

*Wednesday, 27 August 2025]*

No 85 - 2025] SECOND SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2025

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Annual Committee Report of the Standing Committee on Mobility for the 2024/25 financial year, dated 8 August 2025, as follows:**

#### **Members**

The Committee comprised of the following Members:

Mbombo, N (DA) (Chairperson)  
Constable, N (PA)  
Bryant, D (DA)  
Herron, B (GOOD)  
Johnson, P (DA)  
Masipa, N (DA)  
Ngqentsu, B (ANC)

#### **Alternate Members**

Booyesen, M (DA)  
Bosman, G (DA)  
Kaiser-Philander, W (DA)  
Lekker, P (ANC)  
Van Minnen, B (DA)  
Walters, T (DA)

#### **1. Introduction**

The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1 maintain oversight over the executive member and the department concerning the way in which they perform their responsibilities, including the implementation of legislation, and to hold them accountable; and
- 1.2 consider and report on legislation, other matters and the annual reports referred to it by the Speaker.

In fulfilment of its mandate the Committee must:

- 1.2.1 facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.
- 1.2.2 conduct its business in a fair, open and transparent manner.
- 1.2.3 promote cooperative governance.
- 1.2.4 report regularly to the House.

With reference to the 2023/24 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities to the end of the sixth term, the outcome of this report is linked to:

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

## **2. Reporting department and entity**

- 2.1 Western Cape Mobility Department
- 2.2 Government Motor Transport

## **3. Overview of Committee's activities**

Number of committee meetings	6
Number of public hearings	3
Number of international study tours	0
Number of oversight visits	1
Number of provincial bills considered	0
Number of NCOP bills considered	0
Workshops or conferences attended	0

## **4. Oversight activities**

The Standing Committee on Mobility (the Committee) conducted its oversight responsibilities and held a total of six meetings, one oversight visit and three public hearings during the 2024/25 financial year.

### **4.1. Legislation**

During the 2024/25 financial year, the Committee deliberated on Vote 8: Mobility in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024] in November 2024.

### **4.2. Committee meetings**

The 2024/25 financial year commenced with the election of the Chairperson following the national elections in 2024. Member N Mbombo (DA) was elected as the Chairperson of the Committee. This meeting was followed by an engagement with the Minister of Mobility and the Western Cape Mobility Department (the Department) on the annual

performance plans, the proposed expenditure for the funds allocated to the Department in respect of provincial funding, and the Draft Provincial Transport Framework. The Committee also met with the Minister, the Department and the South African National Taxi Council on the current state of the taxi industry.

During the year under review, the Committee also deliberated on the 2023/24 annual reports of the Western Cape Mobility Department and the Government Motor Transport.

#### 4.3. Oversight visits

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to the Gene Louw Traffic College, where the Members received a briefing from the Minister and the Department on the road safety plans for the 2024/25 festive season. The Committee also received a demonstration of the tools and technology used to monitor road safety in the Western Cape.

### 5. Legislation

In the 2023/24 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

#### 5.1. Provincial bills

5.1.1. Vote 8: Mobility in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024].

#### 5.2. NCOP bills (section 76)

None.

### 6. Facilitation of public involvement and participation

In line with its mandate to facilitate public participation as part of the legislative process, the Committee held public hearings on all the annual reports and budget appropriations. To give effect to this, the Committee advertised the Annual Report and the Western Cape Adjustment Appropriation Bill in mainstream and community newspapers across the Western Cape to inform and invite stakeholders to participate in the public participation processes.

### 7. Financial particulars

The adjusted budget for the 2024/25 financial year was R96 578, and the Committee incurred actual expenditure of R38 672, resulting in an under expenditure of R57 906.

## 2. Annual Committee Report of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for the 2024/25 financial year, as follows:

### Members

The Committee comprised of the following Members:

Christians, C F (ACDP) (Chairperson)

Petrus, B (PA)

Lekker, P Z (ANC)

Johnson, P (DA)  
 Van Minnen, B M (DA)  
 Van Wyk, L D (DA)  
 Mbombo, N (DA)

### **Alternate Members**

Bosman, G (DA)  
 Cassiem, A (EFF)  
 Kaizer-Philander, W F (DA)  
 Booysen, M (DA)  
 Bryant, D W (DA)  
 Masipa, N P (DA)  
 Stoffel, B N (ANC)

## **1. Introduction**

The mandate of the PAC, as prescribed by Standing Rule 101, is to examine:

- 1.1. the financial statements of provincial departments and provincial public entities;
- 1.2. any audit reports issued on the statements referred to in relation to the financial statements of provincial departments and provincial public entities;
- 1.3. any reports issued by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) on the affairs of any provincial department or provincial public entity; and
- 1.4. any other financial statements or reports referred to it by the House.

In fulfilment of its mandate the Committee must:

- 1.5 facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee.
- 1.6 conduct its business in a fair, open and transparent manner.
- 1.7 promote good cooperative governance in the departments and state-owned entities of the Western Cape Government.
- 1.8 report regularly to the House.

## **2. Reporting departments**

The financial statements that were included in the annual reports of the following provincial departments, for the financial year ending 31 March 2025, were examined:

- 2.1 Department of the Premier;
- 2.2 Provincial Treasury;
- 2.3 Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety;
- 2.4 Western Cape Education Department;
- 2.5 Department of Health and Wellness;
- 2.6 Department of Social Development;
- 2.7 Department of Infrastructure;
- 2.8 Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning;
- 2.9 Department of Mobility;
- 2.10 Department of Agriculture;
- 2.11 Department of Economic Development and Tourism;
- 2.12 Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport; and the
- 2.13 Department of Local Government.

### 3. Reporting entities

The financial statements included in the annual reports of the following public entities, for the financial year ending 31 March 2025, were examined:

- 3.1 Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board;
- 3.2 Western Cape Liquor Authority;
- 3.3 Government Motor Transport (GMT);
- 3.4 Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal
- 3.5 Western Cape Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Wesgro);
- 3.6 Atlantis Special Economic Zone Company (SOC) Ltd;
- 3.7 Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone Licensing Company (SOC) Ltd;
- 3.8 Casidra;
- 3.9 CapeNature;
- 3.10 Heritage Western Cape;
- 3.11 Western Cape Cultural Commission; and the
- 3.12 Western Cape Language Committee.

### 4. Overview of the Committee's activities

Number of public hearings	18
Number of international study tours	0
Number of oversight visits	0
Number of provincial bills considered	0
Number of NCOP bills considered	0
Workshops or conferences attended	1

### 5. Oversight activities

The Public Accounts Committee satisfactorily conducted oversight over the provincial government of the Western Cape during the 2024/25 financial year.

In terms of the strategic plans of WCPP; including the Speaker's parliamentary priorities, the Public Accounts Committee encouraged public participation at all its meetings. When the meetings of the Committee were online and streamed on YouTube, the Chairperson would constantly monitor how many public members viewed the live streaming of the Committee and check for comments under the comments section of the YouTube feed. In addition, the Committee ensured that it maintained its relationships with the AGSA and audit committees in engaging them on the risks identified in the departments and entities of the Western Cape Government.

The Public Accounts Committee convened a virtual meeting on 5 July 2024 to elect a chairperson for the seventh parliamentary term. The meeting, facilitated by Procedural Officer Mr D Davids, saw two nominations: Mr F Christians and Ms P Lekker. Following a vote, Mr Christians secured the majority and was duly elected as Chairperson. He expressed his gratitude to the committee upon assuming the role. The meeting concluded shortly thereafter at 10:58.

On 14 August 2024, the PAC met virtually to discuss South African Association of Public Accounts Committees (SAAPAC) matters, including the payment of SAAPAC membership fees. The Committee resolved that WCPP would pay the 2023/24 and 2024/25 invoices, provided SAAPAC submits its audited financial statements. The

committee also selected members for the Council of Delegates (COD) for the seventh parliamentary term, nominating Mr Christians, Mr Johnson and Ms Lekker. Additionally, members for the SADCOPAC Conference in Zimbabwe, which would take place between 7 and 13 September 2024, were confirmed, ensuring a balanced political representation.

The PAC attended the 16th Annual Southern Africa Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) Conference that was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 7 to 13 September 2024. The Western Cape Provincial Parliament delegation, led by Mr Christians, attended discussions on parliamentary oversight, financial management and accountability. Key themes included domestic resource mobilisation, fiscal transparency, artificial intelligence governance and the implementation of IPSAS accounting standards. The conference produced resolutions on strengthening public audit functions, digital finance transformation and AI regulation. The WCPP PAC committed to implementing applicable resolutions in alignment with the SAAPAC.

On 18 September 2024, the PAC met virtually to receive briefings from the Auditor-General of South Africa and the Audit Committee on preparations for the October 2024 annual report period. The discussions focused on the audit opinions and the oversight role of the PAC. The Committee also reviewed the outcomes of the SADCOPAC Conference held in Zimbabwe. The meeting ended with a resolution to request an update from the Audit Committee on the Western Cape Education Department's 2022/23 audit findings.

The Public Accounts Committee met to engage with Provincial Treasury on 25 September 2024. This was to prepare the Committee for the 2023/24 annual report parliamentary cycle which occurred from 7 to 31 October 2024. No resolutions emanated from this meeting with the Provincial Treasury.

The PAC met with the 13 departments and entities of the Western Cape Government (WCG) to conduct oversight and to engage these stakeholders on the contents of their 2023/24 annual reports.

The Committee then drafted and adopted a report which provided an overview of the financial performance and governance of the 13 WCG departments and its 11 public entities for the financial year ending 31 March 2024. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examined the audit reports, financial statements and governance matters, highlighting clean audits, financial mismanagement and areas needing improvement. The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) recommended improvements in accountability, service delivery impact and infrastructure planning. Key resolutions included timely invoice payments, enhanced oversight and improved financial management across departments.

The PAC met on 12 February 2025 to discuss the audit outcomes of Western Cape Government departments and entities, focusing on the impact of non-achieved objectives on service delivery. Briefings were received from the Auditor-General and audit committees, with members requesting more specific reporting on service delivery impact. Additionally, the Committee discussed allegations of irregularities in the Department of Mobility, discrepancies in CapeNature audit outcomes, including issues in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament regarding a whistleblower complaint which was referred to the Speaker for actioning and feedback. The Committee resolved to seek further briefings, legal advice and whistleblowers input on these matters.

The Chairperson and Committee attended one Southern Africa Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) Conference meeting during the year under review in Zimbabwe. Please see “Workshops or conferences attended” above.

## **6. Legislation**

During the 2024/25 financial year, the Committee dealt with no legislation.

## **7. Facilitation of public participation**

In line with its mandate to facilitate public participation as part of the legislative process, the Committee held 18 public meetings during the 2024/25 financial year, of which 13 of those meetings related to the engagements that were held during the annual report period in the month of October 2024.

## **8. Financial particulars**

The Standing Committee was allocated a budget of R94 676 for the 2024/25 financial year. At the end of the financial year, the expenditure which was attributed to the activities of the Committee accumulated to an amount of R57 925. There was thus an underspending of R36 751. The expenditure related to payment towards the annual reports period advertisements during October 2024.

## **3. Annual Committee Report of the Budget Committee for the 2024/25 financial year, dated, as follows:**

From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 the Committee comprised the following Members:

### **Permanent Members:**

Johnson, P (DA) (Chairperson)  
 Masipa, NP (DA)  
 Mbombo, N (DA)  
 Petrus B (PA)  
 Stoffels, BN (ANC)  
 Wessels, D J (DA)

### **Alternate Members**

Booyesen, M (DA)  
 Kaizer-Philander, WF (DA)  
 Bryant, DW (DA)  
 Nkondlo, ND (ANC)  
 Van Minnen, BM (DA)  
 Van Wyk, LD (DA)  
 Walters, TCR (DA)

## **1. Introduction**

The mandate of the Budget Committee according to Standing Rule 109 of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) is as follows:

The powers and functions of the Budget Committee are to:

- 1.1 consider and make recommendations to the House on budget allocations in the annual Medium Term Budget Policy Statement as well as the main budget, the budget review and the relevant bills with a view to improving spending effectiveness and efficiency;
- 1.2 review and assess overall provincial expenditure and non-financial reports on a quarterly basis for spending efficiency and effectiveness;
- 1.3 engage the provincial government on spending patterns;
- 1.4 perform such other tasks assigned to it by resolution of the House; and ensure public involvement in all budgetary processes.

### **1. Department that reports to the Budget Committee**

In fulfilment of this mandate, the Budget Committee works closely with the Provincial Treasury and the National Treasury to oversee provincial expenditure and to ensure that the Provincial Treasury provides sound strategic financial leadership to the Western Cape.

To this extent the Budget Committee met with the Provincial Treasury quarterly to discuss the financial and non-financial performance information relevant to each departmental budget vote. These briefings proved particularly insightful, as the chairpersons of the respective standing committees (who serve on the Budget Committee) took note of various spending successes and shortcomings pertinent to their portfolios.

### **2. Overview of Committee's activities**

Number of committee meetings	7
Number of public hearings	7
Number of international study tours	0
Number of oversight visits	0
Number of provincial bills considered	2
Number of NCOP bills considered	1
Workshops or conferences attended	0

### **3. Oversight activities**

On 5 July 2024, the Budget Committee (the Committee) met virtually to elect a chairperson. Mr Johnson was nominated by Mr Mapisa and seconded by Mr Wessels, with no other nominations received. Mr Johnson was duly elected as Chairperson and expressed his gratitude to the Committee. The meeting adjourned shortly thereafter.

On 18 September 2024, the Committee met virtually for a briefing by the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC) on its 2025/26 division of revenue submissions. Discussions covered public health inefficiencies, infrastructure challenges for small-scale farmers and municipal financial conditions. The Committee resolved to engage with the FFC quarterly and requested detailed reports on healthcare worker shortages, infrastructure challenges and municipal financial issues.



The Committee engaged with the Provincial Treasury on 26 September 2024, which briefed it on the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook (PERO) and the financial and non-financial performance of the Western Cape Government for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. Concerns were raised about employment distribution, infrastructure underspending and healthcare personnel shortages. The Committee resolved to request further reports on employment, healthcare spending and budget allocations.

The Committee met to discuss the 2024 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024], including the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook (MERO), on 26 November 2024. Key issues included funding allocation disparities between national, provincial and local governments, the impact of economic crime and homelessness statistics. The Committee requested detailed reports on crime-related economic impact, Extended Public Works Programme job contributions and funding allocations for transport initiatives.

On 27 November 2024, the Committee reviewed the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B 14–2024] (NCOP), engaging the National Treasury and the Provincial Treasury on funding allocations, procurement reforms and equitable share distribution. Concerns were raised about population growth, budget allocations and the conditional grants system. A vote was held, with the majority opposing the Bill, citing flaws in the provincial equitable share formula and insufficient Education and Health funding.

The Committee approved the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024], but opposed the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B 14–2024] (NCOP), citing unfair budget distribution and lack of provisions for economic growth. The Quarterly Activities Report for 2024/25 was also reviewed and adopted. No additional resolutions or requests for information were made.

During the fourth quarter, the Budget Committee met on Thursday 27 March 2025 to consider, engage and discuss the budget allocations for the departments and entities that comprise the WCG for the 2025/26 financial year.

#### **4. Legislation**

As part of the budget process, statutory provisions allow for necessary adjustments to the main appropriations to each budget vote to accommodate spending pattern successes and shortcomings, as mentioned above. These provisions, in the form of the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B 14–2024] (NCOP) and the Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024], were successfully considered by the Committee who engaged with the departments affected by the monetary shifts specified in the bills.

During the period under review, the Committee also dealt with the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2025] in March 2025. The Bill was referred to the various standing committees that deliberated and adopted a report on the respective budget votes contained in the Schedule to the Bill. The Budget Committee considered these reports and adopted a formal recommendation to the House in support of the Bill.

#### **5. Facilitation of public involvement and participation**

As part of the budget process, the standing committees of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament annually host public hearings on each respective budget vote, as specified in

the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2025]. The Budget Committee facilitates public participation in this process by informing the public of the public hearings and by appealing to interested parties to make submissions on each vote.

As part of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement process, the Budget Committee also facilitated such participation when the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 2–2024] was referred to the respective standing committees in November 2024. Furthermore, the Committee invited members of the public to provide input on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B 14–2024] (NCOP) that occurred in November 2024.

## **6. Financial particulars**

The Standing Committee was allocated a budget of R90 000. At the close of the 2024/25 financial year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Standing Committee accumulated to an amount of R73 458. There was an underspending of R16 542.

### **4. Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness on its unannounced oversight visit to the Hermanus District Hospital and the Hawston Clinic on Wednesday 25 June 2025.**

The Standing Committee on Health and Wellness, having conducted an unannounced oversight visit to the Hermanus District Hospital and the Howston Clinic on 25 June 2025, reports as follows:

#### **Delegation**

The delegation consisted of the following Members:

##### **Democratic Alliance**

Booyesen, M (Chairperson)

Van Minnen, BM

Van Wyk, LD

Walters, TCR

##### **Patriotic Alliance**

Stephens, D R

##### **National Coloured Congress**

Jacobs, DG

##### **African National Congress**

Windvogel, R

## **1. Introduction**

The 2024/25 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 conducted an unannounced oversight visit to the Hermanus District Hospital and the Hawston Clinic to assess the quality of healthcare services, infrastructure, staffing levels and patient experiences. The purpose of the visit was to assess the state of healthcare service delivery, infrastructure, staff morale and patient experience, and to engage directly with health personnel and patients regarding prevailing challenges and successes.

## **2. Visit to the Hermanus District Hospital**

The Hermanus District Hospital plays a vital role in delivering healthcare services in the Overstrand subdistrict. It provides both essential and emergency care to a diverse population in rural and semi-urban areas. The hospital also supports a network of smaller clinics, including the Hawston Clinic, which delivers primary healthcare to residents of Hawston and the surrounding communities.

In line with the Committee's constitutional mandate for oversight, the visit to the Hermanus District Hospital was conducted unannounced. This approach aimed to ensure an authentic and accurate assessment of service delivery, free from any prior adjustments or preparations by facility staff.

Upon arrival, the Committee was welcomed by Sister AE Klaasen, the Matron of the hospital, who provided an overview of the hospital's core services, current challenges and major pressure points. Sister Klaasen also guided the Committee on a walkabout through various departments to offer a firsthand view of operations.

This report presents the Committee's key observations, findings and recommendations arising from the oversight visit.

## **3. Key findings**

- 3.1. The Hermanus District Hospital is classified as a level one facility with a 71-bed capacity.
- 3.2. The hospital delivers essential district-level healthcare services to a diverse population of approximately 85 000 people. These services include a 24-hour Emergency Centre (EC), as well as medical, surgical, obstetrics and gynaecology wards, a nursery and outpatient and inpatient services.
- 3.3. The hospital is equipped with a dedicated radiology department, an ultrasound facility and X-ray services, a theatre for surgical procedures, ad-hoc physiotherapy and occupational therapy services, on-site emergency medical services (EMS) and forensic services.
- 3.4. The hospital contends with a complex quadruple burden of disease, comprising violence, trauma and injury, maternal and child health concerns, communicable diseases, such as TB and HIV, and non-communicable diseases including hypertension and diabetes.
- 3.5. During the oversight visit, the Committee was guided through high-pressure service areas, including the Emergency Centre, the general ward, which was predominantly occupied by psychiatric patients, and the antenatal ward.
- 3.6. It was reported that the Emergency Centre experiences peak demand on weekends and during the month-end. Additional medical staff members are most needed during these high-traffic periods.
- 3.7. Chronic staffing shortages were identified as a major challenge. Specifically, the hospital lacks speciality nurses, professional nurses, doctors and nurse assistants.
- 3.8. There was also a notable shortage of specialised personnel in the theatre, psychiatric wards and emergency services.

- 3.9. A key contributing factor to the staffing crisis is the rapid population growth in the area, driven by the expansion of informal settlements. Despite this increase, the hospital's staff allocation has remained unchanged.
- 3.10. The Emergency Centre is overwhelmed and unable to meet the demand. Staff reportedly turn away approximately 2 000 patients per month, many of whom come from the Eastern Cape seeking services.
- 3.11. On weekdays, each shift in the EC is staffed by only one doctor, one professional nurse and one nursing assistant.
- 3.12. This severe understaffing contributes to long waiting times and frequent complaints from patients. The urgent need for additional doctors and nurses in the EC was emphasised.
- 3.13. The hospital is the only public health facility in the area that operates 24 hours a day. Because local clinics close at 16:00, patients with non-emergency conditions often turn to the hospital for care after hours, placing additional strain on limited resources.
- 3.14. It was reported that some patients travel as far as 50 km, from areas such as Gansbaai, to seek medical care at the Hermanus District Hospital. These patients allege that they are often turned away by nearby clinics, even when critically ill, and are told to return home and make appointments instead of receiving immediate care.
- 3.15. Due to the long distances from surrounding communities, many patients struggle with transportation to and from the hospital. As a result, officials recommended that the Department consider allocating two 24-hour emergency beds at the Gansbaai Clinic to accommodate critically ill patients, particularly after hours and on weekends when the clinic is closed.
- 3.16. During the visit to the general ward, Members were informed that the ward has a 15-bed capacity, which is consistently full. This is largely due to a significant increase in psychiatric patient admissions.
- 3.17. Although psychiatric patients are meant to be admitted for 72-hour observation, delays in the referral system to the Worcester Hospital or the Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital often result in patients remaining at the Hermanus District Hospital for several months while awaiting available beds.
- 3.18. The increase in mental health admissions was attributed largely to substance abuse, which has emerged as a major challenge in the Overberg district.
- 3.19. A severe shortage of mental health professionals was reported. Currently, the hospital has only one mental health professional nurse, who also serves other facilities in the region, and one mental health counsellor serving the entire district.
- 3.20. The hospital lacks a dedicated seclusion room for mental health patients, which is a critical requirement for managing high-risk individuals safely and humanely.
- 3.21. Staff safety was raised as a significant concern. Due to space limitations, psychiatric patients are admitted to the same wards as general patients. As a result, patients are sometimes forced to sleep in the corridors due to the shortage of beds.
- 3.22. There has been a reported increase in abuse and assaults on staff by psychiatric patients. The absence of security personnel in the wards was identified as a major contributing factor.
- 3.23. Currently, security guards are only stationed at the entrances and passageways and not inside the wards where their presence is most needed to protect staff and patients from aggressive incidents.
- 3.24. The shortage of mental health nurses remains a critical issue. With only two nurses available in Hermanus to care for psychiatric patients, it was reported that each nurse may be responsible for managing eight or more patients at a time, often without adequate support.

- 3.25. Despite these challenges, Members noted that the hospital was clean, orderly and well-maintained, and commended the staff for their efforts to uphold high standards under difficult conditions.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Committee recommended that the Department of Health and Wellness should:

- 4.1. consider deploying additional security personnel in the general ward to safeguard psychiatric patients, protect other patients and ensure staff safety from potentially aggressive behaviour.
- 4.2. prioritise strengthening primary healthcare services across the province by reviewing clinic operating hours with a view to extending service times, thereby alleviating pressure on district hospitals.
- 4.3. extend operating hours. While the Committee acknowledged the good geographic spread of clinics in Hermanus and their role in easing hospital demand, the early closure of these clinics remains a challenge. Extending operating hours would enable community members to access care locally, reduce travel burdens and relieve pressure on the Emergency Centre.

#### **5. Request for information**

The Committee requested the Department of Health and Wellness to submit the following information by Thursday 31 July 2025:

- 5.1. Detailed information on any existing Service Level Agreement or partnership between the Department of Health and Wellness (Hermanus District Hospital) and the private sector in Hermanus.
- 5.2. Statistical data outlining what is considered a feasible clinical staff-to-patient ratio per day to maintain the delivery of quality healthcare at the Hermanus District Hospital and the Hawston Clinic.

#### **6. Resolution**

The Committee resolved to invite the Department of Health and Wellness to brief the Committee on current public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the healthcare sector.

The Committee concluded its visit at the Hermanus District Hospital and proceeded to the the Hawston Clinic.

#### **7. Unannounced visit to the Hawston Clinic**

- 7.1. The Committee was welcomed by Sister JC Carelse, Clinical Nurse Practitioner, who provided an overview of the services offered at the clinic.
- 7.2. The Hawston Clinic offers a range of primary healthcare services, including maternal and child health, chronic disease management, women's and men's health, HIV and TB care, acute services, allied health services (eg physiotherapy) and mental health support.
- 7.3. Major challenges reported include a shortage of clinical staff and inadequate infrastructure and space.
- 7.4. Sister Carelse informed Members that she is retiring in October 2025, and another professional nurse position has been vacant since February 2025 following the

resignation of another sister and a sister was working in a relief capacity; however, she is also expected to leave for the Caledon Hospital.

- 7.5. Members observed that the clinic size is insufficient, with some patients having to sit outside under shade or in the rain due to limited space inside.
- 7.6. It was reported that community members often do not adhere to the appointment system, arriving early to queue, which puts additional pressure on staff.
- 7.7. Long waiting times due to staff shortages were cited as a cause of rude behaviour from patients toward staff. However, during the visit, some community members also alleged that Sister Carelse was rude to patients.
- 7.8. The clinic is staffed by two nurses who see approximately 40 patients daily. If one nurse is on leave, the remaining nurse continues working beyond clinic hours (until 17:00), despite the clinic officially closing at 16:00.
- 7.9. A doctor visits the clinic three times a week, half-days on Mondays and Fridays and full days on Wednesdays, which is the busiest day due to antenatal and dressing services.
- 7.10. On a typical day, the nurses manage general consultations, chronic care and HIV and TB cases. Patient frustration with waiting times remains high due to staff constraints.
- 7.11. A mental health sister from the Hermanus Clinic visits once a month to provide support services.

The Committee thanked Sister Carelse for her time and briefing Members. The visit was successfully concluded.

## **8. Recommendations: Hawston Clinic**

The Committee recommended that the Department of Health and Wellness should:

- 8.1. strengthen the triage and appointment systems at the Hawston Clinic and appoint additional nursing staff to reduce pressure on existing personnel and improve service delivery.
- 8.2. consider the implementation of an electronic filing system at the clinic to enhance efficiency and record-keeping.
- 8.3. expedite the installation of a prefabricated structure to increase capacity and address the critical space shortage at the clinic.

## **9. Request for information**

The Committee requested the Department of Health and Wellness to submit a detailed report on the Hawston Clinic covering the clinic's human resources, how the Department assesses and rates the clinic, as well as the identified challenges and turnaround strategy to address those challenges by Thursday 31 July 2025.

The Committee successfully concluded its visit.

## **10. Acknowledgements**

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the senior officials at the Hermanus District Hospital and the Hawston Clinic who welcomed the Committee, briefed the Members and addressed all questions raised during the visit. Members commended the overall cleanliness of the Hermanus District Hospital, which was noted as exemplary.