



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

REF: WCPP-11/4/9

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Friday, 29 July 2022, (at 09:00) Chamber

PRESENT

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Philander, WF (Chairperson)
Plato, D

African National Congress

Windvogel, R

Additional Members

Bans, AP (ANC)

Apology

Xego, M (EFF)

Departmental official in attendance

Ms. Van der Walt, N, Provincial Council on AIDS & TB Secretariat

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and allowed for brief introductions.

2. Briefing by the Department of Health on their Tuberculosis (TB) programmes across the province and on the establishment of the TB AdHoc Committee in the Western Cape.

Ms. Van der Walt proceeded to brief the Committee on their TB programmes across the province and the establishment of the TB AdHoc Committee in the Western Cape. Ms. Van der Walt started by presenting an overview of the TB cases in the Western Cape using data from the provincial TB Dashboard. She reported that TB cases in the Western Cape are not even, some districts are more affected than others. She pointed out that where there was a higher population density, there was a higher number of TB cases.

It was reported that between July 2021 and June 2022, the Western Cape conducted 248, 869 TB tests of which 15 percent tested positive, and the province had 46,119 diagnosed TB cases with 3,683 cases being diagnosed in June 2022. In the past 12-month period, the Department reported 4,156 TB deaths as deaths that occur in individuals who have a TB diagnosis.

The Department reported that between July 2021 and June 2022, the City of Cape Town conducted 136, 612 TB tests with a 15 percent positivity rate, and 25,655 TB cases diagnosed in the 12 months with three Sub-districts accounting for almost half or 48 percent of all cases diagnosed. The Sub-districts were Tygerberg, Khayelitsha, and Mitchells Plain Sub-districts with 2,220 associated TB death cases during this period.

In the rural district 112, 257 TB tests were conducted with a 15.2 percent positivity rate, 20, 464 diagnosed TB cases, and 1, 9 36 between July 2021 and June 2022. The three Sub-district with high TB cases are Drakenstein, Breede Valley, and George Sub-districts.

Between July 2021 to June 2022, the Western Cape tested 37, 949 Drug Resistant (DR) TB tests with a 3.7 percent resistance rate, 1,820 diagnosed TB Drug Resistant cases and 413 RD deaths. The Sub-districts with high numbers of RD TB cases were Tygerberg with 195 cases, Eastern Tygerberg with 180 cases, Khayelitsha with 170 cases, Mitchells Plain with 170 cases, and Drakenstein with 114 cases, George with 87 cases, and Klipfontein with 96 RD TB cases.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, TB testing, and test positivity rate, in 2019 the Department conducted 189 615 TB tests, 25 053 were positive cases which was a 13.2 percent positivity rate. In 2022, 126 825 TB tests were done, with 21 155 TB positive cases, the positivity rate was 16.7 percent, and in 2021 135 757 TB tests were conducted, with 23 871 TB positive cases with a 17.6 positivity rate. The reporting of TB tested expanded from sputum to all investigation methods in April 2020.

In terms of the trends for diagnosis of TB cases, it was reported that the general pattern of cases presented showed that there was a decrease of daily cases presented from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to the end of 2021.

3. Establishment of the Western Cape TB Caucus

Ms. Van der Walt gave a brief background on the TB Caucus. She reported that the TB Caucus was a unique network of political representatives. Members of the Caucus work collectively and individually to increase progress against the TB epidemic at Sub-district, national, regional, and global levels. She reported that members of the Caucus adhere to the principles outlined in the founding document, the Barcelona Declaration, where they will be working across geographical and political divides in a non-partisan and inclusive fashion; to engage with civil society and all other stakeholders involved in the fight against the TB epidemic, and to confront stigma and social isolation associated with the disease. She also mentioned that parliamentarian Caucus members will play a crucial role in holding governments into account and ensuring that commitments and delivered so the TB epidemic can be eliminated.

In terms of the structure for the Provincial TB Caucus, Ms. Van der Walt indicated that provinces can leverage their structures and decide on the composition and placement of the Provincial TB Caucus Coordinating Committee. In terms of the Co-Chairpersons for the Caucus, she indicated that the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health plus one member can co-chair the Caucus. The Membership of the Western Cape TB Caucus is open to any

parliamentarian from any political party in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. No political representative can be excluded from membership of the Caucus and participation in its activities. The Western Cape Provincial Council on AIDS and TB Secretariat will directly support the Caucus in developing and implementing its work plan and support a sustainable TB response through capacity building for impactful advocacy.

The responsibilities of the TB Caucus in the Western Cape will be to advocate for the allocation of budgets ring-fenced for TB and the reporting of current spending on TB by relevant public institutions; support and call for the review of legislation that inhibits access to TB services or passes legislation that promotes access to TB services; advocate for public institutions to account on the implementation of the TB programmes; and speak to their constituencies and the media about TB awareness, stigma, TB treatment, and TB prevention.

Ms. Van der Walt proposed key activities toward the launch of a provincial TB Caucus. She proposed that:

- a) Members of the Provincial Parliament to sign up as Members of the TB Caucus by signing the South African version of the Barcelona Declaration.
- b) The Western Cape Provincial Parliament formerly appoint TB Caucus members, this could be done as the build-up to the official TB Caucus launch.
- c) Debate in the Legislature on the Provincial state of TB.
- d) The official launch event of the Provincial TB Caucus could be on the day of the TB debate.
- e) Induction of the Provincial TB Caucus Members including the development of the work plans.
- f) Provincial TB Caucus and Civil Society consultation and consensus-building sessions on TB response in the province

She highlighted that as the Department rebuilds, there is a renewed commitment to a Whole-of-Society Approach to address the most pressing health needs including HIV and TB. The key priorities for the response must focus on the re-introduction of comprehensive care provisioning in line with the Department of Health and Wellness resurgence, recovery, and rest agenda; advocate for a stronger focus on inclusive and flexible routes to accessing care, especially for ensuring people living with HIV and TB are retained in care; and addressing the social-economic drivers and social determinants of health, including determinants of TB.

The Committee was informed that a provincial TB Caucus will play a critical role in furthering the goal of ending TB in the Western Cape.

The Committee deliberated on the presentations.

4. Request for information

The Committee requested the Department to submit on or before Wednesday, 31 August 2022, a

- 4.1 Detailed breakdown of the TB Death Rate statistics in the province. The information should cover the period from July 2021 to June 2022 and geographic areas in sub-districts.
- 4.2 A list of the clinics servicing the Philippi area.
- 4.3. Detailed information and stats on the number of staff that made use of the employee wellness

programme, especially nurses between 2019 to 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

MS WF KAIZER-PHILANDER, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT