



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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works on the Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Public Works and Government Motor Transport (GMT) for the 2021/22 financial year.

The Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works, having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Public Works and Government Motor Transport (GMT) for the 2021/22 financial year, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Public Works (the Department) and Government Motor Transport (GMT) for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 were tabled on 3 October 2022 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 Transport and Public Works (the Committee) considered the Annual Reports of the Department and GMT on 3 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 2021/22 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

Despite various challenges and the conclusion of the lockdown restrictions the Department has achieved a clean audit report and managed to spend 98,8% of its budget. GMT obtained an unqualified audit with no findings for ten consecutive years thus continuing with the positive trend of the past years.

Minister Simmers highlighted that the infrastructure elements of the Department and the Department of Human Settlements would be merged into a new Department of Infrastructure, and that the mobility elements of the Department would be taken into a new Department of Mobility.

Minister Mitchell announced that 18 months after the Blue Dot incentive programme was introduced in the minibus taxi industry, the provincial government has decided to terminate it. Due to a lack of funding the programme will conclude on 30 November 2022. Approximately R42 million was needed to run the programme until the end of the current financial year.

Minister Mitchell described the programme as a “remarkable success”. The Blue Dot pilot project worked well but the support from national government was needed to fund the continuation and expansion of the pilot programme.

The Department indicated that it was responsible for the facilitation, planning and regulating of the provision of integrated land transport services through coordination and cooperation with national planning authorities, municipalities, community-based and non-governmental organisations, and the private sector to enhance the mobility of all communities in the Western Cape.

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 was satisfied that the Department achieved its predetermined objectives for the 2020/21 financial year and that it was accurately reported on.

The Chairperson afforded the members of the public an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr M Mbiko, Nyanga Tourism Platform, raised a concern about the Nyanga taxi public transport interchange as well as the inclusivity of all taxi organisations and community-based organisations. He highlighted that there was always only reference to SANTACO.

Mr N Enge, First Deputy: SANTACO, informed the Committee that they have a road safety programme called Hlokomela which is only carried out over the Easter weekend and over the festive season and he expressed the need that this programme be carried out throughout the year. He also informed the Committee that SANTACO had meetings with the Department of Education regarding scholar transport and would appreciate it if the Department could assist SANTACO regarding scholar transport tenders. He also expressed a need for special operating licenses to transport workers in areas where there are new developments and where there are no official taxi routes yet. In conclusion he expressed his concern and disappointment at the cancellation of the Blue Dot Incentive Programme and urged the Minister and the Department to find ways to reinstate the programme.

3. Information requested

The Committee REQUESTED that the Department provides the Committee with:

- 3.1 A report on all the irregular expenditure cases that emerged during the 2021/22 financial year indicating what goods and services were procured, how the irregular expenditure was discovered and what processes were put in place to ensure that a re-occurrence does not take place;

- 3.2 A copy of the survey that was done on the road safety overview and the successes of the Safely Home Campaign;
- 3.3 A copy of their five-year Employment Equity Plan and the status of the plan with regard to the implementation of the plan;
- 3.4 A copy of the Labour Force Survey and an indication of whether the Department has a succession plan and if so, to provide a copy of the plan;
- 3.5 A report on the so called “construction mafia” and whether the Department was exposed to problems of intimidation, extortion and violence on construction sites during the period under review; and
- 3.6 A report on the R51 million owed by PRASA to the Department indicating what was done to recover the money, has Provincial Treasury been approached to assist and what other avenues could be pursued to recover the money.

4. Resolutions

The Committee RESOLVED that it would invite the Department to brief it in future on:

- 4.1 The status of the Blue DOT Incentive Programme;
- 4.2 Its role in assisting municipalities with their Integrated Transport Plans to address the challenges created by the current population growth trend in the province; and
- 4.3 The various alternative transport plans for municipalities and districts in the Western Cape

5. Acknowledgement

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Traffic Law Enforcement Officers and wished them well during the execution of their duties over the upcoming festive season, to ensure roads are safe for all road users.

6. Conclusion

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



MR R MACKENZIE, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Date: 22 November 2022