



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

Ref: 11/4/1/2/11

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

*Friday, 12 June 2020 (at 09:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams*

**PRESENT**

**Members**

**Democratic Alliance**

Baartman, DM  
Maseko, LM  
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

**African National Congress**

Marran, P (ANC)

**Apology**

Herron, BN (GOOD)

**The following persons were in attendance:**

**Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning**

Mr P Hardcastle: Director - Planning and Policy Coordination  
Ms M Laros: Director - Biodiversity and Coastal Management  
Ms A Rossouw: Planning and Policy Co-coordinator

**CapeNature**

Dr Ernst Baard: Executive Director Conservation Operations  
Ms Coral Birss: Executive Director Biodiversity Capabilities

**Western Cape Provincial Parliament**

Ms SA Niekerk: Procedural Officer  
Mr JF Vermeulen: Senior Procedural Officer  
Adv A le Roux: Senior Legal Advisor  
Mr T Kesu: Public Outreach and Education Manger

## **1. Opening and welcome**

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, the Departmental officials and CapeNature.

## **2. Discussion on the public participation process to be followed in respect of the National Forests Amendment Bill [B 11B–2016] (NCOP) and the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill [B 14D–2017] (NCOP)**

The Chairperson defined the Committee's constitutionally mandated function in terms of public participation and provided the Committee with a proposal for public engagement on the afore-mentioned Amendment Bills that included public participation methods and tools for creating public awareness.

In terms of public engagement, the proposal outlined that the public participation process could consist of one virtual public hearing for each Amendment Bill, based on the public's request to make verbal presentations to the Committee, written comments and oral submissions via WhatsApp voice notes.

In terms of creating public awareness, the proposal indicated that advertisements could be placed in print media. The proposed print publications as well as the circulation figures per publication were provided to the Committee. The proposal further indicated that radio could also be used and that the Communication Section within the Western Cape Provincial Parliament could arrange this whilst being mindful of cost implications.

The use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as specific letters to affected and interested stakeholders were proposed. So too was the publication of the advertisement and copies of the Amendment Bills on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's website.

The Committee was informed that the Public Education and Outreach Section was equipped to ensure that stakeholders are informed of the pending legislation and that stakeholders could be assisted in making submissions. The Public Education and Outreach Manager informed the Committee that this Section could enable members of the public who do not have access to computers or who may not have the means to purchase data to make submissions.

All the afore-mentioned proposals were agreed to.

The Chairperson further informed the Committee that the advertisements will be placed in the agreed publications on 20 June 2020 or as close to this date as possible and that members of the public will be given sufficient time to submit input. The closing date for written and oral submissions, depending on when the advertisement will be placed will be one month from the date of publication. The closing date for requests to make verbal presentations to the Committee will be 17 July 2020. The envisaged date for the submission of negotiating mandates to the NCOP Select Committee had been identified as 31 August 2020 and the due date for submission of final mandates had been identified as mid-September 2020.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Chairperson and Procedural Officer for the drafting of the comprehensive proposal for public engagement.

### **3. Resolutions/Actions**

3.1 The Committee, RESOLVED that:

- 3.1.1 The Chairperson, advised by the Procedural Officer, identify the print publications to be used for the placement of advertisements inviting the public to submit comments on the National Forests Amendment Bill [B 11B–2016] (NCOP) and the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill [B 14D–2017] (NCOP);
- 3.1.2 Subject to the available budget, consideration be given to also place advertisements in some regional print publications; and
- 3.1.3 The Committee be kept informed of progress made.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the members and the officials for their contributions to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 09:38.



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**MR AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MPP**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Date: .....14 July 2020.....