



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

Ref: WCPP 11/4/8

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING**

Tuesday 25 April 2023 (at 13:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

America, D
Maseko, LM (Additional)
Murray, CA
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P

GOOD

August, SN

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, PJ

Apologies

Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture
Dr M Sebopetsa, Head of Department of Agriculture

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Agriculture

Dr D Troskie, Director - Business Planning and Strategy

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer
Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant
Mr S Hassam, Information Technology Assistant
Ms C Morris, Information Technology Assistant

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Departmental official, as well as the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

2. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Cape Government and the California Department of Food And Agriculture

The Department provided the Committee with a summary of the presentation that was made to the Committee on the subject matter in February 2022 by outlining the reasons why the agreement with California was desirable as well as the process followed that led to the agreement.

Key components of the Bilateral Agreement and areas of cooperation were discussed as well as the objectives of the Minister of Agriculture's visit to California that took place in September/October 2022. The recommendations emanating from this visit were provided to the Committee.

The Department further provided an overview of the agricultural sector in California. Pertinent matters were raised to assist the Committee as it prepared to embark on its International Study Visit to California in May 2023.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Resolutions/Actions

3.1 The Committee **REQUESTED** that the Department of Agriculture provides it with information regarding:

3.1.1 The potential for biochar in enhancing soil quality for agricultural purposes;

3.1.2 In terms of water contamination, the importance of having clean water for agricultural purposes and whether the Western Cape runs the risk of not being able to export fruit that has been irrigated with water that is not of sufficient quality; and

3.1.3 In terms of farming in tunnels, the use of tunnels and whether the capital outlay of tunnels is justified in terms of the greater proceeds from produce that is produced in those tunnels.

3.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** that it would thank the Department of Agriculture for its endeavours to reach out to other countries and other regions for the benefit of the farmers in the Western Cape and that it would encourage the Department to continue gaining international best experiences and sharing these with our farmers.

4. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 11 April 2023, which were considered and adopted.

5. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Annual Activity Report

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Annual Activity Report (2022/2023), which was considered and adopted.

6. Consideration and adoption of Updated Committee Business Plan

The Chairperson submitted the Committee Business Plan as at 25 April 2023, which was considered and adopted.

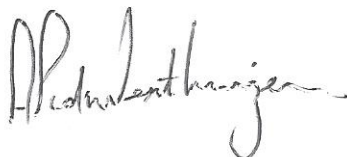
7. General

The Procedural Officer provided the Committee with an update on the arrangements for the interviews at the United State Consulate on Thursday 4 May 2023.

8. Closing

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the Members for their attendance and participation. The Chairperson further expressed appreciation to the Department and the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 14:47.



**MR AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MPP CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Date:20 June 2023.....