



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

Ref: WCPP 11/6/10

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Friday 29 November 2024 (at 11:30), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

Bosman, G (Alternate member)

Masipa, NP (Chairperson)

Mbombo, N

Wessels, DJ

African National Congress

Nkondlo, ND

Stoffels, BN (Additional member)

Patriotic Alliance

Constable, N

Al Jama-ah

Brinkhuis, G

Apologies

Bryant, DW (Member - Democratic Alliance)

Sebopetsa, M (Head of the Department of Agriculture)

The following persons were in attendance:

Ministry of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism

Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism

Ms P van Jaarsveld, Office Administrator

Department of Agriculture

Dr I Trautmann, Acting Head of Department

Ms L Govender, Chief Financial Officer

Mr C Starling, Director - Supply Chain and Asset Management

Mr P Rockman, Chief Director - Operational Support Services

Ms D Zana, Deputy Director - Financial Accounting

Casidra

Dr K du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer

Mr F van Zyl, Chief Financial Officer

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer

Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant

Ms C Morris, Information Technology Assistant

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Minister, Head of Department, the Chief Executive Officer of Casidra, departmental officials, and those who were watching the live proceedings on YouTube.

2. Deliberation on Vote 11: Agriculture in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024]

2.1 The Department briefed the Committee on Vote 11 in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024].

The Committee deliberated after which it agreed to support the Vote. The African National Congress and Al Jama-ah did not support the Vote.

2.2 The African National Congress raised the following concerns that substantiated its non-support of the Vote:

2.2.1 R19 million was shifted from the Compensation of Employees budget (due to unfilled vacancies) across 11 Sub-Programmes for various other uses not initially budgeted for;

2.2.2 R35 million was surrendered, of which R20 million was surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund, and the remaining amount was to be reallocated to the 2025 financial year; and

2.2.3 The slow rate of spending, which appeared to be obscured by the reallocation of funds. This raised questions about the Department's budget needs, as the Department was now requesting Provincial Treasury to reallocate funds mid-year, despite having initially requested and received these funds.

3. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Report on Vote 11: Agriculture in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024]

Upon conclusion of its deliberations the Chairperson submitted a Draft Report. The African National Congress and Al Jama-ah requested that their minority view be included in the Report, after which the Report was considered and adopted.

4. Resolutions

The Committee requested that the Department of Agriculture provides it with:

4.1 Further detail regarding the additional Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme Grant funding of R300 million for infrastructure reconstruction and rehabilitation resulting from disasters that occurred between December 2023 and July 2024 and to provide a list of projects and the respective municipal area that will be supported;

- 4.2 In respect of the 2024/25 once-off reprioritisation of R35 million that was unearmarked for flood damage support funds and surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund for re-allocation to mitigate Vote pressures in the 2025/26 financial year, a list of the affected projects and the respective location of these projects;
- 4.3 Detailed information pertaining to the H2A Visa Programme, with specific reference to the methods used to inform and engage the public and potential participants about the Programme; a list of individuals, if any, currently supported by the Department; clarification on whether there are specific targets set for the H2A Visa Programme or if it operates on a demand-driven basis; a detailed explanation of the criteria for applying for the H2A Visa;
- 4.4 The detail and timeline of the recruitment process from the advertisement stage, with reference to the process between the Department and the office of the Premier, for the Committee to understand the slow spending in relation to Cost of Employment; and
- 4.5 An explanation of how operations at the Elsenburg precinct were funded and the deviation from the main appropriated budget. Although the reasons for the reprioritisation, reallocation, and realignment of funds in various Programme funding to support operations in other Programmes and Sub-Programmes at Elsenburg are listed in the Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure Book, further clarification is needed.

Specific reference is made to the R3 million reprioritisation of funds from Sub-Programme 2.4: Disaster Risk Reduction to Sub-Programme 7.1: Higher Education and Training; R500 000 reallocation of funds from Sub-Programme 3.3: Food security to Sub-Programme 1.4: Financial Management R 1 million realignment of budget from Sub-Programme 1.4: Financial Management to Sub-Programme 1.5: Communication services; R913 000 reallocation of funds from Sub-programme 1.5: Communication Services to Sub-Programme 1.5: Communication Services.

5. Closing

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the members, the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, the Acting Head of Department, the Chief Executive Officer of Casidra and departmental officials for their contribution to the success of the meeting. As this was expected to be the last meeting for the calendar year, The Chairperson extended well wishes to all for the festive period.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25.



MR NP MASIPA, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Date: 4 March 2025