

Delivering
Optimism &
Worth

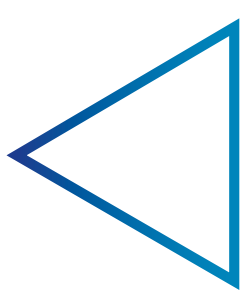
FOR YOU

BUILDING A GOVERNMENT THAT PEOPLE TRUST



**Executive
Edition**
2025





The FOR YOU Executive Edition 2025 offers a unique and comprehensive look at the leadership and structure of the Western Cape Government. This edition features in-depth profiles of each Provincial Minister and Head of Department, as well as a high-level overview of all 13 Departments.



This publication aims to connect residents with the individuals and institutions working daily to deliver on the Western Cape Government's commitments. By highlighting the roles, responsibilities and strategic priorities of each department, this Executive Edition provides valuable insight into how the WCG is structured to serve its people.

Anchored in the WCG vision, values, promise statement and aligned with the Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP), this FOR YOU Edition gives residents a clear picture of the leadership driving service delivery across the province and their ongoing efforts to create a safe, dignified and thriving Western Cape for all.

We hope you enjoy exploring this publication, which reflects the core of the Western Cape Government's work. We aim to connect with you, the resident, as we continue striving towards our vision: "To be a Government that People Trust" by living our values of caring, competence, accountability, integrity, innovation, and responsiveness.







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Western Cape
Government

Government: Contact Centre
Kaapse Regering: Kontaksentrum
URhulumente weNtshona Koloni: IZiko
loQhagamshelwano

EDUCATION AND YOUTH
Improving Education
Outcomes and Opportunities
for Youth Development

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION
Pie Chart
The chart shows the distribution of the population across different regions. The largest portion is in the Western Cape, followed by the Eastern Cape, and then the Northern Cape.

REVENUE
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
OLD
DROUGHT
HERITAGE
LIBRARY
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
TOURISM
ONCE-UPON-A-TIME
NEW
DEVELOPMENT
JOBS

Letter from the DG

I have had the privilege to preview this marvelous document. I am struck by the differences in background and experience of our leadership. Many came from humble beginnings, some suffered directly under apartheid, and all have registered a number of inspiring achievements.

I have noticed that a recurring word in these profiles is “curious.” Curiosity sets us apart as we gain valuable knowledge and experience and learn and grow in various roles. We must engender this curiosity at an institutional level, and the spirit of innovation that accompanies it. We must exploit our collective knowledge, experience and wisdom to build a government that people trust, engendering optimism and self-worth in our residents.

This Executive Edition also reveals the ways in which our departments are working constructively towards enhancing service delivery for our residents, listening carefully when they articulate their needs. We are inspired by our Western Cape Government Values: Caring, Competence, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation and Responsiveness. We understand that we are accountable to legislators and our residents, and the other values flow from this requirement.

I have seen that mentors and bosses have played a significant role in the development of our leadership. Whether it be at school, university or in the workplace, we have sought to emulate their shining example, including the need for lifelong learning. We too must be leaders that our employees look up to, instilling the correct values and pursuing careers underpinned by professional ethics and a service ethos.

Many of our leaders have risen through the ranks at political or administrative level, demonstrating the value of persistence and hard work. Former President Barack Obama’s words in this respect are apt: “Just learn how to get stuff done... somebody who says, ‘Let me take care of that... I can handle it and I can do it,’ will get noticed.” Our leaders exemplify this attitude, which is worth inculcating.

Another prevalent feature of the Premier, Ministers and HoDs’ profiles is the rootedness of family. We appreciate the value of striking a balance between making a difference at work and the ability to return to work refreshed every day, anchored in a happy home life, hobbies and friendships. I hope you will enjoy getting to know the people who lead the Western Cape Government and the work they do that makes a positive difference in our people’s lives.

DR HC MALILA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL



Sworn in as Premier of the Western Cape on 22 May 2019, Alan Richard Winde was first elected to serve as Member of the Provincial Legislature in 1999, a position he held for 10 years before the Democratic Alliance was voted into power in the province.

Between 1999 and 2009, he served in various political roles, including as Chief Whip of the official opposition and as the Western Cape Provincial Finance Chairperson. In 2009, he became the Western Cape Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism. He has also served as the provincial Minister of Agriculture and Community Safety.

"You must surround yourself with values and integrity in everything you do," the Premier declared when asked what his life motto is.

CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LIFE

Born on 18 March 1965, Mr Winde colourfully describes himself as "Innovative, disruptive and caring". For the first 16 years of his life, the Premier lived on an organic peach farm on the outskirts of Johannesburg. He then finished his schooling in the Garden Route town of Knysna. The Premier cites history and economics as his favourite school subjects and played rugby and hockey. He also enjoyed water skiing and scuba diving. After completing high school, he enrolled in the navy.

The Premier said growing up on a farm allowed him to be free, where he was able to learn important life lessons while taking risks.

Mr Winde has two sisters, and a brother, who sadly passed away. He has been married to Tracy since 1993 and they have two children. He describes his parents as inspirational people who entrenched good values in him and his siblings. "They lived for their family," he has proudly remarked.

"In politics, being the Premier, you rarely have a normal weekend. Family gatherings and family time must be specifically planned. My family has to be shared with the citizens of the Western Cape," he added.

Recalling the most challenging times in his life, Premier said: "Losing loved ones, like my dad and brother. But gender-based violence continues to disturb me."

POLITICAL CAREER

The Premier's journey to government started with the path of entrepreneurship, involving 10 businesses. At the time, South Africa was a new democracy, and in 1996, he became involved in politics as an independent in the South Cape district council.

He eventually realised it was difficult to make a difference as an independent councillor, and then joined the then Democratic Party in 1999 and was elected to the Provincial Parliament.

"The most emotional, impactful, hard-hitting moment in my life was when an IEC official informed me that I could be the next Premier of the Western Cape. At that time, the national anthem started playing. It hit me like a ton of bricks. It then occurred to me; this is now your job."

Describing his leadership style as participatory, disruptive, innovative, and team-orientated, Premier feels in this position, he can use his entrepreneurial skills to bring issues to a higher purpose through politics. "I believe in using politics to make a difference in small ways, for the people of our province" he explained.





*"We are
building a
government
that people
trust."*



Dr Harry Malila assumed office as Director-General (DG) of the Western Cape Government (WCG) in June 2019 at the age of 48. He has over 18 years of senior management experience in the Provincial Treasury, overseeing provincial budget, fiscal, financial, policy, and economic matters.

EARLY YEARS

Dr Malila grew up in Heideveld as one of seven siblings. Despite facing adverse poverty, his parents instilled strong values and emphasised education as a pathway to a better future. His father worked as a truck driver, while his mother, a domestic worker, was unable to read or write. Their sacrifices deeply inspired Dr Malila, who overcame adversity through courage and the unwavering support of his family. Guided by the principle of Jeremiah 29:11, he embraced hope and the promise of a brighter future.

At Heideveld High School, Dr Malila excelled academically and showcased his leadership abilities. He displayed a remarkable aptitude for Maths, Accounting, and Business Economics, setting a strong foundation for his future endeavors.

EDUCATION

Dr Malila's academic journey reflects both depth and distinction. He holds a Bachelor of Accounting Science and an Honours Degree in Business Administration, followed by an MBA (Cum Laude) from Stellenbosch University. His pursuit of excellence culminated in 2019 when he was awarded a PhD in Public Policy and Economics. His doctoral research, "An integrated conceptual diagnostic governance framework to address performance sustainability challenges of municipalities in South Africa", highlights his commitment to strengthening governance and driving sustainable solutions within the public sector.

CAREER

DG's career began at the South African Revenue Services (SARS) as a tax investigator, quickly rising to Branch Head in the Northern Cape. He then moved to the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board in 1997, leading investigations for gambling licences.

In 2001, he joined the Provincial Treasury as Director of Revenue Management, conceptualising the "Ikapa Elihlumayo" strategy for holistic growth. His career breakthrough came in 2004 when he joined the Eastern Cape Treasury, designing and implementing a financial recovery plan.

Returning to the Western Cape Treasury, he served as Head of Public Finance and Deputy Director-General: Fiscal and Economic Services until his appointment as DG in 2019.

VISION AS DG

Building a people-centred administration, enhancing public trust and professional ethics is what Dr Malila hopes to achieve. As DG, he is responsible for the strategic direction of the WCG, including delivering the vision of "building a government that people trust." He prioritises embedding WCG values—Caring, Competence, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation, and Responsiveness—to create a positive work culture and impact residents' lives.

PERSONAL LIFE

Dr Malila enjoys outdoor activities, reading, and people development. He is supported by his wife Gwen and children Chloë and Noah, whose love and support he values immensely. He also acknowledges his mother's and siblings' support. Inspired by Desmond Tutu's words, he believes in seeing light despite darkness, a legacy he hopes to leave.



The Department primarily serves WCG departments, offering support through several transversal components and branches

Premier Alan Winde is the head of the Provincial Executive and the Executive Authority for the Department of the Premier in the Western Cape. Director-General (DG), Dr. Harry Malila, is the the Head of Department and Accounting Officer, carrying out transversal responsibilities that include intergovernmental relations and policy direction across various Western Cape Government (WCG) departments.

CLIENT SERVICES AND KEY COMPONENTS

The Department primarily serves WCG departments, offering support through several transversal components and branches: Policy & Strategy, Strategic Management Information, International Relations, Strategic Programmes, People Management, Information Technology, Corporate Assurance, Legal Services, and Corporate Communications.

The Centre for e-Innovation plays a crucial role in communication with the public, managing 14 channels including a Contact Centre, Walk-in Centre, 73 Cape Access Centres, and various social media platforms. It also provides connectivity through Broadband in government buildings and offers free public Wi-Fi services.

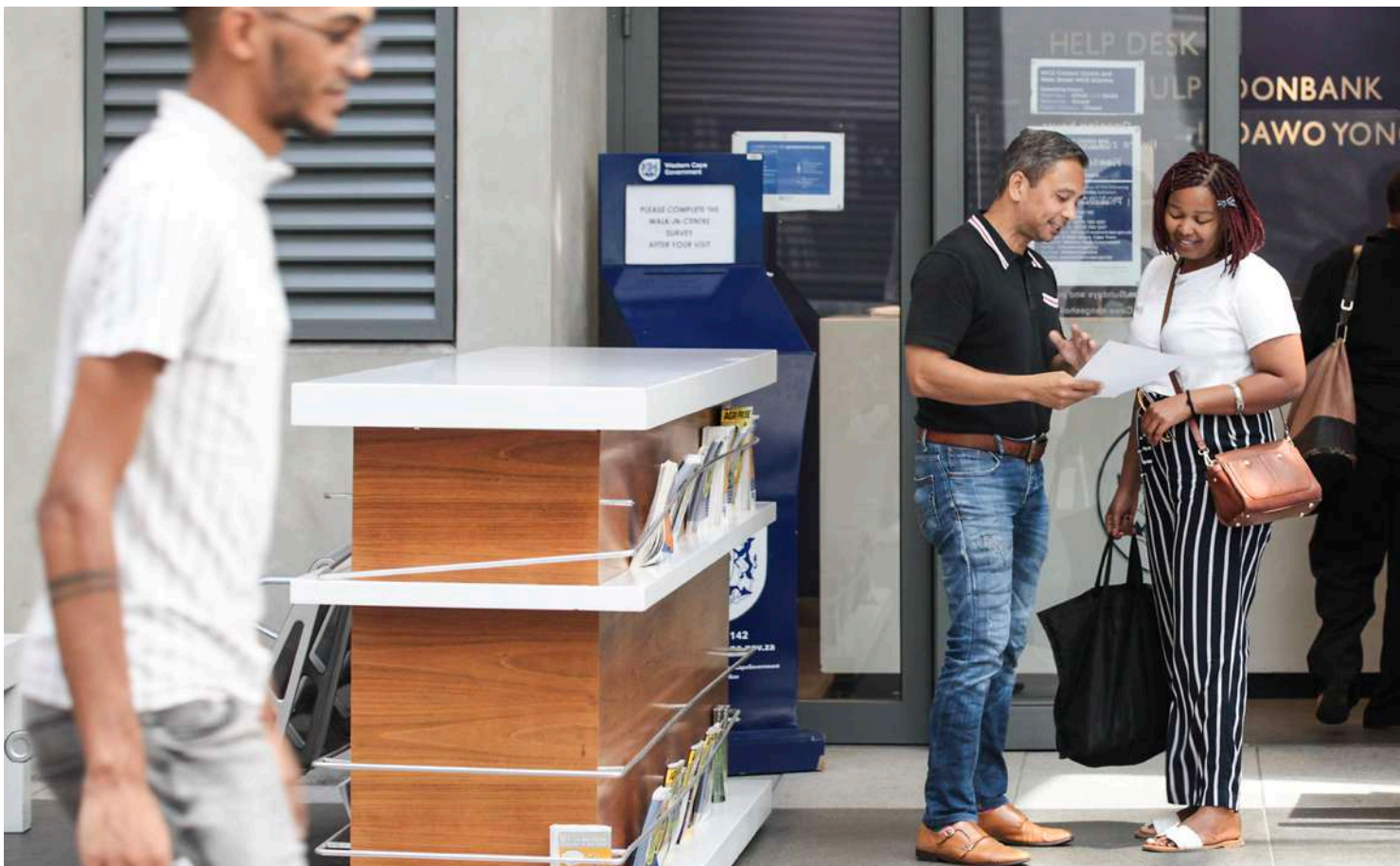
The Chief Directorate: Policy and Strategy develops transversal policies and strategies, assisting departments in crafting their Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans. Additionally, the Provincial Data Office (PDO) focuses on institutionalising data-led and evidence-based approaches to enhance learning and decision-making.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND INNOVATIONS

The Department of the Premier leads the Innovation, Culture, and Governance (ICG) strategic priority outlined in the Provincial Strategic Plan. The “Innovation for Impact” initiative aims to embed innovation within the organisation, while the Culture priority seeks to instill WCG values through the WCG Culture Journey, making the government more resident-centric and trustworthy.

As part of its Institutional Refresh, the Department has already established new Ministries of Infrastructure and Mobility, with plans for greater alignment of departmental strategies with their new mandates. The Provincial Training Institute at Kromme Rhee is also being modernised to enhance training services for government staff.

Within the ICG priority, Governance is managed collaboratively by the Department, the Provincial Treasury, and the Department of Local Government. Transformed Governance focuses on the relationship with the Auditor-General of South Africa, with the three departments overseeing audit outcomes and the performance of departments, entities, and municipalities. The Department’s Internal Audit, Provincial Forensic Services, and Enterprise Risk Management are essential components in ensuring good governance.





“The impossible is possible through focus, disciplined commitment and dedication.”

Tertius Simmers, the provincial Minister of the Department of Infrastructure, is committed to accelerating delivery and fostering social cohesion through integrated and sustainable human settlements. Simmers lives by the motto that “the impossible is possible through focus, disciplined commitment, and dedication”.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Describing himself as focused, energetic and punctual, Simmers grew up in Plettenberg Bay with five siblings. During his teenage years, he lived in Brakpan and attended Hoërskool Stoffberg before returning to the Western Cape in 2001. His favourite subjects were English, Afrikaans, Business Economics, and Physical Science. He participated in chess, debate, cross country, and long-distance running. Simmers is currently studying Business Administration at Regent Business School.

CAREER PATH

Simmers’ first job was as a general worker on a building site after matriculating. He recalls his first manager as humble and respectful, instilling the values of punctuality and diligence in him. Initially aspiring to be a cost accountant, Simmers found his true calling as a community activist, eventually serving as a district councillor for six years. He believes in servant leadership that is innovative, principled, and respectful, even towards the opposition.

POLITICAL VISION

Simmers views politics as a means to be an activist within a party that shares his values, focusing on impactful change rather than power and position. He is most grateful for his role in bringing tangible change to communities through his work as a public representative, a passion he attributes to his hardworking parents and their dedication to community work.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

One of Simmers’ most fulfilling moments was leading his party to a historic victory in George in 2011. He acknowledges that challenges are a daily occurrence but emphasises the importance of overcoming them with determination.







“Take care of your staff,” she believes, “and the work takes care of itself.”

Advocate and Head of the Department of Infrastructure, Chantal Smith, brings a wealth of experience, resilience, and deeply rooted values shaped by a life lived in service of her community. At 49 years old, her journey is marked by a powerful personal motto: “Passion drives people.” It’s a philosophy that has guided her through personal challenges, professional triumphs, and unwavering commitment to public service.

EARLY LIFE AND INFLUENCES

Born and raised in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape, Chantal’s early life was shaped by the steadfast example of her mother, a single parent who was not only highly competent in her career but who placed her children at the centre of her world. “She’s my hero,” Chantal says, reflecting on a childhood that, while not without its challenges, was filled with love, strong values, and a clear example of community-mindedness.

Chantal attended Maria Louw High School in Queenstown, where her early interest in justice began to take shape. At university, she pursued her passion for law at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), moving to Cape Town at the age of 18. She would go on to complete two degrees at UWC before settling in Melkbosstrand. She graduated in 1998, and her academic path was guided by a keen interest in Commercial and Contract Law. “Contract Law” she admits, “was my least favourite subject.”

A HEART FOR SERVICE AND JUSTICE

Even during her studies, Chantal was involved in youth movements in service of the community – not just the usual extracurriculars, but church youth outreaches and initiatives that stood against apartheid oppression. These experiences were deeply meaningful and shaped her understanding of service, justice, and leadership. They also laid the groundwork for a career defined by dedication to the public good.

Chantal’s first job was as a legal advisor specialising in family law. It was here that she was exposed to the painful realities that can emerge during divorce and custody cases. “It was disturbing to see how parents used their children in divorce settlements,” she recalls. That experience taught her the emotional complexities of the law and the importance of empathy, particularly when dealing with vulnerable members of society.

Her first manager, a tenacious woman, imparted another lifelong lesson: perseverance. “I learned to stick it out,” she says. That early foundation of resilience

would become crucial in the years ahead, especially as Chantal made the move into government.

CLIMBING THE RANKS IN GOVERNMENT

Her journey into the public sector was driven by a desire to work on contracts, negotiate meaningful agreements, and be involved in impactful government projects. Today, as Head of the Department of Infrastructure, Chantal leads with a people-first approach. “Take care of your staff,” she believes, “and the work takes care of itself.” She stands firm in her belief that public service is ultimately about improving people’s lives.

Chantal’s leadership is underscored by her authenticity and commitment. She values hard work, integrity, and compassion – qualities instilled in her by her mother and reinforced by her own life experiences.

FAMILY, STRENGTH, AND RESILIENCE

Away from the pressures of work, Chantal is deeply family-oriented. An ideal weekend, she says, is filled with the laughter and warmth of loved ones. “It’s all about family,” she says. “Cooking together, hosting gatherings – those are the moments that bring me joy.” Now and then, she enjoys a quiet Sunday with a good book and a glass of wine.

HoD Smith recalls the most joyous moments in her life as having her kids and the most challenging as battling cancer – a fight that brought with it the terrifying thought that she might not see her children grow up. That period taught her two profound lessons: to never lose focus and to value life with unrelenting gratitude. “Life is precious,” she reflects. “I’m grateful for life, for family, and for friends,” she says.

A LEGACY OF PURPOSE

Chantal Smith’s story is one of resilience, service, and passion. From her roots in Queenstown to the corridors of provincial government, she remains driven by a desire to make a difference. Her life and leadership are a testament to the idea that true success lies not in titles but in the impact, one leaves on others, and in that, she leads by powerful example.



The vision for the Department of Infrastructure is to create enabled communities leading dignified lives, encapsulated in the motto #JustDignity.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

To realise this vision, the department has identified several key priority initiatives:

SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Placing municipal infrastructure on a sustainable recovery path is fundamental, as good municipal infrastructure serves as the foundation for all other infrastructure developments. The focus is on ensuring that local municipalities can maintain and enhance their infrastructure for better service delivery.

EFFECTIVE COORDINATION FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

The department aims to effectively coordinate infrastructure initiatives to maximise their impact. This includes engagement with Infrastructure South Africa to ensure alignment and collaboration across various levels of government and sectors.

INNOVATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Catalysing innovation, research, and development is essential for stimulating growth. By fostering private sector development, the department seeks to act as a springboard for new industries and job creation, enhancing the overall economic landscape of the province.

MAINTENANCE AND LEVERAGING OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintaining and leveraging existing infrastructure is a priority to ensure that current assets are utilised to their full potential. This involves regular assessments and upgrades to keep infrastructure functional and efficient.

SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Leveraging human settlements, public works, and roads is vital for achieving spatial transformation. This initiative focuses on improving living conditions, creating economically vibrant growth points, and facilitating opportunities for residents to relocate to more central locations.

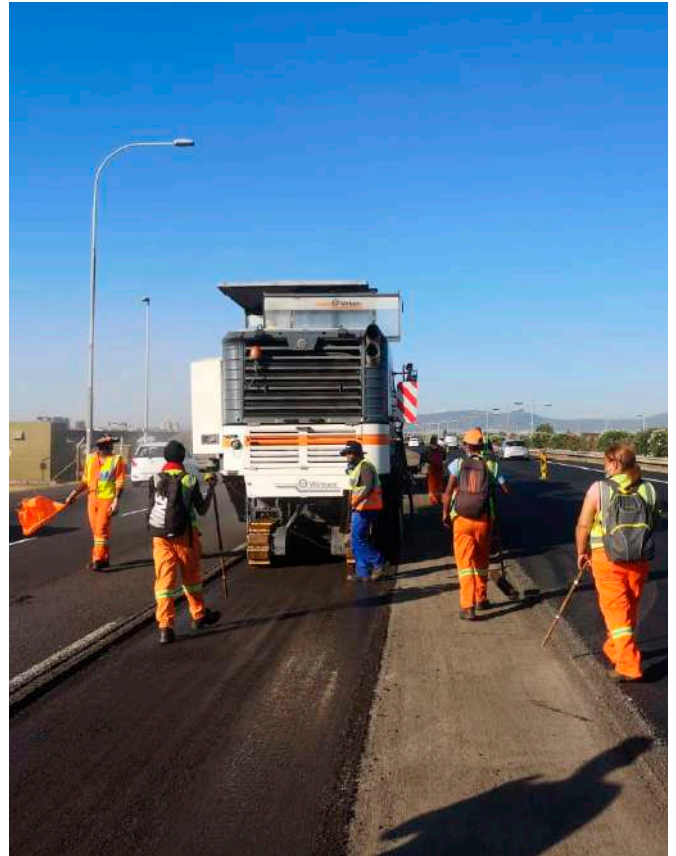


The vision for Infrastructure is to create enabled communities leading dignified lives, encapsulated in the motto #JustDignity.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

Responding to climate change is crucial in infrastructure delivery management and operation. The department is committed to incorporating carbon reduction strategies and resilience in the design, delivery, management, and operation of infrastructure. Additionally, there is a focus on unlocking green economy funds to further develop sustainable infrastructure in the province.

By addressing these priorities, the Department of Infrastructure aims to create a sustainable and dignified living environment for all communities in the province.



Dr Ivan Meyer, a former civil servant, academic, author, poet, and politician, brings a wealth of experience to his role as the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development, and Tourism in the Western Cape Government.

His diverse background, including serving as the Federal Chairperson of the official opposition in South Africa, the Democratic Alliance (DA), instils confidence in his ability to lead. His appointment on 12 June 2024 is a testament to his proven track record. His academic and literary achievements further underscore his intellectual capabilities and commitment to excellence.

Dr Meyer is known for his strong work ethic, a quality instilled in him by his parents. He believes in maintaining balance in life and places immense value on his family. "Nothing keeps me more balanced and grounded than my family," he says. His approach to life emphasises living it to the fullest, viewing each day as a new opportunity for growth and achievement.

Growing up in Bishop Lavis, Cape Town, Ivan fondly remembers his carefree childhood, often taking train journeys to the Northern Cape, which sparked his lifelong love for trains. In his teenage years, the family moved to Vredenburg on the West Coast, where he attended Western Secondary School. A diligent student, Ivan excelled in history, accounting, and mathematics, while also enjoying swimming, chess, and cycling. His passion for reading played a significant role in shaping his youth.

EDUCATION AND CAREER JOURNEY

Dr Meyer's academic journey began at the University of the Western Cape, where he completed his BA and BA Honours in Public Administration in 1984 and 1987, respectively. He later obtained his master's and PhD in Public Administration from Stellenbosch University in 1990 and 1996. His interest in Public Administration was deeply influenced by his late father, a former Minister and diplomat.

Before taking up his most recent portfolio, Dr Meyer had already distinguished himself in various ministerial roles. He served as Minister of Social Development (2009 – August 2010), Minister of Sport and Cultural Affairs (September 2010 – May 2014), Minister of Finance (May 2014 – May 2019), and Minister of Agriculture and Leader of Government Business (May 2019 – June

2024). Significant achievements and positive contributions to the respective sectors marked his tenure in these roles.

Dr Meyer's professional career also includes serving as a Senior Public Policy and Local Governance Lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch. Before that, he was the Chief Director of Provincial Training in the Western Cape Provincial Administration.

Dr Meyer has published widely on topics related to education, housing, local government, and public administration. His commitment to research and policy development highlights his intellectual capabilities and his dedication to public service.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND FAMILY LIFE

Meyer's strong stance against corruption is rooted in the values of honesty, integrity, and faith that his parents instilled in him. While Saturdays are often dedicated to political responsibilities, he enjoys leisure activities like visiting wine estates, going on boat trips, and fishing. Sundays are set aside for church and family, often followed by afternoon drives in his classic lime-green VW Kombi.

Dr Meyer is a staunch advocate for fiscal discipline in all spheres of government. His unwavering commitment to this principle gives the public a sense of security about the responsible management of their resources. He passionately believes that public servants should be responsible stewards of public funds, ensuring they are used to create public value.

Dr Meyer supports the development of a safe, productive, and innovative agricultural economy that can respond to climate change and food security challenges. He is committed to driving the Western Cape's economic growth as the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development, and Tourism. His focus on trade, investment, and tourism, aligning with the Western Cape Government's Growth for Jobs strategy, instils optimism about the region's future prosperity. His dedication to this cause inspires all stakeholders.

To Dr Meyer, politics represents servant leadership and good governance, with the goal of serving the people of the Western Cape and South Africa. His commitment to these principles continues to guide his work and interactions in the political arena.



*“Today’s problems
cannot be solved
by the same level
of thinking that
created them.”*



Dr Mogale Sebopetsa serves as the Head of the Department of Agriculture. He lives by the motto, “Today’s problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.” He believes in the need for constant innovation to tackle today’s complex challenges.

Growing up in Ga-Matipane, Limpopo, Dr Mogale attended Masopha High School, where he developed a passion for biology, and struggled with mathematics. He actively participated in soccer, school debates, and student leadership from an early age.

After high school, Dr Mogale enrolled at the University of the North (now the University of Limpopo), originally aiming to pursue pharmacy. However, due to his poor maths results, he shifted his focus and graduated with a BSc Agric (Animal Science) degree.

At the age of 22, Dr Mogale began his career as an Agricultural Development Technician with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, where his first boss, Mr Willy Moeng, inspired him to value youth and innovation and emphasised the importance of continuous learning.

VALUES AND LEADERSHIP STYLE

Coming from a humble background, Dr Mogale supported his mother in subsistence farming and her informal business from an early age. Despite being uneducated, his parents instilled a strong belief in the value of education, which enabled Dr Mogale and his siblings to attend university. He describes his parents as humble and loving, imparting values of hard work, courage, and respect.

With over two and a half decades of experience in government, Dr Mogale feels privileged to serve residents, particularly in the agricultural sector, which he views as vital to the economy. As a transformational leader, he encourages his team to seek innovative solutions to the complex challenges within agriculture, recognising it as a multifaceted biological system.

PERSONAL LIFE AND FULFILMENT

Dr Mogale faced significant personal challenges, including the loss of his grandmother, a source of strength and wisdom for him. A devoted family man, he is married to Rhulani and is the proud father of Lethabo, Rethabile and David. He cherishes weekends spent with his family, enjoying activities like gym, cycling, and tending to their food garden. As a committed Christian, Sundays are reserved for church and family.

Dr Mogale finds great fulfilment in supporting young people and believes that true success is measured by the positive impact one has on others. He continues to seek mentorship and strives to help others reach their full potential.



The department serves farmers and agricultural workers from regional research farms, training centres, extension offices, and state veterinary offices.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture supports the agricultural community through development, research, and services, stimulating economic growth and creating sustainable jobs. Headquartered at the historic Elsenburg farm in the Boland region, the department serves farmers and agricultural workers from regional research farms, training centres, extension offices, and state veterinary offices.

Approximately 49% of South Africa's primary agricultural exports pass through the Western Cape, contributing nearly R64 billion in 2023. Covering around 13 million hectares, with 2 million hectares cultivated and 320 000 hectares irrigated, the department influences the production of wine, fruit, grain, fynbos, vegetables, ostriches, livestock, milk, and dairy products.

The Western Cape, with its Mediterranean climate and varying rainfall—from over 1,000 mm in the south and east to less than 150 mm in the Karoo and northwest—supports a diverse range of crops. The department is dedicated to Project Khulisa, part of the Western Cape Government's Strategic Goal 1, and is committed to supporting alternative products and crops.

DEPARTMENT PROGRAMMES

The Department of Agriculture's programmes include:

- Sustainable Resource Use and Management
- Agricultural Producer Support and Development
- Agricultural Economic Services
- Veterinary Services
- Research and Technology Development Services
- Agricultural Education and Training
- External Human Capital Development Initiatives
- Rural Development



SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE AND MANAGEMENT

This programme offers sustainable resource management solutions through agricultural engineering, with a specific focus on water and irrigation, technical engineering, environmental advisory services, and technology transfer. Community-based natural resource management, known as LandCare, drives environmental management communication, facilitation, and project implementation. It also implements disaster risk reduction measures, manages disaster aid schemes, and provides feedback on applications for the subdivision and rezoning of agricultural land.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Agricultural Producer Support and Development (APSD) programme supports the Western Cape's agricultural development agenda, focusing on black farmers among other priorities. It aims to transform the agricultural sector, increasing productivity and contributing to economic growth, inclusion, equality, and job creation.





AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC SERVICES

This programme ensures the economic security of the Western Cape's agricultural sector in a competitive global market. It provides services through marketing and agribusiness, production economics, statistics, macro and resource economics, and agri-processing support units.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Veterinary Services manages animal diseases and food safety, adhering to national and international standards. Guided by the Animal Disease Act and the Meat Safety Act, it focuses on disease surveillance, control, prevention, export facilitation, and diagnostic services.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The department provides advanced scientific and technical advice through research and technology development services. This programme focuses on efficient resource use and climate-smart agriculture, ensuring farmers receive timely and relevant information to remain competitive.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute, established in 1898, offers agricultural training at Higher Education and Training (HET) and Further Education and Training (FET) levels. It has a renowned record of accomplishment in agricultural education in South Africa.

EXTERNAL HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The department offers various external human capital development initiatives, including internships, bursary programmes, and the Young Professional Persons programme. These initiatives aim to develop and support the agricultural workforce in the Western Cape.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

This programme coordinates rural development interventions, addressing socio-economic problems to create sustainable livelihoods. It plans and monitors development across government spheres to meet rural needs, engages communities on rural priorities, supports their participation and social cohesion, and improves the socio-economic conditions of agricultural workers and their families through training and development. The programme also strengthens partnerships with safety structures to ensure a protected agricultural environment.





Jo-Ann Johnston, 57, has lived a life rich with experience, hard work, and deep reflection. One of the mottos that has shaped Jo-Ann's life is simple but profound; "Always ask why, why not, and what if." This commitment to curiosity, asking questions and challenging assumptions has been at the heart of her personal and professional growth. According to HoD Johnston, it is not just about seeking answers but striving to understand and improve everything around her. Whether in her career or daily life, the act of questioning has helped her see opportunities where others might see obstacles.

EARLY LIFE

Growing up in Lansdowne, a community on the Cape Flats, Johnston learned early on about resilience and hard work. She attended Groenvlei Senior Secondary, a school situated on the border of Lansdowne and Hanover Park. Her high school years were marked by involvement in extracurricular activities like volleyball, netball, and chess, which helped her develop leadership and teamwork skills that would serve her throughout her life.

After high school, HoD Johnston pursued her studies at the University of Cape Town, where she initially aspired to become a psychologist. However, she shifted her focus after realising that she could make a difference in people's lives through other channels. Graduating in 1989, she started her career with a teaching position at Hout Bay High School, where her first boss, Principal Mike Abrahams, made a lasting impression.

Mike Abrahams, who passed away in 2024, was a pivotal figure in Johnston's early career. As the head of a brand-new school, Abrahams encouraged his team of young teachers to experiment and try new things, providing the space to grow and learn while offering guidance when needed. This empowering leadership style deeply influenced Johnston, who has since adopted a similar approach in her own career.

DISCOVERING A PASSION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Though Jo-Ann started in teaching, her career pivoted first towards human resources and eventually economic development. After moving to Wesgro, the Western Cape's investment promotion agency, she discovered her passion for economic development. This path led her to a leadership role at the newly formed National Investment South Africa, and later to the Department of

Trade and Industry, where she was able to shape policies that would drive economic growth.

Her work exposed her to the global stage, and one of the most fulfilling experiences in her life was her time as a South African diplomat at the High Commission in London. There, she helped position South Africa as a leader in the business process outsourcing sector, gaining international recognition for the country's call centres. But it wasn't just the professional success that made this time special, it was the chance to experience other cultures and broaden her perspective.

In her current role, Johnston leads with dedication and passion, always with a sense of purpose. She believes in serving her community and country, and that belief is the foundation of her leadership style. Whether she is shaping economic policy or guiding a team, her focus is always on the greater good.

BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY

While Johnston's career has been fulfilling, she values her family and personal time just as much. Her weekends are centred around family activities, from hiking on Table Mountain to spending time in the garden. These moments of peace and connection provide the balance needed to sustain her professional drive.

Looking back, she is most grateful for her family, the amazing team she has worked with and her health - constants that have supported her through all of life's ups and downs. As she reflects on her journey, one thing is clear: her life has been driven by a quest for knowledge, a passion for service, and a commitment to making the world a better place.

From her early days in Lansdowne, to shaping South Africa's place on the global economic stage, HoD Johnston's life reminds us that with curiosity, hard work, and a clear sense of purpose, we can achieve remarkable things.

*"Always ask why,
why not, and what if."*



The Department has realigned its strategy with the Provincial Strategic Plan for 2025-2030, the Cabinet approved Growth for Jobs (G4J) Strategy and the Ministerial Priorities of Market Access and Business Support.

VISION

The Department's vision is for the Western Cape to achieve breakout economic growth, resulting in sufficient employment and opportunity and an economy that is sustainable, resilient, diverse and thriving - generating confidence, hope, and opportunities to thrive.

The Growth for Jobs Strategy shapes and drives the Department's priorities

The G4J Strategy is informed by the key policies of the provincial leadership, which in turn is shaped by the national leadership and National Development Plan. The Strategy is premised on the recognition that the private sector creates jobs, and that the State needs to stimulate market growth and create an enabling environment in which people and businesses can create and exploit opportunities.

An economy is a complex set of interacting elements, and, for this reason, synergies between individual components require and reinforce an enabling business environment that stimulates market growth and supports growth opportunities. Everything contained in the G4J Strategy, including the focus areas, enabling levers and tools, and transversal themes, are focused on these three fundamentals, interlocking strategic priorities which are:

- Driving growth opportunities: Investment, strategic catalytic infrastructure and technology and innovation (venture capital) are key drivers of growth opportunities in an economy.
- Stimulating market access: Exports and tourism are key drivers in stimulating market access by expanding opportunities for local businesses and enhancing economic growth.
- Enabling environment for economic growth: Resource resilience, technology, and innovation (research and development), economic benefits and access to economic opportunities and employability form vital foundations for creating an enabling environment for economic growth.

While the delivery of the G4J Strategy is not the work nor the responsibility of one single department, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism plays a critical role in the successful implementation of the Strategy. With respect to a number of overarching key priority areas and programmes, the Department is directly responsible for implementation and successful delivery, and in other cases, the organisation is required to play a guiding or supportive role to other Departments.

WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT TOURISM GROWTH FUND: BOOSTING TOURISM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Western Cape Government's Tourism Growth Fund is a pivotal initiative aimed at enhancing the tourism sector within the region. Managed by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT), this fund is designed to support small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in developing and expanding their tourism products and services.

AIMS OF THE TOURISM GROWTH FUND

- Stimulate economic growth: by fostering a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry. This is achieved through:
 - Financial Support: Providing grants to tourism-related projects that demonstrate potential for significant economic impact.
 - Infrastructure Development: Funding the development and improvement of tourism infrastructure to enhance visitor experiences.
 - Product Development: Assisting SMMEs in creating innovative and competitive tourism products that can attract more visitors to the Western Cape.

The fund is open to a wide range of applicants, including existing tourism businesses, municipalities, local tourism offices, and collaborative projects. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be registered and operating within the Western Cape.
- Demonstrate a clear and viable business plan.
- Show potential for job creation and economic impact.

Applications are reviewed based on their potential to contribute to the overall goals of the fund, including economic growth, job creation, and the enhancement of the tourism sector.

IMPACT AND SUCCESS STORIES

Since its inception in 2020, the Tourism Growth Fund has played a crucial role in transforming the tourism landscape of the Western Cape. So far 26 projects have benefited from the fund, leading to the creation of new jobs, the development of unique tourism experiences, and the improvement of existing infrastructure. Two recent beneficiaries of the fund include Elgin Valley Trails and the Winelands Guide.

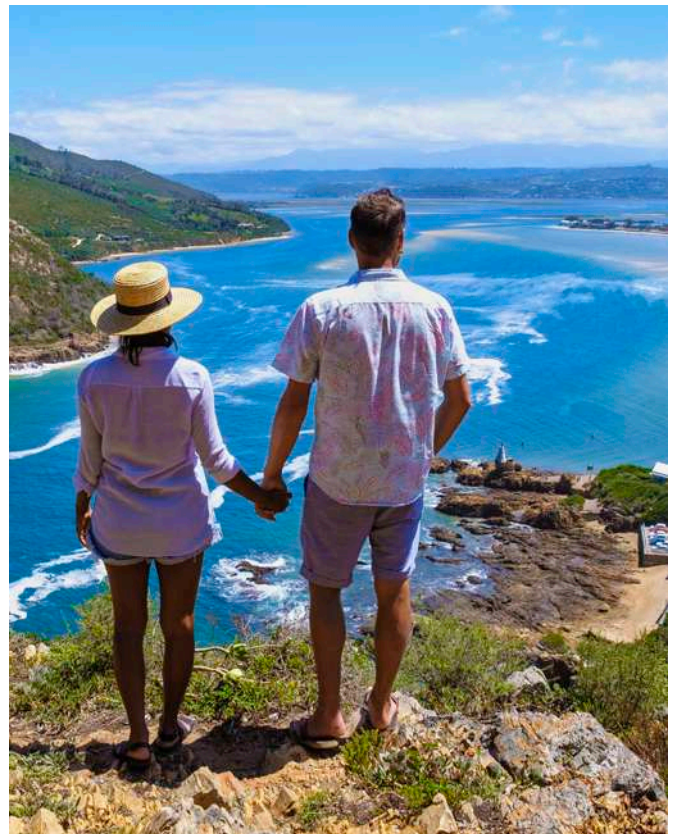
The Elgin Valley Trails, located in the picturesque Elgin Valley in the Overberg, offer a premier mountain biking experience. Spanning an impressive 120 kilometers, these trails cater to all skill levels, from beginners to advanced riders. The network includes the renowned Grabouw Forest Trails and Oak Valley's world-class tracks, featuring a mix of smooth clay paths, technical rocky sections, and hero dirt in the forests. Riders can enjoy stunning natural scenery, including ancient oak forests, vineyards, fruit orchards, and the breathtaking backdrop of the Groenlandberg mountains. The trails are meticulously maintained and host major events like the Absa Cape Epic and FNB Wines2Whales.

The organisation received funding from the Fund for the completion of the Overberg Meander, which forms part of the Cape Cycle Routes. With support from the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, an abandoned historic railway bridge has been redeveloped which allows for a more scenic, and safer, route along the railway line and across the Palmiet River.

Winelands Guide is a family-run tour operator based in Stellenbosch, South Africa, specializing in personalized tours of the Cape Winelands and surrounding areas. They offer a variety of customizable tours, including visits to premier wine estates in Franschhoek, Stellenbosch, and Paarl, as well as adventure activities like hiking, cycling, and paragliding. With knowledgeable local guides, including the fully accredited Colin De Wet and his team, Winelands Guide ensures a memorable experience by tailoring each tour to individual preferences. With the support of the fund, this business has been able to expand its fleet of bikes.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Looking ahead, the Western Cape Government remains committed to supporting the tourism sector through the Tourism Growth Fund. By continuing to invest in innovative projects and infrastructure, the fund aims to ensure that the Western Cape remains a top destination for both domestic and international tourists.



Anton Bredell was born and raised in Stellenbosch, matriculating from Paul Roos Gymnasium in 1983. He studied Marketing and Sales Management at Cape Technikon (now Cape Peninsula University of Technology).

Bredell started his career in the Finance Department of Boland Bank in Stellenbosch but later joined his father's business in Darling, working there for 16 years. In 1995, he was elected to the Transitional Council of Darling, eventually becoming Deputy-Mayor and later, Mayor.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND POLITICAL ADVANCEMENTS

He founded the first Thusong Centre in Darling to support youth with after-school activities and skills development programmes, which became key initiatives for the Western Cape Government.

Bredell later became Deputy-Mayor of Swartland Municipality in Malmesbury and, in 2003, the Executive Mayor of Swartland. He was elected Chairperson of the Western Cape Mayoral Forum in 2006 and the Western Cape Chairperson of the Democratic Alliance in 2007.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

After the 2009 General Election, Premier Helen Zille appointed Bredell as Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs, and Development Planning in the Western Cape Cabinet. He was re-appointed after the 2014 election and, upon completing this term in 2019, became the longest-serving Minister in the portfolio. Premier Alan Winde appointed him for a third term.

Known for his inclusive management style, Bredell is adept at building unified teams with a solutions-based mindset. He believes in humility and gratitude, which is evident in his work ethic. He is committed to addressing poverty, improving municipal governance, and balancing economic growth with environmental protection. Bredell resides in Malmesbury with his wife Michelle and their two sons.







“I went to university to learn the meaning of life, but then learnt that I did not know the meaning of ‘meaning’.”

The quote by June Jordan, “We are the ones we have been waiting for,” is something Gerhard Gerber, Head of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, lives by. Gerber grew up on Robben Island and in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) as his father was the Robben Island Primary School Principal. Gerber enjoyed a happy childhood, surrounded by the sea and nature. Both his parents were public servants, instilling in him the value of service from an early age.

EDUCATION

Friendly, curious, and dedicated, Gerber attended Framesby High School in Gqeberha, where he loved Biology and Geography and was involved in the Landscape Association. Gerhard studied Nature Conservation (Nelson Mandela Bay University, Environmental Management (University of South Africa) and Development Planning (Stellenbosch University).

CAREER

Gerber’s first job was with Hydromulch, a landscape restoration company, on the Outeniqua Pass rehabilitation. Botanist Jan Vlok recommended him for the job. His first boss, a hardworking and driven individual, taught him responsibility and dedication. Gerber believes his career in public service was destined, as he is a third-generation public servant. His leadership style involves asking questions to listen, understand, and respond collaboratively.

HIGHS AND LOWS

One of Gerhard’s career highs was heading the Development Facilitation Unit (DFU) in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. Volunteering to lead the newly established DFU in 2008 allowed him to explore impactful contributions, forcing personal and professional growth. While a rewarding experience, managing the unit’s impact and expectations were challenging.

PICTURE THIS

On an ideal Saturday, Gerber enjoys treasure hunting for books in second-hand bookstores and relaxing with his wife, a good book, and vinyl records by the Welcome Dover woodstove. Grateful for life and the people in it, Gerber humorously recites, “I went to university to learn the meaning of life, but then learnt that I did not know the meaning of ‘meaning’.”



The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning aims to protect our environment for present and future generations by ensuring ecological sustainable development while promoting justifiable social and economic development. This goal is achieved through development planning, environmental management, and municipal support.

Environmental decisions are based on South African environmental legislation, and understanding how other laws impact these decisions, fostering a resilient, sustainable, quality, and inclusive living environment.

Key stakeholders include the other Western Cape Government Departments, the Western Cape Municipalities, national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the national Department of Water and Sanitation, the national Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, the private sector and communities, and international partners.

Collaboration with these entities and the public is essential to preserve the environment for present and future generations, promoting shared responsibility for sustainable development and environmental integrity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

For 2020-2025, the Department is focusing on six strategic priority areas:

1. Spatial Transformation and Managed Urbanisation
2. Climate Change and Water Security, including Air Quality Management
3. Waste Management
4. Biodiversity and Coastal Management
5. Environmental Compliance and Law Enforcement
6. Efficient, Effective, and Responsive Governance

SPATIAL UPLIFTMENT

The RSEP Programme targets social and spatial upliftment through neighbourhood development and spatial restructuring. The RSEP programme has to date been implemented in 19 towns in 14 Municipalities with more than 120 projects having been implemented.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER SECURITY

The Department and the Western Cape Government (WCG) contribute globally under The Climate Group – States and Regions Alliance and the Under2 Coalition. They announced a 2050 Emissions Pathway Analysis to set targets and actions for a low-carbon economy



transition by 2050. The Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy was reviewed in 2023 to adapt to the changing climate landscape, involving intensive stakeholder co-creation among all 13 WCG Departments and the development of an implementation plan.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Department completed the 3rd Generation Provincial Integrated Waste Management Plan (2023 - 2027) (IWMP) which provides strategic direction to all municipalities on the implementation of integrated waste management practices, to improve waste management services and promote the waste and circular economies for environmental protection and job creation. The Department works closely with the Western Cape Municipalities in terms of the provision of waste management support to Municipalities, including through the quarterly Western Cape Municipal Waste Management Officers' Forum.



BIODIVERSITY AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The Department and CapeNature as the Provincial Conservation Entity is responsible for biodiversity management in the Western Cape in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Act, with CapeNature managing more than 800 000 hectares of conservation areas, consisting of 111 nature reserves, with more than 3 405 kilometres of roads and approximately 875 buildings/structures. A Biodiversity Spatial Plan, Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Protected Area Expansion Strategy are being developed.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Despite a sound environmental governance regime aimed at ensuring that the environment is protected, restored, and enhanced to improve human health and wellbeing, the quality and efficient use of natural resources and ecosystem integrity, compliance with environmental legislation remains a significant challenge. The Department's Environmental Management Inspectorate (known as the Green Scorpions) serve to ensure that environmental legislation is complied with and act against transgressors utilising various legislative means by following either administrative enforcement and/or criminal enforcement processes, depending on the nature of the transgression.

By ensuring compliance with environmental legislation by both the regulated and non-regulated community, the myriads of environmental transgressions that range from illegal developments, degradation of watercourses, pollution of air, water, and soil as well as non-compliance with conditions of environmental authorisations and waste management licences/permits are avoided. The Department aims to achieve a 70% compliance rating for licensed facilities complying with the conditions of the licences, permits, authorisations or other legislative obligations specified in environmental legislation.







*“Life is
characterised by
highs and lows
and no one is
without it.”*

Graham Paulse, Head of Department for Local Government lives by the motto that everyone should work to unleash their full potential. He believes in his ability to achieve anything and describes himself as “driven, complex, and Columbo.”

CHILDHOOD

Paulse hails from Bonteheuwel, Cape Town, and had a close-knit family with three siblings. Despite being materially poor, they had the opportunity to explore life and were supported in academics. His hardworking and disciplined parents instilled these values in him.

EDUCATION

Mr Paulse completed his secondary education at Bonteheuwel High School, where he laid the foundation for his academic pursuits. He went on to study Public Management and Economics at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, the University of the Western Cape, and Stellenbosch University. His commitment to excellence culminated in earning a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Public and Development Management from Stellenbosch University in 1997.

CAREER

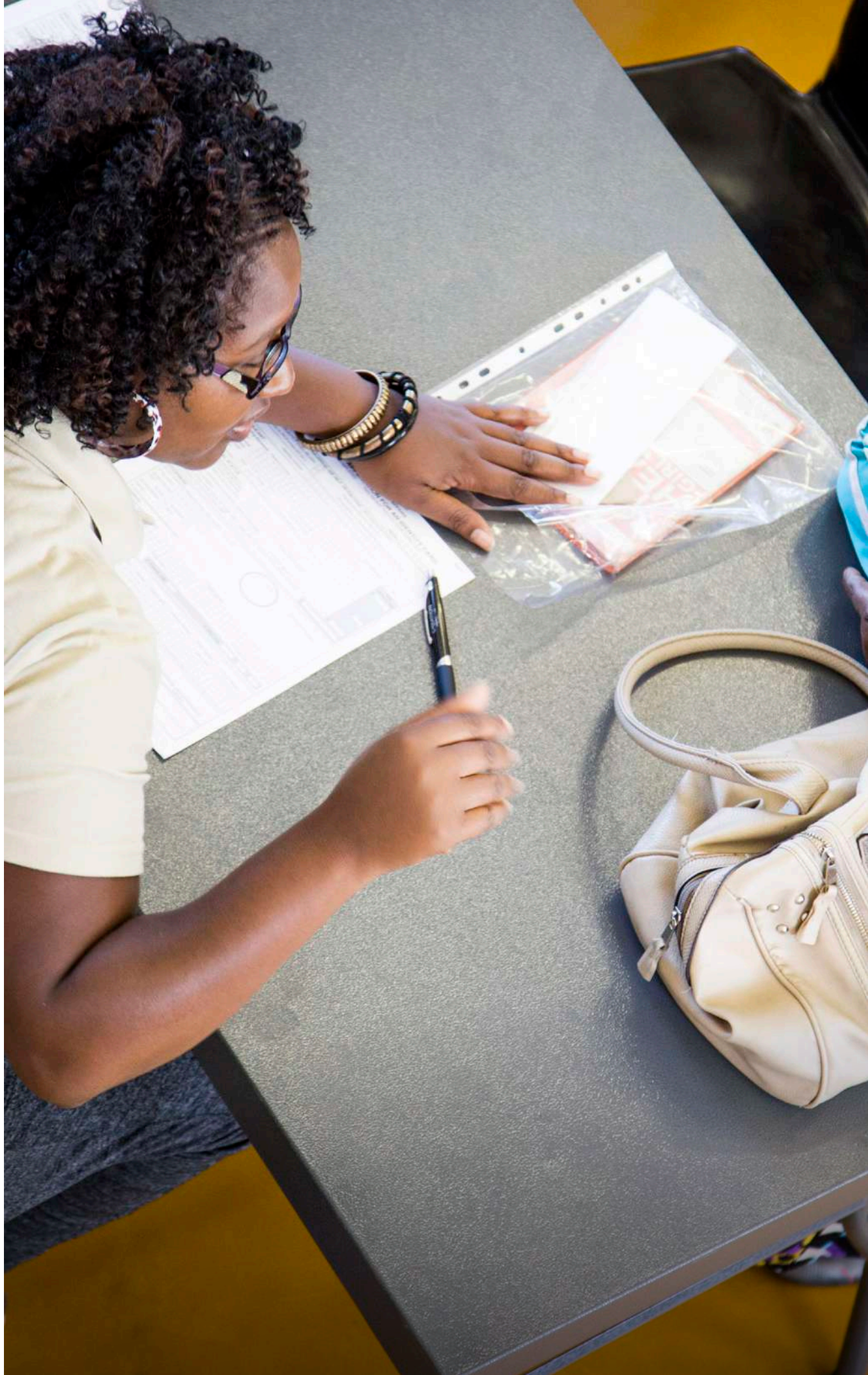
Paulse’s first job was at the House of Representatives in Government (tri-cameral system) in May 1985. His first manager was strict and disciplined, teaching him these values. His parents encouraged him to pursue a stable government job. Paulse started in the Department of Education (House of Representatives) and later worked in the Department of Local Government, Provincial Treasury, and then returned to Local Government.

His leadership style is characterised by ambition, efficiency, adaptability, drive, and results-orientation. He believes in his ability to succeed and focuses on achieving goals efficiently and productively.

LOVED ONES

Paulse is married with a son and daughter and together, they train seven days a week at the gym. While he dedicates Saturdays to his private business, he reserves Sundays for family time.

Paulse said some of the most joyous times in his life have been when his many achievements resulted in self-actualisation. While those were fulfilling times, Paulse said the passing of his parents was extremely difficult. “Life is characterised by highs and lows and no one is without it”, however, Paulse says it has taught him to be grateful, humble and to cherish and respect one’s parents.



The Department of Local Government's primary role is to tackle societal challenges, as local government is closest to the people. Service delivery needs are immediate and visible. The vision is to create an efficient, dynamic team enabling well-governed municipalities to deliver responsive, sustainable, and integrated services. The mission is to monitor, coordinate, and support municipalities to fulfill their developmental mandates and facilitate service delivery and disaster resilience through engagement with government and social partners.

ALIGNMENT WITH MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

In preparing for the new five-year planning cycle, the Department assessed the 4th generation Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and their first review to identify municipal priorities and challenges. The assessment included issues highlighted during strategic and technical municipal engagements. Twelve priorities emerged: Climate Change/Water Security, Local Economic Development, Immigration/Urbanisation, Infrastructure Management, Institutional Governance, Citizen Interface, Intergovernmental Planning Alignment, Data Management, Financial Sustainability, Partnering/Partnerships/Shared Services, Waste Management, and Political, Administrative, and Social Instability. The Western Cape Government and municipalities engaged with these priorities to influence the development of Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans.

IMPROVED INTERFACE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND RESIDENTS

Strengthening the interface between government and residents enhances responsiveness and deepens resident engagement, a cornerstone of democracy. The Department coordinated outreach programmes to empower the public with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities and their role in municipal decision-making.

The Thusong Programme, which includes outreach, service centres, and satellite centres, aims to bring government services and information to residents. Over the past four years, efforts have been made to align with the priority of job creation and support small-scale economic activities through Thusong Service Centres. The Satellite Establishment Programme has increased the number of Thusong Service Centres, contributing to residents' wellbeing. The Thusong Outreach Programme is an innovative partnership that maximizes economies of scale to reach as many residents as possible, avoiding the need for multiple departments to run separate outreach programmes.

The Department's programmes focus on a) Improving access to government services and information. b) Supporting effective public participation. c) Strengthening integrated planning. d) Implementing socio-economic projects to improve living conditions.

INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

Following the 2021 Local Government Elections, the Department ensures a smooth transition in local government by supporting municipalities in addressing governance challenges. This includes guiding new

councillors. A Local Government Election Strategy and Support Plan was developed to facilitate co-planning and ensure a smooth transition from outgoing to new councillors.

The Department will focus on:

- Reviewing council documentation, including rules of order, delegations, policies, and bylaws.
- Amending provincial legislation to enhance governance.
- Monitoring governance structures in municipalities.
- Acquiring a suite of local government legislation.
- Increasing institutional capacity for good governance.

CO-PLANNING, CO-BUDGETING, AND CO-IMPLEMENTATION

Programme failures at the local level often stem from a lack of stakeholder support. Sometimes, national or provincial departments implement local programmes without coordination, causing duplication and confusion. The Department promotes horizontal and vertical interfaces among Western Cape provincial departments, national departments, and municipalities through District Coordinating Forums. This governance instrument ensures co-planning, co-budgeting, and co-implementation for effective service delivery. The Joint District and Metro Approach (JDMA) has strengthened the interface between government levels, stakeholders, and municipalities. Improved collaboration has yielded positive outcomes in several districts and supported the implementation of the Western Cape Economic Recovery Plan.

DISASTER RESILIENCE

The Western Cape is disaster-prone, facing fires, floods, avian influenza, and droughts. These disasters, often triggered by extreme weather, impact the economy and development negatively. Rapid population growth in informal settlements increases disaster exposure. The Department aims to strengthen disaster response systems to manage these events better. Over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), efforts will include training rescue and emergency personnel, supporting municipalities with aerial firefighting, conducting hazard and risk assessments, raising awareness, working with key players to remove alien vegetation, and developing and reviewing disaster management plans.





Ricardo Mackenzie, the Provincial Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, is a firm believer in South Africa's potential. He sees our nation as one filled with winners and is dedicated to finding opportunities to move the country forward. His approach is centered on building connections and fostering a sense of community.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Growing up in De Aar, Mackenzie was a curious child, always "besig" (busy) and eager to learn. His love for reading led him to spend countless hours in the library. He attended Willie Theron Primary School and Orion Sekondêre Skool in De Aar before relocating to Cape Town. There, he completed his high school education at Vista High School in the Bo-Kaap and Kleinvllei Secondary School in Eerste River.

PASSION FOR SPORTS AND COMMUNITY

Mackenzie's passion for sports began in high school, where he played rugby at both the school and club levels. Today, he enjoys cycling—having completed his first Cape Town Cycle Tour—hiking and exploring the beautiful beaches and small towns of the Western Cape. As a proud father of two daughters and a dog lover, he values family and community connections.

CAREER JOURNEY

Mackenzie's professional journey began in 'Standard 8' when he took his first job as a packer at Pick 'n Pay in Gardens. He has since worked at various organizations, including Old Mutual Bank, JPMorgan Chase, Eurocape International, and Dial-A-Bed. His government experience includes roles in the presidency of Thabo Mbeki and the national Ministry of Sport and Recreation. His contributions have earned him several accolades, including the JPMorgan Chase Worldwide Service Award and the Director-General Award for Innovation from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

He holds an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Governance and Leadership from the University of the Witwatersrand and is currently pursuing a Post-Graduate Diploma in Governance at the same institution. His diverse experience in the private sector and public service provides him with a unique perspective on the needs of the community.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

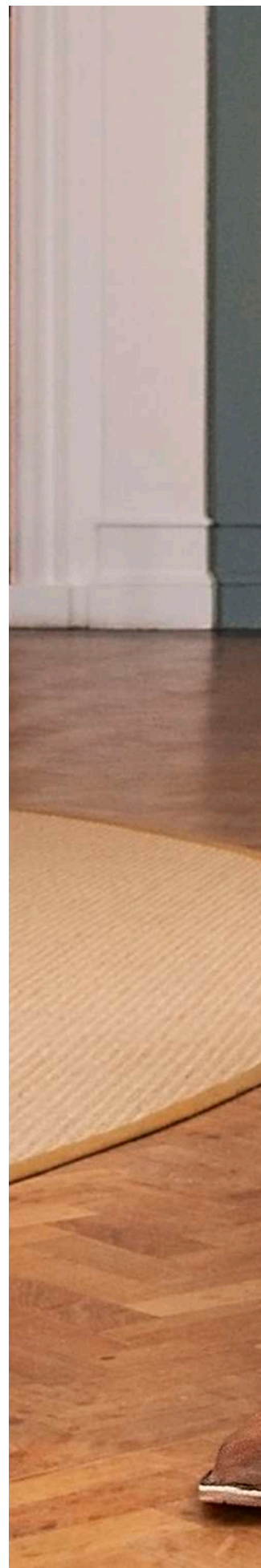
Mackenzie is dedicated to building and serving the cultural, artistic, and sporting communities of the Western Cape. "I do not take this portfolio lightly," he states, underscoring his commitment to meaningful engagement.

In his early weeks in office, he focused on getting to know his team and attending various sports events, festivals, community gatherings, tournaments, and arts shows throughout the province. "The purpose of my early engagements was to gain a better understanding of this exciting field and to hear directly from those we serve," he explains.

Mackenzie recognizes that the needs within these communities are clear and numerous, ranging from funding to promotion and formalization. He believes that while resources may be limited, the challenges are not insurmountable.

THE POWER OF CULTURE AND SPORT

"In the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, our programmes touch the hearts and souls of people," Mackenzie emphasises. "Sports, arts, and culture bring people together to celebrate and enjoy our shared and diverse heritage." His vision and leadership promise to enhance the cultural landscape of the Western Cape, fostering unity and pride among its residents.





*“In the
Department of
Cultural Affairs
and Sport, our
programmes
touch the hearts
and souls of
people.”*



*“We have a crucial
role in addressing social
problems.”*

Guy Redman grew up in Bisi Village in uMzimkhulu, KwaZulu-Natal. He completed his schooling at Harding Secondary School, where he developed a keen interest in Biology. This passion led him to pursue further studies at the University of Natal in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, now known as the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He earned his BSc, BSc Honours, and MSc degrees during his time there.

PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY

Guy began his career as a Curator of Arthropoda at the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg in 2001. Two years later, he transitioned to the eThekweni Municipality, where he served as the Director of the Durban Natural Science Museum. By 2009, he had advanced to the role of Deputy Head of Parks, Recreation and Culture, overseeing museums, art galleries, libraries, heritage, and performing arts.

In 2017, he was appointed Chief Director of Cultural Affairs at the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), which led to his relocation to Cape Town. He became the Head of the Department in 2021. Since then, he has embraced life in the city, actively expanding his Afrikaans and Kaaps vocabulary.

PASSION AND VISION

An avid reader, Guy has recently taken up cycling, and he is a dedicated supporter of the Mamelodi Sundowns football team. His vision for DCAS is to address social issues through the arts, culture, and sport. He believes these elements can inspire imagination and hope, encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

“We have a crucial role in addressing social problems,” he states, emphasising the importance of cultural activities in fostering economic and personal development.

Currently, Guy and his management team are drawing inspiration from the book *Upstream* by Dan Heath, using it as a framework for adopting an upstream approach to problem-solving.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

As a leader, Guy is known for his empathy, fairness, and inclusiveness in decision-making. His approachable nature and wicked sense of humour make him a well-respected figure within the department. He leads by example and is often seen participating in cycling events around the province, embodying the active lifestyle he promotes.





Departmental Overview

VISION

A socially inclusive, creative, active, and connected Western Cape.

MISSION

We encourage excellence and inclusiveness in sport and culture through the effective, efficient, and sustainable use of our resources, and through creative partnerships with others. In moving to excellence, we will create the conditions for access and mass participation, talent identification and skills development.

OVERVIEW

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport unites people of diverse backgrounds to share joy and inspire hope. Through our connections, creativity, and community activities, we make a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most.

We foster a culture of respect, understanding, empathy, compassion, and accountability.

We encourage our team, delivery partners and the communities we serve to build connections, live healthy lifestyles, and prioritise their physical and mental wellbeing.

Together, we are a proud and united team, dedicated to renewing hope for the people of the Western Cape.

We believe that everyone must be exposed to and inspired by arts, culture, sport, and recreation. It does not matter the occupation – a doctor must leave work to join their community choir, the cashier at your favorite store must be part of an athletics club that participates in various marathons and the Premier of the Province must occasionally cycle to work!

THE YEAR AHEAD

The department will continue supporting major sporting and cultural events across the province. These events bring in important economic activity to the Western Cape, including job creation in the sectors, but more importantly, these events are catalysts for building creative (social, cultural, and human) capital.

They also encourage links to cultural identity or heritage; offer enjoyable recreational, leisure and touristic experiences; create opportunities for personal growth and/or to sell products or experiences, and finally, they celebrate cultural identity and diversity.

Our YearBeyond programme continues placing youth in in-service work programmes, where they gain important working skills and experience, while also giving back to their communities.



“Through our connections, creativity, and community activities, we make a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most.”

We are looking at innovative ways to transform our Libraries, Archives and Museum services into exciting community hubs, where we can bring communities together to celebrate the arts, heritage, and common interests.

We continue providing important support to our sporting federations, clubs and arts and culture organisations to ensure they can continue making an impact in their communities.

Our MOD Programme continues to keep youth safe, while also offering them the opportunity to grow their skills in various sport codes and artistic disciplines. The department continues to work to offer people safe spaces where they can connect, be creative, live active lifestyles and foster social cohesion.





Described by those who know her as “compassionate, caring, and creative,” Anroux Marais has recently taken on the role of Western Cape Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety. Her commitment to improving lives is evident in both her personal and professional journey.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Minister Marais grew up in Bloemfontein, where she matriculated from Dan Pienaar High School. She then attended the Free State University, graduating as an occupational therapist. Her dedication to helping others led her to pursue her studies to the honours degree level, embodying the ideals that drive her political career: changing people’s lives for the better.

Reflecting on her upbringing, she said, “I grew up in a protected, loving and caring home.” Her early involvement in sports like hockey, netball, and ballet instilled a lasting appreciation for culture and the arts, experiences that later influenced her tenure as the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport in 2015.

PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY

Before entering politics, Minister Marais worked as an occupational therapist at Stikland Psychiatric Hospital in Bellville. Under the guidance of her boss, Susan Beukes, she learned the vital importance of discipline in her work.

With two brothers, she often reflects on her childhood aspirations, stating simply, “Happy.”

In 2000, she was elected as a councillor in the City of Cape Town, marking the beginning of her political career. The 2004 general election saw her elected to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, where she continues to serve. After the 2009 elections, she chaired several portfolio committees. In 2015, she was appointed as the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, a position she held for nine years before being appointed as Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety by Premier Alan Winde.

VISION AND PHILOSOPHY

“Politics is the art of the possible,” Minister Marais reflects. She believes that while one cannot change the world entirely, significant differences can be made in people’s lives. She is committed to being an empowering and accommodating leader, encouraging everyone to live life to the fullest every day.

Living by her motto that “we must all dream big and work hard to turn that dream into reality,” she emphasises the importance of setting ambitious goals. “If your dreams do not scare you, you do not dream big enough,” she concludes.

In her new role, Minister Marais aims to continue making a positive impact in the community, fostering safety and oversight for the people of the Western Cape.



*"If your dreams
do not scare you,
you do not dream
big enough."*



Since April 2024, Hilton Arendse has served as the Acting Head of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety. In his permanent capacity, he is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Western Cape Government, where he is responsible for the province's full digital government function across thirteen departments.

A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND SERVICE

Hilton's career in the public sector spans more than 37 years. He began in financial management, where he spent the first two decades of his professional life, before transitioning into the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). This move placed him at the forefront of digital transformation in government - a space where his passion for innovation, strategy, and people-centred service delivery has continued to grow.

His academic background supports this professional journey. Hilton holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of the Western Cape (1994), an Honours in Business Management and Administration (2002), an MBA from the University of Stellenbosch (2004), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Information Systems from the University of Cape Town (2013).

LEADERSHIP STYLE AND VALUES

When asked to describe himself in three words, Hilton chose strategic, innovative, and empowering. His leadership style reflects these traits, rooted in setting a clear vision, enabling teams to lead, fostering innovation, and upholding accountability. Acting HoD Arendse's personal motto, which he strives to live by, is: "Transform with vision, empower with purpose and lead by example".

In his current role, he has led key initiatives including the Western Cape Safety Plan 2025-2030, the establishment of a Provincial Safety Council, and the piloting of a Community-level Safety and Development Programme in Mitchell's Plain.

RESILIENCE THROUGH ADVERSITY

One of the most challenging times in Hilton's career came in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted government operations. At the time, he was leading the Centre for e-Innovation. Together with his team, he ensured continuity of services by enabling thousands of Western Cape Government staff to work remotely, rolling out Microsoft Teams to more than 14 000 users, developing new applications at speed, and delivering connectivity to newly established field hospitals.

In addition, the team rapidly scaled up the WCG Contact Centre to manage more than 100 000 citizen queries related to food parcel relief and provided support to SASSA in dealing with the high volumes of Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant requests from tens of thousands of citizens.

All of this was accomplished while the team endured personal losses, including the passing of a few colleagues and the loved ones of others. Many of the digital solutions developed during this period remain in place today and continue to support the efficiency and effectiveness of the Western Cape Government workforce.

WHAT HE VALUES MOST

Looking back on his journey, Hilton says what he values most is the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others through his work in government and the privilege of contributing to building more digitally empowered and safer communities in the Western Cape.



The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety oversees policing services in the Western Cape and fosters partnerships to create safe, cohesive communities. The safety of residents is central to our operations, with a whole-of-society approach emphasising that safety is everyone's responsibility. Together, we can ensure our communities and province are safer for all.

ENHANCING CAPACITY FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

We partner with the City of Cape Town and the South African Police Service (SAPS) to deploy law enforcement officers (LEOs) to high-crime areas through the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP). This initiative uses a data-led strategy to optimise resources for swift responses and proactive crime prevention.

K-9 and Reaction Units deliver an integrated crime prevention model, ensuring strategic visibility and deployment at key points and hotspots. We also support neighbourhood watch structures by providing free basic training and equipment to empower residents in safeguarding their communities.

The Western Cape Liquor Authority employs investigators to monitor licensed liquor vendors for compliance with the Western Cape Liquor Act.

ENHANCING OVERSIGHT

We aim to expand the monitoring of police stations, focusing on gender-based violence, compliance with the Domestic Violence Act, police conduct, visible policing, and crime investigation efficiency. The Western Cape Police Ombudsman independently investigates policing service delivery inefficiencies.

Our Court Watching Brief initiative monitors SAPS investigations of criminal cases presented to the courts, identifying inefficiencies within the policing system. The quarterly Policing Needs and Priority (PNP) report highlights existing policing needs and recommends improvements for better service delivery.

STRENGTHENING SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

We collaborate with municipalities, Community Police Forums, and Community Safety Forums to contribute to the Rural Safety Plan and Provincial Safety Plan. Continuous engagements ensure effective planning, coordination, and resource utilisation.



BUILDING RESILIENCE

Through partnerships with the Chrysalis Academy and the Extended Public Works Programme, we offer vulnerable youth training and skills development opportunities, providing positive alternatives to anti-social activities.

CREATING SAFE SPACES

Our award-winning Security Support Teams deliver reliable and effective security services to protect Western Cape Government assets and facilities. We create an effective policy environment and drive transversal safety and security issues to ensure best practices in security and occupational health. The department continuously explores innovative solutions to enhance the security technology footprint in the province.

REDUCING ALCOHOL HARMS

We are developing smart policies and legislation to reduce violence and crime resulting from excessive alcohol consumption. Amendments to the Western Cape Liquor Act aim to create a policy environment that effectively addresses these challenges.





*"Her parents
instilled in her the
value of hard work,
persistence as
well as resilience
when the going
gets tough."*

Mireille Wenger, is the Provincial Minister of Health & Wellness. With a substantial portfolio to manage, Wenger lives by the motto which states that "it is in giving that we receive".

When asked how she would describe herself, she said: thoughtful, curious, determined.

EDUCATION

Wenger, who is currently 44, said her favourite subject in school was English Literature. Mireille took part in extracurricular activities such as Interact Rotary Club, mentoring and the crochet club. In her life, she has done much volunteering work for PBOs mainly faith-based and supporting the vulnerable. Wenger has quite a few notches on her education belt. Mireille has a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from the University of Stellenbosch, and a Master of Philosophy in Criminology, Law and Society from the University of Cape Town. She has also completed a diploma in Political Science and Sociology at Sciences Po' (L'Institut d'études politiques de Paris) in France and has recently completed a course on Health Economics through the London School of Economics and Politics (LSE).

THE PATH TO PRESENT

Mireille's first job was at a University International Office to help South African students find bursaries and study opportunities

overseas. When asked what she learned from her very first manager, Wenger said that "having and using EQ makes you a better boss than relying on the power of your position".

When asked what attracted her to government, she said she was interested in the policy formation process as well as politics. "I wanted to be a scientist when I was younger, ironically, I never thought I'd end up as a political scientist," she said. She is interested in policy development and views politics as one of the avenues to policy-making to make a positive change in the world.

Mireille joins Health & Wellness after serving in the previous term as the Western Cape's Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities. Prior to that, she had several roles in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, such as the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, and chair of the first-of-its kind Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19.

She has also previously served as the Chairperson for the Community Safety Committee, and was a member of the Health Committee for five years, as well as volunteering on a Hospital Facility Board. This extensive experience on a variety of portfolios has enabled Mireille to develop a deep understanding of the policy challenges that the Western Cape and South Africa face.

A champion of innovation, Mireille is passionate about expanding quality healthcare to residents, preventing violence and reducing malnutrition in small children. She believes in inspiring fresh, new ideas, and building partnerships with the private sector, and other levels of government, to get the job done. Mireille explained that her parents instilled in her, the value of hard work, persistence as well as resilience when the going gets tough.

MIREILLE & FAMILY

We asked Wenger what some of her most joyous times are. She answered saying nothing beats coming home at the end of the day to spend time with her husband Craig and pre-school going son. She enjoys being in nature, hiking the beautiful mountains around the Western Cape, swimming... and chocolate. Wenger said she is most grateful for her health, her family and the many blessings she has received from God.





Dr Keith Cloete has been the Head of Health and Wellness in the Western Cape since April 2020, when his appointment coincided with the advent of COVID-19. Born at the Peninsula Maternity Hospital in District Six, Cloete's family faced eviction in the late 1960s, and his nuclear family subsequently lived in Piketberg, De Doorns, and Worcester.

EDUCATION

Dr Cloete earned his MBChB degree from the University of Cape Town in 1988. His additional qualifications include a Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health, the Oliver Tambo Fellowship, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management with distinction.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Cloete became the Deputy Director General: Chief of Operations for Western Cape Government: Health on 1 March 2015. Previously, he served as the Chief Director for Metro District Health Services from 2007 and Director of HIV/AIDS/STI and TB since 2003. As a qualified medical doctor, he worked in various health facilities in the Western Cape Department of Health & Wellness from 1989 to 1996, and as a Chief Medical Officer in the Cape Metro Region from 1996 to 2003.

32 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Dr Cloete has 32 years of extensive experience in the Western Cape Public Health sector, having served in multiple roles. He is a founding member of the Western Cape Reference Group for Health Promoting Schools and has participated in numerous inter-sectoral initiatives. These initiatives addressed diverse issues impacting population health in the Cape Metropole, such as hygiene and sanitation projects in informal settlements.

Since 2017, Cloete has played a key role in the Whole of Society Approach (WoSA) pilot projects for the Western Cape Government. This multi-sectoral strategy involved collaborative efforts across governmental and sectoral lines, guided by a shared aim to positively impact residents' lives. He has also been instrumental in the leadership and organisational culture interventions aimed at fostering a resilient and people-centred department.

FAMILY

Dr Cloete is one of four siblings, with both he and his youngest brother becoming doctors. His brother is a vascular surgeon in private practice. Cloete's father, Marcus, was a teacher at the Moravian Church School, and his late mother, Rose, was a determined and intelligent machinist who prioritised her brother's education over her own. Remarkably, Rose completed her matriculation in her forties.

Cloete resides in Kenilworth with his wife, Estelle, who works as a consultant, and their 25-year-old son, Adam.





The Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness is committed to providing person-centred quality care to the residents of the Western Cape and beyond. This includes preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care services, which are provided across 564 service points.

PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE

This is in keeping with our constitutional mandate to progressively realise the right to care. Our long-term strategy, "Healthcare 2030" outlines the department's vision and commitment to placing people at the heart of the health system. Our conceptual pillars for person-centred care are a person-centred approach, integrated provision of care, continuity of care, and a life course approach. Healthcare 2030 remains our north star and is currently being reviewed to reflect progress over the last 10 years and looking forward to the last five years towards 2030.

ASPIRATIONS

Provincial government's strategic intent is to provide a vehicle to drive forward integration opportunities and collaborative approaches to working together with cross sector leadership, to ensure health challenges are tackled through whole-of-government and transversal responses. The Department stewards a strong shared commitment to creating wellbeing opportunities for people of the Western Cape to live a long, healthy, meaningful and dignified life. This transformative change seeks to support people across the life course to enable children and young people to 'start well', for people to 'live well' and for older people to 'age well', through geographically defined healthcare delivery ecosystems. A provincial public health system that is 'run well' means using our resources wisely - being prudent - to get the best possible outcomes - doing what works - and experience - doing what matters - for the population we serve - and we all have a part to play.

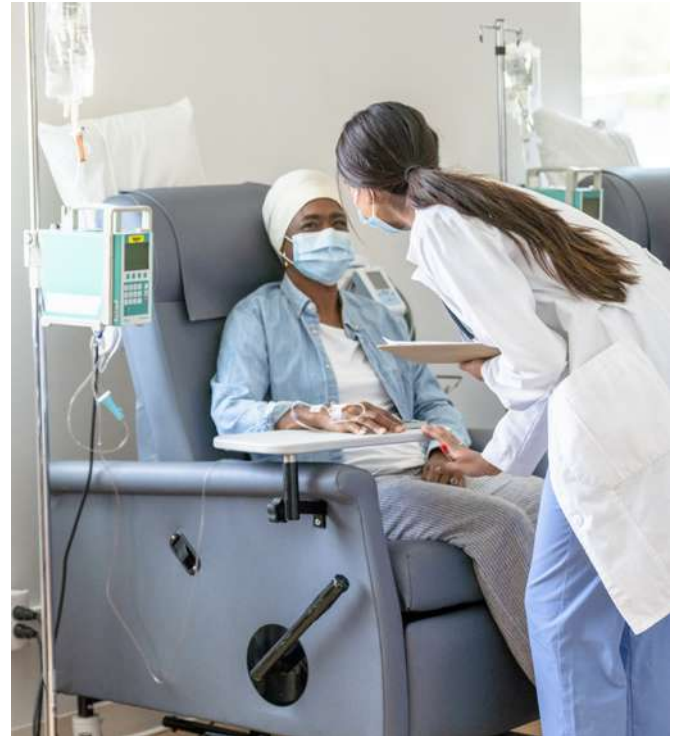
The Department has identified four core outcomes, these are:

- Children and young people have the health resilience to thrive
- People are resilient and have the agency to maintain and restore their health and wellbeing



- Older people are resilient and have the agency to attain and sustain the best quality of life
- A high-performance health system FOR YOU

Wellbeing challenges vary for each age group, as such the health service priorities focus on drivers of the disease burden for children and young people, working-age adults and older people. While the health system priority focuses on preparing for UHC, enhancing technical efficiencies, ensuring a capable workforce and improved access to care. The Department has been on a health reform journey since 1994. Ongoing reflections and learnings have informed the waves of health reform over this period and provided a basis for continuous improvement. Healthcare 2030 remains our compass, and we are committed to placing people at the heart of the health system, not just the people we serve but also those we employ.



David Maynier was appointed Provincial Minister of Education in May 2022 and was reappointed to this position following the 2024 national and provincial elections. He holds great respect for the principals, teachers, practitioners, and officials within the education sector, stating, "Our greatest asset is the people who serve the children of this province with compassion and dedication."

KEY INITIATIVES

During his first two years as Minister, Maynier launched several bold initiatives aimed at improving the education landscape. Notable among these is the #BackOnTrack programme, designed to reverse learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, he has introduced the Rapid School Build programme, which focuses on constructing new schools more quickly than ever before.

His key priorities for the upcoming term include improving learning outcomes, expanding access to education, and leading education reform in South Africa.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Maynier holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Politics and Economics from the University of Cape Town and a master's in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. His diverse experiences include overseas travel and serving as a submarine officer, a background that often captivates younger learners during school visits.

CAREER JOURNEY

He began his career as part of the research staff for the Democratic Party in Parliament. "I originally wanted to become a diplomat," he recalls, "but I found an environment where I thought I could make a difference. I take public service very seriously, and if I can improve the lives of others, then that is a great day's work!"

After being elected to the National Assembly, Maynier served for ten years, holding positions such as Shadow Minister of Finance and Shadow Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. He later joined the Western Cape provincial cabinet as Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, bringing a unique perspective on funding for provincial departments.

PERSONAL LIFE

In his downtime, Maynier enjoys spending time with his wife, Bronwen, and their daughter, Isabel. He sets a positive example for his daughter by reading for relaxation and emphasizes the importance of early-grade reading for children. Their family motto, "Never quit," is a principle he applies in his role as Minister of Education, reflecting his commitment to the improvement of the education system in the province.



*"If I can improve
the lives of
others, then that
is a great day's
work!"*





Brent Walters always aspired to be a teacher, and his appointment as Head of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) marks the fulfilment of that dream.

CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LIFE

Born in Claremont, Walters moved to Lansdowne in 1968 due to the Group Areas Act. Despite the move, he continued attending schools in Claremont, highlighting his family's strong ties to the area. Walters fondly recalls his mother making him recite multiplication tables before allowing him to play, a discipline he appreciates in retrospect. His parents, devoted to providing the best opportunities, were his role models.

Sport was integral to the family, with Walters excelling in table tennis, eventually captaining his school team, and engaging in its administration. His leadership skills were further honed as a prefect and a member of the Student Representative Council during the influential 1980 school boycotts.

EDUCATION

Walters graduated as a teacher in 1986 after earning a BSc in Mathematics, a BSc Honours, and a Higher Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Town (UCT), later obtaining a master's in mathematics education. Inspired by a teacher, Walters chose UCT, underscoring the profound impact educators have on guiding students' futures.

CAREER

Walters began his career teaching Physical Sciences and Mathematics at his alma mater. He later worked as the education officer for Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games and held senior management positions in various departments before leading the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS). Passionate about education, he integrated educational initiatives into every role he assumed. On 1 April 2021, Walters became Head of WCED, crediting his mother for his love of reading and lifelong learning.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

Walters' leadership is inclusive and directive, valuing his team's expertise and involving them in decision-making. His values-driven approach emphasises trustworthiness, honesty, and reliability, instilled by his parents. He strives to maintain sight of the greater purpose of education, recognising it as a multifaceted journey that shapes individuals.



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) aims for “Quality education for every child, in every classroom, in every school in the province.” This vision, displayed prominently in their offices, serves as a constant reminder to officials of their duty to create conducive conditions for optimal teaching and learning, benefiting over a million children in public schools across the province.

MISSION AND SERVICES

The WCED oversees education from early childhood development through to the end of secondary school. This includes ordinary public schools, technical schools, and focus schools. Learners at Schools of Skills complete a four-year programme with a skills qualification. The department’s goal is to ensure every child has quality learning opportunities in a supportive environment, enabling them to gain the knowledge, competencies, skills, and values needed to succeed in a changing world.

The head office in Cape Town focuses on policy development, strategy, planning, and coordination. The eight district offices handle education management, while the 64 circuits provide educational support to schools. WCED’s services include:

- Overall planning and management of the education system
- Education in ordinary public schools
- Support for independent schools
- Education in special schools
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Grade R
- Developmental opportunities for teachers and non-teachers
- A targeted feeding programme and other poverty alleviation and safety measures
- Support for teachers through basic conditions of service, incentives, and an Employee Health and Wellness Programme (EHWP)

FOCUS AREAS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The department has identified several areas on which to focus its energy and resources. This is guided by the following policy priorities of the department to:

- Strengthen and expand quality learning opportunities for enhanced learning;
- Enhance and expand enabling learning environments;
- Strengthen functionality and accountability; and
- Strengthen and enhance innovative adaptability and preparedness for a changing context.

These policy priorities underpin the performance of the department with the four performance indicators listed below receiving increased attention:

- Improvement in learner performance in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12;
- Improving the learner retention rate in Grades 10–12;
- Ensuring that learners have access to technical, agricultural, vocational and skills subjects as well as schools; and
- Ensuring that schools are safer, more secure places of learning.

The following focus areas have been identified in terms of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Budget priorities:

- Early Learning Programme
- Improving learning outcomes through the Back-on-Track Programme
- Learner placement through the Rapid School Build Programme
- Special Needs Programme
- Public Private Partnerships Programme
- Policy Development Programme

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

Curriculum support initiatives have resulted in a comprehensive support programme for both teachers and learners through the WCED's Back on Track programme. This recovery plan is rooted in the belief that learners should benefit from every intervention and action, recognising that teachers are crucial resources.

In February 2024, the results of the 2023 Western Cape systemic testing were revealed. The results showed positive gains, with improvements in Mathematics and Language scores across all school phases in the Western Cape.

The results indicate that WCED interventions are bearing fruit, particularly in early grade literacy and numeracy. There is, however, a long way still to go to reach pre-pandemic scores, and to surpass them. The WCED will continue to find ways to further strengthen their support for learners across all school phases.

Another focus area is on infrastructure development, which saw the WCED implement and achieve an unprecedented and ambitious school infrastructure delivery programme.

This had a massive impact on our admission process, allowing for greater access in communities where the demand is greater. The WCED is, however, very aware that demand for access to education in this province will continue. This will no doubt have an impact in the years to come.





“This is where we need to ensure that no citizen of the province is left behind.”

Johan Jaco Londt was born on 27 November 1984 in Oudtshoorn and is the most recent Western Cape Minister of Social Development. He currently resides in Cape Town with his wife, Dorcas Dube Londt.

With over 20 years of experience in South African politics, Minister Londt has established himself as a seasoned politician. He served on various Select Committees as a member of the National Council of Provinces from 2014 to 2024, with a brief period in the National Assembly.

His committee work included roles in Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour, Transport, Public Service and Administration, and Public Works and Infrastructure.

APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER

In June 2024, Premier Alan Winde appointed Londt as the Western Cape Minister of Social Development. The Western Cape Department of Social Development is often regarded as the heart of the provincial government, demonstrating its commitment to serving all residents, particularly the province's most vulnerable residents, through a collaborative, whole-of-society approach involving various stakeholders.

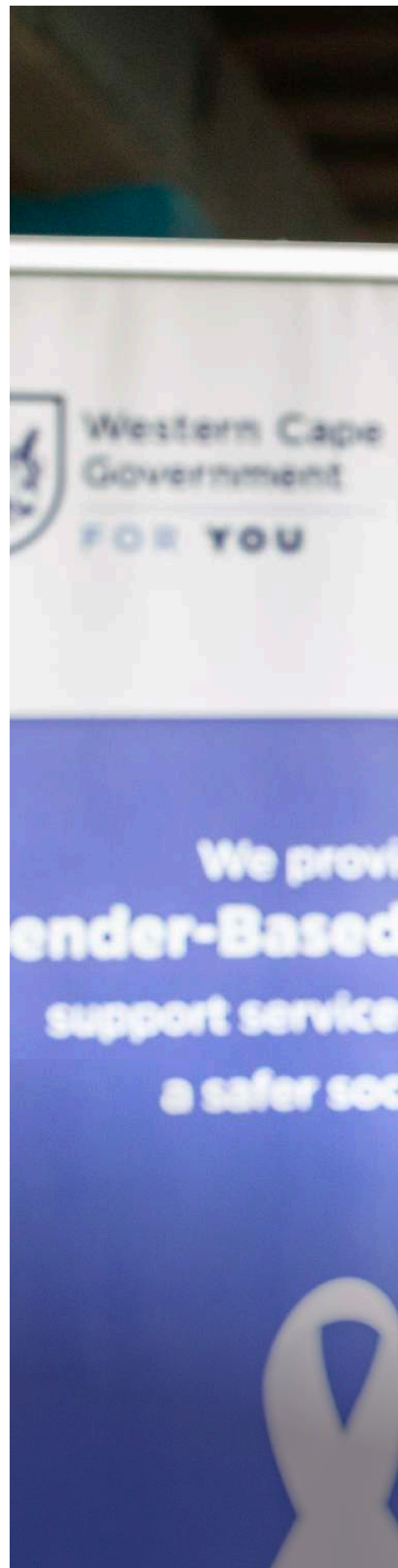
COMMITMENT TO VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Minister Londt understands that vulnerable residents are disproportionately affected by the challenges facing the Western Cape. He emphasises the need to prioritise the protection of those most in need: “This is where we need to ensure that no citizen of the province is left behind.” Despite budget cuts from the national government, Londt is determined to protect the dignity and well-being of all clients of the Department of Social Development.

He acknowledges that the DSD cannot support vulnerable residents alone. “We need partnerships with other government departments, communities, NGOs, NPOs, and the private sector to implement interventions, care, and support services,” he states.

NAVIGATING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

The current economic climate has led to increased demand for services, even as resources remain scarce. Londt emphasises the need for innovation in using available resources effectively to maximise output. He aims to implement effective monitoring and evaluation techniques to identify areas where services can be optimised. His goal is to strengthen the Department's resilience during times of economic hardship, ensuring that support remains available for those who need it most.







“The feeling of failing people is something I can never get used to.”

Dr Robert Macdonald has led the Department of Social Development for the past 10 years and holds a PhD from the University of Cape Town. He deeply values the dedication and commitment of his team, who work tirelessly to support the poor and vulnerable.

He is equally inspired by the NGOs that partner with the Department, recognising their remarkable service to communities. This dedication has been especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, which pushed both departmental and NGO staff to their limits in their efforts to assist those in need.

FACING CHALLENGES AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The role of Head of Department (HOD) has profoundly shaped Dr Macdonald's view of society. He states, “working in this sector exposes us to daily trauma, but we also witness tremendous courage and resilience.”

However, he acknowledges that the most challenging aspect of his role is dealing with resource constraints, which often prevent everyone from receiving the help they need when they need it. “The feeling of failing people is something I can never get used to,” he reflects, emphasising that his colleagues in the Department of Social Development (DSD) share this sentiment.

To address these challenges, he believes in fostering a supportive organisational culture among staff and highlights the importance of building strong partnerships. Dr Macdonald's leadership style is adaptive and responsive; he prefers a flexible approach, even within a rule-bound government environment.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, Dr Macdonald aims to drive efficiency and innovation within the department to maximise its limited resources. He is also committed to collaborating with other departments, different levels of government, civil society, and the private sector to create lasting positive change in the Province.





Departmental Overview

The Department of Social Development plays a crucial role in the Western Cape, acting as a key service delivery entity focused on supporting and protecting the province's poorest and most vulnerable residents. By employing a life cycle approach, the Department offers a comprehensive range of interventions designed to empower individuals and communities alike.

CORE FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES

One of the Department's primary functions is its Welfare Service, which assists those in need through partnerships with stakeholders and civil society organisations. This collaboration ensures that resources are effectively utilised, allowing for tailored support that addresses the specific needs of the community. The Community Development Service further extends this mission by providing sustainable development programmes aimed at empowering communities, fostering self-sufficiency, independence, and healthier lifestyles.

The overarching goal of these services is to help clients build positive relationships and engage actively in their communities, thereby enhancing their overall quality of life.

OBJECTIVES TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

- 1. Strengthening Families' Resilience to Violence**
Preserving family units is critical for both children's health and community safety. The Department addresses domestic and gender-based violence through a range of services, including family counselling, mediation, and drug treatment programmes. These initiatives aim to create a safer environment for families and nurture resilience in the face of adversity.
- 2. Supporting Youth Resilience**
The Department adopts a long-term strategy to tackle the root causes of crime, focusing on at-risk youth in violent communities. By collaborating with other government departments, the Department aims to restore dignity and prepare young people for future success, reducing the cycle of violence and offering a pathway to a more secure life.
- 3. Combatting Gender-Based Violence**
Recognising the urgent need for intervention, the Department has expanded its services by increasing the number of shelters in rural areas heavily affected by gender-based violence (GBV). Through the development of a GBV Implementation Plan and leadership of the Transversal GBV Group, the Department actively works to provide refuge and support for victims.



COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMMES FOR DEVELOPMENT

● **Programme 2: Social Welfare Services**

The Department offers integrated services for older persons, ensuring their care, support, and protection. For persons with disabilities, programmes are in place to promote well-being and socio-economic empowerment. Additionally, social relief efforts respond swiftly to emergency needs arising from disasters or undue hardship.

● **Programme 3: Children and Families**

Through initiatives aimed at promoting functional families, the Department works to prevent vulnerability among children. Programmes for childcare and protection focus on development, care, and alternative support for vulnerable children through Child and Youth Care Centres and community-based services.

● **Programme 4: Restorative Services**

Social crime prevention and support are also priorities, with programmes designed to aid both offenders and victims. Victim empowerment



initiatives provide essential support, care, and empowerment for victims of violence and crime, especially women and children. Furthermore, integrated services for substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation are essential for helping individuals recover and reintegrate into society.

- Programme 5: Development and Research**

The Department is committed to building institutional capacity and supporting Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) through compliance monitoring and capacity building. Its poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods programmes, including the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), aim to create lasting change. The Department also fosters youth development, providing an environment where young people can develop competencies and skills for community engagement. Lastly, the promotion of population policy is facilitated through research, advocacy, and continuous evaluation.



At 33, Deidré Baartman is the youngest Minister ever appointed in the Western Cape Cabinet and the second woman to serve as Finance Minister. She embodies progress, empowerment, and youth development.

Her journey from the backbenches of provincial parliament to a key political player highlights her resilience, dedication, and commitment to public service.

EARLY LIFE AND INSPIRATION

Born in 1991 in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, Deidré was inspired by her father, a retired South African Police Service Captain, and her mother, a dedicated Grade 2 teacher. Additionally, her maternal grandmother's keen sense of justice further motivated Deidré to enter politics.

Baartman obtained her LLB and LLM (Public Procurement Law) from the University of Stellenbosch and was admitted as an advocate of the Western Cape High Court in 2017. She transitioned to public service with a mission to ensure justice for communities.

POLITICAL CAREER

Serving as a member of the Western Cape provincial parliament since 2019, she was Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities & Tourism, and the Budget Committee. From 2021, she served as Deputy Chief Whip.

Her role as Chairperson of the Budget Committee provided her with deep insights into the fiscal process. Deidré is dedicated to fiscal responsibility and ensuring that the budgeting process effectively addresses service delivery and the needs of residents, particularly the vulnerable and impoverished.

A BEACON OF PROGRESS

Deidré's impressive record of accomplishment and extensive experience render her exceptionally qualified for this high-profile role. Deidré's vision for the Western Cape aligns with the provincial government's mission: "A Western Cape where everyone feels safe, supported, and able to thrive," with a commitment to ensuring that the province's finances work for everyone.

Youth activism runs deep in her blood; Deidré regularly mentors youth and young women entering the finance sector, assisting them in navigating a traditionally male-dominated field. She actively uses social media to make finance and budgeting more accessible to the youth and enjoys gardening and DIY projects in her spare time.

COMMITMENT TO EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

As Finance Minister, Deidré is dedicated to ensuring equitable resource allocation, transparent governance, value-for-money in procurement, and innovative financial strategies that bolster the Western Cape's economic resilience and growth. She believes that sound financial management is key to unlocking the province's potential and creating a more equitable society.

Deidré's unique blend of professional expertise, personal integrity, and community values positions her as an ideal leader for this role. Her steady hand and visionary approach will undoubtedly steer the Western Cape toward a prosperous and inclusive future.







“True leadership is about inspiring others to reach their full potential and fostering an environment where innovation and excellence thrive.”

Julinda Gantana's appointment as the first female head official of the Provincial Treasury breaks barriers for women, ushering in an era of transformation and equal representation in senior management.

With over 30 years in the public sector, including 12 years in senior management at the Western Cape Provincial Treasury, Julinda's leadership promises innovative solutions and a commitment to public service excellence.

Born and raised in Cape Town, Gantana earned an undergraduate degree and a higher diploma in Education from the University of the Western Cape, followed by an Honours degree in Psychology. She later obtained a master's degree in business leadership from the University of South Africa in 2009. Her dissertation focused on corporate governance and professional ethics in the South African public sector.

CAREER JOURNEY

Julinda's career began as an educator, providing her with a unique perspective on public service. She transitioned into public finance, starting at the Northern Cape Department of Finance as an Assistant Director in Budget Analysis. She then moved to the National Treasury as a Deputy Director, advancing to Chief Director of Provincial Budget Analysis.

In 2012, Julinda joined the Western Cape Provincial Treasury as Chief Director for Provincial Government Public Finance. She later served as Deputy-Director General: Fiscal and Economic Services and Deputy-Director General: Governance and Asset Management.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Her tenure is marked by expertise in infrastructure performance monitoring, budgeting, expenditure management, risk identification, strategic management, and policy development.

Julinda is also passionate about community service and women's rights. She has served on the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board and the Women in Treasury Committee. She advocates for equal opportunities and gender mainstreaming in the workplace.

Julinda believes in lifelong learning and personal growth for public servants. She envisions the Western Cape Treasury leading budget reform within a decentralised fiscal system, focusing on integrated service delivery, greater fiscal autonomy, and evidence-based decision-making, with residents at the centre of these efforts.



The Western Cape Provincial Treasury plays a key role in achieving socio-economic and governance outcomes in the Western Cape by providing strategic financial leadership to the provincial government, its public entities, and municipalities.

It prepares the provincial budget and oversees its implementation through co-planning and co-implementation within a joint district approach, thus playing a crucial role in realising political priorities.

The Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan highlight Innovation and Culture Change as key focus areas due to the Treasury's central governmental role. Good governance is also emphasised, akin to the Department of the Premier.

FUNCTIONS

The Provincial Treasury's functions include:

- Preparing and controlling the implementation of the provincial budget.
- Promoting transparency and effective management of revenue, expenditure, assets, and liabilities.
- Ensuring fiscal policies align with national economic policies.
- Enforcing the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and national and provincial norms and standards.
- Complying with the annual Division of Revenue Act and monitoring its implementation in provincial public entities.
- Building capacities for efficient, effective, and transparent financial management.
- Investigating financial management systems and internal controls.
- Addressing serious or persistent breaches of financial regulations.
- Providing information required by the National Treasury.

VISION AND MISSION

The vision is to create a responsive and inclusive Treasury that enables positive change for residents. The mission includes promoting cohesion and resident-centricity, building capacity in the public sector, and enabling integrated management and partnerships to deliver quality services sustainably. The Provincial Treasury, alongside the Department of the Premier, the Department of Local Government, and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, contributes to embedding good governance and integrated service delivery.



OBJECTIVES

Provincial Treasury objectives encompass efficient and effective governance support services, sustainable management of provincial and municipal fiscal resources, and financial system governance within these spheres. The aim is to embed good governance through financial management improvements and capacity-building initiatives for departments, entities, and municipalities.

SERVICES

The Provincial Treasury provides:

- **Administration:** Strategic, quality financial, and administrative support to the department's head and the Minister to achieve the vision and strategy.
- **Sustainable Resource Management:** Research, budget, infrastructure, and integrated planning, budgeting, and implementation services for provincial and municipal fiscal resources.
- **Asset Management:** Assistance to departments and municipalities in building capacity and instilling supply chain management practices and oversight.
- **Financial Governance:** Promoting accountability and financial governance to ensure governance transformation in departments, entities, and municipalities.

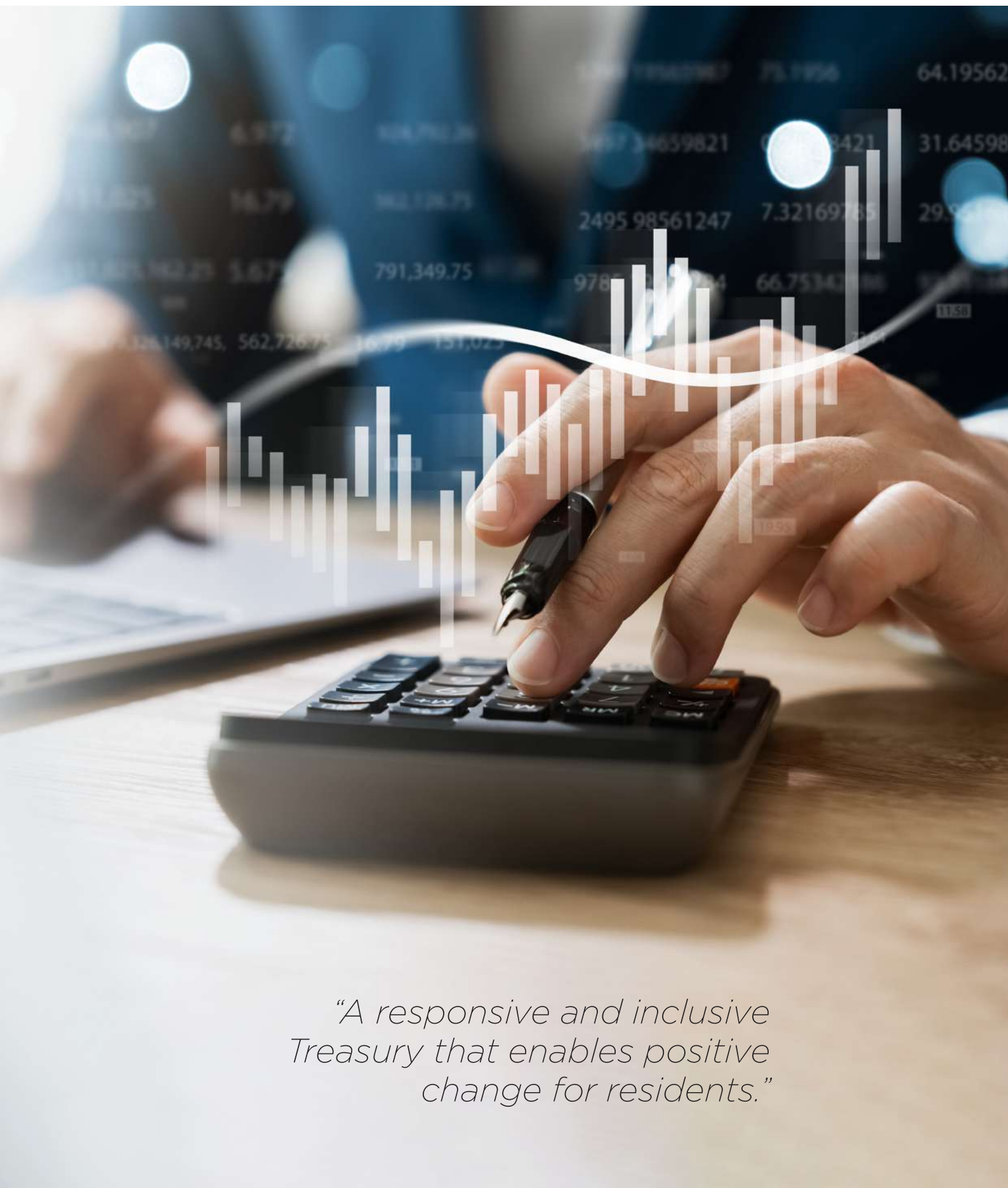
BUDGET

The Provincial Treasury drafts the annual budget of the Western Cape to support a safe, thriving, and inclusive region. The budget is aligned with the Western Cape Government's Strategic Portfolios, namely Growth for Jobs, Safety, Educated, Healthy and Caring Society, and Innovation, Culture and Governance. It prioritises resident-centric approaches to enhance service delivery, address community needs, and create economic and job opportunities across the province.

BURSARIES

The Western Cape Provincial Treasury is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth and addressing skills shortages in Economics, Accounting, Finance, and Auditing. In 2008, it launched a bursary programme for Grade 12 learners and post- and undergraduate students pursuing careers in Economics, Finance, Accounting, Auditing, Supply Chain Management, Built Environment and Project Management, Population Studies, Transport Economics, and Information Sciences, Data Science, and Statistics.





*"A responsive and inclusive
Treasury that enables positive
change for residents."*

Isaac Sileku serves as the Minister of the Western Cape Mobility Department and is a member of the Western Cape Legislature. Raised by his grandmother in Beaufort West, Minister Sileku credits her with instilling the values and principles that guide him both in life and in his role as minister.

EDUCATION

Minister Sileku attended Likhanyo Primary School in Beaufort West and later moved to Glendale Secondary School. He matriculated from Fezekile Secondary School in Oudtshoorn. His early involvement in politics during his school years influenced his decision to pursue a career in public service.

CAREER PATH

After completing his education, Isaac worked at the Caledon Casino Hotel and Spa from 2000, before joining Theewaterskloof Municipality in 2004. He briefly worked with a bank before returning to the municipality from 2008 to 2011. In 2011, he became a councillor in Theewaterskloof Municipality, later serving on the Overberg District Municipality as well.

Following the local government elections in 2016, Sileku was elected as the Deputy Mayor of Theewaterskloof Municipality. In 2019, he was deployed to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), where he served from May 2019 to November 2022. Just a day after leaving the NCOP, he transitioned to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and, after the May 2024 local government elections, he was appointed as the Western Cape Minister of Mobility.

“My passion for people drives me to maintain a people-centred approach.”

LEGISLATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

During his tenure in the NCOP, Minister Sileku was an active member of several select committees, including Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Water and Sanitation, and Human Settlements, Petitions and Executive Undertakings, Security and Justice, Transport, Public Service and Administration, Public Works and Infrastructure (Chairperson), as well as, Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism, Employment, and Labour.

In the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, he served on key standing committees, such as:

- Programming Authority
- Public Accounts Committee
- Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Development and Tourism
- Standing Committee on Infrastructure
- Standing Committee on Mobility
- Standing Committee on Local Government
- Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson: Provincial Powers Bill

Most recently, Minister Sileku was the political head of the DA in the Theewaterskloof Constituency and is now the political head for the DA Constituency Hessequa.

VISION FOR MOBILITY

As Minister of Mobility, Isaac Sileku has reached out to various stakeholders within the public transport network of the Western Cape. His guiding motto is to provide quicker, cheaper, faster, and reliable transport for all. He acknowledges the priorities of the National Government of Unity, emphasising that an integrated transport network in the Western Cape will accelerate economic development, create jobs, and alleviate poverty.

Minister Sileku also believes that enhancing freight transport will contribute significantly to economic growth. “Most importantly, my passion for people drives me to maintain a people-centred approach. Ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable transport options is essential to fulfilling this commitment,” he stated.

Minister Isaac Sileku is dedicated to improving mobility and transport services in the Western Cape. His extensive political experience and commitment to public service position him as a leader focused on enhancing the lives of the people he serves.





At the helm of the Western Cape Mobility Department is Hamida Fakira, a leader defined by quiet determination, deep technical expertise, and a steadfast belief in public service. With over two decades of experience across national and provincial government, Fakira brings an unwavering focus to the complex task of shaping a more connected, efficient, and inclusive transport system for the Western Cape.

As Head of Department, Fakira leads a portfolio central to people's daily lives, ensuring that mobility in the province supports economic opportunity, access to services, and dignity. She approaches this mandate with the values she has carried throughout her career: competence, care, adaptability, and a deep-rooted commitment to making South Africa a "better place for all".

ENGINEERING VISION INTO ACTION

Fakira's journey into public leadership began in the world of science and engineering. Originally trained as a telecommunications engineer, she holds a Master's degree in Engineering Management and two Master's degrees in Physics - credentials that speak to her analytical mind and ability to tackle highly complex systems.

This grounding shaped the way she works: detail-oriented, strategic, and always systems-driven. Her early work included a landmark 1992 study on township electrification in the Western Cape, followed by roles at Transnet Freight Rail (then Spoornet) and Telkom SA, where she led the design and implementation of satellite-based telecommunications networks for major national clients.

LEADERSHIP ACROSS SPHERES OF GOVERNMENT

By 2003, Fakira had moved into senior government leadership, serving as Deputy Director-General at the national Department of Trade and Industry. Among her responsibilities was overseeing the department's major Public-Private Partnership project, relocating and constructing a new departmental campus in Sunnyside, Pretoria.

Her tenure at the national Department of Transport further demonstrated her capacity to lead at scale. In 2008, she initiated the first national audit on the state of provincial roads and later played a key role in shaping South Africa's draft Integrated Infrastructure Plan. As Deputy Director-General for Maritime Transport from 2011, she steered critical maritime policy initiatives,

including the development of the Maritime Transport Green Paper and the facilitation of several international maritime conventions through Parliament.

In 2013, Fakira and her team, in collaboration with the Navy and the City of Cape Town, successfully project-managed the reduction of the Seli 1 coal container vessel wreck off Table Bay — a strong testament to her ability to deliver under pressure.

BRINGING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TO MOBILITY

In 2015, Fakira served as Secretary to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, a role that deepened her understanding of provincial systems and legislative processes. It is in her current position, leading the Western Cape Mobility Department, where her experience, values, and technical expertise come together in the best way.

Fakira brings to the department not just policy and operational leadership, but also a commitment to innovation rooted in research. In 2020, she completed a feasibility study on bio-energy and carbon capture in South Africa as part of her postgraduate work on Climate Change at the University of Edinburgh. Her most recent academic work, completed at University College London in 2022, focused on physics and engineering applications, evidence of her lifelong commitment to learning and staying ahead of global trends.

Hamida Fakira is not only a public servant, she is also a builder of systems and a quiet force for progress in government. Under her leadership, the Western Cape Mobility Department continues to work towards a future where transport is safer, greener, smarter, and more equitable for everyone.

Fakira brings an unwavering focus to the complex task of shaping a more connected, efficient, and inclusive transport system for the Western Cape.



The Western Cape Mobility Department is committed to leveraging the province's economic potential by prioritising mobility as a vital connector of people, goods, and institutions. By developing a safe, dignified, and fit-for-purpose transport system, the department aims to provide transformative access to opportunities for all residents of the province.

GOALS FOR A BETTER TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The Department's strategic goals encompass several key objectives:

- **Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Transport:** The department aims to create a transport system that is dignified and integrated, ensuring that all residents have access to safe and reliable transportation options.
- **Integration of the Minibus Taxi Industry:** Recognising the importance of the minibus taxi industry, the department seeks to fully integrate and empower this sector while actively working to eliminate violence within the industry.
- **Revitalising the Rail System:** The department plans to restore the rail network as the backbone of the province's transport infrastructure, enhancing connectivity and efficiency.
- **Reducing Road Fatalities:** Aiming for a significant impact on public safety, the department has set a target to reduce road fatalities by 50% by 2030.
- **High-Tech Freight Network:** The development of a reliable and efficient freight network, supported by advanced technology, is crucial for boosting economic activity and trade.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Building strong and collaborative partnerships with various stakeholders will be essential in achieving the department's vision for mobility.
- **Sustainable Transport Transition:** The department is committed to accelerating the transition to a low-carbon, environmentally sustainable transport system, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change.

FOCAL AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

To achieve these goals, the department will focus on several key areas:

- **Minibus Taxis:** Supporting the minibus taxi industry in its integration into the broader transport framework while addressing challenges such as safety and operational efficiency.
- **Rail Services:** Restoring and enhancing rail services to improve public transport options and connect communities.
- **Buses and Mobility Services:** Expanding bus services

and mobility solutions to ensure comprehensive coverage and accessibility.

- Traffic Law Enforcement and Safety: Strengthening traffic law enforcement measures to enhance road safety and reduce accidents.
- Institutional Partnerships: Collaborating with local governments, organisations, and other stakeholders to create a unified approach to transport issues.
- Freight Transportation: Developing a high-performing freight system that meets the demands of businesses while ensuring sustainability.
- Walking and Cycling: Promoting walking and cycling as viable transport options, contributing to healthier lifestyles, and reduced environmental impact.

The Western Cape Mobility Department is dedicated to creating a transport system that not only meets the needs of its residents but also drives economic growth and sustainability. By focusing on safety, integration, and collaboration, the department aims to enhance mobility throughout the province, ensuring that everyone has access to the opportunities they deserve.





Values



CARING

To care for those we serve and work with.



COMPETENCE

The ability and capacity to do the job we were employed to do.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We take responsibility.



INTEGRITY

To be honest and do the right thing.



INNOVATION

To be open to new ideas and develop creative solutions to problems in a resourceful way.



RESPONSIVENESS

To serve the needs of our residents and employees.

WCG Strategic Portfolios



GROWTH FOR JOBS

The Western Cape achieves breakout economic growth generating confidence, hope, and opportunities to thrive.



SAFETY

The Western Cape is a resilient and safe society



EDUCATED, HEALTHY & CARING SOCIETY

Every person has access to the opportunity to live a healthy, meaningful, and dignified life in an inclusive society.



INNOVATION, CULTURE, & GOVERNANCE

The WCG is a people-centred institution that innovatively, efficiently, and collaboratively mobilises resources for service delivery.

FOR YOU at Every Stage of Life

The Provincial Strategic Plan recognises that individuals require different kinds of support at key moments throughout their lives. Integrated government services are designed to provide responsive assistance along this journey, enabling residents to seize opportunities and participate fully in the economy at every life stage.

To support residents throughout the life course, there are four integrated impact areas where government departments work towards the common goal of providing targeted support and enabling residents across critical life areas.



**Western Cape
Government**

Committed to making a better province
FOR YOU.