



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

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Annual Committee Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture for the 2017/18 financial year, dated 6 June 2018, as follows:

Members

The Committee comprised of the following members:

Schäfer, BA (DA) (Chairperson)
Joseph, B (EFF)
Maseko, LM (DA)
Mnqasela, M (DA)
Nkondlo, N (ANC)

Alternate Members

Hinana, N E (DA)
Mackenzie, R (DA)
Simmers, T (DA)
Tyatyam, S G (ANC)

1. Introduction

The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1 Maintain oversight over the executive members and the Departments concerning the way in which they perform their responsibilities, including the implementation of legislation and to hold them accountable; and
- 1.2 Consider and report on legislation, other matters and the annual reports referred to it by the Speaker.

In fulfillment of its mandate the Committee must:

- 1.2.1 Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.
- 1.2.2 Conduct its business in a fair, open and transparent manner.
- 1.2.3 Promote cooperative governance.
- 1.2.4 Report regularly to the House.

2. Reporting Departments and Entities

2.1 Department of Agriculture

2.2 Cape Agency for Sustainable Integrated Development in Rural Areas (CASIDRA)

2.3 Department of Economic Development and Tourism

2.4 Western Cape Destination Marketing, Investment and Trade Promotion Agency (WESGRO)

2.5 Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone Licencing Company SOC Ltd

3. Overview of Committee's activities

Number of Committee Meetings	17
Number of Public Hearings	9
Number of International Study Tours	0
Number of Oversight Visits	1
Number of Provincial Bills considered	3
Number of NCOP Bills considered	3
Workshops/conferences attended	0

4. Oversight activities

The Standing Committee on Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture conducted its oversight responsibilities and produced a high level of output, holding a total of 17 meetings and nine public hearings during the 2017/18 financial year.

4.1 Legislation

A considerable amount of the Committee's time at the start of the 2017/18 financial year was spent deliberating on various Bills that were referred to the Committee. In April 2017, the Committee held public hearings on the *Plant Improvement Bill* [B 8B - 2015](NCOP)(S76) and *Plant Breeders' Rights Bill* [B 11B - 2015](NCOP)(S76). The public hearings took place in Robertson, Citrusdal and Calitzdorp, and received approximately 430 submissions per Bill. After consideration of the submissions, Negotiating Mandates on both Plant Bills were considered and adopted by the Committee on 27 September 2017.

The Committee considered submissions received on the *Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill* [B 15D - 2013](NCOP)(S76) and adopted its Negotiating Mandate on the Bill on 3 May 2017.

Other bills considered included the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (Emergency Funds) Bill* [B5 - 2017], the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 6-2017] and the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 3-2018].

4.2 Inquiry into the Impact of Abalone Poaching on Small-Scale Fishing Communities in the Western Cape

During the 2016/17 financial year, the Committee resolved to host public hearings in order to form a better understanding of the extent of the socio-economic challenges experienced by small-scale fishing communities as a result of abalone poaching. In June 2017, after consideration of the inputs received at the public hearings, the Committee adopted the Report on the Impact of Abalone Poaching on Small-Scale Fishing Communities in the Western Cape. The Report was then considered and adopted on 14 June 2017.

The Report found that abalone poaching has a strong and undisputed link to gangsterism and that poached abalone worth millions of Rands has been given to international crime syndicates in exchange for materials used in the manufacture of drugs such as crystal methamphetamine. Furthermore, small-scale fishers, community members and tourists visiting small coastal towns are being intimidated by gangsters involved in abalone poaching, and there are concerns that all relevant government law enforcement entities are not working together to combat poaching in these communities. Other important issues that were emphasised in the Report and at the public hearings was that small-scale fishers were turning to poaching because of the inability to access small-scale fishing rights and quotas, and that the sale of confiscated illegally obtained abalone by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is sold for far below the market value has resulted in the South African market for abalone becoming less competitive for other sellers.

The Report was announced at the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa on 27 August 2017, and referred to the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for consideration.

4.3 Committee Meetings and Oversight Activities

The Committee took part in a Provincial Cluster Visit Week across the West Coast region from 16 to 19 May 2017. As part of the Visit Week, the Committee visited Southern Atlantic Sea Farms Pty Ltd in Saldanha Bay, to look at the process of sourcing, manufacturing and exporting of mussels, and the economic benefits of the business to the surrounding communities.

In September 2017, the Committee expressed concern over tourism safety when a ferry transporting passengers from Robben Island had to be evacuated when the ferry started taking on water. Various stakeholders were called in to report to the Committee on the incident, including the South African Maritime Safety Authority who provided the Committee with the investigative report on the ferry incident that took place on 15 September 2017. The investigation found that weather forecasts were not monitored and weather conditions were unlikely to be suitable for the operation of the Thandi on that day. Additionally, a pre departure safety briefing was not carried out, and no records of persons on board the vessel were kept. The Committee expressed concerns on the report and pursued the matter further during the 2018/19 financial year.

During the financial year, the Committee received briefings from various stakeholders on the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA). Many views were expressed on the mixed use of the land and the proposed plan of action for the area. The PHA is unique as it is situated on the Cape Flats Aquifer, which is an underground water system that holds fresh water. Farmlands within the PHA form natural green areas where rainfall permeates into the underground aquifer. The Committee expressed the view that the PHA is a critical agricultural resource in the Western Cape for horticultural production, specifically for food and nutrition security. The area plays an important role in contributing to affordable and diverse food supply. The Committee was informed that a study would be conducted on the PHA, led by the Department of Agriculture, who appointed Indego Consulting to look at developing a socio-economic agricultural plan for the PHA. The Committee would meet during the 2018/19 financial year to discuss the findings of the study.

In October 2017, the Committee evaluated the 2016/17 Annual Report of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and its Entities; Wesgro and Saldanha Bay IDZ Licencing Company SOC Ltd. The Committee was unable to consider the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and its entity; Casidra, due to the disagreement between the Department and the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) regarding the AGSA's opinion that the Department has incorrectly classified "Goods and Services" as "Transfers and Subsidies". The disagreement was unresolved and therefore the Department's Annual Report could not be tabled for consideration by the Committee.

During the financial year the Committee held meetings on various matters affecting the Western Cape, such as land reform and outstanding lease agreements, and the unresolved Ebenhaeser land claim. The Committee received briefings led by the Department of Agriculture with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Department of Local Government, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and Provincial Treasury, on the drought disaster in the Western Cape. These matters would be carried over to the 2018/19 financial year as well.

5. Legislation

In the 2017/18 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

5.1 Provincial Bills

- 5.1.1 Vote 11: Agriculture in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (Emergency Funds) Bill* [B5 - 2017]
- 5.1.2 Vote 11: Agriculture in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 6 –2017]
- 5.1.3 Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 6–2017]
- 5.1.4 Vote 11: Agriculture in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 1-2018]
- 5.1.5 Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 1-2018]

5.2 NCOP Bills (Section 76)

- 5.2.1 *Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill* [B 15D - 2013](NCOP)(S76)
- 5.2.2 *Plant Improvement Bill* [B 8B - 2015] (NCOP) (S76)
- 5.2.3 *Plant Breeders' Rights Bill* [B 11B - 2015] (NCOP) (S76)

6. Facilitation of Public Involvement and Participation

In line with its mandate to facilitate public participation as part of the legislative process, the Committee held public hearings on the Bills. To give effect to this, the Committee advertised the Annual Report and Bills such as the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (Emergency Funds) Bill* [B5 - 2017], *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 6-2017], *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 3-2018], the *Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill I* [B 15D - 2013] (NCOP) (S76), the *Plant Improvement Bill* [B 8B - 2015] (NCOP) (S76) and the *Plant Breeders' Rights Bill* [B 11B - 2015] (NCOP) (S76), informing and inviting stakeholders to participate in public hearings.

7. Financial particulars

The Committee's adjusted budget for the 2017/18 financial year was R216 419 and the Committee incurred actual expenditure of R 249 965.20 resulting in an over-expenditure of R33 546.20. The over-expenditure was due to the public hearings held on the three NCOP Bills.



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MS BA SCHAER

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES, TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE**

DATE: 6 JUNE 2018