



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

Ref Number: 11/4/1/2/56

## **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE 2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Standing Committee on Local Government, having considered the Annual Report of the Department of Local Government for the 2018/19 financial year, dated 31 October 2019, reports as follows:

### **1. Introduction**

The Annual Report of the Department of Local Government for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 was tabled on 27 September 2019 in accordance with section 65(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), as amended.

As part of its oversight function, the Standing Committee on Local Government (the Committee) considered the Annual Report of the Department of Local Government (the Department) on 17 October 2019. Annual reports are the key instruments for departments to report on performance measured against their performance targets and budgets as outlined in their strategic plans and annual performance plans. In addition hereto, annual reports account for the success of each programme that was implemented.

Standing Rule 111(1)(a) of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament provides standing committees with the mandate to consider departmental annual reports submitted in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999).

The Annual Report Programme for the 2018/19 financial year was advertised in newspapers to invite stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

The Committee deliberated on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information and Part D: Human Resource Management after which the public present was afforded an opportunity to ask questions to the department.

### **2. Overview**

- 2.1 The Chairperson welcomed the members of the Committee, the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the Head of Department, departmental officials and all present. The Chairperson congratulated the Department on its performance in achieving a clean audit outcome. He specifically thanked the Department for its hard work to achieve the sterling results presented to the Committee. He further noted that a transparent professional relationship exists between the Department and the Committee and urged this spirit to prevail. The Chairperson offered Minister Bredell as well as the Head of Department, Mr Pause, the opportunity to make introductory remarks.

- 2.2 In his remarks the Minister highlighted that this Annual Report is a reflection of the Department's achievements against the targets set for the 2018/19 financial year. The period under review was extremely difficult due to the prolonged drought but valuable lessons were learnt.
- 2.3 The Minister expressed his concern about the drought situation in the Greater Karoo, Laingsburg and Kannaland areas, where the total collapse in water supply was prevented with the adoption of the Greater Karoo Drought Response Action Plan through a joint regional approach.
- 2.4 The Department provided continuous support to municipalities in order to improve service delivery and, in terms of the Government Performance Index Research Report, 12 of the top 20 performing municipalities in the country were located in the Western Cape.
- 2.5 The Department is under severe budgetary pressure and there is an indication of a 5% to 7% budget cut which could equate to approximately R13 billion over the next three years making service delivery extremely difficult and the Department will do everything possible to provide the necessary support.
- 2.6 A Local Government Forum was established at national level where all the heads of departments of Local Government sit and it is currently chaired by the Western Cape. The Forum is used to discuss the challenges faced by Local Government, to explore best practices and to encourage a collaborative effort to assist one another through the exchange of good-practice models that will improve support to municipalities.
- 2.7 The Department embarked on a joint district approach. It was found that the challenges at local government were the same year on year and the Department could ensure that co-planning and co-budgeting lead to better service delivery in communities by aligning the planning priorities of the province with those of municipalities.
- 2.8 The Constitutional Court declared the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Act, 2011 (Act 7 of 2011), invalid. This judgment has far-reaching effects on the administration of municipalities in general. The Department, together with other provinces, is assisting the national Department to develop a circular to guide municipalities on the implications and applicability of the provisions despite the declaration of invalidity.
- 2.9 The Department supported municipalities with an accredited training programme on Integrated Community Development as part of strengthening the citizen interface. The purpose of the Programme is to build capacity within the municipal public participation units.

### **3. Information requested**

The Committee REQUESTED that the Department, by 31 January 2020, submits

- 3.1 A list of municipalities and councillors who attended the Hans Seidell Foundation training programme on ethical and responsible leadership;
- 3.2 A quarterly report on the extent of public participation at municipalities;
- 3.3 An updated list of transfer payments to municipalities, as well as the municipal expenditure to date of these transfer payments;

- 3.4 A list of all the fully fledged Thusong centres and satellite centres, as well as a report on the funding awarded to six municipalities for small-scale job creation and income-generating economic development projects in rural areas;
- 3.5 A copy of the Government Performance Index Research Report conducted by Good Governance Africa that was released in April 2019;
- 3.6 A list of the training courses the departmental officials attended during the period under review as well as the designation of the officials and service providers of these training courses; and
- 3.7 A copy of the Department's Workforce Plan 2016–2021.

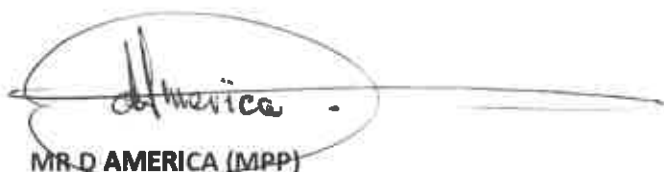
#### **4. Resolutions**

The Committee RESOLVED to invite the Department, at a future date, to brief it on:

- 4.1 The Joint District Approach as developed by the Department and endorsed by the national government;
- 4.2 The partnership with the Hans Seidell Foundation and the training provided to councillors with regard to ethical and responsible leadership;
- 4.3 The partnership with the Dullah Omar Institute and the research done with regard to Alternative Executive Governance Models in Local Government; and
- 4.4 The public-participation process followed by the Witzenberg Municipality during their Integrated Development Plan process and whether any interventions were necessary to ensure the process was all-inclusive.

#### **5. 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 raised by the Committee.



**MR D AMERICA (MPP)**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**DATE: 31/10/2019**