

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2015

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

Referral of draft bill to committee in terms of Rule 220

Standing Committee on Local Government

Draft Traditional Khoi-san Leadership Bill, 2015 (NCOP) (proposed section 76 bill).

TABLING

The Speaker:

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Annual report 2014.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Standing Committee on Human Settlements, having undertaken an oversight visit to the Riverview Housing Project and the Waste Water Treatment Works at Citrusdal on 18 August 2015, reports as follows:

Delegation

The delegation consisted of the following members:

Hinana, NE (DA)
Joseph, BD (EFF)
Magaxa, KE (ANC)
Maseko, LM (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)

Apology

Schäfer, BA (DA) (Joined the delegation later)

The following staff members attended the oversight visit:

Jones, S (Committee Coordinator)
Naidoo, W (Senior Officer: Security and Facilities)

1. Introduction

The Standing Committee on Human Settlements embarked on an oversight visit to Citrusdal to observe the status of the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP), the Riverview Housing Project, and the Waste Water Treatment Works at Citrusdal. In addition hereto, the Committee requested that the Cederberg Municipality brief it on how the housing beneficiary plan at Graafwater was executed and the subsequent challenges experienced.

This report discusses the Committee's findings and recommendations stemming from the oversight visit.

2. Overview of the visit

The visit commenced with a meeting at 09:00 in the Old Council Chambers at the Citrusdal municipal office. Representatives of the Department of Human Settlements, the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Alfred, a ward councillor, Mr Barnard, and the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) represented by Mr Burger were in attendance.

After the meeting the representatives of the Department of Human Settlements, the municipal officials and members of the public accompanied the Committee on a walkabout of the projects.

3. Background on the Graafwater Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) Housing Project

In 2011, the Department of Human Settlements provided financial assistance for the acquisition of a portion of the Beauskraal farm land at Graafwater, which is located adjacent to the existing township development. The Department of Human Settlements assisted the Cederberg Municipality to purchase the property in June

2011 at a total cost of R600 000. Once the land was acquired, phase 1 of the construction of the civil engineering services was implemented. The Department granted final approval for the installation of services on 407 erven on 23 February 2012. Approval was granted for the construction of top structures on 22 January 2013. The contractor commenced with the construction of services on 7 March 2012 and completed 407 serviced sites by 23 October 2012.

Upgrades were done concurrently with the construction of the internal civil engineering services. On completion all the units were handed over to the qualifying beneficiaries. The beneficiaries identified for the housing project consisted of the existing residents from the town of Graafwater, backyard dwellers and beneficiaries listed on the Housing Demand Database.

3.1 Findings and observations

- 3.1.1 Graafwater is situated approximately 300 km north of Cape Town in the Sandveld region.
- 3.1.2 The town of Graafwater has a population of about 2 500 people with an additional 3 500 people living on the surrounding farms.
- 3.1.3 Approximately 65% of the community members are seasonal workers and the current unemployment rate is approximately 60%. A total of 50% of the houses at Graafwater have backyard dwellings.

4. Background on the Citrusdal Waste Water Treatment Works

The existing Citrusdal Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) is located adjacent to and on the banks of the Oliphant's River. It is also within close proximity of the residential properties in the area and does not conform to the 800 m buffer limit. The WWTW lies below the 1-in-50-year flood line of the Oliphant's River and it has experienced flooding in the past. In addition hereto, one of the major concerns is that the design capacity of the existing treatment works has been reached.

The Department of Water Affairs advised that the WWTW be relocated to a position where the treatment plant will not be subject to possible flooding. The Cederberg Municipality commenced with the initial phases to relocate the WWTW on 21 January 2013. The completion of the new WWTW is expected during the 2016 financial year, depending on the funding made available for the project. The Department of Human Settlements contributed R5 million towards phase 1 of the WWTW. The Department of Water Affairs provided further funding for phase 2 and 3 of the WWTW for it to be completed. The WWTW is scheduled to become fully operational by the end of 2017.

Ultimately, the purpose of the project is to treat sewer volumes of 2 376 Mℓ per day derived from a population of 15 321 people (approximately 3 064 households) and allowing for an increase in the average consumption per capita from 25 ℓ/c/d to 75 ℓ/c/d over a time period of 15 years. The targeted categories of consumers to be serviced are domestic users throughout the Citrusdal region, commercial and light industrial users and institutional users falling under the Cederberg local municipality.

4.1 Findings and observations

During the walkabout of the WWTW the Committee observed and was informed of the following:

- 4.1.1 The new WWTW is still under construction and will only be completed in the 2016 financial year;
- 4.1.2 Due to the inadequate capacity of the current WWTW, additional serviced sites cannot be provided as additional waste would put more strain on an already overburdened plant; and
- 4.1.3 Any further development and/or upgrading can only take place once the new WWTW is completed and commissioned.

5. Background on the Riverview Housing Project

During 2010 the Cederberg Municipality requested funding from the Department of Human Settlements to develop a portion of the Petersfield land for an Emergency Housing Programme (EHP). The land was procured to accommodate two informal settlement communities from the Sandkamp and Jaagvlei areas at Citrusdal. These two informal settlement areas had a limited number of chemical toilets and water points and urgent relocation interventions were required to provide the informal settlements with access to proper basic services.

The Department of Human Settlements approved limited funding for the provisioning of water and sanitation services on a shared basis under the Emergency Housing Programme (EHP). Underground services were constructed and completed by March 2011. A ratio of four families to one precast toilet was provided.

Further funding was requested from the Department of Human Settlements to upgrade the existing serviced sites to stage 3 under the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP). Funding was approved for the upgrading of roads, stormwater infrastructure and the provisioning of additional toilet facilities by 10 January 2014. Construction of the roads and stormwater system commenced in February 2014 and was finalised by 12 September 2014. Further hereto, additional precast toilet facilities were provided to all of the erven under the UISP. A total of 382 sites were serviced whereby a ratio of two families now shared one precast toilet facility.

5.1 Findings and observations

During the walkabout of the Riverview Housing Project the Committee observed the following:

- 5.1.1 Stormwater drains were blocked with rubble;
- 5.1.2 No provision was made for an underground drainage system for outside household basins;
- 5.1.3 Unhygienic stagnant domestic wastewater stemming from individual households was conspicuous on the properties; and
- 5.1.4 The taps at some of the properties were leaking.

6. Recommendations

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Cederberg Municipality consider implementing an upgraded domestic waste drainage system for the housing units in Riverview.

2. REPORT OF THE WESTERN CAPE DELEGATION TO THE 46th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA FROM 9 to 15 AUGUST 2015.

Introduction

The 46th Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 9–15 August 2015. The 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Africa Region was organised under the theme “Democracy and Development in Africa: Policy Options in the Post-Millennium Development Framework”.

Delegation

An official delegation of two Members, namely Honourables L M Maseko and M N Gillion, accompanied by a staff member, Ms L L Saayman represented the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Hon L M Maseko was the Leader of the delegation. The delegation left for Kenya on Sunday, 9 August 2015 and returned on Saturday, 15 August 2015. The Western Cape Provincial Parliament delegation was booked in the Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club.

Ms L L Saayman represented the Secretary to Parliament at the meeting of the Society-of-the-Clerks-at-the-Table (SOCATT).

Tuesday, 11 August 2015

Official opening ceremony of the 46th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Africa Region Conference.

President Uhuru Kenyatta addressed the conference at the official opening ceremony. In his speech he urged African parliaments to enact laws that contribute to the eradication of poverty for people on the continent to enjoy the benefits of political freedom. He stressed that for Africans to reap the freedoms of independence, and attain sustainable development, laws should protect them from poverty cycles. He urged parliaments to tolerate divergent opinions of the minority and encourage debates that impact positively on the lives of citizens.

Reforms of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

The CPA is currently registered as a charitable organisation in the United Kingdom but calls to change its status to an international organisation have emerged in the recent past. Hon Justin Muturi, President of the CPA (Africa Region) indicated that

he will push for reforms of the CPA and that at the opportune time intervention and support of the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government would be sought. Article 37 (2a) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association states that a proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be valid if it does not have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be a charity according to the law in the jurisdiction in which the Secretariat of the Association is then established.

The debate on reforming the CPA can be traced back to 1991, when it was raised in an Executive Committee meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe. The matter gained momentum in 2012 when the General Assembly sitting in Colombo, Sri Lanka approved a resolution for the amendment of the CPA Constitution with regards to change of status.

The Africa region was asked to prepare to make changes to its laws at the next international CPA meeting to be held in Pakistan in September 2015. This meeting has since been cancelled.

Regional meeting- Southern Africa Sub-Region.

Intense deliberations regarding the Status of the CPA dominated the discussions. The region resolved to pursue the transformation of the CPA from a charitable organisation to an international organisation. It was observed that the success of a vote that would see the removal of the clause that bars CPA members from amending the CPA Constitution would only be feasible if members were strategic well ahead of the International CPA Conference. The proposal has been moved at a previous conference but resisted by three powerful regions namely Britain, Australia and Canada. As a counter move the three opposed branches have proposed the creation of an international arm of the CPA to address the financial status of the charity.

The regional meeting further resolved to raise South Africa's re-election to the position of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and to support Uganda for the position of Vice Treasurer.

It was emphasised that member parliaments must ensure that their subscription fees are paid before the CPA International Conference.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The intense deliberations regarding the status of the CPA dominated discussions continued at the AGM. A call to rally Heads of States of African member states to forward this matter to the UN General Assembly for consideration as a last resort. The AGM noted that CPA Pakistan, the host of the 61st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference had not invited Jammu and Kashmir sub-branches for the conference. Since the two sub-branches are of good standing in the CPA, the Executive Committee felt that this omission would not only set a bad precedent but that the hosting branch would have usurped non-existent right; that of excluding any Branch from attending a CPA conference.

It was agreed that Dr B Kunbou, MP and adv Phindela would make presentations on the change of status of the CPA to enlighten delegates attending the 61st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan.

In addition the Executive Committee agreed on the following strategic interventions for implementation by Branches:

- Branches should ensure that there is always consistency with regard to delegations; delegates attending the current 46th CPA Africa Region Conference must continuously carry the mandate to their respective branches;
- Branches should engage their respective Head of State/Government on the need for the change of the CPA status; and
- The region should engage the African Union on the change of CPA status.

Appointment of the Secretary General CPA (International)

A progress report on the appointment of the Secretary General was given. The interviews for this position were held on Monday 29 June 2015.

Elections held during the AGM

Elections were held to fill the vacancy of the position of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Vice Treasurer and President for the 47th CPA Africa Region Conference. The following Members were elected:

- Hon Lindiwe Maseko, Chairperson of EXCO;
- Hon Elija Okupa (Uganda): vice Treasurer; and
- Speaker of Mauritius: President.

Wednesday, 12 August 2015

Role of Parliament in tackling the menace of terrorism in Africa

Delegates were called upon to consider holistic approaches and greater cooperation in the ongoing fight against terrorism on the continent and the world at large. Counter – terrorism cooperation in the region needs to move beyond a focus on military and law enforcement responses to a more holistic and prevention-based approach.

According to Kenya's Senator Hassan who moved this topic dealing effectively with the terrorist threat in Africa requires policies and programmes at national, regional and international levels to strengthen the relationship between states and society. In effect that would reduce the opportunities that terrorists enjoy for organisation, financing and mobilisation outside legitimate politics and economics.

It was noted that terrorism has resulted in enormous loss of human lives, destruction of infrastructure, escalation of crime rate, rise in numbers of internally displaced persons and shut down of legitimate businesses and educational activities. Delegates observed that Africa is becoming a prime target of terrorist attacks,

manifested in activities of Al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya, Boko Haram in Nigeria and Cameroon. The delegates were mindful that terrorism is propelled by several factors including poverty, social exclusion, ethnic intolerance, religious and ideological fundamentalism, human rights abuses, state-sponsored violence such as extra judicial killings, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons cross borders, lack of economic opportunities and corruption.

Social Housing as Social Justice: Policy Options for Reducing Poverty and Building Cities without Slums

Political cronyism is among the prominent factors feeding proliferation of urban slums in Africa. According to the presenter from Cameroon who was the mover of this presentation African countries are facing common housing challenges. Participants were in concurrence that there was a need for African counties to develop and support policies to promote development in Africa. The formulation of specific policies that promote affordable housing financing and development of low cost houses were crucial. Other factors that contribute to the poor urban housing on the continent that were highlighted at the plenary included high interest rates of housing finance, corruption and rapid urbanization. It was agreed that there was a need to strike a mutual balance between multinational and local entrepreneurs in the housing sector.

Thursday, 13 August 2015

2014 Resolutions of the 3rd Africa Youth Parliament

The young parliamentarians challenged the delegates of the Conference that their involvement in policy debates must not be seen as mere formalities. They argued that African parliaments ought to consider youth affairs with the seriousness it deserves adding that the phrase that they were “leaders of the future” was clichéd, they see themselves as leaders of today.

During the plenary session their vision clashed with that of seasoned politician who expressed reservation toward sitting at the same table with young parliamentarians.

The youth called on the delegates to make decisions and pass legislation that will deal with the unemployment menace rampant in many African counties thereby allowing their economies to bustle. They also insisted that tourism industry on the continent can be diversified to bring foreign exchange to help with global trade.

Women and Leadership in Africa 20 Years Post Beijing Platform for Action: Challenges and Prospects of Achieving Gender Parity

The Africa region members of the Commonwealth are making tremendous progress in promoting increased representation of women in leadership, but with a fair share of challenges.

The motion was moved by the Speaker of the Gauteng Legislature hon Lentheng Mekgwe. She cited South Africa for its impressive commitment in promoting

women leadership. She also lauded the efforts of the African Union toward the implementation of the UN-AU Gender Equality Resolutions.

Member states face challenges in attaining the Beijing Declaration that advocates for at least 30 percent women representation across the governance spectrum. Some of the key challenges highlighted included tradition and customs informed by the patriarchal society that characterised the African continent and lack of institutionalized legal frameworks to promote gender equality.

A Parliamentary Agenda for promoting and regulating Public-Private Partnerships in Africa's Development Plans

Delegates deliberated on enhancing a vibrant economy through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). African Parliaments are leaning towards public private partnerships to radically improve infrastructural development in their countries and enhance service delivery.

PPPs should not be seen as a quick-fix solution, as the success of PPPs lies in effective legislation, regulatory frameworks and strong political commitment, a competitive PPP market, and a capacitated workforce at national, provincial and municipal levels. To ensure the success of PPPs a fair, transparent, competitive and cost-effective process to ensure that no corruption takes place in awarding PPP contracts must be in place.

14 August 2015

Resolutions of the conference

- The CPA should reaffirm the September, 2012 Resolution of the 58th CPC in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the change of the CPA status and call for its immediate implementation. This should be through supporting the motion of Gauteng CPA sub-branch to amend article 37 (2) (a) at the conference in Pakistan.
- Urge governments in Africa to reverse the present neglect of rural areas which has provided a push for massive rural-urban migration leading to slums.
- Further urge African governments to evolve national policies on housing with emphasis on providing affordable, low cost houses for the poor masses.
- Ensure equity in the distribution of social wealth, reduction of poverty, respect for human rights and elimination of mal-administration and corruption.
- Urge movements to continue with the implementation of programmes for the emancipation and empowerment of women as enunciated in the Beijing Platform for Action, Addis Ababa, Declaration, Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Urge Parliaments to enact appropriate legislation and effective oversight to ensure that PPPs are conducted in a fair, transparent, competitive, cost-effective and corruption-free manner.
- Further call governments to ensure that the necessary skills and expertise are available within the relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure the effective negotiation, monitoring and implementation of PPP contracts.

***Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) 6 to 9 August 2015**

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians held its 6th conference under the theme “Opportunities and Empowerment of Women in the Post 2015 Development Agenda, through the Integration of a Gender Perspective”. The conference was organised from the 6th – 9th August. The conference achieved a number of key milestones which include the adoption of a declaration and the new strategic plan for 2016-2020 financial year. They urged for more concerted efforts to improve engagements with other sub-regions that enhance a wider scope of women’s representation in leadership across the continent.

The CWP Conference deliberated and made resolutions on a number of topics, these include the following:

- Opportunities and Empowerment of Women in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, through the Integration of a Gender Perspective;
- Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal for Women and Girls; and
- Increasing Women’s Representation in Decision Making Bodies and the Role of Women in Peace Making and Conflict Resolution.

Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT): Africa Region

Ms L L Saayman, on behalf of the Secretary, attended the meeting.

The following issues were deliberated on–

- The adoption of the minutes of the last meeting in Arusha, Tanzania. - The minutes were adopted.
- Update on Payments of subscriptions – the list of branches that have not paid was circulated (Western Cape \$35 outstanding);
- The following papers were presented during the two day session, namely
 - The transformation of the CPA and the role of the CPA and the role of the So CATT Africa Region;
 - Organisational Planning and Performance Management in African Parliament-Towards Vision 2063;
 - The implication of Financial and Treasury Independence on Parliament and their stakeholder relations; and
 - Sharing of country specific procedural experiences.

SoCATT Africa region has adopted a proposal to publish a journal of the Society this year. The publication will go by the title “Meza ya Bunge la Africa which translates to “The table of African Parliaments”. The journal will be available in electronic and print versions. The issues will contain information about member state parliaments, the society’s mandate and activities carried out by SoCATT.

Saturday, 15 August 2015

Delegates departed from Nairobi, Kenya.

3. National Council of Provinces (NCOP), dated 21 to 24 July 2015.

Theme: “Advancing the development agenda of municipalities for a better life for our people.”

Report attached as tabled in the NCOP.