



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

Ref: 11/4/1/2/11

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Thursday, 25 February 2021 (at 09:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

Baartman, DM (DA)
Maseko, LM
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P

Apologies

Mr B Herron, Member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Mr P Marais, Member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Mr A Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Dr R Omar, Chief Executive Officer: CapeNature

The following persons were in attendance:

CapeNature

Ms C Birss, Executive Director - Biodiversity Conservation
Dr E Baard, Executive Director: Conservation Operations

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Ms M Laros, Director: Biodiversity and Coastal Management

WCPP Officials

Mr C Esau, Senior Information Technology and Architecture Officer

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Officials from CapeNature and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as well as officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

2. Briefing by CapeNature on the Norms and Standards for the Trophy Hunting of Leopard in South Africa, issued in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004)

CapeNature provided the Committee with background information pertaining to the subordinate legislation, the key requirements and concerns for the trophy hunting of leopard, the implications for the Western Cape Province as well as possible recommendations.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Resolutions/Actions

3.1 The Committee RESOLVED that it would submit the following comments to the relevant Select Committee at the National Council of Provinces (NCOP):

3.1.1 That the Committee supports the National Norms and Standards for the Trophy Hunting of Leopard in South Africa as developed in terms of section 8(3) of the Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004); and

3.1.2 That the National Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries supports the regulated community through a compliance promotion programme that includes roadshows.

4. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Minutes of 9 and 10 February 2021

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes which were considered and adopted.

5. Consideration and adoption of proposed resolutions relating to the Committee meeting of 10 February 2021

The Chairperson submitted the proposed resolutions. The Committee considered, deliberated and agreed to the following:

5.1 The Committee noted the number of serious road accidents during the current harvesting season leading to critical injuries and, in some instances, deaths of farmworkers and that this issue therefore warrants serious consideration.

5.2 The Committee was perturbed to hear allegations about the levels of corruption related to the testing of the road worthiness of vehicles and RESOLVED that it would bring this matter to the attention of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works for possible action.

- 5.3 The Committee further RESOLVED that it would:
- 5.3.1 Conduct a follow up meeting on the subject of the transportation of farm workers with both the employer and labour representatives present; and
 - 5.3.2 Support the recommendations from Agri Western Cape and the Department of Agriculture to limit the vehicle's load capacity when transporting passengers to 50% of its licensed payload. This relates to the transportation of persons on vehicles where vehicles are not equipped for the transport of passengers.
- 5.4 The Committee RECOMMENDED that:
- 5.4.1 The National Minister of Transport give consideration and possibly recommend to the relevant Minister that the load limitation of 50 % of licensed payload where passengers are transported on vehicles that are not equipped for the transport of passengers, be included in the lockdown regulations and that, in the long term, consideration be given to amend Regulation 247 of the National Transport Regulations accordingly;
 - 5.4.2 The Department of Agriculture ensures that road safety is a focus area in the Department's future Rural Safety Plan;
 - 5.4.3 The Department of Agriculture undertake an advisory campaign regarding best practices regarding the safe and dignified transport of farm workers; and
 - 5.4.4 The Provincial Traffic Law Enforcement Section of The Department of Transport and Public Works pay particular attention to the routes along which seasonal farmworkers are likely to be transported and to monitor these routes particularly during harvesting times.
- 5.5 Additional Resolutions/Actions proposed by the Committee and agreed to as follows:
- 5.5.1 The Committee RECOMMENDED that:
 - 5.5.1.1 As part of the Department of Agriculture's advisory campaign, farm workers should be informed and encouraged to make use of the provincial traffic number to anonymously report reckless driving and the use of unroadworthy vehicles;
 - 5.5.1.2 Consideration be given to the development of a programme in safe driving techniques by the Department of Agriculture and Agri Western Cape that will enhance the driving skills of drivers who are responsible for transporting farm workers; and
 - 5.5.1.3 The Department of Agriculture and Agri Western Cape call on relevant stakeholders to develop good designs for structures that will give some form of protection and add to the dignity of passengers whilst being transported at the back of open vehicles.
 - 5.5.2 The Committee RESOLVED that it would undertake an oversight visit to a farm where good design practices are already in place.
 - 5.5.3 The Committee further AGREED to submit to the Procedural Officer the names of larger labour unions in the agricultural sector that could possibly be invited to the next meeting on the subject matter and that the Department of Agriculture be requested to assist in this regard.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:10.



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

Date:24 March 2021.....