mr P E van VUUREN asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed that there are Education officials in the province who, although not on suspension, do not report for duty and are receiving a monthly salary without doing any work; if so, how many such officials were there in the province as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) why are these officials not reporting for work if they are not on suspension;
- (3) how widespread was this phenomenon within his Department as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (4) whether any disciplinary action has been or is to be taken against these officials; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) what total amount was lost in salaries paid to these officials in the 2009/2010 financial year?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Madam Deputy Speaker, on this question of the officials that have been suspended in the department, that are in our offices, displaced and all that; we are aware of this huge number of employees. There are 156 employees in the province who are not rendering service but are receiving a monthly salary. These employees are displaced for various reasons, which range from displacement by other fellow employees through their own tensions in the workplace, others are displaced by communities, others are not at work because of ill health, etc. The phenomenon is fairly widespread within the province.

Where cases warrant disciplinary action, disciplinary action is taken. Some of the cases require interventions from the communities and unions because you would find that communities have been involved in the process and in some cases unions have been involved, so in resolving these cases we have also tried to robe in the unions and also the communities where communities were at the centre of the displacement.

A project team at a provincial level, which is led by the Director: Labour Relations, has been set up to look at all those problems of displacement, both in schools and in our offices. This also forms part of the turnaround plan that is there in the department to deal with inefficiencies because it is one of the serious inefficiencies within the department.

The cost as of now of those 156 is about R32 million for the 2009/10 financial year.

\*8. Mr P E VAN VUUREN asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed that the District Office in Port Elizabeth has become a dumping zone for dissatisfied and disillusioned educators and non-educators; if so, (a) how many such officials were located at this District Office as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) from which institutions did they migrate to the District Office;
- (2) (a) what is their current status within the District Office if they have not been permanently appointed and (b) how have they been absorbed;
- (3) whether the posts at the institutions which they left had been filled as at the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) who authorised their placement at this District Office;
- (5) when will this situation be resolved in respect of each and every case?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, this question is similar to the previous question, but focuses more on the Port Elizabeth District Office. There are two categories of those employees that are displaced. The first category is the 41 ex-FET college lecturers who opted to remain with the employer because they were given two options; those that want to remain with the employer – that is with the department – that it must be under the department; others decided to be employed by the councils in the FET colleges. So these 41 which is in the district office as we speak is that category, but out of that 41 only seven have been placed properly because a number of them have qualifications that do not match any section within the district office or sometimes even schools, but to ensure that they are utilised, they have been attached to certain sections within the district office and others have been attached to schools to render services there.

The second category has got about 26 that are in the database there. Those have been displaced for a number of reasons as well, but incapacity and stress-related issues are at the, they contribute more on the second category of the 26. Even those have been attached to... No, no, not these ones because those have been displaced for stress-related reasons. Where displacement has happened and assistance is given by... Where displacement has happened and has left at work, we have

swapped those people that have been displaced and take one from one area to another area. That is how we have dealt with the impact of displacement because it leaves vacancies in the areas where those people have been displaced. That is how the district has managed to deal with this.

The authorising section; the HR section has been handling this matter of placement of those displaced people, using the displacement policy. The department through the HR section is currently address the situation through transfers within the department and we are envisaging by the end of this financial year – we are targeting that, but by the end of this financial year we must have dealt with this problem of these displacements and people who are just earning salaries without being properly placed.

\*9. Mr M M DIMAZA asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) How many FET colleges in the province had effective systems of internal control, such as audit committees, as at the latest specified date for which information is available; if not, why not;
- (2) whether the lack of such systems of internal control has resulted in any problems at these institutions in the province; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Three colleges have effective systems of internal controls, e.g. King Hintsa, East Cape Midlands and Lovedale FET College. King Hintsa and East Cape Midlands FET Colleges also have audit committees. In Lovedale FET College has a quality management system accredited by SABS and conducts internal audits quarterly. The remaining five colleges are in the process of establishing audit committees. So we have eight colleges in the province, but only three have effective systems of internal control.

Currently the absence of internal control systems in the above colleges does have a negative impact, as a result senior managers have established provincial committees for each section to ensure uniformity across colleges and compliance to government prescripts by all committees. These committees are formed from the various FET colleges to ensure that all the colleges are assisted. We have since established the provincial oversight committee to monitor and assist all the colleges to address the weaknesses that have been identified through the systemic audit that was conducted by ECSECC in all the eight colleges.

They have a technical team that is also assisting that overall committee that is drawn from experts, HR experts, finance, supply chain and others, to assist those colleges to address these weaknesses, management weaknesses in the colleges. So in addition to the issue raised here by the

hon member, we have also put that in place as well to assist the colleges to jack up their management capacity and systems.

\*10. Mr M MRARA asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed of the demonstration held by parents at Kuyga Primary School when learners were not able to occupy their newly built classrooms; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) on what date (a) was the hand-over of these classrooms originally supposed to have taken place and (b) is the official hand-over of these classrooms scheduled to take place;
- (3) whether any amounts were budgeted for (a) new buildings and (b) furniture for this school; if so, what amounts in each case;
- (4) how many (a) learners from Grade R to Grade 9 were enrolled at this school and (b) (i) classrooms, (ii) desks and (iii) chairs for learners were there at this school as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (5) whether the (a) number of classrooms and (b) amount of furniture for learners at this school is sufficient to meet the needs of learners; if not, (i) why not and (ii) what steps have been or are to be taken with a view to rectifying this matter?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Deputy Speaker, this question is related to Kuyga Primary School. The demonstration did happen there and it was as a result also the lack of information, especially on the part of the parents and also the communication to the parents about the infrastructure delivery in the school and the fact that the contractor who was there decided to close the school because he was not paid, but the information was since provided to the parents and the payment was made to the service provider. The service provider went back to the site and has completed the 11 classrooms and they were handed over. The contractor now is busy with the five classrooms and will be completed in three months' time.

There is no date that has been set for the proper handover of the complete school, but at least those classrooms that have been completed at least they have been handed over as of now.

The budgeted amount for the new classrooms is R2 245 000. The furniture budget is determined also on the basis of the need of the schools. We have allocated to the cluster chief directors all that

furniture budget into the three clusters, so they are responsible. They are supposed to get all the needs from the district directors that are drawing that information from the schools. So there is no specific budget that we have allocated. It depends on the needs, but we try and ensure that at least we reduce the impact of the shortages of that furniture in those schools.

The enrolment in the school from Grad R to Grade 9 is 793 and the average learners per classroom is 1 to 40, average learner, or the learner/classroom ratio is one is to 40. The number of classrooms for the learners will be sufficient immediately the additional five is completed. So as of now there is still a bit of a problem, but with the additional five classrooms that are under construction the problem will be addressed, given the classroom/learner ratio.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is that a follow-up hon Martin?

Mr C MARTIN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The follow-up on behalf of hon Mrara is more to do with the shortage of desks in the specific school. There are new classrooms built, but there are no desks in that specific school, so we want the MEC to take note of that situation.

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: I will make a follow-up on that and report to the hon member.

\*11. Mr M M DIMAZA asked the MEC responsible for Education:

Whether any anti-xenophobia programmes had been undertaken at schools in the province as at the latest specified date for which information is available, especially in areas where incidents of xenophobia have occurred in the past; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Madam Deputy Speaker, the department is aware of incidents of xenophobia that have been taking place elsewhere, in a number of areas in the country. We are also aware of the incidents of xenophobia that is taking place also in our schools, but up to now there have not been incidents, serious incidents that have been reported. The department has proactively managed the spread of xenophobia to schools through the “torch of peace” which is an anti-crime and violence campaign. Through that “torch of peace”, communities around the province have been made aware of the scourge of xenophobia and encourage to a co-exist with other people from other countries.

The department is also using the “peace education programme”, which is targeting learners to address issues within the communities. The programme has been implemented in targeted schools in the province, especially those schools with high rates of violence.

The department has also used sport to foster brotherhood with fellow Africans and a soccer match was organised by the Department of Education at the Victoria Grounds between foreign nationals from Ethiopia and Somalia and it was attended by a number of senior officials within the department. We think that those initiatives will also encourage the process of integration and address the problems of xenophobia going forward.

\*12. Ms T WANA asked the MEC responsible for Education:

- (1) Whether he has been informed that the Kumbulani High School in North End burned down in August; if so, what was the cause of the fire;
- (2) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to assisting learners and ensuring that teaching at this school is not compromised; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) when will this school be renovated?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, the cause of fire which gutted the Kumbulani High School in North End in Port Elizabeth is not yet known. The police are still investigating. They have not yet come up with any new developments with respect to that.

The affected school has been relocated to another premises that belongs to the department, so at least we have cushioned that impact. At least schooling is taking place.

No budget has been made available for renovation of school as of now because of a number of cost pressures and challenges within the department, but I am sure within the planning cycle that is taking place now, we are going to look into the disaster cases because this is a disaster, so it will also be treated within the context of disaster and maintenance cases, but we don't have a budget as of now.

\*13. Ms A N PONCO asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether there were any recycling sites for communities in the province as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether any information exists on how effective such recycling is with regard to combating global warming; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (3) whether there has been any interaction between his Department and municipalities in the province with a view to making official dumping sites in the province recycling areas; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Madam Deputy Speaker, there are no major recycling sites for communities generally in the Eastern Cape.

It therefore follows that if there are no recycling sites there is no information.

Thirdly, there is interaction between municipalities and the department to an extent that 30 landfill sites have been approved to date in the province. There is also a new programme that we are running with the national department on waste management and recycling and we are currently identifying municipalities that will be beneficiaries to that programme.

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

\*14. Mr R S STEVENSON asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) By what amount did each department (i) overspend or (ii) underspend during the first quarter of the 2010/2011 financial year and (b) what were the major reasons for any significant overexpenditure or underexpenditure in each case;
- (2) whether any conditional grants were significantly overspent or underspent during the same period; if so, what were the reasons for such overexpenditure or underexpenditure;
- (3) whether any expenditure patterns have emerged in any department which are cause for concern; if so, what are the relevant details?

Mr R S STEVENSON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I have received a written copy of the reply and with your permission could I just ask a follow-up to save the House this time and the MEC reading it out?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr R S STEVENSON: It is in regard to part 3, where it refers to expenditure patterns that have emerged that are cause for concern. In the answer the MEC said that there is a concern about a possible budget

shortfall in relation to OSD and condition of improvement of service for public servants and he is referring to the Education and Health Departments. I wonder at this stage if he has any indication as to what that possible estimated budget shortfall might be.

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Madam Deputy Speaker, we can provide details, but at the moment we are envisaging that if nothing is done with the current pressures in Education and Health you probably will be sitting with an over-expenditure of more than R3 billion, if nothing is done. There are activities to deal with that and that is a process that hopefully we will be presenting the details. I am saying if nothing is done you probably would well... [Interjections.] You will well be – the exposure will go up to R3 billion, if nothing is done. There is a programme then to deal with it and probably we will be making a report to the portfolio committee soon. Thank you.

\*15. Mr J C CUPIDO asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What was the outcome of the forensic investigation into the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Eastern Cape Gambling and Betting Board;
- (2) when will a copy of the report be released to the Democratic Alliance, as promised by the MEC in April 2010;
- (3) (a) why has the report not been released yet and (b) what steps does the MEC intend taking to resolve this;
- (4) based on the findings of the report, what steps have been or are to be taken by the MEC with a view to resolving the matter relating to the current CEO?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Hon Deputy Speaker, as to the outcome of the forensic audit, we are almost at the tail end of the exercise now. I think it is almost done, but I think we are tying up the last strings. I think the investigators are tying up last strings. For a number of reasons we had to extend the scope of the exercise precisely because there were a number of companies that we have to look into who actually gave evidence that will shed light to some of the issues that were under investigation.

Mr J C CUPIDO: Hon Deputy Speaker, the MEC mentioned earlier that it should be finalised by the end of the month. If I can just get a confirmation that I will receive a copy of the report by the end of the month?

The MEC: I can assure the hon member that by the end of next week the report will be ready.

\*16. Mr J C CUPIDO asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What amount in respect of meeting allowances was paid to the (a) chairperson and (b) members of the Eastern Cape Gambling and Betting Board per board meeting in (i) 2002, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2010;
- (2) what is his Department's justification for allowing such a significant increase in allowances;
- (3) whether his Department pays (a) travel, (b) accommodation and (c) hotel liquor bills for any of the board members; if so, (i) what are the names of these board members and (ii) what amounts were spent on each of these specified items in (aa) 2008 and (bb) 2009?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: What is the amount in respect to meeting allowances paid, etc, etc. This is a big chunk... There is a big chunk here about the figures. I don't know whether I should make that available to the hon member so that I can deal with the next question.

As to what the department's justification for the increases is, what we normally do essentially is that you do a benchmarking exercise with other Boards and with other agencies of a similar size and arrive at a particular fee for Board members. Currently we are reviewing the fees of all Boards because of two reasons – (1) because of the current financial environment; but secondly just to ensure that there is proper alignment with other Boards of similar size and similar budget size.

Thank you.

Mr J C CUPIDO: Hon Deputy Speaker, just for clarity - I know that you have the whole table and we will look at the table, but if you could just tell me what the per meeting allowance is of the chairperson of the Board in 2008 for a meeting and now in 2010.

The MEC: It started off in 2002 at R2 400. In 2008 it was R3 100, and currently it is R12 000.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: But you are still going to provide that document.

The MEC: Yes.

\*17. Mr C MARTIN asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any form of monitoring and evaluation is carried out in respect of projects and initiatives funded by his Department; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any consideration has been given to appointing Local Economic Development (LED) project managers attached to LED units in the various municipalities in the province; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Hon Deputy Speaker, again I will basically abbreviate a very long response.

If you recall, one of the issues there, the reports that were presented to the Legislature was about the investigations or the survey done by the committee, the portfolio committee in all municipalities, looking at projects funded by the department. We also did our own exercise, looking at projects for 2003 to 2009 and a number of problems were identified.

As a result of that a process was put together to set up a better management system for all those projects and a better monitoring and evaluation framework was developed for the projects. As we speak now there are new funding instruments for projects and there is a new structure for supporting all the projects. We give details which I can make available to the member.

\*18. Mr M QOBOSHIYANE asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has been informed (a) of the challenges facing the Kirkwood area with regard to liquor licences and (b) that this situation is hampering tourism and economic growth in this area; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the Kirkwood Spar was granted a liquor licence by his Department; if so, what is preventing this Spar from trading freely in liquor;
- (3) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to ensuring that the broader community is free to exercise its right to free trade; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: As to whether I have been informed of the challenges facing the Kirkwood area with regards to liquor licences, the reply is yes, we have been informed of this.

With regard to 1(b), I must say that in response to this we were made aware of the problem, at least I was made aware of the problem when some of the members of the opposition I think indicated to us, and hon Martin. Subsequent to that we paid a visit to the area and actually identified what the problems are. The problems really are not new problems. It is old problems that went up to the Constitutional Court where the Liquor Board granted a licence to Spar owner, a liquor license to Spar owner and it was challenged because in terms of an old title deed which contains some rights for one of the owners of the big chunk of the land he – he is the only person who could only hold a liquor licence in the area.

We have gone through a process – and I am just paraphrasing again. We have gone through a process because from a purely technical legal perspective you cannot challenge that. It has been challenged. It went up to the Constitutional Court. It is difficult to challenge that. We have taken a different route because there are other players with interest in the matter. That includes SAB, that includes your Spar and a number of others. We have now taken the route of preparing a case on the public interest, which probably will be heard soon in any court. Currently our lawyers are preparing papers for such case.

\*19. Mr M QOBOSHIYANE asked the MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs:

Whether he has been informed of the existence of any acid mine water in the province which poses a threat to communities; if so, (a) what are the health risks attached to exposure to such acid mine water and (b) what are the further relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the problem of acid mine water relates to, or is from gold mines. I know that there were media reports about this thing, but normally it arises scientifically when you have gold mining. Since we do not have gold mining in the Eastern Cape, we do not really have information that this is a problem in the Eastern Cape. Maybe if the hon member has information relating to this, he could furnish us with such information. We do not think it is a problem purely from a scientific point of view, but if there is information, we will be willing to look at the information provided.

\*20. Mr M MRARA asked the MEC responsible for Health:

- (1) Whether he has been informed of any drug trials (“Impi” trials) conducted under the auspices of Government but to the benefit of private doctors at (a) Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital and (b) other hospitals in the province; if so, (i) what is his Department’s stance on this issue and (ii) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether Government resources are abused when such trials are conducted; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) how many drug trials of this nature were conducted at Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital from 1 January 2000 up to and including the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (On behalf of the MEC responsible for Health): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am standing in for hon Masualle. He informed me that the questions were originally written questions and were responded as such, and affected members that are listed in the question paper have received the responses in writing. Perhaps in the context of time we could only perhaps through your permission listen to matters that will follow from those affected members. It is a bulky document, but I can, if you allow me, take one-by-one, all those answers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would love to hear from the hon members that raised those questions. Hon Martin.

Mr C MARTIN: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I think hon MEC can just give it. We know what to do.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does that mean all the questions to hon Masualle? Which members?

Mr R S STEVENSON: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am referring to Question 23. I haven’t yet received an answer to that, so if the hon MEC has a copy, if he could please send it to me. I would appreciate it. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Gqobana. It is also there.

\*26. Ms P T MPUSHE asked the MEC responsible for Human Settlements:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of any commitments made to the Arcadia North informal settlement in Port Elizabeth with regard to the provision of (a) toilets, (b) electricity and (c) water points; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) (a) how many people resided in this informal settlement as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how many water points need to be provided in order to meet the requirements of these residents?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS (On behalf of the MEC responsible for Human Settlements): Mandibulele Sekela Somlomo, lima lompatiswa oshlalisa andinguye mna umbuzo upendulwa ngoloshlobo aziko zipelelo zopolitico esenziweyo kulombuzwayo xakunjalo isebi liyayazi.

Into yokuba uMunicipality ombaxa kwa paya eNelson Mandela ute xa ku tyiwa zindlus waze wabeka pa yinto ku ba mabewe into yenzekwayo umshla wesine ye April 2008. Oye ngupatiswa ngaloxesha waye wayi buyis umva isati ezo yenza zindlu emalhulu matatu amashumi amabini anestoba kodwa ke kuzo landelwa xa kuzo sokiwa ezikoyo kaGovernment ngezesha zikoyo liwunta sekho umbuzo ohamba lowo uMunicipality ndi wase Nelson Mandela sexakekile zonki indawo ezosdibanisa iAIA road trip planning bayayenza yamkelekileyo abantu baya khula baya divorce weshlake oyinde okhanye xomeke ba. [Applause.]

\*27. Mr P NKAYI asked the MEC responsible for Human Settlements:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the condition of the houses at (a) 57 Milkweed and (b) 42 Minaret Street in Tamboville, Uitenhage; if so,
- (2) whether she will provide (a) a structural report and (b) the health and safety hazard reports on these houses;
- (3) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to addressing the structural condition of these houses; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS (On behalf of the MEC responsible for Human Settlements): Kulombuzo ka nomzam Khayi hai ayiko intsuku manani okhanye imekho zezindlu ezisi ukuba ngaba besinikiweyo umbuzo leonga peleleyo asiyazina xasipendula hayi uyasas. Enkosi.

Mr C MARTIN: Madam Deputy Speaker, if we read the question then it asks if the MEC is informed about the condition. I think the word 'condition' means that you have to go and inform yourself as to bring a proper answer to say I was not informed, but I went and this and this and this. So, the question is the condition of the house. We thought the MEC was going to respond on that condition that officials went to

research about and what are they going to do about it. [Interjections.]  
No, I am asking as per rules on behalf of Mr Nkayi.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks, hon Martin. I think, hon Majodina, you have noted the comments by hon Martin.

\*28. Mr D NEER asked the MEC responsible for Human Settlements:

- (1) Whether she has been informed that during the recent visit by the President, the Premier, Ministers and MECs to Ward 49 and other wards in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, concerns were raised in respect of 56 and 58 Essenwood Street, Rosedale, and 12 Mgibe in Despatch; if so,
- (2) whether she has been informed of the condition of these houses; if so,
- (4) whether any steps have been or are to be taken with a view to addressing these concerns; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

SKP HO TSA MEBILA LE MESEBETSI YA SETJHABA: (Lebitsong la SKP ho tsa Bodulo ba Setjhaba): Ke a leboha modulasetulo. Lefapha lona le ne le sa tsebe hore ho ntse ho etsahala eng ka matlo ana. Le ha ho le jwalo mopresidente le moporemiara ba ile mane sebakeng sena; ba a bone matlo ana; ba utlwa ka batho ba dulang ho wona hore na ho etsahetseng; le beng ba matlo a neng a tjhele ba ile ba nehwa bodulo ba nakwana.

Eitse ka mora hoba tonakgolo e mpoelletse jwaloka moetapele wa lefapha ka romela batho ba ya hona mane. Ke batla ho bolella Ntlo ena kajeno hore kamora matsatsi a mabedi Mopresidente le Tonakgolo ba tlohile mane ntlo e ile ya qala ho ahwa. Ke bua le lona tjena e se e rulelwa jwale e tla qetwa mafelong a kgwedi, beng ba yona ba kgutle ba tlo dula ntlong e ba tshwanetseng.

Taba ya bobedi ke hore a a lokiswa matlo ane a maemo a sa amohelehang a neng a ahilwe ke mmuso wa apartheid. Lefapha le shebile ho lokisa matlo a 235; empa projeke eno e tla qala mathwasong a selemo se tlang ka Januari selemong sa 2011. Lefapha le rometse diinspektara tsa ho ahwa ha matlo hore di shebe hore batho bano ba lokelang ho lokisetwa matlo ba a lokisetwa ka mokgwa o nepahetseng.

Ke a leboha. (*Translation of Sesotho paragraphs follows*)

[The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS (On behalf of the MEC responsible for Human Settlements): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The Department did not know what was happening with those houses, but the President and the Premier did go there, saw

the houses and heard from the occupants what had happened. Even those whose houses had burnt down were given temporary places of shelter to stay.

After the matter was brought to my attention by the Premier I sent a delegation there. I want to tell this House today that two days after the President and the Premier saw that area, the first house was built. It is at the roofing stage as I speak and will be completed by the end of the month. The owners will then come back to live in their rightful place.

The second point is that those low-standard houses that were built by the apartheid government are being rectified. The Department will be repairing 235 houses and this project will commence in January 2011. The Department has already sent building inspectors to see to it that the owners of those houses get proper services.

Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Neer?

Mong D NEER: Ke a leboha modulasetulo. Karabo ena, ho ya ka moo e behilweng ka teng, e a anetsa. Ke a leboha. *[Mr D NEER: Thank you Deputy Speaker. The response, as presented here, is satisfactory. Thank you.]*

\*29. Mr D B Haddon asked the MEC responsible for Local Government and Traditional Affairs:

- (1) Whether, in the light of his reply to written question 153 in IQP 17, the final enquiry hearing against the former Municipal Manager of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality has been concluded; if so, what was the outcome of the hearing; if not, when will this matter be finalised;
- (2) whether any settlement amount was paid to the former Municipal Manager; if so, (a) what amount and (b) when;
- (3) what legal costs were incurred in this matter?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Hon Deputy Speaker, in reply to the question from the hon member Haddon, the first appearance of the Municipal Manager was on 29 February this year. Thereafter parties were discovering documents and the process took time.

The hearing dates were set for July, but did not materialise. Adv Richard filed an application with the High Court on 29 June this year relating to the appointment of forensic auditors and the date of the hearing was scheduled for 14 August. Prospects of finalising this matter in the next

two months are slim, as the application filed by Adv Richard may go the appeal process.

On part (2), no settlement amount has been paid, as the disciplinary hearing process still needs to be finalised.

The final legal costs incurred in this matter are not yet known. However, so far an amount of R183 040.30 has been paid to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality attorneys and R1.8 million to the forensic auditors.

\*30. Mr R S STEVENSON asked the MEC responsible for Local Government and Traditional Affairs:

- (1) How many bucket toilets were there in (a) each specified district municipality in the province and (b) the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) (a) what are the time-frames for the total eradication of the bucket system in the province and (b) what is the cost involved;
- (3) whether this amount has been budgeted for over the medium-term expenditure framework period; if not, why not?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: Madam Deputy Speaker, the answer to question \*30 is as follows.

The total number of formal bucket toilets in the province was 30 795. And the deadline for the eradication thereof was December 2008, which was extended to June 2009.

The breakdown of bucket toilets in each District Municipality is as follows:

Ukhahlamba, as an implementing agent: 2006/2007 – 6 746. Eradicated by June 2008 – 6 746. There was no remaining backlog in December 2008.

OR Tambo: 2006/2007 – 716. Eradicated – 716; no remaining backlog.

Alfred Nzo: 2006/2007 – 117 . Eradicated – 117; no remaining backlog.

Chris Hani: 2006/2007 - 8 093. Eradicated – 8 093; no remaining backlog.

Amathole: 2006/2007 - 10 563. Eradicated by June 2008 - 10 235; the remaining backlog is 328.

Buffalo City within Amathole: 2006/2007 – 89. Eradicated by June 2008 – 89; no remaining backlog.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality: 2006/2007 – 93. Eradicated by June 2008 – 93; no remaining backlog.

Blue Crane: 2006/2007 – 859. Eradicated by June 2008 – 859; again, a zero balance.

Ikwezi: 2006/2007 – 1 042. Eradicated by June 2008 – 1 042.

Sundays River Valley: 2006/2007 - 1 036. Eradicated by June 2008 – 1 036.

Makana: 2006/2007 - 1 315. Eradicated by June 2008 – 1 315.

Koukamma: 2006/2007 – 126. Eradicated by June 2008 – 126.

So in terms of the total requested, in 2006/2007 there were 30 795 bucket toilets. A total of 30 467 were eradicated, leaving a remainder of 328.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality had a backlog of 93 formal bucket toilets, which were eradicated by December 2008.

On subsection (2), the only area with bucket toilets is Amathole DM, where there are 328 toilets that are not connected to water reticulation for flushing. The top structure for these toilets and the sewer reticulation were completed by June 2009. The top structure for the toilets is complete. What is required is water reticulation for flushing, but due to the drought situation, the dam supplying the area is dry and the Amathole DM will only start with the project once there is a reliable water source for the area. All formal bucket toilets have been eradicated, and therefore there is no budget for bucket eradication any more.

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

\*31. Mr R S STEVENSON asked the MEC responsible for Local Government and Traditional Affairs:

- (1) Whether approximately 27 people from the O R Tambo District Municipality were flown to Johannesburg for a meeting in July; if so, (a) what was the total cost involved and (b) who authorised this expenditure;

- (2) whether this expenditure is regarded as fruitless and wasteful expenditure; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS: We received the responses from the affected municipality as follows:

The number of people that travel to Johannesburg from the Eastern Cape for meeting mentioned is 21, as opposed to the 27 mentioned in the question paper. The all-inclusive cost is R126,722.79.

Sub-question 2: The individual departmental heads authorised related departmental expenditure as department has subsistence and travelling budget for use to attend meetings, conferences and workshops.

Sub-question 3: The expenditure is not regarded as fruitless or wasteful expenditure; reason being that there was value for money in the Mayoral Committee meeting that was held in Johannesburg.

The relevant detail is that the Executive Mayor of OR Tambo District Municipality is a national deputy chairperson of SALGA and national executive committee member of the ruling party and as a result was attending the Cabinet Lekotla and later on an MEC meeting in Gauteng at the time.

Several decision-making people who also attended the same meetings and who had promised to help the district out of this poverty and dilapidated disaster situation started requesting for the documentation and business plans in order to be able to intervene in the OR Tambo District Municipality situation. It was therefore necessary to coordinate these issues with the people that demanded such documentation and those responsible in the form of portfolio and departmental heads.

In summary, this was a networking opportunity the district could not miss. The value of the spin-off of the said engagement will far exceed the cost of the trip.

\*32. Mr M NYUSILE asked the MEC responsible for Provincial Safety, Liaison and Transport:

- (1) Whether rape victims are able to access any specific services at police stations in the province; if not, why not; if so, what services;
- (2) whether any police stations in the province have victim empowerment centres; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether these centres are functional and have trained staff; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL SAFETY, LIAISON AND TRANSPORT: Hon Deputy Speaker, the response to the first part of the question: The rape victims are able to access specific services at police stations in the province. Statements are taken in private at victim support centres and victim-friendly facility rooms. Volunteers also give full assistance to victims. Victims are also referred to other service providers, for example hospitals and the Tutuzela Care Centres. Members attached to child protection and sexual offences pay full attention in cases of rape for internal investigation.

The response to the second part of the question: In the Eastern Cape we have 70 victim support centres running, of which 27 were donated by the European Union.

The last part of the question: These victim support centres are running on the basis of 24 hours and are fully manned by trained members from the CSC, as well as volunteers who were also trained by accredited institutions.

\*33. Mr M MATOMELA asked the MEC responsible for Social Development:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of statistics which indicate that the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality has the highest incidence of (a) fetal alcohol syndrome, (b) substance abuse and (c) teenage pregnancy in the province; if so,
- (2) whether she has been informed of a non-governmental organisation known as SEED (Socio-Economic Empowerment and Development), which applied for funds to assist the young people of this area; if so,
- (3) whether her Department has granted or intends granting any financial assistance to this organisation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE (On behalf of the MEC responsible for Social Development): Ndiyabulela, Sekela Somlomo. Ndibulele uMam umvana ongu MEC isebe zinalo ungwazi nglomkulu kodwa elingenayo lingenazo baluleka ngokuba kouelwa lenxaki lisebenzisana nemibutho nabo kutala iSouth African National Congress for abuse of sistence santa ukuzama kuteta nabantu bango mama aba khulelweyo ndibatebisa ingozi ngoku sebenzisi utwala nezo bias ngexesha bakhulelweyo intukana malunga eyinto eyixakhi pa ku Nelson Mandela Metro.

iDepartment banga makhulu amashlanu abaze ngapambili uzo tela uncedo kwaba bantu ikhulu amashumi anestandathu ndicela nize ngapambili ndicela uncedo basetwenza nje nge Outstation kulamanani uSis watazile amashumi amashlanu ngabantu ngabaxomekeke etywaleni abantu aba Addicted Alcoholics ishumi estathu ekhulwini ngabantu kuba khona ke seyelwa Somlomo ezyobisi abatenga ecounterin ngoba ngelixesha ziya prescribewa ngu xhira athi nanga amayeza hamba uyowafumana eChemist apho ke sifumaneka ishumi enesbini ekhulwini itiek lishumi ekhulwini icrack ne cocaine sisibozo ekhulwini ezinye khe ibisi zisi xenxe ekhulwini kukho iprogrames esinazo isebe ku Teenagers kulomkuba nokteto ngabazali ubabakwazi ba bantwana maba qapele useseqala ungena khule khuba ndiqibile apho kulombuzo okhuqala.

\*34. Mr M MATOMELA asked the MEC responsible for Social Development:

- (1) Whether an organisation known as Foodbank had received any assistance from her Department as at the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, what assistance;
- (2) what assistance will this organisation receive from her Department in the 2010/2011 financial year;
- (3) whether this organisation's vision is in line with the (a) Government's priority of fighting poverty and (b) spirit of "together we can do more"; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE (On behalf of the MEC responsible for Social Development): Umbuzo ndifunu qonda umbhuto of sociate Economic Empowerment and Development sisisebe asinalwazi ngalom bhuto unceayo abantu kwayi kange sifumane nescelo esivela kulombuto kanti ke isicelo siyamkhela size jonge ngowenza nemibutho yabo siqwalasela ngendlela kuqwalaselanghayo iscelo esebenzi.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Tom. That concludes question time.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SAFETY AND LIAISON ON SAFER SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**

Mr M NYUSILE: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members, I am standing here to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Liaison around the Safer Schools Project. I am not going to deal with terms of reference and the method of work. I am going to jump to the findings, which are on page 2 of our report.

## Findings:

- (a) There are challenges pertaining to the drafting of the required safety policies by the Safer Schools Committee.
- (b) Safer Schools Committee members are not sufficiently trained.
- (c) Vandalism and destruction of school property is rife at some schools.
- (d) There is a very poor cooperation from other relevant departments in the administration of the Safer Schools Programme.
- (e) The programme has been inadequately coordinated at the schools.
- (f) At Mzontsundu Senior Secondary School (Nelson Mandela Metro) fight between community members and learners in the township sometimes end up on the school premises.
- (g) At Sakhingomso Combined School (Cacadu) there are many incidents of rape.
- (h) There are retail outlets close to many of the schools in the district that are selling tobacco products to learners.
- (i) At TEM Mrwetyana Senior Secondary School (Grahamstown) there are allegations of sexual harassment of male educators by female learners at this school.
- (j) The following schools in the OR Tambo District and Christ Hani District do not have Safer Schools Committees: Dalukhanyo High School, Ngangelizwe High School and Qumbu Technical School.
- (k) Most Safer Schools Committees in the OR Tambo District are not properly constituted and include the Sulenkama High School, Ntsikayezwe High School and Jojo High School.
- (l) At Msobomvu High School (Butterworth) there are taverns operating very close to the school, resulting in learners bunking classes and drinking alcohol sold from these taverns.
- (m) At Msobomvu High School there is a dilapidated and unoccupied property close to the school where learners engage in all sorts of illegal activities such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse and promiscuity.

- (n) At Msobomvu High School there is a house located near the school that has been identified to be the source of the proliferation of drugs.
- (o) Most schools have experienced incidents of burglary.
- (p) There have been strange incidences of attempted suicide by some learners at Vuli Valley High School.
- (q) In most schools substance and drug abuse by learners is a common problem.
- (r) At Mangalenge Senior Secondary School (Chris Hani) learners carry dangerous weapons such as knives to school and faction fights are common on the school premises.
- (s) At Nkululeko Senior Secondary School (Ukhahlamba District) the Safer Schools Committee is not working effectively. Some educators do not want to associate themselves with the committee for fear of being victimised by the learners. There is a total collapse of discipline at this school and learners physically assault their educators. Male learners do not accept any form of punishment by female educators. All sorts of misconduct by learners, including theft, are rampant at the school.
- (t) Since 2008 there have been no existing toilet facilities at Impumelelo Senior Secondary School (Ukhahlamba), which encourages the bunking of classes by learners on the pretext of finding suitable places to relieve themselves.

Recommendations:

- (a) The Department of Safety and Liaison and the Department of Education must provide the necessary guidelines that will assist the school in drafting the required safety policies.
- (b) The Department of Safety and Liaison, in consultation with the Department of Education, must devise training programmes for Safety Committees to enable them to discharge their duties effectively. A report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of the adoption of this report.
- (c) The School Governing Boards and the Committees must work closely with the local police stations to curb incidences of vandalism and destruction of school property.
- (d) The Department of Safety and Liaison must actively engage the Department of Education and the Department of Social Development with a view to solicit an active buy-in into the administration of the programme by these departments. A

progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.

- (e) The Department of Safety and Liaison, in conjunction with the Department of Education, must devise a joint action plan for the effective administration of the Safer Schools Programme. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (f) Although the fencing of the school and access control measures to the schools premises may go a long way in resolving fights between learners and the general public on the school grounds, a Safer Schools Committee must work closely with the local police station to ensure that perpetrators at the school are arrested and prosecuted.
- (g) The Safer School Committee must work closely with the local police station to curb the high incidence of rape at this school. A victim support centre must be established at the local police station to give support to victims of rape in the area. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (h) The Department of Safety and Liaison in consultation with the Department of Education, the School Governing Board, as well as the Parents Teachers Association/SGB must facilitate the random search and regulate all retail activities within the school precincts so as to minimise the sale or trade in illicit substances by/to the learners.
- (i) The behaviour of female learners at this school is unprecedented and regrettable. The Department of Safety and Liaison must facilitate the engagement of the services of social workers to educate learners on good morals at the school.
- (j) The Department of Safety and Liaison, in consultation with the Department of Education, must immediately facilitate the establishment of Safer Schools Committees at these schools. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (k) The Department of Safety and Liaison must immediately facilitate the establishment of properly constituted Safer Schools Committees at these schools. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (l) The Department of Safety and Liaison must immediately investigate the legality or not of the operations of these taverns and in consultation with the licensing authorities and the local

municipality, take appropriate actions as required by the law. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.

- (m) The Department of Safety and Liaison must work closely with the local police station to ensure that periodic search – and seizure operations are carried out in and around the property to discourage any illegal activities on the property. The municipality must also be informed so that it can take remedial measures as may be required by law in respect of the property. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (n) The Department of Safety and Liaison must devise a joint strategy with the SAPS with a view to survey this property and to take appropriate action as required by law to curb the alleged drug trafficking emanating from this property. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (o) Schools management must engage the CPF, the Parents Teachers Association/SGB and the local police in order to devise a joint strategy to curb incidences of burglaries at the schools. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (p) The Department of Safety and Liaison, together with the Department of Education and the Department of Social Development, must put together the required systems and resources to thoroughly investigate the causes of suicidal tendencies by learners at the school. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (q) The school management must work closely with the CPF, other Safer Schools Committees and with the local police station to conduct random search and seizure operations to curb substance abuse by learners at these schools.
- (r) The Department of Safety and Liaison must work closely with the CPF, Safer Schools Committee and local police station in conducting random search and seizure operations regarding dangerous weapons at this school. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (s) The Department of Safety and Liaison, jointly with the Department of Education, must urgently devise a turnaround plan/strategy to prevent further anarchy at this school. The department must involve all the relevant stakeholders, the CPF,

the Parents Teachers Association/SGB, the Safer Schools Committee and the local police station. A turnaround strategy for the school must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.

- (t) The Department of Safety and Liaison must engage the Department of education within the view to facilitate the construction of toilets at this school. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.

General findings:

- (a) There is no active participation by the Department of Education in the administration of the Safer Schools Programme.
- (b) A number of schools are not fenced.
- (c) Most schools do not have full-time caretakers.
- (d) Communities do not actively participate in the activities of the schools.
- (e) Some schools do not have cameras, metal detectors or security officers; as a result incidences of sporadic violence have been reported.
- (f) There is a shortage of drug testing equipment in some schools.

General Recommendations:

- (a) An active buy-in is required from the Department of Education for this programme to succeed.
- (b) All schools must be properly fenced for the sake of protection of school property, safety of learners and of educators.
- (c) The Department of Safety and Liaison must liaise with the Department of Education to facilitate the employment of caretakers at the school.
- (d) The Department of Safety and Liaison, together with the Department of Education, must jointly devise a programme where the community gets actively involved in the activities and welfare of their schools. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.
- (e) The school management must engage the CPF, the Parents Teachers Association/SGB and the local police so as to devise a

joint strategy to curb incidences of sporadic violence at the school. A progress report must be submitted to the committee within 30 days of adoption of this report.

- (f) The school must be provided with additional drug testing equipment to enable the timeous testing and identification of learners who need drug rehabilitation and therapy.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nyusile. Do you want to ask questions to the committee? Hon Haddon.

Mr D B HADDON: Deputy Chairperson, thank you. On page 246 under general findings (a) where they talk about no active participation by the Department in the Safer Schools Programme; the recommendation is that active buy-in is required. Could we be told exactly what they mean by that and what plans are in place to ensure that the Department of Education gets involved? Thank you.

Mr M NYUSILE: I am not sure, Deputy Speaker, where he has read. That is a recommendation that we are actually making: that this programme is a joint effort between the Department of Education and Safety and Liaison; and for Safety and Liaison to carry this alone it cannot work. We are actually complementing the work of the Department of Education because these Safer Schools Committees are sub-committees of the SGBs, so we are actually saying to them we want to see them being hands-on because in some schools you find that some of the educators and learners are not interested; it seems as if this is a safety project, and it cannot work if it is like that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: As there are no further questions, we will now have inputs from political parties.

Mnr J P KORKIE: Agb Adjunk-Speaker, agb lede van die Huis, personeellede, lede van die publiek in die galery. (*Mr J P KORKIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, hon members of the House, members of staff, members of the public in the gallery.*)

We have made the following observations. Having listened to the chairperson on Safety and Liaison, we would have noticed a number of issues that he has raised, which lie squarely in front or before the House or at the door of the Department of Safety and Liaison, together with its partners.

The Safer Schools Project is obviously a brainchild of the Government of the day. This clearly is a good initiative, but there are systemic problems. We have one of the smallest budgets in this Legislature, whereas crime is one of the biggest cost drivers in order to eradicate them in the province and countrywide. In order to make a meaningful

impact, Madam Deputy Speaker, this will also have to change. We cannot operate in silos, hon Haddon, and I think the active buy-in that the hon member was talking about when he was reporting to the House.

We have got to have a collective approach, Chairperson, in educating those who must implement the Safer Schools Project. We have noticed that SGBs are sometimes at a loss; they do not know what the next step is. Safer Schools Committees in most of the schools that they went to were dysfunctional. The training thereof clearly would cost a number of thoughts to go in there, together with a budget.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the question of the problems that we have come across, they are completely unheard of in a proper school situation. Female learners harassing teachers – it is the first time I hear of something of that nature. If you have a situation like that, not only the learners can be blamed for a case like that one. It clearly goes to the heart of how a person thinks. If a school child, not yet an adult, is able to harass a male teacher – and this is not normal harassment; we are talking sexual harassment – somewhere there is a lack of want in the minds and hearts of some of these learners. The phenomenon is quite shocking.

I notice the recommendation on what must be done and apparently they must go for counselling. It will not help, with respect. If you are a learner at a school and you have pride in wearing the school badge if you have any, you have dignity as a female, you have got valuable lessons in life that you were taught, how on earth, how on earth do you do something like that?

I have to mention that the learning areas which schools now have in place does not have any provision for religious instruction. It does not have any provision, specifically so, for guidance, including career guidance.

Ms F NKOMONYE: Hon Deputy Speaker, may I ask the hon member a question?

Mr J P KORKIE: Not at all, Madam Deputy Speaker. Let me finish. [Interjections.] She is using my time now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkomonye, hon Korkie does not want to take a question.

Mr J P KORKIE: Still on the learning areas, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have also taken away physical education. If you have to bring it back, and that is what I would propose to this House, that clearly the Department of Education has to consider what measures can be taken to psychologically get rid of a psychological problem.

I notice the recommendation is talking about the type of counselling or therapy that they must get. Does the Department realise that this is costing money? What about the budget which is almost next to nothing?

Madam Deputy Speaker, I firmly believe that proper implementation of recommendation and proper implementation of resolutions would get rid of these problems. There is no way you can have a tavern 10 metres away from a schools' door - not at all. We have the Liquor Board, we have the police and yet those taverns are allowed to operate until the wee hours of the morning, where some of these things are taught. Learners of a particular age go to the same place of entertainment as the adults, hence why would the lady at school not think that this male is just suitable for her because laws are not enforced?

We had at some point full-time security at most of our schools. Sadly that has taken a back step and is no longer the case. Full-time security is definitely needed at these schools. The system we do have I do not think is a good plan; it is a non-starter in schools. We will never have the budget in schools unless we increase an already bloated budget.

We note that the Department of Education really hasn't come to the party when it comes to the role that they were supposed to play in eradicating crime at school level. The fencing issue, Madam Deputy Speaker, I do not think is an issue at all. Fencing, once it is up must be monitored. It doesn't help putting up a fence then you have no security around the building to secure the building at night when most of these break-ins and trampling down of the fences take place.

I notice there is a very, very ambitious recommendation from our side. We accept the report. However, there are some reservations regarding cameras, metal detectors and security officers all of them at the same school. You can imagine the budgetary implications.

A sin that is unforgivable is this question of no existing toilet facilities at a school. You compel a child to go to school; be at school at round about seven or eight o'clock, or leave home at round about seven or six o'clock in the morning, given the distances that learners must walk, and you expect to keep that person in a classroom from that time until about half past two without any toilets! You give them feeding time. There is a break and during that break they put in, but you don't give them time to take it out. It doesn't work like that.

There is also a question of communities not participating. Communities are tired of empty promises. [Interjections.] Communities will not respond if there is a likelihood that I will not get any joy out of this. So we are dealing with the problem of specific implementation. [Interjections.]

Madam Deputy Speaker, someone is intimidating me.

Ms P MAJODINA: Deputy Speaker, is the hon member prepared to take a question?

Mr J P KORKIE: Not at all, Madam Deputy Speaker. I only have one minute left.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared to take a question, hon Majodina.

Mr J P KORKIE: Hon Deputy Speaker, we are saying these dangerous weapons must be confiscated. Upon engaging with some of these learners at the school, their response was 'if I don't take a knife why do you now want to expose me, why do you want to expose me to a possible murder? How am I going to defend myself? One needs to address the system and not merely the symptoms.

Clearly, there is a lack of proper implementation, or shall I say we are scared to step on the toes of certain comrades who are actually perpetrating these crimes?

Madam Deputy Speaker, Cope supports the report.

Mr R S STEVENSON: Hon Premier, hon MECs, hon Deputy Speaker, the Safer Schools Programme is not just relevant to local communities, but also to society as a whole and its idea and concept we fully endorse and support.

In recent times we have experienced a rise in incidents of violence in our schools. Reports indicate incidents of bullying, intimidation, fist fights, knife fights, theft, shootings, inter-personal violence and rape in our schools. Reports of learners being assaulted, stabbed or even murdered for something as simple as a cell phone are often reported in the media.

Most of the violent crime in this country is committed by youths between 18 and 16 and we are turning them out of our schools year after year, without satisfactory educational programmes in place. An effort to stem this tide to date has been an utter failure and on page 246 of the report which the hon Haddon I see asked a question about, and I quote:

There is no active participation by the Department of Education in the administration of the Safer Schools Programme."

Now this is a damning indictment on the Department that should bear the full responsibility for the implementation of the Safer Schools Programme. Safety and Liaison can merely play a facilitation role. It is not the line department with direct authority over schools.

A police report on the assessment of schools within 29 police stations in the Eastern Cape highlight some of the following crimes which are prevalent: sodomy, gangsterism, assault, substance abuse, murder, rape,

theft, alcohol abuse. Also in this report it noted the scores of school violence and criminality within these 29 police stations and they mention the following factors: rape in family homes, negative role-models, poverty, unemployment, lack of recreational facilities, no career guidance, lack of security, physical and emotional abuse of learners and teenage pregnancies.

We thus cannot view the problem of safer schools as simple a security problem; it is something that the Departments of Safety, Education, Social Development and Public Works all need to be involved if we are going to halt the trend of criminality that emanates in and from our schools. Solutions must be found and dealt with in an integrated manner.

Therefore, simply focusing on the physical safety of the learner alone will not deal with the problem. We also need to focus on improving the moral regeneration of our society. We have a responsibility to create an overall environment in which the real culture of learning and development can flourish. After all education is the foundation of opportunity in life.

There are a number of ideas that I would like to put on the table. First of all, we need multi-disciplinary teams consisting of social workers, psychologists and health workers that can be accessible to all schools so that children or learners who experience deviant behaviour can be referred to expert advice for help. This was pointed out to us I think two years ago. The portfolio committee paid a trip to Canada to look at how crime was dealt with in British Columbia. Any child that showed a violent tendency in schools was immediately referred to such a multi-disciplinary team.

We need social workers to visit our schools and we need to ensure that health workers also do the same. For example, there are many children who suffer from attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) as it is commonly referred to. If this is diagnosed then a child can be given the correct medication, they can be given occupational therapy and they can be assisted. However, if you do not deal properly with the child with these problems, deviant behaviour can result.

Also one needs to look at an adopt-a-cop strategy where every school has a particular police member that is allocated to it. In Canada we were also told that each police station in an area had a youth forum which assisted in promoting recreational activities for young people.

We should also allow community police forums to operate from schools. This will encourage their involvement in schools.

It goes without saying that schools need to be adequately fenced. Buildings need to be properly maintained if we are going to create the right environment. In one school we visited, Olwazi High School in Mdantsane, part of the school roof had massive holes in it. MEC for

Education, Olwazi School in Mdantsane that we visited there was no roof on a major section of the school and we were told that it had been like that for 10 years. Now for 10 years for a functioning school, one of the classrooms to have no roof on it, I mean it is just an absolute disgrace. It shows that people don't care a damn. When you have that kind of attitude displayed by the Department of Education, what kind of message does it send out to learners? If you would like to look at that school I put it on our web page, [www.dabhishe.org.za](http://www.dabhishe.org.za). Go and have a look at it. It will shock you to the core. Ten years on, and nothing has been done about it.

What sort of environment is created for learners when hundreds of bags of rubbish lie piled up outside schools? For example, Walmer Lower Primary in Walmer Township in Port Elizabeth, for over a year there are hundreds of bags of rubbish that are just laying there. The co-operative won't take it away because they say they are not paid by the municipality. These are issues that we need to deal with if we want to create the right environment for learning. [Interjections.] Yes, they say it is a problem with the Department of Education. So there is an impasse between Education and the municipality. So we are trying to get it resolved, but just to let you know the DA is not the councillor in Walmer Township.

We would also like to suggest that in problem areas there needs to be high mass lighting so that schools are well lit. It goes without saying that caretakers need to be appointed. In areas where it cannot be done we need to look at alarm systems where it is practical. Schools in poor communities as the hon Martin is fully aware of cannot afford these alarms and they need to be funded by the Department of Education. If you look...

Mr M DIMAZA: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: I would like the hon member just to assist us - those who are new in the Legislature – as to whether it is parliamentary to say “rubbish” in whatever the sentence. Was he not rather supposed to say it is “dilapidated”? Is the word “rubbish” parliamentary?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stevenson, unfortunately your time is also up. [Laughter.]

Mr R S STEVENSON: Chair, on a point of order. With great respect, if the hon member stands up and asks something on a point of order that is not meant to eat into my time. No, it is not. [Interjections.] It is not like that. No, no, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to lodge an objection to that. If somebody stands up on a point of order it is not meant to eat into my time, otherwise every member of this House can stand up one after the other and disrupt a member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you please finish off, hon member.

Mr R S STEVENSON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Let me conclude with the words of the then hon Deputy Minister for Safety and Security, Susan Shabangu, at the Budget Vote on 22 May 2007 in Cape Town. She had some very wise words, which impact on this whole issue:

To protect our children we must introduce the primacy in our homes of moral judgment and the promotion of social values that must rebuild our dysfunctional families that expose children to violence and crime through domestic violence, child abuse and other forms of assault on the spiritual base of the children.

I would like to identify very much with those words and I conclude in that tone. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

Ms Z HLEKISO-THABANENG: Sekela-Somlomo, iUDM iyayixasa ireport ye komiti. Ixasa ke iUDM isithi okokqala ukhuba njenga bazali shlambi singayi vuyela leprogramme okhanye leproject yenzwe ngu rhulumente abantwana baya bulelni okhanye baye wenzakelisani kakubi paya eskolweni benzakhalisa neteacher kuko kesiti siyaxasa iprogramme okhanya iprocess and abantwana bafunda sebantinti ukhushlonipala loungasebenzisi iskhali loyo ke sixasa ke iUDM sithi inshle ke iprogramme ixakhi ke ikhona pakhathi ke Departments ezimbini Department of Education no Safety xa u jonka nje akokwa budget ebekelwe le programmeokhanye izinjongos yale programme sishlale pantsi.

Okwesbini, qawu jonga iDepartment of Safety, yona isketela iSkolo u Department of Education akete iskolo ezou ngena kule programme kuko iskolo ezinintsi bendise Bayi kemnake like ihigh school bekukhona abantu ba gadayo eSkolweni kodwa xaku lmtu aye kuPension okhanye uyasweleka aka pindwa kuqeshwa kutwa akukho mali. iSkolo ezinintsi pa ziSkolo ezi thathu Abazali bagada iSkolo iDepartment zobini makushlala pantsi ziyenze leProgramme ba mayi be umbutho okhanye luncedo ebantwana bethe na khuti. Hon Nkomonye, ndahamba ndedwa kwezi skolo efarm sikalsi eza skolo siqala 1956. iTeacher ione siqala ku Grade R up to Std 5 (Grade7), iTeacher inye sazama ke kanka ngoko ziSkolo seLocation nalo ke iUDM iyaxasa le report.

Enkosi.

Mr M NYUSILE: Sekela-Somlomo, sibulise kwakhona kuPremier members ze Executive Amalungu malenhlu Zomteto Imembers ze Public khunye namagosa ka Government Akhona sicho sekela Somlomo sibonakhala siphakama sifuna again sibulele ku lama Police.

eSouth African Police Services ate azama indlela zonke soqiniseko ba eza Criminals ziye zabanjwa nase Skolweni sinabantu basncedisa kule course siya bulelakakhule ke sinetemba ngalonto uguarda abantu

besokolela xa bebonwa batakate babulalwa lonto yinto engekhofo siyacela uGovernment sinetemba uzasincedisisa uqinsineko une Campaign ayenzayo enkhulu ngalento eyenzwayo esCriminals xasi ngena ke Sekela-Somlomo ANC siyakhumbula yinto ba ngamaxeshe manintshi apha kwelizwelethu okhanye iViolence pa eSkolweni sinethemba ke with this Programme of Department of Education and Department of Safety azenzwi lonto.

An investigation by the Human Rights Watch in 2001 into sexual violence against girls in South African schools highlights the extent of sexual abuse and harassment experienced on a daily basis. This report reveals that South African girls continue to be raped, sexually abused, sexually harassed and assaulted at schools by classmates and teachers. Girls who encountered sexual violence were raped in school toilets, in empty classrooms, in hostels and other hallways. Girls were fondled, subjected to aggressive sexual advances and verbally degraded at schools.

This study by the Human Rights Watch illustrates the magnitude of school violence. The Government as led by the African National Congress has recognised this challenge and has devised plans to combat violence in schools. The ruling party in its election manifesto has prioritised both education and the fight against crime for this term of government.

In the 2009 manifesto the ANC has committed to, amongst others, to work together with all stakeholders to make education a priority for all and to open access to education. In the same manifesto the ANC further committed itself to fight crime in all sectors of our society, including schools. The above two undertakings by the ANC are intertwined, in that access to education can never be achieved if our schools are not free from all forms of violence and abuse. Our manifesto clearly shows the commitment to decisively deal with crime and violence in all sectors of society, including schools.

The Alliance Summit on 13 November 2009, the Alliance in its programme of action strives and emphasise the importance for the ANC and the Alliance to form partnership with communities to ensure that learning in schools is taking place and to further focus on safety in schools, drug abuse and school transport. As the President of the Republic called all school principals in the country on 7 August 2009 in his Address, I quote:

We must build a partnership that creates safer schools. Schools should be safe places, free from violence, intimidation, bullying and unwanted or inappropriate sexual relations.

In an effort to strengthen safety at schools the Government led by the ANC has started with the implementation of the School Safety Programme. This programme requires schools to establish School

Safety Committees comprised of internal stakeholders of the schools, namely your learners, educators, school governing bodies, members, councillors, CPF members, South African Police Service and the Metro Police.

This programme realises that school safety is not the sole responsibility of law enforcement agencies, but rather requires an integrated approach, hence the School Safety Committees is comprised of various stakeholders. The programme can be implemented in all schools, even pre-primary schools, but different approaches at different levels.

At secondary and primary school level the programme allows for participation by learners in making their schools safer through the Safer Schools Programme. SAPS members build the relationship with the school, visit the school regularly and assist the school management/learners regarding school safety issues. The Eastern Cape is ahead with the implementation of the Safer Schools Programme. The Department of Education being the implementing agent, supported by the Department of Safety and Liaison, challenges with safer schools.

As the ANC we have noted some challenges with the implementation of the programme, namely the non-involvement of stakeholders in the School Safer Committees – that is your Councillors and CPFs; lack of capacity programmes for the members of the School Safety Committee; lack of support to the School Safety Committee by the Department of Education; Safety and Liaison. It is often said the first step in dealing with the problem is to first identify. Now as the ANC we have identified these challenges, work will begin right away to address them.

In conclusion, siyayazi yinto balento itetwa iCOPE apha yoba i communities are tired of empty promises; kulena iprogramme ousozeuthi icomitees zethu zanele kakhulu because in all the schools that we visited amalungu we comitees ngabantu banga safe I SGB ebeyi bulela kakhulu uGoverment ngalento eyenzileyo uqinseka yinto iEducators ngabantwana bethe xabaye eSkolweni bayo funda nyan aba pazanyiso shlambi la empty promise eKapa u knoe umbutho ezo issues kutetwa ngazo and ouyazi lento athi we are scared to step in kwabanya bantu khona because umbutho ukhona noba ungubanina nobu kuwesishlanu wenzantonina there are Schools that have stability iANC iyabulela kakhulu.

Enkosi. [Applause.]

The MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL SAFETY, LIAISON AND TRANSPORT: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs, hon members of the House, departmental officials, we had four special guests in the gallery, but unfortunately they have just left. I will acknowledge them nonetheless. They were Indamkele, Siqamo, Sindiswa and Kwanele Majodina, but they have just gone out of the Chamber now. [Applause.]

The Safer Schools Programme was launched in East London on 30 and 31 August 2007 as a partnership between the Departments of Education and Safety and Liaison. The partnership was born out of a need to make sure that learners and teachers are and feel safe in their own schools, after a wave of violence that threatened to engulf our schools in anarchy and lawlessness.

There was therefore a need to reduce incidents of crime and create a conducive environment for teachers to teach and learners to learn. This wave was reportedly perpetrated by learners against their teachers and was largely influenced by outside forces, which included the importation of gangsterism, drug trafficking and the usage of drugs in schools.

The Department of Education is the custodian of this programme and the Department of Safety is supporting and concentrating mainly on the safety aspect of the schools which have been deemed unsafe and is the extension of our Safety Crime Prevention Programmes.

Schools supported by the Department of Safety and Liaison are those that have high incidence of violence and are not necessarily the ones that are not doing well in the academic sense. The Department of Safety is supporting 45 of 400 schools that have been identified by the Department of Education. The Department of Safety and Liaison has identified these 45 schools that have functional Schools Safer Programmes within the 27 districts of the Department of Education. In the 45 identified schools there are Safer Schools Committees in each school made up of the following representatives: they are learners, parents, the SGB, educators, SAPS, CPFs and the community stakeholders.

So, the point that has been made that – by none of the hon members here – that the community will not respond if they do not get any joy; it is for the benefit of their own safe keeping of their children that they should respond because a Safer School Committee in school cannot function as an individual structure; it needs to be integrated with all of these structures that I have just mentioned.

Through the Department of Education there are district-base supporting that give administrative and logistical needs to Safer School Committees to ensure effective functioning of these committees.

The Department of Safety and Liaison has established youth peace clubs within the 45 Safety School Programmes and these youth peace clubs are coordinated through the MEC's Special Programme 2010/11 Youth Camps, where all the peace club members will be convened. These youth camps will allow skills development of youth leaders, motivational talks and character building of participants so as to allow the youth peace clubs at the Safer School Programmes to be empowered

and be example of responsible learners to others within their school environment.

Of the 400 schools, 282 established Safer School Committees and are functioning. I must say some are not doing very well. There are, however, those that are doing well.

These committees consist of learners, educators and members of the SGB and SAPS, like I have previously indicated, and the Department of Education has also supported their district-based teams to strengthen these committees.

Of the challenges that we are facing within the Safer Schools Programme is the question of mobilising and motivating community support and involvement within the Safer Schools Programme and also that the community takes ownership of the Safer Schools Programme, as the schools are within the houses of the community.

Now, there are very good best practice models that have come out of this, but those models, as a result of communities taking control and charge of the entire programme; if communities and parents are not going to work in cooperation with police and teachers and the school governing bodies, we are not going to be able to make a success of this kind of programme.

I therefore would like to acknowledge the oversight role of the Portfolio Committee and the fact that we are strengthening stakeholder engagement through their oversight. The Department of Safety and Liaison will utilise the Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy platform with the Department of Education and the Department of Health participate and highlight the necessary improvement needed to be action for the programme. As a department we commit to comply and will respond within the required period on the findings and the recommendations of the portfolio committee. I thank you. [Applause.]

Report adopted.

### **CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, GENDER AND DISABLED**

Ms N GQIBA: Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you. I stand to table the report. Let me first of all greet the Premier, omama and also the Members of the Executive Committee and amalungu onke ePalamente akhoyo, members from the departments and the public and also wonke umntu okoyo, in the name of my Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.

I stand, ladies and gentlemen, to table the report on Portfolio Committee Youth, Gender and Disability on a visit we undertook to Port Elizabeth from 10 to 12 March 2010.

The following organisations and associations were visited:

1. Association of the Physically Disabled on the tenth;
2. Lingelabantu Satellite project;
3. Seringa Association for the Aged on the eleventh;
4. Gelvan Park Frail Care Old Age Home.
5. We also visited, hon members, SASKO company to study the best practices.
6. We also visited Nelson Mandela Metro World Cup Stadium. It was mainly a tour.

I will go straight to the findings on the Association for Physically Disabled.

- (a) The Association for the Physically Disabled is currently battling to get financial support from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality.
- (b) Not many people are aware of the services rendered by the Association for the Physically Disabled.
- (c) The Association for the Physically Disabled has branches in the following areas: Mthatha, Alice, East London, Addo, Alexandra, Butterworth, Grahamstown, Jeffrey's Bay, Kouga and Nelson Mandela By. The focus is thus mainly on the western part of the province.
- (d) Taking into account that the only three employed social workers have to cater for 150 people, the ratio of 1:50 is too high.
- (e) The association brought it to the committee's attention that hospitals and clinics in the Port Elizabeth area refer people to the Association for acquiring wheelchairs.
- (f) Disability grant applications for people who are mentally impaired are a major problem in the Metro due to private psychologists/psychiatrists being very expensive and scarce.

Recommendations:

- (a) The Department of Social Development should liaise with the relevant officials of the Nelson Mandela Metro in addressing the challenges the Association is currently confronted with.
- (b) The Office of the Premier should play their support role by ensuring that the Association for the Physically Disabled and organisations that do similar work are marketed to make them more visible to the community by improving their marketing strategy.

- (c) The Department of Social Development must take appropriate measures in assisting the Association with establishing branches in other areas where the services it renders are needed most, focusing on the side, on the southern side of the province.
- (d) The Department of Social Development should be engaged to see if it cannot assist the Association with more social workers.
- (e) On the case of inaccessibility of wheelchairs from clinics and hospitals, the recommendation is: the Department of Health should ensure that wheelchairs and other assistive devices are easily accessible in clinics and State hospitals to address the plight of people with disabilities at a much faster rate.
- (f) Case of disability grant applications; the recommendation is: the Departments of Health and Social Development should work together by ensuring that the availability of relevant officials – that is your psychologists, psychiatrists and others – for the assessment of people who are mentally impaired, so that they can access the disability grants.

Going straight to Seringa Association for the Aged:

Findings:

- (a) The fact that there is only one coordinator employed to run 35 satellite centres, impacts negatively on the quality of services rendered to the people.
- (b) The Department of Social Development owes the Seringa Association for the Aged a total of R240,000.00 in subsidies dating back to the period from April to September 2008.

Recommendations:

- (a) In the case of the shortage of staff: the Department of Social Development should, by means of its monitoring mechanisms, ensure that these organisations employ enough staff to take after its beneficiaries.
- (b) The Department should pay the Association all monies due to it. The department should also ensure that any future transfers to the Association should be made timeously in order to prevent deficits.
- (c) Further, the Department must encourage these centres to look for support from other institutions and must not fully depend on subsidy received from the Department.

#### Findings on Gelvan Park Frail Care Centre and Old Age Home:

- (a) According to the manager, Mr Laurence Troon, the centre had been defrauded of R246,000.00 by former Board members. This incident has left the centre with a number of financial problems.
- (b) The centre has insufficient staff to look after the beneficiaries. There is only one registered nurse, three staff nurses and no permanent social workers to look after 105 beneficiaries.
- (c) There is a shortage of disposable nappies.
- (d) There are cases where residents pass away without any provision for their funeral, leaving the centre with the responsibility of arranging and paying for the funerals. This situation is due to the fact that some arrive at the centre without the required documents to access grants.

#### Recommendations:

- (a) The Department of Social Development must initiate investigations into the allegations and report back to the committee within 30 days after adoption of this report.
- (b) The Department of Social Development, in partnership with the Department of health, should ensure that the appropriate number of nurses and social workers needed e appointed at the centre.
- (c) The Department should, by means of its monitoring mechanisms, ensure that funds are used for their intended purposes.
- (d) The Department of Social Development and the Office of the Premier should develop a policy to guide old age homes in dealing with matters of this nature.

#### SASKO Bakery

#### Findings:

- (a) Only residents of Port Elizabeth and surrounding areas are benefiting from this project.
- (b) A number of wheelchairs were donated to disabled people, where after the association for the Disabled have indicated that most of the beneficiaries have had side effects as these wheelchairs are not customised.

#### Recommendations:

- (a) The Office of the Premier must ensure that this project is accessible to other disabled people across the province by engaging SASKO and other relevant organisations.
- (b) The Office of the Premier must ensure that the wheelchairs are customised to suit the needs of the intended beneficiaries.

#### Nelson Mandela Bay Multi-Purpose Stadium

#### Findings:

- (a) The Association for People with Disabilities, together with the portfolio committee are satisfied with the stadium's facilities which are accessible to people with disabilities.
- (b) This stadium is the most disabled-friendly stadium, which makes Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality the most disabled-friendly city.

#### Recommendations:

- (a) The Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture must lobby for sport of the disabled to be hosted at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.
- (b) The Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs must take appropriate measures to promote Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality as the most disabled-friendly city tourist destination tourist city.

I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Gqiba. Are there any questions to the committee?

Ms V MTONGANA: Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like some clarity on why the committee thinks that the accessible devices should be mainly other departments' function, or else if they want to employ professional staff, like social workers or perhaps a professional nurse, why do they think that it should be the Department of Health to do that instead of the Association employing such relevant people?

Mr C MARTIN: Hon Deputy Speaker, I think it is a relevant question, but the challenge with the Association is it is a non-profit organisation, so they don't have the relevant means. If it was a profitable organisation they could have appointed, as the hon member is suggesting, but in this case they are getting a mere sponsorship from the local businesses as well as something from the Department of Social Development. So

therefore we say if they can get the relevant assistance because they cannot appoint themselves because of financial constraints.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Martin. As there are no further questions, we will now have inputs from political parties.

Mnr J P KORKIE: Weereens goeiemiddag dames en here, agb lede van die Huis. (*Mr J P KORKIE: Once again a good afternoon to you, ladies and gentlemen, hon members of the House.*)

Madam Deputy Speaker, Madam Premier, hon MEC Jonas, a special welcome to you and hon Sogoni; a very special welcome to them.

I am now going to deal with the Standing Committee on Youth, Gender and Disabilities. I notice Mayors are always left out of this gender parity issue. Whenever they talk gender the issue that is going to be addressed or that is going to be next is always women, never males, as if gender only relates to female, whilst males are also oppressed in their own homes from time to time.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have gone through the report. We have heard what the chairperson was saying and it is laudable to notice that in many respects the Department is doing its utmost best in order to support the different old aged homes, the establishments where there are disabled people. I don't hear anything on what the role of the women are in all of these homes that you have visited. I would suppose that we are having a committee or a Standing Committee on Youth, of which there is nothing said, gender and disabled persons. By enlarge I don't see the role of youth anywhere here in these particular institutions.

Mr C MARTIN: Chair, on a point of order: If one listens to what the hon member is asking that we should have done; that was not the mandate of youth and all the other people he is talking about. Our mandate was clear, Madam Chair: to go out and see and look at these institutions which consist of disabled people, elderly people, as well as children in those institutions. So when the member says what he is saying then he is actually changing our mandate for which we went out. So it is definitely a point of order, Madam.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Martin. Can we focus on this, hon Korkie?

Mr J P KORKIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I have been focusing on precisely that. Hon Christian is singing next to the note, or he doesn't understand what I am trying to say. I said nothing is being said about the role of youth in this particular instance. You went to visit establishments under this particular committee. Youth issues are not only dealt in a silo somewhere. At some point if you are a Committee on Youth, Gender and Disabilities, you talk about disabilities in this report, you also mention the progress of these institutions, but nothing is

being reported about what role is playing in these particular institutions, including the women. But be that as it may, hon Deputy Speaker.

I have the following observations to make. It is clear that the Department is very much keen on taking the lead in being very progressive when it comes to gender, disabled and the youth. We applaud you for having appropriate legislation for these particular issues. I would say, hon Madam Deputy Speaker, liaising with other government departments and the role that they play, and I can understand and I see they have brought in Social Development, but it can never be seen in isolation because disabled people, their abilities and inabilities stretch across the board.

We have the submission by the hon chairperson about the use of Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium for disabled sports events or disabled activities, which I think is an absolutely brilliant idea. We need to celebrate rather what the disabled can do, rather on what they are disabled from doing. They can become sport stars in their own right. We have seen at the Premier's awards. The person that went to receive his report – no legs and I think one arm – was so excited and you could see nothing as far as he was concerned disables him from doing what he is doing, and he is playing wheelchair rugby. So it is clear that we are not – and I am not going to mention... I am not saying we need to rid the country of disabled people as happened in certain democracies, if at all you can call them democracies.

Madam Chairperson, I notice that the Association for Physically Disabled has gone a very, very long way in making sure that they are not seen as a disabled society, but rather an enabled society. I draw particular attention to an upholstery shop. If some person can then in an establishment do upholstery and make himself commercially viable in the streets, why can they not be encouraged to set up their own businesses as disabled people? The BEE legislation to an extent is being complied with and the one institution said we cannot access BEE deals, rather government work or government deals, based on the fact that they are not BEE compliant. What assistance has gone into these associations or into these establishments to actually make them BEE compliant so that they can conform?

I would like to believe that South Africa is a developmental state and the emphasis should be on development and not maintenance. The way I see the support is being given is to maintain the status quo, whereas it is important that you venture into the unknown, allow these people to stretch their wings and fly. I cannot see why a person sitting in a wheelchair will not be able to fly an aeroplane for that matter. Unfortunately our institutions of higher learning, physically they have been adapted; there are now ramps for wheelchairs to go up, but for specific needs for some of these disabled people it is sorely lacking, hon chairperson.

The other activities like sewing and screen printing also gives one a warm feeling around the heart when you read about this particular achievement. It could not have been better said than the way that the committee has put it after consultation with the Association for Physically Disabled Persons.

I also am not sure, chairperson, how much some of these homes are participating in say abled activities because not all of them, the nature of the disablement might prevent you from running with both feet, but you will be able to run on one foot. How are we going to address that particular issue? You have sport stars, like Gomotso Makwena, if I am not mistaken. There is some disabled issue that he is battling with, yet he was one of only two people who came back with medals and landed himself a huge sponsorship. That kind of abled activities should be celebrated hon chairperson.

Once again I must go back to the question of developmental activities at these institutions. I do not know whether it would be appropriate to have a specific section dealing with development only in those areas, reminiscent about the time when sports had a specific development component, to develop sport stars and sport administrators, so we need to find a way of bringing disabled people into the mainstream of employment of sports and life issues.

The question of promotion at work of disabled people; I have complaints on my desk from disabled people who are not able to be promoted despite having the necessary qualifications. The one issue that was raised about the person's disability is because the person couldn't hear without a device and on the basis of a small issue that can be overcome, you know, this person was excluded from applying for a job.

Cope also wants to make it clear that we do accept the report. We hope that the committee will take to heart what we have said regarding the placement and the promotion of disabled people in the workplace.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr J C CUPIDO: Hon Deputy Speaker, Madam Premier, hon members of the House and valued guests of the House, today my speech is going to be on the marginalisation of the disabled. To you and me it may appear surprising that something as obvious as the meaning of disability should excite controversy.

However, for many years the definition of disability has been the subject of passionate debate across the world. What most often passes for a common sense understanding of disability is what is wrong with someone, so disabilities would include blindness, deafness, the various conditions for making it difficult or impossible to walk or speak, mental illnesses and such things as Down's syndrome and epilepsy. Those viewing disability through this medical lens would concede that it is

unfortunate that many disabled people face social exclusion or poverty, but these are seen as the result of the natural functional limitations imposed by their disabilities.

As the problem is primarily medical, solutions are generally given to other various caring professionals to either cure, rehabilitate or to protect the individual with disability. As we all know these processes usually take place within a charitable context. In other words, disabled people are usually seen in society as a charity case.

Disabled people's organisations in the Eastern Cape, the whole of South Africa, in fact all across the world, needs us as government and as society to consider a radical alternative to the medical conception of disability by agreeing that people are disadvantaged not by their impairments, but as a result of the limitations imposed on them by attitudinal, social, cultural, economic and environmental barriers to their participation in society.

Let me simplify what I just said. Disabled people are disadvantaged not because their body, a part of their body does not work or function like it does for the rest of us. Disabled people are disadvantaged because we as society consider them non-functional, no-assets to society and the economy. This mindset must end.

I had what one calls a volunteer soul. I am someone that throughout my life have consistently engaged in activities that tries to help others. Over the last two decades of my life and more specifically to the visit that we paid to the Association for the Physically Disabled, or APD, I have learnt that not only is society's perception of people with disability wrong, but that people with physical and mental impairments are viable, contributory members of society and the economy. In a society of opportunity we reject the idea of abnormality. Rejecting the idea of abnormality is the social model understanding that lead to the normality of impairment within any population. What is not normal is being discriminated against and socially excluded because of having an impairment. This is what is disabling.

If we see an impairment as an ordinary part of life and disability has the result of discrimination and exclusion then we as society can move disability from the medicalised special needs arena and into the mainstream of development policies and practices. This will encourage, as we must, that disabled people should be actors in their own lives rather than passive recipients of care or charity.

This equates almost exactly the current thinking on a human rights-based approach to development that is increasingly adopted by government and international development agencies throughout the world. By projecting disabled people into a leading role in defining and controlling their lives, we will offer them a powerful device for the

liberation of those who remain the poorest of the poor here in the Eastern Cape and South Africa.

When it comes to disabled people the roots of poverty and powerlessness do not reside in biology, but in society. As Government we have the opportunity to steer a societal transformation to allow a way for disabled people to transform these things of who they are from a stigmatised object of care to valued subjects of their own lives. For people who are poor and oppressed this is a key starting point of any meaningful process of social and economic development.

All the departments across the province need to start mainstreaming the disabled. The mainstreaming of disability in government policy and practice has been the key demand of disability organisations for decades.

For those that does not know what I mean by mainstreaming, let me explain. Mainstreaming is about disabled people participating at all levels of society according to his/her choice without facing any barriers. Disabled people will live with dignity in a society where there would be no obstacle and walls for inclusion and will be able to establish and enjoy their rights and give their opinion. This is a key principle of a society of opportunity.

As an example I offer you this. As we all know, many large companies – security companies, government departments, etc. – utilise security personnel that sit in a room with numerous screens that monitors what the CCTV cameras see. This is manned by one or several people that look for security breaches. It has been proven that the most ideal candidates for this type of position are people with hearing impairments. Studies have shown that when one loses one of your senses the others are enhanced and deaf people in these jobs have been known to spot things that others do not.

However, even when disability mainstreaming policies have been developed, the results have been disappointing. There is an international report on the role and the effectiveness of disability legislation in South Africa where it is shown that as a country we have perhaps the most comprehensive legislation and policy framework for fully integrating disabled people of any country in the world. Nonetheless the report says the following, and I quote:

With exception of a few policies such as the Social Assistance Act, the implementation of these policies has had marginal impact in the lives of the majority of disabled people in South Africa.

The departments need to heed the call of legislation. They need to at least reach their disability employment targets. They need to start mainstreaming the members of society that have much to offer. We need to stop sidelining the disabled community.

The DA supports the report. [Applause.]

Mr C MARTIN: Hon Deputy Speaker, if one listened to the previous speaker, referring to hon Christiano Cupido, I would really say that some of the things that you have mentioned and the research you have done is actually very helpful, especially the one on the CCTVs because that is a media to one that a person can use as to see how we can assist our disabled people and even how can we increase our two percent as a target within our country.

In commemorating August as National Women's Month, the ANC [inaudible] to countless sung and unsung heroines of our struggle for their contribution in the liberation of South Africa. Amongst others are mama Lilian Ngoyi, mama Helen Joseph, mama Rhema Moosa, mama Sophia Williams de Bruin, Lilian Diederiks and Sarah Baartman. The ANC and the mass democratic movement and the people of South Africa will always cherish the bravery, commitment and selflessness. Their commitment indeed is not in vain.

The creation of the Ministry for Women, Children and the Disabled was a conscious decision by the ANC. It is a clear message that the ANC-led government is committed to improving the lives of the working class and the poor where the triple oppression of women reigns unabated. Women, children and those living with disabilities are still at the receiving end of societal oppression. We therefore call upon our Parliament to fast track the Gender Equality Bill discussions as proposed by the Ministry for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities. This Bill will ensure that it enforces gender parity measures across all sectors of society.

The committee visited various relevant institutions in Port Elizabeth from 10 to 12 March 2010. As a caring Government we thought it fit to get firsthand experience in the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society. Today most MPLs were part – remember, most MPLs were part of the delegation, hon Korkie – can agree that there were many positive things we have experienced. The message we got from the people living with disabilities, senior citizens and the young children at the Lingelabantu Daycare and Stimulation Centre was, and I quote,

Look for goodness in everything. Goodness is there. Our goal is to find it.

In every person the best is there. Our job is to recognise it.

In every situation the positive is there. Our opportunity is to see it.

In every problem the solution is there. Our responsibility is to provide it.

In every setback the success is there. Our adventure is to discover it.

In every crisis the reason is there. Our challenge is to understand it.

By seeing the goodness we will be very enthusiastic and our lives will be richer.

That was the message of these people we visited.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our visit to the Association for the Physically Disabled showed us that disability does not mean that the affected ones can do nothing for themselves. They made it clear that as full citizens of this province they can also contribute to the economic development of the province by manufacturing toilet paper and work for major companies such as like Espin, Dulux and General Motors.

Again, proving that disablement is not synonymous with being dependent, we can give them opportunities so that they can contribute in building this province as any abled person can do and as hon Cupido already alluded to.

This institution is also assisting the private sector and Government on how to accommodate persons with disabilities and thus achieve the two percent requirement of disabled persons in the workplace. They do this through workshops targeted at both the private sector and government departments on the matter. They recently conducted a workshop on about 200 employees from the Eastern Cape Justice Department in Mthatha, Queenstown, East London and Port Elizabeth.

Over the recent years they have also assisted architects through relevant legislation in ensuring that most buildings are made accessible to people living with disabilities. These associations have shown the committee that they are spreading their expertise and resources over the province where needed and called upon.

I would say the most moving moment of the committee was the visit to Lingelabantu Daycare and Stimulation Centre for the children with disabilities. This centre accommodates 25 to 30 children. Stimulation and care is provided for the children at different levels, considering that some of the children at the centre cannot move their bodies, speak or see depending on the severity of their disability. Although some government departments and donors do support, the centre is still in dire need of financial assistance so that the institution can be run properly.

We also visited Seringa Association for the Aged. The main objective of the organisation is to restore the dignity of all older persons. The senior citizens we have met were very appreciative towards Government and how government programmes try to assist and restore their dignity.

This organisation has various services outside their mandate as to improve the lives of senior citizens. They do wills for the people, school fee problems, electricity and municipal problems. It should be noted

that this organisation is serving 600 senior citizens, but only receives financial assistance for 350 people. It is therefore recommended that the Department of Social Development must assist in financing the full 600 people living in the centre so that members do not subsidise each other, but by Government instead. This under-subsidisation has a negative effect on the quality of services received in the institution. Currently there is only one coordinator employed to run 35 satellite centres. We strongly recommend that the Department of Social Development intervenes on this matter and assist the institution.

During our visit we were also introduced to the Gelvan Park Frail Care Centre and Old Aged Home. We were really appreciative of the care the frail and the aged are getting at this institution. We recommend that the Department of Social Development assists in proper resources as to restore the dignity of our senior citizens.

SASKO Bakery in Port Elizabeth, who took the plight of Government and the ANC up, through together we can do more campaign to better the lives of our people, especially the disabled, had given out numerous wheelchairs over the past five years. The committee met with Mr Koos Bezuidenhout, Ronnie Naidoo, to sign a memorandum of understanding as means of ensuring that more people throughout the province benefit from this wheelchair project.

SASKO Bakery has also, in the last five years, assisted with providing rugby clubs with transport, rugby/soccer kit, supporting soup kitchens and made a donation of R102,000.00 which was handed over to St Francis Hospice. This money was raised at a gold day that was held in March 2010. A total of 105 wheelchairs have already been donated. They are assisting with the maintenance at AIDS havens. They sponsored 12 children to take part in rugby tournament in Argentina. They are making donations to the value of R1.1 million a year, including giving out bread on a weekly basis to NGOs and religious sectors. They also feed matriculants, hon Qwase. They also feed matriculants before they write exams as their contribution to improve the matric pass rate.

The committee is highly impressed with the accessibility of the World Cup Stadium in the Nelson Mandela Bay and by winning the best stadium award speaks for itself.

Madam Speaker, I thank you. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Hon Deputy Speaker, let me start by congratulating you on your maiden presiding over the House today and wish you many years of that experience. [Applause.]

Yesterday hon Nququ shared with us the experiences of the Bambusiba family. I do wish to point out to this House that as the Provincial Government, especially the Office of the Premier, we are really

saddened by this kind of experiences that women during a women's month find themselves in.

We really need to take serious steps as public representatives in this province with regards to finding ways and means and emulating a campaign to ensure that we promote safety and security of young girls, elderly women, the disabled, the youth – what we normally term as vulnerable groups.

We really need to spend time to see what more can be done because legislation is there, but the kind of experiences continues to haunt us. As I was listening to *Umhlobo Wenene* yesterday and listening to the comments of the public this morning, people pointing to the fact that or to their point to say the death penalty must come back, I know that such comments do come up once we face such confronting – once we confront such challenging environments. We really need to give guidance and leadership on the subject matter because the death penalty was there in South Africa before and it didn't change anything.

I am saying, as leadership we are challenged to find solutions to those matters that confront society and therefore as members of this House we need to act together to say as a province what else can be done and therefore our sincere condolences goes to the Bambusiba family. The funeral will be held on 31 August; a sad note to close the Women's Month, but it is for us to be able to say it just has to stop.

I also wish to commend the portfolio committee for their innovative approach when going to undertake is public participation obligation through visiting care facilities where vulnerable members of our communities are located. It is through such visits that it is possible to really understand how, as Government, we can improve the services we provide to the citizens.

I also wish to commend the committee for making recommendations that involve a number of departments. Surely this approach will assist government to strengthen an integrated to addressing the needs of disabled and elderly people. It is through that these needs are varied and the need to be responded to collectively is absolute.

I would wish to see that this report receives the kind of attention from the perspective of our Social Needs Cluster in unison, rather than each department dealing with responses because I think it is a step forward to assisting even the members of both the Executive and the members of this House to understand the kind of approach that we need to deploy in our functions, especially talking to the integrated approach. It will also assist the House in the cluster-based reporting.

A number of recommendations indicate the need for an improved communication between Government and the care facilities on the other

hand. The people who receive these services from Government must be involved in the kind of projects and programmes that departments have.

I am aware that the Department of Social Development has a Nonprofit Organisation Liaison Committee with structures on the ground. Most of the recommendations point to the Department of Social Development and the Department of Health. This committee is also responsible for taking up the challenges facing those organisations, especially the NPOs who look after the vulnerable groups, but we must at all times be cautious of the – I am a bit lost. It is in the afternoon kwe portfolio committee that oversights the Department of Social Development and this portfolio committee.

I am therefore suggesting that where such has to take place, a possible joint approach be looked at. I have noticed that the same approach has happened during the debate on safety. Whilst the portfolio committee was going to assess safety measures, they were doing that at schools, now you find that the report is talking more as if it is a schools report, when actually the subject matter is a safety matter. This is where I am therefore recommending that joint committees on such cases be held.

Also the recommendations seem to suggest that we need to revisit the effectiveness of the structure I was referring to earlier to ensure that it fulfills its role. We also need to make sure that the hon members of the House are able to contact the members of the committee as a way to respond to issues that members observe during especially constituency work.

A number of facilities visited receive funding from the Department of Social Development and as such they are subject to regular monitoring, which includes assessment, using a standardised tool to identify challenges. When these are identified the department sends a developmental quality assurance unit to assess the circumstances in more detail and to assist the institution to put a plan in place to overcome any challenges.

I also note, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the recommendations point to the need for enhanced intergovernmental relations and for stronger coordination from the Office of the Premier. We appreciate this guidance and we will indeed activate avenues to ensure that these issues receive the necessary attention during intergovernmental meetings.

It is the responsibility of the Office of the Premier to ensure that an integrated response to the recommendations from the committee is brought to the House. We look forward to this opportunity and would encourage the committee to continue such visits in order to ensure that the needs of the vulnerable groups are taken care of and take the rightful place at the centre stage of development and receive good quality services from government.

There is reference to a good practice by SASKO. I would want to say or to share with hon members of this House that in fact, as hon Martin was reflecting here, a number of private companies do have social responsibility programmes and from time to time as members, as public representatives, we must engage those. I am sensitive, hon chairperson, through you hon Deputy Speaker, I am sensitive to the point of expanding that one institution that is why I am referring to the point that there are so many companies throughout the province, they have social responsibility programmes. As now public representatives, we must be able to engage those companies to see to the needs of the communities we represent. I think that will go a long way in alleviating the pressure.

As the Office of the Premier, we interact with a number of these companies. You might know the Premier's Gold Day, which is a bi-annual activity, which involves the private sector, banking institutions (ABSA), where we go out, play golf, but funds raised are for the benefit of destitute communities and therefore there is nothing stopping us as ordinary members of this House to be engaged in those kinds of programmes.

On a good note, hon Deputy Speaker, I know that – before I close – mama Majodina is going to fight with me because I didn't give you the details of the bank.

In trying to assist the family, we have embarked on a fundraising drive. Yes, there is a positive response from the people of this province – we must appreciate that – but I think as hon members would understand, the magnitude of five children and an elderly lady, that is a mammoth task and not only material needs would be required by the family; psycho-social needs will also be needed and therefore we must try and find ways to assist. But on a note, hon Deputy Speaker, I have a letter here that I would like to share with the hon members, which is to the hon MEC Tom. It reads as such:

As you might have heard, the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium has won the SISA Glenrand MIB Engineering Excellence Award 2010 for being the best stadium built in South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

[Applause.]

Award judges agreed that the roof design was the masterpiece. The design of the completed stadium incorporating efficient spectator ramps within the structure, notwithstanding the resistance from the architects, resulted in a pleasing structure within the special context; a cozy stadium with excellent sidelines and limited distances from the pitch for all spectators resulted in a spectator-friendly product.

[Applause.]

These are moments that we need to cherish and appreciate because we tend to be looked upon so badly. We must make a noise when we do well.

The Granny Bambusiba FNB account; it is at Circus Triangle and the account number is 62278836641.

Before I sit down let me also congratulate hon Makupula on finally tying the knot. [Applause.] Congratulations and enjoy life!

As the Office of the Premier, we take note of the report and we will respond accordingly.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Report adopted.

The House adjourned at 17:30.