

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2021

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Annual Committee Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters for the 2020/21 financial year, as follows:**

The Committee comprises of the following members:

Democratic Alliance

Mackenzie, RD (Chairperson)

Allen, RI

Philander, WF

African National Congress

Dugmore, CM

Economic Freedom Fighters

Xego, M

Alternate members

Baartman, DM (DA)

Maseko, LM (DA)

Mitchell, DG (DA)

Lekker, PZ (ANC)

Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)

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.

- 1.2 Consider and report on legislation, other matters and the annual reports referred to it by the Speaker.

In fulfillment 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.

2. Reporting department and entities

- 2.1 Department of the Premier

3. Overview of Committee's activities

Number of Committee Meetings	10 (this includes public hearings)
Number of Public Hearings	5
Number of International Study Tours	0
Number of Oversight Visits	0
Number of Provincial Bills considered	4
Number of NCOP Bills considered	1
Workshops/conferences attended	0
Cluster A Visit Week participation	0

4. Key activities

In June 2020, the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters was briefed by the Western Cape Commissioner for Children on the short term plans of the Commissioner. They also received an update by the Department of the Premier and the Department of Community Safety on the Western Cape Safety Strategy Plan.

The Department of the Premier presented the 2020/21 First Quarter Performance Report to the Committee in August 2020.

The Committee requested a briefing by the Department of the Premier and Nexus Forensic Services on the Lifestyle Audit Report of the Western Cape Cabinet and from the Public Service Commission on the latest activities in the Western Cape in terms of Section 196(4)(v) of the Constitution in October 2020.

In November, the Committee received a briefing on the impact of COVID-19 on the people of the Western Cape Province and the status of the economy in the Province. The Premier provided an overview on the process implemented to work towards the Western Cape Recovery Plan. The Committee also had to adopt and submit the final mandate report to the National Council of Provinces on the Traditional Courts Bill [B 1B–2017] (S76). The Committee also deliberated and held a public hearing on the Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 7–2020].

Concluding in the 2020 year, the Committee deliberated and held a public hearing on the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of the Premier in December. The Committee considered and adopted this report in February 2021.

Closing off the calendar year, the Committee deliberated and held one public hearing on the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019].

In March 2021, the Committee held public hearings on the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2020/21 financial year) [B 3–2021] and the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 4–2021].

5. Legislation

In the 2020/21 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

5.1 Provincial Bills

- 5.1.1 Vote 1 : Premier in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B 4–2020];
- 5.1.2 Vote 1: Premier, in the Schedule to the Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 7–2020];
- 5.1.3 Vote 1: Premier, in the Schedule to the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2020/21 financial year) [B 3–2021]; and
- 5.1.4 Vote 1: Premier, in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 4–2021].

5.2 NCOP Bill (Section 76)

- 5.2.1 The Traditional Courts Bill [B 1B–2017] (s76).

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 three public hearings in considering the Provincial Money Bills and one hearing at the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of the Premier in December.

7. Financial particulars

The Committee's actual expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year was R 10 791 against a budget allocation of R132 000 resulting in an under expenditure of R121 209.

2. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE PREMIER AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE MOSSEL BAY CAPE ACCESS CENTRE ON 11 MAY 2021

1. Introduction

The Standing Committee of the Premier and Constitutional Matters is a key oversight mechanism established by the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) to achieve its constitutional mandate in the Western Cape. The Committee conducted an oversight visit to the Mossel Bay Cape Access Centre in Mossel Bay. The visit was intended to ensure that the members of the Standing Committee continually keep abreast of developments and delivery issues taking place in the Mossel Bay Access Centre in Mossel Bay to its stakeholders.

2. The delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee consisted of the following members:

Allen, RI (DA) (Acting Chairperson of the delegation)
 Brinkhuis, G (Al Jama-ah)
 Dugmore, CM (ANC)
 Xego, M (EFF)
 Philander, WF (DA)
 Mitchell, DG (DA)

The Standing Committee was accompanied by the following officials of the WCPP who provided professional support:

Mr D Davids, Procedural Officer
 Ms L Cloete, Senior Procedural Officer
 Ms M Motsapi, Committee Assistant
 Mr A Barends, Clerk/Driver
 Mr M Issel, Clerk/Driver
 Mr W Naidoo, Administrator

3. Overview

The main objective of the oversight visit was to assess the facilities and to get an overall impression of the status of the delivery of services, including challenges, at the Mossel Bay Cape Access Centre.

4.1. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation

- 4.1.1 The Mossel Bay Thusong e-Centre operated from the premises of the Siphathisiwe Day care centre, which primarily was a container from 2009/2010 until 2013 December.
- 4.1.2 In January 2014, the e-Centre was relocated to the Thusong Centre.
- 4.1.3 The need for the relocation was necessitated by the construction of the Thusong centre which brought most government services under one roof.
- 4.1.4 The Thusong e-Centre is ready to assist members of the public with the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme registration portal.
- 4.1.5 The Vision of the Centre is to ensure the community's satisfaction by delivering the best services through the application of the Batho Pele Principles. The Centre also prides itself that the community which it serves, visits the Centre for all government service's needs. The goal of the staff working at the Cape Access Centre is to ensure that they are competent, caring, accountable, responsive and have integrity and empathy towards their users:
 - 4.1.5.1 Free access to computers for 45 minutes per user per day.
 - 4.1.5.2 Free printing for up to 10 pages per user per day.
 - 4.1.5.3 Basic and Accredited E-learner Computer training.
 - 4.1.5.4 Soft skills computer training such as "How to type your CV".
 - 4.1.5.5 Assisting learners with their school research.
 - 4.1.5.6 Access to e-mails (assisting the community to create-mail addresses and send e-mails).
 - 4.1.5.7 Assisting learners to apply for higher education at different institutions.
 - 4.1.5.8 Assisting college students to apply for National Students Financial Aid Scheme and other bursaries.

- 4.1.5.9 Typing of Curriculum Vitae (CV's) and other documents.
- 4.1.5.10 Assisting the community to upload their CV's on various job portals and apply for vacancies.
- 4.1.5.11 Helping community members to register online to enrol their children at schools.
- 4.1.5.12 Assisting Grade 12 students to apply for the Premier's Advancement of Youth internship programme.
- 4.1.5.13 Registration on the Central Supplier Database (CSD) and Non- Profit Organisations databases.
- 4.1.5.14 Assisting the community to apply for employment during PetroSA's shut-down period.
- 4.1.6 The Centre markets its services through its Facebook page, including the local radio station, EDEN FM, local newspapers, self-made banners and through word of mouth.
- 4.1.7 The Centre has partnered with various stakeholders, including Mossel Bay Municipality, Mossel Bay Thusong Centre, Kwanonqaba Library, EDEN FM, the University of South Africa and PetroSA.
- 4.1.8 The challenges experienced by the Centre includes not having enough space to host more community stakeholders who are in need of the Centre's services, no training room facilities to provide training and security issues, which includes burglaries at the Centre.
- 4.1.9 The Centre has seen a decline in the number of community users, from 13 800 users in 2017, 11 000 users in 2018, 4 000 users in 2019 and 2 100 users in 2021.

4.2 Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state of Western Cape Government's Cape Access Programme

- 4.2.1 The national lockdown negatively influenced users visiting the centres during the 2020/21 financial year.
- 4.2.2 e-Centres were closed from 19 March 2020 to June 2020 (during the hard lockdown period).
- 4.2.3 On re-opening, only a limited number of users were allowed to use the facilities.
- 4.2.4 All centres implemented limited operating hours after the hard lockdown period.
- 4.2.5 Staff were exposed to the COVID-19 virus from the members of the community who visited the Centre.
- 4.2.6 Several staff tested positive for COVID-19 due to this exposure to positive cases.
- 4.2.7 Municipal facilities consequently closed to stop the spread of the virus.
- 4.2.8 e-Centres closed due to construction work caused by infrastructure damage during service delivery protest such as Nduli and Noordhoek.
- 4.2.9 Loadshedding also impacted negatively on the e-Centres.
- 4.2.10 The e-Centres also experienced technical and connectivity challenges.
- 4.2.11 Some areas in the Western Cape experienced service delivery protests (i.e. Garden Route, Witzenberg).
- 4.2.12 e-Centres closed during the festive period.
- 4.2.13 From July 2020 to March 2021 the user rate increased from 4 904 users to 31 618 users, respectively.
- 4.2.14 The measures which have been put in place to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic includes:
 - 4.2.14.1 Centres that were closed between 19 March 2020 and June 2020.
 - 4.2.14.2 Training was provided to staff on pandemic protocols.
 - 4.2.14.3 The staff were provided with masks, face shields and gloves.
 - 4.2.14.4 Thermometers were supplied to each Centre.
 - 4.2.14.5 Hand sanitisers were provided, including refills.
 - 4.2.14.6 Cleaning Material was supplied to keep the centres clean; i.e. regular cleaning of equipment.

- 4.2.14.7 The e-Centre are in the process of installing Perspex Screens.
- 4.2.14.8 Pandemic alert stickers were posted to encourage social distancing.
- 4.2.14.9 Every 2nd computer in a row at a centre was used to ensure proper social distancing.

4.3 Information requested

The Standing Committee REQUESTS the following information:

- 4.3.1 A report which describes the modules and curriculum of the International Computer Driver's License programme, including the e-learning and soft skills programmes.
- 4.3.2 A report on the roll-out of the provincial broadband in schools and municipal buildings in Mossel Bay.
- 4.3.4 A report on how the Mossel Bay Cape Access Centre plans to deal with the possible third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how it dealt with the first and second wave of the pandemic.
- 4.3.5 The expansion plans and aims of Mossel Bay Municipality for the Mossel Bay Cape Access Centre.

5. Resolution by delegation

The delegation passed no resolutions based on the presentations of the officials, including the walk-about at the Mossel Bay Cape Access Centre.

6. Conclusion

The Delegation successfully concluded its visit.

7. Acknowledgement

The delegation thanked the officials of the Department of the Premier, including the officials of the Mossel Bay Cape Access Centre for their willingness to share valuable information with the Standing Committee.

Report to be considered.