



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

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Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, dated 2 February 2021, on the 2019/2020 Annual Reports of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and its Entity CapeNature, for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, having considered the Annual Reports of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and its Entity, CapeNature, for the year ended 31 March 2020, referred to it, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

Section 113(3)(b) of the Constitution requires that “Members of the Executive Council of a province must provide the legislature with full and regular reports concerning matters under their control.” Section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) requires the Minister of each Department and public entity to table an annual report in the legislature within six months of the end of each financial year.

As part of its oversight function, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (the Committee) considered the Annual Reports of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (the Department) and its Entity, CapeNature, on 8 December 2020.

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.

The Annual Report Programme for the 2019/2020 financial year was advertised in various newspapers, inviting stakeholders and members of the public to participate in the discussions.

The Committee deliberated on Part A: General Information, Part B: Performance Information and Part D: Human Resource Management of the respective Annual Reports.

2. Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Overview

The underfunding of the Department has had a long term effect as key programmes were delayed. Challenges were many and, in addition to the budgetary constraints, included global challenges such as climate change and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Illegal activities

in the environmental sector and the increasing destruction of natural resources continued to be a concern.

Key highlights for the year under review included the Department being awarded the Bronze Award by the Department of Public Service and Administration in the National Batho Pele Excellence awards for provincial and national departments.

The Department also completed the Provincial Spatial Planning Performance Management and Evaluation Report that focused on three growth regions, namely, the Cape Town Metropolitan, the West Coast and the Southern Cape functional regions. The Western Cape State of the Environment Outlook Report was published and the Department was the first province to develop an Annual State of Waste Management Report. Further highlights included the Western Cape Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Review, the implementation of the Coastal Management Programme and Estuary Management Programme and the compilation of municipal support and capacity building strategies.

The Department obtained a clean audit for the year under review. It achieved 98,4% of its programme expenditure on its allocated budget. In terms of its annual performance targets, the Department set 47 performance indicators across seven programmes, of which 44 targets were achieved, two targets were partially achieved and one target was not achieved, mainly due to demand driven indicators.

3. CapeNature

Overview

CapeNature continued to strengthen good governance and achieved good results in the past financial year. This resulted in another unqualified audit for the fifth consecutive year. The Entity set 17 performance indicators distributed through four programmes and achieved 100% of its predetermined objectives for the fourth consecutive year. The year of reporting marked the final year of the Entity's five year strategic plan which commenced in 2015.

Highlights included the extension of the conservation estate that comprised the total hectares of land surface area of the Western Cape managed by CapeNature, to over a million hectares. In terms of social investments, the Entity has generated 1 568 work opportunities against a target of 1 000 and managed to employ full time equivalents from communities in close proximity to the reserves which are aligned with the poverty nodes.

The Youth Environmental Services Programme provided a R20 million injection of funding into the province over the past 2 years and allowed youth to participate in capacity building and job creation programmes. The tourism revenue generated by the Entity exceeded the set target. Total revenue generated amounted to R396 million for the period under review. In this regard, R314 million was received from the Department through Provincial Treasury and the remaining funds were generated from other funders. Own revenue streams included licenses and permits as well as interest received and these exceeded projections, with tourism activities being the biggest contributor.

CapeNature achieved 99% of its programme expenditure on its allocated budget. The under-expenditure was due to delays in capital infrastructure projects.

4. Resolutions/Actions

The Committee REQUESTED that the Department and CapeNature, by 19 February 2021, provide it with feedback on the additional responsibility that is placed on the Department and the Entity by new and amended legislation at a national level, with specific reference to waste management.

5. Conclusion

The Committee congratulated the Department and CapeNature on sterling working under difficult circumstances and was satisfied that the predetermined objectives for the 2019/20 financial year were adequately achieved and that it was accurately reported.

The Committee noted its appreciation for the responses of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and CapeNature to the scrutiny of the Annual Reports and thanked the Minister, Head of Department, Chairperson of the CapeNature Board, Chief Executive Officer and officials for their contributions and efforts in this regard.



MR AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

DATE: 2 February 2021