



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**

Tuesday, 18 May 2021 (at 13:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

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

African National Congress

Marran, P
Nkondlo, N (Additional Member)
Smith, D (Additional Member)

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, PJ

Apology

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 D Chitepo, Acting Chief Director - Rural Development
Mr B Shumba, Director - Farm Worker Development

Department of Transport and Public Works

Ms V Chetty, Acting Director - Traffic Law Enforcement

AGRI Western Cape

Mr J Strydom, Chief Executive Officer

Trade Union Representatives

COSATU

Mr M de Bruyn, Western Cape Provincial Secretary

Mr P Bester, Western Cape Provincial Organiser

Agricultural Food and Allied Democratic Workers Union (AFADWU)

Mr M Helu, Western Cape Provincial Secretary

Agricultural Workers Union of South Africa (BAWUSA)

Mr H Witbooi, General Secretary

Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU)

Mr H Linnerts, Union Representative

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer

Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant

Ms C Morris, Information Technology Assistant

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Departmental officials, the Chief Executive Officer of AGRI Western Cape, the various labour union representatives, as well as the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The Chairperson informed the Committee that an invitation was extended to the Road Traffic Management Corporation to attend the meeting, but that confirmation of attendance was not received.

2. Further input by stakeholder groups and organisations on promoting the safe and dignified transportation of farm workers

Trade union representatives provided the Committee with an update on what their respective organisations were doing to assist the plight of farm workers in relation to safety while being transported to and from their places of employment on the back of vehicles. Challenges in this regard were highlighted and risk mitigating factors were discussed.

The Departmental officials and Agri Western Cape provided the Committee with updates since the last discussion on the subject matter.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee was pleased to determine that since the previous meeting on the subject matter, several law enforcement actions were undertaken that focused on the transport of

workers on the back of vehicles, especially in those areas well known for providing transport to seasonal workers. The Committee commended the Department of Transport and Public Works for acting on this. The Committee was also pleased to determine that the Department of Agriculture now included road safety as one of the aspects in its Rural Safety Plan.

3. Resolutions/Actions

3.1 The Committee RESOLVED that it would:

3.1.1 Re-confirm the resolutions of the meeting that took place on 10 February 2021;

3.1.2 Confer with the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works and request that, as the lead Committee, it considers a joint meeting with the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning where National Treasury would be requested to inform the Committees on possible avenues for subsidies for the public transport sector with particular emphasis on the safe transportation of farmworkers;

3.1.3 Want to observe an early morning traffic inspection point activity for vehicles transporting farm workers during the harvesting period and that, should the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works agree to organise such an activity, an invitation be extended to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning; and

3.1.4 Extend a word of thanks to the trade unions and encourage them to remain the voice of workers and to not only advocate for better wages but also pursue the safe transportation of farm workers.

3.2 The Committee RECOMMENDED that:

3.2.1 The Department of Agriculture engages with organised agriculture and continues to emphasise the need to treat workers with dignity and that the attention to the wellbeing and safety of workers include the circumstances under which workers are transported to and from farms;

3.2.2 Department of Agriculture promote the good practices and structures that some farmers have in place in transporting workers and request farmers that are able to do so, to follow suite; and

3.2.3 The Road Traffic Management Corporation or the South African Bureau of Standards also add to the debate on the design of such structures in order to improve the safety of people and to meet the needs of the industry so that those trucks are still usable for what is generally called farm work.

4. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 4 and 7 May 2021 which were considered and adopted.

5. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Quarterly Report

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Quarterly Report (January – March 2021) which was considered and adopted.

6. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Tracking Document

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Tracking Document as at 18 May 2021 which was considered and adopted.

7. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Programme

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Programme until July 2021 that was considered and adopted.

8. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Annual Report

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Annual Report for the 2020/21 financial year which was considered and adopted.

9. General

The Chairperson informed the Committee of the next committee meeting on 1 June 2021 and expressed his appreciation to the members, officials and guests for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 16:12.



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

Date:1 June 2021.....