



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

WCPP 11/4/7

Report of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, and the Western Cape Liquor Authority for the 2023/24 financial year

The 2024/25 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities, which have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, conducts oversight over multiple portfolios. The cyclical annual report process affords the Committee the opportunity to engage the respective departments and entities on its annual reports.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, and the Western Cape Liquor Authority, for the year ended 31 March 2024, reports as follows:

Introduction

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's (WCPP) Annual Report programme for the 2023/24 financial year was advertised in newspapers, as well as the WCPP's social media platforms, inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions. The Committee deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (the Department) and the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) on 8 October 2024 as part of its oversight function. The Minister and the Acting Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks. Likewise, the WCPO and the Chief Executive Officer of the WCLA were afforded the same opportunity.

The Department and its Entities were examined on:

Part A: General Information,

Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and

Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. There were no submissions or input from the public.

1. Key points from the discussion on the Western Cape Police Ombudsman

- 1.1. The Western Cape Police Ombudsman, Maj Gen OD Reddy, stated that the WCPO marks its 10th anniversary in 2024.
- 1.2. The WCPO received 423 complaints for investigation for the year under review.
- 1.3. The WCPO does not have coercive and/or post-monitoring powers to follow up on the consideration and implementation of its recommendations, and/or initiate investigations without having to first receive a complaint or a request to investigate from an external source.
- 1.4. The WCPO does not have the mandate to address complaints about municipal policing officials, such as the metro police, traffic coordination officers, law enforcement officers, or the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers.
- 1.5. The WCPO stated that submissions to fill the vacancies reported in its annual report were still being processed, and that there are no timelines as to when, or if, these vacancies will be filled.
- 1.6. On average, investigators are allocated 50 investigative cases.

2. Key points from the discussion on the Western Cape Liquor Authority

- 2.1. Mr S George, Chief Executive Officer, reported that one of the most common transgressions by onsite consumption liquor licensed premises is the sale for offsite consumption.
- 2.2. Interviews to fill key vacancies are scheduled for October 2024.
- 2.3. Licenced liquor outlets must be based on premises that qualify for the appropriate zoning, as per the relevant legislation. The WCLA only has leverage over licensed premises.
- 2.4. Illegal outlets therefore need to meet zoning requirements as part of the process to be considered legitimate.

3. Key points from the discussion on the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety

- 3.1. The Department reported that the employment dispute of Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers with the City of Cape Town, is based on these officers having failed the firearm competency assessment process. The final report, that also covers other remedial competencies, is pending.
- 3.2. The Department also outlined its plans towards a more integrated safety strategy that includes safety structures across intergovernmental stakeholders. The Department stated its intention to implement its provincial safety plan to enhance results across the municipal districts, through shared and enabling resources (such as funding K-9 units to strengthen municipal policing structures).
- 3.3. The Department reported 32 applications were submitted to fill vacancies, however, only five were approved.
- 3.4. The Department provided a detailed explanation of the Neighbourhood Watch accreditation process.
- 3.5. The Department reported that ten South African Police Service (SAPS) stations were non-compliant with the requirements of a functional Gender-Based Violence desk at police stations.
- 3.6. The Department stated that it has an Employment Equity plan, that is valid for five years. The Department reports its plan to the Department of Labour on an annual basis.

4. Recommendations

The Committee recommended that: -

- 4.1. The Western Cape Police Ombudsman increases the number of its stakeholders and outreach engagements, especially in rural areas.
- 4.2. The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety includes a list of the top 10 murder hotspots for rural areas in all its reports related to crime statistics.



MR TCR WALTERS. MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICE OVERSIGHT, COMMUNITY SAFETY, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT