



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

(Ref no:) 11/3/4

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ENERGY CRISIS

Friday, 11 August 2023 (14h30), Virtual: Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Fry, C (Chairperson)
America, D
Bartman, D
Bosman, G (Alternate member)
Maseko, M
Murray, C
Pretorius, G
Sileku, I
Van der Westhuizen, A

African National Congress

Dugmore, C
Nkondlo, N

Al Jama-ah

Brinkhuis, K

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)

Cassiem, A

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, P

GOOD

De Villiers, P

The following persons were in attendance:

Dr M Mbombo, Minister: Health and Wellness
Dr K Cloete, Head of the Department of Health and Wellness
Dr D Douglas, Head of Office of the Ministry of Health and Wellness
Dr L Angeletti-du Toit, Chief Director: Facilities and Infrastructure Management
Dr W Smith, Department of Health and Wellness
Mr L Albert
Ms O Mokgetle

Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Ms L Cloete, Senior Procedural Officer
Ms M Mrubata, Committee Assistant

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed the Minister of Health and Wellness, the Head of Department of Health and Wellness, the Members, the officials of the Department of the Health and Wellness, guests and members of the public.

The Chairperson explained the rules of engagement to Members and officials in respect of virtual meetings and then proceeded to the presentation of the Department of Health and Wellness.

The Head of Department introduced his team.

2. Briefing by the Department of Health and Wellness on the state of readiness in being equipped with sufficient supply of backup generators for hospitals during loadshedding amidst the energy crisis.

The Minister and Head of Department (HOD) of Health and Wellness briefed the Committee on the impact of loadshedding on health services and the manner in which the energy crisis affects the capacity to provide adequate health and wellness service delivery including the Departments supply of backup generators for hospitals.

Dr Keith Cloete, the HOD, further briefed the Committee on the ten hospitals exempted from loadshedding up to Stage 6 of loadshedding. The Department is currently in consultation with Eskom to install a dedicated feeder for the Khayelitsha hospital and awaiting a final quote on this matter, should this be successful and finalised, the dedicated feeder will be installed by October or November 2023. With reference to the availability and use of backup power, generators were made available for essential power supply in only 193 facilities which includes the hospitals, Community Health Centres, large Centre's for Disease Control and Prevention, the Observatory Forensic Pathology and the Tygerberg Forensic Pathology. The Department of Health and Wellness had less than 20 electrical and generator emergencies in 2022/23 and this more than doubled to over 45 emergencies during the 2023/24 financial year, it should also be noted that generators in hospitals were not designed to be default providers of electricity.

Dr Cloete informed the Committee that the Department implemented a policy which prohibits surgical procedures from commencing in operational theatres, especially when electricity was running on a generator since there was no backup electricity supply if the generators failed. The Department also makes use of Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) backup systems for its life support medical equipment, operating theatres, EMS call centers and ITC equipment. Due to a lack of financial and human resources, the Department cannot afford the installation and operation of standby generators in 278 other facilities which includes 168 clinics and 110 other facilities. In terms of other backup support, Dr Cloete informed the Committee of the Generator Maintenance Support Strategy in which two maintenance contracts are in place and the breakdown of generators are logged on a maintenance portal. Since starting the system in June, a total of 65 breakdowns have been logged on to the system.

Dr Cloete continued to brief the Committee on the Energy Hurdle, the different phases of the Inverter programme and the cost attached to this initiative and the renewable energy programme. The Department developed an electrical supply preparedness plan that outlined the activities to mitigate increasing stages of load-shedding, beyond Stage Six.

The Committee deliberated on the briefing presented by the Department of Health and Wellness.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and the Department for its presentation.

3. Resolutions/Actions

The Committee RESOLVED the following that:

- 3.1 The Committee express its gratitude to the Department of Health and Wellness, as well as commend the Department for its state of readiness in delivering its services and addressing energy shortages caused by load-shedding and the Departments innovation in technological advancements.
- 3.2 The Committee engages with National Treasury and Provincial Treasury in considering increasing the equitable share based on the energy crisis faced in the country but more especially for the provincial Department of Health and Wellness in the Western Cape.
- 3.3 The Committee engage with Provincial Treasury when considering business plans of respective departments that specific consideration should be given during the Medium-Term Expenditure Committee Hearing (MTECH) negotiations, particularly with reference to the provincial Department of Health and Wellness, to ensure that sufficient budget is allocated to certain functions or line items in light of the energy crisis.

The meeting adjourned at 15:50.



MR C FRY, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ENERGY CRISIS

DATE: 17 APRIL 2024