



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

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**Report of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Heritage Western Cape, the Western Cape Language Committee and the Western Cape Cultural Commission for the 2020/21 financial year**

The Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Heritage Western Cape, the Western Cape Language Committee, and the Western Cape Cultural Commission, for the year ended 31 March 2021, reports as follows:

## **Introduction**

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Annual Report programme for the 2020/21 financial year was advertised in newspapers inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions. The Committee deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (the Department), Heritage Western Cape (HWC), the Western Cape Language Committee (WCLC), and the Western Cape Cultural Commission (WCCC) on 8 November 2021 as part of its oversight function. The Minister and the Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks. Likewise, the Chairpersons of the three entities were also given the opportunity make opening remarks.

The Department and its Entities were examined on:

Part A: General Information,

Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and

Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report.

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. There was no public input.

## **1. Western Cape Cultural Commission**

- 1.1. The Western Cape Cultural Commission (WCCC) reported that five of its cultural centres were used as quarantine sites as part of the COVID-19 protocols.
- 1.2. The WCCC experienced difficulty in collecting revenue due to its cultural centres being closed to the public during the various national lockdown levels.
- 1.3. The WCCC, through the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (Department), could claim financial support from the Department of Transport and Public Works, due to the conversion of the cultural facilities into quarantine sites.
- 1.4. The Cultural Councils that applied to host activities were requested to resubmit applications if those applications were initially sent prior to the national lockdown. The applications were considered within the limitations set out by the national restrictions imposed.
- 1.5. The WCCC reported that its Initiation Reference Committee, in consultation with the Department, held discussions regarding the opening of initiation summer schools in 2020. Of the 36 initiation forums, only five forums requested that the schools should open during the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **2. Heritage Western Cape**

- 2.1. The Heritage Western Cape (HWC) reported that managing heritage resources is intricate and specialised skills are essential especially with the increase in the number of tribunal and court cases involving the HWC.
- 2.2. The HWC was involved in two court actions during the 2020/21 financial year. The cases were before the North Gauteng High Court and the Western Cape High Court.
- 2.3. The Heritage Western Cape expressed concern regarding the slow pace of municipalities in applying for competence to undertake their functions in terms of the National Heritage

Resource Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all planned roadshows to promote awareness amongst municipalities of importance to apply for competence, were cancelled.

- 2.4. The HWC received 2069 heritage applications, of which 1761 were processed by way of a decision or comment at the Heritage Officers Meetings (HOMs) meetings.
- 2.5. Due to the national lockdown restrictions, the HWC employed the use of digital platforms. One innovation is the use of a QR-code system that allows members of the public access to the HWC WhatsApp group relating to a committee meeting.

### **3. Western Cape Language Committee**

- 3.1. The language services target achievements were affected by the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19. The WCLC re-adjusted its planning and managed to re-arrange six other language projects.
- 3.2. The WCLC reported that in addition to promoting the official provincial languages, there has been marked promotion and project roll outs to foreground the use and teaching of South African Sign Language and Khoekhoegowab.
- 3.3. The increased popularity of the netball code has also resulted in the translation of the netball rulebook into isiXhosa. The translation of code-specific material into isiXhosa for other sporting codes was also undertaken.

### **4. Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport**

- 4.1. The Department reported that the After School Programmes were extended to no and low fee learners.
- 4.2. The Department implemented a COVID-19 Social Relief Fund for Sport, Recreation, Arts, Culture and Heritage. This was to provide some relief to these sectors affected by the restrictions in place due to the global pandemic. The Department's relief efforts were implemented concurrent to initiatives endorsed by the national government departments dealing which ran parallel to similar efforts by the national department of Sport, Arts and Culture.
- 4.3. In order to mitigate the operational effects of school closures in 2020, the After School Programme was transformed to provide physical learning resources to allow learners to learn at home. Practitioners were also given online portals to facilitate the remote learning experiences.
- 4.4. The online portal availed easy access to the After School Programmes. Individuals and organisations alike benefitted from this tool.
- 4.5. The Department provided "After School Treasure Box" packs to under resourced communities, where internet resources were not accessible. Each Treasure Box contains three volumes of a printed resource.
- 4.6. The Department, with the help of its partners, issued the Treasure Box to at least 68 000 learners in the Province. The Treasure Box project has been shortlisted for a Service Excellence Awards in the Team Ground Breaker: Innovation category.
- 4.7. The Department stated that the Rural Library Connectivity Project is ongoing. However, in terms of the broadband and Wi-Fi access roll out, 41 rural public libraries were not connected to the internet.
- 4.8. The Department reported that through the South African Library for the Blind project, continues to provide training at the 27 mini libraries for the Blind. This project provides special services to assist visually impaired communities to use the tailor made IT equipment at these libraries.
- 4.9. The Department assisted four non-affiliated museums with funding from the COVID-19 Relief Fund. These museums were the Darling Museum (R7 800), the District Six Museum (R334 000), the South African Perfume Museum (R33 000) and the South African Jewish Museum (R33 000).

4.10. The Department reported that there are 36 initiation sites in the province.

**5. Request for information**

The Committee requested the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport to submit:-

- 5.1. A list of the 41 rural public libraries that do not have internet connectivity;
- 5.2. A list of the 27 Mini Libraries equipped for blind persons. Details of the geographical spread of these libraries should be included; and
- 5.3. A breakdown of the funding given per museum and per provincial aided museum.



**MR RI ALLEN, MPP**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT**

**Date: 7 December 2021**