



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

Ref: WCPP 11/6/12

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday 5 August 2025 (at 13:00), Chamber, 6th Floor, 7 Wale Street

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

Bryant, DW
Masipa, NP (Chairperson)
Mbombo, N
Wessels, DJ

African National Congress

Nkondlo, ND (online)

Patriotic Alliance

Constable, N

Al Jama-ah

Brinkhuis, G

Apologies

Dr I Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism
Mr Anton Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Ms Jo-Ann Johnston, Head of Department of Economic Development and Tourism
Mr Gerhard Gerber, Head of Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Mr R Toefy, Deputy Director-General - Economic Operations
Ms F Dharsey, Director - Municipal Economic Support
Mr L Qamarana, Manager - Municipal Economic Support

WESGRO

Ms W Stander, Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Gcwabe, Chief Financial Officer
Ms N Langa, Company Secretary
Ms G Darries, Chief of Staff

South African Local Government Association (SALGA) - Western Cape

Mr S Manyike, Senior Adviser - Economic Growth and Investment

Mr L Njamela, Adviser - Intergovernmental and Strategic Relations

Cllr U Itumeleng, Executive Mayor and Small-Town Regeneration Chairperson of Pixey Ka Seme District in the Northern Cape

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Ms F Mabusela, Chief Director - Development Planning

Mr A Rhodes, Chief Town and Regional Planner

Mr F Wust, Town and Regional Planner (Regional Socio-Economic Programme)

Department of Local Government

Dr S Greyling, Chief Director - Municipal Performance Monitoring and Support

Members of the public

Mr C Mulhall

Mr J Naicker

Mr M van Zyl

Mr P Jansen

Mr a Dreyden

WCPD Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer

Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant

Mr S Hassam, Information Technology Assistant

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Chief Executive Officer of Wesgro, representative from SALGA, departmental officials, and those who were watching the live proceedings on YouTube.

The Chairperson outlined the objectives of the meeting.

2. Briefing by Wesgro on the work that they have completed across all districts in the province

Wesgro briefed the Committee on the work that they have completed across all districts in the province with specific reference to the initiatives and support provided to municipalities. To this end, the Entity re-emphasised its organisation's mandate and strategic direction and highlighted recent performance highlights and key programme areas. A breakdown of district performance was expanded upon, showcasing new investments, tourism events, export declarations, campaigns, export opportunities, conference bids secured and export training and mentoring.

The Committee noted that Wesgro's efforts to position the Western Cape globally and attract investment yielded varying results across the province's districts. The Cape Winelands, Garden Route and Klein Karoo, as well as the City of Cape Town, continued to attract the majority of investment commitments and export declarations. However, it was acknowledged that more targeted support and engagement were required in the Central Karoo and the West Coast, where economic activity and event applications remained limited. In this regard, Wesgro initiated engagements with key stakeholders in those areas to strengthen collaboration and stimulate greater participation.

The Committee was informed that, as part of its “With Love from the Locals” campaign, Wesgro developed tailored promotional content for each district. Every district was provided with a dedicated video, a pitch deck, and a research piece, all of which were shared with the respective district stakeholders to support local economic development and marketing initiatives.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Briefing by SALGA on the Small-Town Regeneration Programme

SALGA briefed the Committee on the Karoo Small-Town Regeneration Programme with specific reference to the project background and objectives; the implementation framework; selection criteria, stakeholder engagement, key interventions, funding and budget; monitoring and evaluation; impact; challenges and risks; and policy and legislative implications.

SALGA acknowledged the challenges of coordination across provinces but emphasised ongoing collaboration through regular meetings and programme development. The objective to revive and reposition the Karoo economically and socially was highlighted. Positive developments regarding the formulation of a sustainable funding model and the upcoming tabling of a Karoo Governance and Strategy Document at the 9th Karoo Conference in October 2025 was mentioned. Stronger collaboration with entities like Wesgro was encouraged to avoid duplication of efforts and to optimise synergies in economic development and regional promotion.

The Committee expressed concern regarding the extended duration of the planning phase of the Karoo Small-Town Regeneration Programme, which had been ongoing since 2016, with limited tangible implementation. In addition, the absence of a formal Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was highlighted as a significant gap. The Committee further noted that progress on the implementation of conference resolutions was reported on at conferences, raising concerns about the adequacy and consistency of existing oversight and accountability mechanisms.

The Committee deliberated.

4. Resolutions

4.1 The Committee RESOLVED that it would:

- 4.1.1** Undertake oversight visits to the Western Cape District Municipalities to assess their respective tourism strategies, priorities, and current programmes; key challenges and constraints impacting tourism development within their districts; and how tourism is positioned within their broader municipal planning frameworks. These visits should also include site visits to key tourism attractions in each district to gain practical insight into local tourism offerings, infrastructure, and development opportunities;
- 4.1.2** Invite Wesgro to attend the district municipality oversight visits in order for the Committee to assess alignment between district-level tourism initiatives and Wesgro’s provincial strategy, and to ensure a better understanding of localised tourism development needs and opportunities. Wesgro must present the Committee with a plan per district that can be effectively monitored;

- 4.1.3 In collaboration with the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, engage the Department of Local Government and relevant district municipalities on the state of Local Economic Development (LED) capacity at municipal level, particularly in terms of staffing, investment readiness, and project implementation; and
 - 4.1.4 In collaboration with the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, undertake an oversight visit to West Coast Municipalities, specifically the Cederberg and Matzikama Municipalities, to assess the progress and local impact of small-town regeneration initiatives, particularly in respect of the ocean economy localisation workshop that is planned by SALGA during the fourth quarter of the 2025/26 financial year.
- 4.2 The Committee REQUESTED that:
- 4.2.1 Wesgro, in collaboration with Provincial Treasury and relevant sector departments, provides it with a report detailing the economic contribution and market potential of sectors such as Halaal certification, Karoo Lamb, and Rooibos; the geographic spread of production and processing within the province; and the resulting benefits to local economies and employment in order to assist the Committee in understanding the return on investment and market opportunity for provincial support to these sectors; and
 - 4.2.2 SALGA provides it with a comprehensive progress report on the Karoo Small-Towns Regeneration Programme, specifically a list of identified projects, their locations, implementation status, and funding models; and an outline of how these projects align with broader provincial and national economic objectives.
- 4.3 The Committee RECOMMENDED that SALGA ensures that information on regeneration projects is shared with relevant departments to support coordinated funding and implementation, and that fiscal governance issues are factored into economic development strategies to ensure that financial challenges in municipalities are addressed alongside development plans.

5. Consideration and adoption of the draft Committee documents

The Chairperson submitted the following draft Committee documents which were considered and adopted:

- 5.1 Minutes of 18 June 2025;
- 5.2 Committee Quarterly Report (April to June 2025); and
- 5.3 Updated Business Plan as at 31 July 2025.

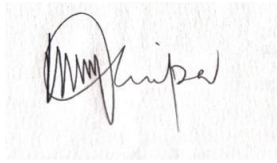
6. General

The Chairperson provided an update on the proposed International Study Visit. It was reported that the Speaker had been engaged regarding the Committee's submission to undertake an International Study Visit. The Speaker indicated that the matter was under consideration as part of a cluster of standing committees. In line with prior discussions, efforts were being made to ensure that the study visit would take place within the current financial year, noting that the upcoming election year may present challenges in securing the necessary approvals.

7. Closing

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

The meeting adjourned at 16:03.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masipa', is written over a light blue grid background.

MR NP MASIPA, MPP

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM**

Date: 19 August 2025