



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 July 2023 (at 09:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

America, D
Murray, C
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P

GOOD

De Villiers, PT

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, PJ

Apologies

Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture
Dr R Omar, Chief Executive Officer of CapeNature
Dr K du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer of Casidra

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Mr G Gerber, Head of Department
Ms K Shippey, Chief Director - Environmental Sustainability
Mr G Arendse, Chief Director - Environmental Quality
Ms F Mabusela, Chief Director - Development Planning

Mr A Mohamed, Chief Director - Environmental Governance, Policy Coordination and Enforcement

Mr J Fritz, Director - Financial Management

Mr A Gaffoor, Director - Strategic and Support Services

Achmad Bassier, Director – Law Enforcement

CapeNature

Mr B Barnes, General Manager - Strategy Governance & Risk

Ministry of Agriculture

Ms M van Jaarsveld, Head of Ministry

Mr D Johnson, Spokesperson and Media Liaison Officer

Department of Agriculture

Dr M Sebopetsa, Head of Department

Mr D Jacobs, Deputy Director-General - Agricultural Development Support Services

Mr J Aries Acting Chief Director - Agricultural Producer Support and Development

Dr D Troskie, Director - Business Planning & Strategy

Mr A Conradie, Agricultural Specialist

Mr J de Lora, Acting Director - Rural Development

Ms G Jacobs, Project Manager - Rural Development

Mr W Burger, Farm Manager

Casidra

Mr F van Zyl, Chief Financial Officer

Mr David Nefdt, Chief Programme Officer

Department of Infrastructure

Mr S Hindley, Head of Component - Immovable Asset Management

Institute for Justice and Reconciliation

Ms Felicity Harrison, Programme Head for the Sustained Dialogues Programme

Ms Lucretia Arendse, Project Leader

Member of the public

Mr E Boateng

Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer

Ms M Mrubata, Committee Assistant

Mr S Hassam, Information Technology Assistant

Ms N Visser, Researcher

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the departmental officials, representatives from the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) as well as the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

2. Briefing by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature on the First Quarter Performance (April – June 2023)

The Department and CapeNature provided the Committee with an overview of the Department and Entity's non-financial performance targets during the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year (April – June 2023) and highlighted the performance indicators that were not achieved, partly achieved and also those indicators that were exceeded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture and Casidra on the First Quarter Performance (April – June 2023)

The Department and Casidra provided the Committee with an overview of the Department and Entity's non-financial performance targets during the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year (April - June 2023) and highlighted performance indicators that were not achieved and partly achieved.

The Committee deliberated.

4. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture and Casidra on the status of the turnaround strategies for the Amalienstein and Waaikraal farms

The Department of Agriculture provided the Committee with background information pertaining to the Amalienstein and Waaikraal farms. The ownership status of the farms was explained as well as the mandate of the various entities involved. The Department outlined the subdivision, rezoning and transfer process and placed into context the processes that were followed to date to facilitate the future transfer of the farms to the communities. The status of the turnaround strategies and the financial implications thereof were explained. Recommendations were also listed that would ensure viable farming units.

The social facilitation process instituted by the IJR was expanded upon. The centrality of building and rebuilding trust was emphasised, and the participatory methods that were used to inform interventions were explained. To this end, the community engagement process was outlined.

The Department assured the Committee that there was no disagreement between themselves and Casidra on future developments in respect of the farms. The Department further emphasised that the Amalienstein and Waaikraal farms could not be transferred to the community in its current state and that the success of any transfer to the community was underpinned by both farms being viable and sustainable.

5. Resolutions/Actions

- 5.1 The Committee REQUESTED that the Department of Agriculture provides it with:
 - 5.1.1 A redacted, if so required, progress report on the IJR's engagement with the community, listing the concerns and/or fears raised by the communities;

- 5.1.2 A summary of the financial results of the farms for the last three years; and
- 5.1.3 Written feedback on the progress of the farms every 6 months.

- 5.2 The Committee REQUESTED that the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning provides it with a written response on practices that will enable the recycling of waste by outlining the practices currently in place and how the Department is promoting recycling.

- 5.3 The Committee REQUESTED that CapeNature provides it with the names or descriptions of the hiking trails to be closed; the reasons for closure; whether the closure would be temporary or permanent; what the estimated potential revenue loss would be for Cape Nature; as well as the impact of such closure on the relevant performance indicators in its Annual Performance Plan.

- 5.4 The Committee RESOLVED to undertake an oversight visit to the Amalienstein and Waaikraal farms to observe progress and meet with stakeholders and affected parties if the Parliamentary Programme allowed time for such.

6. General

- 6.1 Member Marran proposed that the Committee undertakes an oversight visit to the Cederberg area to observe and assess the flood damage to infrastructure, including infrastructure in support of agriculture.

Agreed to.

- 6.2 The Chairperson informed the Committee that he had been requested to relinquish the Committee's meeting slot on 8 August 2023 for a training session to Members on the Employee Self Service platform and that the Procedural Officer will secure another meeting slot.

- 6.2 The Procedural Officer provided the Committee with a summary of the submissions received in respect of the Agricultural Product Standards Amendment Bill [B 15B—2021] and the National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill [B 24B—2021].

- 6.3 The Chairperson proposed that the Committee peruses and deliberates on the written submissions received and that it does not embark on public hearings but rather continue engaging on the MS Teams platform.

Agreed to.

7. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 20 June 2023, which were considered and adopted.

8. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Quarterly Report (April – June 2023)

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Quarterly Report which was considered and adopted.

9. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Tracking Document as at 25 July 2023

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Tracking Document which was considered and adopted.

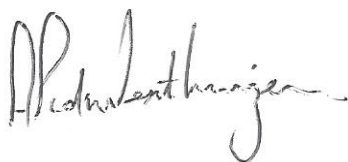
10. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Business Plan as at 25 July 2023

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Business Plan which was considered and adopted.

11. Closing

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the members for their active participation in the meeting and also to the officials for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.



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

Date:15 August 2023.....