



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

WCPP11/4/7

Report of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Heritage Western Cape, the Western Cape Language Committee, and the Western Cape Cultural Commission for the 2022/23 financial year

The 2023/24 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities, which have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, conducts oversight over multiple portfolios. The cyclical annual report process affords the Committee the opportunity to engage the respective departments and entities on its annual reports.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the Heritage Western Cape, the Western Cape Language Committee, and the Western Cape Cultural Commission, for the year ended 31 March 2023, reports as follows:

Introduction

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Annual Report programme for the 2022/23 financial year was advertised in newspapers inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions. The Committee deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (the Department), Heritage Western Cape (HWC), the Western Cape Language Committee (WCLC), and the Western Cape Cultural Commission (WCCC) on 31 October 2023 as part of its oversight function.

The Minister and the Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks. Likewise, the Chairpersons of the three entities were also given the opportunity make opening remarks.

The Department and its Entities were examined on:
Part A: General Information,
Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and
Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report.

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. There was no public input at the hearing.

1. Key points from discussion on the entities (WCLC, WCCC and HWC)

- 1.1. The WCLC does not execute the language policy to be implemented across the Western Cape Language Committee. Instead, the individual departments are responsible for the implementation of the language policy. Departments are at varied stages of implementation of said policy.
- 1.2. The WCLC worked with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to support ITS Funda Mzantsi literacy competition facilitated by the DCS. The WCLC provided the DCS with 140 Nama language booklets to be used in future versions of this literacy competition.
- 1.3. The WCCC reported that a Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) was formally established during the 2022/23 financial year. However, the Initiation Reference Committee, a subcommittee of the PICC, was focused on addressing challenges faced in the initiation programme. The approach by the IRC has resulted in the decrease of trauma and casualties in usually experienced through cultural initiation practices.
- 1.4. The IRC has been influential in assisting the WCCC to advise the Provincial Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport.

- 1.5. The Department, through the WCC commissioned a feasibility study on the rental income for the maintenance of departmental cultural facilities. The Department and the WCPP are also considering the amendment of tariffs charged for the use of these cultural facilities.
- 1.6. In 2022, the Department commissioned a feasibility study to explore the potential for a public-private partnership to manage the Congo Caves. The Department also commissioned a feasibility study into the costing for conservation measures at the Congo Caves.
- 1.7. The HWC has collaborated with the City of Cape Town to delegate the management of heritage resources to local authorities.
- 1.8. Through the Fixed Capital Development Team, the HWC initiated activities such as exemptions for select development areas, support efforts to have local authorities comply with being considered competent to manage local heritage resources and improving the permit application process.
- 1.9. The Department and the HWC have also developed several strategies to assist local authorities to manage Grade III heritage resources.
- 1.10. The City of Cape Town often recruits HWC officers.

2. Public input

The Chairperson allowed for input from the public on the annual reports of the three entities. There were no oral or written submissions.

3. Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport

Key points from the discussion

- 3.1. The SITA Library and Information Management System, (SLIMS) database, crashed on 15 November 2022. The system failure resulted in the loss of a substantial amount of data and information. The Department had to manually upload the back-up data back on to SLIMS. During the data recovery stages, the public libraries were able to access the system.
- 3.2. The Department is liaising with its national counterparts to switch to a more reliable and improved system for data management.
- 3.3. The Western Cape Youth Strategy is being revised with input from several stakeholders. The revised Strategy will be implemented after the appointment of the new provincial cabinet following the 2024 national elections.
- 3.4. Some of the key findings from the planning sessions to revise the youth strategy include, acknowledging the importance of a digital economy, the need to implement effective mental health support measures, and creating opportunities for the youth to express their voice.
- 3.5. The MOD Programme is also being refocused to respond more to the needs of the youth in the communities. The MOD Programme will also see to strengthen its resources through better corporate social investment partnerships.
- 3.6. The Drostdy Museum in Swellendam, is a province-aided museum, and therefore only supports an existing museums board of trustees. The board is thus responsible for infrastructural maintenance and repair.
- 3.7. The Department provides training for basic South African Sign Language (SASL) to its own frontline staff as well as others across Western Cape Government (WCG) departments. This

training is provided through collaboration with the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB) Western Cape and DEAFSA.

- 3.8. The Department reported on the plans to expand and improve the infrastructure of the Western Cape Archives and Records Services.
- 3.9. The Department escalated the Western Cape Provincial Archives storage and infrastructural concerns to the provincial risk register. The Archives requires more storage and specialised infrastructure, including fire suppression and detection systems, temperature and security control facilities, and physical space. The Department reported ongoing discussions with the Department of the Premier and the Department of Infrastructure.
- 3.10. The Department does not provide internet accessibility to libraries stationed at correctional service facilities for safety and security concerns.

4. Public input

The Chairperson afforded the members of public in attendance to provide oral submissions on the discussions about the entities' annual reports.

5. Requests for information

The Committee requested the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport to submit: -

- 5.1. A report on the status of the three official languages in the Western Cape. The report should address aspects such as the promotion, maintenance, and implementation of these languages in the Western Cape government departments, academia, and the broader community.
- 5.2. Copies of the different reports pertaining to engagements with youth. The future insights workshop with youth, the Theta Youth Campaign, report from the Provincial Treasury on the implementation of youth development by the Western Cape Government.
- 5.3. An update on the outcomes of the Department's meeting with the Department of the Premier and the Department of Infrastructure, on the progress and future of the Archives building.
- 5.4. An update on the maintenance and governance processes, and the type of support given to the Drostyd Museum.
- 5.5. A report on the state of readiness for the forthcoming Initiation Season.
- 5.6. A list of the libraries that are not yet equipped with internet connectivity and timelines for the implementation of the internet connectivity at these sites.



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CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICE OVERSIGHT, COMMUNITY SAFETY, AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT

End of report