



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

Ref number: WCPP 11/4/6

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Thursday, 30 November 2023 (at 08:00) Chamber 6th floor

PRESENT:

Members

Democratic Alliance

Maseko, L (Chairperson)
Sileku, I
Murray, C

African National Congress

Maran, P
Kama, M (Additional Member)

GOOD

De Villiers, P

Persons who were in attendance

Ministry

Mr T Simmers, Minister: Infrastructure
Ms V Njalo, Head of Ministry

Department of Human Settlements

Ms C Smith, HoD
Ms S Andrews, Chief Financial Officer
Mr A Nel, Deputy Director General: Transport Infrastructure
Ms M Hofmeyer, Acting Chief Director: Transport Infrastructure
Mr A Campbel, Acting Deputy Director General: Public Works
Ms R Van Der Fort, Director: Management Accounting
Mr M Solomons, Deputy Director: Management Accounting

Parliamentary Monetary Group

Ms P Mkorotlo, Monitor

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all in attendance and allowed Minister Simmers to do the foreword.

2. Deliberation on Vote 10 in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 7–2023]

The Department briefed the Committee on Vote: 10, in the schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 7–2023].

The Committee was advised that the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill Estimates for the Provincial Revenue Expenditure, provides for an adjusted appropriation of R9 627 425 000 to the Department of Infrastructure for the 2023/24 financial year. The overall budget decreased by R259 664 000 from R9887 089 000 to R9 267 425. The Department of Infrastructure alluded to severe budget constraints, which was further exacerbated by the change in management and the split of staff between the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Mobility. Further discussions were held on municipalities that have not spent their allocated funds and concern was raised regarding projects at risk of being stopped due to reduced funding.

A rollover of R212 660 000 was granted to Programme 4: Human Settlements for the construction of top structures and the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant.

Further rollovers were as follows: Programme 1: Administration had a rollover of R1 461 000 for the development of a basic system to monitor and report the impact of local content on tenders. Programme 2: Public Works Infrastructure had a rollover of R7 607 000 to provide for the facility upgrade of Child and Youth Care Centers. Programme 3: Transport Infrastructure had a rollover of R7 497 000 for resealing and Programme 4: Human Settlements had a rollover of R3 961 000 for the restoration of Title Deeds in Mossel Bay.

A total of R68 378 million, funding was shifted between votes. The shift in funding affected Programme One: Administration and Program Two: Public Works Infrastructure. Fiscal consolidation measures involved cuts in different programs to address a budget reduction of R271 543 million, impacting Compensation of Employees (COE), operational costs, and consultants.

The adjustment estimates further outlined how the Department managed to absorb the wage agreement, reflecting a 58.4% spend of the adjusted budget allocation. Risks were addressed through internal reprioritisation, covering over-expenditure on business enhancement tools, Workplace Skills Plans, health infrastructure capacity consultants, Information and Communication Technology, solar for government buildings, cleaning services, and operational maintenance. Remaining risks were identified in Programme One: Administration and Programme Three: Transport Infrastructure, necessitating ongoing attention to program sustainability and baseline issues.

The Committee deliberated on the Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The Chairperson thanked the Members, the Minister, the Departmental Officials as well as the Western Cape Provincial Parliament staff for their participation throughout the year.

5. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Committee Report

After concluding its deliberations, the Chairperson submitted a Draft Report on Vote: 10, in the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill, [B 7–2023]. The report was considered and adopted.

6. Recommendations/Actions

6.1 The Committee REQUESTED that the Department:

6.1.1 Provide it with a list of the municipalities that did not spend their budget for the financial year; and

6.1.2 Provide it with a list of all the projects that will be stopped due to budget cuts in 2024.

6.2 The Committee RESOLVED to request the Department brief it on its diagnostic assessment conducted at municipal level to assess the capacity required by the Municipality, to deliver on Housing Projects prior to providing funding to the Municipality.

The meeting of the committee adjourned at 09:37.



MS LM MASEKO (MPP)

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

DATE: 09/02/2024