



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

Ref Number: 11/4/1/2/11

---

Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Community Development for the 2016/17 financial year, dated 31 March 2017, as follows:

## **Members**

The Committee comprises of the following members:

### **Democratic Alliance**

Botha, LJ (Chairperson)  
Mitchell, DG  
Wenger, MM

### **African National Congress**

Gillion, MN  
Makeleni, P (ANC)

### **Alternate Members**

Gopie, D (ANC)  
Lekker, PZ (ANC)

## **1. Introduction**

The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1 Maintain oversight over the Executive.
- 1.2 To keep the Departments of Health and 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 fulfillment 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 co-operative governance.
- 1.8 Reported regularly to the House.

## 2. Reporting Departments

- 2.1 Department of Health
- 2.2 Department of Social Development

## 3. Overview of Committees Activities

No of Committee activities	45
No of Public Hearings	17
No of Oversight Visits	2
No of Cluster Visit Weeks	1
No of International Study Tours	0
No of Provincial Bills considered	1
No of NCOP Visit Weeks	1
No of NCOP Bills considered	1
Workshops/conferences attended	0

## 4. Oversight activities

During the month of August 2016, the Standing Committee, as part of its oversight mandate and complying with its programme, conducted an oversight visit to the Recovery Addicts Empowerment Lives (RAEL), a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) at the Rawsonville Farm, Du Mond, in Worcester. The RAEL is a safe and sober living addiction recovery centre that provides a holistic approach in dealing with substance abuse and its effects. The RAEL focuses on developing and maintaining an addiction-free lifestyle through the provision, facilitation and upholding of effective treatment protocols.

During September 2016, the Committee also conducted a joint oversight visit with the Standing Committee on Education to the Autism Connect Learning Centre in Westridge, Mitchells Plain as it is a responsibility of both the Department of Social Development and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED). The main focus of this oversight visit was to assess the activities of the centre and to understand how the Autism Connect Learning Centre's interventions assist learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

### 4.1 Committee activities

The Committee's highlights (for the portfolio on Health) during the 2016/2017 financial year include; the consideration of the *Western Cape Health Facility Boards and Committees Bill [B1-2016]*. The purpose of the Bill was to provide for the establishment, functions and procedures of boards established for hospitals and committees established for primary healthcare facilities. During the consideration of this Bill, the Committee invited stakeholders and interested parties to attend public hearings and give input on the Bill. The Committee conducted eight public hearings from 9 until 13 May 2017 across the province in areas such as Beaufort West, George, Riversdale, Caledon, Worcester, Piketberg, Cape Town and Khayelitsha. The public hearings on the Bill were successfully attended by the public and relevant stakeholders, as a result, the Bill was assented to the *Western Cape Health Facility Boards and Committees Act (Act no 4 of 2016)* by the Premier on 5 July 2016.

The Standing Committee on Community Development (portfolio on Social Development) invited the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) head office to a briefing meeting following media reports on the spate of unauthorised, undocumented and illegal debit deductions from the bank accounts (smart cards) of beneficiaries of SASSA grants. These unlawful deductions were allegedly done by the

outsourced contractor, Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) and holding company Net1 since the introduction of the biometric system in 2012. The invitation to attend the meeting was also extended to the beneficiaries that were affected by these unlawful deductions, to come and seek clarity and a way forward on how their disputes could be resolved. The meeting was held on Tuesday, 31 May 2016 at the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The meeting was attended SASSA, the Provincial Department of Social Development (DSD) and Black Sash (a civil organisation that was at the forefront of assisting the SASSA grant beneficiaries in lodging disputes on these unlawful deductions). The meeting was successful and it was covered immensely by various media houses. The meeting had a big impact in changing lives of community members in the province, because the aggrieved SASSA beneficiaries successfully managed to lodge their grievances to SASSA during the meeting.

As part of the Committee's oversight function and keeping the Provincial departments accountable to it, the Committee considered the Annual Reports of the Department of Health on 20 October 2016, Department of Social Development on 21 October 2016. During these discussions, Members of the public were also given an opportunity to make inputs and pose questions.

*The Children's Second Amendment Bill* [B14B -2015] S76 (NCOP) (for the portfolio on Social Development) was referred to the Committee by the Speaker on 15 September 2016. During the first meeting on the way forward of the Committee on this Bill, the Committee resolved to schedule three public hearing from 1 until 3 November 2016 in Knysna, Citrusdal and Cape Town. The Committee chose these areas in order to reach as many stakeholders as possible and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to give input on this Bill. The hearings were successfully attended and inputs made by stakeholders was considered by the Committee and they formed part of the negotiating mandate of the province to the NCOP on this Bill.

On 3 March 2017, the Committee hosted two stakeholder forum and public consultation meetings in Kalksteentfontein and site C Khayelitsha focusing on the attacks on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel in the province. The purpose of the meetings was to provide relevant stakeholders and members of the public with the opportunity to give input on the impact that these continual attacks had on communities. The meetings were poorly attended and the hearings were postponed to 18 and 25 April 2017 in the same areas.

## **5. Legislation**

During the 2016/17 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following items of legislation:

### **5.1 Provincial Bills**

5.1.1 *Western Cape Health Facility Boards and Committees Act (Act no 4 of 2016)*

5.1.2 Vote 6: Health and Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B5 -2016.]

5.1.3 Vote 6: Health and Vote 7: Social Development in the schedule to the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B1 -2017].

### **5.2 NCOP Bills (Section 76)**

*The Children's Second Amendment Bill* [B14B -2015] (NCOP).

## **6. 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 consideration and deliberations on:

- 6.1. The *Western Cape Health Facility Boards and Committees Act (Act no 4 of 2016)*
- 6.2. The Annual Reports of the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development;
- 6.3 The *Children's Second Amendment Bill [B14B -2015] (NCOP)*;
- 6.3. The *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B5-2016]* on Vote 6: Health;
- 6.4. The *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B5 -2016]* on Vote 7: Social Development;
- 6.5. The *Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1 -2017]* on Vote 6: Health; and
- 6.6. The *Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1 -2017]* on Vote 7: Social Development.

## **7. Financial Particulars**

The Standing Committee was allocated an amount of R110 714. In November 2016, the Committee budget was adjusted to R314, 869. By the end of the financial year, the committee spent R394 000. The expenditure is largely attributed to eight public hearings that were held across the province during the consideration of the *Western Cape Health Facility Boards and Committees Act (Act no 4 of 2016)*. In facilitating public participation in the legislative process when considering the Provincial and the NCOP Bills, the Committee publicised extensively in newspapers to notify the public of their democratic responsibility to participate in the law making process. In addition, the Committee incurred high costs for transport that was organised to transport community members to and from the public hearings during the consideration of the provincial bill, NCOP Bill, the SASSA briefing meeting and the stakeholder forum meetings also took a huge chunk of the budget. The Committee has devised means of savings costs in its public consultation process e.g. cutting on simultaneous translation, cutting on caterings and newspapers advertising.



.....

**MS L BOTHA, MPP**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**