



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# NCOP PROVINCIAL WEEK 2022

**NEWS BULLETIN**

29 March — 1 April 2022

**Edition 1**



# NCOP EMBARKS ON PROVINCIAL WEEK TO ASSESS SERVICE DELIVERY TO CITIZENS



*Hybrid session with Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Amos Maseko and Leader of Delegation Ms Winnie Ngwenya in the Gauteng Legislature Tuesday March 19, 2022*

Permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) will visit their respective provinces for the week-long (29 March to 1 April 2022) Provincial Week programme, under the theme “Assessing State capacity to respond to the needs of communities”.

The 2022 Provincial Week is a high-impact oversight programme aimed at responding to the

challenges of state capacity in the provinces. It is further intended to afford Permanent Delegates to the NCOP with an opportunity to return to their provinces to assess delivery of services to citizens.

The NCOP delegates, together with their provincial legislature counterparts, will spend the week interacting with municipalities on interventions to improve governance challenges and the

state of service delivery. This Provincial Week 2022 will allow each Provincial Delegations to concentrate on matters that affect the province in the national sphere of government.

The provincial focus areas which are aimed at addressing issues affecting each of the nine provinces are as follows:

Eastern Cape: Availability of land

for farming and industrialization of hemp and cannabis/provision of adequate school infrastructure in rural areas and townships, including visiting township, rural and mud schools.

Free State: Provision of water and sanitation infrastructure/visiting water and sanitation projects, as well as water reticulation sites

measures to address the housing backlog and create integrated and sustainable human settlements.

KwaZulu-Natal: Capacity to fight against crime, including the state of police stations in township and rural areas and their resourcing.

Limpopo: Capacity to address structural constraints facing

land ownership, market access and affordable support to deal with other price of inputs such as fertilizer, herbicides, irrigation, product transport, and other natural constraint such as global warming.

Mpumalanga: Provision of safe and reliable scholar transport in rural areas, including mechanisms to



*NCOP Deputy Chairperson Ms Sylvia Lucas with the Northern Cape MEC for Tourism & Economic Development, Mr Abraham Vosloo, kickstarting the NCOP Provincial Week programme at a hybrid briefing held at Sandile Persent hall in Upington, Northern Cape. The 2022 Northern Cape Provincial Week will focus on the provision of safe drinking water and will assist communities affected by that has tormented the are for many years.*

and special economic zones.

Gauteng: Provision of integrated housing infrastructure, including

small-scale farmers and SMMEs, especially in the agricultural sector to assist them to deal with biophysical factors such

control overloading, roadworthy vehicles, discrepancies on the number of learners and route distances, late transportation

of learners, as well as fiscal wastages and corrupt practices in the provision of scholar transport.

Northern Cape: Provision of safe drinking water and assist communities that are affected by drought, including visiting water provision projects, dams, water reticulation sites and provincial storage weirs, and as well as crime and drivers for crime.

North West: Investment in mining/renewable energy/state capacity to build, upgrade and maintain roads, including visiting road infrastructure projects.

Western Cape: Provision of housing infrastructure, including measures to address the housing backlog and create integrated and sustainable human settlements.



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## **NCOP CHAIRPERSON - CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH & CHARLOTTE MAXEKE ACADEMIC HOSPITALS MUST FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE**



The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Amos Masondo, appealed to management of both Chris Hani Baragwanath and Charlotte Maxeke Academic hospitals to find innovative ways to improve maintenance of the ageing infrastructure and human resources challenges at their facilities, writes Xihlamariso Ngoveni.

The Chairperson and permanent delegates to the NCOP were conducting oversight visits at the two hospitals on Monday, 28 March, where they met with



management, high ranking officials from the Gauteng Provincial Health Department, Provincial Department of Infrastructure Development, Members of the Gauteng Legislature and other stakeholders to take stock of impediments to delivery of health services to Gauteng residents.

The NCOP delegates identified poor maintenance of the ageing infrastructure and human capacitation as some of the major challenges that the Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital needs to find solutions to urgently. Other challenges identified include:

- The hospital staff establishment is not aligned to the workload
- Workload and demand are not proportional to available staff

(last reviewed in 2006 – Population size has grown substantially since then)

- High staff turnover as a result of unbearable workload – medical personnel resign to go work in smaller facilities where the workload is bearable
- There are currently 509 Unfunded vacancies due to lack of funds
- Old infrastructure and slow process of refurbishment
- Late payment of suppliers

The hospital’s vacancy rate is currently at 14,3% and could not be addressed due to the lack of funding. The hospital admits up to 10 000 patients a month.

The leader of the NCOP Delegation in Gauteng, Mrs. Winnie

Ngwenya, reminded the CEOs of the purpose of the Provincial Week and emphasized that the visits don’t aim to witch-hunt or point fingers, but to ensure that service delivery is prioritized.

The NCOP delegates proceeded to Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital where they were briefed on the progress made towards fully reopening the facility since the fire incident that gutted the hospital in April 2021.

Some of the issues identified at the facility include:

- Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital is non-compliant with the City of Johannesburg’s fire requirements
- Slow progress in planning with no significant

implementation from the Provincial Department of Infrastructure Development

- Initial delays with getting the correct individuals involved from Gauteng Department of Health
- Maintenance funds used for remedial work in Radiation Oncology resulting in significant over-expenditure on maintenance budget
- Fire damaged area propped for initial investigation, but no work done thereafter for 10 months
- Delays in signing donation agreements and handover
- 10 months after the fire, the only work being done at the hospital was work sponsored by Solidarity with no clear project plan or source of funding.
- The hospital remained partly open with significant infrastructure challenges identified

Local Government and Health Members of the Executive Committee (MECs) at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature chamber.



NCOP Chairperson, Mr Masondo, expressed grave concern with the slow pace at which the refurbishment of the damaged building has been taking place. The NCOP requested the hospital management to submit a report by Friday with clear timelines on the plans to fully reopen the facility.

He welcomed the efforts made to keep the hospital afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic, and encouraged the hospital not to downplay the institution's iconic status and rich history.

The NCOP Provincial week programme continues today with the delegates meeting with the Premier of Gauteng, Mr David Makhura, and his executive at the Gauteng legislature. This will be followed with a briefing by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu.

Briefings are also scheduled with the



## 'FREE STATE MUNICIPALITIES IN A MESS'



Ms Ntombizanele Bulem, Speaker of the Free State Legislature, also echoed Mr Ntsube's words that "The NCOP ensures people's rights are protected and are entitled to receive services meant for them as enshrined in the constitution." She stressed that clean water must be available for all citizens irrespective of who they are or where they live. According to Mr Mxolisi Dukwana, Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Cooperative

Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) municipalities in the Free State faced many problems including old and leaking asbestos pipes that needed urgent replacement as these also caused ground to become "very unstable." Provincial Director of Operations at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), spoke about the challenges of water provision by municipalities and the eradication of the bucket system. She also raised the alarm of not filling vacancies within municipalities which she

*By Tebatso Mabilisa*

This was one of the general statements permanent delegates of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) heard today as part of the Provincial Week in the Free State province. The theme for the week is "Assessing state capacity to respond to the needs of communities." In the Free State, the focus is on the provision of water and sanitation infrastructure, the state of water and sanitation projects including water reticulation sites and special economic zones.

The NCOP is assessing the state of services delivery to residents in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Kopanong and Masilonyana Local Municipalities and Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Mr Itumeleng Ntsube, Provincial Whip and leader of the delegation, said during his opening remarks that, "We host NCOP Provincial Week in a very important month in our calendar where we observe and commemorate Human Rights." He encouraged all "to defend Human Rights whenever and wherever they are violated."

claimed would lead to further disruptions to water supplies. She insisted that filling vacancies and improving capacity leaders through training would lead to improved municipal oversight and financial management. The two provincial water boards, namely Bloemwater and Sedibeng Water, both spoke about how the old pipes often lead to water leaks and unplanned maintenance. They further informed the NCOP that

Mr Michiel De Bruyn, Ms. Lydia Moji Mashodi and Mr Itumeleng Ntsube, raised serious concerns regarding the shocking state of infrastructure in Dewetsdorp, water being mixed with diesel in the Mafube region and the tendency of having too many acting municipal managers. In responding to the questions raised both municipal and provincial representatives answered that there were plans to fix the infrastructure in Dewetsdorp

Mayor, Mr Mxolisi Siyonzana said they “had serious water problems aggravated by bursting pipes.” Adding that “this all happened during water month.” Other problems raised were the blocked water pipes and the need for waste dumping site in the Kopanong Local Municipality. Asbestos pipes also needed replacing while a water purification project will be initiated. Kopanong Municipality Mayor,



*NCOP delegate to the Free State Ms Lydia Moja Moshodi poses questions to presenters during the Provincial Week opening*

they are owed billions in revenue by the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Kopanong and Masilonyana Local Municipalities. During the question and answer session, NCOP permanent delegates

within this financial year, that no diesel was found in the water, and that the vacancy rate would be addressed in order to address the various service delivery challenges. The Mangaung Metro’s Executive

Mr Xolile Tseletsele, exposed the depth of the crisis his municipality was in. He confirmed that the wage bill had doubled to R14m from R6m, that the municipality faced total collapse and that it was unable to pay water boards and other services. “Our communities do not have access to water



and had to use wheelbarrows to fetch water,” he added. The Botshabelo Special Economic Zone comprises of tenants in the textile, poultry and plastic industries. Dr Thabo Lebelo, the Chief Executive Officer of the Free State Development Corporation (FDC), informed that NCOP delegates that 8000 jobs will be created while only 5500 people are currently employed. Mr Ntsube thanked all stakeholders and noted that they now had a clearer picture of what was happening in the municipalities. “The mayor of Kopanong Municipality has referred to the situation as a mess” he said.

A large orange rectangular graphic with the text "NCOP PROVINCIAL WEEK 2022" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is centered and arranged in three lines: "NCOP" on the top line, "PROVINCIAL" on the middle line, and "WEEK 2022" on the bottom line.

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