



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

Ref: WCPP 11/4/8

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING**

Thursday 20 October 2022 (at 08:00), Chamber, 6th Floor, 7 Wale Street, Cape Town

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

America, D
Murray, CA
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P

Good

August, SN

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, PJ

The following persons were in attendance:

Ministry of Agriculture

Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture
Ms M van Jaarsveld, Head of Ministry
Mr D Johnson, Spokesperson and Media Liaison Officer

Department of Agriculture

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

Dr G Msiza, Chief Director - Veterinary Services
Ms H Rodkin, Chief Director - Structured Agricultural Education and Training
Dr C de Brouwer, Acting Chief Director - Research and Technology Services
Ms G Jacobs, Acting Chief Director – Rural Development
Dr D Troskie, Director - Business Planning and Strategy
Ms A Petersen, Director - Sustainable Resource Management
Ms B Matoti, Director - Agricultural Economic Services
Mr J Aries, Director - Farmer Support and Development
Mr M van Aswegen, Manager - Financial Accounting

Casidra

Prof J Kirsten, Chairperson of the Board
Ms T Moutlana, Board Member
Dr K du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer
Mr F van Zyl, Chief Financial Officer
Mr D Nefdt, Chief Officer Projects
Ms L Seconds, Human Resources Manager
Mr E Matshediso, Public Relations and Communication Manager

Department of the Premier – Corporate Services Centre

Mr D Smith
Ms L Barron
Mr W Wilson

Auditor-General South Africa

Mr J van Rensburg, Manager

Member of the public

Ms A Mbongwa, Director – Evolution Regenesi

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer
Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant
Mr S Hassam, Information Technology Assistant
Ms C Morris, Information Technology Assistant

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Minister, Head of Department, Chairperson of the Casidra Board, and the departmental officials.

2. Discussion of the Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture and Casidra (2021/22)

The Minister and Head of Department provided a brief overview of the Annual Report of the Department, focussing on the highlights and challenges in the 2021/22 financial year.

The Chairperson of the Casidra Board and the Chief Executive Officer provided the same for Casidra.

The Committee proceeded to a discussion on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information and Part D: Human Resource Management of the Annual Reports of the Department and its entity, Casidra.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Resolutions/Actions

- 3.1. The Committee **REQUESTED** that the Department of Agriculture provides it with:
 - 3.1.1 The completed Elsenburg Energy Masterplan, as well as an update on the implementation thereof;
 - 3.1.2 An analysis on the impact assessment of climate change, particularly its effect on Mediterranean climates, as well as its impact on food security; and
 - 3.1.3 A report on the state of rural roads, particularly gravel roads, in the province outlining the interaction, if any, with the Department of Transport and Public Works, organised and unorganised agriculture, as well as municipalities in efforts to address the matter and to improve the conditions of such roads.
- 3.2 The Committee further **REQUESTED** that Casidra provides it with a report on the implementation of the ICAS Wellness Programme with specific reference to the ways in which employee wellness is measured and the success of the Programme being implemented.
- 3.3 The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Department of Agriculture engages with the Department of Transport and Public Works on its readiness for the upcoming harvesting season to ensure the safe transportation of farm workers, as well as on the progress to request an amendment to Regulation 247 of the National Transport Regulations in conjunction with the relevant section in the Sectoral Determination 13: Farmer Sector, South Africa Regulation as contained in the Labour Relations Act, 1997 (Act 75 of 1997).
- 3.4 The Committee **RESOLVED** that:
 - 3.4.1 Given the continued contribution of the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute and its focus on the needs of the Province, that it would oppose the transfer of the Training Institute to National Government;
 - 3.4.2 Given the considerable impact of climate change on food security, that consideration be given to representatives of the Committee attending the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt, albeit at short notice;
 - 3.4.3 It would invite the Department of Agriculture to brief it on the intergovernmental relations in relation to the ten African countries that were identified, as well as Brazil, with specific reference to opportunities for collaboration, marketing and exports;
 - 3.4.4 It would invite the Department of Agriculture to brief it on the support afforded to black small-scale farmers with specific reference to the number of farmers supported, the type of support provided, as well as the commodities that were supported;
 - 3.4.5 It would invite the Department of Agriculture to brief it on the status of the Black Commercialisation Programme with specific reference to the 50 small-scale farmers involved in the Programme, the number of farmers that were supported and who have completed the Programme, the prospects for these farmers as well as the lifespan of the Programme and the future intake of small-scale farmers; and
 - 3.4.6 It would invite the Department of Agriculture and Casidra to brief it on the status of the turnaround strategies for the Amalienstein and Waaikraal farms with specific reference to the

previous turnaround strategies that were funded by the Department, when the last turnaround strategy was commissioned, where the challenges exist and the difference of opinion that seemingly exists between the Department and its entity, Casidra.

The Chairperson expressed appreciation for the opportunity to peruse the Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture and Casidra and recognised the challenges that these institutions had to operate under during the past year. The Chairperson further expressed appreciation to the Department of Agriculture for receiving an unqualified audit opinion with no findings. In terms of Casidra, some work was needed to address the findings, in order for it to regain an unqualified audit opinion with no findings.

The meeting adjourned at 13:17.



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

Date:22 November 2022.....