



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

Ref Number: 11/4/1

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Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier on Vote 1: Premier, in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 3–2018], dated 15 March 2018, as follows:

The Standing Committee on the Premier, having deliberated on the subject of Vote 1: Premier in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 3–2018], referred to the Committee in accordance with Standing Rule 187, reports that it supports the Vote.

In terms of Standing Rule 86, the African National Congress expressed its minority view to not support the Vote.

## 1. Findings or concerns

- 1.1 The Department of the Premier (Department) reported that the main budget for the 2018/19 financial year was reduced by R201 million. The Department's indicative baseline budget, reflected in the 2017/18 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), was R1 545 000 000 and the main budget was R1 440 749 000; resulting in a 3, 8 per cent decrease in the 2018/19 main budget. However, the revised 2017/18 estimate for broadband was R236 406 000 and the 2018/19 main budget allocation is R358 746 000. This increase of funding is an earmarked allocation specific for the Broadband project. This, in essence, means that without consideration of project allocations, the actual main budget for the Department of the Premier for the 2018/19 financial year was increased by 6, 3 per cent.
- 1.2 The Department will commence with the process of analysing and assessing the current Provincial Strategic Plan in preparation of crafting a new Provincial Strategic Plan for the 2019 incoming government. The Department will conduct an End-of-Term Review and evaluate the current five Provincial Strategic Goals.
- 1.3 The Premier reported that the Western Cape Government was not provided with adequate information from national government departments relating to the likelihood of a drought in the Western Cape. In addition, the predictions on the weather was distorted due to the impact of climate change. The Western Cape Government managed to identify the risks and took the necessary pre-emptive steps aligned with the mandate of the Western Cape Government to manage the current water crisis.
- 1.4 1 300 school sites were provided with broadband infrastructure. The Department's live helpdesk is specifically targeted at assisting schools with any Information and Communication Technology (ICT) problems that may arise. 27 staff members from the Department are currently providing support from the regional offices at Vredendal, Worcester and George. Due to capacity constraints, the Department applied for a grant through the Jobs Fund to recruit and train young individuals from rural areas. These young people will assist and provide support at school sites and potentially contribute significantly to sustainable job creation.

- 1.5. The Draft Western Cape Commissioner for Children Bill, 2017 was published for public comment. 24 organisations made comments on the Draft Bill. It is envisaged that the Department will introduce the Draft Bill to the Provincial Parliament in the first quarter of the 2018/19 financial year.
- 1.6. A submission containing legal advice and input from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning was submitted to the Provincial Cabinet. The Department reported that there is no dispute that the Western Cape Government has failed to fulfil the obligation of the Constitution of the Western Cape, 1997 to appoint the Commissioner for the Environment for the past 20 years. However, from a policy perspective, the Department is of the view that the filling of the vacancy of the Commissioner for the Environment is not desirable, as it would result in the duplication of the roles and functions being performed by existing organs of state. As a result, the Department of the Premier has published the Constitution of the Western Cape Draft First Amendment Bill, 2018 for public comment and input which closes on 6 April 2018.
- 1.7. The earmarked allocation of R782 846 000 for consultants to be used by the Department, is included in the 2018/19 budget and classified under "Goods and Services".
- 1.8. 178 public Wi-Fi hotspots have been deployed. The amount of free data will be increased from 250 megabytes to 500 megabytes per public user, and unlimited access to any government website. The Department is in the process of rolling out Wi-Fi connectivity to all government buildings.

## **2. Information requested**

The Committee REQUESTED that the Department of Premier provides the Committee with the following information by 13 April 2018:

- 2.1 A copy of the 2018/19 Procurement Plan, as mentioned on page 25 of the Budget Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure, 2018;
- 2.2 A list of the current service providers where services were procured for all ICT services during the 2017/18 financial year;
- 2.3 The names of the consultants envisaged to be utilised and the totals allocated to these consultants that have been budgeted for the 2018/19 financial year, under the item "Goods and Services";
- 2.4 A geographic breakdown of the 178 public Wi-Fi hotspots;
- 2.5 A copy of all correspondence sent from the Department of the Premier to the Minister of Water Affairs, relating to the drought experienced in the Western Cape where support and assistance where requested;
- 2.6 A breakdown of the areas where the 27 staff members provide ICT support to schools;
- 2.7 A copy of the Jobs Fund application, including the current plan and status of the process that would assist the youth in the rural areas;
- 2.8 A copy of the submission that was submitted to the Provincial Cabinet relating to matters of the Commissioner for the Environment; and
- 2.9 A list that categorises the nature of and work completed (per department) by the Department of the Premier's Legal Services unit, for the 2017/18 financial year.

## **3. Resolutions**

The Committee RESOLVED to invite the Department to brief the Committee on the following:

- 3.1 The Barrett Survey Outcomes;
- 3.2 The Revised model relating to public Wi-fi hotspots in the respective municipal wards; and
- 3.3 The envisaged programme and proposed timeframe for the appointment of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children.

**M A D MITCHELL, MPP**



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**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON PREMIER**

**15 MARCH 2018**