



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, 24 August 2021 (at 09:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

America, D (Alternate)
Maseko, LM
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P

Freedom Front PLUS

Marais, PJ

Additional Members

Smith, D (ANC)
Brinkhuis, G (Al Jama-Ah)
Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)

Apologies

Baartman, DM (DA)
Meyer, I (Minister of Agriculture)

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Agriculture

Dr M Sebopetsa, Head of Department
Mr D Jacobs, Deputy Director-General
Dr H Ngwenya, Chief Director - Agricultural Producer Support and Development

Mr J Aries, Director - Agricultural Producer Support and Development

South African Local Government Association

Cllr H Coetzee, Overberg District Municipality

Mr L Njamela, Advisor - Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Relations

WCPP Officials

Mr J Vermeulen, Senior Procedural Officer

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 as well as the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. A special word of welcome was extended to Dr Ngwenya who recently joined the Department of Agriculture in the capacity of Chief Director, Agricultural Producer Support and Development.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that the initial agenda item for the meeting which related to the submissions received in respect of the Western Cape Biodiversity Bill [B 2–2021] had changed due to the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment requesting an extension for their submission as well as the fact that numerous submissions were received from stakeholders after the closing date. In light of this, it was deemed appropriate to accede to the request from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for additional time to consolidate the submissions received after the closing date for comment.

The Chairperson further informed the Committee that many members indicated an interest in the Emerging Farmer Development Programme and that it was deemed in the best interest of the work of the Committee to not cancel the scheduled meeting but rather to amend the agenda to include this topic.

2. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture on the Status of the Emerging Farmer Development Programme

The Department provided the Committee with an overview of the Agricultural Producer Support and Development Programme that focused on subsistence and smallholder farmers. The Western Cape's contribution to national agricultural exports as well as the Western Cape's contribution to agricultural employment within the Province was highlighted.

The Commodity Approach and Black Producers Commercial Programme within the Agricultural Producer Support and Development Programme was explained. The support to and constraints experienced by smallholder and subsistence farmers as well as the challenges regarding land access, COVID-19 responses and the drought were outlined. Reference was also made to challenges in respect of the low ratio of Extension Officers to farmers. The Department further outlined elements of certain disasters and constraints facing small holder and subsistence farmers.

The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme and the Ilima/Letsema Projects and allocations were provided as well as an explanation of Market Access initiatives.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Resolutions/Actions

3.1 The Committee **REQUESTED** that the Department provides it with:

3.1.1 The criteria for the selection process of beneficiaries of the Agricultural Producer Support and Development Programme as well as the name of the entity responsible for identifying the beneficiaries;

3.1.2 A list of the 50 participants involved in the Agricultural Producer Support and Development Programme as well as a list of the 16 farmers that successfully completed the Programme, indicating whether the 16 farms are privately owned farms or farms that are managed under the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy Policy or otherwise;

3.1.3 The criteria for the allocation of grants to beneficiaries;

3.1.4 A list of the beneficiaries of grants and other support programmes per region; and

3.1.5 A list of the Agricultural Outreach Programmes embarked on during the last financial year.

3.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** that it would:

3.2.1 Engage the Provincial Minister of Finance on the high ratio of farmers needing assistance to the number of Extension Officers as this has a direct link to the ability of the department to provide the necessary support;

3.2.2 In order to have a balanced viewpoint, engage organised agriculture on the subject of commercial farmers to determine the level of support afforded these farmers to achieve financial and operational viability; and

3.2.3 Invite the National Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform to brief it on the process of selecting beneficiaries, the expectation of how the funds allocated to the Department of Agriculture should be used and the process to follow in those cases where farmers wish to purchase the farms, as opposed to leasing.

4. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 15 June, 3 and 10 August 2021 which were considered and adopted.

5. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Report on Oversight Visit to Elsenburg on 8 June 2021

The Committee agreed that the consideration and adoption of the Report be added to the agenda of the next meeting as most of the members present at the oversight visit were not present in the meeting.

6. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Quarterly Report

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

7. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Tracking Document

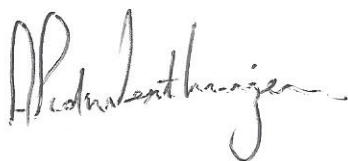
The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Tracking Document as at 24 August 2021 which was considered and adopted.

8. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Programme dated 24 August 2021

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Programme which was considered and adopted.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the Department for availing themselves at short notice and also to members and officials for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.



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

Date:14 September 2021.....