



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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURISM

Wednesday, 3 May 2023 (08:00), Hybrid: Chamber, 6th Floor, 7 Wale Street, and
Virtual via MS Teams

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Murray, C (Chairperson)

Sileku, I

Van der Westhuizen, A

African National Congress

Mvimbi, L (Alternate)

AI JAMA-AH

Brinkhuis, K

Apology

Nkondlo, N (ANC)

Additional Member:

Maseko, M (DA)(Alternate)

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Mr V Dube, Head of Department

Ms I van Schalkwyk, Chief Director

Mr J Stoltz, Director

Wesgro

Ms J Scheltema, Chief Marketing and Innovation Officer

Ms M Luel, Chief Destination and Marketing Officer

Airports Company South Africa (ACSA)

Mr M Maclean, Regional General Manager Cluster 2

Department of Home Affairs

Mr Y Simons, Acting Deputy Director-General: Immigration Services
Mr N Jaynarayan, Acting Chief Director

Department of Transport

Ms N Mtshwene, Director: NPTR Support

South African Reserve Bank

Mr E Kiewetter, Commissioner

Ms J Padiachy, Chief of Staff

Mr B Theron, Head: Customs and Border Operations

Mr F Tomasek, Head of Legislative Policy

Ms H Logday, Head of Criminal Investigations

Ms W Viljoen, WC Regional Director

Ms C August, Head: Parliamentary Office

Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Ms Z Adams, Procedural Officer

Ms L Cloete, Senior Procedural Officer

Ms M Mrubata, Committee Assistant

1. Welcome and attendance

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the Members, officials from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Wesgro, ACSA, the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Transport, SARS, and members of the public.

The Chairperson explained the rules of engagement for hybrid meetings, specifically for officials and members of the public who attended online.

2. Briefing by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and Wesgro

Mr Dube opened the briefing. The Committee was briefed by the Department and Wesgro on the outcomes of the 2022/23 tourism season, the challenges and successes experienced, and their work in terms of Remote Working Visas.

The Committee discussed the information presented.

3. Briefing by Airports Company South Africa

Mr Maclean briefed the Committee on the successes and challenges experienced during the 2022/23 tourism season, the expansion plans for the Cape Town International Airport, and their work with the Border Management Authority in terms of managing visa compliance.

The Committee discussed the information presented.

4. Briefing by the Department of Home Affairs

Mr Jaynarayan briefed the Committee on the successes and challenges of the Department's tourism readiness plan, the challenges and solutions related to the issuance of tourism and e-visas, and the steps taken in line with the Msimang and Operation Vulindlela reports.

The Committee discussed the information presented.

5. Briefing by the Department of Transport

Ms Mtshwene briefed the Committee on the steps taken to address the backlog in licenses for the National Public Transport Regulator and the solutions taken, and information on how licensees can contact the Department on related issues.

The Committee discussed the information presented.

6. Briefing by the South African Revenue Services

The Commissioner briefed the Committee on the implementation of the online traveller declaration system and the implications for persons coming from countries with double taxation, should the Remote Working Visa be implemented.

The Committee discussed the information presented.

7. Resolutions/Actions

7.1 The Committee RESOLVED the following:

- 7.1.1 To express its gratitude to all the Departments and Entities, who attended and presented to the Committee;
- 7.1.2 To note the remarkable recovery in the Western Cape's tourism sector during the 2022/23 tourism season, which should be commended;
- 7.1.3 To congratulate and commend Wesgro on the awards won for the Neverending Tourist International Campaign, which received over 3.5 million impressions;
- 7.1.4 To invite ACSA to update the Committee in September or October 2023 on the expansion plans for the George Airport and Cape Town International Airport;
- 7.1.5 To congratulate ACSA on the various awards that they have won this year;
- 7.1.6 To engage with Border Management Authority on the challenges related to long queues at the airports;
- 7.1.7 To congratulate and commend SARS on the work they have done to turn around the entity, particularly in building trust amongst taxpayers. SARS has done an outstanding job under the Commissioner;
- 7.1.8 To write a letter to the Minister of Transport to ask how the Committee may support companies operating in the tourism transport space, who would like to expand or start their businesses, to be licensed efficiently so they may begin to grow their businesses and contribute to job creation in the Province; and

7.1.9 To write a letter to the Department of Home Affairs in June 2023 to request an update on the implementation of the Remote Working Visa, how people may apply for these visas, and by when this would be possible.

7.2 The Committee REQUESTED the following:

7.2.1 A report from Wesgro on the opportunities to market the Western Cape as a “winter destination”, building on the momentum from the previous tourism season;

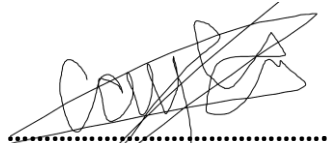
7.2.2 A list from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism indicating the demographic representation of tour guides in the Western Cape;

7.2.3 A report from the Department of Home Affairs on the ICT challenges that they are facing in terms of the e-gates (this information would be shared with ACSA and a meeting should be called with the Department);

7.2.4 A comparative report from the Department of Home Affairs on the backlogs for the adjudication of visa applications. The request would be sent to the Department in June 2023, and comparative figures should be provided for the last six months; and

7.2.5 A report from the Department of Transport on the current turnaround time for processing operator license applications (in terms of the 60-day deadline in the Road Traffic Management Regulations). This request should be sent to the Department in August 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 14h52.



MS CAT MURRAY, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURISM

Date: 23 June 2023