



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

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Friday, 15 March 2024 (at 09:00) Chamber

PRESENT:

Members

Democratic Alliance

Maseko, L (Chairperson)
Sileku, I
Murray, C

African National Congress

Lili, A

Apologies

Marran, P (ANC)
Klaas, T (EFF)

The following persons were in attendance:

Office of the Minister

Mr T Simmers, Minister: Infrastructure
Ms C Smart, Office of the Minister

Department of Infrastructure

Adv. C Smith, Acting Head of Department: Transport and Public Works
Ms A Campbell, Acting Deputy Director General
Ms L Schuurman, Deputy Director General
Dr. G Kode, Deputy Director General: Strategy, Planning and Coordination
Ms S Andrews, Chief Directorate: Financial Management
Ms P van der Merwe, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Mr A Nell, Acting DDG: Transport Infrastructure
Ms M Hofmeyer, Acting Chief Director: Road Programme Management
Ms R Van der Fort, Director: Management Accounting
Mr M Solomons, Director: Management Accounting

Mr J Bakker, Deputy Director: Communications
Ms K August, Chief Director: Human Settlement
Mr R Stewart, Director: Land and Asset Management
Mr B Denton, Director: Project Administration
Mr B Nkosi, Director: Strategic Management Support
Mr S Gqoboka, Acting Director: Professional and Project Management Services
Mr R Maharaj, Chief Director: Strategic Management and Operational Support
Ms T Davids, Acting Director: Property Management Region 1
Mr D Allie, Acting Director: Human Settlement Planning
Mr N Mbingeleli, Minister Tertuis Simmers Spokesperson

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all in attendance, explained the rules of engagement in virtual meetings, and allowed Minister Simmers to provide his opening remarks.

Minister Simmers, in his opening remarks, referred to the continued challenges experienced by the department with the extortion of catalytic projects by the construction mafia. He advised that Gugulethu's R244 million housing project was deferred due to small-scale farmers who had invaded the construction site. A total of only R7 million was spent on the R244 million budget for the housing project. He advised that extortion was becoming a growing problem that needed to be addressed. As discussed in the Annual Report meeting that took place on 12 October 2023, Minister Simmers informed the Committee that Ms Cynthia Bess and her disabled son formed part of the 150 beneficiaries who received a housing opportunity in the Vredebes Housing Development.

2. Deliberation on Vote 10, Infrastructure in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1–2024]

2.1 Medium Term Expenditure Framework allocation

The Head of Department (HOD), Ms Smith, briefed the Committee on Vote: 10, Infrastructure in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1–2024]. The budget for the Department of Infrastructure amounted to R10,3 billion for the 2024–25 financial year.

The Department's Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) allocation was adjusted from R10,3 billion for the 2024/25 financial year and would be further adjusted to R9,2 billion in 2025/26 and to R8,9 billion in the 2026/27 financial year. The downward budgetary adjustment was mainly related to the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG) allocation, which was only provided for the 2024/25 financial year. This allocation was granted based on the performance of the Department and was not granted for the outer years of the MTEF.

The Department received R350 million for flood damage repairs in the Western Cape from the Provincial Treasury. No funding was received from the national government for the flood disaster in the Western Cape; this was attributed to a lack of funding. A decrease was reported in the Human Settlements Asset Finance Reserve (AFR) and in the Roads (AFR) funding for the 2025-2027 financial years.

2.2 Budget Breakdown

A total of 35% of the overall budget consists of grants. The Human Settlement Development Grant (HSDG) allocation amounted to R1, 606 billion, the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant

(ISUPG) amounted to R382,3 million, the Provincial Roads Management Grant (PRMG) amounted to R1, 611 billion, and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) amounted to R4,852 million.

The allocation for staff compensation amounted to 10% of the budget. The Department reported that there were 144 vacant posts and 77% funded posts. Under the Renewal of Energy Program, funding would be provided for the installation of solar geysers for all indigent households. The Title Deed Restoration Programme was allocated an amount of R17,9 million for the 2024/25 financial year.

Approximately 8% of the budget was earmarked for AFR's as follows:

- I. The Child and Youth Care Center received an allocation of R107,9 million;
- II. Occupational Health and Safety received an allocation of R17,64 million;
- III. Road Maintenance received an allocation of R240,7 million;
- IV. Flood Damage Support was provided with an allocation of R350 million;
- V. Energy received an allocation of R71,89 million; and
- VI. The Project Preparation Facility received an allocation of R22,38 million.

The Committee deliberated on the discussions on Vote 10: Infrastructure in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1-2024].

3. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Committee Reports

After concluding its deliberations, the Chairperson submitted a Draft Report on Vote: 10, in the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1–2024], after which the report was considered and adopted.

4. Concluding remarks

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and the Department for their contributions to the meeting and provided Minister Simmers and the Head of Department with the opportunity to provide concluding remarks.

The Minister indicated that the Appropriations Bill meeting was the Department's last meeting with the 6th Administration. He thanked the Department and the members for the impact and positive changes that were made during the financial year. The Head of Department reiterated his sentiments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.



MS LM MASEKO (MPP)
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

DATE: 5 April 2024