

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

Ref: 11/4/1/2/11

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (at 13:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

#### PRESENT

## **Members**

## **Democratic Alliance**

America, D (Additional) Baartman, DM (DA) Maseko, LM Mitchell, DG (Additional) Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

## **African National Congress**

Marran, P Mvimbi, LL (Additional)

#### **Freedom Front Plus**

Marais, PJ

#### **Apologies**

Mr B Herron, Member of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture

#### The following persons were in attendance:

#### **Department of Agriculture**

Mr D Jacobs, Deputy Director General - Agricultural Development and Support Services Mr DS Chitepo, Acting Chief Director - Rural Development

## **Department of Transport and Public Works**

Mr Y Ahmed, Acting Chief Director - Transport Regulations Ms V Chetty, Acting Director – Traffic Law Enforcement

#### **Stellenbosch Municipality**

Cllr R Badenhorst, Mayco Member - Community & Protection Services Mr G Solomons, Chief - Traffic Services Ms M Herring, Traffic Services

#### AGRI Western Cape

Mr J Strydom, Chief Executive Officer

#### **Specialist: Law Enforcement**

Mr K Africa, Traffic Law Enforcement Specialist

#### WCPP Officials

Mr J Vermeulen, Senior Procedural Office Mr C Esau, Senior Information Technology and Architecture Officer Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer Mr S Hassam, Information Technology Assistant Ms C Morris, Information Technology Assistant

#### 1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee as well as the members of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works, the Departmental officials, the Chief Executive Officer of AGRI Western Cape, officials from the Stellenbosch Municipality, Traffic Law Enforcement Specialist, Mr Africa, as well as the Officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

The Chairperson provided the Committee with his ruling on a point of order that was raised by Member Baartman at a meeting of 2 February 2021 on a comment made by Member Marais. The Chairperson ruled that Member Marais withdraw his comment, which he duly conceded to.

# 2. Briefing by Traffic Law Enforcement Specialist, Mr Kenny Africa, on traffic regulations applicable to the transportation of farm workers on open trucks and the potential causes of road accidents associated to this mode of transportation

Mr Africa provided the Committee with an overview of the regulations applicable to the transportation of farm workers on open trucks as well as the potential causes of accidents associated with this mode of transport. A few of the most recent accidents involving farm workers were highlighted as well as the routes that trucks travel, which was followed by suggestions on remedial steps that can be undertaken.

The Committee deliberated.

# 3. Briefing by Traffic Accident Data Specialists of Stellenbosch Municipality on major factors leading to accidents, injuries and fatalities of people being transported on open vehicles and possible recommendations to employers to improve road safety

The Stellenbosch Municipality provided the Committee with an overview of the management and control mechanisms in place for transporting farm workers as well as risk mitigating factors and factors leading to accidents. Applicable legislation was also highlighted.

The Committee deliberated.

# 4. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture enhancing awareness of the risks involved and the need to transport farm workers safely and with dignity

The Department of Agriculture provided the Committee with the COVID-19 regulations and directives for the transportation of farm workers outlying the challenges and the Department's response to such challenges. The protocol for the transportation of essential workers was highlighted as well as proposed interventions by creating awareness of the risks involved.

The Committee deliberated.

# 5. Briefing by Agri-Western Cape on best practices and protocols as proposed by the agriculture industry to improve the safety and dignity of workers being transported

AGRI-Western Cape provided the Committee with the context of using trucks as a transportation mode for farm workers as well as the relevant transport protocol and suggestions for improvement and better law enforcement.

The Committee deliberated.

#### 6. **Resolutions/Actions**

The Committee RESOLVED that members formulate possible resolutions and forward these to the Procedural Officer by Monday, 15 February 2021.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the members, officials and guests for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 16:03.

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MR AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MPP CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Date: ......25 February 2021.....