



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

11/4/1/1/2

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Thursday, 17 March 2022, (at 14:00) Committee Room 2, 4th Floor

PRESENT

Democratic Alliance

Plato, D (Chairperson)

Mackenzie, RD

Philander, WF

African National Congress

BakuBaku-Vos, NG

AL JAMAH

Brinkhuis, G

Additional Members

Windvogel, R (ANC)

Persons in attendance

Attendance Register available

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and allowed for brief introductions.

2. Deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the Western Appropriation Bill [B2-2022].

Minister Fernandez gave a brief overview on Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2-2022]. She reported that the appropriated budget for the Department during the 2022/2023 financial year was R2 285 335 000. Minister Fernandez mentioned that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty and unemployment have reached unprecedented levels, which has been exacerbated by the protracted hard lockdown levels imposed on citizens. She reported that many have lost jobs, informal sources of income, and their homes and assets that sustain lives and livelihoods. She further mentioned that the impact of high unemployment, poverty, and many social ills in communities has increased the reliance on government support.

The Minister highlighted the key service delivery areas that the Department will focus on during the 2022/2023 financial year. According to the Minister, the Department will target families in distress to promote safe and protected family environments within communities. In addition, the Department will assist to address domestic and Gender-based Violence, substance use disorders, youth at risk, and mediation. In light of budget constraints and the persistent socio-economic challenges facing the people of the Western Cape, particularly the vulnerable, the Department will assess all services and programmes and prioritise those that ensure the basic human needs of the residents are realised as guaranteed in the Constitution. The Minister indicated that the COVID1-19 has not only provided the Department with an opportunity to revisit social work practice, it has also provided an opportunity to build stronger relationships with citizens and communities and place them at the centre of services and programmes that the Department offers.

Dr. Macdonald, the Head of the Department reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has reprioritised its budget to provide support to NPOs facing downsizing, job losses, and humanitarian relief in poor communities who continued to struggle with rising unemployment, heightened levels of food insecurity and deteriorating safety levels fuelled by increasing gender-based violence. During the 2022/2023 financial year, the Department will continue to focus on its statutory and court-ordered interventions, in particular care and protection services, combating Gender-based Violence (GBV), supporting the homeless and providing humanitarian relief support to communities in need, aligned with the focus areas of the Western Cape Recovery Plan.

During the 2022/2022 financial year, the Department will implement an incremental funding increase to NPOs that accommodate children with disabilities, in compliance with the NAWONGO court case ruling. The Department further reported that alternative care services will be strengthened with the implementation of the Foster Care Management Plan, training of safety parents, and the introduction of the web-based foster care monitoring system to reduce the foster care backlog in the province.

The Department reported that the Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector was particularly hard hit during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the support provided by the Department, the ECD stimulus package was launched in February 2021 to further support the sustainability of the Sector. By February 2022, ECD stimulus package payments were made to grant recipients at 1327 sites.

The Committee was informed that the provision of care, support, and empowerment to victims of crime and violence, especially women and children requires a Whole of Society Approach. This approach is fundamental to the implementation of the Western Cape Government GBV Implementation Plan, which comprises interventions from all Western Cape Government Departments to address the scourge of GBV.

During the 2022/2023 financial year, the Department will continue with its food security initiatives through its existing targeted feeding sites and Community Nutrition and Development Centers (CNDCs). Utilising a targeted feeding approach, cooked meals will be provided to qualifying beneficiaries at 105 feeding sites across the province in the coming year. The Department will continue to engage with key partners to ensure the quality of services are provided to vulnerable individuals during periods of undue hardship and disaster cases.

The Department said that support for alternative care for Older Persons such as independent living, assisted living, and community-based care will continue to get attention. The Committee was informed that the Department will continue with its partnership with district municipalities in the establishment, coordination, and implementation of Local Drug Action Committees (LDACs) through the Western Cape Substance Abuse Forum. During the 2021/2022 financial year, 20 LDACs were established of which 10 were fully functional and the remainder are in the process of being established.

It was reported that youth was disproportionately affected by unemployment and poverty. The Department will continue to provide programmes and interventions that facilitate the holistic, positive development of young people to be productive individuals as family and community members. To preserve the dignity and self-esteem of young girls and young women attending schools and in Child and Youth Care Centers, the Sanitary Dignitary Project will continue to provide access to sanitary products during the 2022/2023 financial year.

3. Public input

The Committee proceeded to the public hearing on the Western Cape Appropriation Bill (2022/23 financial Year) [B2-2022]. No members of the public were present and no submissions were received.

The Committee concluded its deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2-2022].

4. Adoption of the Committee Report

The Chairperson tabled the Committee Report on the subject of Vote 6: Health in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2-2022] referred to the Committee in accordance with Standing Rule 188, the Committee reported that it supports the Vote and the Report was adopted.

5. Minority View

In accordance with Standing Rule 90, the African National Congress and AL JAMAH expressed their minority view to not support the Vote.

6. Information requested

The Committee REQUESTED the Department of Health to provide it with the following information by Friday 15 April 2021.

With regards to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4-2021], the Committee REQUESTED the Department to provide it with the following information by Friday 30 April 2021.

- 6.1 A detailed breakdown list of the 26 funded GBV shelters in the province.
- 6.2 A detailed breakdown list of the 32 shelters for homeless adults across the province
- 6.3 Detailed information on the social worker population ratio in urban and rural areas across the province.
- 6.4 Breakdown information on the total allocation of social workers and shortfall per region across the province.
- 6.5 A detailed regional list of schools that benefited from the Sanitary Dignitary Project during 2021/2022.
- 6.6 List of schools per region that will be benefiting from the Sanitary Dignitary Project during the 2022/2023 financial year. The information should include the plans in place to assist the girls that are not at school but want to access the Sanitary Dignitary Project.
- 6.7 Detailed report on the number of child-headed homes in the province due to COVID-19.
- 6.8 List of NPOs that will no longer receive funding from the Department during the 2022/2023 financial year, and were received during the last financial year. The information should include the reasons behind the withdrawal of funding in the listed NPOs.
- 6.9 A list of GBV shelters in the Metro that are regarded as hotspots and reasons why they are hotspots.

6.10 Progress report on the relocation of the DSD local office to the JJ du Preez Le Roux Clinic in Paarl. During the Committee visit on 4 August 2020, the Committee was informed that JJ du Preez Le Roux Clinic in Paarl which was used as the warehouse for the Sanitary Dignitary was earmarked to be utilised as a local office for the Department of Social Development in Paarl.

The meeting adjourned at 13:00.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Plato', written over a horizontal dotted line.

MR D PLATO, MPP

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**

DATE: 17 MARCH 2022