



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

Ref: WCPP 11/4/9

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Friday, 3 March 2023, (at 09:00), Chamber, 6th Floor.

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Pretorius, G (Chairperson)
Fry, C
Plato, D

African National Congress

Windvogel, R

Economic Freedom Fighters

Klaas, TM

Additional Members

Bans, AP (ANC)
Baku-Baku- Vos (ANC)
Brinkhuis, G (AL JAMA-AH)

Departmental officials

Register is available.

1. Briefing by the Department of Health and Wellness on the Quarterly Reports of the department for the period April-June 2022, July-September 2022, and October to December 2022

Minister Mbombo gave a brief background on the Quarterly Reports of the Department of Health and Wellness for the period under review. She gave a context post the 5th wave of COVID-19 and reported that in 2022 the Department saw a decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases. However, mitigating COVID-19 had a profound impact on the economy, social well-being, and education with increased societal vulnerability to poor health. The Department continues to monitor COVID-19 resurgence while recovering from COVID-19 and considerable efforts have been made for the integration of the COVID-19 services into the health services.

Ms. Nkosi, proceeded to brief the Committee on the Department's Quarterly Performance Reports for the period April-June, July-September, and October-December 2022. She reported that the Department of Health and Wellness continues to use the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluations classification of output achievement into the following: that deviations from targets are explained by where outputs are 95-100%, it means that the targets have been achieved, 50 – lower than 95% means the targets were partially achieved and 0-49 means the targets were not achieved. The Department mentioned no performance targets were set for Programme 1 Administration, Programme 6 Health and Science and Training, and Programme 8 Health Facilities Management, because the programmes are annual indicators.

Due to the length of the presentation, the Committee focused more on the indicators that were not achieved during the period under review. The Department mentioned that the targets for the following indicators were not achieved in Quarter 1, 2 and Quarter 3 of the financial year under review, the targets are on:

Programme 2: The quality assurance targets for severity assessment code (SAC)1 for incidents reported within 24 hours in central and tertiary hospitals were partially achieved during the quarters under review due to the expansion of the SAC1 category incidents which has impacted the practicality of reporting within 24 hours to senior management. It was reported that the number of SAC 1 cases reported in 2022-2023 was higher than the previous financial year due to changes in definition; facilities that were still experiencing challenges regarding the reporting within 24 hours and a high number of SAC 1 incidents related to behavior. The Department reported that these cases were mostly patient abscondments and all inpatient abscondments were considered as SAC 1.

Programme 2: Women's Health, specifically, delivery for 10-19 years at facility rate and couple year protection rate. The targets in the quarters under review were partially achieved. The Department reported that the target for the antenatal 1st visit before 20 weeks was partially achieved but the percentage of women seeking healthcare early in pregnancy remains concerning. Teenage pregnancies remain high. It was reported that 8000 girls between the ages of 10-19 years delivered babies in the financial year under review. Cross-sectoral collaboration and discussions have been initiated with the Department of Basic Education and community forums. In addition, the target for the couple year protection rate was partially achieved, due to condom distribution which has been hampered by the late issuing of contracts by the national Department of Health and delays in the release of condoms by SABS. Furthermore, condom distribution remains a challenge, and sterilisations have not fully covered to pre-COVID numbers as other surgical procedures are prioritised.

Programme 4: Regional Hospitals child health. The targets for children under 5 years, pneumonia case fatality rate and children under 5 years' severe acute malnutrition case fatality rate were not achieved. The same target was not achieved in programme 5 child health care in central hospitals. The same target was not achieved in programme 5 for child health care in tertiary hospitals. It was reported that pneumonia surged earlier in the year and the pertussis outbreak has affected the neonatal death rates. The child under 5 years' diarrhoea case fatality rate was attributed to socio-economic factors that were worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in social disruptions, food security and less breastfeeding. Children were presenting with poor immunity and severe illness. The Department mentioned that there is a need to strengthen early recognition, prompt referral, close follow-up and community-based management of vulnerable infants and children to avoid further deaths.

Programme 7: The target for the percentage of child death cases reviewed by the Child Death Review Board was partially achieved. It was reported that the child death review board struggled to review each case within the quarter due to the volume of cases and vacant posts that the Department was struggling to fill. In addition, the target for the percentage of pharmaceutical stock available was also partially achieved because of stock outs due to poor suppliers' performance. The Department was

addressing this challenge through contract management with suppliers and was also escalated to the national Department of Health.

2. Requests for information

The Committee REQUESTED the Department to provide it with the following information by Friday, 19 May 2023.

- 2.1 Detailed information on the pharmaceutical stock out and details of vacancies that the Department reported as challenges and the prevalence of these as mentioned in slide 38 of the presentation program 7, during the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 2.2 Overview of beds and staff shortages in all hospitals in the province.
- 2.3 Detailed breakdown information on the HIV prevalence per region or subdistrict during the 2022/2023 financial year. The information should include race, age, and gender.
- 2.4 Report on the child mortality rate in the province, the number of children that died in the province in the last three quarters of the 22/23 financial year and what were the causes of death.
- 2.5 Report on the challenge of malnutrition and child death cases in the province, which areas are affected the most.
- 2.6 Detailed report on the prevalence of teenage pregnancy in the province per region.
- 2.7 Information on how the food aid is distributed in the province to address malnutrition.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

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GERRIT PRETORIUS (MPP)
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT