



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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on the Annual Report of the Department of Local Government for the 2020/21 financial year.

The Standing Committee on Local Government, having deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Local Government for the 2020/21 financial year, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Annual Report of the Department of Local Government (the Department) for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 was tabled on 8 October 2021 in accordance with section 65(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), as amended.

As part of its oversight function, the Standing Committee on Local Government (the Committee) deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department on 16 November 2021. Annual reports are the key instruments for departments to report on performance measured against their performance targets and budgets as outlined in their strategic plans and annual performance plans. In addition hereto, it accounts for the success of each programme that was implemented.

Standing Rule 111(1)(a) of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament provides standing committees with the mandate to consider departmental annual reports submitted in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999).

The Annual Report Programme for the 2020/21 financial year was advertised in newspapers to invite stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

The Committee deliberated on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information and Part D: Human Resource Management, after which the Chairperson afforded an opportunity to the public to ask questions to the Department.

2. Overview

The Minister and the Head of Department made introductory remarks highlighting that this report period was at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Department, through the Disaster Management Centre, has been at the forefront of the Pandemic, working with partners in the Health, Business, Transport, Social, Education and Communications Sectors to mitigate, reduce and contain the impact of COVID-19 in the short, medium and long term.

Notwithstanding these challenges during the 2020/21 financial year, the Department achieved 88% and partially achieved 10% of its targets, with 2% of its planned targets not achieved. The Department has received an unqualified audit opinion with no findings for the eighth consecutive year.

The Committee proceeded to engage with the Department by asking questions on Parts A, B and D of the Annual Report. All questions were satisfactorily answered and the Committee is satisfied that the Department achieved its predetermined objectives for the 2019/20 financial year and that it was accurately reported on.

3. Information requested

The Committee REQUESTED that the Department provides the Committee with:

- 3.1 The reports on the functionality of the Thusong Centres for the year under review;
- 3.2 A status report on the establishment of the Municipal Forensic Unit and its organisational design. This Unit will conduct investigations at municipalities; and
- 3.3 A status report on the establishment of Municipal Councils and the appointment of senior officials at municipalities.

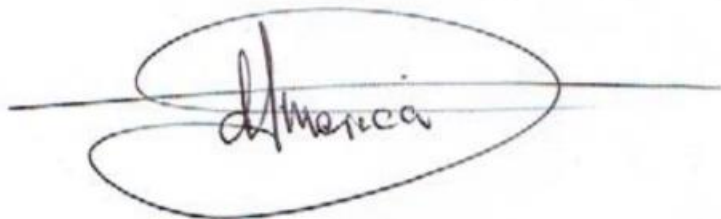
4. Resolutions

The Committee RESOLVED to, in the future, visit identified Thusong Centres to view the services and operations of these centres and their accessibility to the communities.

5. Conclusion

The Committee congratulated the Department on its eighth consecutive unqualified audit opinion with no findings for the 2020/21 financial year.

The Chairperson thanked the Members of the Committee, the Minister, the Head of Department and all the officials of the Department for their preparation and responses to the questions raised by the Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. America', is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. A horizontal line extends from the right side of the oval across the page.

MR D AMERICA, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

7 December 2021