



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

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURISM

Wednesday, 12 May 2021 (09h00)
Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Baartman, D (Chairperson)
Mitchell, D
Van der Westhuizen, A

African National Congress

Nkondlo, N

Absent

Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)

Additional

Marran, P (ANC)

The following persons were in attendance:

Western Cape Provincial Parliament:

Ms Z Adams, Procedural Officer
Ms M Burgess, Committee Assistant

Unemployment Insurance Fund

Ms M Bronkhorst, Acting Commissioner
Mr A Ragavaloo, Director
Mr D Basimane, Director

Department of Employment and Labour

Ms M Mataboge, Office of the Director-General

1. Welcome and attendance

The Chairperson welcomed the Members, the officials from the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and Department of Employment and Labour (DoEL), and the members of the public to the meeting. Thereafter, the Chairperson read the Rules of Engagement for virtual meetings and proceeded with the agenda items below.

2. Briefing by the Unemployment Insurance Fund on the challenges experienced with the financial administration of the Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme funding in the Western Cape, and the Role they played in supporting citizens in the Province

Acting Commissioner Bronkhorst briefed the Committee on the above agenda items.

The Committee asked questions based on the information received, which the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) answered.

The Committee proceeded to the discussion on the UIF's COVID-19 Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (COVID-19 TERS) public participation process.

3. Discussion on the UIF's COVID-19 TERS Public Participation Process

3.1 Questions to be used for Adverts, Infographics and Dear South Africa Questionnaire

Member Van der Westhuizen recommended the following questions:

- Have you submitted a COVID-19 TERS claim application?
- Have you received enough guidance on submitting a COVID-19 TERS application?
- Have you experienced any delays with the COVID-19 TERS payouts (delays more than 21 working days)?
- As an employer, have you received any remittance advice indicating how many of your employees have been successful in receiving the COVID-19 TERS funding?
- How did you become aware of the COVID-19 TERS funding support? Were you guided by the UIF's website?

The Chairperson submitted the following questions:

- Are you a business owner from the Western Cape that has applied for the COVID-19 TERS funding? Or, are you an employee?
- As a COVID-19 TERS applicant based in the Western Cape, have you experienced any challenges with your application? Please provide your name, Identity Number, where and when you applied, and the reference number for the claim.
- How many COVID-19 TERS applications have you made as a business owner in the Western Cape?
- Were there any delays in receiving your COVID-19 TERS payout? Please indicate the delay in terms of working days.
- If you have received a COVID-19 TERS payout, what was the percentage of employees that were paid out in comparison to the amount of employees you applied for? For

example, you were paid out for 3 employees but you applied for 10 employees i.e. A 30% payout.

The Chairperson requested that Members submit any additional questions to the Procedural Officer by 19 May 2021. The consolidated list of questions would be submitted to the Members by the Procedural Officer by 24 May 2021, which Members should approve via email by close of business on 26 May 2021.

The Chairperson also indicated that the Committee could include a question to the public asking whether the submission is COVID-19 TERS related or non-COVID-19 TERS related. The non-COVID-19 TERS related submissions (other UIF claims) should also include information such as the claimants name, Identity Number, where and when the claim was made and a reference number, if this information is available.

3.2 Advertising and Social Media

The Chairperson reminded the Members about the mainstream and community newspapers that were used by the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed that more emphasis should be placed on advertising in community newspapers and not mainstream newspapers so that it can reach more communities.

The Committee recommended advertising in the following mainstream and community newspapers:

1. The Argus
2. Die Burger
3. Swartland Joernaal
4. George Herald
5. Isolezwe
6. Weslander
7. Paarl Post
8. Worcester Standard
9. Die Son

Member Van der Westhuizen proposed that the Committee also consider more targeted paid advertising via social media. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that the Procedural Officer should request whether a targeted social media approach for Twitter and Facebook can be utilised. This approach would be used to target the business community such as business owners and employees based in the Western Cape.

Member Nkondlo recommended the use of the Government Communication and Information System's newsletter, Vukuzenzele, which is available at GCIS provincial offices and district offices as well as Thusong Centres.

The Chairperson reminded Members that the adverts are also forwarded to all the municipalities in the Western Cape as well as Community Development Workers. The infographics and adverts would also be sent to all Business Chambers in the Western Cape.

3.3 Timeline for the Public Hearing Process

DEADLINE	ACTIVITY
19 May 2021	Members to submit additional questions to the Procedural Officer. These questions will be included in the adverts, infographics and Dear South Africa questionnaire.
24 May 2021	Procedural Officer to submit a consolidated document with structured questions to the Members. This will be submitted via email.
26 May 2021	Members to indicate approval of the questions via email, by Close of Business.
12 - 21 June 2021	Publication/Placement of adverts in various newspapers. The infographics and Dear South Africa Questionnaire will run from this time until the deadline for submission of comments.
12 July 2021	Deadline for submission of comments.
TBD	Public Hearing on the COVID-19 TERS matters.

4. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Annual Activities Report for 2020/21

The Committee considered the Draft Annual Activities Report for the 2020/21 financial year. The Committee adopted the Report without amendments.

5. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Committee Minutes of 31 March 2021

The Committee considered and adopted the Draft Committee Minutes of 31 March 2021, without amendments.

6. Resolutions/Actions

6.1 The Committee REQUESTED that the UIF provide it with the following information:

- 6.1.1 A breakdown in terms of the percentage of South African workers and foreign workers that were paid out in respect of the COVID-19 TERS fund;
- 6.1.2 A list of the predominant factors that resulted in the COVID-19 TERS funding not being paid to employers and employees in the Western Cape;
- 6.1.3 The total number of COVID-19 TERS applications that were received by the UIF from Employers in the Western Cape;
- 6.1.4 The dates and times per month, on a monthly basis, of the visiting points that the UIF/DoEL would be conducting its periodical visits to in the Western Cape so that the Committee can conduct unscheduled visits to these offices as well;
- 6.1.5 The police case number of the employer suspected of fraud; and
- 6.1.6 The contact details where the Members may send any information they have received in respect of claims.

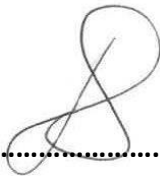
6.2 The Committee RESOLVED the following:

- 6.2.1 To forward the names of the eight non-cooperating companies listed by the UIF to the Department of Economic Opportunities and Tourism's Red Tape Unit and to request that they assist the UIF with these challenges; and
- 6.2.2 That the UIF prepare a mock application process for the COVID-19 TERS funding that it can take the Committee through, from the application process to when the funding is paid to employers.

6.3 The Committee RECOMMENDED that the UIF work with the Western Cape's Standing Committee on Education and the Western Cape Education Department to resolve the challenges associated with a number of schools that are struggling with the COVID-19 TERS application process.

6.4 The Committee FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the UIF consider making its website, especially the application processes, more user-friendly.

The meeting adjourned at 12h04.



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ADV. D BAARTMAN, MPP

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
AND TOURISM**

DATE: 9 June 2021