



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

Ref: WCPP 11/6/10

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday 11 November 2025 (at 13:00)
Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams and Committee Room 2, 4th Floor,
7 Wale Street, Cape Town

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

Bryant, DW
Masipa, NP (Chairperson)
Mbombo, N
Van Wyk, LD (Alternate)

African National Congress

Nkondlo, ND (online)
Stoffel, BN (Additional) (online)

Patriotic Alliance

Constable, N (online)

Al Jama-ah

Brinkhuis, G (online)

Apology

Wessels, DJ – Member (Democratic Alliance)

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Agriculture

Dr M Sehopetsa, Head of Department
Ms L Govender, Chief Financial Officer
Mr D Jacobs, Deputy Director-General - Agricultural Development and Support Services
Ms B Matoti, Acting Deputy Director-General - Agricultural Development and Regulatory Services
Ms S Thomas, Director - Business Planning and Strategy
Ms M James, Head of Communication

Casidra

Dr K du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer
 Ms I Bezuidenhout, Interim Chief Financial Officer
 Mr M Mackenzie, Programme Manager

WCPP Officials

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer
 Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees, including those following the proceedings online. The Chairperson outlined the purpose and agenda of the meeting.

2. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture and Casidra on its non-financial and financial quarterly performance for the period July to September 2025

The Department and Casidra briefed the Committee on its respective Quarterly Performance Reports highlighting with reason the targets that were not achieved as well as those that were partially achieved within the various programmes. A summary of the Department and Casidra's financial performance and associated expenditure with a focus on overall budget utilisation, areas of underspending, and the underlying reasons for variances were provided to the Committee.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Briefing by the Department of Agriculture on the ideal budget required to fulfil its mandate with specific reference to the implications of the budgetary shortfall or deficit, and any additional funding currently being sourced

The Department provided a contextual basis for the discussion by highlighting its current budget allocation, ideal requirement and shortfall. A breakdown of additional funding needs and programme gaps were highlighted. So too were the implications of the budget shortfalls.

Mitigation strategies were showcased as well as the Department's strategic vision that showed alignment with the Western Cape's Growth for Jobs Strategy.

The Committee recognised the need for a deeper national and provincial conversation on balancing agricultural productivity with social equity, particularly addressing the paradox of food abundance alongside persistent hunger. The Committee stressed that the agricultural sector should be viewed not only as an economic driver but also as a key pillar in achieving food security and social justice.

The Committee deliberated.

4. Resolutions/Actions

4.1 The Committee RESOLVED that it would:

- 4.1.1 Invite the Department of Agriculture for a follow-up engagement to address outstanding matters arising from the briefing on the ideal budget, as well as any additional issues identified by members; and that members who wish to raise specific questions or topics for inclusion in the follow-up discussion submit their input in writing to the Procedural Officer by Friday 21 November 2025 to ensure a focused and comprehensive second-round engagement with the Department;
- 4.1.2 Initiate the discussion on the topic of the food system and agriculture as one of the contributors of food security as a recurring thematic focus in its oversight agenda in 2026; and
- 4.1.3 Invite the Department of Agriculture, together with Casidra, to brief it on the state of food security in the Western Cape and the impact studies that were completed on food gardens, by outlining the:
 - 4.1.3.1 Extent and geographical spread of food insecurity across the province;
 - 4.1.3.2 Role and contribution of the agricultural sector in addressing food insecurity;
 - 4.1.3.3 Identification of cross-sectoral interventions required to strengthen provincial food systems;
 - 4.1.3.4 Sustainability and scalability of food gardens as a mechanism to enhance household food security, with specific reference to evidence on the impact of existing food gardens at community level; the feasibility of expanding or adapting the model to other contexts; and the exploration of alternative or complementary initiatives that may deliver broader or more sustainable outcomes.
- 4.1.4 Invite the Department of Agriculture and Casidra to brief it on the Amalienstein Farm with specific reference to operational status and productivity; financial sustainability and funding; staffing and labour conditions; community engagement and land reform; risk management and challenges; infrastructure and capital investment; role in food security and community development; future plans and exit strategy partnerships; funding models; and impact assessments or audits for the farm.

5. General

- 5.1 The Committee noted serious safety concerns regarding the proposed oversight visit to Philippi on 25 November 2025. The Procedural Officer advised that both the Department and Members had expressed reservations about the safety of the area. While the final Security Assessment Report was still pending, the Committee agreed that, should the Report confirm these concerns, the physical visit would not proceed.
- 5.2 Member Nkondlo highlighted the need for improved time management and scheduling within the Committee to ensure that adequate time is allocated for meaningful engagement on key issues. It was noted that discussions were often rushed, limiting the Committee's ability to fully interrogate matters raised by departments, stakeholders, and the public.
- 5.3 The Chairperson informed the Committee of an invitation received from Crew Life at Sea, an organisation that recruited young people for employment opportunities on international cruise ships. The engagement, scheduled for Tuesday, 18 November 2025, would include a presentation on the organisation's contribution to job creation, skills development, internships, and youth employment pathways within the cruise and hospitality sectors. The Committee was requested to indicate their attendance to the Procedural Officer.

- 5.4 The Chairperson suggested that the consideration and adoption of Committee documents be deferred to the next meeting. Agreed to.

6. Closing

The Chairperson noted his appreciation to the Members, Department of Agriculture and Casidra for their contribution to the meeting's success.

The meeting adjourned at 15:59.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masipa', is written on a light-colored, textured background.

MR NP MASIPA, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Date: 5 December 2025