



# Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

Ref Number: 11/4/6

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Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Human Settlements for the 2014/15 financial year, dated 31 March 2015, as follows:

## Members

The Committee comprises of the following members:

Hinana, N (DA)  
Magaxa, KE (ANC)  
Maseko, LM (Chairperson) (DA)  
Paulsen, MN (EFF)  
Schäfer, BA (DA)

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 To consider and report on legislation, other matters and the Annual Reports referred to it by the Speaker.

1.2 In fulfilment of its mandate the Committee must:

- 1.2.1 Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee;
- 1.2.2 Conduct its business in a fair, open and transparent manner;
- 1.2.3 Promote co-operative governances; and
- 1.2.4 Report regularly to the House.

## 2. Reporting Department(s) and Entities

- 2.1 The Department of Human Settlements
- 2.2 The Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal
- 2.3 The Western Cape Housing Development Fund

## 3. Overview of Committee's Activities (June 2014 - March 2015)

Number of Committee Meetings	15
Number of Public Hearings	04
Number of Oversight Visits	02

Number of Provincial Bills considered	03
Workshops/conferences attended	01

#### 4. Oversight activities

The Committee convened its first meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament on 25 June 2014. The Department of Human Settlements presented the Committee with an overview of its activities for the financial year with specific focus on its Annual Performance Plan and its Quarterly Performance Reports.

The Department indicated that its strategic focus was derived from national strategic goals, which focused on accelerated delivery of shelter opportunities, improved access to basic services, more efficient land utilisation and improved property markets.

The Committee held four public hearings for the financial year, where the Department discussed its Annual Report and that of its entity the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal, the Schedule to the *Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 5–2014], the Schedule to the Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2014/2015 Financial Year) [B 1–2015] and the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2015]. In addition hereto the focus of the Committee was aimed at the housing backlog, the apportionment of houses to beneficiaries and the utilisation of alternative building material for construction and land fill.

Meetings on alternative building material were conducted with companies such as Magnastruct and Futurehouse. These companies elaborated on the application and utilisation of alternative building material focusing on the durability, cost-effectiveness and the environmental impact of these materials in comparison to traditional building methods and material.

In a meeting dated 11 November 2014 the Committee resolved to conduct oversight visits to housing projects where alternative building material had been utilised. The Department indicated that a single structure built the traditional way was valued at R160 000. Challenges regarding costs associated with importing alternative building material and training artisans could prove to be very costly.

The City of Cape Town briefed the Committee on its contingency plans for the flood victims of Thabo Mbeki and other informal settlements. The Committee was informed of the humanitarian relief aid and the assistance that was provided by the three spheres of government to remedy the situation. Further hereto the City informed the Committee that alternative building technology for construction and landfill was being considered and tested for future projects.

The Community Organisation Resource Centre (CORC) briefed the Committee on the international precedent on housing models. They elaborated on India's alternative development projects focusing on the planning, integration and implementation of the units that was constructed for the resettlement of the informal settlements. CORC indicated that the implementation of the alternative development projects has proven to be cost effective and sustainable.

The Sector Task Team for Older Persons (STTOP) briefed the Committee on Special Needs Housing for social pensioners and the need for legislation, which deals directly with special needs housing for social pensioners. The Committee requested that the Ministry provide it with the status of the draft Policy Framework, which will aid social pensioners in obtaining

Special Needs Housing. The Department informed the Committee that the Policy Framework was developed in January 2015 and that it was still in the process of being finalised.

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Communicare's Social Housing Projects namely the Drommedaris and Bothasig Gardens, after which a resolution was made to invite Communicare to brief the Committee on its Business Plan and core functions. Further hereto an oversight visit was undertaken to Leo Mews in Leonsdale, Elsiesriver to observe the rental units.

The City of Cape Town briefed the Committee on the status of the handover of title deeds to beneficiaries and the rehabilitation of the vandalised units. Further oversight was undertaken to Nyanga, Mpetha Square, to observe the status of the vandalised and incomplete houses. The Department briefed the Committee on the status of the housing project, the problems experienced and the measures put in place to finalise the project by 31 March 2015.

The Petitions Committee received a petition which detailed the complaints received from the Wolwedans Human Settlements, Grootbrakrivier, Mosselbay. The Standing Committee on Human Settlements looked into this matter and requested that the Department investigate and rehabilitate the defective houses.

In the speech pertaining to the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement and Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Expenditure 2014, reference was made regarding an amount of R6 million which had been allocated to the Department of Human Settlements for the rectification of the houses in Mosselbay. The Committee has endeavoured to conduct an oversight visit by 5 May 2015 to observe the status of the Rehabilitated Wolwedans Human Settlements Housing Project and thereby concluding its obligation in terms of the petition.

Discussions on the Annual Report for the Standing Committee on Human Settlements and that of its entity, the Western Cape Rental Housing Tribunal took place on 30 October 2014. The Committee considered and deliberated on the report. The Report was considered, debated in the House on 27 November 2014 and published in the Announcements Tabling Committee.

## **5. Legislation**

In the 2014/15 Financial Year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

### **5.1 Provincial Bills**

*5.1.1 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 5–2014]*

*5.1.2 Western Cape Additional Appropriation Bill (2014/2015 financial Year)[B 1–2015]*


*5.1.3 Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2015]*

## **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 four public hearings. To this extent the Committee advertised extensively on the Annual Report, Bills such as the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 5–2014], the Western Cape Additional Appropriation Bill [B 1–2015], and the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2015], informing and inviting interested stakeholders to participate in public hearings. A total of four oral presentations were presented by interested parties during the discussions on the Annual Report. The comments which were raised by these members of the public were noted in the report.

**7. Financial particulars**

The Committee was allocated R129 650 as its Budget for the 2014/2015 Financial Year. At the close of the 2014/15 Financial Year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Standing Committee accumulated to an amount of R30 618.00. The underspending was as a result of the fact that the majority of committee meetings was held within the parliamentary precinct and therefore did not incur significant costs.

  
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**MS LM MASEKO (MPP)**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

**DATE:**