



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, 22 February 2022 (at 13:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

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

African National Congress

Marran, P

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, PJ

GOOD

August, S (Additional Member)

Apologies

Adv DM Baartman, Member of the Democratic Alliance
Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture
Dr M Sebopetsa, Head of Department of Agriculture

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Agriculture

Mr D Jacobs, Deputy Director-General - Agricultural Development Support Services
Dr D Troskie, Director - Business Planning and Strategy

South African Local Government Association

Mr L Njamela, Advisor - Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Relations

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer

Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant

Mr C Esau, Senior Information Technology Strategy and Architecture Officer

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 Department.

The Department of Agriculture requested that the Committee first focus on the second item on the agenda and this was agreed to.

2. Update by the Department of Agriculture on whether any formal correspondence was received from the Department of Higher Education regarding the future of the Agricultural College

The Department of Agriculture informed the Committee that the intention of the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education and Training, was for agricultural colleges to move from provinces to national with effect from 1 April 2022 and that the Western Cape was the only province that objected to this move.

The objection was in light of statutory and regulatory processes that have not been concluded, particularly the consultation process between the provincial Minister of Agriculture and the National Minister of Higher Education and Training and the National Minister of Agriculture.

The Committee was further informed that no formal notification and correspondence was received from the National Department and that the Provincial Department was informed at an executive meeting with the National Treasury that the move has been deferred to 1 April 2023 subject to all regulatory processes being concluded. The Department eluded to five other options that can be explored and that this would form part of the consultative process.

The Committee deliberated. Numerous issues were raised, including the finalisation and securing of funding for staff establishments, operating budgets, as well as the scope for provinces or college councils to determine curricula in line with, among other things, provincial training needs.

3. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of California

The Department provided the Committee with the rationale behind the agreement between the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Key elements and components of the agreement in terms of its goals and objectives were highlighted. The state of California's economy, agricultural production and climate were outlined as well as initiatives by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and areas of co-operation between itself and the Western Cape Government.

The Committee deliberated.

4. Resolutions/Actions

4.1 The Committee **RESOLVED** that:

- 4.1.1 It would invite the Department of Agriculture to brief it more extensively on the possible migration of the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute to the Department of Higher Education and Training with specific reference to the five options that will form part of the consultative process;
- 4.1.2 It would request an invitation from the Department of Agriculture to the signing ceremony of the agreement between the Western Cape Government and the California Department of Food and Agriculture taking place on 11 March 2022, whether hybrid or in-person;
- 4.1.3 The Department of Agriculture reports regularly to the Committee on the progress with the roll-out and implementation of the agreement and specifically the associated benefits.
- 4.1.4 As the final responsibility for agricultural policy falls within the Western Cape Government and the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's domains, it would endeavour to undertake an international study visit to the state of California to improve relationships, to support the implementation of the agreement, to monitor the benefits to be gained, and to identify possible amendments to existing policies and legislation.

5. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 30 November 2021, 3 December, 7 December at 15:15 and 7 December 2021 at 16:30. The minutes were considered and adopted.

6. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Quarterly Report

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Quarterly Report (October – December 2021) which was considered and adopted.

7. General

The Chairperson informed the Committee that it has done well in terms of its Tracking Document and that there remained only a few outstanding matters such as the visit to the Southern Cape to observe the progress and implementation of the biofuel projects. The Chairperson further requested that the Committee identify matters that it would like to have included on the Committee Programme.

The Committee deliberated.

7.1 The Committee **RESOLVED** to include the following matters on its Committee Programme:

- 7.1.1 With reference to the climate smart agricultural practices, that experts in the field of water consumption management in agriculture be invited to brief the Committee on ways to maximise the efficient use of that water, as well as the advances that have been made in this regard;
- 7.1.2 The subject of organic waste with specific reference to its uses, the manner in which it is handled, its demand and role it will play in the future; and
- 7.1.3 District oversight visits to farms that have been enrolled in the Agricultural Producer and Support Programme in order to:

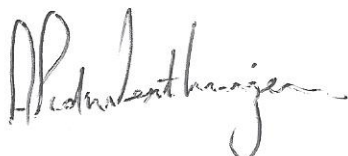
- 7.1.3.1 Engage with the farmers to determine their challenges, successes as well as the type and level of support from the Provincial and respective National Department that will improve the prospects of some of these emerging farmers;
- 7.1.3.2 Determine if a support system exists between small-scale and large-scale farmers, in order to further this type of support if it is present and also to strengthen the relationship between these different scales of farmers; and
- 7.1.3.3 Obtain the views of farmers with regard to urban farming in terms of what is feasible and what is deemed to be problematic.

The Chairperson requested that further agenda items that the Committee would like to include on the Committee Programme be submitted to the Procedural Officer.

8. Closing

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the members for their active participation in the meeting and also to the officials for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 15:14.



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

Date:8 March 2022.....