



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

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE PREMIER AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS ON THE 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER, DATED 11 OCTOBER 2022 REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Introduction

The Annual Report Programme for the 2021/22 financial year was advertised in newspapers, inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

Members of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters deliberated on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information and Part D: Human Resource Management of the Annual Reports of the Department of the Premier on 11 October 2022.

2. Overview

For the 2021/22 financial year, the Department of the Premier (herein after “the Department”) reported that in April 2021 the Provincial Cabinet approved the Provincial Recovery Implementation Plan to ensure recovery from the economic downfall that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The Plan identified the key actions from the Western Cape Recovery Plan (RP), which included COVID-19, Jobs, Safety and Wellbeing as government’s overarching priorities.

The priority of the Recovery Plan is creating jobs and the Western Cape Government’s (WCG) aim is to support private-sector led job creation through infrastructure-enabled growth and mobility. Adequate infrastructure enables the economy to grow and investments to take place; also by enabling entrepreneurs/small businesses, the private sector can grow their businesses and increase job opportunities.

The Premier and the Director-General met with Dr Ramokgopa, the Head of the Investment and Infrastructure Office in the Presidency, to deliberate on the improvement of the state infrastructure in the province. The Premier reported that sustainable employment opportunities can only materialise when the province significantly accelerates the rate and quantum of fixed investments.

The Department has supported the development of key provincial transversal policies and strategies namely, the Alcohol Harms Reduction Research Synthesis Brief, a Gender-based Violence Policy Brief, a Nourish to Flourish Policy Brief, which focuses on food security, and a Violence Prevention in Schools Policy. The Department also provides a guiding role to all the departments in terms of the priorities of government.

3. Key findings

3.1 In terms of the Recovery Plan, jobs were created through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) via the Department of Health and the Department of Transport and Public Works.

- 3.2 Employment opportunities decreased by 157 000 jobs due to COVID-19; however, in quarter one, 35 000 jobs were created and in quarter two, 46 000 jobs were created.
- 3.3 The Department enabled data management tools in response to COVID-19 that resulted in managing safety and security, violence prevention and overall access to real-time data to improve service delivery and institutional performance. The Provincial Data Office plays a key role in increasing access to quality data and establishing a new data ecosystem for the Western Cape.
- 3.3 There have been data breaches within the local government sector, the WCG, the harbor and Transnet. The budget for cyber security is increasing to assist in mitigating the risks within WCG.
- 3.4 The Department adopted the Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA) programme to improve safety in the province. The PDIA programme comprises of three teams focusing on identifying and analysing Fixed Capital and Property Development, Commuter Mobility, and Safety. Harvard University donated R2.76 million towards this programme via WESGRO to coordinate and support the programme. WESGRO transferred the unspent funds to the Department resulting in an over-collected revenue during the 2020/21 financial year.
- 3.5 R2 286 405 million was spent for the use of specialist research and advisory services towards the reconfiguration of the Provincial Training Institute into a future-fit training, learning and development academy that will be incorporated into the WCG People Management Strategy.
- 3.6 The United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) resolved to fund in-kind professional services valued at \$1,196,900 for the preparation of a feasibility study to assess the technical and commercial viability and recommend a model to deploy broadband infrastructure to expand network connectivity in the Western Cape Province. The feasibility study will be used to inform the scoping of the Broadband 2.0 requirements.
- 3.7 The Premier in his State of the Province address on 15 February 2022, indicated the creation of two new departments, one Department named the Department of Mobility. While this Department is being established, the Ministry of Mobility temporarily resides within the Department of the Premier until 31 March 2023. The policy team within the Department is formulating the strategy documents, i.e. Annual Performance Plans and budgets.
- 3.8 As part of the WCG citizen-centric culture, the Premier, along with the WCG MEC's and staff hosted the First Thursdays Cape Town Initiative where citizens and businesses could have the opportunity to have one-on-one engagements. The Premier also schedules unannounced visits to health facilities, Cape Access Centres, schools, and other service delivery facilities. These initiatives aim is to improve service delivery.
- 3.9 The Department engaged with Dr Ramokgopa, the Head of the Investment and Infrastructure Office in the Presidency to accelerate the N7 highway interchange project that will run up until the year 2030.
- 3.10 As part of the Alcohol Harms Reduction Research Synthesis Brief, Cabinet gave the department and legal services the go ahead in February 2022 for the amendments to the Liquor Act of 2003. The Department have been engaging with the private sector regarding the reduction of alcohol harms. The Alcohol Harms Reduction Research Synthesis Brief focuses on two strategies; the first strategy would be to implement minimum unit pricing to ensure that cheap and damaging alcohol do not flood the market and the second strategy would be to limit trading times.
- 3.11 A policy brief on Gender-Based Violence is currently being drafted by the Department, Minister S Fernandez has been tasked to lead the project.
- 3.12 The Department is focusing on mental wellbeing, particularly, post COVID-19, internally and externally to communities. There has been an increase in cases relating to stress but the Employee Health and Wellness Programme is in place to assist all staff of the WCG.
- 3.13 Key interventions take place at the After-School programme where various activities are offered for the youth. This programme is run by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. The Department of the Premier also engages with the National Department to discuss matters relating to youth, women and people with disabilities to encourage youth development and job

creation. The four elements for youth development are skills training, psychological support, career guidance and mentorship.

- 3.14 The Department reported that they have been meeting with stakeholders to accelerate the energy transition in South Africa. The acceleration of Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) is contributing significantly towards driving sustainable local energy.
- 3.15 The vast amount of underspending within the Department amounts to R8,5 million that was allocated for permanent accommodation for the Office of the Commissioner for Children. The Department is in the process of negotiating with the existing tenant and will provide this accommodation to the Office of the Commissioner for Children once the building becomes vacant. Currently, the Department provides the Office of the Commissioner for Children with rental accommodation. An additional reason for underspending is due to the process of appointing staff in vacant posts.
- 3.16 There is currently no provision in legislation, or any directive determination issued by the national minister that allows a public service employer in the national or provincial government to suspend or remove an employee purely because they have been charged with a criminal offence, i.e. Gender based violence. However, if that criminal offence constitutes alleged misconduct within the employment relationship, the employer would be able to suspend the employee. The two requirements are that the alleged misconduct would have to be serious and the second is that there must be a possibility that the continued presence of the person in the workplace could compromise an investigation.
- 3.17 There are three cases of fruitless and wasteful expenditure which amounts to R13 629.27. The cases relate to a SARS penalty imposed for failure to pay Value Added Tax (VAT) within 30 days of receiving the invoice for imported services and an air travel ticket that was not utilised by an interview candidate and the supplier was not notified timeously.
- 3.18 The Area-Based Teams (ABT) is an initiative that started during the COVID-19 period that is embedded in the Western Cape Safety Plan where sources of data are collated to provide an insightful, granular picture of crime trends in each area. The data is shared with government stakeholders and community members within each Team to empower them to understand and address the drivers of violence in their local areas.

4. Information requested

- 4.1 The Committee REQUESTED that the Department provide the Committee with the following information by 15 January 2023 :
 - 4.1.1 A list of all the Public-Private Partnerships with Western Cape Government.
 - 4.1.2 A copy of the organogram of the Provincial Data Office.
 - 4.1.3 A breakdown of the skills development programme.
 - 4.1.4 A report on the government campaigns that creates the Citizen-Centric Culture.
 - 4.1.5 A list of the focused hotspot areas where ABT initiative are situated.
 - 4.1.6 Copies of the Alcohol Harms Reduction Research Synthesis Brief, the Gender-based Violence Policy Brief, the Nourish to Flourish Policy Brief and the Violence Prevention in Schools Policy.
 - 4.1.7 A report on the Premier's Advancement of Youth (PAY) internship programme for the year under review.
 - 4.1.8 A copy of the Recovery Plan and the Jobs plan that were adopted in April 2021.
 - 4.1.9 A report on the work done by Douglas Knowledge Partners as mentioned on page 153 of the 2021/22 Annual Report.
 - 4.1.10 A list of the communication consultants that were used for the development and roll-out of the For You campaign.
 - 4.1.11 A copy of the business plan and the list of courses offered relating to the Provincial Training Institute.

4.1.12 A report on the succession training and plans for vacancies after officials retire from the Department.

4.2 The Committee further RESOLVED:

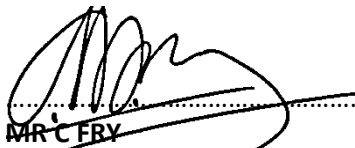
4.2.1 To conduct an oversight visit the Provincial Training Institute.

4.2.2 To have in-camera meetings with the Department on Cyber Security on a bi-annual basis.

4.2.3 To invite the Department of Mobility to provide an update on the N7 highway interchange project.

5. Conclusion

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson wishes to express its appreciation to the Premier, the officials of the Department of the Premier and the Members for their participation during the session.



.....

MR C FRY

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE PREMIER AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

DATE: 28 NOVEMBER 2022