



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

Ref Number: 11/4/2

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Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture on Vote 11: Agriculture, in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 1–2017], dated 17 March 2017, as follows:

The Standing Committee on Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture, having deliberated on the subject of Vote 11: Agriculture, in the Schedule to the *Western Cape Appropriation Bill* [B 1–2017], referred to the Committee in terms of 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 Bill.

The Committee listed findings, requested information and made resolutions as indicated below.

## 1. Findings/Concerns

- 1.1 Crops are being threatened by infestations of fall armyworms, as well as red locusts. Legislative powers for addressing animal health and diseases are in place to be dealt with on provincial level, however when dealing with crop diseases this is still a competency which can only be dealt with on national level. This has resulted in a governance gap in terms of how to deal with crop diseases. Therefore, although the Department must respond to crop diseases, they cannot budget for dealing with this matter since it is not the Department's mandate to deal with crop diseases;
- 1.2 The Department's budget allocation for flood damage was reduced by R28 million. This was concerning to the Committee as floods usually follow drought conditions, which the Western Cape is currently experiencing. This in essence means that the budget allocation for a natural disaster that the province should be budgeting for adequately was drastically reduced;
- 1.3 The importance of preserving the Philippi Horticultural Area, and whether the Department has a plan of action for the area, going forward;
- 1.4 There is a critical need for discussions around water restrictions in the agricultural sector given the current water crisis in the Western Cape. The agricultural sector has given 30% of the water intended for irrigation to the City of Cape Town to be used for drinking water. This will have a long term impact on fruit trees that will have to be cut down, which could result in approximately 17 000 jobs being lost over the next few years; and
- 1.5 Casidra is involved in land reform projects, which is a risky space to be involved in as there is a high risk of failure. As a result, Casidra could be susceptible to reputational damage; and
- 1.6 There was a reduction in the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) funding allocation, which could impact on the work of Casidra.

## **2. Information requested**

### **2.1 Department of Agriculture**

The Committee REQUESTED that the Department of Agriculture provide the following information by 21 April 2017:

- 2.1.1 An aerial map displaying the economic opportunities in De Doorns;
- 2.1.2 A book showcasing the “good stories” in the agricultural sector for the new committee member;
- 2.1.3 The results of the Agri-Worker Household Census once it is concluded;
- 2.1.4 A report on the percentage of alien vegetation that has been cleared from the Berg River;
- 2.1.5 A report on the Land Reform Evaluation once it is available; and
- 2.1.6 A feedback report on the two government farms, Amalienstein and Anhalt.

### **2.2 Casidra**

The Committee REQUESTED that Casidra provide the Committee with a written response on the progress and way forward for the Amalienstein farm, by 21 April 2017.

## **3. Resolutions**

### **3.1 Department of Agriculture**


The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 3.1.1 Invite the Department to brief the Committee on the proposed plan of action for the Philippi Horticultural Area;
- 3.1.2 Invite the Department to brief the Committee on the results of the Land Audit once its concluded on 31 March 2018;
- 3.1.3 Invite the Department to brief the Committee on the concept of water economics;
- 3.1.4 Visit one of the rural nodes along the West Coast region that fall under the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), during the Cluster Visit week taking place in May 2017;
- 3.1.5 Undertake an oversight visit to Elsenburg Agricultural College; and
- 3.1.6 Consider the invitation by the Department to form part of their delegation to the Trade Fair in China this year.

### **3.2 Casidra**

The Committee RESOLVED to invite Casidra to brief the Committee on the work they will be undertaking this financial year.

MS B SCHAFFER, MPP



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CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, TOURISM AND  
AGRICULTURE

17 MARCH 2017