

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2020

COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Human Settlements for the 2019/2020 financial year, dated 20 May 2020, as follows:

Members

The Committee comprised of the following members:

Maseko, L (Chairperson) (DA)
America, D (DA)
Herron, B (GOOD)
Lili, A (ANC)
Van der Westhuizen, A (DA)

Alternate Members

Baartman, D (DA)
Bakubaku-Vos, N (ANC)
Marran, P (ANC)
Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)
Mitchel, D (DA)
Schafer, B (DA)
Smith, D (ANC)

1. Introduction

The mandate of the Committee was to-

- 1.1 maintain oversight over the Executive member and the Department and its Entity, of the way in which they perform their responsibilities including the implementation of legislation and to hold them accountable to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; and
- 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 -

- 1.3 facilitated public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee;
- 1.4 conducted its business in a fair, open and transparent manner;
- 1.5 promoted co-operative governance; and
- 1.6 reported regularly to the House.

2. Reporting Department(s) and Entity

The Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal

3. Overview of Committees Activities

No of Committee Meetings	10
No of Public Hearings	4
No of Oversight Visits	0
No of Provincial Bills considered	3

4. Oversight activities

The 2019/2020 financial year commenced with the election of the Chairperson for the Standing Committee in accordance with Standing Rule 82(1) after which the Department provided the Committee with an overview of priorities for the financial year. The Department briefed the Committee on its current projects, new innovations that aligned with provincial policy, new focus areas in terms of the Ministerial strategic plans with specific reference to the Housing Demand Database and programme challenges faced by the Department.

Four vacancies arose on the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal. The Committee deliberated on the nominees recommended by the Department for appointment to the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal. A briefing was held on the process leading up to the long and short lists and the process leading up to the finalisation of the interviews to fill the vacancies on the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal. The Committee, having consulted with the Department on the candidates, recommend that a chairperson and a member be appointed to serve on the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal. The Committee recommended that the Department advertise to appoint two alternate members who have expertise in consumer matters pertaining to rental housing. This was decided on the premise that none of the candidates were qualified in consumer matters.

The Committee was able to engage the Department on its Quarterly Performance Reports, challenges associated with new programmes being implemented in terms of the Department's Strategic Plan and on new innovations that aligned with provincial policy.

The City of Cape Town briefed the Committee on the the Salt River affordable social housing opportunities. They informed the Committee of the number of beneficiaries who would be allocated a housing unit.

Communicare briefed the Committee on the challenges associated with social housing programmes for the current financial year and on its partnership with the City of Cape Town. The Committee resolved to invite Communicare and other related companies that manage social housing projects to brief the Committee on their core business.

Further discussions were held on the status of GAP Housing from 2014 – 2020, the status of the Rent to Buy Model in the implementation of the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) and the challenges and successes regarding the process related to the implementation of the FLISP (GAP market) and municipalities. The Committee resolved that Ms Maseko, as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, send correspondence to the National Department of Human Settlements and the NCOP Housing Committee, indicating that the Standing Committee was concerned about the challenge in the GAP market for beneficiaries who earn a salary between R3 500 and R7 000 and invite them to attend a meeting and engage with the Committee to find possible solutions to the GAP market pertaining to the flexibility of the housing policy.

As part of the Committee's mandate and oversight function a meeting on the Department's Annual Report took place as per Standing Rule 105(1) of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The Committee engaged the Department and the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal on its Annual Reports submitted in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999).

The Department briefed the Committee on Vote 8 in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019], the Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B 2–2020] and the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020], referred to the Committee in terms of Standing Rule 188. The Committee considered the Bills and members were able to ask questions and request documents from the Department pertaining to matters which stemmed from the discussions on the Bills.

5. Legislation

In the 2019/20 Financial Year, the Committee dealt with the following items of legislation:

5.1 Provincial Bills

- 5.1 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019]: Vote 8;
- 5.2 Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B 2–2020]: Vote 8; and
- 5.3 Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020]: Vote 8.

6. Facilitation of Public Involvement and Participation

As part of the Committee's mandate to facilitate public participation as part of the legislative process, the Committee held four public hearings. To this extent the

Committee advertised extensively on the Annual Report and on Bills such as the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019], the Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B 2–2020] and the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020], informing and inviting interested stakeholders to participate in processes.

7. Financial particulars

The Standing Committee was allocated an amount of R100 000. At the close of the 2019/20 financial year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Standing Committee on Human Settlements amounted to a total of R64 719.