

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker:

- 1. Report on Participation of Speaker Sharna Fernandez in the Parliamentary Affairs Capacity Building Program London United Kingdom: 29 November to 8 December 2014.**

I attended the Professional Certificate in Parliamentary Affairs Capacity Building program in the United Kingdom. The program was organized by the *International Centre for Parliamentary Studies* which exist to promote effective policy making and good governance through better interaction between Parliaments, Governments and other stakeholders in society.

As it has been the case with (ICPS) programs in the past, the training drew attendants from Speakers, Members of Parliament and Senior Government Officials from various African countries. This is a specialist training course leading to a Level 6 Chartered Management Institute Certificate in Management and Leadership. Upon completion of the week long course and subsequent written tasks, the successful candidate will be awarded a Level 6 (CMI) certificate in Management & Leadership showing the (CMI) units achieved. In addition, the successful candidate will receive a transcript from the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies certifying the specialization in Parliamentary Capacity Building. The course has been designed for all those who have professional interest and involvement with effective functioning of Parliaments and Assemblies in their respective countries.

Over a period of five days the training covered a large number of parliamentary related topics which were discussed and presented by experts in the field. A dedicated program for international attendees was also developed which provided the international delegates with an opportunity to be engaged in customized activities, a visit to the House of Commons and sharing of best practices with Speaker John Bercow of the House of Commons.

Amongst others, these are some of the topics covered by the training:

- (a) Structure and Core Functions of Parliament
- (b) Different Types of Parliaments
- (c) Legislative Process
- (d) Budgets
- (e) Scheduling of Parliamentary Business
- (f) The Work of Parliament and Parliamentarians
- (g) Parliamentary Debates
- (h) How can Parliamentary Committees work effectively?
- (i) Transparency, Participation and Outreach
- (j) Role and Responsibilities of Civil Servants
- (k) Overview of European and other National Parliaments
- (l) Sharing of experiences with other Delegates

The experience gained was invaluable and equipped me with knowledge and insight into Parliamentary affairs especially as to Parliament's role in ensuring that our people have a voice and that the government's actions are scrutinized vigorously and that it is held accountable.

The WCPP, as a regional parliament, play an important role in the legislative family in South Africa and will have continue to reform and modernize to keep up with the demands of the people of our Province and to ensure that it fulfils its constitutional mandate.

The course has empowered me, as the Executive Authority of the WCPP, to drive processes aimed at making our parliament a real 'people's parliament' which is both effective and efficient in what it does and I am grateful for the opportunity afforded me to attend the course. The program has provided valuable insights which we can leverage to take WCPP to being more efficient.

2. Referral of Draft Bills to committee in terms of Rule 206

Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works

- (a) Draft *Agrément South Africa Bill*, 2015 (NCOP) (proposed section 75 Bill).
- (b) Draft *Expropriation Bill*, 2015 (NCOP) (proposed section 76 Bill).

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, having undertaken an oversight visit to the Rocherpan, Cederberg and Lamberts Bay Bird Island Nature Reserves, on 9 and 10 February 2015, reports as follows:

Delegation

The delegation consisted of the following members:

Mr RB Lentit (Chairperson)

Adv LH Max
Mr M Mnqasela
Ms CF Beerwinkel
Ms TM Dijana

1. Introduction

CapeNature's tourism vision is to establish a differentiated and leading brand of products in outdoor nature-based tourism across the Western Cape for all to enjoy.

This vision will be pursued by CapeNature to provide opportunities to the public to interact in the Cape Floristic Kingdom in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

The purpose of the visit was therefore to gain an understanding of the biodiversity and conservation issues linked to the Rocherpan, Cederberg and Lamberts Bay Bird Island Nature Reserves as well as its impact on economic growth and tourism in the West Coast area.

2. Overview of the visit

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to the Rocherpan, Cederberg and Lamberts Bay Nature Reserves. The visit commenced at the Rocherpan Nature Reserve where Members were accompanied by officials on a tour of the reserve. Similar tours were undertaken at the Cederberg and Lamberts Bay Nature Reserves that culminated in a meeting at Lamberts Bay Bird Island Auditorium, where CapeNature briefed the Committee on their performance per Programme during the first two Quarters of the 2014/2015 financial year, outlining budget vs actual expenditure. Further briefings included a presentation on conserving the water factories of the Western Cape with specific reference to invasive alien plants. Socio economic development interventions such as job opportunities, environmental education and youth development were highlighted as well as the economic impact of tourism on the West Coast region.

3. Findings

3.1 Rocherpan Nature Reserve

3.1.1 Rocherpan is a coastal nature reserve that lies 25km north of Velddrift on the Cape West Coast, and consists largely of a seasonal vlei.

3.1.2 Rocherpan was established as a nature reserve (930 hectares in size) in 1966, and the adjacent section of the Atlantic Ocean was declared a marine reserve in 1988 (150 hectares in size).

3.1.3 The development of Phase Two of the Rocherpan Nature Reserve is currently in progress where several self-catering units are in the process of being constructed.

3.1.4 The construction contract has been awarded to Bambana Management Services and the contract value equates to R9 426 251.64. This project has created employment opportunities for 16 people from the local area.

3.1.5 The total tourism income for the Nature Reserve for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014 amounted to R305 872.

3.2 Cederberg Nature Reserve

- 3.2.1 The Cederberg was proclaimed a wilderness area in 1973. A reserve of about 5 250 hectares was established in 1987 to prevent the extinction of the area's namesake: the Clanwilliam Cedar Tree. Over several centuries, these trees were felled for construction activities and telephone poles. Frequent fires also ravaged the species to the point of near extinction. CapeNature works with partners and volunteers to plant cedar seedlings in the mountains to ensure the conservation of this species.
- 3.2.2 CapeNature is currently in the process of constructing six self-catering chalets, a new ablution facility, new stores and a new office. This construction will be completed by the end of March 2015.
- 3.2.3 The construction contract has been awarded to Build A Way Contractors and the contract value equates to R7 602 712.92.
- 3.2.4 The total tourism income for the Cederberg Nature Reserve from 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014 amounted to R1 692 038.00.

3.3 Lamberts Bay Bird Island

- 3.3.1 Bird Island lies approximately 100m off the shore of Lambert's Bay on the Cape West Coast. It offers visitors a rare opportunity to see the blue-eyed Cape Gannet up close. Bird Island is one of only six sites world-wide where Cape Gannets breed, and it is the only breeding site easily accessible to the public.
- 3.3.2 The island is connected to the mainland via a breakwater. It is an important breeding and roosting site for seabirds. The island also boasts a well-situated gannet lookout where visitors can get close to the birds to observe them.

4. Recommendations

The Committee recommended that CapeNature:

- 4.1 Embarks on a rigorous marketing campaign, showcasing their facilities, while promoting and focusing on healthy living and family life.
- 4.2 Ensures that all people of the Western Cape are encouraged to make use of their Reserves and facilities.