



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

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Wednesday, 15 March 2022 (at 09:00) Committee Room 2

PRESENT:

Members

Democratic Alliance

Maseko, L (Chairperson)
America, D
Van der Westhuizen, A

African National Congress

Lili, A
Maran, P (Alternate)
Smith, D (Additional)

Good

August, S

Persons who were in attendance

Ministry

Mr T Simmers, Minister: Human Settlements
Ms V Njalo, Head of Ministry
Ms C Hartnick, Secretary
Mr M Martin, Media Liaison Officer

Department of Human Settlements

Ms P Mayisela, Acting Head of Department
Mr F De Wet, Chief Financial Officer
Ms K August, Chief Director: Human Settlements Planning
Mr B Nkosi, Director: Strategic Management Support
Mr B Denton, Director: Project Administration
Ms P Masiko-Kambala, Director: Policy and Research
Mr R Stewart, Acting Director: Land and Asset Management

Mr N Adriaanse, Director: Communication and Stakeholder Relations
Mr M Stoffels, Director: Financial Management
Ms S Adams, Deputy Director: Strategic Support
Mr P Chandaka, Director: Planning
Ms R Tiry, Director: Regional Support West Coast
Mr N Taliwe, Regional Director: Garden Route
Ms R Davids, Deputy Director: Finance

Parliamentary Monetary Group

Ms P Mkorotlo, Monitor

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all in attendance.

Minister Simmers, was provided an opportunity to provide opening remarks.

In his opening remarks, the Minister informed the Committee of the challenges faced by the Department due to budget constraints. He advised the Committee that there are 568 thousand residents on the housing waiting list, who are looking for housing an opportunity. He advised that not everyone who are on the Housing Demand Database will be allocated a house unit.

He informed the Committee that the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) would now have a de-linked option that would enable approved beneficiaries to obtain a housing opportunity. The option would come into effect from 01 April 2022.

That the upgrading of informal settlements has also been provided for in the budget. Innovation and improvement are being considered for the acceleration of the delivery of housing opportunities. Information and communication technologies systems are being enhanced, digital administration processes are being improved, and there is an increased interaction with the housing app. The housing app has over 10 000 users.

The Department will also be looking into why Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises contracts have been failing and why some contracts have been terminated. A total of four research papers will be finalised in this financial year. The main focus of the research papers will be on:

- The development of multi storey buildings as a means of densification;
- The failure of SMME contracts;
- The performance of some contractors and why they fail to meet their targets; and
- How the Department can assist contractors with their challenges.

The papers and findings will be made available to the relevant municipalities.

Minister Simmers advised the Committee that the position for the Head of Department will not be filled until the details of the new Department of Infrastructure have been announced and the details finalised. He advised that the new department will incorporate human settlements, public works and infrastructure, amongst others.

2. Deliberation on Vote 8 in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2022]

The Acting Head of Department (HOD), Ms Mayisela briefed the Committee on Vote: 8, in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2022]. She informed the Committee that the budget allocated to the Department for the 2022/23 financial year amounts to R2 414 805 000. The funds that were allocated will be spent to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved efficiencies;
- Liveable neighbourhoods;
- Access to adequate housing and empowerment opportunities for citizens in the Western Cape; and
- Security of tenure through home ownership.

Programme 1: Administration, was provided a budget of R124 491 000. She alluded to challenges associated with obtaining funding and that it was the first time that funding for Administration came from the Provincial Treasury and that the sustainability for funding needs to be discussed. The budget allocation for programme three will be utilised for housing development. Minister Simmers advised that funding due to budget cuts will be moved to municipalities have the capacity to utilise the budget. Central Karoo was recorded to have the least demand and for this reason only received an allocation of 1%. The biggest share for beneficiaries on the waiting list is from Cape Town, hence the budget was provided to areas where the demand is bigger. The data obtained from the municipality pertaining to their housing needs informs the budget allocations. Projects undergo a Project Readiness Matrix that informs which projects are ready for development. This is sent to the municipalities and then to the National Department for approval.

Two information and communications technology (ICT) programmes will be implemented for the financial year. Knowledge management projects and evaluation studies will be conducted within the Department.

The Department signed an agreement with the district municipalities to provide support to them. Engagement with municipalities have been arranged. A total of 16 municipal engagements will be held with various municipalities to discuss challenges, the ITC interventions that will be implemented and policies that will be implemented. These sessions exclude Ministerial outreach programmes.

The Department is in the process of approving 50 upgrading plans for human settlements projects that has been earmarked for 800 informal settlements across the province. The Department conceded to provide the Committee with quarterly reports on these targets.

A total of six partnership agreements will be concluded with key stakeholders as part of its Liveable neighbourhoods agreements. Approximately 50% of the Human Settlements Development Grant will be awarded to contractors in targeted groups. A total of 1000 jobs will be facilitated within the built industry and a total of 700 houses will be built utilising sustainable building technology.

The Committee deliberated on the Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

3. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Committee Reports

After concluding its deliberations the Chairperson submitted a Draft Report on Vote: 8, in the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2022], the report was considered and adopted.

The African National Congress expressed its minority view that it does not support the Vote.

The Good party supported the Vote.

The chairperson thanked the Minister and the Department for their contributions to the meeting. Minister Simmers was allowed to provide closing remarks in which he remarked on the role of local government, its successes and its ability to deliver on its mandate. He made mention that the Department will assist councillors through the infographics provided by the Department to understand the Human Settlement Committee better.

The Minister also thanked the Head of Ministry, his medial liaison officer and private secretary. He informed the Committee of the resignation of his Head of Ministry and that she will be departing to a different province. The Head of Ministry started as an intern in Department and has worked for 15 years, serving the Department. The Committee and the Department wish her well and thank her for her service.

Meeting Committee adjourned at 10:15.



MS LM MASEKO (MPP)

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

DATE: 15 March 2023