

*Wednesday, 19 June 2024]*

NO 3 - 2024] FIRST SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2024

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

#### **The Premier**

The Premier has announced the appointment of members of the Provincial Cabinet as per the attached document dated 13 June 2024.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **1. Annual Activity Report of the Standing Committee on Social Development for the 2023/24 financial year**

The Strategic Objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speakers' Priorities which impact committees are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and

Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

#### **Members:**

##### **Democratic Alliance**

D Plato (Chairperson until February 2024)

CJ, Poole (Chairperson from March 2024)

Bosman, G

Fry, C

## **African National Congress**

Bakubaku-Vos, NG

## **Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)**

Cassiem, A

### **Alternate Members**

Bans, AP (ANC)

Baartman, D M (DA)

Klaas, T M (EFF)

Lekker, P Z (ANC)

Pretorius, G (DA)

Windvogel, R (ANC)

### **Membership Changes**

In February 2024, Member D Plato resigned from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Development. In March 2024, Member CJ Poole was elected as the new Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Development.

## **1. Introduction**

The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1 Maintain oversight over the Executive.
- 1.2 To keep the Department of Social Development accountable to it.
- 1.3 To consider and report on legislation and other matters referred to it by the Speaker.
- 1.4 To monitor the implementation of legislation.

In the fulfilment of its mandate, the Committee:

- 1.5 Facilitated public participation in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.
- 1.6 Conducted its business in a fair, open, and transparent manner.
- 1.7 Promoted cooperative governance.
- 1.8 Reported regularly to the House.

## **2. Reporting departments**

- 2.1 Department of Social Development

## **3. Overview of committee activities**

Number of committee activities	16
Number of public hearings	7
Number of oversight visits	1
Number of cluster visit weeks	0
Number of international study tours	0
Number of provincial Bills considered	2
Number of NCOP visit weeks	0
Number of NCOP Bills considered	1

Number of committee briefing meetings 5  
 Workshops or conferences attended 0

#### **4. Committee activities**

In April 2023, the Committee resolved to schedule a briefing by the Institute for Contemporary Research Africa (ICRA) after visiting multiple NGOs in the province. The Committee observed that several NGOs were poorly managed, lacked staff and resources, and did not have enough space to operate. During the briefing, ICRA informed the Committee about its programs and its role in helping NGOs, especially the old age homes that were struggling to operate in the province. Additionally, the Department of Social Development briefed the Committee on the Foster Care Policy, its funding allocation, and the challenges faced by NGOs in the Foster Care programs. The Committee learned that there was a shortage of social workers in NGOs across the province, which has resulted in high caseloads per social worker. Furthermore, it was reported that the province was also having a shortage of foster parents. However, the Department was committed to addressing the challenges faced by NGOs.

In May 2023, the NCOP Permanent Delegate and the national Department of Social Development briefed the Committee on the Fund-Raising Amendment Bill [B 29B-2020] (NCOP). During the same month, there were concerns in the province when the news broke that the South African Post Office (SAPO) was planning to shut down some branches across the province. The Committee acknowledged that over 1.6 million people in the Western Cape rely on social grants, especially in rural areas where people receive their payments through the post office. It was clear that the closure of branches in the province posed a significant challenge for the SASSA beneficiaries. Furthermore, during the meeting, SASSA provided an update on the progress made by the provincial SASSA in addressing the backlog of applications for the Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD Grant) and Disability Grants in the province.

In June 2023, the Committee held four public hearings on the Fund-Raising Amendment Bill [B 29B-2020] in different regions to encourage public participation in line with section 118 of the Constitution and Standing Rule 72. The hearings took place in Cape Town for the Metro, Saldanha Bay for the West Coast, Laingsburg for the Karoo, and Mossel Bay for the Southern Cape Region. All the hearings were successful, and the Committee supported the Bill.

In addition to this, in June 2023, the Committee conducted a joint visit with the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness to the NGOs and health facilities in the Karoo and Southern Cape Region.

During the financial year, the Committee deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development. They also deliberated on Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023] and Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1-2024].

#### **5. Legislation**

During the 2023/24 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

##### **5.1 Provincial bills**

- 5.1.1 Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023].
- 5.1.2 Vote 7: Social Development in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1-2024].

## 5.2 NCOP bill

- 5.2.1 Fund-Raising Amendment Bill [B 29B-2020] (NCOP) s76 Bill.

## 6. Facilitation of public Involvement and participation

In line with the Committee's mandate to facilitate public involvement in its activities, members of the public were invited to participate in the:

- 6.1 Discussion on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development.
- 6.2 Public hearing on the deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023] financial year.
- 6.3 Public hearing on the deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1-2024].
- 6.4 Public hearing on the Fund-Raising Amendment Bill [B 29B-2020] (NCOP) s76 Bill.

## 7. Financial particulars

The Standing Committee's total expenditure during that year was R 230 860.565. The budget was used for various activities, including the joint visit of the Standing Committee on Social Development and the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness to NGOs and health facilities in the Karoo and Southern Cape region.

The budget was also spent on publishing the deliberations on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development in October 2023, as well as on deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023], and on the deliberations on Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1-2024].

Additionally, some funds were used during the public participation process for the Fund-Raising Amendment Bill [B 29B-2020] (NCOP) s76 Bill, as well as during Committee meetings.

## 2. Annual Activity Report of the Standing Committee on Health for the 2023/2024 financial year

The Strategic Objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speakers' Priorities which impact on committees are as follows:

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

### Members:

#### Democratic Alliance

Pretorius, G (Chairperson)

Fry, C

Poole, CJ

## **African National Congress**

Windvogel, R

## **Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)**

Klaas, TM

### **Alternate Member**

Bans, AP (ANC)

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Baartman, D (DA)

Bosman, G (DA)

Cassiem, A (EFF)

Lekker, P Z (ANC)

## **1. Introduction**

The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1 Maintain oversight over the Executive.
- 1.2 To keep the Department of Health and Wellness accountable to it.
- 1.3 To consider and report on legislation and other matters referred to it by the Speaker.
- 1.4 To monitor the implementation of legislation.

In the fulfilment of its mandate, the Committee:

- 1.5 Facilitated public participation in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.
- 1.6 Conducted its business in a fair, open, and transparent manner.
- 1.7 Promoted cooperative governance.
- 1.8 Reported regularly to the House.

## **2. Reporting department**

- 2.1 Department of Health and Wellness

## **3. Overview of committee activities**

Number of committee activities	28
Number of public hearings	13
Number of oversight visits	4
Number of cluster visit weeks	0
Number of international study tours	0
Number of provincial Bills considered	2
Number of NCOP visit weeks	0
Number of NCOP Bills considered	1
Number of committee briefing meetings	8
Workshops or conferences attended	0

#### 4. Committee activities

After media reports on the surge of mental health cases in the province, in April 2023, the Committee resolved to schedule a briefing by the Department of Health and Wellness on the surge of mental health cases in the province and the programs in place to address the increase in mental health cases in the province.

The Department reported that it was cognizant of capacity constraints at the primary level insofar as mental health services were concerned. Some primary healthcare facilities did have a mental healthcare nurse, though the health system had been inundated with rising incidents of mental health in the Western Cape. This new trend should also be seen within the context of rising substance abuse problems in the province. The Committee was informed that mental health care in the province has been elevated to a strategic focus, with extra resources granted by the Provincial Treasury and R30 million in additional funding has been provided. The Department focused on access to quality health care with all its partners. The long-term strategy was about a wellness approach that started from before a person was born and extended to old age. A specific focus on including mental health care as part of primary health care had been incorporated into the strategy.

In addition, the Department of Health and Wellness was also invited to brief the Committee on the progress made on the implementation of the Western Cape Health Facility Boards and Committees Act, 2016 (Act 4 of 2016), specifically, the appointment of the Hospital Boards and Clinic Committees in the Province, and the existence, functioning, and structure of the District Health Councils in the province. The briefing resulted from concerns raised by community stakeholders during the public hearings on the Department of Health annual report. The Committee also noted during oversight visits to health facilities that there were challenges regarding the functionality of hospital boards and clinic committees.

The Department indicated that the purpose of the Act was to provide for the establishment, functions, and procedures of hospital boards and clinic committees at primary health care facilities. The boards and committees were provided with clearly defined functions.

The Committee was informed that in the metro district, 42 out of 45 clinic committees and 19 out of 20 hospital boards were constituted and functional. In the rural districts, 93 of the 104 clinic committees and 18 of the 25 hospital boards were constituted and functional. Most of the hospital boards not constituted were in the West Coast district. The Department reported that in 2023, the focus would be to continue recruiting community members to serve on the Hospital Boards and Clinic Committees, provide training for members, and maintain good relationships between all stakeholders.

Furthermore, in April 2023, the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness conducted oversight visits to the Cogmans Kloof Clinic, Zolani Clinic, Nkqubela Clinic, and Robertson Hospital. The purpose of the visits was to assess the full package of health services to various health facilities offered to communities post the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the Committee visited the facilities to assess the high service pressure in the health facilities in the Boland Region. Members also conducted a walkabout of the facilities and posed questions. During the visit, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, long queues, and shortage of staff were reported and noted as major challenges. The Committee brought the noted challenges to the HOD and Minister of Health and Wellness for their attention.

In June 2023, the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness and the Standing Committee on Social Development, as part of their mandates, resolved to schedule a joint visit to various health facilities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Central Karoo and Southern Cape regions from 26 to 30 June 2023. The joint visit was scheduled after Members raised concerns about the infrastructure challenges and poor quality of services offered by the health facilities and NGOs in these regions.

The purpose of the visits was to investigate and assess the infrastructure challenges and the quality of services offered by the various health facilities and NGOs to the Central Karoo and Southern Cape communities. In addition, the committees visited the facilities to assess the high service pressure. During the visits, the delegation was briefed by the relevant officials from the health facilities and NGOs that were visited on the service pressures experienced by the facilities, the challenges and successes achieved, and the infrastructure challenges. Members also conducted a walkabout of the facilities. The officials from the Department of Health and Wellness, the Department of Social Development, and officials from various NGOs answered all questions posed by the delegation.

In July 2023, the National Health Insurance Bill [B 11B-19] was referred to the Committee. In August 2023, the Committee was briefed by the officials from the National Department of Health on the Bill. The Committee was informed that the NHI Bill provides an enabling framework for massive reforms to the entire health landscape in the country. The presentation summarized the 11 chapters of the Bill.

The purpose of the NHI Bill was to establish an NHI Fund as a legally defined organ of the state. The Bill provides for the control of the NHI Fund by the Board, the composition of the Board, the appointment of members of the Board, and the appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board. It seeks to define beneficiaries of services covered by the NHI Fund, including population registration. The Bill also provides for the contracting of accredited providers of personal health care services and allows for the Minister to determine criteria for accreditation and reimbursement of Health care providers. The NHI Bill provides for the Minister to determine health care benefits that will be reimbursed through the NHI Fund, as well as the service coverage and cost measurement provisions. The NHI Fund will purchase services on behalf of South African citizens; permanent residents, refugees, inmates, and specific categories of foreign nationals, and will limit access to pay for asylum seekers and illegal foreigners. However, it will care for all children irrespective of their citizen status.

With regards to the role of provinces under the NHI Act, it was reported that the national Minister of Health will delegate to provinces as management agents, for the provision of health care services, and in those cases, the Fund will contract with sections within the province such as provincial tertiary, regional and emergency services. This aims to strengthen and assist the District Health Management Office in controlling the quality of all health services and facilities. Provinces will provide technical and logistical support to district health councils and will coordinate health and medical services during provincial disasters. Provinces will provide and co-ordinate emergency medical services and forensic pathology, forensic clinical medicines, and related services including the provision of medico-legal mortuaries and medico-legal services. They will provide and maintain equipment, vehicles, and health care facilities, consult with communities regarding health matters, promote health and healthy lifestyles, provide environmental pollution control services, and ensure health systems research, and programmes, public sector, and health services to name a few.

In terms of the role of medical schemes under the NHI, it was mentioned that once the NH is fully implemented, the national Minister will introduce regulations limiting benefits to services not reimbursable by the NHI Fund. Accreditation of service providers under the NHI, it was reported that they will provide a minimum range of services, adhere to the national pricing regimen, conclude a legally binding contract with the establishment or prodder for a maximum of 5 years, etc.

The source of funding for the NHI will be through Appropriations, general tax revenue, shift funds from provincial equitable share and conditional grants, medical scheme tax credits, payroll tax, and surcharge on personal income tax. Finances will be audited by the Auditor General and Annual Reports of the NHI Fund will be submitted to Parliament and Minister.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation and resolved to schedule seven public hearings to make sure it covers the six regions and surrounding areas and reaches as many people as possible, and the hearings were in Beaufort West, Central Karoo Region, on Monday, 18 September 2023, in George, Southern Cape Region on Tuesday, 19 September 2023, in Caledon, Overberg Region on Wednesday, 20 September 2023, at the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Cape Metro on Friday, 22 September 2023, in Saldanha, West Coast Region on Tuesday, 26 September 2023, in Vredendal on Wednesday, 27 September 2023, and in Paarl, Cape Winelands on Friday, 29 September 2023.

After the last public hearing in Paarl, the Committee was inundated with calls from various health stakeholders and community members to extend the public hearings on the Bill due to the magnitude of the National Health Insurance Bill to the citizens of the Western Cape and South Africans at large. The Committee resolved to schedule three additional public hearings in Mossel Bay on 25, Hermanus on 26, and Stellenbosch on 30 October 2023. All the hearings were well attended by the members of the public and the public gave input on the Bill. Numerous voluminous written and verbal submissions were received on the Bill for consideration and assisting the Committee in formulating the provincial mandate on the Bill.

During the financial year under review, the Committee deliberated on the National Health Insurance Bill [B 11B-19], Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness, Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023]. In addition, the Committee also deliberated on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill, [B1-2024].

## **5. Legislation**

During the 2023/24 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

### **5.1 Provincial bills**

- 5.1.1 Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023].
- 5.1.2 Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill, [B1-2024].

## **6. NCOP Bill**

National Health Insurance Bill [B 11B-2019] (NCOP).



## **7. Facilitation of public Involvement and participation**

In line with the Committee's mandate to facilitate public participation as part of the legislative process, members of the public were invited to participate in the deliberations on:

- 7.1 The Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness.
- 7.2 The deliberations on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023].
- 7.3 The deliberations on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill,[B1-2024].
- 7.4 National Health Insurance Bill [B 11B-2019] (NCOP).

The Committee scheduled ten public hearings on the NHI Bill, the hearings were well attended, and relevant stakeholders gave input during the public hearings.

## **8. Financial particulars**

The Standing Committee was allocated an amount of R200 000.00, and the Committee spent R771' 031.96 during the 2023/24 financial year which was an overspend of -R571 031.96. A large portion of the budget was spent on the public participation process of the NHI Bill. Additionally, the budget was spent on the deliberations on the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness in October 2023, on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2023], and on the deliberations on Vote 6: Health and Wellness in the schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1-2023]. Furthermore, the Committee spent some funds during the joint visit week of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness and the Standing Committee on Social Development to the health facilities and NGOs in the Karoo and Southern Cape Regions.