



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

Ref Number: 11/4/1/2/8

Annual Committee Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture for the 2018/19 financial year, dated 6 May 2019, as follows:

## Members

The Committee comprised of the following members:

Schäfer, BA (DA) (Chairperson until 6 November 2018)  
Simmers, T (DA) (Chairperson from 6 November 2018)  
Joseph, B (EFF)  
Maseko, LM (DA)  
Mnqasela, M (DA)  
Nkondlo, N (ANC)

## Alternate Members

Allen, R (DA) (Member since 22 January 2019)  
Hinana, N E (DA)  
Philander, W (DA) (Member since 22 January 2019)  
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	24
Number of Public Hearings	14
Number of International Study Tours	0
Number of Oversight Visits	2
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 24 meetings and 14 public hearings during the 2018/19 financial year.

### **4.1 Legislation**

During the last six months of the 2018/19 financial year, a considerable amount of the Committee's time was spent deliberating on various pieces of legislation that were referred to the Committee.

In November 2018, the Committee held three public hearings on the Communal Property Association Bill [B 12B-2017](NCOP) and one public hearing on the National Credit Amendment Bill [B 30-2018](NCOP). The public hearings on the Communal Property Association Bill took place in Ebenhaeser, Mossel Bay and Stellenbosch. The public hearing on the National Credit Amendment Bill took place in Cape Town. Additionally, the Committee also considered Vote 11: Agriculture and Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6-2018], in November.

On 29 November 2018, the Committee resolved not to continue with the processing of the Communal Property Association Bill. The deadlines given by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to submit Negotiating and Final Mandates on the Bill were deemed unreasonable by the Committee, and there were multiple requests from the Committee for the NCOP to grant provinces extensions to submit mandates, which were not responded to by the NCOP.

On 20 February 2019, the Committee conferred on the Western Cape's delegate in the NCOP the authority not to support the National Credit Amendment Bill.

In March 2019, the Committee held three public hearings on the Property Practitioners Bill [B 21B-2018](NCOP)(S76) in Saldanha Bay, George and Cape Town. The Final Mandate on the Property Practitioners Bill was adopted on 25 March 2019, which conferred on the Western Cape's NCOP delegate to support the Bill.

On 8 March 2019, the Western Cape Special Economic Development Infrastructure Company Bill [B 3–2019] (SEDIC Bill) was referred to the Committee. The SEDIC Bill was deemed urgent by the Premier and had to be processed immediately. The Committee held a public hearing on the Bill in Atlantis on 20 March 2019. Thereafter, Committee met to informally and formally consider the Bill. The Bill was unanimously supported and reported on, on 25 March 2019, and the Bill was debated and passed in the House on 28 March 2019.

On 8 March 2019, the Committee met to deliberate on Vote 11: Agriculture and Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1 - 2019]. Both Votes were supported and the Reports on the Votes were adopted on 15 March 2019.

#### **4.2 Committee Meetings**

In keeping with previous years committee activities, the Committee held its annual meetings on the seasonal tourism statistics. The Committee held a meeting on 11 April 2018 to consider the 2017/18 seasonal tourism statistics, and another meeting on 27 February 2019, to consider the seasonal tourism statistics for 2018/19. The impact of the drought on tourism as well as on the agricultural sector was of particular interest to the Committee.

During the 2018/19 financial year, the Committee continued with its inquiry in to the Robben Island Ferry incident that occurred on 15 September 2017. The Committee had expressed concern over tourism safety when a ferry transporting passengers from Robben Island had to be evacuated when the ferry started taking on water. The Committee requested that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism investigate the case and report back to the Committee on the potential for “risk of harm” to which passengers on small vessels may be exposed, and how this may pose a risk to tourism in the Western Cape; the standard of safety of passengers/tourists on vessels carrying up to 200 passengers at a time, along the Western Cape coastline; the general state of small vessels for passengers/tourists along the Western Cape coastline; and the standard and quality of service in the Western Cape, regarding small passenger vessel transportation, with specific reference to the capacity and resources available to Robben Island Museum, and how this compares to other port cities/areas of similar tourist demand. The South African Maritime Safety Authority reported back to the Committee on this matter in October 2018. The report was submitted to Members in February 2019.

During the year, the Committee also touched on critical matters including land reform (focusing on the Ebenhaeser land claim), air access and the expansion projects for the Cape Town International Airport, the Energy Game Changer, skills development and the Apprenticeship Game Changer, the oceans economy, the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) study and the challenges faced by farmers located in the PHA, expropriation of land without compensation, and the future of the agricultural sector in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In October 2018, the Committee evaluated the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture and its Entity, Casidra. The Committee could not consider the Department of Agriculture’s 2016/17 Annual Report the previous year as there was a dispute between the Department and the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), which resulted in the case being taken to the High Court. The Committee also considered the 2017/18 Annual Report of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and its Entities; Wesgro and Saldanha Bay IDZ Licencing Company SOC Ltd.

#### **4.3 Oversight Visits**

During the 2018/19 financial year the Committee conducted two oversight visits. In May 2018, the Committee conducted an oversight visit to the I-CAN Centre in Elsie’s River. The purpose of the visit

was to receive a briefing by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism on digital skills in the Western Cape, opportunities for youth in the Western Cape, and the I-CAN Centre Proof of Concept.

The Committee also visited the Zoe Incubation Centre (the Centre) in Delft in September 2018. The Centre is a public facility whose mission is to eradicate unemployment, oppression and illiteracy within the Delft community, through skills training and awareness programmes. The Centre aims to provide the community with skills that will allow them to break free from systemic poverty.

The Committee also took part in a Provincial Cluster Visit Week across the West Coast region from 14 to 17 August 2018. As part of the Visit Week, the Committee visited the Outeniqua Research Farm run by the Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the visit was to gain a better understanding of the role and function of research farms in the Western Cape.

## **5. Legislation**

In the 2018/19 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 Bill [B 6-2018]
- 5.1.2 Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6-2018]
- 5.1.3 Vote 11: Agriculture in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1-2019]
- 5.1.4 Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1-2019]
- 5.1.5 Western Cape Special Economic Development Infrastructure Company Bill [B 3-2019]

### **5.2 NCOP Bills (Section 76)**

- 5.2.1 Communal Property Association Bill [B 12B-2017]
- 5.2.2 National Credit Amendment Bill [B 30-2018]
- 5.2.3 Property Practitioners Bill [B 21B-2018]

## **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 Bill [B 6-2018], Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1-2019], the National Credit Amendment Bill [B 30 - 2018], the Property Practitioners Bill [B 21B-2018] and the Western Cape Special Economic Development Infrastructure Company Bill [B 3-2019], informing and inviting stakeholders to participate in public hearings.

The Committee adopted a different approach to the Communal Property Association Bill public hearings. It was resolved that the Committee would not advertise in mainstream newspapers, but would rather advertise locally in the areas of interest and would adopt a more aggressive social media approach. The Committee received approximately 230 members of the public overall at the hearings.

## 7. Financial particulars

The Committee's adjusted budget for the 2018/19 financial year was R122 929.00 and the Committee incurred actual expenditure of R 441 405.45 resulting in an over-expenditure of R318 476.45. The over-expenditure was due to the public hearings held on the three NCOP Bills and the SEDIC Bill.



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**Mr T SIMMERS**

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

**DATE: 7 May 2019**