



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 18 November 2025 (at 09:00)
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams*

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

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

African National Congress

Nkondlo, ND

Patriotic Alliance

Constable, N

Al Jama-ah

Brinkhuis, G

Apology

Wessels, DJ - Member (Democratic Alliance)

The following persons were in attendance:

Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Ms I van Schalkwyk, Acting Deputy Director-General - Sector Economic Activation and Development
Ms T Chipeya, Director - Research, Economic Policy and Planning
Mr D Halim, Director - Strategic Execution and Coordination
Ms C Kriel, Researcher

Statistics South Africa

Ms D Manamela, Chief Director - Labour Statistics
Ms D Phoshoko, Director - Quarterly Labour Force Service Statistics

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

2. Briefing by Statistics South Africa on the most recent analysis of employment statistics in the Western Cape, with specific reference to jobs created to date, categorised by sector, geographic location, demographic profile, and type of employment

Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) presented an overview of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) and its latest findings for the third quarter of 2025.

A key update in the QLFS was the introduction of additional measures of labour underutilisation beyond the official unemployment rate. This change reflected international best practice and aimed to provide a more comprehensive picture of labour market dynamics.

StatsSA reported that South Africa's official unemployment rate decreased by 1,3 percentage points to 31,9% in Quarter 3 of 2025, with employment rising and unemployment decreasing compared to the previous quarter. For the Western Cape, the official unemployment rate dropped to 19,7%, maintaining its position as the province with the lowest unemployment nationally. Job gains were concentrated in construction, trade, and finance, while community services and agriculture experienced declines.

StatsSA also highlighted changes in measuring informality. The informal sector was now defined primarily by registration status rather than establishment size, and informal employment was linked to the absence of social insurance or paid leave. StatsSA emphasised that these updates improved comparability and accuracy in reporting labour market conditions.

StatsSA reaffirmed its commitment to providing reliable labour statistics to inform policy and planning, noting that the new indicators and definitions would enhance understanding of employment trends and labour underutilisation in South Africa.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Briefing by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism on how it utilises the employment data and analysis provided by Statistics South Africa in its own monitoring, reporting, and policy development processes, as well as overall progress in relation to the objectives of the Western Cape's Growth for Jobs Strategy.

The Department outlined how it leverages labour market data from StatsSA's QLFS to inform economic policy and strategy. The QLFS data, which was representative at provincial and metro/non-metro levels, was central to understanding employment trends, sectoral performance, and benchmarking the Western Cape against other provinces and global standards.

The Department emphasised the importance of reliable labour data for evidence-based decision-making, quoting the International Labour Organisation's view that such data underpinned democracy and social justice. The Department used QLFS data to track labour market trends over time, to identify regional and sectoral patterns, and to monitor progress toward inclusive economic growth.

A key focus of the presentation was the Western Cape Growth for Jobs Strategy, which aimed to enable private sector-led job creation and economic expansion. The Department also highlighted how QLFS data supported investor engagement, such as during the Western Cape Investment Summit, where labour market insights helped position the province as an attractive investment destination. Additionally, the Department fostered peer review and collaboration through the Economic IQ Forum, which brought together researchers, academics, and government stakeholders to discuss economic trends.

The Department reaffirmed its commitment to using data-driven approaches to guide policy, attract investment, and create an enabling environment for economic growth in the Western Cape.

The Committee deliberated.

4. Resolutions/Actions

- 4.1 The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) conduct a dedicated study on the informal sector in the Western Cape. The study should examine its size, nature, and impact on the province's Growth for Jobs Strategy, especially the goal of an inclusive economy and reaching a R1 trillion economy by 2030.
- 4.2 The Committee RESOLVED that it would, at a convenient time, invite DEDAT to brief it on:
 - 4.2.1 The methodology used to collect, verify, and ensure accuracy and reliability of data on the informal economic activity; and
 - 4.2.2 What the data reveals about the informal economy and how it plans to use this data.

5. General

- 5.1 The Chairperson provided an update regarding the planned oversight visit to Philippi. He informed Members that no security risk assessment or report had yet been received from the South African Police Services. Given the safety concerns associated with the area, the Chairperson advised that the Committee should not proceed with the visit in the absence of the required assessment.

He therefore proposed that the oversight visit scheduled for 25 November 2025 be postponed until further notice, pending the receipt of the formal safety report.

Agreed to.

6. Closing

The Chairperson noted his appreciation to the Members, StatsSA and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism for their contribution to the meeting's success.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20.

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: 5 December 2025