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PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

Report on the study visit to the state of Bavaria, Germany, 20 to 24 April 2026, as follows:

Delegation:

Daylin Mitchell, Speaker

Gillion Bosman, Chief Whip of the Majority Party

Noko Masipa, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Opportunities, and Tourism

David Bryant, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Benedicta van Minnen, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport

Peter Johnson, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Education

Pat Lekker, Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Donita Stephens, Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Aishah Cassiem, Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Galil Brinkhuis, Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Grant Marais, Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Ressida Begg, Secretary to the Provincial Parliament

WCPP staff:

Achmat Patience, International Relations and Protocol Officer

Naseera Mohamed, Multimedia Officer

Zaheedah Adams, Procedural Officer

Shumeeze Jones, Procedural Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to give an account of the outcomes of the Study Visit to the State of Bavaria, Germany, which took place from 20 to 24 April 2026.

The delegation consisted of the Speaker, Chief Whip, nine Members, the Secretary to the Provincial Parliament and four administrative staff.

2. Day One

2.1 Courtesy meeting with the Chairperson of the Hanns Seidel Foundation

The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a German political foundation affiliated with the Christian Social Union (CSU), which is dedicated to advancing democratic governance, the rule of law and sustainable development through international partnerships. In South Africa, particularly in the Western Cape, the foundation has established a strong collaborative presence by working with provincial government departments, the City of Cape Town, the South African Police Service, higher education institutions such as Stellenbosch University, and various civil society organisations. Through these partnerships, the HSF contributed to strengthening public sector capacity, enhancing leadership development and supporting policy innovation, while promoting transparency, accountability, effective service delivery and informed dialogue on constitutionalism and decentralised governance. A central pillar of its work was civic education, through which it promoted democratic values, active citizenship and political participation with training programmes, workshops and dialogue platforms aimed at empowering citizens, public officials and community leaders.

The HSF and the WCPP delegation acknowledged the benefits of their longstanding partnership and reiterated the importance of nurturing the current collaborations with the Western Cape to achieve both regions' goals. The HSF also reiterated the need for further collaboration and cooperation between Bavaria and the Western Cape, noting the stable nature of the province's government and its strong democratic values.

Global challenges

The HSF acknowledged the important role that Members of Parliament played for their citizens and for ensuring democracy, since there seemed to be a global movement away from democracy. This was also reflected in the results following Germany's last elections, where there seemed to be a shift in support for more right-wing political parties, resulting in the need for coalitions and better cooperation and collaboration between parties.

The youth in Bavaria seemed to lack the desire to be politically active. There seemed to be a certain level of apathy from the youth, which could be attributed to the absence of deep political crisis in the region over a long period.

Bavaria was also tackling the challenge of high energy costs, which had a negative impact on its economy. This was a shared concern between Bavaria and the Western Cape.

Civic education

The HSF believed that civic education was very important and should be integrated in all schools to strengthen democratic values and encourage responsible citizenship. This led to the establishment of a Civics Academy in South Africa in 2016, in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The Civics Academy in South Africa covered educational content related to democracy, governance, elections, political parties, the justice system, the Constitution, local government, economics, civil society and human rights. The HSF also engaged in civic education in Germany through panel discussions and training sessions. Through its efforts in

civic education, policing support and gender equality, the HSF adopted an integrated approach to promoting inclusive, participatory and sustainable democratic societies.

The delegation discussed the strengthening of the relationship between the HSF, the Civics Academy and the WCPP, and the possible utilisation of the Civics Academy to build on public education and outreach initiatives, especially in view of the upcoming local government elections.

Gender-sensitive budgets

The HSF believed that women were a crucial part of society. When the institution received funding from the ministry they had to report on the number of women that were participating in their seminars and engagements.

The delegation discussed raising the matter of gender-sensitive budgeting at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians meeting in May 2026.

School of Public Leadership (Stellenbosch University)

The HSF collaborated with the School of Public Leadership (SPL) at Stellenbosch University to train municipal and middle managers and officials in South Africa. The key initiatives included mentorship programmes, councillor training and research on local government, aimed at enhancing leadership, management and service delivery.

The delegation discussed the possibility of expanding the training offered at the SPL for the WCPP's members and administration.

2.2 Briefing by the South African Consulate

The South African Consulate-General in Munich is headed by Ms Boitumelo Makoko, who serves as the Consul-General and senior diplomatic representative of South Africa in the region. In this role, she oversees the operations of the consulate, represents South Africa's interests, and maintains relations with local authorities, institutions and key stakeholders. The Consulate-General forms part of South Africa's broader diplomatic presence in Germany, supporting the embassy in Berlin while serving the southern regions, particularly Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, the two industrial hubs of Germany. The Consulate operated in the framework of strong and long-standing bilateral relations between South Africa and Germany, aiming to strengthen engagement and cooperation in respect of trade and investment.

According to Ms Makoko, 40% of German companies have invested in South Africa. These included companies such as Adidas, Siemens and BMW. Bavaria has become one of South Africa's most important trade and investment partners, with a GDP of approximately €750 billion. The consulate worked closely with the Department of Trade, Investment and Cooperation to maintain the relationships with companies that were already invested in South Africa, and to encourage new partnerships and investments. The consulate was looking at further investment in the agriculture and renewable energy sectors, as well as projects in respect of battery storage and solar power.

Challenges identified

Immigration has become an issue of contention in Bavaria, following a trend seen globally. The opposition party in Germany have been running its campaign on the basis that immigrants living in Germany were a security threat to the country, although this has not been proven.

From an economic perspective, concerns have been raised about the performance of German vehicle-manufacturing companies in South Africa's automotive sector, which have faced constraints linked to slow domestic adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). This limited uptake was largely due to structural challenges, including insufficient and unreliable charging infrastructure, ongoing electricity supply issues such as load shedding, and the relatively high purchase cost of EVs compared to conventional vehicles. As a result, many South African consumers continued to favour internal combustion (petrol and diesel) vehicles, which were perceived as more practical and reliable under current conditions. These dynamics presented both challenges and opportunities, particularly for collaboration with regions such as Bavaria, which have strong expertise in automotive innovation and could support South Africa's gradual transition towards more sustainable mobility solutions.

There was a challenge with Mercedes Benz in South Africa as well. The company had benefited from South Africa's participation in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) agreement in the past, with the United States (US) being their biggest market in terms of the C-Class model. However, with South Africa's limited participation in AGOA, currently, and higher tariffs being paid, the factory in the Eastern Cape has not been very profitable. The factory had the capacity to produce 150 000 cars but, in 2025, the factory only produced between 70 000 and 75 000 cars, and they were unable to sell the overstock. It was becoming too expensive to export these vehicles to the US. A possible solution that had to be discussed was for the government to subsidise some of these manufacturing operations. Alternatively, they would need to look at negotiating with Chinese companies to share factories or plants so that manufacturing costs could also be shared.

It seemed that South Africans were also no longer purchasing luxury vehicles due to high import costs and the general economic impact on the country's middle-class population.

Possible areas of further collaboration with Bavaria

Bavaria's expertise in advanced agricultural technologies, sustainable farming, and agri-processing complemented South Africa's favourable climate, extensive fertile land and access to wider African markets. This created opportunities for collaboration in precision farming, irrigation, agri-technology innovation and skills development. Furthermore, both regions can benefit from partnerships in solar energy and waste-to-energy programmes, where South Africa's high solar potential and Bavaria's technological expertise aligned. Such initiatives offered prospects for enhancing energy security, reducing environmental impacts, and promoting sustainable development while opening new markets for investment and innovation.

South African wines were performing strongly in the Bavarian market, where they were well received for their quality and competitiveness. There was also growing interest among Bavarian importers in expanding trade by sourcing citrus products from South Africa, reflecting the region's confidence in South Africa's agricultural exports and the potential to deepen agri-trade partnerships.

There have been discussions with Bavaria on vocational training and the assistance they could provide to the Western Cape on establishing and implementing a dual-education system. The Bavarians were experts in the field of vocational training. The Western Cape could explore the possibility of asking the Bavarian counterparts to advise on the curriculums at the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to ascertain whether the skills the learners were acquiring were meeting the needs of the relevant industries. Bavaria and the Western Cape also had an agreement in respect of vocational training. Part of this included teacher training, where Bavarian lecturers assisted South African teachers. The BBW Group in Bavaria, which was involved in the vocational sector, recently opened an office in Delft in

Cape Town. They recruited students and offered youth and scholar assistance in respect of practical and labour-market orientated training.

The Philipp Lahm Foundation, a German organisation, has also opened a centre in Philippi in Cape Town, which offers sports and education programmes to empower the underprivileged youth. The centre offers after-school tutoring as well as coaches and high-quality sporting facilities to children who have limited access to such infrastructure.

Germany also has a bus driver exchange programme with the Western Cape, where bus drivers are recruited from the province and offered employment contracts in Germany along with competitive salaries, language training and relocation support.

The Government of National Unity (GNU) in South Africa has generated significant interest among policymakers in Bavaria, as it reflected a period of coalition-building and political realignment that resonated with Germany's own federal and partnership-based governance model. Bavarian stakeholders were particularly attentive to how the GNU managed cooperation across political parties, policy stability and economic reform, as these factors directly influenced investor confidence and long-term bilateral engagements.

2.3 Engagement with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism

Similarly to the Western Cape, Bavaria's agricultural sector played an important role in the overall output of its country's agricultural produce. Bavaria's agricultural sector was a key economic pillar for the country, generating nearly €10 billion for the region. Bavaria's agricultural sector was characterised by diverse production in the dairy, cereal, beer and meat industries, and was supported by strong food-processing industries and export activity. The sector played a multifunctional role by ensuring sustainable food production, generating renewable energy, preserving landscapes and supporting rural employment, while also underpinning food security in Munich and the wider region through efficient supply chains, high self-sufficiency and policies promoting local, environmentally responsible production.

Although Bavaria was quite industrialised, the agricultural sector was a strong priority because many Bavarians grew up on farms and were taking over family-run agricultural businesses. Approximately two-thirds of Bavaria's farmers were part-time farmers working for companies such as BMW, Siemens and other major companies. Family-owned farms formed the backbone of the sector, preserving cultural heritage and tradition while adapting through diversification into agri-tourism, organic farming and direct sales. The Ministry wanted to sustain these family-owned farms as they depicted a different way of life for Bavarians, a thriving rural sector, and it was a connection between land, people and animals. The Bavarian government also provided various subsidies to its farmers to ensure that they were able to make a sustainable living in the sector.

In terms of the quality of Bavarian agricultural products, this was reinforced by a strong governance framework with strict environmental regulations, "BIO" certification, and forestry management structures, alongside subsidies, research support, advisory services and training initiatives that ensured innovation, continuity and resilience. Combined with advanced infrastructure, storage and distribution systems, these elements guaranteed a stable supply of high-quality food and long-term rural development.

Research was of utmost importance to the Bavarian Ministry as it assisted in finding solutions to problems that farmers were facing, such as climate change. Education and counselling were key solutions as they enabled farmers to make pertinent decisions about their land and produce, which resulted in less reliance on government assistance. Product marketing was prioritised as the Ministry wanted to promote quality food products from Bavaria.

Tourism in Bavaria

Tourism in Bavaria was closely linked to agriculture, particularly through agri-tourism activities such as farm stays and the promotion of regional products. Agri-tourism and farm stays generated approximately €500 million in revenue annually.

Bavaria aimed to foster sustainable, authentic and year-round tourism that benefited both visitors and local communities. As Germany's leading tourist destination, the region attracted millions of visitors and accounted for just over 20% of the country's overnight stays from international visitors, driven by its rich blend of nature, culture, cuisine and vibrant cities.

Strong destination marketing and research efforts were led by organisations such as BayTM and the Bavarian Centre for Tourism. These organisations focused sustainable tourism and on the digitalisation of information about the local sights, gastronomy, hotels and leisure activities. The tourism information was digitalised through a system called BayernCloud Tourismus, which automatically exported information to other platforms such as websites, apps, map applications and other digital guest information systems.

The Ministry also highlighted the synergies between agriculture and tourism, particularly through farm stays and regional product promotion, supported by funding from state ministries and municipalities to strengthen infrastructure, marketing and regional economic growth.

Education and vocational training in the agriculture sector

Education and training were central to sustaining Bavaria's agricultural sector, with strong emphasis on equipping farmers with practical and managerial skills. Bavaria's vocational education system in agriculture and horticulture was based on a dual model that combined practical workplace training with classroom learning, ensuring strong alignment with labour market needs. Training initiatives, including agricultural programmes and industry forums, supported young entrants and ensured knowledge transfer across generations. These efforts promoted innovation, improved farm management and secured the long-term continuity of the sector while maintaining high productivity and sustainability standards.

Bavaria's dual education and training system provided agricultural training programmes that lasted between two to three and a half years, depending on the profession. The Bavarian government received approximately 100 000 entrants into the agricultural programme annually.

The Bavarian government offered a wide range of career pathways in the agricultural sector, supported by structured apprenticeships, training allowances and opportunities for further education to enhance skills and professional development. Learners were able to enter professions such as farmers, service specialists, forestry workers, animal caretakers, fish farmers, dairy laboratory technicians, winemakers, plant technologists, and more. Despite its high costs, the system produced a highly qualified workforce, promoted stable employment and played a key role in strengthening and sustaining rural areas and Bavarian society.

Agricultural advisory in Bavaria

Agricultural advisory services formed part of a broader institutional support system that strengthened productivity, sustainability and resilience in the agricultural sector. Farmers benefited from guidance provided by government programmes, research institutions and agricultural cooperatives, assisting them to comply with regulations, improve efficiency and adopt sustainable practices. Strict regulatory frameworks including soil monitoring, environmental compliance and traceability systems were supported by advisory structures to ensure

effective implementation. Together with subsidies and technical support, these services helped farmers maintain stable production, adapt to challenges and contribute to long-term food security. State-run offices offered free, neutral support, while approved partner organisations delivered specialised, partly subsidised services, ensuring broad coverage and expertise. The system focused on promoting environmentally sustainable farming, resource protection, animal welfare and rural economic viability, while also supporting farm diversification and innovation. Strong collaboration, state funding and links to research institutions ensured effective knowledge transfer and affordable, professional advice for the agricultural sector.

Lessons learnt from Bavaria's agricultural sector

- Subsidies – Besides enabling a sustainable livelihood for farmers, the Bavarian government believed that subsidies in the agricultural sector strengthened the competitiveness of their agriculture and food industry as it enabled better food production techniques, quality and variety.
- Vocational training – Bavaria's dual education system, especially for aspiring farmers, allowed for strong professional development and encouraged employment in the agricultural sector. Farmers were educated in respect of how to manage their land, how to manage and run their own businesses, how to monitor the health of their animals and vegetation, and the entire agricultural chain of production.
- Small business development and counselling – Many of the farms in Bavaria were small, family-run farms run by part-time farmers. The Bavarian government was able to support these small businesses through subsidies, training and counselling.
- Animal welfare and environmental laws – The Bavarian government encouraged animal welfare through laws and subsidies. Forests were monitored regularly for pest control. The Bavarian government also set funding aside to plant more trees and plants to encourage a broader variety of flora. Farmers were also educated about water pollution, fertilisers, spraying systems and slaughterhouses.

3. Day Two

3.1 Engagement with the Presidium of the Bavarian State Parliament

The delegation was received by Ms Ilse Aigner (CSU), President of the Bavarian State Parliament, together with a few members of the Committee on Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism, the Committee on Environment and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Economic Affairs, Regional Development, Energy, Media and Digitalisation.

Ms Aigner indicated that the delegation had arrived in time to witness a very important week in Bavaria, where the budget would be debated and decided upon in the Bavarian Parliament. During the next three days, the Ministers representing their sectors would defend their budgets in Parliament.

The Speaker of the WCPP, Mr D Mitchell, welcomed the engagement, acknowledging that Bavaria and the Western Cape faced similar challenges, but that the institutions were committed to honouring the agreements between the two regions. The Speaker further acknowledged that both institutions were committed to building trust with their citizens, building democracy, innovation, public participation and ensuring that the parliament remained responsive to the people that they served.

The delegation discussed the role and structure of the Bavarian Parliament, the roles of committees, the political make-up of the Bundesrat, tax revenue, coalitions, the federal system, the education sector, financial administration and the Maximilianeum.

Bavarian State Parliament

The Bavarian State Parliament (Landtag), located in Munich's Maximilianeum, is the unicameral legislature of the Free State of Bavaria and plays a central role in lawmaking, budgeting and government oversight. Bavaria has its own constitution, adopted in December 1946, which established it as a democratic parliamentary free state. Elected members served five-year terms. Currently, the Bavarian Parliament is represented by five political parties, namely the Christian Social Union (CSU), Free Voters (FW), Alliance 90/The Greens, Alternative for Germany (AfD) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD), with the CSU and Free Voters forming the governing coalition and the remaining parties constituting the opposition. The Landtag managed a substantial legislative workload, often considering hundreds of motions and petitions, which were first examined in specialised committees before being debated and decided in the plenary. This structured process reflected the Bavarian Parliament's active role in policymaking, public representation and oversight over government activities. All political parties had to be represented for decisions to be taken.

Leadership in the Landtag

Leadership in the Landtag, including members of the CSU, were expected to remain impartial and serve the institution. Oversight of policing is exercised collectively by the Parliament through its supervisory function over the state government and relevant ministries, rather than by any individual office-bearer. Accordingly, the President of the Landtag, Ms Ilse Aigner (CSU), is responsible for presiding over proceedings and maintaining order in the chamber, while disciplinary rules ensure compliance, with sanctions such as fines of up to €2 000 (or €4 000 for repeat offences), removal from the chamber or temporary suspension applied in cases of misconduct.

In Bavaria, the Premier is elected by the Parliament and must obtain a majority vote to form a government. Coalition governments have become common, with parties negotiating agreements to secure this majority. Coalition negotiations can take time depending on election results, although a government is formed within the constitutional framework. These agreements guided government policy and cooperation between parties. Bavaria also maintained a strong connection to the European Union, with its policies and legislation influenced by EU frameworks and cooperation.

Unemployment in Bavaria

Unemployment support in Bavaria included financial assistance and assistance to find employment. People who have worked and contributed financially to the system may receive "Arbeitslosengeld" (unemployment benefits), whilst those needing longer-term support can receive "Bürgergeld" (citizens money or allowance). Additionally, job centres provided training, advice and job placement services to help people return to employment as quickly as possible.

There was a shortage of teaching staff for some classes in Bavaria at present. There seemed to be a decline in the youth wanting to become teachers; however, a teaching degree was not a requirement to teach. Any individual with certain qualifications could teach. For example, there were individuals with law degrees or qualifications in civil service that were teaching. Qualified individuals were therefore encouraged to apply for teaching positions at schools in the region.

Bavaria's tax revenue system

Bavaria has an efficient administration and strong tax system, with major taxes such as income and inheritance tax set at the federal level, while the state ensured their implementation. Tax compliance was strictly enforced with regular audits and inspections, particularly in sectors like construction and labour protection. Political parties were expected to clearly justify taxation, and tax honesty was regarded as essential for supporting public services and the overall welfare of society.

In Munich, church tax was mainly collected by Catholic and Protestant (evangelical) churches, as well as Jewish communities because these groups were officially recognised by the state and allowed to collect taxes from their members. Business tax was also important for Bavarian communities. This was a tax levied on commercial enterprises, which was used to fund local public services and infrastructure such as building maintenance; therefore, the more successful local businesses were, the more the community benefited. Property tax could also be used towards the community.

Bavarian State Parliamentary building

The Bavarian Parliament is housed within the Maximilianeum building, a prominent building that serves as both a political and cultural landmark. Architecturally, the Maximilianeum is characterised by a blend of Neo-Gothic and Renaissance influences, known as the “Maximilian style”, and features an ornate facade with arches, columns, mosaics, statues and murals depicting historical and symbolic themes. These elements collectively reflected Bavaria’s cultural heritage and underlined the building’s symbolic role as a centre of governance, education and state identity.

The Bavarian State Parliament is a tenant alongside a foundation that supports gifted scholars. The building serves both as a political institution and an academic residence. Significant investment of approximately €100 million has been allocated towards the renovation and maintenance of the Maximilianeum. During ongoing renovation work, some Members of Parliament were temporarily relocated to offices outside the Maximilianeum. The Bavarian Parliament has its own budget and uses its own resources to manage the building.

3.2 Observation of the sitting of the Bavarian State Parliament

The delegation observed a sitting of the Bavarian State Parliament during the budget vote, one of the most significant elements of its parliamentary programme, as it determined the financial framework for government operations over a two-year period, also known as a double budget. Proceedings commenced with opening remarks by Ms Ilse Aigner (CSU), President of the Bavarian State Parliament, after which representatives of the various political parties presented their positions, outlining priorities and engaging in detailed deliberations on the proposed budget. The process was conducted in a structured and transparent manner, with strong media presence throughout to document the proceedings. Plenary staff were actively involved in recording contributions and managing proceedings, while the official order paper including speakers’ names and allocated speaking times was displayed, ensuring clarity, organisation and adherence to parliamentary protocol.

4. Day Three

4.1 Courtesy meeting with the Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery

The Speaker, accompanied by the Consul-General of South Africa in Munich and the International Relations and Protocol Officer, held a courtesy meeting with Dr Florian Herrmann, Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery and State Minister for Federal Affairs and Media.

During the meeting, the Speaker briefed the Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery on the WCPP visit and its expected outcomes.

4.2 Engagement with the Committee on Environmental Affairs and Consumer Protection

The Committee on Environment and Consumer Protection in Munich is a key standing committee of the Bavarian State Parliament, responsible for reviewing and advising on legislation related to environmental protection and consumer rights. The Committee brought together representatives from all political parties and played a central role in shaping policies on issues such as climate protection, water, soil and air quality, biodiversity, animal welfare and food safety. The committee worked closely with the Bavarian State Ministry for Environment and Consumer Protection, monitoring its activities while ensuring accountability and alignment with sustainability goals. It also conducted expert hearings to inform decision-making and addresses citizens' petitions and complaints, making it an important link between the government, industry and the public in promoting environmental sustainability and consumer protection.

The delegation discussed Bavaria's water management system, which prioritised the protection of natural resources while ensuring a reliable supply for human settlement and industry. The region relied largely on groundwater rather than large dams, with water supply for households provided by municipalities, which also managed water for industrial use. A long-term water strategy promoted efficient use and conservation, encouraging rainwater reuse and raising public awareness about saving water, particularly in areas such northern Bavaria where water availability was declining. Wastewater treatment was highly advanced, including a fourth stage of purification to remove micropollutants such as pharmaceutical and cosmetic residues, with stricter accountability placed on industries for contamination. Groundwater extraction required permits typically granted for around 20 years, before renewal was needed. Although water purification is expensive, Bavaria invested heavily in maintaining high quality standards and has recognised the effectiveness of South Africa's water treatment and desalination systems, noting similarities in advanced purification approaches.

4.3 Engagement with the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

The Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs is a standing committee of the Bavarian State Parliament that oversees education and cultural policy. The Committee reviews and advises on laws related to schools, vocational and adult education, as well as cultural development, focusing on areas such as curriculum design, teacher training, school funding and inclusion. The committee also works to ensure equal access to education, supports lifelong learning and civic education, and helps update key legislation to strengthen education systems and to promote social participation and democratic values.

The delegation discussed digital learning, history curriculum reform and the role of remembrance in democratic education. The delegation also spoke about the Western Cape's e-learning strategy, the 91% school connectivity rate, the R1,1 billion smart meter rollout, and the telematics broadcast learning model for rural schools.

Bavaria's early streaming system, which separates children into distinct school tracks at age 10 after only four years together, was discussed. The most substantive exchange focused on the teaching of history and the role of remembrance, with the delegation presenting South Africa's approach – the use of the Holocaust as an introduction to Apartheid in Grade 9, the compulsory history curriculum introduced from 2023, and the ongoing challenge of connecting physical sites of memory such as Robben Island to the formal school curriculum.

4.4 Engagement with the Committee on Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism

The Committee on Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism is a key body of the Bavarian State Parliament responsible for shaping policies that support rural development and the agri-food sector. The committee reviewed and advised on legislation related to agriculture, forestry, food production and tourism, while monitoring the work of the Bavarian State Ministry. Its focus was on promoting sustainable farming and forestry, ensuring a secure supply of high-quality food, supporting fair farmer incomes and strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises. The committee also addressed cross-cutting issues such as environmental protection, water management and rural development, while engaging experts and handling public petitions.

Agricultural policy in Bavaria was developed through a collaborative, stakeholder-driven process involving the government, the parliament and the Praktikerrat (Farmers' Council). This advisory body, made up of farmers, industry representatives, environmental groups and officials, developed practical proposals particularly for European agricultural reforms, aimed at simplifying regulations, improving incomes and enhancing sustainability. These proposals were submitted to the Ministry, refined, and then considered by the parliamentary committee to shape final policy.

The delegation's discussion focused on parliamentary oversight of agricultural policy, food safety frameworks, the wolf management debate and its parallels with predator conflict management in the Western Cape, and the Biotechnology Initiative's relevance to food security and agri-technology development. The Western Cape's agricultural school cooperation agreements and the province's agri-processing value chain potential were highlighted as priority areas for bilateral development.

4.5 Engagement with the Committee on Economic Affairs, Regional Development, Energy, Media and Digitisation

The Committee on Economic Affairs, Regional Development, Energy, Media and Digitisation is a key body of the Bavarian State Parliament that reviews legislation and guides policy on economic growth, innovation, energy and digitalisation. The committee supported competitiveness, job creation and balanced regional development, while addressing major priorities such as the energy transition and digital transformation. In parallel, the Bavarian Transformation Fund (about €350 million) provided targeted support to businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, to invest in innovation, modernised production and the shift towards more sustainable and digital operations, strengthening long-term economic resilience.

Bavaria also invested heavily in renewable energy and innovation through Europe and state programmes, with a substantial amount of euros directed towards climate protection, energy efficiency and infrastructure, alongside major investments in education through initiatives such as the €5,5 billion High-tech Agenda Bavaria, which promoted research, skills development and new technologies. Compared to South Africa's reliance on coal, Bavaria has significantly expanded renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydropower and biomass, though not all energy came from renewables. While energy costs remain high and nuclear power has been phased out, Bavaria has been actively investing in future solutions such as hydrogen, and is exploring emerging technologies such as fusion, as part of its transition to a sustainable energy system.

Bavaria's approach to development linked energy security, social welfare, and economic sustainability. While the region has historically relied on imported gas, including from Russia, recent geopolitical tensions and damaged infrastructure have disrupted supply, prompting Bavaria to consider new gas power plants despite having limited local gas resources. At the same time, northern Germany has untapped gas reserves, but environmental conservation

policies restrict their use, pushing Bavaria to prioritise a long-term transition towards sustainable energy solutions. This broader strategy was supported by strong investment in education and skills development, with high-quality institutions and a focus on craftsmanship and vocational training, which helped stimulate economic growth in rural areas.

In addition, Bavaria promoted balanced regional development and social equality by subsidising poorer cities and supporting public services that ensured access to essential needs. Revenue streams such as taxes, state-regulated sectors such as gambling, and even traditional industries (such as beer production) contributed to public finances. Infrastructure, including road maintenance, was funded largely through taxation and sometimes public–private partnerships (PPPs). Overall, Bavaria aimed to create equal living conditions across the region by combining economic support, strong public institutions and sustainable long-term planning.

The discussion also focused on artificial intelligence (AI) governance and the new Bavarian Ministry for Digital, regional development policy aimed at equalising urban and rural economic conditions, and the implications of the automotive sector’s transition for the Bavaria–Western Cape bilateral trade relationship.

4.6 Engagement between the Secretary to Provincial Parliament and Secretary General of the Bavarian State Parliament.

The Secretary, Ms Ressida Begg, met with her counterpart, Mr Andreas Kimml of the Bavarian State Parliament and his executive team. Mr Kimml assumed office as Director of the Bavarian State Parliament in April 2026, while his predecessor, Director Peter Worm, served in this role from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2026.

The Office of the Bavarian State Parliament comprises three departments, namely:

A: Members of Parliament, Personnel, Law and European Affairs – divisions responsible for legal matters relating to Members, personnel law and European law, legal office.

P: Parliamentary Service – representing the parliamentary administration.

Z: Central Services – information, technical and financial support.

The primary role of the Director and executive management team is to support the Presidium: the President, five Vice Presidents and Secretaries (secretaries to plenary sessions). The Presidium is an advisory, supervisory and decision-making body on administrative matters pertaining to the Parliament. These include the budget plan for the Landtag, personnel matters, construction and the allocation of facilities in the precincts.

The engagement focused on the following topics:

- Lawmaking process – Mainly left to the Bundesrat and Bundestag with a greater focus on EU legislation that has an impact on the regional parliament.
- The Bavarian Parliament has limited public participation initiatives as this mandate is largely left to the executive.
- Post-legislative scrutiny was a common practice in the previous parliament but has found limited traction in the current parliament.
- The parliament is embarking on AI adoption, but this has been slow with the main focus on digitising documentation to ensure data integrity for the adoption of AI solutions. To this extent an internal AI Committee for the Administration assesses available technology and make proposals to the Director and Executive Team for adoption. The time allocation for this session was one hour and insufficient to have a more detailed discussion. The Director and his executive team committed to further engagements to cement the Memorandum of Understanding between the two parliaments.

4.7 Engagement between the Multimedia Officer and the multimedia team at the Bavarian State Parliament

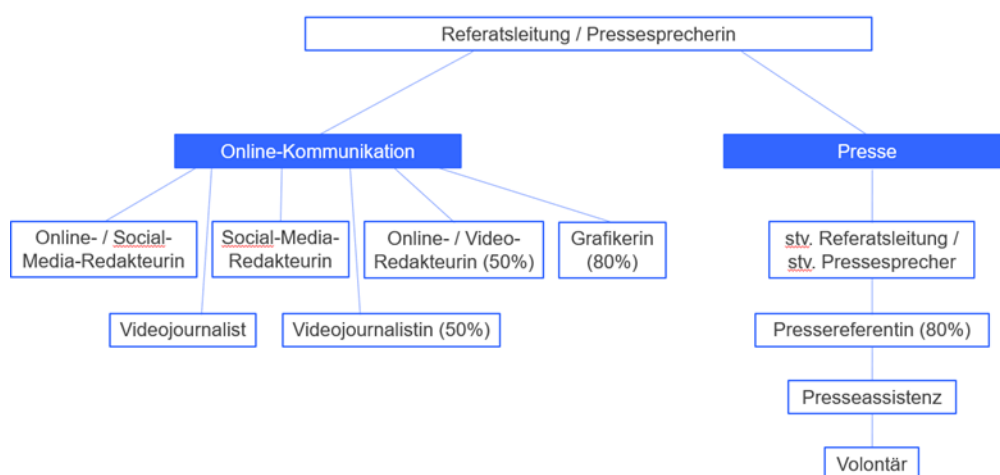
Ms Naseera Mohamed, Multimedia Officer at the WCPP, engaged with Ms Caroline Kubon, Head of Press and Online Communication and the official spokesperson at the Bavarian State Parliament. The engagement provided valuable insight into the structure, operations and strategic communication approaches used to strengthen public access to parliamentary information and to enhance citizen engagement.

Ms Kubon leads a specialised multimedia and communications team consisting of approximately ten officials, as reflected in the organogram structure below. In her role, she reports directly to the President of the Bavarian State Parliament, Ms Ilse Aigner, enabling streamlined communication processes, direct strategic coordination and the efficient management of media-related matters at executive level.

Team



Aufstellung: Presse und Online-Kommunikation (LK 1)



The engagement highlighted the significant institutional investment dedicated to parliamentary communication in the Bavarian Parliament. In contrast, the multimedia function in the WCPP is currently managed by a single Multimedia Officer responsible for a broad range of services, including graphic design, corporate identity management, photography, videography, audio production, social media management and general multimedia support.

Discussions focused on the role of multimedia and digital communication in promoting transparency, accessibility and public trust in the Parliament. Communication is regarded as a strategic institutional function aimed at ensuring that parliamentary proceedings and legislative developments are communicated to citizens in a clear, professional and accessible manner. Particular emphasis is placed on presenting parliamentary information in formats that are engaging and easily understood by the public.

The Bavarian State Parliament makes extensive use of social media, online communication tools, professional photography and video production to communicate parliamentary activities and legislative developments. Multimedia content is produced continuously to ensure that parliamentary work remains visible, relevant and accessible to citizens across Bavaria.

The engagement also provided insight into the monitoring and evaluation of digital communication initiatives. Ms Kubon shared examples of monthly social media reporting and quarterly website reporting processes used to measure audience reach, engagement levels, online visibility and public interaction across digital platforms. Data-driven communication strategies are used to assess the effectiveness of public outreach initiatives, identify com-

munication trends, evaluate campaign impact and refine content strategies to improve accessibility and relevance.

Another important area of discussion was the maintenance of a strong and consistent corporate identity across all communication platforms. The Bavarian State Parliament applies standardised branding and communication guidelines to ensure consistency in visual identity, public messaging and institutional reputation management across departments and digital channels. The quality and attention to detail reflected in the institution's corporate branding were evident throughout the visit, from the professionally produced corporate gifts presented to the WCPP delegation to the customised lunch menus and interactive media displays at the visitor centre. These elements contributed to a cohesive and highly professional institutional image and highlighted the level of investment dedicated to communication, branding and visitor experience within the Bavarian State Parliament.

The operational structure and division of responsibilities in the multimedia environment also formed part of the discussions. Officials in the communication team are assigned specialised responsibilities in media liaison, online communication, digital publishing, design and multimedia production. This structure contributes to improved efficiency, quicker turnaround times and enhanced content quality while supporting broader public participation and institutional visibility objectives.

The use of multimedia as a tool for public education and democratic participation was further emphasised during the engagement. Digital platforms are used not only to report on parliamentary activities, but also to educate citizens about legislative processes, parliamentary committees and the role of elected representatives through visual storytelling and simplified communication products. Social media and online communication platforms are viewed as essential tools for increasing transparency, improving access to information and engaging with younger audiences.

The interaction provided valuable exposure to international best practices in parliamentary communication, multimedia management and digital public engagement. It also highlighted the increasing resource demands associated with modern parliamentary communication functions and the importance of adequately resourced multimedia capacity in legislatures.

Overall, the engagement demonstrated the evolving nature of parliamentary communication in a digital era where multimedia, online engagement and real-time information sharing have become integral to democratic participation. The experience provided practical insight into innovative communication practices, institutional branding strategies and digital engagement methods that contribute to strengthening transparency, public participation and institutional credibility.

4.8 Engagement between the procedural officers and committee support team at the Bavarian State Parliament.

Ms Jones and Ms Adams had the opportunity to meet and engage with Ms Dagmar Feldmann, Head of Office for the Committee on Health and Care and Deputy Head of Office for the Children's Commission. Discussions focused on petitions, legislative processes and practical experiences in the Bavarian Parliament.

Petitions

Petitions was a very important part of the Bavarian Parliament's work. The Bavarian Parliament did not have a specific committee to deal with petitions; petitions were referred to specific committees based on their subject matter. Petitions were discussed during public

committee meetings. At least two of the committee members are tasked with reporting on the petition or explaining the petition to the rest of the committee. The relevant ministry was also tasked with providing the background information on the petition and to further advise the committee dealing with the petition.

A petition is discussed in a public meeting and Members of Parliament are tasked with making a final decision on the petition. Between October 2023 and April 2026, the Bavarian Parliament received 4 799 petitions through online applications, email, fax and letters. Members of the public used petitions as their main method of communicating with the Members of Parliament and the Bavarian Parliament. The petitions ranged from insurance complaints to improvements in legislation. This was quite a wide range because petitions were used as a “first response” in Bavaria as opposed to the South African idea or definition of petitions, which was a final resort after other avenues have not succeeded.

The Bavarian Parliament dealt with petitions quite easily and efficiently as each petition was recorded and managed through an internal electronic database maintained by a dedicated software developer. This allowed the Bavarian Parliament to extract statistical input and data to measure the number of petitions that failed, the number that succeeded, and to monitor whether a petition was still ongoing or if it had been finalised. This was important as the Bavarian Parliament was constitutionally obligated to report on petitions midway through and at the end of the parliamentary term.

Ms Feldmann further explained that decisions on petitions were final, with no formal appeal process available once a determination has been made.

Bills

In Bavaria, issues related to proposed legislation are often raised through local representatives and political channels before being brought to the State Parliament for discussion and input. All bills and motions are dealt with first by their plenary section where the bills are then referred to by the relevant committees. The committee discussed the bills and made recommendations, which were then sent back to the plenary section. The bill process is finalised in the plenary section. The Bavarian Parliament also does not engage in public participation on bills as this is the role of the various ministries before a bill is introduced in parliament.

The Members of the Bavarian Parliament hold offices in various areas of the region where members of the public can approach them and propose amendments or improvements to legislation, which could lead to political initiatives in respect of proposed legislation. Ministries and government departments were also responsible for bringing legislation to the Bavarian Parliament and for running the legislative process in terms of receiving input from members of the public.

Information on legislation and parliamentary proceedings was accessible to members of the public online through official platforms, allowing the public to follow developments and engage with topics of interest.

Lived experience

Measuring the lived experience of the Bavarian citizens was also a challenge for the Bavarian Parliament as the issues were different for citizens living in the main cities and in agricultural areas. Members of Parliament played a critical role in gathering information about their citizens' experiences.

Ministers also played a key role in shaping legislation by gathering and analysing real-life issues from communities, public services and stakeholders before presenting proposals to Parliament. They compiled these insights into policy recommendations or draft bills, ensuring that decisions were informed by practical needs and lived experiences. These proposals are then submitted to the Landtag for debate and further scrutiny, helping to ensure that laws reflect the realities faced by citizens.

Although measuring the lived experience of its citizens was not the responsibility of the Bavarian Parliament, the institution was still able to extract data from the internal petitions system if it wanted to measure the lived experience and the types of challenges the citizens were experiencing.

Motions and resolutions

The Bavarian Parliament has implemented an electronic system to record motions and resolutions stemming from parliamentary engagements. This system is open to the public, and all government departments also have access to this information. The minutes of the engagements are also attached to these motions and resolutions. This was important for transparency.

5. Day Four

5.1 Visit to the Bavarian State Criminal Police Office

The Bavarian State Criminal Police Office (LKA Bavaria) is the central investigative authority of the Bavarian Police, leading and coordinating investigations into serious crimes such as organised crime, terrorism, cybercrime and drug trafficking, while providing specialised services such as forensic analysis, intelligence gathering and crime prevention.

Bavaria's strong safety environment supported economic growth and was driven by a multi-level policing approach that combined advanced technologies, such as AI, international cooperation through organisations such as Interpol, and evidence-based policing methods such as hotspot analysis and targeted patrols. This was reinforced by joint investigations, shared criminal intelligence systems and close collaboration between police, prosecutors and social agencies to ensure effective prosecution, protection of victims especially in cases of human trafficking and maintaining public trust through community-focused initiatives.

The delegation had the opportunity to utilise the holographic equipment at the Holodeck, where observed advanced simulation techniques are used to recreate crime scenes. This included the 3D visual reconstruction of injuries, blood spatter patterns and suspected murder weapons, all generated from photographic evidence captured at the crime scene. The recreated 3D model allowed investigators and police officials to immerse themselves in the crime scene, using VR headsets, and navigate the area to search for more evidence or clues about the crime. This technology also allowed for the digital preservation of every detail of a crime scene long after the physical scene has been cleared, eliminating the risk of loss critical forensic information.

5.2 Engagement with the Hanns Seidel Foundation

The delegation and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) discussed the Hotspot Policing Joint Project, which was a collaboration between the HSF, the Western Cape Government, the South African Police Service, the Institute for Security Studies and the City of Cape Town, focused on applying evidence-based policing methods. The programme used data analysis to identify high crime areas and deploy targeted, short and frequent patrols to reduce crime. The HSF indicated that they welcomed the long-term collaboration with their Western Cape partners on

this project. The HSF reiterated that they never interfered in another country's political issues as their focus was on collaborating on projects that could improve communities.

The project was piloted in Mitchells Plain in 2023 and was expanded to more hotspot areas (Nyanga, Delft, Guguletu and Khayelitsha) when the project showed a notable 31% reduction in crimes. It also strengthened collaboration, evidence-based training and data-driven decision-making among all the partners, supporting long-term improvements in policing and community safety.

There was consensus that significantly more work was required in hotspot areas to build community trust and secure buy-in, which was essential for sustaining safety and ensuring long-term crime reduction. Visible policing was also important to reduce crime. The HSF noted that safety and security were crucial for a country's development, as without it there would be no economic development. Security was a basic human need for all citizens and, since crime has also become digital and therefore global, the HSF believed that tackling crime should be a shared responsibility.

Given its success, the hotspot project was expanded to 11 police stations in 2025, with a target of reaching a total of 30 stations by March 2026. Bavaria placed great importance on training their police in field competence and the knowledge of laws, acting competence and practical training, and social and personal competence (personal development).

5.3 Visit to Police Station 13

Police Station 13 is a local Bavarian State police station located in the Schwabing district of Munich. It forms part of the Munich Police Department and is responsible for maintaining law and order, responding to incidents, and providing public safety services in its area. The station covers a busy urban area of about 6,86 km² with over 72 000 residents, including popular nightlife and tourist zones. Its duties include routine patrols, crime prevention, handling reports and supporting community policing, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as part of Munich's broader, well-coordinated policing system.

Germany is a federal country consisting of 16 states, each with its own police force and legal framework, while the Federal Police is responsible for border control, airports and national-level security. In Bavaria, policing is organised under the Bavarian State Police through several regional police headquarters (10 major departments), which are further divided into local stations and specialised units such as uniformed patrol police, criminal investigation units and riot police responsible for crowd control. The system also includes administrative and support divisions, with clearly defined ranks indicated by insignia such as stars, ensuring a structured chain of command. As a major economic and tourism destination, Bavaria receives visitors from around the world, requiring a highly coordinated, professional and responsive policing system that prioritises public safety across both urban and rural areas. Police personnel include both sworn officers and civilian staff who provide support in administration, technology, and forensics. Uniformed officers perform frontline duties, including maintaining public order and issuing fines for traffic violations and minor offences, while investigative units focus on serious and organised crime. Together, these functions ensure effective coverage of public safety, transport management, crime prevention, and security across both urban and rural areas.

Approximately 10 accident reports were recorded over a given period, reflecting a relatively low accident rate in Bavaria. This was largely attributed to strict and reduced speed limits in urban areas, which contributed to improved road safety and fewer serious incidents. The police bicycle team in Munich provided a highly visible and flexible form of policing, especially in busy areas, parks and pedestrian zones. Officers on bicycles were able to respond quickly,

monitor traffic and crowds and engage directly with the public, helping to prevent crime and to build stronger community relationships while operating in an environmentally friendly way.

The delegation had the opportunity to engage with officers at Police Station 13, gaining insight into their day-to-day operations. They also observed various policing resources, including firearms, vehicles, protective gear and bicycles used for patrols.

6. Day Five

6.1 Engagement with the Applied AI Institute of Europe

The applied AI Institute for Europe is a Munich-based nonprofit organisation that supports the development and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI). It provides training, research, and practical tools to ensure AI is applied ethically and in line with regulatory standards. The institute works closely with industry, the government and academic partners, helping organisations, especially small and medium-sized enterprises to integrate and accelerate the use AI into their operations, to improve competitiveness and to comply with frameworks such as the EU AI Act.

During the engagement, the delegation was introduced to key public-sector applications of AI, including internal knowledge support systems, automated document processing, decision-support tools, predictive analytics for policy planning, fraud detection, citizen service chatbots, translation and accessibility tools, and automated transcription. It was emphasised that the successful adoption of AI depends on trust, AI literacy and perceived value, with building user confidence and understanding identified as critical to increasing acceptance and effective implementation.

The institute noted that “responsible AI” was of utmost importance and that AI had to be built in a safe and sustainable way. The EU AI Act was the main regulatory framework in terms of which the institute worked, which all EU member states had to adhere to. These framework conditions were especially important in respect of the use of AI in the public sector.

The institute also provided training on the use of AI, which the public sector officials and the Bavarian Parliament was able to participate in; however, the uptake of AI training in the public sector was slower than in the private sector. There were a few dedicated AI initiatives that were funded by the Bavarian government, as well as initiatives to bring AI qualifications to higher education institutions. It was especially important for officials working in the public sector to understand how to use AI safely in their work as these officials handled sensitive and private information.

The institute believed that AI technology, if used responsibly, could provide the government with data-driven information that could assist them to become more proactive and efficient in their public service responsibilities. Additionally, there was a concern that there was a gender gap in terms of the knowledge and use of AI in the public sector. The institute found that most employees in the public sector were women, and that their AI literacy levels were lower than that of their male counterparts. It seemed that officials’ willingness to use AI technology was low.

To increase the uptake of AI technology in the workplace and the use thereof, the institute noted that the industry had to lead with a “human rights first” approach, where they needed to build trust in AI first and reassure the users that their rights would be protected.

The delegation discussed the possible decline in employment following the uptake of AI in workplaces. The institute acknowledged that this was a possibility and there has been a decline

in more junior positions such as junior engineers and junior law clerks; however, the AI sector also opened new opportunities for employment.

6.2 Engagement and visit to the BBW campus

The Bildungswerk der Bayerischen Wirtschaft (BBW), including BBW International, is one of Bavaria's leading vocational training organisations, providing practice-oriented education and skills development based on the German dual training system. It focuses on aligning training with labour market needs by combining classroom learning with workplace experience, and works closely with businesses, governments and educational institutions to develop a skilled workforce and support economic growth both locally and internationally.

The BBW's partnership with the Western Cape formed part of a longstanding cooperation between Bavaria and the province, aimed at strengthening vocational education and job creation. Through this collaboration, the BBW helped implement dual vocational training programmes, supported TVET colleges and provided initiatives such as train-the-trainer programmes, student placements in Germany and a dedicated project office in Cape Town established in 2025. Overall, the partnership promoted knowledge transfer, builds local skills and enhances employment opportunities by applying German vocational training best practices in the Western Cape. The BBW worked with local partners (the government, organisations, businesses, etc) in countries to ensure the sustainability of their projects.

The BBW Career Pathways Project, initiated in 2024 in partnership with the Western Cape Government and Hope Cape Town Trust assisted teachers with training in life orientation in high schools in Delft. The project worked with the existing life orientation curriculum but used different methods to reach learners. This in-depth capacity programme enabled teachers to perform competence analyses, entrepreneurial skills analyses, job orientation and career guidance for the learners. The programme was offered to approximately 3 000 teachers in the Delft area. The project will conclude in June 2026.

The Hub4Africa Project was developed in 2023 and served as an e-platform for youth for career orientation, training, business start-ups and networking. The project offered innovative, free information and learning platforms for users. The youth can do a quick 30-minute test, which shows them what their strengths are and proposes learning opportunities in different fields. The BBW developed this project in cooperation with the Western Cape Government, Year Beyond, the Department of High Education and Training, the Boland College, the False Bay College, the College of Cape Town, Northlink College and Orange Memo. Initially, the programme started with a train-the-trainer project with 16 TVET colleges in 2023. This has since expanded to 22 TVET colleges. An e-learning approach offered flexible online and blended learning programmes that improved digital literacy and vocational skills, allowing training to be delivered at a larger scale to meet labour market needs.

The Dual Vocational Partnership Project in Mechatronics was initiated in 2019 and offered to TVET colleges in Gauteng. This project offered training opportunities for lecturers at TVET colleges to offer mechatronics classes. The BBW also helped to develop learning materials and work-based exposure opportunities for these academic institutions. The request for the training came from industries in Gauteng through the German Chamber of Commerce that also represented many of the German companies based in the region, such as Siemens, Bosch and BMW. Since most of the mechatronics training was already offered at these companies, the BBW sought to expand the project to public institutions that were more inclusive of disadvantaged and less privileged youth.

The Bavarian Water Expertise Training Initiative, in partnership with the City of Cape Town, the Ekurhuleni Water Care Company and sectoral institutions were developed in 2025 with the

objective to upskill master trainers in the water and wastewater sector and to strengthen the capacity of water suppliers and their staff. The programme was targeted at staff working in water plants in the wastewater sector, municipal officials, employees in the water supplier industry, and universities offering water-related professions. The programme was funded by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy. The project would only run for one year to test the water sector in South Africa. The programme will conclude on 31 July 2026. The BBW trained municipal officials, university and industry employees in technical and pedagogical skills and technical skills for water management. The BBW certified 25 participants in Gauteng and 16 in the Western Cape. The top 19 participants received the opportunity to travel to Germany for a study trip to the IFAT trade fare held in Munich in May 2026, and to see how the water system works in Germany.

The delegation noted that most of the major water losses occurred in rural areas in the Western Cape and that the Bavarian Water Expertise Training Initiative would be greatly suited to rural areas such as the Central Karoo. The BBW noted that the lessons learnt from the project could be applied to rural areas where water losses were the most severe if they extended the project; however, the decision to base their study in the metropolitan area was due to funding and the need for an existing network as well as existing space to hold the training. The delegation proposed that the BBW could reach out to the Western Cape Government with a proposal if they wanted to expand the project. The BBW indicated that they had reached out to other municipalities, but it was difficult for some municipalities to release their officials for a six-week training programme.

The delegation also conducted a walkabout of the facility, where they observed students engaged in practical training and had the opportunity to interact directly with them, gaining valuable insight into their learning experiences and day-to-day activities. Students gained practical experience in respect of metal work, machine-learning and software, professional painting, art and building maintenance.

7. Points for the WCPP to consider

- The relevant departments that form part of the Action Plan between the Western Cape and Bavaria should provide formal briefings to the standing committees on progress regarding projects.
- The vocational training model that Bavaria has established should be considered by the Department of Agriculture.
- The WCPP should engage with the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism on positioning the province in South Africa's national AI policy development process, drawing on the insights from the Applied AI Institute engagement and the EU AI Act implementation experience in Bavaria.
- The WCPP's Standing Committee on Community Safety should receive a dedicated briefing on the hotspot policing model's scaling progress, with particular attention to the 30-station target and the barriers to consistent implementation at station level in the SAPS.