



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# NCOP PROVINCIAL WEEK 2022

**NEWS BULLETIN**

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## NCOP PROVINCIAL WEEK PROVIDES A STRATEGIC PLATFORM TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY



*Gauteng permanent delegates during the interprovincial virtual sitting during day two of the Provincial week.*

In opening the ministerial briefing session on water and sanitation that marked the beginning of the National Council of Provinces' week-long Provincial Week Programme from 29 March to 1 April, the NCOP Chairperson, Mr Amos Maseko, said the theme for this year's programme is Assessing State Capacity to Respond to the Needs of Communities.

In terms of the Constitution, the

NCOP represents the provinces to ensure that provincial interests are considered in the national sphere of government. Provincial Week is one of the mechanisms used by the NCOP to carry out this important mandate.

Mr Maseko said the historical purpose of the programme has been to give NCOP delegates an opportunity to return to their provinces to assess service

delivery. In this process, they deal directly with a range of matters affecting the provinces they represent.

The focus areas for this week were selected jointly with the provinces concerned. Mr Maseko said the programme is an opportunity for the NCOP and provincial legislatures, including the municipal councils, to conduct integrated oversight.

This is a high-impact oversight-driven programme that focuses on the challenges of state capacity in the provinces. It is also informed by the need to focus our attention on the revival of the economy, Mr Masondo went on to say, following the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and other sustained economic pressures.

state capacity to deliver water and sanitation to communities, Mr Masondo continued. During the briefing session on water and sanitation on 15 March, both the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and the South African Local Government Association outlined some of the challenges relating to the provision of water and sanitation. These include

so that we can begin to address these challenges in a manner consistent with the NDP's Vision 2030. "We welcome the commitment by the Ministry to address the issues that are the root causes of the poor capacity of the state, including dealing with corruption and laying concrete plans to turn around water and sanitation services across the



*Briefing by Premier David Makhura.*

The ministerial briefing is deliberate in directing us to collectively focus on assessing

the budget, personnel and skills, particularly in municipalities.

The focus on state capacity is

country," said Mr Masondo.

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Patricia

de Lille and the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Dikeledi Magadzi, appeared before the provincial delegations and other NCOP stakeholders to answer on state capacity to deliver basic services and water and sanitation to communities. Both assured the NCOP of their departments' plans to improve the delivery of water to the people.

The NCOP's House Chairperson responsible for committees, Mr Jomo Nyambi, told the ministers that water is life and sanitation is dignity and that South Africans deserve both. Failure of the state to deliver water also causes businesses to close, which affects economic growth and employment creation.

The Chairperson of the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Water and Sanitation and Human Settlements, Mr China Dodovu, highlighted the fact that many of South Africa's water boards are dysfunctional.



*MEC Maile responding to questions asked by Permanent delegates during Gauteng Provincial week 2022.*



*Briefing by Premier David Makhura.*



*Hon member Visser from the North West Province asking her questions during a simulcast sitting of permanent delegates from all provinces during day two of the Provincial week on the 29th March 2022*

## KWAZULU-NATAL RESIDENTS CALL FOR MORE VISIBLE POLICING



*Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, KwaZulu-Natal police commissioner addresses the delegation on the challenges facing the SAPS*

Residents interviewed during the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Provincial Week in KwaZulu-Natal are unimpressed with the service they receive from the South African Police Service (SAPS), writes Sureshinee Govender.

KZN MEC for Safety and Security, MPL Peggy Nkonyeni, told the NCOP delegation that most police stations are housed in state-owned buildings, and all require maintenance and renovation. Some stations do not have functioning CCTV cameras, nor victim-friendly facilities for victims of gender-based violence.

Some social services, such as sign language



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interpreters, are unavailable at rural police stations and people who are mute also cannot be assisted. In addition, 20 amakhosi have been gunned down. Citizens also expressed serious concerns about ineffective services from the SAPS.

Mr Nkosinathi Zaca from Elandskop said SAPS' services are poor and they take a long time to respond to calls for assistance. Car theft and shootings are the biggest problems. Criminals are arrested today and are out tomorrow. We require more passionate police members who are committed to do their jobs so that we can have a better country.

Ms Bonisile Khumalo of Copesville said that the service at Mountain Rise Police Station is extremely poor. Drugs and stabbings are prevalent. If the police did their jobs and are more vigilant, the situation will improve. When you

go to the police station to report a crime, everyone there ignores and treats you like you not even there. We really need our SAPS to improve the way the treat community members who come to them for help.

Elderly Ms Shirley Sanyasi of Northdale says that SAPS in general do what it is mandated to do. Unfortunately, over the years in Northdale, which is serviced by Mountain Rise SAPS, the service has deteriorated where I am reluctant to call on SAPS to assist. There should be more members on the ground and more visible policing.

I feel that in our area, SAPS is grossly understaffed, and this leads to apathy by SAPS members themselves. Mountain Rise SAPS is there to serve and protect, however victims are made to feel like criminals. I know of cases of domestic violence where the female has gone to the station and made to run from pillar to post.

Crime in my neighborhood seems to be increasing year on year and the SAPS in our area seem unable

to handle the crime. Members in police vans are seen fixing their cellphones and stopping over at the local KFC or fast-food outlets, yet radio control says there are no vans available. This is the situation that we find ourselves in.

Mr Andre Delpont of Prestbury says that the service provided by SAPS is effective and mostly responsive, however they are not very visible. At Prestbury police station, I have always been treated courteously and professionally. You will find friendly and helpful officers there. Crime in Prestbury seems relatively low. I have not been affected by crime. Crime is managed through partnerships between community initiatives, SAPS and private security. The community has taken it upon themselves to ensure that effective policing takes place.

The delegation also asked police commissioner Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, how many people were arrested for the July 2021 unrest and how many of the 12 000 new police officers who were recruited will be posted to KwaZulu-Natal. Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi promised to provide the delegation will an update on Friday during the wrapping-up session.

# NCOP DELEGATION FRUSTRATED, AS MANGAUNG MUNICIPALITY FAILS TO PITCH AT CRUCIAL WATER SITES



The second day of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Provincial Week programme ended poorly when the leadership of Mangaung Municipality failed to arrive at three crucial water works sites where the NCOP was conducting oversight, writes *Tebatso Mabilisa*.

The sites include Wepener and Dewetsdorp sewerage works on the outskirts of Mangaung. NCOP permanent delegates are in the Free State to assess the state of services delivery in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, particularly water and sanitation infrastructure.

After a long and pothole-ridden drive to these sites, the Members of Parliament (MPs) led by Mr Itumeleng Ntsube (Provincial Whip and delegation leader), expressed their frustration with the municipal officials' lack of accountability, when they

had promised to be there.

At Wepener sewerage works, Ms Lydia Moji Mashodi (MP) expressed her shock and disbelief at their absence. However, Mr Michiel de Bruyn (MP) suggested that all parties remain calm and ask for an explanation from Ward Councillor Mr Christopher Lelala.

Proportional Councillor: Mangaung Municipality Ms Maryke Davies was present and she confirmed that there is a serious water shortage in the area. "Our biggest problem is that boreholes have been vandalised and do not work," she advised. Delegates also heard that the boreholes have needed to be refurbished since 2018.

At the Mooiriver Bloemwater pump station in Dewetsdorp, the Regional Manager of Bloemwater Mr Phemelo Boitse briefed the NCOP delegates on the state of the pump station. He assured MPs that

this reservoir could fill Mangaung's reservoir, but it is the responsibility of the municipality to purchase a pump, so that they do not have to rely on gravity to fill the reservoir. Municipal officials could neither support nor deny this claim.

Indeed, it was a day of great disappointment to MPs and they vowed to summon municipal officials to Parliament to present their case. It was a far cry from a visit to Botshabelo Digital Hub the previous day. This innovation hub serves as a training centre for community members and provides access to ICT. MPs were impressed by the state-of-the-art work done by this centre, which specialises in artificial intelligence, software development, automation, 3D printing and virtual reality. The centre aims to equip the area with the skills necessary to cope with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



## MPUMALANGA SCHOLAR TRANSPORT IS AN IMPORTANT POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME



*Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Ms Mohita Latchminarain, and the Leader of the Mpumalanga Delegation in the NCOP Ma Audrey Maleka, discussing the provision of scholar transport in rural areas in the province, this engagement is part of the NCOP Provincial Week in Mpumalanga. The NCOP delegation will also meet with scholar transport providers and visit water treatment plants in the Nkomazi Local Municipality area*

places that are inaccessible to buses, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport provides bicycles for the learner to either ride to school or to the nearest pick-up spot for the bus.

The scholar transport programme is one of the most effective government initiatives to alleviate poverty and continues to ensure that thousands of poor learners get access to education,

writes Sakhile Mokoena. In Mpumalanga, this programme targets mainly learners living in rural farm areas, who have to travel more than five kilometres to the nearest public school. In

The scholar transport initiative has been identified as one of the focus areas for the National Council of Provinces' Provincial Week, where Mpumalanga



delegates to the NCOP will engage government departments and other stakeholders on the provision of safe and reliable scholar transport in rural areas, including mechanisms to control overloading, roadworthy vehicles, discrepancies between 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.

Yesterday, the Mpumalanga delegation to the NCOP met with the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, as well as scholar transport providers from the Nkomazi Local Municipality area.

The department reported that it is currently providing transport to over 64 000 learners in 364 schools across the province. Mr Phillip Nyoni, a Chief Director at the department, mentioned that the growth of new settlements far from schools is leading to an increase in the demand for scholar transport.

“Despite all plans that we have, new settlements are growing. Every month there are new dwellings in areas where there are no schools. Our duty is to monitor if there is a need and provide

transport for the learners to attend school,” Mr Nyoni told the NCOP.

The scholar transport providers accused the department of unfair practices, including failure to pay for increases in the number of learners transported since the beginning of the contract.

Mr Solomon Shongwe, Chairperson of the Ehlanzeni Small Bus Operators, alleged that the department is also promoting corruption and overloading by awarding contracts to individual who do not own any vehicles. He claimed that the bulk of the province’s contracts for scholar transport are awarded to businesspeople from outside the province. He also alleged that government officials are illegally benefiting from the scheme.

The Leader of the Mpumalanga delegation in NCOP, Ms Audrey Maleka, said while the provision of scholar transport for poor rural learners is commendable, the programme must also empower local transport operators. “I think we must prioritise local people. It cannot be correct that the business side of the scholar transport programme only benefits foreigners and people from outside the province. That is not going to grow the local economy

and the department must also look into allegations of government officials benefitting from the scheme,” Ms Maleka said.

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Mohita Latchminarain, acknowledged that her department is not doing enough to monitor if people outside the province are benefiting unfairly from the scholar transport business.

The delegation was also briefed by the provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Nkomazi municipality about the provision of water and sanitation in the area. The NCOP delegates visited the Driekoppies Water Treatment plant, which is undergoing upgrades and is expected to address the challenges of water shortage in Nkomazi.



# WESTERN CAPE EXPECTS IMPROVED MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE AFTER SKILLS TRAINING



*Conradie Housing development project, Pinelands, Cape Town  
NCOP delegates inspecting the Conradie Housing development project in Pinelands, Cape Town.*

Briefing the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) delegation in the Western Cape during Provincial Week, the acting Head of the provincial Department of Human Settlement, Ms Phila Mayisela, raised concerns about poor capacity to deliver services to disadvantaged communities, writes Abel Mputing.

One such capacity problem lies in the implementation of the

Municipal Infrastructure Grant, which is supposed to supply bulk infrastructure. These projects are often hampered by procurement delays due to a lack of capacity and poor planning, Ms Mayisela said.

However, the provincial department told the NCOP delegation that it has provided municipalities with technical assistance and training in these areas and they

expect a marked improvement in the next reporting circle.

Ms Mayisela went on to say that the department is also hampered by widespread vandalism, protests, theft, land invasion and construction cartels. "Recently, a site manager was shot in Gugulethu on site by this cartel. They demand work by force. They pose a real and deadly danger and they



Director of Housing Development in the Western Cape, Mr Rayan Rughubar, informal settlements are linked to land invasions, which often target land earmarked for development. This leads to many provincial housing development projects being cancelled, he said.

He added: “These developments often take place in inhospitable lands that are difficult to upgrade. But where an upgrade can take place, we do so in a phase-in approach.”

are a hindrance to some of our township development projects. To address these ills, the department has encouraged communities to protect and take ownership of their development projects.”

Following the presentation, NCOP delegate Mr Mbulelo Sileku asked about progress in the provision of housing to military veterans in the province. Ms Mayisela responded by saying that military veterans are catered for in some of the province’s flagship housing programmes. “We have to date allocated 100 housing units to military veterans in our Highbury housing projects.”

The Leader of the NCOP Provincial Week in the Western Cape, Ms Cathlene Labuschagne, wanted to

know if the province has a housing needs register and whether it is aligned to a centralised national register to avoid the illegal selling of government houses.

The Deputy Director-General on Research, Policy, Strategy and Planning in the National Department of Human Settlement, Mr Neville Chainee, replied that there is now a national database to address the current weaknesses in the housing register. There is also an effort to devise a draft policy that will ensure fairness and transparency in how waiting lists for housing are managed.

Ms Labuschagne also asked about interventions to combat the proliferation of informal settlements. According to the

Ms Labuschagne further asked what is done with unspent municipal grants. The Minister of Human Settlement in the Province, Mr Tertius Simmers, replied that municipalities are provided with support to ensure that they spend their grants within the given timeframes. “If we realise that they will not, we move these grants to other municipalities that have the capacity to absorb them into their infrastructure plans.”

The delegation visited to the Conradie Integrated Housing Development Project in Pinelands, which is one of the Western Cape Government’s flagship human settlements. Ms Labuschagne was impressed with its integrated approach to mixed use and mixed income housing development.

“This development has a well thought out plan that integrates parks, medical centres, sports facilities, retails and schools seamlessly,” she said.

“We are all captivated by what this project has turned out to be. It’s a model for future mixed use and mixed income integrated human settlement of social

houses and Financially Linked Individual Subsidy Programme.” The design and planning restores the dignity of many families who will now live in a safe-gated community, she went on to say. “This project lives up to its motto: Live. Connect. Inspire. It’s, by all means, set to achieve that.” Nonetheless, she pointed out that many housing projects are

situated in metropolitan areas, rather than in rural areas where developments are most needed. “That is the case because many municipalities lack the capacity to plan and execute such projects. This must be addressed urgently,” Ms Labuschagne said.

## WESTERN CAPE IMPRESSES WITH APP AIMED AT IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY



*The leader of the Western Cape Delegation of the NCOP Provincial Week, Ms Cathlene Labuschagne, engages the delegates from Western Cape Department of Human Settlements.*

The Leader of the National Council of Provinces' Provincial Week delegation in the Western Cape, Ms Cathlene Labuschagne, is impressed with the introduction of an app aimed at easing mounting challenges of effective service delivery.

"We commend this innovative endeavour, as it will deal with mounting challenges associated

with housing service delivery, rather than be reactive to the problem," said Ms Labuschagne.

Following a ministerial briefing from the Western Cape Department of Human Settlement, the NCOP delegates were informed that the department aims to eradicate the title deeds backlog within two years through the use of this app. For new

projects, it aims to deliver title deeds on the day of occupation. The NCOP also heard that an important challenge in delivering housing in rural areas is a lack of technical capacity in municipalities, in both planning and project implementation. This is being addressed through sharing services and professional resource teams.

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