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PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2024

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023, DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2023**

Introduction

The Annual Report (AR) of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) was tabled for the 2022/23 financial year in terms of section 60(1) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act [Act No.10 of 2009], (FMPPLA) and referred to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee (POC) on Thursday, 28 September 2023 (refer to “ATC 102-2023”). The AR of WCPP serves to provide a record of the activities and performance of the administration of WCPP and to promote accountability for decisions made during the financial year under review. The performance of WCPP is measured against the performance targets and budget outlined in the WCPP Strategic Plan 2020/21-2024/25; including the Annual Performance Plan of WCPP for the 2022/23 financial year.

The purpose of FMPPLA is to regulate the performance and financial management of the legislatures in South Africa in a manner consistent with its status in terms of the Constitution; to ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of Parliament and provincial legislatures are managed efficiently, effectively and transparently; to provide for the responsibilities of persons entrusted with financial management; and to provide for matters connected therewith. In compliance with the spirit of Section 4 of the Act, the Committee considered the AR of the WCPP to maintain oversight of the performance indicators and financial management of the WCPP for the specific financial year under review. In addition to regulating the financial management of WCPP, the FMPPLA mandates the POC to conduct oversight over the performance information, governance and human resource functions of the Institution through its annual reports. Section 4(1)(b) of the FMPPLA provides the Committee with this mandate.

The members of POC deliberated on the various sections of the AR of the WCPP for the 2022/23 financial year, as follows:

- 1.1. Part A: General Information,
- 1.2. Part B: Performance Information,
- 1.3. Part C: Governance,
- 1.4. Part D: Human Resource Management, and
- 1.5. Part E: Financial Information.

The AR of the WCPP 2022/23 was tabled on time, according to Treasury and other prescripts. The AR programme for the 2022/23 financial year was advertised in the three official languages of the Western Cape in various newspapers, inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

1. Overview

The Committee met on 18 October 2023 at 08:00 where it was briefed by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) on the audit outcomes of the 2022/23 financial year for WCPP. After the briefing by the AGSA, the Committee was briefed by the Audit Committee (AC) whose role is to ensure that WCPP functions according to good governance principles, complies with accounting and audit standards and monitors that appropriate risk management arrangements are in place. The AC also monitors the adequacy and reliability of the financial information provided by WCPP.

The methodology of the Committee was to meet with these stakeholders to benefit from their findings and possible concerns with the aim of assisting the Committee to have a constructive oversight engagement with WCPP.

Thereafter, the Committee met with the WCPP which began with introductory comments made by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Secretary of the WCPP.

A section-by-section oversight discussion ensued with the management of WCPP on the aforementioned parts which comprised of the AR of the Institution.

2. Audit Opinion

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements for the 2022/23 financial year of the Institution, having obtained clean audit report. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2021/22 financial year.

The AGSA raised no findings with the Institution on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

3. Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance regulates the exercise of power within an Institution with the aim to ensure that the Institution's purpose is achieved, which encompasses:

- the creation and ongoing monitoring of an appropriate and dynamic system of checks and balances to ensure the balanced exercise of power within a company;
- the implementation of a system to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory obligations;
- the implementation of a process to identify and manage risks to the sustainability of the company's business; and

- the development of practices which make and keep the company accountable to the company's identified stakeholders and the broader society in which it operates.

During the 2022/23 financial year, the AC completed the following assurance engagements, as follows:

- Hansard Services;
- Capacity Building and Members Support;
- ICU Assessment;
- OHS Oversight external visits; and
- Petitions

Nine invoices with an accumulated value of R359,808 were settled in excess of the 30-day payment regulation, during the period under review. The reasons related to the breakdown of internal controls in submitting the invoices timeously for payment.

No fraud and corruption activities were detected or reported during the 2022/23 financial year.

4. Performance Information

In terms of the performance indicators for the year under review, the Institution achieved 21 indicators, compared to the 26 predetermined indicators that were set at the beginning of the 2022/23 financial year. This resulted in 5 performance indicators not being met, primarily from Programme 1: Governance, Leadership and Administration; Programme 2: Parliamentary Support Services and Programme 3: Public Engagement. A synopsis of the overall performance indicators as follows:

Programme	Performance Indicators/ Planned targets	Achieved	Not/ Partially achieved
Programme 1: Governance, Leadership and Administration	9	7	2
Programme 2: Parliamentary Support Services	8	6	2
Programme 3: Public Engagement	8	7	1
Programme 4: Members' Support	1	1	0
Total	26	21	5

5. Financial Management

During the 2022/23 financial year, the WCPP's year-end expenditure totalled R174,797 million of a budget of R187,175 million; which resulted in an under-expenditure of R12,378 million (93% budget spend). However, for 2021/22 financial year, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament spent R157,429 million of an appropriated budget of

R169,711 million, which resulted in an under-spending of R12,286 million (92,8% budget spend).

The under-expenditure of R12,378 million occurred under the following programmes:

- Programme 1: Governance (Leadership) & Administration (R7,713 million);
- Programme 2: Parliamentary Support Services (R494 000);
- Programme 3: Public Engagement (R1,816 million); and
- Programme 4: Members Support (R2,355 million).

In addition, the Institution's total estimated revenue budget of R78 000 was over-collected by R1,943 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R2,021 million. The over-collection on revenue occurred under the following line items:

- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R41 000 over-collection);
- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R426 000 over-collection);
- Sale of Capital Assets (R83 000 over-collection); and
- Financial Transactions in assets and liabilities (R1,471 million over-collection).

During the 2022/23 financial year the Institution recorded two new cases of fruitless and wasteful expenditure which totalled R43 279, whilst there were two cases of irregular expenditure had a total value of R22 066. The two cases of irregular expenditure were condoned during the financial year under review.

6. Emerging Risks

6.1 New pronouncements

6.1.1 The Committee notes the inputs of the AGSA that a new pronouncement was issued by the Accounting Standard Board which might be considered as an emerging risk to the standards of GRAP, as follow:

<u>GRAP pronouncements</u>	<u>Effective date</u>
Accounting standards, pronouncements or legislation: GRAP 25 on <i>Employee benefits</i> (revised)	1 April 2023
Accounting standards, pronouncements or legislation: GRAP 104 on <i>Financial instruments</i> (revised)	1 April 2023
Accounting standards, pronouncements or legislation: iGRAP 7 on <i>The limit on a defined benefit asset, minimum funding requirements and their interaction</i> (revised)	1 April 2023
Accounting standards, pronouncements or legislation: iGRAP 21 on <i>The effect of past decisions on materiality</i>	1 April 2023

The Committee indicated that it would monitor the implementation of GRAP pronouncement within the Institution once an effective date has been confirmed and communicated.

7. Recommendation/s by the Committee

None

8. Information requested from the WCPP.

8.1 A copy of the Records Management Audit which took place during March 2023.

9. Input received from the public.

Members of the public were provided an opportunity to pose questions or make oral submissions, based on the contents of the 2022/23 AR of WCPP. However, no members of the public were present at the meeting to pose questions or to make oral submissions.

10. Conclusion

The Committee commends WCPP for maintaining an unqualified audit with no findings on predetermined objectives or compliance with laws and regulations.

The Committee will continue to engage with the Institution on its budget, performance indicators and the implementation of legal requirements, including any outstanding matters that were identified in the aforementioned sections, which contains the Committee's request for information.

11. Acknowledgments

The Chairperson expressed the appreciation of the Committee for the inputs of the various role-players, such as the AGSA and the AC, to enhance the oversight work of the Committee which relates to the AR of WCPP for the year ending 31 March 2023. In addition, the Committee thanked the presiding officers and the WCPP administration for their efforts and contributions in this regard.

2. Report of the Standing Committee on Education on the Annual Report of the Western Cape Education Department for the 2022/23 financial year

The 2023/24 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities, which have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Education having deliberated on the Annual Report of the Western Cape Education Department for the year ended 31 March 2023, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

Annual reports are key instruments for departments to report on performance measured against performance targets and budgets as outlined in the strategic plans and annual performance plans of departments. The Standing Committee on Education deliberated on the Annual Report of the Western Cape Education Department (hereinafter the WCED or the Department) on 20 October 2023 as part of its oversight function.

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Annual Report Programme for the 2022/23 financial year was publicised in newspapers. Stakeholders and members of the public were invited to attend and participate in the discussions. Before proceeding to the

deliberations on the Annual Report, the Minister and the Head of Department (HOD) were given the opportunity to make opening remarks.

The Department was examined on:

Part A: General Information;
 Part B: Performance Information; and
 Part D: Human Resources Management.

Members of the public were also allowed to pose questions and to give input during the discussions.

2. Overview

The Minister of Education, Hon. D Maynier, together with the Head of the Department, Mr. B Walters, provided an overview of the successes and challenges faced by the WCED during the 2022/23 financial year. The Minister and HOD highlighted both challenges and innovative changes in the 2022/23 Annual Report Department.

Notable accomplishments include the "Back on Track" programme, which extended time for mathematics and languages in the foundation phase, and the "Rapid School Build Programme," which aimed to build 602 new classrooms, including a new junior high school.

They emphasized the importance of collaboration and the remarkable achievement of classrooms in record time such as the Rapid Build of classrooms. They also mentioned the focus on ensuring learner placement, addressing learning losses, and enhancing foundational pedagogy. Despite some unmet targets, the WCED's budget was well spent, and the report received an unqualified audit. Systemic testing shows positive results, and the WCED aims to continue its focus on these key areas in the future.

The WCED's Annual Performance Plan for the 2022/23 reporting period is based on the strategic plan developed in 2020, aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP), the Western Cape Government's (WCG) Strategic Plan, and other priorities. The report includes progress towards the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) through government structures and is categorized into seven budget programmes.

3. Key points of discussion of the Annual Report

- 3.1. Mr. Maynier stated that the deployment of School Resource Officers (SROs) is determined by a risk assessment conducted by the School Management Teams (SMTs) of individual schools, considering various factors such as crime rates, staff ratios, and community needs.
- 3.2. During the financial year under review, the WCED co-funded 28 School Resource Officers in 14 schools, which are law enforcement officers stationed at schools to tackle crime and safety matters. This is part of the partnership and support of the Law Enforcement Advancement Project (LEAP) aims to stabilise situations in the vicinity of some schools so that teaching and learning can take place.
- 3.3. The WCED processed 653 422 applications to schools (double count) on the online admissions system during the 2022/23 financial year. This translated into 219 363 unique learner applications.

- 3.4. The WCED reported that in the PERO (2022), that 1.1 million learners were enrolled in public schools in the Western Cape in 2022 where the lowest learner-teacher ratio was in the Cape Winelands (27.95), followed by Metro Central (28.58) and Metro North (29.86) districts. It is also reported that between 2012 and 2021, growth in learner numbers exceeded the expansion of schools and teachers.
- 3.5. The Department stated that migration patterns and live births influence the younger population in the province and affects the available education resources. There has been increased focus on increasing classrooms and this has assisted in absorbing the growing learner numbers and enabling improved learning outcomes.
- 3.6. The WCED indicated that there has been a demand for training on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF): birth to four years. A total of 725 practitioners were trained on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF): Birth to Four Years by four of the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges using a blended learning approach.
- 3.7. The WCED listed performance areas, which are key performance indicators against which the department will measure its impact, this includes the improvement in learner performance in Grades 3, 6, 9, and 12; the improvement of the learner retention rate from Grades 10 to 12; ensuring that learners have access to technical, agricultural, vocational, skills subjects and schools; and ensuring that schools are safer, more secure places of learning.
- 3.8. The WCED stated that in the absence of an approved curriculum and policy statement for coding and robotics, the focus was placed on the pilot schools. The 2022 pilot was extended into 2023. Coding clubs are currently established in 500 schools.
- 3.9. The WCED informed the Committee that, following the recent passing of Ms. K. Bydell, it is currently in the process of appointing a new Chief Evaluator for the Western Cape Schools Evaluation Authority (SEA).
- 3.10. The Department informed the Committee that it has implemented initiatives that are proactive and systemic. These include the Persona Dolls which aims to address diversity, and the socially emotional learning programme, which is a socially emotional learning programme for three to six-year-olds in the Early Childhood Development (ECD) space, which is effective in setting children on a course towards having values.
- 3.11. The WCED further reported that it is implementing the Back-on-Track intervention. This aims to reverse the learning losses in the Foundation, Intermediate, and Senior phases. Critical steps were taken by adding extra two hours per week allocated to reading and one extra hour per week for mathematics for all Grade 1 to 3 learners in the province, amounting to an increase of at least 60 learning hours per learner in these subjects. The Back on Track intervention was expanded to the InterSen Phase, where content training takes place with a specific focus on grades 4, 7, and 8.

4. Public comments

Ms F Jager-Arries from Fadak Foundation, Mr T Tshanango, from Khayelitsha, Ms D Erosi of Equal Education Law Centre, Mr D Jackson, from Sir Lowrys Pass, Mr V Mkhwena, from Sir Lowry's Pass, Mr Y Pillio from Equal Education Law Centre, Ms L Moko, from Marina da Gama, Mr R Palm, from Walmer Estate, Mr O Ralohek, A member of the public, Ms P Willaims, former principal of Hope and Light Primary School, Mr D Koosana, from Marina Da Gama gave inputs on the Annual Report of the Department. The Minister and the Head of the Department duly responded to the issues raised by all members of the public.

5. Recommendation

The Committee recommended that the WCED briefs the Committee on the Back-on-Track programme.

6. Conclusion

The Chairperson honoured the departing of Mr. H. Mohammad and Ms. B. Daniels, highlighting the significant influence they have had in the education sector and their contributions to the future of thousands of children in the Western Cape.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the information provided by the Minister, the Head of Department, and the officials of the Western Cape Education Department. The Committee appreciated the oral submission made by members of the public. The Committee also wants to thank everyone who participated in the deliberations.

3. Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on the Annual Report of the Department of Local Government for the 2022/23 financial year.

The Standing Committee on Local Government, having deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Local Government for the 2022/23 financial year, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Annual Report of the Department of Local Government (the Department) for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 was tabled on 6 September 2023 in accordance with section 65(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), as amended.

As part of its oversight function, the Standing Committee on Local Government (the Committee) deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department on 16 October 2023. Annual reports are the key instruments for departments to report on performance measured against their performance targets and budgets as outlined in their strategic plans and annual performance plans. In addition, hereto, it accounts for the success of each programme that was implemented.

Standing Rule 111(1)(a) of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament provides standing committees with the mandate to consider departmental annual reports submitted in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999).

The Annual Report Programme for the 2022/23 financial year was advertised in newspapers to invite stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

The Committee deliberated on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information and Part D: Human Resource Management, after which the Chairperson afforded an opportunity to the public to ask questions to the Department.

The Committee proceeded to engage with the Department by asking questions on Parts A, B and D of the Annual Report. All questions were satisfactorily answered, and the Committee was satisfied that the Department achieved its predetermined objectives for the 2022/23 financial year and that it was accurately reported on.

2. Overview

The Minister and the Head of Department made introductory remarks highlighting the post-COVID recovery of our economy has been severely threatened by the continuous occurrence of load shedding. This has had disastrous consequences for the economy. The municipal main revenue has come under immense pressure due to the significant decrease in profit margins resulting from electricity and other related services.

The Minister further clarified that he was referring to revenue and not profits, as further research was required to determine the true profitability of municipalities in the electricity and service sectors.

Municipal services should be self-sustainable and gradually reducing the reliance on cost subsidisation of services. However, the impact of load shedding on municipal services, particularly on our water and wastewater treatment plants, was significant. As a department, they faced immense challenges in ensuring a consistent water supply to the taps.

Considering this, the Department initiated partnerships aimed at training and strengthening the capacity at municipalities to mitigate the impact of prolonged loadshedding that impact on the rendering of basic services particularly the 15-year integrated drought and its corresponding response plan.

The Department plays a crucial role regarding energy and it is important to note that water and energy management were not solely within the scope of provincial competencies. The Department actively engaged in citizen interface programs and projects aimed at improving service delivery. These initiatives are crucial in enhancing the overall quality of services provided to the people of the Western Cape.

The Department highlighted the work that they have done in terms of the Integrated Governmental Relations and in particular the Joint District and Metropolitan Approach working together with municipalities to identify catalytic projects and by collaborating to reduce any overlap and duplication that might exist.

3. Information requested

The Committee REQUESTED that the Department provides the Committee with:

- 3.1 A detailed breakdown of the R1,3 billion loss in revenue by municipalities due to the decrease in the sale of electricity;
- 3.2 A report on the different categories of transfer payments indicating whether the funds were spent by 30 June 2023;

- 3.3 The reasons for the delay regarding the expenditure of the funds transferred to Oudtshoorn for the Dyseldorp Thusong Satellite Centre;
- 3.4 The Western Cape Government Integrated Drought and Water Response Plan;
- 3.5 The date when the post of Director: Integrated Development Planning became vacant; and
- 3.6 Detail of their collaboration with Provincial Treasury on MSCOA to ensure the systems are being used appropriately and the staff are being trained appropriately.

4. Conclusion

The Committee congratulated the Department on their performance for the 2022/23 financial year, wherein they achieved 97% of their planned indicators. The Committee further highlighted that it took note that the Department achieved its tenth consecutive unqualified audit opinion without findings.

The Committee thanked the Department and in particular the Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services for the role they played to ensure that the people of the Western Cape were safe during the recent storms and wished them well for the upcoming fire season.

The Chairperson thanked the Members of the Committee, the Minister, the Head of Department and all the officials of the Department for their preparation and responses to the questions raised by the Committee.

4. Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness on the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness for the 2022/23 financial year.

The 2023/24 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities, which have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Health and Wellness, having deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness for the year ended 31 March 2023, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's (WCPP) Annual Report programme for the 2022/23 financial year was advertised in newspapers, as well as the WCPP's social media platforms, inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

The Standing Committee on Health and Wellness (the Committee) deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness on 23 October 2023, as part of its oversight function. The Minister and the Head of Department were allowed to make opening remarks.

The Department was examined on:

Part A: General Information,
Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and
Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report.

Members of the public were also allowed to pose questions and give input during the discussions.

2. Overview

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Prof. N Mbombo, gave an overview of the performance of the Department during the 2022/23 financial year.

The Minister reported that the Department started the 2022/23 financial year with a budget cut of approximately R1.5 billion, huge constraints, and high demand for services due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister highlighted that since 2020, the Department had to reprioritise its resources to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in disruption to routine clinical services. During the term under review, the Department's goal was to recover routine clinical services while it continued to manage the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the Department's ability to perform elective surgeries, and by June 2022, the Western Cape had a significant surgical backlog. This prompted the Department to allocate additional funds to surgical services, which were utilised to decrease surgical waiting lists and provide much-needed elective surgeries to the patients.

Coupled with the service pressures was also the impact COVID-19 had on the well-being of residents. The population's mental health was compromised by various factors linked to an individual's well-being and socio-economic status. The Minister reported that since the start of the pandemic, there has been an increasing trend in the number of mental health admissions in the Western Cape. Adding to the mental health pressure caused by COVID-19 was the soaring prevalence of substance abuse, which resulted in further hospital admissions and additional strain on health services. The Minister informed the Committee that load shedding severely disrupted health services and forced the Department to use generators to ameliorate its impact. This required an additional expenditure on diesel for generators. She indicated that with all the challenges, the year under review provided the Department with an opportunity to determine the future of the public healthcare system in a post-COVID-19 world.

She reported that the Department received a clean audit during the financial year under review. She also reported that the Department continues to implement the Reset Strategy "Health is Everybody's Business" as the Department builds towards the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the realisation of the goals of Healthcare 2030.

Dr. K Cloete, the Head of the Department, also made opening remarks. He indicated that the end of the 2022/23 financial year marks 36 months since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and having transversed multiple waves of the pandemic, the Department has emerged more resilient and agile buoyed by system capabilities that have been built over a period of more than 20 years, despite, having to deal with the increased service demand due to the adverse impact that COVID-19 had in displacing routine health services. The Department continued to meet and exceed its targets.

Dr Cloete also reported that the reset agenda of the Department of Health and Wellness outlines the Department's aspirations to become " a health system that is people-centric,

trusted and equitable” which provides the right care at the right time, in the right place, at the right price, empowered workforce, clean governance, and innovative and accessible service delivery.

3. Key points from the discussion on the Annual Report of the Department

- 3.1 The Department reported that COVID-19 had a significant impact on the surgical list and a substantial backlog developed in all areas.
- 3.2 Additional funds were made available during the previous financial year for the extra surgical list to reduce the backlog.
- 3.3 During the 2022/23 financial year, the Western Cape Government started the process of establishing a Violence Prevention Unit, following the success seen in the Cardiff Model for Violence Prevention.
- 3.4 The Department reported that it will share its extensive data with its partners to develop strategic and operational plans to address safety in the Western Cape. This will address all aspects of violence, including gender-based violence, children at risk of violence, and alcohol harm reduction.
- 3.5 During the financial year under review, the Department allocated an additional R30 million to further capacitate mental health services.
- 3.6 The Department invested in the Robotic Surgery Programme which played a crucial role in reducing recovery time in health facilities across the province.
- 3.7 During the 2022/23 financial year, the Department spent more than R100 million on fuel supplies for the generators to ameliorate the impact of load shedding.
- 3.8 To deal with load shedding, the Department successfully negotiated with Eskom and the City of Cape Town to exempt five hospitals from load shedding. It was reported that a total of ten health facilities in the Western Cape have been exempted from load shedding.
- 3.9 The Department reported that it had invested in innovation to strengthen service delivery by rolling out the Health Emergency Centre Tracking System (HECTIS), an information system that is premised on the clinical processes in Emergency Centers.
- 3.10 The system tracks patients as they receive care in an Emergency Centre, from the moment they enter, and are triaged by a nurse through every step in the clinical process.
- 3.11 There were 285 infrastructure projects in various stages of implementation during the 2022/23 financial year.
- 3.12 During the financial year under review, the Department reported that it provided services to 7 342 376 contacts in home and community-based care settings, and 30 950 patients were reported by facilities as started on drug-sensitive tuberculosis treatment of which 10.3% were children under 5 years of age.
- 3.13 Of those patients who started tuberculosis treatment in 2021, 75.4% successfully completed treatment, 19.3 % lost to follow-up, and 4.0 % died.

- 3.14 The Department reported that tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death attributable to communicable disease in South Africa and the COVID-19 pandemic reversed many years of progress prompting the province to initiate an emergency response plan to improve treatment outcomes.
- 3.15 The Western Cape experienced an increase in mental health pressures through the service delivery platform with limited human resources to address patient load and pressure areas.
- 3.16 Three projects have been identified to strengthen the health system's response to the mental health burden.
- 3.17 To strengthen the mental healthcare services in the George Ecosystem, an additional 10 psychiatry beds will be allocated to the George Regional Hospital, and a social worker will be added to the district health service component.
- 3.18 The Paarl Ecosystem will add a psychologist to the Paarl Hospital and the West Coast District Health Service will acquire a social worker and a professional nurse.
- 3.19 Furthermore, in the Worcester Ecosystem, staff that include nurses, a counsellor, and therapists will be added to the Cape Winelands and Overberg District Health Service.
- 3.20 During the 2022/23 financial year, the HealthNet 40-seater bus service which transported patients between George and Cape Town was discontinued.
- 3.21 In addition, the Rx Solution rollout has also been discontinued due to the national Department of Health standardization of pharmacy systems.
- 3.22 During the financial year under review, COVID-19 activities were discontinued as a stand-alone service and have been integrated into the day-to-day activities of comprehensive health services.
- 3.23 In November 2022, the Department piloted a 10-bed Transitional Care service in Sonstraal Hospital.
- 3.24 The national Department of Health piloted the implementation of Contracting Units for the Primary Healthcare Project in 2023 at Knysna/Bitou Health District.
- 3.25 During the financial year under review, 10 facilities were transferred from City Health to Metro Health Services.
- 3.26 Despite the Department achieving its target in the financial year under review, the Department underspent by R54 million in Programme 1, Administration. The underspend was mainly attributed to the savings due to the delays in the filling of funded vacancies. In addition, the underspend was due to the savings in medico-legal claims due to delays in the administrative due diligence process to pay all outstanding court orders where the Department had conceded merits, and this resulted in fewer medico-legal payments being processed than anticipated.

4. Public input.

The Committee allowed members of the public to give input during the meeting. Ms. Kiewiets, the Chairperson of the Klipfontein Community Health Forum, gave input during the meeting. The Department duly responded and gave clarity to all questions posed by Ms Kiewiets.

5. Resolution

The Committee resolved to conduct an oversight visit to the George Hospital to assess the Planet Youth Pilot Project.

6. Information requested

The Committee requested the Department of Health and Wellness to provide it with the following information by Friday, 24 November 2023:

- 6.1 Detailed information on the total number of hospitals exempted from load shedding.
- 6.2 Report on the reasons for the discontinuation of the HealthNet service to transport patients between George and Cape Town and how the Department is providing the service to patients in the absence of HealthNet services.
- 6.3 A status update on the infrastructure project of the GF Jooste Hospital.
- 6.4 Detailed information on the number of staff absorbed by the Department from the Bracken Gate Hospital.
- 6.5 Detailed information on the number of staff that will be employed for mental health services with the additional budget allocation and the health facilities earmarked to get additional staff allocation.

7. Conclusion

The Chairperson thanked Members of the Committee, the Minister, the Head of the Department, the departmental officials, and health stakeholders for their attendance, preparation, and responses to the questions posed by the Committee.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Heritage Western Cape, the Western Cape Language Committee, and the Western Cape Cultural Commission for the 2022/23 financial year.

The 2023/24 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities, which have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, conducts oversight over multiple portfolios. The cyclical annual report process affords the Committee the opportunity to engage the respective departments and entities on its annual reports.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the Heritage Western Cape, the Western Cape Language Committee, and the Western Cape Cultural Commission, for the year ended 31 March 2023, reports as follows:

Introduction

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Annual Report programme for the 2022/23 financial year was advertised in newspapers inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions. The Committee deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (the Department), Heritage Western Cape (HWC), the Western Cape Language Committee (WCLC), and the Western Cape Cultural Commission (WCCC) on 31 October 2023 as part of its oversight function.

The Minister and the Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks. Likewise, the Chairpersons of the three entities were also given the opportunity make opening remarks.

The Department and its Entities were examined on:

Part A: General Information,

Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and

Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report.

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. There was no public input at the hearing.

1. Key points from discussion on the entities (WCLC, WCCC and HWC)

- 1.1. The WCLC does not execute the language policy to be implemented across the Western Cape Language Committee. Instead, the individual departments are responsible for the implementation of the language policy. Departments are at varied stages of implementation of said policy.
- 1.2. The WCLC worked with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to support ITS Funda Mzantsi literacy competition facilitated by the DCS. The WCLC provided the DCS with 140 Nama language booklets to be used in future versions of this literacy competition.
- 1.3. The WCCC reported that a Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) was formally established during the 2022/23 financial year. However, the Initiation Reference Committee, a subcommittee of the PICC, was focused on addressing challenges faced in the initiation programme. The approach by the IRC has resulted in the decrease of trauma and casualties in usually experienced through cultural initiation practices.
- 1.4. The IRC has been influential in assisting the WCCC to advise the Provincial Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport.
- 1.5. The Department, through the WCC commissioned a feasibility study on the rental income for the maintenance of departmental cultural facilities. The Department

and the WCPP are also considering the amendment of tariffs charged for the use of these cultural facilities.

- 1.6. In 2022, the Department commissioned a feasibility study to explore the potential for a public-private partnership to manage the Cango Caves. The Department also commissioned a feasibility study into the costing for conservation measures at the Cango Caves.
- 1.7. The HWC has collaborated with the City of Cape Town to delegate the management of heritage resources to local authorities.
- 1.8. Through the Fixed Capital Development Team, the HWC initiated activities such as exemptions for select development areas, support efforts to have local authorities comply with being considered competent to manage local heritage resources and improving the permit application process.
- 1.9. The Department and the HWC have also developed several strategies to assist local authorities to manage Grade III heritage resources.
- 1.10. The City of Cape Town often recruits HWC officers.

2. Public input

The Chairperson allowed for input from the public on the annual reports of the three entities. There were no oral or written submissions.

3. Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport

Key points from the discussion

- 3.1. The SITA Library and Information Management System, (SLIMS) database, crashed on 15 November 2022. The system failure resulted in the loss of a substantial amount of data and information. The Department had to manually upload the back-up data back on to SLIMS. During the data recovery stages, the public libraries were able to access the system.
- 3.2. The Department is liaising with its national counterparts to switch to a more reliable and improved system for data management.
- 3.3. The Western Cape Youth Strategy is being revised with input from several stakeholders. The revised Strategy will be implemented after the appointment of the new provincial cabinet following the 2024 national elections.
- 3.4. Some of the key findings from the planning sessions to revise the youth strategy include, acknowledging the importance of a digital economy, the need to implement effective mental health support measures, and creating opportunities for the youth to express their voice.
- 3.5. The MOD Programme is also being refocused to respond more to the needs of the youth in the communities. The MOD Programme will also seek to strengthen its resources through better corporate social investment partnerships.

- 3.6. The Drostdy Museum in Swellendam, is a province-aided museum, and therefore only supports an existing museums board of trustees. The board is thus responsible for infrastructural maintenance and repair.
- 3.7. The Department provides training for basic South African Sign Language (SASL) to its own frontline staff as well as others across Western Cape Government (WCG) departments. This training is provided through collaboration with the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB) Western Cape and DEAFSA.
- 3.8. The Department reported on the plans to expand and improve the infrastructure of the Western Cape Archives and Records Services.
- 3.9. The Department escalated the Western Cape Provincial Archives storage and infrastructural concerns to the provincial risk register. The Archives requires more storage and specialized infrastructure, including fire suppression and detection systems, temperature and security control facilities, and physical space. The Department reported ongoing discussions with the Department of the Premier and the Department of Infrastructure.
- 3.10. The Department does not provide internet accessibility to libraries stationed at correctional service facilities for safety and security concerns.

4. Public input

The Chairperson afforded the members of public in attendance to provide oral submissions on the discussions about the entities' annual reports.

5. Requests for information

The Committee requested the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport to submit: -

- 5.1. A report on the status of the three official languages in the Western Cape. The report should address aspects such as the promotion, maintenance, and implementation of these languages in the Western Cape government departments, academia, and the broader community.
- 5.2. Copies of the different reports pertaining to engagements with youth. The future insights workshop with youth, the Theta Youth Campaign, report from the Provincial Treasury on the implementation of youth development by the Western Cape Government.
- 5.3. An update on the outcomes of the Department's meeting with the Department of the Premier and the Department of Infrastructure, on the progress and future of the Archives building.
- 5.4. An update on the maintenance and governance processes, and the type of support given to the Drostdy Museum.
- 5.5. A report on the state of readiness for the forthcoming Initiation Season.
- 5.6. A list of the libraries that are not yet equipped with internet connectivity and timelines for the implementation of the internet connectivity at these sites.

6. Report of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, and the Western Cape Liquor Authority for the 2022/23 financial year.

The 2023/24 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities, which have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, conducts oversight over multiple portfolios. The cyclical annual report process affords the Committee the opportunity to engage the respective departments and entities on its annual reports.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, and the Western Cape Liquor Authority, for the year ended 31 March 2023, reports as follows:

Introduction

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's (WCPP) Annual Report programme for the 2022/23 financial year was advertised in newspapers, as well as the WCPP's social media platforms, inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions. The Committee deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (the Department) and the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) on 11 October 2023 as part of its oversight function. The Minister and the Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks. Likewise, the Chief Executive Officer and the WCLA's Governing Board Chairperson were afforded the same opportunity.

The Department and its Entities were examined on:

Part A: General Information,
Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and
Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. The public input is recorded in this report.

1. Key points from the discussion on the Western Cape Police Ombudsman.

- 1.1. The Western Cape Police Ombudsman, Maj Gen OD Reddy, stated that the WCPO will mark its 10-year anniversary in 2024.
- 1.2. The WCPO has processed 4 333 complaints since its inception, with 520 of those complaints received during the 2022/23 financial year.
- 1.3. Investigations into these 520 complaints were largely focused on the South African Police Service's (SAPS) alleged failure to not close known drug houses, and alleged failure to address kidnapping and extortion cases.

- 1.4. The WCPO does not have coercive and/or post-monitoring powers to follow up on the consideration and implementation of its recommendations, and/or initiate investigations without having to first receive a complaint or a request to investigate from an external source.
- 1.5. The WCPO does not have the mandate to address complaints about municipal policing officials, such as the metro police, traffic coordination officers, law enforcement officers, or the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers.
- 1.6. There were 91 complaints received related to the Mitchells Plain policing cluster. This was the highest number of reported complaints for a single policing cluster in the Western Cape. Mitchells Plain SAPS also recorded the joint highest 21 complaints received specific to police stations. Grassy Park SAPS also recorded 21 station-specific complaints.
- 1.7. The WCPO spent 90.8% of its budget with an underspending on the compensation of employees due to staff attrition and delays in filling vacant posts.

2. Request for information from the WCPO

- 2.1. The Committee requested a breakdown of the 520 complaints received, more specifically of the cases pertaining to alleged failure by the SAPS to close known drug houses, and the SAPS' failure to address kidnapping and extortion cases, in the Western Cape.

3. Key points from the discussion on the Western Cape Liquor Authority

- 3.1. Mr. R Kingwill, the Chairperson of the Governing Board of the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA), commended the quality of the current board membership, as nominated for appointment by the Committee.
- 3.2. Mr S George, Chief Executive Officer, stated that the power afforded by Section 64 of the Western Cape Liquor Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2008) to not allow automatic liquor license renewals improved the compliance aspect of the renewal process.
- 3.3. The additional inspectorate capacity to focus on Section 64 compliance, has had a marked influence on the issuance of liquor licenses.
- 3.4. This resulted in identifying 116 valid liquor licenses as not being eligible for automatic renewal, in terms of Section 64. There were subsequently 109 applications for renewal; seven licence holders opted not to apply for licensing renewals.
- 3.5. The WCLA stated that any amendments to the Western Cape Liquor Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2008) should make provision to capacitate Western Cape Liquor Authority as the sole regulator of liquor in the Western Cape, as well as develop a public health-based alcohol harms reduction (AHR).
- 3.6. The WCLA emphasised the importance of educating liquor licence holders to trade within the parameters of the regulations and the benefits of working within these allowances.

4. Request for information from the WCLA

- 4.1. The Committee requested a comparative breakdown of inspections conducted in township and rural areas to those conducted at established businesses, for the 2022/23 financial year.

5. Key points from the discussion on the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety

- 5.1. The more long-term deployment of Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers to the 13 priority areas, has influenced the lowest nationwide increase in the murder rate. Although the murder rate is still significant, the Department reported that the data-led deployment of LEAP officers has stabilised volatile crime-ridden areas.
- 5.2. At the time of reporting, the SAPS' Anti-Gang Unit (AGU) only had 171 actual posts out of 247 granted posts. The Department reported that the AGU has since its inception, not been fully capacitated with respect to the staffing complement. That said, the members of the AGU must meet set training and requirements.
- 5.3. LEAP officers must complete a comprehensive and multifaceted 77-day training programme before they are ready for deployment.
- 5.4. The Department only has oversight over its transfer payments to municipal policing structures, such as LEAP.
- 5.5. The Community Police Forums (CPFs) budget was allocated to the value of R900 000.
- 5.6. There were 36 SAPS firearms lost or stolen and two from municipal police.
- 5.7. The Department assisted with Gender Based Violence first responder training for Neighbourhood Watches.
- 5.8. The Department has Court Watching Reports to monitor the outcomes of the recommendations in these reports.
- 5.9. The Department recorded 18 resignations for the financial year under review.

6. Public input on the Annual Reports of the WCLA and the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety

Mr L Phitho, a member of the public from Kraaifontein, was afforded the opportunity to make an oral submission. He spoke about the criminality in Kraaifontein and its various suburbs, such as Bloekoembos and Wallacedene, and the lack of adequate policing response time to reported crime. He added that there is a lack of CCTV systems in these areas. The Minister agreed to meet Mr Phitho on a separate occasion to further assist on the concerns raised.

7. Requests for information

The Committee requested the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety to:

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- 7.1. With reference to the Department's Annual Report, page 58 paragraph 5, provide the number of people that attended the 89 Neighbourhood Watch training and capacitation sessions.
- 1.1. With reference to the Department's Annual Report, page 59, paragraph 2, provide the number of Neighbourhood Watch structures that received first responder training.
- 1.2. With reference to the key findings and recommendations of the Policy and Research reports mentioned on page 38, paragraph 1, provide a summary of these reports.
- 1.3. With reference to page 38, paragraph 2, submit the copies of the activity data of the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) programme.
- 1.4. Submit a list of any interventions that are being made in the five areas where the murder rate increased. The areas are Delft, Nyanga, Philippi East, Mitchells Plain and Philippi.
- 1.5. With reference to page 43, paragraph 4, submit the monitoring report/s on LEAP's financial performance.
- 7.7. Provide a breakdown of the curriculum of the 77-day training programme given to Law Enforcement Advancement Plan officers.

8. Resolutions

The Committee resolved to: -

- 8.1. Schedule a briefing by the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety on the Firearm Harm Reduction Strategy and the Anti-Gang Implementation Plan.

9. Recommendation

- 5.1. The Committee recommended that the South African Police Service presents on how it responds to the findings and reports submitted to them by the Western Cape Police Ombudsman.

7. Report of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure on the Annual Reports of the Department of Human Settlements and its Entity, the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal, for the 2022/23 financial year.

The Standing Committee on Infrastructure, having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Human Settlements (the Department) and its Entity, the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal (the Tribunal), for the year ended March 2023, referred to it, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The 2023/24 Strategic Objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speakers Priorities, which impact committees, are as follows:

- Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
 Priority 3: strengthening the core business.

As part of its oversight function, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure (the Committee) considered the Annual Reports of the Department of Human Settlements, and the Tribunal on 12 October 2023. Annual reports are the key instruments for departments to report on performance measured against their performance targets and budgets as outlined in their strategic plans and annual performance plans. In addition, hereto, it accounts for the success of each of the programmes that were implemented.

Standing Rule 111(1)(a) of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament provides the standing committees with the mandate to consider departmental Annual Reports submitted by the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999).

The Annual Report Programme for the 2022/23 financial year, was advertised in newspapers and social media to invite stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

The Committee deliberated on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information, and Part D: Human Resource Management on the Annual Report of the Department of Human Settlements and its Entity, the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal.

The Minister for Infrastructure was allowed to provide an overview of the key issues contained in the reports.

2. Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal

2.1 Overview

Minister Simmers informed the Committee that the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal (WCRHT) extended its services to the rural areas. The Western Cape Government E-service Portal was developed to digitise the services of the WCRHT and make it accessible to rural areas. Free Wi-Fi was made available to persons living in rural areas. The District Municipality in Mossel Bay was requested to avail office space for walk-in services for the public to interact with officials.

The Committee proceeded to discuss the Report.

2.2 Key issues discussed.

The Committee allowed the Housing Tribunal to provide input on its Annual Report.

2.2.1 The WCRHT recorded 2 552 cases for the year under review. Backlogged cases were reduced to 179 from approximately 1,000 backlogged cases. A total of 1,736 queries were made by members of the public and approximately 675 cases were opened for the year under review.

2.2.2 Members were informed that 95% of the cases reported at the WCRHT were from the metro and that 5% of the reported cases were from non-metro areas.

2.2.3 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems were implemented which enabled members of the public to engage with officials online to lodge their housing-related complaints. Free Wi-Fi access was given to people from the rural areas. This allowed them to access the ICT system to lodge their complaints. The

WCRHT has an office in the Mossel Bay District Municipality to assist walk-in patrons who prefer in-person engagements.

2.2.4 The WCRHT held 49 hearings for the year under review. Hearings escalated systematically due to the number of complaints that were submitted. Approximately 151 cases were postponed due to medical reasons and the unavailability of legal representation. Members raised concerns regarding the persons who listed medical reasons for case postponement.

2.2.5 Approximately 109 warrants were issued, which amounted to R3 524 944,61 for the year under review. The number of warrants increased due to respondents that were not able to comply with the payment of the judgment debt.

2.2.6 A total of eight review applications were submitted to the Western Cape High Court dating back to 2021.

The Committee commended the Tribunal for its good work throughout the financial year.

3. Department of Human Settlements

3.1 Overview

Minister Simmers was allowed to provide introductory remarks on the key issues contained in the Department's Annual Report.

He indicated that in the State of the Province Address in 2022, an announcement was made that the Department of Human Settlements and the Department of Transport and Public Works would no longer be individual departments. A new Department of Infrastructure was established from 1 April 2023. The Department of Infrastructure consists of the former Department of Human Settlements and components of the Department of Transport and Public Works to form the new Department of Infrastructure. The Committee would therefore be dealing with the Annual Reports of the Department of Human Settlements and its Entity, the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunals for the last time for the year under review.

3.2. Key issues discussed.

3.2.1 The Department received its fourth consecutive unqualified financial statement for the year under review.

3.2.2 An underspending of R223 156 million was reported. The underspending was attributed to the social and economic environment, procurement delays, community unrest, extortion, service delivery protests and land invasion on current and planned projects, which resulted in delays in the timeous delivery of projects and set targets. The Department intends to circumvent these challenges by improving its planning, management governance and accountability systems. The Committee was informed that there were at least eight extortion cases under investigation.

3.2.3 The Department has implemented the following strategies to mitigate its underperformance:

3.2.3.1 Conduct technical meetings with the municipalities to align performance reporting and deal with areas of concern;

- 3.2.3.2 Conduct meetings with communities to address community issues;
- 3.2.3.3 Identifying projects that could be accelerated to mitigate in-year challenges arising on projects with delivery challenges throughout the Business Plan process; and
- 3.2.3.4 Exploring Hybrid Delivery Models.
- 3.2.4 A title deed recovery plan was developed by the Department, to mitigate the difficulty in reaching its annual title deed targets. Approximately 3 727 title deeds were registered against a target of 10 150. Delays by the municipalities and the Deeds Office resulted in the Department under-performing in its registration of title deeds in other categories. The Department collaborated with the State Attorneys and private conveyancers to expedite and prioritise the registration of the pre-1994 title deeds. An Action Plan was developed and implemented to improve the support provided to municipalities. The Action Plan would improve the policy framework, provide professional resource support, and assist with data cleansing. The Department advised that a dedicated project manager would be appointed, to improve the coordination between the Department and the municipalities. Collaborative engagements with other provinces, municipalities, national departments, and other relevant stakeholders will be entered into, to reduce the title deeds backlog.
- 3.2.5 The Beneficiary and her disabled son did not receive a housing opportunity as part of the priority group. Ms Bless and her son were overlooked when other beneficiaries were provided with a housing opportunity. Minister Simmer advised that, the matter would be addressed once all contracts were signed and construction of the housing project Ms Bless was selected for has commenced.
- 3.2.5 Challenges were reported regarding the transfer of land for human settlement. The Department informed the Committee that the Housing Development Agency (HDA) sits on a forum that discusses the transfer of land parcels with national departments and other relevant stakeholders. The HDA addresses the land parcels that the Department requires for human settlement projects with the forum to expedite the transfer.

4. Conclusion

The Chairperson allowed Minister Simmers and the Head of Department to provide a word of thanks, after which she thanked the members of the Committee, the Minister, the Head of Department, and all the officials for their preparation and responses to the questions raised by the Committee.