



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 26 July 2022 (at 13:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

America, D
Bosman, G
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P

GOOD

August, SN

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, PJ

Apology

Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Mr G Gerber, Head of Department
Mr R Mosome, Chief Financial Officer
Mr A Gaffoor, Director - Strategic and Support Services
Mr J Fritz, Director - Financial Management

Department of Agriculture

Dr M Sebopetsa, Head of Department
Dr I Trautmann, Deputy Director General - Agricultural Research and Regulatory Services
Mr D Jacobs, Deputy Director General - Agricultural Development and Support Services
Mr F Huysamer, Chief Financial Officer
Dr H Ngwenya, Chief Director - Agricultural Producer Support and Development
Dr D Troskie, Director - Business Planning & Strategy

CapeNature:

Dr R Omar, Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Bhayat, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Z Parkar, Office Manager
Mr B Barnes, General Manager - Strategy Governance & Risk

Casidra:

Dr K du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer
Mr F van Zyl, Chief Financial Officer
Mr D Nefdt, Chief Officer Projects

South African Local Government Association Western Cape

Mr L Njamela, Advisor - Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Relations

Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Mr J Vermeulen, Senior Procedural Officer
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 Parliament. The Chairperson extended a special welcome to the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Casidra, Dr Keith du Plessis, and congratulated him on his appointment.

2. Briefing by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature on the First Quarter Performance (April – June 2022)

The Department and CapeNature provided the Committee with an overview of the Department and Entity's non-financial performance targets during the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year (April – June 2022) and highlighted the performance indicators that were not achieved and/or partly achieved.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture and Casidra on the First Quarter Performance (April – June 2022)

The Department and Casidra provided the Committee with an overview of the Department and Entity's non-financial performance targets during the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year (April - June 2022) and highlighted performance indicators that were not achieved and/or partly achieved.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture on the potential impact on agriculture resulting from the possible closure of the Ashton Canning Company

The Department of Agriculture provided the Committee with background information pertaining to the Langeberg and Ashton Foods Factory. Aspects relating to the possible closing down of the factory such as the financial and production losses as well as the employment and social impacts were highlighted. The financial support required, interventions by the Western Cape Government and the support provided by the Department were also discussed.

Numerous issues were raised, including what will happen in the event that financial support is not secured as well as the impact on the long term prospects of the factory as farmers in the surrounding Robertson and Ashton areas switch to citrus production.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Department for the briefings and, in particular, the work that has been done to ensure the future of the Ashton Canning Company.

3. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 23 June 2022, which were considered and adopted.

4. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Report on the oversight visit to the Southern Cape (14 – 15 June 2022)

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Oversight Report which was considered and adopted.

5. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Quarterly Report (April – June 2022)

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Quarterly Report which was considered and adopted.

6. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Tracking Document as at 26 July 2022

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Tracking Document which was considered and adopted.

7. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Business Plan for the 2022/23 Financial Year

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Business Plan which was considered and adopted.

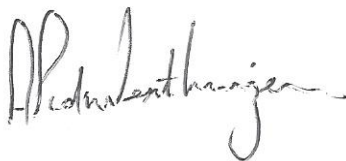
8. General

- 8.1 The Chairperson informed the Committee that an invitation was received from the Chairperson of the National Assembly on Wednesday 20 July 2022 inviting the Committee to participate in oversight visits and public meetings in the Western Cape from 22 – 24 July 2022. As the invitation was received at short notice, it was not possible to convene a meeting to discuss the invitation with the Committee. Members were contacted individually and the Chairperson and Member Marran were in attendance at the visits. The Chairperson provided the Committee with feedback in this regard.
- 8.2 The Chairperson informed the Committee that the International Study Trip to the State of California has been approved for the 2023/24 financial year.

9. 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 15:35.



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

Date:5 August 2022.....