



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

Ref: WCPP 11/4/9

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Thursday, 23 March 2023, (at 14:00) Hybrid, Chamber, 6th Floor

PRESENT

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Pretorius, G (Chairperson)

Plato, D

Fry, C

African National Congress

Windvogel, R

Additional Members

Bans, A (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 6: Health and Wellness in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2-2023]

The Committee proceeded to the deliberation on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2-2023]. Professor Mbombo, the Minister of Health and Wellness gave a brief overview on the Vote. She informed the Committee that the appropriated budget for the Department in the 2023/24 financial year was R28 804 565 000. The Minister reported that the National Treasury has reduced the allocations to provinces in real terms over the 2023 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The Conditional Grants allocation has been reduced by R222.028 million, 3% in comparison to the 2022/23 main appropriation. The reduction mainly impacts the District Health Programme grant of R219.149 million of which R198 million relates to the COVID-19 vaccine allocation. This requires reprioritisation within the District Health Service Platform as the COVID-19 vaccine services have been integrated into normal services.

The Minister reported that the province has a population of approximately 7.2 million people of which 75% is estimated to be uninsured. In fulfilling its constitutional mandate to progressively realise the right to health care, the Department is committed to ensuring the provincial health system delivers high-quality care that includes preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care services to all people of the Western Cape. Whilst the Department was experiencing significant service pressures both as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated de-escalation of services, as well as relentless pressure due to the quadruple burden of disease. Of particular concern is the increasing demand for psychiatric inpatient care and emergency care due to violence and injuries. The Minister highlighted that the Department received a clean audit for the fourth consecutive year.

Dr Cloete, the Head of the Department of Health and Wellness informed the Committee that in the 2023/24 financial year, the Department will focus on recovery as they re-establish comprehensive care provisioning in the context of managing an active pandemic. The HOD said that the Department has identified six strategies for action over the 2023 MTEF which include three recovery strategies and three resurgence strategies. For the 2023/24 budget allocation, the Department intends to phase in the use of an Equity Resource Allocation model to mitigate the impact of the cuts on the delivery of health services to the people of the Western Cape as well as reduced disparities in budget allocation between hospitals, district, and regions. In addition, there was a clear pathway for the Department that was based on commitment, urgency, and hope. Furthermore, the Department's commitment to the ideals of healthcare 2030 remains unwavering with a continued focus on the re-design of health services to support and enable wellbeing. Due to the reduction in budget allocation, the Department will prioritise areas where it can achieve the highest impact. According to the HOD, building the health system's resilience is paramount to creating a high-performance and high-quality health system for people and good governance becomes a powerful resilience advantage as it provides the foundation of a trusted, people-centric, equitable health system, and is contingent on ethical and effective leadership.

The Department reported that rolling blackouts place additional strain on the health platform, as generators and inverters need to be used to ensure health services delivery can continue. Provision of workforce security and ensuring staff wellbeing remains a challenge that requires intersectoral interventions to address violence and factors which exuberate violent behaviour. The Compensation of budget in 2023/24 was reduced by 1.91 per cent but increased by 1 per cent in each of the outer years of the 2023 MTEF. It was reported that in collaborating with other governmental sectors, a whole of government approach to addressing mental health will be piloted in Witzenberg and Klipfontein sub-district. The Department reported that nutrition is allocated 0.51% of programme 2 in 2023/24 in comparison to 0.54% of the revised estimate of 2022/23. Programme 3: Emergency Medical Services is allocated 4.57% of the Vote in 2023/24 in comparison to the 4.48% allocation in the revised estimate of 2022/23. This amounts to an increase of R13.419 million. It was reported that Cape Medical Depot is allocated 13.03% of the Programme 7 budget in 2023/24 in comparison to the 12.90% that was allocated in the revised estimate of the 2022/23 budget. This amount to an increase of R5.924 million. Programme 8 is allocated 4.53% of the Vote in 2023/24 in comparison to the 4.10% that was allocated in the revised estimate of 2022/23. This translates into an increase of R112.697 million.

3. Public input

The Committee proceeded to a public hearing on the Vote. Ms. Kiewiets, the Chairperson of the Klipfontein Community Health Forum, Mr. Lindos, the Chairperson of the Tygerberg Sub-District Health Forum, Ms. Nomdo, Western Cape Commissioner for Children, Ms. Davids, Community Activist, and Ms. Lake from UCT Children's Institute made submissions during the meeting. The Department duly responded to their inputs.

The Committee concluded its deliberations on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2-2023].

4. Adoption of the Committee Report

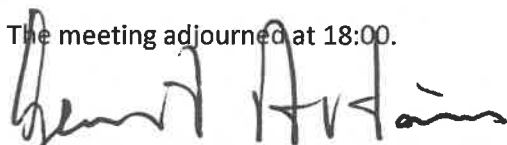
The Chairperson tabled the Draft Committee Report on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2-2023] which was considered and adopted.

5. Information requested

The Committee REQUESTED the Department of Health and Wellness to provide it with the following information by Friday 14 April 2023.

- 5.1** Detailed information on the plans in place to strengthen patient transport in the province, especially in rural areas.
- 5.2** A detailed list of all specialisation services rendered at Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain District Hospitals and in regional hospitals in the province. The information should include the number of ICU beds at Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain District Hospitals and in regional hospitals in the province and the number of high-care beds needed in Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain District Hospitals.

The meeting adjourned at 18:00.



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MR G PRETORIUS, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT