



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**

Thursday 19 October 2023 (at 08:00), Chamber, 6th Floor, 7 Wale Street

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

America, D
Murray, CA
Van Der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P

Good

De Villiers, PT

Apology

Marais, PJ, – Freedom Front Plus

The following persons were in attendance:

Ministry of Agriculture

Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture
Mr D Johnson, Spokesperson and Media Liaison Officer

Department of Agriculture

Dr M Sebopetsa, Head of Department
Mr F Huysamer, Chief Financial Officer
Dr I Trautmann, Deputy Director-General - Agricultural Development and Regulatory Services
Mr D Jacobs, Deputy Director-General - Agricultural Development and Support Services
Mr P Rockman, Chief Director - Operational Support Services
Dr G Msiza, Chief Director - Veterinary Services

Ms J Pandaram, Chief Director - Rural Development
Mr J Aries, Acting Chief Director - Agricultural Producer Support and Development
Dr D Troskie, Director - Business Planning and Strategy
Mr C Starling, Director - Supply Chain and Asset Management
Ms A Petersen, Director - Sustainable Resource Use and Management
Ms B Matoti, Director - Agricultural Economic Services
Mr D Chitepo, Director - Agriculture Producer Support and Development (Overberg, Cape Metropole and Cape Winelands)
Mr V Zwelendaba, Director - Agriculture Producer Support and Development (West Coast)
Dr N Magadla, Director - Animal Health
Ms M Cornelissen, Acting Director - Agricultural Skills and Development
Mr M van Aswegen, Manager - Financial Accounting

Casidra

Prof J Kirsten, Chairperson of the Board
Dr K du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer
Mr D Nefdt, Chief Project Officer
Mr F van Zyl, Chief Financial Officer
Ms L Seconds, Human Resource Manager

Department of the Premier – Corporate Services Centre

Mr W Wilson

Auditor-General South Africa

Ms M Kotze, Manager

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer
Ms M Burgess, 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 Minister, Head of Department, Chairperson of the Casidra Board, and the Departmental officials.

2. Discussion of the Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture and Casidra (2022/23)

The Minister and Head of Department provided a brief overview of the Annual Report of the Department, focussing on the highlights and challenges in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Chairperson of the Casidra Board and the Chief Executive Officer provided the same for Casidra.

The Committee proceeded to a discussion on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information and Part D: Human Resource Management of the Annual Reports of the Department and its entity, Casidra.

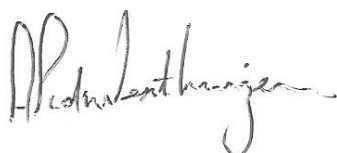
The Committee deliberated.

3. Resolutions/Actions

- 3.1. The Committee REQUESTED that the Department of Agriculture provides it with:
 - 3.1.1 A list of future Farmers Day events as well as the topics to be covered;
 - 3.1.2 The Report that emanated from the official's international visit to the State of California that took place this year;
 - 3.1.3 Further detail on the type of Internship Programmes that were offered as well as an indication of the type of positions taken up by those interns that found employment before the final date of their internships;
 - 3.1.4 An update on the status of the possible transfer of the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute to the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development;
 - 3.1.5 A copy of the Western Cape African Agricultural Strategy, and
 - 3.1.6 An update on the condition of the dam at the Waaikraal Farm with specific reference to the functionality of the dam, whether the plastic cover that was previously stolen has been replaced, and the cost of constructing the dam.
- 3.2 The Committee FURTHER REQUESTED that the Department of Agriculture submits a report on past promises regarding the transfer of the farms, Amalienstein and Waaikraal, to the adjacent communities, including when, where and by whom these promises were made.
- 3.3 The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Department of Agriculture investigates the possibility of workplace integrated training at the Waaikraal and Amalienstein farms, similar to that offered at the Oudtshoorn Research Farm.
- 3.4 The Committee RESOLVED that members, on receipt of the list of Farmers Day events and the topics, could determine whether any of these topics may be of interest and then be supported to undertake an oversight visit to observe the Department's input at these events, subject to the Parliamentary Programme.

The Committee further noted its appreciation to both the Department of Agriculture and Casidra for presenting their Annual Report for the 2022/23 financial year and for obtaining an unqualified audit opinion. A particular word of congratulations was extended to Casidra as the Entity was able to decrease their deficit and significantly improve their financial administration.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17.



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

Date:21 November 2023.....