

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Report of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee, having considered the 4th Quarterly Financial and Performance information of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) for the 2019/20 financial year, dated 5 June 2020, as follows:**

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee reports that it convened on 5 June 2020 and has concluded its deliberations on the 4th Quarterly Financial and Performance information of the WCPP for the 2019/20 financial year, which was referred to it in terms of Standing Rule 89(1). (See ATC 9, 25 and 33 of 2020.)

The Committee interrogated the WCPP in terms of its 4th Quarter Financial and Performance Information reports, which were tabled and referred to the Committee as legislated under section 54(1)(2) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (FMPPLA).

In accordance with section 37(6) and 66(2) of the FMPPLA, the WCPP reported to the Committee that no instructions were issued for the 4th Quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

2. **Annual Committee Report of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee (POC) for the 2019/20 financial year. The Committee reports as follows:**

Members

The Committee comprised of the following Members:

Ms MM Wenger (DA) Chairperson

Mr RI Allen (DA)

Mr RD MacKenzie (DA)

Ms PZ Lekker (ANC)

Mr M Xego (EFF)

Alternate Members

Ms LJ Botha (DA)

Mr CM Dugmore (ANC)

Ms N Makamba-Botya (EFF)

Ms LM Maseko (DA)

Mr DG Mitchell (DA)

1. Introduction

The mandate of the POC, as prescribed by the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act 10 of 2009) (FMPPLA), is to:

- 1.1 Be the oversight mechanism of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament which must maintain oversight of the financial management of Parliament to:
 - (a) Consider instructions issued by the Executive Authority in terms of section 37(5);
 - (b) Consider the annual report submitted to Parliament in terms of section 60;
 - (c) Consider instructions issued by the Executive Authority in terms of section 66; and
 - (d) Perform any other functions specified in this Act or by the Rules of Parliament, or consistent with the objects of the FMPPLA.
- 1.2 Require the Accounting Officer and any other official of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament to appear before it.
- 1.3 Exercise the same powers that committees of Parliament have under sections 56 and 69 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996.
- 1.4 Consider the quarterly and mid-year reports of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.
- 1.5 Consider the Annual Report of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.
- 1.6 Any audit reports issued by the Auditor-General on the affairs of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; and
- 1.7 Any other financial statements or reports referred to the Committee by the House.

In fulfilment of its mandate, the Committee must:

- 1.8 Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee;
- 1.9 Conduct its business in a fair, open and transparent manner;
- 1.10 Promote cooperative governance; and
- 1.11 Report regularly to the House.

2. Reporting Institution

- 2.1 Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP).

3. Overview of committee's activities

Number of Committee Meetings	8
Number of Public Hearings	3
Number of International Study Tours	0
Number of Oversight Visits	0
Number of Provincial Bills considered	2
Number of NCOP Bills considered	0
Workshops/conferences attended	0

4. Oversight activities

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee was established on 3 June 2019, through the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports (ATC) No 4 of the WCPP. The Committee convened thereafter on 4 June 2019 to elect a Chairperson.

During the financial year under consideration, the Parliamentary Oversight Committee conducted oversight mainly over the following information:

- 4.1. The Quarterly Performance reports of the WCPP;
- 4.2. The Financial Statement reports of the WCPP;
- 4.3. The Annual Report of the WCPP for the 2018/19 financial year; and
- 4.4. Budget and budget adjustments of the WCPP for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The Committee commenced its oversight role by meeting with WCPP and engaging it on its structure, annual performance plan for the 2019/20 financial year; including the 4th quarter performance and financial reports which occurred in the 2018/19 financial year. The Committee also conducted oversight over the performance and financial reports of WCPP for the 1st quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

During the 3rd Quarter of the financial year, the Committee met with the Institution to conduct oversight over its 2018/19 Annual Report, including the Schedule of the Institution in terms of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6-2019]. The Committee made resolutions to the Institution in order to assist it in gearing towards meeting its constitutional mandate and its functional enhancement abilities which would ensure that WCPP operates optimally in delivering on its strategic plan over a 5-year period. This included reporting back on the WCPP's media strategy, its occupational health and safety plans and its employment equity plan. Furthermore, the Committee wanted to ascertain the mechanism that the Institution had in place to preserve its heritage assets.

During the 4th Quarter, the Committee met with the Institution to be briefed on the 3rd Quarter financial and performance information, any instructions issued in terms of section 37(6) and section 66(2) of the FMPPLA, and information on salary over- and under payments; including gratuity leave and staff leave. In respect of the oversight activity, the Committee resolved that the Institution provide reports on the successes of the functional enhancement project that was implemented by the institution in terms of vacancies created, as well as the inclusion of sign-language in the YouTube streamlining channel of the Institution. Further to this, the Committee was interested in the "app" which has been created by WCPP in order to host and provide the members with parliamentary papers.

5. Legislation

In the 2019/ 20 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following provincial legislation:

- 5.1. Vote 2: Western Cape Provincial Parliament in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019]; and
- 5.2. Vote 2: Western Cape Provincial Parliament in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020].

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 one public hearing meeting during the Annual Report period. To give effect to this, the Committee's Annual Report meeting was advertised, informing and inviting the public and stakeholders to participate in public hearings. In addition, the Committee held two public hearing meetings on the following money Bills, the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019], and the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020], respectively, on Vote 2: Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

7. Financial particulars

At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, expenditure which attributed to the activities of the Committee accumulated to an amount of R40 339,75, from an allocated budget of R50 000,00. The expenditure was incurred on catering for the Committee's meetings during the financial year, as well as contributing to the adverts for the Appropriation, Adjustments Appropriation and Annual Report period.

- 3. **Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19, in performing oversight on the work of the provincial executive authority as it responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, including oversight over any part of the provincial executive authority, any provincial department, any organ of state and any provincial entity involved in activities dealing with the pandemic, on the themes covered for May 2020, as follows:**

The Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 consists of the following Members:

Mr RI Allen (DA)
 Mr D America (DA)
 Ms DM Baartman (DA)
 Mr G Bosman (DA)
 Mr FC Christians (ACDP)
 Mr CM Dugmore (ANC)
 Mr BN Herron (GOOD)
 Ms P Lekker (ANC)
 Mr PJ Marais (FFP)
 Mr D Mitchell (DA)
 Ms WF Philander (DA)
 Mr AP van der Westhuizen (DA)

Ms MM Wenger (DA)(Chairperson)
 Ms R Windvogel (ANC)
 Mr M Xego (EFF)

Alternative Members:

Ms LJ Botha (DA)
 Mr RI MacKenzie (DA)
 Ms LM Maseko (DA)
 Ms ND Nkondlo (ANC)
 Mr K Sayed (ANC)
 Mr D Smith (ANC)

Additional Members:

Mr M Kama (ANC)
 Mr P Marran (ANC)
 Mr LL Mvimbi (ANC)

Procedural Staff:

Ms Z Adams, Procedural Officer
 Ms L Cloete, Senior Procedural Officer
 Mr W Matthews, Procedural Officer

1. Introduction and Background

The Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 (the Committee) was established by the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament on 14 April 2020 in accordance with Standing Rule 119(1)(b) of the Standing Rules of Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The Committee was tasked with the responsibility to perform oversight over the work of the provincial executive authority as it responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, including oversight over any part of the provincial executive authority, any provincial department, any organ of state and any provincial entity involved in activities dealing with the pandemic.

The meetings have been held virtually, so as to comply with COVID-19 lockdown regulations issued by the national government, as well as a decision of the Programming Authority, to enforce social distancing rules.

2. Election of Chairperson, Adopted Themes and the Rules of Engagement

On 17 April 2020, Member M Wenger (DA) was elected to serve as the Chairperson of the Committee in accordance with Standing Rules 82(1) and 85. The Committee adopted 12 themes around which it would address the COVID-19 pandemic, also agreeing to hold two meetings per week, given the urgency of the matter. Each meeting would primarily focus on one theme. The 12 adopted themes were as follows:

1. Health Department Responses and Preparations
2. Policing, Security and Police Brutality
3. Food Security
4. Protection of the Vulnerable

5. Disaster Management and Local Government Oversight
6. Economic Recovery, Support and Livelihoods
7. Transport and Infrastructure
8. Schooling and Education
9. Human Settlements
10. Citizen Surveillance
11. Intergovernmental Relations and Community Cooperation
12. Government Finance and Budgets

Additionally, the Rules of Engagement during virtual meetings were indicated as follows:

1. All meetings would be open to members of the public and media via livestreaming;
2. All Members microphones must be muted at the beginning of the meeting to avoid background noise;
3. Members are to flag Points of Order in the Chat Function of Microsoft Teams (the application through which virtual meetings are held);
4. All videos and audio must be switched off to improve the quality of the connection; however, if a Member/Minister/HOD/Official is speaking, they may put on their audio and video;
5. Participants must switch off their microphones once they are finished speaking;
6. In terms of maintenance of order, in accordance with the “Directives for Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees by Electronic Means”, ATC’d on Friday, 17 April 2020, Section 8 states that “when a Member is considered to be out of order by the presiding officer, the presiding officer may mute the microphone of such a Member and call such a Member to order”; and
7. Section 10 of the Directives ATC’d on 17 April 2020 speaks to the application of Standing Rules. Section 10 states that “in instances where these directives are not clear or do not cover a particular eventuality in respect of sittings of the House or meetings of the committees by means of videoconferencing, the Standing Rules must apply as far as this is reasonably and practically possible and, in instances where they cannot be applied, the ruling by the presiding officer must be final”.

The themes covered in May 2020 included:

- Policing, Security and Police Brutality – 29 April and 6 May 2020
- Schooling and Education – 8 May 2020
- Disaster Management and Local Government Oversight – 13 May 2020
- Economic Recovery, Support and Livelihoods – 15 May 2020
- Transport and Infrastructure and Human Settlements – 20 May 2020
- Government finance and budgets/Cooperative Governance – 22 May 2020

3. THEME: Policing, Security and Police Brutality

3.1 Overview and background

The Committee requested briefings from the following stakeholders: (a) the Provincial Department of Community Safety, (b) the Western Cape Police Ombudsman (WCPO), (c) the Regional Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), (d)

the South African Police Service (SAPS), (e) the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID), and, (f) the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). The Department of Defence acknowledged receipt of the request, however, did not confirm the attendance of the SANDF for the two meetings held on 29 April and 6 May 2020 where the abovementioned theme was addressed.

The purpose of the meetings was to receive updates on the manner in which each of these stakeholders addressed concerns, and its contingency plans to remain fully operational during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape.

The Department of Community Safety informed the Committee on matters relating to community policing during the lockdown, information on the roll out of the Safety Plan during the lockdown, and, information on the suspension of liquor licenses for traders during the lockdown.

The WCPO focused on its operations during the lockdown, the mechanisms used by members of the public to contact the WCPO during the lockdown, and high alert levels, given restrictions on walk-in complaints, information on the number of policing complaints received during the lockdown, including (a) the nature of the complaints received, (b) from which areas, and (c) any recommendations made, and, information on any reports of police brutality received and whether these have been investigated.

The DCS focused on matters pertaining to the Correctional Service facilities in the Western Cape specifically on the number of positive COVID-19 cases of inmates and officials per facility; indicating whether or not these persons are hospitalised, in Intensive Care Units, quarantined or in self-isolation. The presentation also addressed the measures used to quarantine infected persons and/or facilitate self-isolation, sanitise the facilities and ensure that the risk of COVID-19 infections is lowered. The provision and quality of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for personnel and inmates were also discussed, as well as the conditions guiding the review of parolees within the context of the pandemic.

The SAPS briefing focused on updates on the policing environment during the lockdown, the impact of police resourcing, information on how police officers are protected and whether they have sufficient PPE, the contingency plans for SAPS facilities such as the 10111 call centre and stations closed due to COVID-19 infections. The presentation also addressed the number of arrests made during the lockdown; including a breakdown in what the arrests were for, and in which areas of the province. Further to that, the SAPS reported on the criteria for police issued permits and the number of permits. Complaints of police brutality were also addressed.

The IPID presentation addressed the degree to which the Western Cape IPID has been operational during the lockdown, its accessibility as a structure to the public, and related challenges. The IPID also reported on the number of complaints received during the lockdown, including the nature of the complaints received and in which areas, and whether or not any recommendations were made. The presentation also highlighted reports of police brutality and whether those incidents were investigated.

3.2 Observations and challenges

- 3.2.1 The Department of Community Safety availed 289 Chrysalis graduates as trained Peace Officers to assist at multi-stakeholder roadblocks, and to help in rural municipalities.
- 3.2.2 The Department of Community Safety had 87 staff who were office bound/or as part of security personnel. A total of 129 staff were working from home, 30 persons were placed on special leave.
- 3.2.3 At the time of reporting, four security guards stationed at the Tygerberg Hospital tested positive for COVID-19.
- 3.2.4 The Department of Community Safety stated that only after the publication of Level 4 Lockdown Regulations, will it be able to comment on the use of Neighbourhood Watches to patrol in communities.
- 3.2.5 The Department of Community Safety acknowledged that its implementation of the Safety Plan has shifted due to resources being geared towards its response to the COVID-19 lockdown.
- 3.2.6 The Department of Community Safety is monitoring court cases linked to COVID-19, including the Strandfontein Shelter rape case, as well as cases related to the dissemination of fake news within the context of the pandemic, and police misconduct through the IPID forum focussing on criminal cases against SAPS members during the lockdown period.
- 3.2.7 The Department of Community Safety has assisted stakeholders such as the SAPS across various operations, as the Department is a role player in the Provincial Joint Operations Centre spearheaded by the SAPS.
- 3.2.8 The Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) inspectors have conducted 37 investigations.
- 3.2.9 The WCLA temporarily suspended 14 liquor licenses, however, licensees involved will be granted an opportunity to provide reasons why the order of the Liquor Licensing Tribunal (LLT) should not be permanent.
- 3.2.10 The Department of Community Safety stated that it is conducting a study, together with the Safety Secretariat, the Department of Transport and Public Works and the Institute for Security Study (ISS), to investigate the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on safety.
- 3.2.11 The WCPO reported that its offices were closed for walk-in complaints, but staff continued to be operational throughout the lockdown period; subject to change on 1 May 2020, following updated regulations issued by the Presidency.
- 3.2.12 Complaints were received via email, social media and the WCPO's website.
- 3.2.13 The WCPO assured the Committee that its senior investigators were conducting telephonic and electronic follow ups to ongoing cases.
- 3.2.14 The WCPO reported a total of 68 complaints finalised during the COVID-19 lockdown. The statistics, prior to end April 2020, reflected that 25 complaints were unsubstantiated, four were withdrawn, and three cases were duplicate complaints. Thus the remaining 40 complaints were finalised as being either substantiated with recommendations (32) or substantiated and resolved (4).
- 3.2.15 The nature of the 40 complaints received during lockdown related to poor police visibility, especially where contraventions of lockdown regulations were reported, wrongful arrests and issuance of fines, brutality and/or unsavoury language use by law enforcement agencies and the SANDF, requests for permission to travel and the failure by law enforcements agencies in wearing PPE and adhering to social distancing conditions.

- 3.2.16 The WCPO has established a good professional relationship with the Military Ombudsman, especially since the WCPO received complaints about SANDF members.
- 3.2.17 Approximately 18 complaints were received from within the Cape Town Metropolitan area and 18 from rural areas in the province. The remaining four were from other provinces.
- 3.2.18 The DCS reported that there are 10 management areas that are managed by an area commissioner; these areas include 43 correctional facilities.
- 3.2.19 As of 6 May 2020, the Western Cape had 26 803 offenders, of which 12 474 and 14 329 are sentenced offenders.
- 3.2.20 There is sufficient space to accommodate about 19 000 offenders. In essence, the facilities are overcrowded by more than 7 000 offenders of its capacity to accommodate all offenders.
- 3.2.21 As of 6 May 2020, there were 7 342 probationers and parolees that were regularly being monitored.
- 3.2.22 The DCS' provincial staff complement was 6 847 at the time of reporting.
- 3.2.23 The DCS stated that its provincial facilities are not designed to deal with the current COVID-19 pandemic or any similar outbreaks.
- 3.2.24 The DCS stated only five of its provincial facilities were designed and built post 1994. These facilities are the Brandvlei Maximum Prison, the Vanrhynsdorp Medium Prison, the Warm Bokkeveld Medium Prison, the West Coast Medium Prison and the Goodwood Medium Prison. These five facilities are not as overcrowded as the facilities built prior to 1994. However, there is overall overcrowding by 147% across the DCS' provincial facilities.
- 3.2.25 Each facility has developed its own risk mitigation plan.
- 3.2.26 All facilities were deep cleaned, bedding was regularly changed, and there is daily screening of offenders and staff being conducted.
- 3.2.27 Initially, staff were infected before offenders due to the fact that staff were susceptible to infection whilst off duty and off-site.
- 3.2.28 At the time of reporting, 50 staff members tested positive for COVID-19. These officials were based at the Allandale Correctional Facility, the Worcester Female Facility in the Breede River Management Area, the Goodwood Facility, Pollsmoor Medium and Voorbrug Medium. The Warm Bokkeveld Prison registered 27 officials who tested positive.
- 3.2.29 Officials reside either on the premises of the facility where they are stationed, or in nearby towns.
- 3.2.30 Of the 50 officials who tested positive for COVID-19, 21 officials had recovered at the time of reporting.
- 3.2.31 The Brandvlei Correctional Facility is the designated isolation site for offenders, however, all 43 facilities have quarantine sites.
- 3.2.32 The isolation sites for offenders include, Pollsmoor Medium A (46), Pollsmoor Medium B (140), Old Brandvlei Hospital (45), Southern Cape Youth Centre in Mossel Bay (89), George Training Centre (45), Riebeeck Wes Prison (124) and Hawequa Prison (116).
- 3.2.33 The isolation sites for staff includes guest houses, on-site residences in the Management Areas of Pollsmoor, Drakenstein, Brandvlei, George and Mossel Bay. The Department of Correctional Services are engaging with the provincial Department of Health, as well as Municipalities, to accommodate staff in areas where there are no DCS facilities/guest houses.
- 3.2.34 The Department of Correctional Services has regular initiatives with the provincial Department of Health to visit to correctional facilities.

- 3.2.35 These initiatives assist with mass screening and testing of officials and offenders the facilities.
- 3.2.36 The Department of Correctional Services reported that there is a shortage of nursing staff across its facilities despite the addition of 77 nurses who were appointed on 1 May 2020.
- 3.2.37 To illustrate its nursing staff concerns, the Department of Correctional Services stated that the Pollsmoor Management Area has roughly 6 000 offenders, with only 37 nursing positions, eight off which are vacant. At the time of reporting, one nurse had tested positive for COVID-19 and 13 were isolated, leaving 15 operational nurses. The provincial Department of Health assisted with the alleviating the effects of the staffing shortage.
- 3.2.38 There is a marked shortage of PPE, with most of the bulk orders affected by backlogs that suppliers have due to high product demand. However, 29 000 face cloth masks were produced internally and each offender and staff member was issued with two such masks.
- 3.2.39 The South African Police Service (SAPS) established the Provincial Core Command Group (PCCG) which acts as an operational command structure. The PCCG consists of SAPS, and other law enforcements and policing agencies, the State Security Agency, the South African National Defence Force, power utility Eskom, the National Prosecuting Authority, and various provincial and national government departments.
- 3.2.40 The SAPS also developed a dashboard to monitor varying degrees of accessibility to PPEs by staff based at the 187 buildings that it uses, as well as the daily sanitisation of these premises. The buildings include 151 police stations and 36 satellite police stations in the Province. Additionally, this dashboard is also used to track the sanitisation of all SAPS vehicles.
- 3.2.41 The SAPS also presented its contingency plans for frontline services, such as the Community Service Centres, of all its police stations and satellite stations.
- 3.2.42 The frontline services offered will either operate from an alternative building within the station area, operate from a tent or nearby mobile point, or, services will be redirected to a neighbouring station. At the time of reporting, the SAPS had already implemented some of these contingency plans at stations where frontline service staff tested positive for COVID-19.
- 3.2.43 At the time of reporting, the SAPS registered 16 833 cases, with 17 059 accused for offences committed in terms of the National Lockdown Regulations.
- 3.2.44 The SAPS is only authorised to issue permits to the general public to attend a funeral of a cremation. The limitations are guided by the COVID-19 regulations in the Disaster Management Act no 57 of 2020.
- 3.2.45 The SAPS reported that only the station commander, an employee delegated by the station commander, and/or a head magistrate, may issue permits.
- 3.2.46 The SAPS reported 15 618 inter-provincial travel permits were submitted, and 5 193 for inter-municipal travel.
- 3.2.47 The SAPS reported that there was a clear lack of adherence to lockdown restrictions across communities.
- 3.2.48 The SAPS' resources were stretched having to police food distribution initiatives by relief organisations and individuals.
- 3.2.49 The restriction on force multipliers such as the Neighbourhood Watches, has also affected policing in general.
- 3.2.50 The SAPS' staffing contingent has also been affected with some of its members testing positive for COVID-19. Although this has not impacted the services

rendered, there was a total of 153 staff members who tested positive, and at least five were hospitalised, at the time of reporting.

- 3.2.51 16833 cases had been made for offences in terms of the lockdown, of which 16494 were fines and 565 notices to appear in court.

4. THEME: Schooling and Education

4.1 Overview and background

The Committee requested a briefing from the Provincial Minister of Education, Ms D Schafer, and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) on 8 May 2020, to discuss matters relating to the theme “Schooling and Education”, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive information on the re-opening of schools, distance learning and home schooling, school feeding schemes and assistance for special needs and vocational training institutions.

4.2 Observations and challenges

- 4.2.1 The Minister stated that the Ministry and the WCED was feeling the weight of the responsibility on its shoulders as the education sector was a difficult space to be in during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was easy to close schools, but a difficult task to reopen schools as there were many factors that needed to be considered and many precautions that needed to be taken, especially when there was a lot of uncertainty around the decisions the National Command Council (NCC) would be making. However, the Minister thought that the Province had performed remarkably well during the lockdown period given the short notice, as the education sector is a large one that requires an extensive amount of planning, in addition to having to secure a large amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- 4.2.2 Schools were closed on 18 March 2020 and will reopen to Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners on 1 June 2020. This was a total loss of 42 days of teaching and learning, which is a challenge because of the long term impact on the economy because of potential loss of earning capacity later in life. There are parents who have said that they do not want their children to attend school, and would not mind holding their children back a year, however, this poses a challenge to schools next year, when there will be new learners entering the school system.
- 4.2.3 The Head of the WCED informed the Committee that education will not be the same after the pandemic, on a global level, however, there were a number of positive factors that have emerged from the pandemic. Although the WCED has been working to limit the amount of inequality in the education system in the Western Cape, they have not been able to eradicate it completely. The WCED has been working on an e-learning strategy, which was a “pro poor strategy” for the Province, which is aimed at bridging the inequality gap faced by learners in the sector. The pandemic has allowed for technology enhancement to accelerate for learning, however, there is still a long way to go in the Province. Technology would not replace face-to-face learning, but the key was to implement a “blended” learning approach to education.

- 4.2.4 Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners were set to return to school on 1 June 2020, while the rest of the grades would be phased in with 15 July 2020 being the last date of return, however, this was unclear at the time of the briefing. Minister Schafer stated that it was feasible for learners to start returning to school on 1 June 2020 if the proper PPE was procured on time and all the necessary precautions were in place. The HOD of the WCED added that the decision to reopen schools was also based on the advice that young children were less susceptible to the effects of the virus. Teachers were more susceptible to the virus, however, no more so than if they were in a shopping mall or petrol stations.
- 4.2.5 During lockdown, the WCED continued its vision of education for the Province, which included quality education for each child, in every classroom and every school in the Western Cape. Teachers all over the Province have worked tirelessly to ensure that education continues through distance learning, including using WhatsApp messaging and videos to assist learners and parents. The WCED has also adapted the curriculum to focus on core concepts and competencies because the curriculum will need to be trimmed, given the number of school days that were lost.
- 4.2.6 According to the National Department of Basic Education (DBE) all School Management Teams (SMTs), non-teaching and cleaning staff would be expected to resume duty on 11 May 2020, teachers should return to schools on 18 May 2020, and Grade 7 and 12 learners should return to school on 1 June 2020. At the time of the briefing, 1 June 2020 was still a tentative date issued by the National Minister of Education, Ms A Motshekga, which still had to be approved by Cabinet. During this discussion period, the WCED advised the national government that they were concerned about foundation phase learners, who would have the longest break before being phased in to the schooling system again. These are the learners who needed to establish reading, counting and thinking patterns and skills. This was a gap that had to be addressed as it could continue into the rest of these learners' education and careers. The WCED had suggested that these learners return to school first as they were the least vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic. However, it was also understandable that Grade 7 and 12 learners would return first as they are the seniors of their schools and would play a leadership role once other grades return.
- 4.2.7 Once learners return to school there will be a need to adhere to COVID-19 requirements and safety guidelines for teachers and learners, especially around new teaching and assessment policy and protocols, in order to retain social distancing rules. The WCED would also pay close attention to teacher support, which includes wellbeing, psychosocial and mental support, as well as support in the form of lessons for teaching at home, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) support and support for other methods of remote teaching.
- 4.2.8 The WCED has ordered sanitation and hygiene packs for all schools (approximately 1 500 schools), which include hand sanitisers, liquid soap, face masks, thermometers for screening and cleaning materials. The procurement for this was a challenge. The WCED needed approximately 2.4 million masks just for learners and teachers, which already amounted to over R50 million.
- 4.2.9 It was critical that both the learners and teachers were not overburdened by the curriculum due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, there was no such concept as "catching up" as it placed too much pressure on learners, teachers and parents. The curriculum needed to be adapted instead. The WCED would

look at extracting the core activities from the curriculum and explain to teachers the flexibility they have within that curriculum. There would also be more focus on improving access to ICT for teachers and students. There have been conversations about expanding free Wi-Fi hotspots that already exist in the country.

- 4.2.10 As at 4 May 2020, there were 82 reported cases of burglary and vandalism at schools in the Province. The WCED has added additional day security and doubled night security for schools in high risk areas. Additional security costs amounted to R6,1 million for 470 schools as at 11 May 2020. The majority of the cases were for minor acts of vandalism.
- 4.2.11 In terms of distance learning and e-learning, the e-learning portal has thousands of lessons for learners. In terms of non-digital learning, there have been educational broadcasts through radio and television, printed worksheets as well as workbooks and revision papers, which were handed to learners as they collected food at schools. The WCED was aware that not all learners had access to digital learning. Although 60% of learners had access to cell phones, the cost of data and connectivity was an impediment to accessing learning materials. However, many learners, even in poorer communities, had access to televisions. There were a number of educational broadcasts on television.
- 4.2.12 In total, 912 988 learners were fed by the WCED from 8 to 30 April 2020. An average of 65 213 learners have been fed per day in 284 sites. Social distancing was practiced during the feeding scheme, where learners had to queue with spaces of 1,5 m between each learner. Learners were instructed to wash their hands and to return home immediately once they received their meals. The WCED chose to feed learners with warm meals instead of food parcels as food parcels are between four and ten times more expensive than providing warm meals to learners. Secondly, food parcels have become a source of desire and are easier for people to loot.
- 4.2.13 In respect of fee exemptions, parents and guardians of learners may apply at any point if they are experiencing financial difficulty. Schools may also apply to be No Fee Schools, however, this depends on whether the WCED has the available funding to allow for it to happen.
- 4.2.14 The WCED has been assured that schools do not have to be deep-cleaned as they have been closed for six weeks and the Corona virus does not live on surfaces for that long. The areas where learner feeding took place have been cleaned. Normal cleaning of schools will continue to take place.
- 4.2.15 Regulations to be released by the national government will define the comorbidities associated with whether a person is considered high risk or not. For example, the regulations will not merely list “high blood pressure” as a risk, it will list the level of hypertension that is associated with being high risk, and this will have to be accompanied by a medical certificate. Schools have been asked to identify vulnerable/high risk teachers.
- 4.2.16 The ability to manage social distancing while at the initial stage of phasing in learners at school is possible, however, this will become increasingly more difficult once schools have four or more grades back at school. In this case, social distancing may have to be ruled out for schools altogether, but only if every learner can be screened before he/she enters the school every day, and if schools maintain safety protocols such as cleaning of hands and wearing of masks. If social distancing remains a rule for schools once more grades are introduced then schooling will most likely not be able to continue in the Province.

- 4.2.17 In terms of transport for learners and the safety thereof in terms of COVID-19 regulations, the national government had not released any guidelines or regulations for school transport at this point in time.

5. THEME: Local Government Disaster Management and Environmental Affairs

5.1 Overview and background

The purpose of the engagement on 13 May 2020 was to establish the response by the Department of Local Government (DLG), the Provincial Disaster Management structures and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP). The Departments were requested to brief the Committee on support given to municipalities, the effects on the levels of service delivery, specifically water and solid waste removal during the lockdown, provision of PPEs to essential workers, the provincial disaster planning and coordination for the pandemic, the effect of the lockdown on the environment, with specific attention to air quality, volumes of solid waste and waste water generated.

5.2 Observations and challenges

- 5.2.1 The DLG reported that the command and coordinating structure is arranged to facilitate, political accountability via the Provincial Command Council, administrative accountability through the Provincial Command Centre and the coordination of the operational response via the Provincial Disaster Operations Centre.
- 5.2.2 The Joint Operations Centre (JOC) was activated on 24 March 2020, and is responsible for implementing the policy of the Provincial Command Council.
- 5.2.3 The JOC uses a cluster approach, and ensures a multi-agency response to combatting COVID-19.
- 5.2.4 There are six treatment/accommodation levels, ranging from hospitals to household isolation or quarantine to accommodate those affected by COVID-19.
- 5.2.5 The Department of Health applied to National Treasury for funding, as part of the Provincial Disaster Relief Grant, to the value of R53 338 667, however, only R52m was approved.
- 5.2.6 The breakdown of the application was divided into funding for Personal Protective Equipment, Medical Equipment, Sanitiser and Waste bags, and Ventilators.
- 5.2.7 The funding application was made in order to support 30 public health facilities across the province.
- 5.2.8 The DLG also applied for Municipal Disaster Relief Grant funding to the value of R239 359 300. However, only R7.9m was approved.
- 5.2.9 The DLG affirmed that its basic municipal services had not been disrupted by the response to COVID-19.
- 5.2.10 The DLG ensured installation of water tanks, and the distribution of soap and hand sanitiser to high density informal settlements.
- 5.2.11 All district municipalities facilitated initiatives to clean public open spaces. These initiatives are on-going.

- 5.2.12 The DLG also assists shelters for homeless people. This assistance is given in collaboration with the Department of Health, and there are mechanisms in place to improve screening, testing and speeding up test results.
- 5.2.13 The DLG availed R16.2m across municipalities for humanitarian relief. The City of Cape Town was not included as a recipient of this funding.
- 5.2.14 The DLG reported on the use of an Application (App) that helps to track and monitor the distribution of items across municipalities, aimed at humanitarian relief. The live dashboard is updated hourly, and requires Municipalities to record when and where the aid is distributed. In this way, the Department is able to monitor how municipalities use the funding that the Department avails.
- 5.2.15 The DLG reported that it was collecting data from municipalities to establish its plans for fatalities management, specifically regarding the capacity available at cemeteries, burial sites and with undertakers. Several intergovernmental stakeholders also form part of the discussions. These bodies include the Department of Local Government, Health, Environmental Affairs Development Planning, district municipalities, and the Department of Home Affairs.
- 5.2.16 The DEADP reported on its guidelines for waste management for households and the protocols for removing medical waste at designated isolation and quarantine sites.
- 5.2.17 The DEADP reported that the Western Cape has four licenced health care risk waste treatment plants.
- 5.2.18 There are 71 operational waste disposal facilities, and this includes a single high hazardous waste disposal facility.
- 5.2.19 The DEADP reported that if the pandemic escalates, other disposal and treatment options have been identified.
- 5.2.20 The DEADP stated that there was a marked decline in the waste generated during the Level 5 Lockdown. However, there was an increase in illegal dumping. The informal recycling industry has been negatively affected and thus the work done by waste pickers and recycling businesses has diminished.
- 5.2.21 The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment initiated a food voucher initiative for waste pickers. Corporate bodies also sponsored similar items.
- 5.2.22 In terms of water and waste water management, the DEADP reported a decline in water usage and generated waste water in the City of Cape Town, attributed largely to the closure of industries during Level 5 lockdown.
- 5.2.23 The DEADP reported that the quality of tap water is safe for human consumption.
- 5.2.24 The use of communal or shared facilities increases the risk of COVID-19. This risk is particularly concerning in households and areas with shared toilets and shared water tanks.
- 5.2.25 There are five main crematoria in the province, namely, Maitland Crematorium, Drakenstein Crematorium, Worcester Crematorium, Durbanville Memorial Park and George Crematorium. All of these facilities have been granted special permission to operate 24 hours per day and 7 days per week.
- 5.2.26 The Maitland Crematorium and the Durbanville Memorial Park have equipment that need repair.
- 5.2.27 The National Air Quality Index indicates that the air quality in the province is good.

- 5.2.28 There are indications of better air quality and therefore less air pollution during Level 5 lockdown due to the reduction in traffic activity and pollution from various industries in the province.
- 5.2.29 During Level 5 lockdown, all protected areas and parks were closed.
- 5.2.30 Staff responsible for conservation and enforcement were categorised as essential services and have continued to perform duties maintaining safety protocols.
- 5.2.31 Although revenue accrued from tourism and visitor activity to conservation areas has been halted during the restrictions, the budget to operate, maintain and protect the parks and marine resources have not been affected.
- 5.2.32 CapeNature reported that the pandemic has not impacted on all of its ecological projects as some are only expected to be undertaken later in the year. Projects include bird monitoring, post fire monitoring and invasive alien plant assessments. However, prolonged restrictions may impact on the completion of these projects.
- 5.2.33 CapeNature also stated that following the completion of the Post Fire Season Assessments, which are prescribed burns, are needed.
- 5.2.34 Since the commencement of the lockdown, there were six fires.
- 5.2.35 There is a total of 216 “green scorpions”, formally referred to as Environmental Management Inspectors, who are responsible for enforcement patrols around marine reserves and coastal reserves. The number of coast patrols have been increased especially in poaching hotspots.
- 5.2.36 There were 15 to 20 reported transgressions of illegal access to Cape Nature Reserves and illegal fishing during the lockdown.
- 5.2.37 CapeNature also reported delays in projects where contractors are needed to carry out work, due to the limitations imposed by the lockdown.
- 5.2.38 CapeNature stated that even though there is less ecotourism during winter months, there are ongoing marketing projects to encourage tourists to postpone travel plans to the sites rather than to cancel bookings.
- 5.2.39 Given that tourism facilities are closed during Level 2 to Level 5 Lockdown, there is a projected revenue loss of up to R17 million, during the first two quarters of the 2020/21 financial year.

6. THEME: Economic Recovery, Support and Livelihoods

6.1 Overview and background

The Committee requested a briefing from the Provincial Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the National Department of Small Business Development and the National Department of Employment and Labour, on 15 May 2020, to discuss matters within the theme “Economic Recovery, Support and Livelihoods” in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minister and Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) briefed the Committee on assistance provided to fresh food markets, informal traders and Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs), red tape reduction strategies, and assistance provided to small-scale and large-scale agricultural businesses.

The National Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) briefed the Committee on the assistance provided to SMMEs, the informal trading sector and municipalities, and digital assistance for businesses and individuals during the lockdown period.

The National Department of Employment and Labour (DoEL) briefed the Committee on assistance to employees, employers and other workers on labour-related issues and relief measures for essential workers.

6.2 Observations and challenges

- 6.2.1 One of DEDAT's successes, as part of the Economic Cluster, has been its connection to the Risk Adjusted Strategy and its response to change as they have been happening in real time at a national level. DEDAT has engaged with 445 economic stakeholders across business and industry in the Western Cape, and has received over 40 submissions which were forwarded to the National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).
- 6.2.2 Because of the imminent need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), DEDAT formed part of a team that developed a database of manufacturers/suppliers of PPE that was made available online. DEDAT has also worked closely small businesses, local government and organisations that serve small businesses to look at the regulatory changes, the interpretation of those regulations and how small businesses would need to adapt to the regulations. DEDAT has lobbied COGTA to respond to concerns from SMMEs and other small businesses. An SMME forum was launched to support SMMEs and traders with various needs.
- 6.2.3 As t 17 April 2020, 3 333 permits had been issued by municipalities for traders. DEDAT hoped to see permitting become a digital activity like in Gauteng.
- 6.2.4 Level 4 regulations stated that hot, cooked food may only be sold through delivery. This means that traders operating from trading sites needed a delivery mechanism and could not sell food at trading sites or along the road side. Municipalities were only prepared to permit traders that were suitably vetted (and adhere to all health, safety and land-use requirements) pre-COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities have also indicated that their institutions were not geared and fully operational under lockdown conditions to perform inspections. This has since changed and all traders may now apply for work permits. Small businesses are now also being issued special COVID-19 informal trade permits.
- 6.2.5 The Spaza Shop and General Dealers Support Scheme has been implemented through the DSBD's funding as well as Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) funding. The DSBD in partnership with Nedbank will provide financial support to spaza shops and general dealers/traditional grocery stores in townships and villages. The intervention will allow small businesses such as spaza shops, general dealers and traditional grocery stores to benefit from the Spaza Shop and General Dealer Support Scheme. Small businesses will have access to R7 000 of which R3 500 is a grant and R3 500 is given as a loan. DEDAT has been working with other banks to make this service more widely available. DEDAT has also been in the process of developing a "Safety Toolkit", which will provide approximately 3 000 small businesses with face masks, information about keeping the workplace safe, and sanitiser to ensure

businesses are safe when they open to the public. DEDAT has also engaged with every municipality in the Province to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all stakeholders and what their needs are.

- 6.2.6 In terms of approvals of spaza shops who have applied for assistance, only 23 applications had been submitted for the Western Cape, of which only 11 were approved. This number seemed to be very low, especially since there were so many spaza shops operating under difficult financial circumstances.
- 6.2.7 In terms of food insecurity in vulnerable communities, there was a concern about job losses and the ability of people to pay for food, rather than the availability of food. In terms of restrictions on wine exports, it was concerning that there could be significant job losses within the wine industry amounting to a loss of approximately between 4 335 and 8 305 jobs in the next five years, and a loss of between 13 830 and 27 440 jobs in the total value chain in the next five years. However, wine has now been allowed to be transported for export purposes under level 4 regulations.
- 6.2.8 According to DEDAT's information, the economy is in the process of shedding more than 240 000 jobs this year. The tourism sector has been the hardest hit in the pandemic due to restrictions on foreign travel and closure of borders. It was predicted that approximately 60% to 80% of the jobs in tourism will be lost. DEDAT will put programmes in place to support the rebuilding of the tourism industry. One of the ways that the tourism sector has supported the Province is with the provision of quarantine and isolation facilities and accommodation, especially in terms of the repatriation of foreign nationals and South Africans who have returned to the country.
- 6.2.9 An estimated R1 billion per day was lost for each day of lockdown in the Western Cape during level 5. However, this amount decreases as the restrictions are lifted and as the country moves to lower level restrictions.
- 6.2.10 The DSBD was responsible for designing interventions that were responsive to the challenges faced by SMMEs. The main purpose of the interventions was to keep businesses afloat during the lockdown as they were not generating income to sustain their businesses and were therefore unable to protect jobs. The SMME Debt Relief Fund assisted SMMEs with working capital to ensure that they did not close their doors, and therefore, were able to retain employees. The SMME Debt Relief Fund received a budget of R200 million. SMMEs that applied for funding could receive a maximum of R500 000 depending on their needs. The Fund also allowed for loan facilities with an interest rate of prime plus 5%. The DSBD also created the Business Growth Facility, which would give local manufacturers and suppliers the opportunity to produce and strengthen their place in the market.
- 6.2.11 In terms of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), between 30 March and 12 May, the DoEL has performed 3 094 OHS inspections in workplaces in the Western Cape, with an average of 111 inspections per day. So far, there was a general compliance level of 56%, however, the ideal situation would have been 100%.
- 6.2.12 In terms of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) COVID-19 payment benefits, between the period of 26 March to 13 May 2020, 24 241 employers were covered in the Western Cape, while 362 129 employees were covered to the amount of R1 671 909 572.
- 6.2.13 There were a number of complaints from employees who said that their employers have applied for UIF on behalf of staff, however, only a few staff members receive payment while others did not. The UIF recently initiated a

system that allows employees to view their employers' applications. The workers may use their own identity documents to access the system and check how far the application has gone, and whether they are covered.

7. THEME: Transport and Public Infrastructure; Human Settlements

7.1 Overview and background

On 20 May 2020, the Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW) presented on matters related to focusing particularly on traffic officer and road user safety to prevent infection from the virus, sanitisation measures for transport interchanges and public transport vehicles, adherence to the regulations imposed by the national government under the National Disaster Management Act. Additionally, the briefing focused on the progress of quarantine sites in the Western Cape, the support to the construction industry, information sharing, updates on planned infrastructure projects, and the information on unspent transfers and subsidies.

The Department of Human Settlements (DHS) presented on the prohibition of evictions during lockdown, departmental measures for residences living in congested housing structures, the de-densification of priority areas to combat the spread of COVID-19, partnerships with the private sector and government departments to identify the targeted areas such as rural settlements and water scarce towns.

7.2 Observations and challenges

- 7.2.1 The DTPW, together with the taxi industry, launched the *Red Dot Service* on 18 May 2020, to transport essential health care workers to and from work during the current pandemic. The service is also used to transport COVID-19 patients to quarantine facilities.
- 7.2.2 Traffic officials have been equipped with sufficient PPEs.
- 7.2.3 The appointed service provider cleans the vehicles and these vehicles are sanitised once a week. However, officials also ensure that vehicles are sanitised at the end of their shift.
- 7.2.4 Traffic officials continue to use the buddy system, however, each official is assigned a vehicle and would then operate within close proximity of their respective on-duty partner.
- 7.2.5 The use of technology allows for briefings/debriefings and so maintain social distancing measures are practiced.
- 7.2.6 The use of technology allows for briefings/debriefings and through this, social distancing measures are practiced.
- 7.2.7 All roadside alcohol breath testing sampling was suspended on 15 March 2020. Persons suspected of being under the influence of alcohol beyond the legal limit are transported and blood tests administered at the nearest hospital.
- 7.2.8 All eight weighbridges have been repurposed as vehicle checkout points as part of the joint law enforcement operations.
- 7.2.9 The cost for the initial rental of the Cape Town Convention Centre (CTICC) as a temporary hospital is R47 million.
- 7.2.10 The DTPW projects that it will provide isolation facilities for 11 500 people, and quarantine facilities for 53 000 people between June and July, when the peak for infections in the provincial is expected to be reached.
- 7.2.11 The cost for the isolation and quarantine measures is estimated to be R3 billion.

- 7.2.12 The DTPW reported that repurposing hospitality facilities with ready to use beds will roughly cost R1 050 per bed, depending on the location. However, beds will cost R400 each if state owned facilities are used. These are the expected unit costs to fully equip quarantine and isolation facilities.
- 7.2.13 At the time of reporting, the DTPW indicated that there is capacity for 3 559 beds for the purposes of quarantine and isolation.
- 7.2.14 The DTPW developed an Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) system to allow passengers to comment on compliance by transport operators. The system is free of charge and prompts passengers to comment on whether or not operators adhere to vehicle capacity restrictions, provide hand sanitiser on board the vehicles and whether or not the driver uses an appropriate face mask.
- 7.2.15 As of 18 May, the data reflects that 355 responses of the USSD system were completed, there were 285 responses about MBTs, and 226 responses stating that vehicles exceeded the 70% capacity requirement. The DTPW added that 31% of responses indicated that sanitisers were available for passenger use.
- 7.2.16 The DTPW stated that Mini-Bus Taxi (MBT) ranks and operations are monitored to ensure compliance at these interchanges. The surveillance of these sites is done at the Disaster Management Centre.
- 7.2.17 The DTPW stated that it distributed 8 000 flyers to create awareness of safety precautions and restrictions during the lockdown.
- 7.2.18 The DTPW reported on its role in the sanitisation and cleaning of facilities such as transport interchanges, bus stops and hygiene measures for the MyCiti, Georgelink, Golden Arrows Bus Service and SANTACO Western Cape vehicle fleet.
- 7.2.19 To date, the DTPW received donations of PPEs, in the form of hand sanitiser, from Distell, SA Taxi Finance and DMC Source.
- 7.2.20 The construction industry has been significantly impacted by the restrictions.
- 7.2.21 The DTPW reported on the criteria that contractors need to adhere to in order to qualify to be operational during Level 4 of the Lockdown.
- 7.2.22 The DTPW reported that maintenance of and renovations to Health Infrastructure was hindered by the restrictions on the global import and export industry. Given that countries initiated lockdown measures at different times, the procurement of necessary equipment was affected by indefinite delays. By way of example, an 11 KV Generator Panel Upgrade for Tygerberg Hospital and the installation of eight lifts for various health facilities in the province, were delayed. The monetary impact of these two instances on the 2019/20 financial year was R25 million.
- 7.2.23 There were 44 construction projects halted because of the Lockdown, however five essential projects continued.
- 7.2.24 The impact of the delays in construction was estimated to be R47 million.
- 7.2.25 The DTPW indicated that it planned to use the R2.271 million unspent transfers to offset expenditure on PPEs.
- 7.2.26 The DHS reported that of the 503 informal settlements in the province, three informal settlements were identified as areas that needed to be de-densified, in light of the COVID-19. These areas were Dunoon, with 1500 inhabitants, Kosovo, with 2000 inhabitants and Khayelitsha, with 300 inhabitants.
- 7.2.27 The DHS, in collaboration with the Housing Development Agency and the City of Cape Town developed an implementation plan for the de-densification of Dunoon, Kosovo and Khayelitsha. The DHS indicated that these areas were in

fact identified for de-densification, prior to the Lockdown. The conceptual layouts for the structural upgrades to these areas were also briefly illustrated.

- 7.2.28 The DHS stated that the Rental Housing Tribunal (RHT) received approximately 159 complaints during the lockdown. The RHT investigates and hears complaints of illegal evictions related to the rental housing sector and therefore does not deal with matters pertaining to farm dwellers, illegal invasions of vacant land, or matters akin to these instances.
- 7.2.29 The nature of the 159 complaints sent to the RHT ranged from, inter alia, the issuance of unlawful notices, arrear rental, termination of municipal services, unlawful evictions and lockouts, and general queries.
- 7.2.30 The DHS explained its protocol in the event of positive cases of COVID-19 in the congested housing structures. The protocol includes ensuring that individuals isolate properly, informing the appropriate structures such as the Department of Health, contact tracing mechanisms and establishing how the infections occurred, preventing further infections and sanitising contaminated areas.
- 7.2.31 The DHS stated that the distribution across Provinces of the R20 billion Relief Funding has not yet been clearly defined.
- 7.2.32 The DHS partnered with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to provide water tanks to densely populated informal settlements.
- 7.2.33 The DHS highlighted that the District Municipalities needed additional Water Tanks. The Garden Route, Cape Winelands, Overberg and West Coast were identified as the areas that require additional water tanks, customised to address the impact of the COVID-19 in these areas.
- 7.2.34 The DHS is partnering with the DLG to support municipalities with janitorial services and cleansing.
- 7.2.35 The DHS indicated that identifying land for densification, decanting, isolation and relocation is a challenge.

8. THEME: Government Budget and Finances and Cooperative Governance

8.1 Overview and background

The Committee requested briefings from the Provincial Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities and the Head of the Provincial Treasury, on 22 May 2020, under the theme “Government Budget and Finance” within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic on 30 April 2020.

The briefing addressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the finances and budgets of the Province, the plan to adjust and allocate budgets, the financial support provided by the national government, funding for COVID-19 allocated to municipalities and spending by municipalities during the lockdown period, provincial reserve funds, goods and services procured under emergency procurement regulations, procurement of Personal Protective Equipment, actions taken by Provincial Treasury to manage relevant departments, the impact of the lockdown on predominantly tourist economies and the relief packages available to these areas, and an update on the Public Private Partnership framework for the Province.

The Premier and the Provincial Director-General were also requested to brief the Committee within the theme, “Cooperative Governance” within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The briefing focused on the Whole of Society Approach to the

COVID-19 pandemic, and the aspects of legislation that assisted or hindered the efforts of various levels of government to fight the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.2 Observations and challenges: Government Budget and Finance

- 8.2.1 At the time of the provincial budget speech, the Province did not know the scale of the pandemic, nor the implications on the provincial budget. The Western Cape will have to make very deep budget cuts. The projections are subject to change over time, however, the provincial government estimates a R610 million own-revenue shortfall, at least a R3 billion provincial budget cut, and expenditure demand to fund the COVID-19 response to the amount of R2.4 billion in the Western Cape.
- 8.2.2 To date the provincial government has committed R1.14 billion to COVID-19 related expenditure, including but not limited to R628 million to the Western Cape Department of Health for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), laboratory tests, hospital beds and ventilators. R273 million was allocated to the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) for PPE, thermometers, sanitisers and cleaning materials. R168 million was given to the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works for the setting up of quarantine and isolation facilities and the field hospital at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). R35 million was allocated to the Western Cape Department of Social Development and R18 million was also allocated to the WCED for an initial humanitarian response, which included the provision of 50 000 food parcels, the re-initiation of school feeding schemes; and the delivery of 10 000 cooked meals per day for one month. R16,2 million was allocated to the Western Cape Department of Local Government in the form of a Local Government Support Grant to strengthen and support the current humanitarian initiatives within municipalities.
- 8.2.3 Provincial Treasury was committed to ensuring that healthcare workers and other frontline staff in the Province received proper PPE. The Provincial Treasury aimed to ensure that the healthcare system was had the necessary funding for acute and ICU bed facilities as well as quarantine and isolation facilities.
- 8.2.4 Provincial Treasury would continue to engage with the National Treasury on a weekly bases to ensure the Western Cape's actions were aligned with the national government's response. The national government will be tabling a mid-year adjustment budget in response to COVID-19, possibly on 24 June 2020.
- 8.2.5 Government is dealing with an unprecedented environment of both economic and fiscal uncertainty. The second quarter of the calendar year is likely to bring even greater economic disruption across the globe and there is massive financial market volatility, with resurgent trade tensions. Global economic recovery is going to be dependent on pandemic pathways across various countries. In South Africa, the contraction in the economy comes on the back of structural weaknesses in the domestic economy, with growth projections of between -5,8% and -7,4% in the economy in the current year. The deficit is now projected at 11.6% for 2020/21 (R508 billion), and 9% for 2021/22.
- 8.2.6 Provincial Treasury has predicted that the tourism and construction sectors are going to be hit the hardest, with significant job losses. However, the agricultural sector might remain stable, particularly if there is a resumption in international agricultural exports, and if there is continued weakness in the Rand.

- 8.2.7 President Ramaphosa announced a national fiscal response package of R500 billion. The vast majority of the package is targeted to be directly transferred to households and firms. Only R40 billion of the package has been allocated to provinces and municipalities. The Western Cape's allocation was not clear at this point. In terms of financing this R500 billion package, R130 billion will be from reprioritisation, including R30 billion from provinces. Using the Provincial Equitable Share (PES) formula, the Provincial Treasury predicted that this would amount to R3,09 billion for the Western Cape, which the Province would be required to generate from savings.
- 8.2.8 There are a number of risks that remain for the current fiscal year in terms of expenditure management. Wage increases for the public sphere will have a significant impact on the provincial budget. There are emerging impacts in relation to regulatory requirements across departments, for example, with school readiness or even preparing government's administrative buildings for employees to return to work. The costs are not fully known but they are projected to be very high, and are continuing to rise. There are also emerging labour conflicts over returning to work and arrangements for PPE.
- 8.2.9 Provincial Treasury has received requests from various provincial departments for funding. There is still uncertainty in some of the major frontline departments regarding expenditure, however, Provincial Treasury has been working with the departments to determine the costs of the impact of COVID-19 on the departments. In terms of actual expenditure and commitments by departments, this has amounted to R1,148 billion so far, as at 19 May 2020. This amount increases every week. Of the R1,148 billion spent, 82% was for goods and services procured, for example, nebulisers, face masks, PPE, linen and sanitizing equipment. Expenditure for the Departments of Education and Transport and Public Works will increase significantly with the opening of schools.
- 8.2.10 There was confusion around procurement costs as the costs per department for goods and services that were procured varied considerably. This was partly due to procuring different sized units per department. The different supply costs also contributed to the varied costs per department. Some suppliers could not supply the quantities needed within the timeframes that were required. The Provincial Treasury encourages efficiencies and competition, which means they cannot procure from only one supplier at one price point. Additionally, some of the frontline departments procured goods early when goods were at lower prices, while other non-frontline departments procured goods later when prices had already escalated. This would be clarified in an updated presentation.
- 8.2.11 The lockdown had and will continue to have a massive impact on the local tourism sector. Tourism is a significant sector in the Province in terms of its contribution to Gross Value Added (GVA), as well as its contribution to employment. Provincial Treasury has predicted that there will be no international tourism for 12 months from the start of the lockdown and that the tourism sector could shed approximately 104 505 jobs, accounting for 43% of all employment losses. Many SMMEs in the tourism or tourism-related sectors will be under extreme pressure and it is predicted that 50% of all tourism businesses will close down. However, there is a broader, fiscal relief function available under the national government for tourism relief, which is integrated into the national disaster response package. The provincial government's role is to support these businesses with access to relief packages, including UIF packages.

8.3 Observations and challenges: Cooperative Governance

- 8.3.1 The conversion of the CTICC into a temporary hospital facility will provide approximately 850 additional beds. The facility will include four wards – medical, infectious disease, emergency and internal medicine specialists and volunteers will be available at the facility. It is estimated that 200 admissions and 200 discharges will be managed per day during the peak. Additional temporary hospitals will be opened along the R300 in the Metro, in Khayelitsha and in the Cape Winelands, which will provide an additional 616 beds.
- 8.3.2 So far, R350 million worth of PPE has been ordered so that healthcare workers have the protection they need to care for every sick person. The Red Dot Transport Service has also been launched, which will transport healthcare workers home when their shifts ends at 19:00.
- 8.3.3 The Covid-19 Content Centre for business was launched, aimed at supporting businesses by providing information that will ensure business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Western Cape Government has produced a range of information material for employers and their staff to utilise in the workplace such as posters, checklists and decals that remind people of health guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19. Businesses have also been assisted with procuring the necessary PPE required to protect employees. WCG, together with the City of Cape Town and Wesgro, and in partnership with First National Bank/Rand Merchant Bank, launched a dedicated online PPE marketplace that provides a single place for small and large PPE manufacturers to promote their product ranges, and for businesses to secure masks and other PPE.
- 8.3.4 The COVID-19 Support Finder was launched together with the City of Cape Town and Wesgro to assist businesses to navigate and access the many support funds available to them. This online tool asks five questions, ranks the answers against pre-determined criteria, and provides a list of funds that businesses may qualify for.
- 8.3.5 In terms of assistance for the agricultural sector, WCG procured 100 000 cloth masks and 1 000 litres of hand-sanitiser and distributed them to agri-workers across the Province. 35 198 masks were distributed to agri-workers in the Witzenberg region. The WCG has also approved protocols for the transport of essential seasonal workers in the agriculture sector from the Western Cape to other provinces.
- 8.3.6 WCG has supported municipalities by ensuring that the delivery of basic services in all municipalities continue without interruption and by ensuring that frontline and essential workers are operational so services can continue. A Local Government Support Grant of R16,2 million was distributed to municipalities aimed at augmenting and supporting humanitarian initiatives.
- 8.3.7 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe economic impact on the waste industry, especially on the informal waste industry and waste pickers. A relief program for waste pickers, in the form of food vouchers, has been rolled out to assist, with the support of the national government.
- 8.3.8 National testing and lab capacity has been under severe strain because of the sharp increase in cases in the Cape Metro region. This has affected testing for the Western Cape. There are a large number of undetected cases, which will continue to grow because of the limitations on testing. As the pandemic progresses, the limits of available capacity will ultimately be exceeded. In terms of rural districts, the Cape Winelands District has shown evidence of multiple clusters, which are fast spreading, having started in Witzenberg three

weeks ago and having moved on to Drakenstein, Stellenbosch and Breede Valley in the past two weeks. Early clusters have been detected in Overberg and West Coast districts, however, there are many areas with no or sporadic cases.

- 8.3.9 All eight sub-districts in the City of Cape Town have established community transmission and have recorded increasing positive cases over the past month. Initial growth in cases has been linked to specific workplace clusters. Prioritised hotspots in the Cape Metro area include Tygerberg, Khayelitsha, Klipfontein, Dunoon and Hout Bay. The prioritised rural hotspot is the Cape Winelands (Drakenstein and Witzenberg).
- 8.3.10 In terms of the Hotspot Strategy, the identification for appropriate people for admission to designated isolation and quarantine facilities will have to be nuanced, in light of the testing capacity challenges, together with exploration of viable and feasible community-based isolation models (via community initiatives). Behaviour change in terms of social distancing, hand and surface hygiene and universal mask wearing, targeted in all areas of gathering in hotspot areas will be key to controlling the spread of the virus. Curbing the spread requires a Whole of Government Approach (WOGA) as well as a Whole of Society Approach (WOSA).
- 8.3.11 The Dunoon Metro Pilot project, if successful, will be rolled out to other hotspot areas. The approach looks at case management, quarantine and isolation, civil compliance, slowing the spread of the virus, humanitarian relief and food security and economic recovery. The biggest issue in this space is around funding uncertainty.
- 8.3.12 In terms of legislative challenges, the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), does not empower provincial governments and municipalities to issue regulations or directions to complement those issued at national level. It is a challenge for provincial governments to perform a supporting roles without any power to regulate where necessary. Additionally, there was minimum opportunity for citizens and businesses to raise queries or objections pertaining to regulatory matters.

9. Acknowledgements

The Committee thanked the Premier, the provincial Director-General, the various provincial Ministers, national departments, entities and provincial departmental officials for their willingness to meet with the Committee and to share information, especially during such a challenging time. The Committee also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of all frontline workers and officials during the lockdown period.