



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, 8 June 2021 (at 09:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

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

Apologies

Herron, BN (GOOD)
Marais, PJ (Freedom Front Plus)
Marran, P (African National Congress)

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Agriculture

Dr M Sebopetsa: Head of Department
Mr F Huysamer: Chief Financial Officer
Ms R Wentzel: Chief Director – Operational Support Services
Dr I Trautmann: Chief Director – Research and Technology Development Services
Mr J Aries: Chief Director - Farmer Support and Development
Ms H Rodkin: Chief Director - Structured Agricultural Education and Training
Ms B Matoti: Director - Agricultural Economic Services

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer
Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant
Mr S Hassam, Information Technology Assistant

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Departmental officials as well as the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

2. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture on the Future Curricula of the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute

The Department provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Training Institute and outlined its current skills programmes and future offerings in terms of these programmes, both for Agricultural Skills Development and Higher Education and Training. The accreditation status of programmes and partnership agreements in place were also provided to the Committee as well as statistical information spanning over a five year period that portrayed the number of student registrations versus the number of students who graduated. Based on this, the Committee expressed concern regarding the throughput rate as it appeared that the dropout rate was high based on the statistics provided.

The Department also provided the Committee with information pertaining to the future curricula of the Training Institute with specific reference to integrating climate change and aspects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution into study plans as well as developing rationales for study plans that reflected current global developments and innovations. These would be underlined by new teaching methodologies through as a blended learning approach that consists of contact and virtual classes as well as online platforms.

The Committee raised concern about the plan of national government to move Agricultural Colleges to their higher education and training portfolio. The Department informed the Committee that the Minister of Agriculture in the Western Cape has written to the National Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to engage on this matter but that this engagement has not yet taken place.

The Department further informed the Committee that it was of the view that the national government's plan to move Agricultural Colleges to the higher education and training portfolio is linked to the poor performance of other agricultural institutions in the country and to solve this a generic approach was employed.

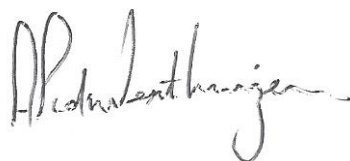
The Committee deliberated.

3. Resolutions/Actions

- 3.1 The Committee **REQUESTED** that the Department provides it with a report that contextualises the throughput rate for students from registration to graduation.
- 3.2 The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that, while the Constitution recognises higher education and training as a competence of the national government, there appears to be some scope to have a provincially funded private institution and that the Department investigate the possibility of this unique model for institutions that are not directly accountable to higher education and training and whose oversight and line of responsibility may be provincial while being recognised by higher education.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the members and officials for their contribution to the success of the meeting and commended the Department of Agriculture on the sterling work that they are doing in the agricultural sector in the Province.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.



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

Date:15 June 2021.....