

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 2 JULY 2021

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**1. Report of the Standing Committee on Health on the Annual Report of the Department of Health for the 2019/20 financial year**

The Standing Committee on Health, having deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Health for the year ended 31 March 2020, reports as follows:

#### **1. Introduction**

The Standing Committee's Annual Report meeting was published in newspapers inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

The Standing Committee on Health (the Committee) deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Health on 9 June 2021, as part of its oversight function. The Minister and the Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks.

The Department was examined on:

Part A: General Information,

Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and

Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report.

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. There were no submissions.

#### **2. Overview**

Before proceeding to the consideration of the Annual Report of the Department, the Minister and the Head of Department were allowed to make opening remarks.

The Minister of Health, Prof. N Mbombo, provided an overview on the successes and challenges faced by the Department during the 2019/20 financial year.

The Minister reported that the period under review has been challenging for the Department of Health. The Department had to contend with significant service pressures, such as the budget cuts and the pandemic towards the end of the financial year under review. Despite these challenges and significant financial constraints, the Department achieved the best health outcomes for the people of the Western Cape and the citizens have the longest life expectancy in the country.

Minister Mbombo also reported that the delivery of several new and upgraded health facilities was a major highlight of her department during the term under review. The Minister further reported that the Department received a clean audit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time during the 2019/2020 financial year.

Dr. Cloete, the Head of Department, also made opening remarks. He highlighted that the year under review was the last year before Dr. Engelbrecht, the former Head of Department went on retirement. Dr. Cloete reported that during the 2019/2020 financial year, the Department focused on service transformation strategies that increased the effectiveness and efficiency of healthcare provision in the province. The Department intensified its programme of providing person-centred care, mitigating service pressures, and strengthening the primary healthcare platform. Dr. Cloete informed the Committee that the Department has focused on key health-system capabilities, namely leadership, governance, service delivery models, infrastructure and information systems. The key focus areas that have been central to the success of the Department include unqualified audits for the last 15 years and clean financial audit for 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

### **3. Key points from the discussion on the Annual Report of the Department**

- 3.1 During the financial year under review, the Western Cape population was estimated to be 6.6 million, with 75.2 percent of the population dependent on the public health services.
- 3.2 The provincial public health system saw a total of 14.3 million primary care contacts excluding contacts in home and community-based care setting.
- 3.3 The provincial health system remained under pressure, particularly in the mental health care, obstetrics, gynecology, critical care, and emergency areas.
- 3.4 The Department reported that good progress was made in improving the infrastructure that supports the Department's health care.
- 3.5 During the 2019/2020 financial year, the Department had 32 479 employees, 65 percent were health professionals, 35 percent were administrative support staff and 92 percent were permanently employed.
- 3.6 During the period under review, 323 community service nurses were placed in health facilities to fulfill their community nursing service obligation.
- 3.7 The patient fees are the main source of revenue for the Department and in 2019/2020 financial year, the Department collected a revenue surplus of R141, 914 million.
- 3.8 The Department reported an under-expenditure of R78, 768 million due to delays in the filling of vacancies, only critical positions were filled.
- 3.9 The Department contracted 96 Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) which employed approximately 3 798 Community Health Workers to deliver the Home and Community Based Care Services.

- 3.10 It was reported that during the term under review, ambulance, rescue and patient transport were provided from 49 stations excluding six satellite bases and a total of 464 950 emergency cases were attended to.
- 3.11 Specialised Forensic Pathology Services were rendered from 17 Forensic Pathology Laboratories across the province in order to establish the circumstances and causes surrounding unnatural and undetermined death.
- 3.12 It was reported that the Forensic Pathology caseload, especially in the City of Cape Town was a major challenge.
- 3.13 Poor and intermittent supply of pharmaceuticals was a constant constraint exacerbated by the late and no award of contracts.
- 3.14 The Department reported that it has an approved Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan and concomitant Implementation Plan which gives effect to the Prevention Plan.
- 3.15 In minimizing the conflict of interest, the Department reported that all officials in Supply Chain Management are required to sign the Code of Conduct document, the Departmental Non- Disclosure Agreement (NDA), and the electronic disclosure of financial interest on annual basis.
- 3.15 The Department further reported that it dealt with 23 cases that involve theft, bribes and fraud.
- 3.16 In 2019/2020 financial year, 1.59 percent of departmental officials were injured on duty.

#### **4. Public input**

The Committee proceeded to the public hearing on the Annual Report of the Department of Health. No members of the public were present, and no input was received.

#### **5. Information requested**

The Committee requested the Department of Health to provide it with the following information by Monday 5 July 2021:

- 5.1 Detailed information on the renovations made at various health facilities in the province during the financial year under review, and information on the health facilities that are on the waiting list for refurbishments in the 2020/2021 financial year.
- 5.2 A copy of the Supply Chain Management Preferential Procurement Policy.
- 5.3 Detailed information on the fraud cases that were reported during the 2019/2020 financial year, how much was stolen, and what sanctions were handed to the officials involved. This is in reference to page 154 of the Annual Report of the Department.
- 5.4 Detailed information on the nature of injury on duty cases as reported on page 157 of the Annual Report during the financial year under review.
- 5.5 Detailed information on the irregular expenditure as reported on page 240 of the Annual Report of the Department.

#### **6. Conclusion**

The Chairperson thanked the Members of the Committee, the Minister, the Head of Department and all the officials of the Department for their preparation and responses to the questions posed by the Committee.

## **2. Report of the Standing Committee on Health on its oversight visit to the vaccination sites in the Metro on 26 May 2021**

The Standing Committee on Health having conducted oversight visits to the vaccination sites in the Metro on 26 May 2021, reports as follows:

### **The delegation**

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Social Development included the following Members:

#### **Democratic Alliance**

Allen, RI  
Botha, LJ  
Philander, WF (Chairperson)

#### **African National Congress**

Windvogel, R

#### **Apology**

Xego, M (EFF)  
Bans, AP (ANC)  
Bakubaku-Vos NG (ANC)

### **1. Background**

The Standing Committees on Health conducted oversight visits to the vaccination sites in Eerste River, Mitchells Plain and Nyanga on Wednesday 26 May 2021 as part of its oversight function.

The purpose of the visit was to assess how the COVID-19 vaccination was administered and to inspect the turnout of the elderly persons for the vaccination from the Eerste River, Mitchells Plain and Nyanga communities and the surrounding areas.

### **2. Salient points that emanated from the vaccination site in Eerste River**

- 2.1 Sister Segels M and Sister Viljoen P from Eerste River Clinic welcomed the Committee at the vaccination sites in the Eerste River Civic Centre.
- 2.2 The Committee was informed that the vaccination site operates on week days from 07:30-15:00.
- 2.3 It was reported that the vaccination rollout at the Centre started on Monday 24 May 2021 and a total of 72 elderly persons were vaccinated from the site.
- 2.4 The Committee was informed that on Tuesday 25 May, 99 elderly persons were vaccinated and the facilities' vaccination target on Wednesday 26 May was 120.
- 2.5 The site was vaccinating persons with appointments and walk-ins, no elderly person is turned away without being vaccinated.
- 2.6 It was reported that after vaccination, people are expected to wait for 15 minutes to check their reaction or side effects of the vaccination before leaving the facility.
- 2.7 Some of the elderly persons that were vaccinated at the Centre were from areas outside the Eerste River.
- 2.8 The officials at the site reported that the vaccination process had been smooth, however, the only challenge was with the vaccination registration system. The registration system

- was logging them out, this made it difficult for them to capture and access the vaccination information in the morning and this was delaying the vaccination process.
- 2.9 The Committee was informed that the majority of frontline healthcare workers were vaccinated in phase 1 via the Sisonke Programme, only few workers were not vaccinated due to various reasons, such as religious reasons and the negative media reporting on the COVID-19 vaccination process.
  - 2.10 Sister Segels thanked the frontline healthcare workers for the flow and well-organised vaccination process.

The Committee was very impressed with how the health workers were handling the vaccination process at the Eerste River Civic Centre. The vaccination process was organised, the elderly persons kept a social distance whilst waiting to be vaccinated.

The Committee departed from the Eerste River Civic Center to the vaccination site at the Mitchell Plain Day Hospital.

### **3. Visit to the vaccination site in Mitchells Plain**

The Committee conducted an unannounced visit to a vaccination site in Mitchells Plain Day Hospital. The Committee was welcomed by the Facility Manager, Ms. Hasen, whose behavior at first made it very difficult for the Committee to properly conduct its oversight visit.

- 3.1 Ms. Hasen reported that 80% of elderly persons that were vaccinated in Mitchells Plain Day Hospital were registered, and had made appointments for vaccination, however, the facility also vaccinates the walk-in elderly persons without appointments.
- 3.2 In terms of the patient flow for the hospital, patients queue outside in different lines due to the congestion inside the facility.
- 3.3 Ms. Hasen reported that the facility started the vaccination rollout on Monday 24 May 2021 and a total of 224 elderly persons were vaccinated. In addition, 281 persons were vaccinated on Tuesday 25 May 2021 and on Wednesday 26 May, the vaccination target for the facility was 246.
- 3.4 The Committee noticed that there were three vaccination stations within the facility and a recovery area that allows persons to wait for 15 minutes for observation before they exit the facility.
- 3.5 It was reported that there was no Johnson & Johnson vaccination, however, the Pfizer vaccine was sufficient and the facility was vaccinating persons on weekdays from 08:00-16:00.
- 3.6 The Committee was informed that a team of health workers from the facility was also conducting an outreach vaccination at Beacon Bay Old Age Home where they book appointments for the residents based on the number of residents registered on the EVDS and administer the vaccination to all the residents.
- 3.7 The Committee observed that the vaccination roll out was progressing well at the Mitchell Plain Day Hospital, no challenges were reported.
- 3.8 The Committee interacted with elderly persons that were vaccinated, they praised the vaccination process and the service offered by the health workers.

The Committee thanked the health workers and departed from Mitchells Plain Day Hospital to a vaccination site in Nyanga.

#### **4. Visit to the vaccination site in Nyanga**

The Committee conducted an unannounced visit to a vaccination site in Nyanga Day Community Day Centre. The Committee was welcomed by the Facility Manager, Mr Fanampi.

- 4.1 Mr. Fanampi informed the Committee that the vaccination target for the facility was 100 persons per day that consists of appointments for registered clients and walk-ins for unregistered clients.
- 4.2 He reported that the Nyanga Clinic has three vaccination stations and a vaccination team that consists of two Professional Nurses, two Staff Nurses, two data captures, and four Community Workers. In addition, the facility was waiting for two additional administrators that will be assisting with the vaccination team.
- 4.3 Mr. Fanampi reported that the Nyanga Clinic started the vaccination rollout on Monday 24 May and only 36 persons were vaccinated and on Tuesday 24 May, the facility administered 37 vaccinations to the elderly persons.
- 4.4 He reported that the turnout was very low and as a result the facility was targeting the elderly patients that were visiting the Clinic for chronic illnesses.
- 4.5 The facility was collaborating with the City of Cape Town and St Johns NGO to raise awareness about the COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, the facility was working closely with the church leaders in communicating and encouraging people to vaccinate.
- 4.6 It was reported that the appointment system for the vaccination was conducted at a central location within the provincial Department of Health. Text messages are sent to the registered elderly persons and within three days they had to go to the site as booked/scheduled for vaccination.
- 4.7 It was highlighted that the challenge with the centralised appointment system for the vaccination was that, elderly persons from outside the Nyanga community, from areas such as Durbanville and Kensington are referred to Nyanga for their vaccination appointment instead of getting their appointment within their areas of residents. This was pointed out as a security concern.
- 4.8 The operating time for the Nyanga Clinic was from 08h00-16h00 on weekdays.
- 4.9 It was reported that the waiting time for the vaccination was not more than five minutes.
- 4.10 The Committee was informed that all health workers from the Clinic were vaccinated except two, who were not vaccinated for religious reasons.
- 4.11 Mr. Fanampi said that his concern was a poor turnout for the vaccination, he said that few people were visiting the facility for vaccination and the facility is not meeting its daily vaccination target.
- 4.12 He mentioned that health promoters from the Nyanga Clinic are doing the vaccination awareness within the Nyanga community encouraging people to go and register for the vaccination.
- 4.13 Inadequate parking in the facility was reported as a matter of concern as the facility is accommodating elderly persons from areas outside Nyanga.

The Committee successfully concluded its visit.