



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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

Thursday, 18 June 2020 (09h00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Allen, R
America, D
Bosman, G
Mackenzie, R (Alternate)
Mitchell, D
Philander, W
Van der Westhuizen, A
Wenger, M (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Windvogel, R

GOOD

Herron, B

African Christian Democratic Party

Christians, F

Alternate Members

Botha, L (DA)
Nkondlo, N (ANC)

Apologies

Baartman, D (DA)

Sayed, K (ANC)(Alternate)

Absent

Xego, M (EFF)

Dugmore, C (ANC)

Lekker, P (ANC)

Marais, P (ANC)

The following persons were in attendance:

Members of the Public

Mr P Mkuzo, Candidate Attorney, Equal Education Law Centre

Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Ms Z Adams, Procedural Officer

Ms L Cloete, Senior Procedural Officer

Adv R Maasdorp, Legal Adviser

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed the Members and Adv Maasdorp, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Legal Adviser, and noted apologies from Hon K Sayed (ANC)(Alternate) and Hon D Baartman (DA). It was noted that Hon Mackenzie would stand in for Hon Baartman.

2. Discussion with Adv R Maasdorp on the Legal Advisory Note provided to the Committee on the High Court Judgment in respect of De Beer vs the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Adv Maasdorp gave the Committee a brief overview of the advisory note prepared for Members on the Gauteng High Court judgment in respect of De Beer versus the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The Committee deliberated on the advisory note and Adv Maasdorp's overview.

According to Adv Maasdorp, it was believed that the Government has already submitted an appeal against the High Court's judgment, which meant that the current regulations remain in effect until the Court has made a further ruling. The timeframe for the matter to be heard was subject to the Court's roll. It was possible that the officials and relevant presiding officers would give due consideration to the urgency and need for legal clarity.

In terms of arrests made during the period where the regulations were enforced, if someone was arrested for having contravened particular regulations, then the arrest would stand. However, if the regulations were found to be unconstitutional then the person would have recourse.

3. Discussion on Citizen Engagement

The Chairperson requested that the Committee finalise its citizen engagement process in terms of the questions that would take the form of infographics. Interested members of the public would be able to submit their comments via email and/or WhatsApp voice notes and messages. The Chairperson put forward the following questions to be discussed and agreed to:

What has been your experience of the Government's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Were you able to access food support when you needed it?
- Do you understand why you need to wear a mask?
- Do you know how to access COVID-19 grants?
- Did you feel safe when you went back to work?
- Does the public transport you use have masks and sanitisers available?
- Is your child's school practicing social distancing and conducting temperature checks every day?
- What are your thoughts about the reopening of early childhood development (ECD) centres?

Hon Herron stated that the questions should speak to the impact on those that were affected by the virus, whether they had tested positive or if they were in close contact with the virus. He asked if it would be more appropriate to ask questions such as whether an individual had been exposed to the virus, if they were able to self-isolate, whether they were offered a space in a public facility, and what kind of support they had received. It would also assist the Committee to know where people were exposed to the virus, whether they were tested at a public or private facility and how quickly their results were returned to them.

Hon Christians added that it was important to include the families of the victims as well, as there were families that had lost their loved ones and this would be an opportunity for them to speak to their experience of the health system.

The Chairperson agreed with Mr Christians and proposed that the Committee do one set of infographics for the items proposed by Member Herron, however, for the purpose of the general advert, the list of questions would remain the same. The Chairperson further proposed that another question be added to the advert that would request that individuals who had been exposed to the virus submit comments on their experiences with the health system. The infographic would then add more detailed sub-questions. The proposed questions were, therefore, amended as follows:

What has been your experience of the Government's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Have you or a family member been exposed to the coronavirus? Share the experience you had of the health system.
- Were you able to access food support when you needed it?
- Do you understand why you need to wear a mask?
- Do you know how to access COVID-19 grants?
- Did you feel safe when you went back to work?

- Does the public transport you use have masks and sanitisers available?
- Is your child's school practising social distancing and conducting temperature checks every day?
- What are your thoughts about the reopening of early childhood development (ECD) centres?

The Committee agreed to the Chairperson's proposal.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that the infographics would be published on social media and the website, and that the advert would be published in various newspapers in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa. The Committee agreed that they would allow the Chairperson to decide on which mainstream and community newspapers the adverts would be published in.

4. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Committee considered and adopted the draft Committee Minutes of 10 June 2020 without amendments.

The meeting adjourned at 09h57.



MS M WENGER, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19
DATE: 15 July 2020