

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 31 AUGUST 2018

TABLINGS

The Speaker:

1. **Annual Report of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for the financial year ended 31 March 2018 tabled in terms of section 60 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act 10 of 2009), as amended:**

Annual Report of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for 2017/18 (Vote 2: Provincial Parliament).

Referred to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee.

2. **Auditor-General's Report**

Special Report of the Auditor-General on the delay in the submission of the Audit Report on the financial statements of the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

3. **REPORT ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REGION OF LAZIO, ITALY**

As Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture, I undertook a short visit to the Lazio Administrative Region in Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2018.

Economic overview

Lazio is one of 20 administrative regions in Italy. Situated in the central peninsular section of the country, it is divided into four provinces and one metropolitan city. It is home to 5.9 million inhabitants, making it the second most populated region of Italy after Lombardy and Campania. The region's capital, Rome, has a population of just over 2.8 million people, accounting for 49% of the regional total.

Lazio, together with its capital Rome, boasts possibly the most important cultural heritage in the world. Indeed, the region is one of the world's main international and domestic tourism destinations, attracting about 20 million tourists a year.

Agri processing

Lazio's food and agriculture system represents 5% of the national total with an annual turnover of €6.3 billion, 3% of the total wealth of the entire regional economy. Lazio is home to over 3 400 businesses, employing almost 17 000 people, with exports to the value of €550 million.

The region also hosts important logistics platforms such as the Rome Agrifood Centre (CAR) and the Fondi Fruit and Vegetable Market (MOF), making Lazio of prime importance in the sale of food products in Italy.

The green economy is growing across Italy and particularly in the region of Lazio. In fact, Lazio ranks in fourth place in the national classification, with approximately 27 000 companies having invested in green technology products (8% of the national total) between 2008 and 2013. In addition, Lazio is the seat of the largest national and multinational companies in the utility sector, such as Enel, Eni, Terna and RTR Rete Rinnovabile, with thousands of specialists employed in their technical departments.

Foreign direct investment from Lazio into the Western Cape

There has been one significant investment from Lazio into the Western Cape economy by Enel Green Power in the renewable energy sector.

Enel Green Power, a subsidiary of Enel (Rome, Italy), invested in the alternative/renewable energy sector in an electricity project valued at R2.5 billion by establishing a new photovoltaic plant in Paleisheuwel in the Western Cape. It has a capacity of 82.5 megawatts and will generate enough electricity to power 48 000 households. Energy generated by the power plant will be sold to Eskom.

1. Purpose

During the preparatory stage for the official visit to Upper Austria, I indicated that I would be delaying my return to South Africa in order to visit Italy. With this in mind, and in an attempt to enhance the relationship between Lazio and the Western Cape, I requested the Office of the Speaker to facilitate a two-day official programme with the Regional Council of Lazio in order to establish a platform for future engagement and relationship-building.

2. Official programme

2.1 Sunday, 8 July

2.1.1 Meeting with South African Ambassador to the Vatican, HE George Johannes:

This meeting focussed on the Vatican in terms of their role in monitoring social and human issues within the country. The social issues should not be excluded when establishing greater relations with other regions. The ambassador indicated that the Vatican is more involved in the research of an Aids vaccine and looking at how the social ills within the country are affecting society at large. They are not involved in politics, but rather with the NGO sector in South Africa.

2.2 Monday, 9 July

2.2.1 Meeting with ENAMA:

The Italian National Agency for Agricultural Mechanisation (ENAMA) was created to improve competitiveness, develop technologies and assess the performance and safety of machinery, plants and their components and products.

During the discussion, ENAMA indicated that they would be interested in collaborating in the chemical agricultural machinery space, particularly in the area of fertilising sprayers. They would also be interested in participating in agricultural expositions in the Western Cape in order to market the body and their services.

Resolution:

I will, through the standing committee, convey their details to Wesgro in order to facilitate contact with Agri Western Cape and Agri SA for further interaction and assistance.

2.2.2 Meeting with the South African Ambassador to Rome

During my meeting with HE Prof SM Soni, the ambassador indicated that the University of Sicily offers a degree in the “blue economy” and aeronautics and also offers scholarships. He also encouraged South Africa to participate in the Venice and Rome Film festivals. He also raised the difficulties experienced by many Italian businesses with offices in South Africa in respect of applying for and being granted visas for their staff to work in South Africa.

Resolution:

- a) Though the visa matter is not within the scope of the Western Cape, I will convey the message to the Department of Home Affairs and the Italian Consulate in Cape Town to consider ways to alleviate the issue.
- b) To convey the message regarding participation in the film festival to the relevant standing committee.

2.2.3 Veronafiera

Veronafiera is the largest event company in Italy. They are interested in establishing an exposition in the Western Cape and would appreciate assistance and guidance in respect of suitable partners with whom to facilitate a conference. They will be launching a new expo in 2019 on wine, olive oil and beverages.

Resolution:

I have agreed to convey the information to the head of Wesgro's Convention Bureau.

2.2.4 Meetings with the Regional Council of Lazio

I met with Mses Onorati and Bonaccorsi, representatives of the Agriculture and Promotion of Food Chain department and the Tourism and Equal Opportunities department respectively. They are very keen on establishing greater relations with the Western Cape Minister for Economic Opportunities, particularly in respect of agriculture and tourism.

Resolution:

I have undertaken to convey their contact details to MEC Winde to continue discussions and consider opportunities for exchange.

2.3 Tuesday, July 10

2.3.1 Communication and External Relations and Regional Council for Culture, Tourism, Sport and Live Shows

Messrs Fabrizio and Leodori, representing the above institutions welcomed the idea of future exchanges in areas of common interest for the Region of Lazio and the Western Cape.

Both were very positive and expressed great willingness to further explore the relationship with the WCPP in the form of webinars with the chairpersons of the relevant standing committees responsible for provincial events, agricultural tourism, domestic tourism and sport.

2.3.2 Centro Agroalimentare Roma (CAR)

The Centro Agroalimentare Roma is similar to the Epping Fruit and Vegetable Market.

It consists of a large warehouse and logistics platform for fresh produce, including a fish market. The market covers an area of 140 hectares with facilities for refrigeration, storage, distribution and delivery. 130 wholesalers and 200 farmers bring their produce to CAR.

Very closely located to the airport and the port, the market provides a fresh food supply chain for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. They also cater for the small farmer who has a surplus of produce and can provide them with rental space at a daily rate.

Resolution:

It is a well-planned structure to assist both small, medium and large scale farmers. I will convey the information to MEC Winde to further explore the business model.

3. Overall programme resolutions

While the visit and interaction with the abovementioned officials and organisation in the Region of Lazio was very brief, it seems as though the region has a great deal to share that would be of benefit to the Western Cape. The Regional Council of Lazio indicated an interest in establishing greater links with the WCPP in terms of possible future engagements between the two institutions.

Opportunities, not only in agriculture, agri-processing and tourism but, also in the fields of arts and culture and social development, can be further explored by the relevant standing committees or MECs.