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PARLIAMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. Referral of Bills to National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders 2
2. Correspondence from Minister of Transport on tabling of Schedule 2 entities' corporate and annual performance plans 2

National Assembly

1. Appointment of whip..... 2
2. Discharge of whip..... 3
3. Membership of Committees 3
4. Referral to Committees of papers tabled 3

TABLINGS

National Assembly

1. Speaker 4

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Higher Education..... 5

National Council of Provinces

1. Public Infrastructure and Minister in The Presidency 68
 2. Security and Justice 73
 3. Security and Justice 75
 4. Security and Justice 78
 5. Cooperative Governance and Public Administration 92
 6. Cooperative Governance and Public Administration 101
 7. Cooperative Governance and Public Administration 118
 8. Cooperative Governance and Public Administration 132
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. Referral of Bills to National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders

- (1) The Secretary to Parliament has, in accordance with section 39(1) of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, 2019 (Act No. 3 of 2019), referred the **Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill** [B11–2026] (National Assembly – sec 76) to the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, which must, within 60 days from the date of the referral (viz. 21 May 2026), make any comments it wishes to make.

2. Correspondence from the Minister of Transport on tabling of Schedule 2 entities' corporate and annual performance plans

- (1) Letter from the Minister of Transport, dated 5 May 2026, on the decision of the Department of Transport not to table Corporate Plans and Annual Performance Plans for its Schedule 2 entities for the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 periods.

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Appointment of whip

- (1) The following member has been appointed as a whip of the Democratic Alliance in the National Assembly with effect from 18 May 2026:

(a) Breytenbach, Adv G.

2. Discharge of whip

- (1) The following member has been discharged as a whip of the Democratic Alliance in the National Assembly with effect from 7 May 2026:

(a) Michalakis, Mr G.

3. Membership of Committees

- (1) The following committee membership changes have been made by the Democratic Alliance with effect from 20 May 2026:

National Assembly Programme Committee

Discharged: Michalakis, Mr G
Appointed: Breytenbach, Adv G

National Assembly Rules Committee

Discharged: Bagraim, Mr M
Appointed: Breytenbach, Adv G

Chief Whips' Forum

Discharged: Michalakis, Mr G
Appointed: Breytenbach, Adv G

Subcommittee on Review of Assembly Rules

Appointed: Breytenbach, Adv G
Appointed: Bagraim, Mr M [Alternate]

4. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

- (1) The following papers are referred to the **Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament** for consideration:
- (a) Monthly Financial Statements of Parliament – April 2026, tabled in terms of section 54(1) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act No. 10 of 2009).
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TABLINGS

National Assembly

1. The Speaker

- (a) Reply by the Minister of Agriculture to Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture on its *Oversight Visit to North West Province on 24-28 February 2025*, as adopted by the House on 29 May 2025.

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Agriculture**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education on its assessment of the Department of Higher Education and Training and Entities' 2026/27 Annual Performance Plans and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Projections, dated 20 May 2026

1. Introduction, purpose, mandates and method

The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education (“the Committee”), having assessed the Department of Higher Education and Training (“the Department”) and Entities' 2026/27 Annual Performance Plans and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Projections, reports as follows:

1.1.Purpose of the Vote 17 Budget Report

The purpose of this report is to account for the Committee’s work in assessing the Department, the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan, as well as Budget Vote 17 Medium-Term Expenditure projections in terms of Section 27(1) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). This referral was made to the Committee by the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), in accordance with Rule 338 of the National Assembly Rules, for consideration and reporting.

1.2. Mandate of the Committee and the Department of Higher Education

Section 55(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa stipulates that “the National Assembly (NA) must provide for mechanisms (a) to ensure that all executive organs of state in the national sphere of government are accountable to it; and (b) to maintain oversight of (i) national executive authority, including the implementation of the legislation; and (ii) any organ of state”. Rule 227 of the National Assembly Rules provides for the mechanisms contemplated in section 55(2) of the Constitution.

The Department derives its mandate from section 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the following legislation: Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No.101 of 1997), National Student Financial Scheme Act, 1999 (Act No. 56 of 1999), Continuing Education and Training

Act, 2006 (Act No. 16 of 2006), National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008), Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No. 97 of 1998), Skills Development Levies Act, 1999 (Act No. 9 of 1999), the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act, 2001 (Act No. 58 of 2001), Policy Framework for the Realisation of Social Inclusion in the PSET System, 2016, and the Policy Framework to address Gender-Based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training System, 2020.

1.3. Method

The Department of Higher Education and Training and its entities' 2026/27 Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) projections were assessed against key policy documents, including the National Development Plan (NDP), the 2019–2024 Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training (WPPSET), the National Plan for Post-School Education and Training (NPPSET), and the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SONA).

On 30 April 2026, the Committee held briefings with the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), the Department, and SAQA to receive a proactive review of the 2025/26 APPs for the Higher Education Portfolio and to assess the Department and SAQA's 2026/27 APPs, along with Budget Vote 17 MTEF projections. Subsequently, on 6 May 2026, the Committee convened another meeting with the CHE, QCTO, and NSFAS to evaluate their 2026/27 APPs and MTEF budget projections.

2. KEY POLICIES RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ENTITIES

2.1. National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030 and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024-2029

The NDP identifies decent work, education, and the state's capacity as important priorities. For the post-school education and training sector, the NDP envisages that by 2030, South Africans should have access to the highest-quality education and training. The education, training, and innovation system should cater to different needs and produce highly skilled individuals. The NDP also emphasises that the graduates of the post-school system should have adequate skills and

knowledge to meet the current and future needs of the economy and society. It has set targets for the post-school system to increase enrolment and participation and improve quality and efficiency by 2030.

The main objective of the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024–2029 is to strategically guide the work of the 7th Administration to achieve the goals set out in the Statement of Intent of the Government of National Unity (GNU) and the National Development Plan (NDP). To achieve these goals, the MTDP 2024-2029 identifies three strategic priorities that will be implemented across the state:

- Strategic Priority 1: Drive inclusive growth and job creation.
- Strategic Priority 2: Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living.
- Strategic Priority 3: Build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

These three Strategic Priorities, with a set of policy choices and priority interventions, will be implemented across government departments and will be overseen and monitored by the centre of government. This approach aims to focus effort and resources behind an ambitious but achievable set of goals that can drive delivery while presenting a clear vision for the society the country wants to create. While they do not displace other programmes and commitments, they are essential to the economic growth agenda and should be prioritised for immediate implementation.

2.2. White Paper for Post-School Education and Training (WPPSET)

The White Paper articulates a vision for an integrated post-school education and training system, with all institutions playing their role as part of a coherent but differentiated system. The White Paper sets out strategies to expand the current provision of education and training in South Africa, improve its quality, and integrate various strands of the post-school system. The White Paper sets interventions for implementation by different sectors within Post-School Education and Training.

2.3. National Plan for Post-School Education and Training (NPPSET)

This is a roadmap for the development and reinvigoration of the PSET to 2030. Its overall goal is that by 2030, the PSET system should be a socially just, responsive, and well-coordinated system, providing access to a diversity of quality education and training opportunities, where students have

a reasonable opportunity for achieving success, and with vastly improved links between education and the world of work.

The NPPSET identifies six Strategic Goals to coordinate efforts towards improving the capacity of the PSET system to meet the skills needs of the country, to assist in building a fair, equitable, non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic South Africa. The following are the Strategic Goals:

- Goal 1: An integrated, coordinated, and articulated PSET System
- Goal 2: Expanded access to PSET opportunities.
- Goal 3: A responsive PSET System.
- Goal 4: Improved relations between education and training institutions and the world of work.
- Goal 5: Improved quality of PSET provisioning.
- Goal 6: Improved efficiency and success of the PSET System.

2.4. 2026 State of the Nation Address (SONA)

President Ramaphosa's 2026 State of the Nation Address (SONA) places post-school education and training at the heart of South Africa's developmental priorities. Central to the President's vision is the drive for inclusive growth and job creation, with a strong emphasis on reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living. The SONA highlights the digital and green economy as critical spaces where young people can secure employment opportunities. To achieve this, the President noted that a fundamental overhaul of the skills development system should be undertaken, including the introduction of a dual training model that integrates classroom learning with workplace experience.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges will be strengthened as primary sites for occupational training, while the National Skills Fund will be transformed into a more agile, outcomes-driven instrument to support unemployed youth. These reforms aim to ensure that education and training become pathways to opportunity rather than dead ends, while also addressing pressing challenges such as student accommodation shortages through innovative partnerships with financial institutions.

Beyond education, the President underscored the importance of economic transformation and ethical governance as pillars of sustainable development. Over R2.5 billion in funding will be directed to small and medium enterprises, with a further R1 billion in guarantees, prioritising women- and youth-led businesses to foster empowerment. The Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment framework is being refined to better support inclusive growth, while employment equity targets for persons with disabilities in the public service will rise to 7% by 2030.

The President noted that the state is committed to building a capable and ethical public service, with lifestyle audits for senior officials, legislation to professionalise appointments, and a central registry for disciplinary cases.

3. 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

3.1. Overview and assessment of the 2026/27 MTEF Budget and the Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2026/27

Over the medium-term, the Department is allocated R468,0 billion, comprising voted funds and direct charges against the National Revenue Fund, of which R149,2 billion is allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. The budget increased by 4.7% (R6,8 billion) from 2025/26 to 2026/27. The overall budget is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 4.4% over the 2026 MTEF period, increasing from R142,4 billion in 2025/26 to R162,3 billion in 2028/29.

The Department's expenditure for the 2026/27 financial year is dominated by transfers and subsidies (entities, universities, TVET and CET colleges, non-profit institutions, and foreign governments and international organisations), which account for 90.4% (R134,9 billion) of the Department's budget of R149,2 billion. Current payments, comprising compensation of employees and goods and services, represent the second-largest share at 9.4% (R14,1 billion). Expenditure on capital assets is minimal at 0.16% (R249,4 million), reflecting a reduction of R192,2 million, or 43.6%, compared to the previous year.

This budget allocation will be directed towards upgrading ailing infrastructure at higher education institutions, TVET and CET colleges and expanding access to higher education and training opportunities, through infrastructure efficiency grants. The Department will continue to implement

the Fee-Free Education Policy through NSFAS, which will fund bursaries for students coming from poor and working-class families, including loans for those whose family's annual income is above R350,000 but not exceeding R600,000. The Scheme's budget over the medium-term increases at an average annual rate of 3.8%, from R48,8 billion in 2025/26 to R54,6 billion in 2028/29.

Over the medium term, the department will maintain subsidies for 26 universities, 50 TVET colleges, and 9 CET colleges, thereby ensuring that these institutions fulfil their core mandates efficiently and effectively. This continued investment is vital to uphold the sustainability, affordability, and responsiveness of the higher education system, enabling it to contribute decisively to South Africa's social and economic development.

Table 1: Summary of Budget Vote 17: Higher Education - 2026/27 MTEF

Programme	2025/26 Adjusted appropriation (R' million)	2026/27 Expenditure estimate (R' million)	Percentage of total budget	Nominal percentage change in 2026/27	Real percentage change in 2026/27 (inflation- adjusted)
1. Administration	635,9	682,4	0,56%	4,36%	0,93%
2. Planning, Policy and Strategy	2 313,2	2 348,8	1,93%	1,54%	-1,80%
3. University Education	96 011,8	100 152,4	82,38%	4,31%	0,88%
4. Technical and Vocational Education and Training	13 845,7	14 718,4	12,11%	6,30%	2,81%
5. Skills Development	346,3	365,6	0,30%	5,57%	2,10%

6. Community Education and Training	3 270,9	3 303,7	2,72%	1,00%	-2,32%
Sub-total	116 441,7	121 571,3	81,47%	4,41%	0,97%
Direct Charges against the National Revenue Fund	25 978,6	27 657,3	18,53%	6,46%	2,96%
Total	142 420,3	149 228,6	100,00%	4,8%	1,34%
Economic Classification					
Current payments	13 313,3	14 095,5	9,45%	5,88%	2,39%
Transfers and subsidies	128 665,4	134 883,7	90,39%	4,83%	1,39%
Payments for capital assets	441,6	249,4	0,17%	-43,52%	-45,38%
Total	142 420,3	149 228,6	100,00%	4,8%	1,34%

The Department's budget is shared among the six programmes, namely:

- Programme 1: Administration
- Programme 2: Planning, Policy and Strategy
- Programme 3: University Education
- Programme 4: Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- Programme 5: Skills Development
- Programme 6: Community Education and Training

The six budget programmes are responsible for implementing the 2025/26 APP targets, including entities and institutions that expand access to education and training opportunities and improve the

quality of provisioning and the responsiveness and efficiency of the post-school education and training system.

3.2. Overview and assessment of the 2026/27 MTEF budget allocation per programme and the 2026/27 performance targets

For the 2026/27 financial year, the Department has captured its performance reporting into 76 outputs, which have been translated into 72 direct output indicators and 98 direct output targets. Additionally, the Department will report on 42 system output indicators. Overall, the Department has 140 targets planned for the 2026/27 financial year.

3.2.1. Programme 1: Administration

The programme provides strategic leadership, management and support services to the Department. The programme has six sub-programmes: Ministry, Department Management, Corporate Services, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Internal Audit and Office Accommodation.

Over the medium term, the programme is allocated R2,1 billion, of which R682,4 million is allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. The 2026/27 increased by R28,5 million from the adjusted appropriation of R653,9 million in 2025/26. Notably, the programme's budget continues to be dominated by current payments, at 97.7% (R379,5 million, or 56.9%, for compensation of employees and R287,5 million, or 43.12%, for goods and services). Sub-programme 1: Ministry budget allocation for the 2026/27 financial year decreased from R74,5 million in 2025/26 to R57,4 million in 2026/27, a reduction of R17,1 million (23%).

The Department noted that the current budget of Programme 1: Administration is significantly overstretched and unable to accommodate the full scale of resourcing required for the Department.

The programme continues to contribute to two MTDP outcomes: capable and professional public service, social cohesion and nation building. For the 2026/27, the Programme's focus will be on promoting inclusive economic growth by supporting small businesses and enterprises owned by black persons, women, youth and people with disabilities. It also works to strengthen financial

governance, service delivery and performance across its entities to contribute to a capable, ethical and developmental state.

Efforts will be directed towards filling vacant funded posts to strengthen the Department's capacity to deliver services.

For 2026/27, the programme has captured 15 output indicators, which are translated into 15 targets.

The programme has introduced seven (7) new outputs, output indicators and targets as follows:

Table 2: New outputs and output indicators

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2026 target
A capable, ethical and professional public service	Timeous filling of funded vacancies	Average number of days to fill an advertised position.	240 days
	Valid pre-employment screening for SMS	Percentage of valid pre-employment screening for SMS posts.	100%
	Grievances resolved	Percentage of grievances resolved within 90 days.	80%
	ICT modernisation on Microsoft 365	Percentage of users migrated to Microsoft 365 programme.	80%
	TVET colleges compliant with PPN model	Percentage of TVET colleges compliant with PPN model.	70%
	CET college approved organisational structure	Number of CET colleges with approved organisational structure.	9
	Irregular Expenditure reduced by 20% year-on-year	Irregular expenditure reduced by 20% from the prior year	R0

Notably, the Department's target for the average number of days required to fill an advertised post was discontinued between the 2022/23 and 2025/26 financial years, only to be reinstated in 2026/27. This shift raises questions about the Department's approach to workforce planning. At the same time, some of the newly introduced outputs and indicators reflect the President's 2026

SONA commitment to building a capable and ethical public service. For instance, one such indicator now tracks the implementation of pre-employment screening for senior management appointments.

The Programme also discontinued output and output indicator as follows:

Table 3: Discontinued output and output indicator

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2026/27 target
A capable, ethical and professional public service	Timeous payment of suppliers	Percentage of valid invoices received from creditors paid within 30 days	

The exclusion of this target in the 2026/27 APP is deeply concerning, as it prevents both the Committee and the public from effectively assessing the Department's performance in ensuring timely payment to suppliers. This output and its associated indicator are crucial for sustaining businesses, especially Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and for driving economic growth.

Selected annual targets for 2026/27

Outcome: Capable and professional public service

- Unqualified audit outcome
- Vacancy rate reduced (below 10%)
- Percentage of valid pre-employment screening for Senior Management Service Audit

Outcome: Social Cohesion and Nation Building

- Percentage of public procurement set aside for women-owned businesses **(42%)**
- Percentage of public procurement set aside for youth-owned businesses **(29%)**
- Percentage of public procurement set aside for black-owned businesses **(70%)**
- Percentage of public procurement set aside for businesses owned by people with disabilities **(2%)**
- Percentage of public procurement set aside for Small Business, Medium and Micro Enterprises **(55%)**.

3.2.2. Programme 2: Planning, Policy and Strategy

The programme provides strategic direction in the development, implementation and monitoring of departmental policies and in the Human Resource Development Strategy for South Africa. The programme has six budget sub-programmes: Programme Management, Human Resource Development Council of South Africa, Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, International Relations, Legal and Legislative Services and Social Inclusion and Quality.

The programme is allocated R9,1 billion over the medium term, of which R2,3 billion is allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. The budget increased nominally by R35,6 million from R2,313 billion in 2025/26. Sub-programmes 4: International relations allocation decreased by R13,2 million from R38,0 million in 2025/26, a reduction of 34.7%. The allocation for Legal and Legislation Services reflects a marginal decrease, moving from R28,1 million in 2025/26 to R27,5 million in 2026/27, a 2.1% reduction. While the reduction may appear minor, it remains concerning given the significant number of legislative reviews scheduled for the current financial year.

The overwhelming majority of the programme's budget is allocated to transfers and subsidies at 82.2% or R1,9 billion, mainly for capital infrastructure efficiency grants (CIEG) to universities and TVET colleges to alleviate overcrowding and upgrade ailing infrastructure at higher education institutions. Payments for capital assets and current payments constitute 9,4% or R221,0 million of the total programme budget, respectively.

Over the MTEF period, the Department will prioritise legislative modernisation and alignment with the priorities of the 7th Parliament, focusing on strengthening governance, accountability, and oversight across the PSET sector. Legislation will serve as a strategic instrument to advance transformation, broaden access to education, and promote skills development.

The Department will continue to prioritise student housing infrastructure through the SHIP programme, established in response to the 2012 Ministerial Review highlighting severe shortages and poor conditions in student accommodation. During the same period, the Department will intensify efforts to strengthen South Africa's post-school education and training system by implementing the Capital Infrastructure Efficiency Grant (CIEG) to upgrade and maintain facilities across 26 public universities, prioritising historically disadvantaged institutions to improve access, safety, and sustainability.

Through sub-programme 6: Social Inclusion and Quality, efforts will be directed towards combating Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) through initiatives such as Transforming Mentalities, combining awareness campaigns, support services, and policy reforms to foster safe, inclusive, and gender-responsive campuses, underpinned by strengthened monitoring and accountability mechanisms

For 2026/27, the programme has captured its performance reporting into 17 output indicators, which translate into 17 targets.

The programme has introduced seven (7) new outputs, output indicators and targets as follows:

Table 4: New outputs, output indicators and targets

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2026 target
A capable and professional Public Service	Post-School Education and Training Central Application Service Bill promulgated into law	Draft Post-School Education and Training Central Application Service Bill presented for approval.	Draft Post-School Education and Training Central Application Service Bill presented to South African Directors-General (FOSAD)'s Social Protection, Community and Human Development (SPCHD) cluster for approval by 31 March 2027.

Improved educational outcomes and skills	University of Limpopo (UL), Nelson Mandela University (NMU), North West University (NWU) Medical Schools, the University of Fort Hare (UFH) and University of Free State (UFS) Veterinary Sciences schools fully operational.	Contractor/s to commence with the construction of the facilities for the Medical Schools for UL, NMU and NWU and Veterinary schools for UFH and UFS appointed.	Contractor/s to commence with the construction of the facilities for the Medical Schools for UL, NMU and NWU and Veterinary schools for UFH and UFS appointed by 31 March 2027.
Improved access to eLearning opportunities in the PSET System	Programmes accessible on the National Open Learning System (NOLS)	Number of new programmes accessible on the National Open Learning System (NOLS) annually.	4
Integrated Career Development/Khetha Services implemented	Integrated Career Development/Khetha Services delivered through multi-platforms	Number of clients reached through the Career Development/ Khetha Services.	250 000
Improved energy security and a just energy transition	Energy security and a Just energy transition implemented	Skills Development Zone launched.	Skills Development Zone launched by 31 March 2027

Selected targets for 2026/27

Outcome: A capable and professional public service

- Draft NQF Further Amendment Bill, 2024, Phases 1 and 2 of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System certificates obtained from the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation by 31 March 2027.
- Draft Skills Development Amendment Bill, 2024, submitted to the Minister for approval by 31 March 2027.
- Draft Continuing Education and Training Amendment Bill, 2022, submitted to the Minister for approval by 31 March 2027.
- The first draft of the Higher Education Amendment Bill submitted to the Office of the Chief State Legal Advisor for a preliminary opinion by 31 March 2027.
- The First draft of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme Amendment Bill shared with internal and external stakeholders by 31 March 2026 for preliminary comments.

Outcome: Improved education outcomes and skills

- Phase 1 Implementation Plan for the North-West University School of Mines and Mining Engineering, approved by the Deputy Director-General by 30 September 2026.
- Physical completion of the superstructure of Bhambanana, Mitchells Plein and Greytown TVET campuses (30%)
- Physical completion of the superstructure of Community Learning Centres (CLCs) and Central Offices of the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Gauteng CET Colleges (30%).
- Number of new student beds completed annually (2,500).

Outcome: Social cohesion and nation-building

- Number of interventions on the implementation of Social Inclusion (including Gender Equality and GBV) in the PSET system annually (20)

Outcome: Improved Energy Security and Just Energy Transition

- A Skills Development Zone launched by 31 March 2027.

3.2.3. Programme 3: University Education

The programme develops and coordinates policy and regulatory frameworks for an effective and efficient university education system. It provides financial and other support to universities, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and national higher education institutes. The programme has six budget sub-programmes: Programme Management, University Planning and Institutional Funding, Higher Education Policy Development and Research, Teaching, Learning and Research and Universities Subsidies.

Over the medium term, the programme is allocated R311,2 billion. For the 2026/27 financial year, the programme is allocated R100,1 billion. The programme's budget increased by R4,1 billion, representing a 4.3% growth from 2025/26 to 2026/27. The budget is dominated by transfers and subsidies, mainly to universities and the Departmental Agencies: NSFAS and CHE, non-profit institutions: National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) at 99.9% or R100,0 billion. Within the programme, allocations are dominated by NSFAS, which accounts for 50.8%

(R50,9 billion) of the budget, followed closely by allocations to universities at 48.9% (R49,0 billion). The NSFAS budget is increasingly surpassing university subsidies, which is concerning: while NSFAS expands access to education and training, university operational funding is not increasing in real terms.

During the 2026/27 financial year, the programme will prioritise policy development, coordination, and implementation of enrolment plans for 2025–2030 to ensure equitable access supported by qualified staff, fair fees, and a sustainable funding system. Efforts will be directed at the rolling out of the Comprehensive Student Funding Model, targeting poor and ‘Missing Middle’ students, while maintaining oversight of the higher education sector entities.

Key initiatives include advancing a fee regulatory framework, supporting professional development of university Council members, and strengthening entrepreneurship capacity through EDHE. The branch will also oversee the extended implementation of the Research Outputs and Creative Research Outputs framework, now concluding in March 2027, to enhance the quality of subsidy claims and research outputs. Further, support for the new Generation of Academic (nGAP) under the Staffing South African Universities Framework (SSAUF) will continue to improve academic staff demographics, while capacity-building for TVET and CET lecturers will bolster teaching quality. Additional priorities include reviewing reporting regulations, monitoring institutional financial health, declaring Agricultural Colleges as Higher Education Colleges, conducting feasibility studies for a new university of science and innovation in Ekurhuleni, and supporting the broader expansion of the university system.

For 2026/27, the programme has 10 outputs, which translate into 12 output indicators, with 24 direct output targets.

The programme introduced seven (7) new outputs and 13 output indicators as follows:

Table 4: New outputs, output indicators and targets

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2026 target

Improved educational outcomes and skills	PSET institutions participating in the CAS pilot	Number of PSET institutions participating in the CAS pilot	40
	Ministerial statement on the distribution of university funding approved.	Ministerial statement on the distribution of university funding submitted for consideration.	Ministerial statement on the distribution of university funding for the 2027/28 financial year submitted to the Minister and released to universities by 31 December 2026.
	Revised Reporting Regulations	Revised Reporting Regulations submitted for approval	Revised Reporting Regulations submitted for Ministerial approval to be released for consultation by March 2027.
A capable and professional Public Service	Professional development to support governance of public institutions	A professional development programme for university council members designed	A professional development programme for university council members designed by 31 March 2027.
	Accountability Framework for remediating NSFAS audit outcomes and operational challenges	NSFAS Remedial Action Plan approved	NSFAS Remedial Action Plan approved by the Board by 30 June 2026.
		Number of NSFAS Remedial Action Plan reports submitted	9
Improved and relevant teacher education programmes designed and implemented	Revised Policy on the Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications	Revised Policy on Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications gazetted.	Revised Policy on Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications gazetted by 31 March 2027.
Improved quality and relevance of teacher education	Effective evaluation of Teacher education programmes	Number of Higher Education Institutions' teacher education programmes evaluated.	65
	Interventions to support teacher education for improved maths and science in schools.	A STEM support programme and interventions developed and funded.	A STEM support programme and interventions developed and funded by March 2027.

Developed and sustainable Historically Disadvantaged Institutions	Advanced transformation, holistic development and sustainability across the Sibusiso Bengu Development Programme (SB-DP) beneficiary universities.	Sibusiso Bengu Development Programme submitted for approval.	Sibusiso Bengu Development Programme submitted to the Director-General by 31 March 2027.
Expansion of access to higher education and training	Feasibility and planning completed for new Ekurhuleni University of Science and Innovation	A final report on the feasibility, development and funding plans for the Ekurhuleni University of Science and Innovation submitted for approval	A final report on the feasibility, development and funding plans for the Ekurhuleni University of Science and Innovation submitted to Minister by 31 March 2027.
	Process towards declaration of Agricultural Colleges completed.	Agricultural Colleges declared as Higher Education colleges	Agricultural Colleges declared as Higher Education colleges by 31 March 2027.
Improved graduate outcomes and responsiveness to the world of work	National Graduate Tracer Studies developed	A national graduate tracer study for university students developed and funded	A national graduate tracer study for university students developed and funded by 31 March 2027
	Number of students receiving support for new businesses through EDHE	Number of students supported to start businesses by the EDHE	50

Selected targets for 2026/27

Outcome: Improved education outcomes and skills

- A report on tracking the implementation of the Ministerial Statement on University Enrolment Planning for 2020-25, approved by the Director-General (DG) by 31 March 2027.
- A financial health report compiled and submitted to the DG for noting by 31 March 2027.
- A draft fee regulatory framework submitted to the Minister for consideration and public comment by 31 March 2027.
- Evaluation report on the 2025 research outputs of public universities approved by the DG by 31 March 2027.

- A report on the Publication Quality Framework and strategies to enhance the quality and integrity of research outputs by universities approved by the DG by 31 March 2027.

Outcome: A capable and professional public service

- Number of new Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) posts allocated to universities every year **(85)**.
- Number of scholarship or internship positions allocated to universities through the Nurturing Emerging Scholars Programme per annum **(40)**.
- Number of doctoral scholarships allocated through the University Staff Doctoral Programme per annum **(40)**.

3.2.4. Programme 4: Technical and Vocational Education and Training

The programme aims to plan, develop, implement, monitor, maintain, and evaluate national policy, programme assessment practices and systems for TVET colleges. Provide financial and other support to TVET colleges and regional offices. The programme has six budget sub-programmes: Programme Management, Technical and Vocational Education and Training System Planning and Institutional Support, Programmes and Qualifications, National Examinations and Assessment, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Financial Planning and Regional Offices.

Over the medium term, the programme is allocated R45,9 billion, of which R14,7 billion is allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. The programme budget increased by R872,7 million, rising from R13,8 billion in 2025/26 to R14,7 billion in 2026/27, which represents a growth of 6.3%. Expenditure is projected to grow at an average growth rate of 4.6% over the medium term.

The programme budget is dominated by current payments at 67% (R9,454 billion), followed by transfers and subsidies at 32.9% (R4,8 billion). The allocation for subsidies to TVET colleges and the operationalisation of new campuses amounts to R4,8 billion, reflecting an increase of R187,3 million from R4,6 billion in 2025/26. However, this growth is modest when adjusted for inflation, and the limited budget constrains the sector's ability to expand access to the levels envisioned in the NDP.

Over the MTEF period, the Branch will play a vital role in advancing South Africa's skills development agenda, supporting industrialisation, employment creation, and inclusive economic growth. It will consolidate progress made under the NDP and the White Paper, while addressing persistent challenges such as youth unemployment, evolving labour market demands shaped by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the need for stronger institutional capacity and curriculum responsiveness.

The Branch will also improve the functionality of Trade Test Centres by expanding decentralised services, standardising assessments, reducing certification backlogs, and aligning with occupational qualifications to boost artisan output in key sectors such as manufacturing, construction, energy, automotive, and digital technologies. In parallel, the Department is phasing out outdated NATED Report 191 programmes, replacing them with Occupational Qualifications accredited by the QCTO, with 24 new qualifications set to be introduced in TVET colleges from January 2026

The programme captured its performance reporting into 12 outputs, translating into 14 output indicators and 14 targets.

The programme introduced new output indicators and targets in the 2026/27 APP as follows:

Table 6: TVET programme new output indicators and targets

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2026 target
Improved educational outcomes and skills	TVET colleges offering new occupational programmes quality assured by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO).	Number of processed applications for TVET colleges to offer new occupational programmes quality assured by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO).	100
	TVET Lecturers obtaining formal Qualifications	Number of TVET lecturers successfully obtaining formal qualifications	500
	Online public TVET College.	A feasibility study on the establishment of an	A feasibility study on the establishment of an online public

		online public TVET college approved.	TVET college approved by the Director-General by 31 March 2027
	TVET digital transformation strategy developed and implemented	A TVET digital transformation strategy approved.	A TVET digital transformation strategy approved by the Director-General by 31 March 2027
	Governance Training for TVET College Council Members	Number of TVET College Council members trained	150
	TVET Sector Turnaround Strategy approved and implemented	TVET Sector Turnaround Strategy approved	TVET Sector Turnaround Strategy approved by the Minister by 30 September 2026.
		Number of TVET colleges implementing the TVET Sector Turnaround Strategy	20
	Regional Industrial Skills Compacts signed	Number of Regional Industrial Skills Compacts signed	5
	TVET colleges' readiness matrix to upscale occupational qualifications developed and implemented	TVET colleges' readiness matrix to upscale occupational qualifications approved	TVET colleges' readiness matrix to upscale occupational qualifications approved by the Deputy Director-General by 30 June 2026
		Baseline study for rollout occupational qualifications in TVET colleges completed	Baseline study for rollout occupational qualifications in TVET colleges completed by 30 September 2026
	SAIVCET established and operational	SAIVCET established as a non-profit company with governance board appointed	SAIVCET established as a non-profit company with governance board appointed by 31 March 2027

Selected targets for 2026/27

- Percentage of TVET enrolment in occupational qualifications and skills programmes aligned to the approved 5-year TVET enrolment plan (30%).
- Period it takes to issue certificates to qualifying candidates following publication of results (3 months)

3.2.5. Programme 5: Skills Development

The programme aims to promote and monitor the National Skills Development Strategy. Develop skills development policies and regulatory frameworks for an effective skills development system. The programme has five sub-programmes: Programme Management, Sector Education and Training Coordination, National Skills Authority Secretariat, Quality Development and Promotion and National Artisan Development.

The programme's medium-term budget amounts to R1,1 billion, with R365,6 million allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. This reflects an increase of R19,3 million, or 5.5%, from the 2025/26 allocation, bringing the total to R365,6 million in 2026/27. The programme budget is dominated by expenditure on current payments (compensation of employees and goods and services) at 53.2% (R194,8 million), followed by transfers and subsidies at 46.4% (R169,9 million).

Over the medium-term, the programme will direct efforts to ensure that SETAs implement skills development interventions aligned with the National Skills Development Plan (NSDP), thereby fostering a workforce that is both responsive and capable of meeting the evolving demands of the economy. The programme will also focus on priority economic sectors and addressing critical skills gaps, to enhance employability and productivity while supporting inclusive growth. Targeted interventions such as learnerships, internships, apprenticeships, and community-based training will be prioritised, with particular emphasis on youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Innovation in training delivery and strengthened collaboration with industry will further ensure that skills development remains demand-driven and future-oriented.

The programme captured its performance reporting into 19 outputs, translating into 19 output indicators and 19 targets.

The programme introduced new output and its associated indicators and targets in the 2026/27 APP as follows:

Table 7: Skills Development new outputs and output indicators

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2026 target
A capable, ethical and professional public service	SETAs and QCTO obtaining clean and unqualified audits outcomes	Number of SETAs and QCTO receiving unqualified audit opinion without material findings	22
	Audit action plan implemented	Number of monitoring sessions to track progress on the audit action plans	4
	Implementation of governance support interventions for all SETAs and the QCTO	Number of governance support interventions implemented for all SETAs and the QCTO	4
	SETAs under administration exit administration	Number of SETAs exiting administration with fully restored governance structures in place	3
Improved education outcomes and skills	Revised SETA Grant Regulation implemented	Draft Revised SETA Grant Regulation submitted for approval	Draft Revised SETA Grant Regulation submitted to the Minister for approval by 31 March 2027
	SETA SLA targets and APP targets implemented and monitored	Percentage of SETAs achieving SLAs targets	70%
	Skills Revolution compact signed	Percentage of SETAs signing employers compact with 30% employers within their sectors	100%
	National Skills Conference and the Skills Awards convened	National Skills Conference and Skills Awards convened	National Skills Conference and Skills Awards convened by 31 March 2027.
	National Skills Authority advisory capabilities strengthened	A final comprehensive business case enabling the repositioning of the NSA finalised.	A final comprehensive business case enabling the repositioning of

			the NSA finalised by 31 March 2027
	National Skills Authority Investigations Regulations implemented.	National Skills Authority Investigations Regulations' Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System certificate obtained	Impact Assessment System certificate obtained by 31 March 2027.
	National Skills Authority Monitoring and Evaluation System implemented	Final National Skills Authority Monitoring and Evaluation System submitted for approval	Final National Skills Authority Monitoring and Evaluation System submitted to the Minister for approval by 31 March 2027.
	WorldSkills SA National Competition	WorldSkills SA National Competition results published	WorldSkills SA National Competition results published by 31 March 2027
	WorldSkills SA International Competition	WorldSkills SA International Competition results published	WorldSkills SA International Competition results published by 31 March 2027
	WorldSkills SA skills areas contested	Number of skills areas, including 2 green economy skills competed in the World Skills South Africa National Competition	30
	WorldSkills SA TVET college competitors	Percentage of competitors participating from public TVET colleges	60%
	WorldSkills SA — employer partners actively sponsoring or co-training competitors	Number of WorldSkills SA employer partnerships	25

Several of the newly introduced outputs and output indicators are aligned with the policy priorities outlined by President Ramaphosa in his 2026 State of the Nation Address, to improve governance, strengthen industry participation, raise the quality of training and better align the skills development with the needs of the economy. For instance, one key output involves revising the SETA Grant Regulations to restore the original provision, whereby 40% of the mandatory SETA grants are paid to employers.

Selected targets for 2026/27

Outcome: Improved education outcomes and skills

- A report on the number of qualifying employers paid the Mandatory Grant approved by the Deputy Director-General by 31 March 2026.
- Average lead time from qualifying trade test applications received until trade test is conducted (days) – **(30 days)**.
- Percentage of qualifying employers paid mandatory Grants by SETAs **(80%)**
- Number of SETAs assessed to have developed credible Sector Skills Plans per annum **(21)**.

3.2.6. Programme 6: Community Education and Training

The programme plans, develops, implements, monitors, maintains, and evaluates national policy, programme assessment practices, and systems for community education and training. Provide financial and other support to Community Education and Training colleges. The programme has four sub-programmes, namely: Programme Management, Community Education and Training System Planning, Institutional Development and Support, Community Education and Training College Financial Planning and Management and Education, and Training and Development Assessment.

Over the medium term, the programme has been allocated R10.3 billion, with R3.3 billion designated for 2026/27. The budget reflects a nominal increase of R32.8 million, equivalent to 1.00% growth from 2025/26 to 2026/27. In real terms, however, the budget declines once inflation is taken into account.

The programme budget represents 2.7% of the Department's total budget of R121,5 billion, excluding skills levy funds. Current payments dominate the allocation, with employee compensation comprising 92.4% (R3,1 billion). The programme provides subsidies of R242.9 million to CET colleges; however, this amount is insufficient to sustain their operations.

Over the MTEF period, the programme will direct efforts towards repositioning CET as a driver of economic development and poverty reduction by expanding access to skills programmes, strengthening lecturer capacity, and diversifying offerings beyond formal adult schooling. Key initiatives include the rollout of the General Education and Training Certificate for Adults (GETCA) and the National Senior Certificate for Adults (NASCA), targeting 20,000 GETCA learners and 15,000 NASCA learners annually by 2028, alongside increasing accredited Community Learning Centres (CLCs) from 46 to at least 70. In partnership with the QCTO and sister departments, CET will intensify efforts to address infrastructure challenges, broaden access to over 60 short skills programmes, and contribute to mass employment creation, positioning the sector as a cornerstone in tackling the challenge of youth who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The programme captured its performance reporting into seven (7) outputs, translating into nine (9) output indicators and 9 targets.

The programme introduced new output and its associated indicators and targets in the 2026/27 APP as follows:

Table 7: CET new outputs and output indicators

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2026 target
Improved education outcomes and skills	Adult Literacy enrolment	Adult Literacy and Empowerment Campaign launched	Adult Literacy and Empowerment Campaign launched by 30 June 2025
	Revised National Senior Certificate for Adults (NASCA) implemented	Revised National Senior Certificate for Adults (NASCA) qualification and curriculum submitted for approval	Revised National Senior Certificate for Adults (NASCA) qualification and curriculum submitted to Umalusi for approval by 31 March 2027
	Online CET college established.	Final draft online CET college concept document approved	Final draft online CET college concept document approved by the Director-General by 31 March 2027

	CET landscape revised	Audit of community learning centres and recommendations for the configuration of CET landscape submitted for approval	Audit of community learning centres and recommendations for the configuration of CET landscape submitted to the Minister for approval by 31 March 2027
	Policy Framework and guidelines for ideal CET college or CLC model approved and implemented	Policy Framework and guidelines for ideal CET college or CLC model approved for public comments	Policy Framework and guidelines for ideal CET college model or CLC approved by the Minister by 31 March 2027 for public comments
	CET Governance structures implemented	Number of Induction workshops for Ministerial Council Members held	1
		Number of CET student leadership capacity building workshops held	1
		Number of workshops on CET standard of good governance held	2
	Central offices and Community Learning Centres (CLCs) with Internet and Wi-Fi	Number of sites (Central Offices and Community Learning Centres (CLCs) with Internet and Wi-Fi connectivity	63 (9 Central Office and 54 CLCs)

The programme discontinued the following outputs and their associated indicators:

- Approved 5-year CET Enrolment Plan
- Increased programmes and qualifications
- CET college lecturers trained
- CET partnerships established
- CET college examination centres compliant with the National Policy on the Conduct and Management of Examination and Assessment
- Revised Standards of Good Governance for CET college Councils

4. Entities 2026/27 APPs and the 2026/27 MTEF budget projections

4.1. South African Qualifications Authority

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is a statutory body established in terms of the South African Qualifications Authority Act (1995) and exists in terms of the National Qualifications Framework Act (2008), as amended. The authority is mandated to advise the minister on matters related to the national qualifications framework; oversee, liaise, and consult with quality councils on the implementation of the national qualifications framework; develop policies and criteria for the registration of qualifications; maintain a national learner records database; and conduct or commission research into matters related to the national qualifications framework.

SAQA's performance is captured under four Strategic Outcomes as follows:

Table 8: Strategic Outcomes

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES	
Outcome 1: Innovative hub of excellence	
Outcome 2: Research and development drive the advancement of the NQF.	
Outcome 3: A Co-ordinated lifelong learning ecosystem.	
Outcome 4: An NQF that serves society.	

Source: SAQA (2026)

The four outcomes translate into 11 outcome indicators and 21 targets.

4.1.1. Assessment of the SAQA's 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Table 9: 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Programme	2025/26	MTEF Budget Estimates		
	Budget R'000	2026/27 R'000	2027/28 R'000	2028/29 R'000
1. Administration	100,457	116,901	121,450	125,275

2. Registration and Recognition	14,109	14,464	15,095	15,773
3. Data Management and Analysis	40,696	5,930	6,189	6,466
4. Authentication and Ratification Services	32,824	39,467	41,188	43,037
5. Research	6,776	9,522	10,110	10,737
Total	194,862	186,284	194,032	201,288

Over the medium term, SAQA's revenue amounts to R581,6 million. Total revenue is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 8.9%, from R156 million in 2025/26 to R201,3 million in 2028/29, mainly driven by rising demand for qualification verification services and an increase in requests for the evaluation of foreign qualifications.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the Entity is allocated R186,3 million, reflecting a decrease of R8.6 million, constituting a 4.41% reduction from the 2025/26 allocation. The Department reported a baseline decline in 2026/27, primarily due to lower CPI adjustments of R561,9 million, which also affects its public entities. SAQA derives 60% of its budget from government grants, well below the public sector norm of 90% to 100%, and self-funds the remaining 40%.

The entity's budget is dominated by expenditure on the compensation of employees at 61,2% (R114,0 million), followed by goods and services at 39% (R72,3 million).

The entity will prioritise infrastructure improvements over the MTEF period to strengthen operational efficiency and service delivery. A key focus will be on enhancing IT systems through automating the national learner records database, modernising platforms for verifying foreign qualifications, and upgrading systems across its directorates.

SAQA has highlighted that ongoing budget constraints are exerting pressure on the entity to commercialise its service offerings, while limited capital investment poses risks to long-term sustainability and may result in potential cash flow challenges.

4.1.2. Assessment of the 2026/27 performance targets

4.1.2.1. Programme 1: Administration

The programme ensures support to the core operations run effectively, and that the organisation is sustainable. It also covers the work of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Legal and Compliance; Strategic Planning and Governance; Human Resources; Finance, Supply Chain Management and Facilities; Communications and Advocacy, and ICT.

The programme contributes to three SAQA's Strategic Outcomes, namely, 1: Innovative and sustainable hub of excellence; 3: Co-ordinated lifelong learning ecosystem and 4: An NQF that serves society. For the 2026/27 financial year, the programme has nine targets.

Selected targets for 2026/27

- Percentage of the institutional review project plan implemented **(100%)**
- Unqualified audit opinion.
- Percentage completion of execution of Finance activities from the approved Financial Sustainability Plan **(100%)**
- Percentage of annual HR implementation plan executed **(100%)**
- Percentage progress on implementation of an ICT infrastructure plan **(100%)**
- Percentage progress on the implementation of a communication Strategy **(100%)**

The programme's budget for the 2026/27 financial year amounts to R116,9 million, constituting 62.7% of the Entity's total budget.

4.1.2.2. Programme 2: Registration and Recognition

The programme registers qualifications and part-qualifications, recognises professional bodies, and registers professional designations. Over the strategic plan, 2025-2030, the programme will develop a streamlined workflow to register qualifications faster, create clear policies and guidelines for registering national qualifications, reduce the number of qualifications on the NQF

by encouraging the Quality Councils to recommend national qualifications instead of provider qualifications, and automate and streamline processes for efficient, professional body recognition and monitoring, amongst others.

The programme contributes to two SAQA's Strategic Outcomes, namely, 3: Co-ordinated lifelong learning ecosystem and 4: An NQF that serves society. For the 2026/27 financial year, the programme has three targets as follows:

- Develop a draft Framework for the registration and quality assurance of qualifications and part-qualifications, and skills programmes.
- Number of training capacity-building workshops related to the NQF conducted for stakeholders **(2)**.
- Percentage of Quality Councils recommended qualifications that meet criteria are approved for registration within 70 working days **(90%)**.

The programme's budget for the 2026/27 financial year amounts to R14,5 million, constituting 7.8% of the Entity's total budget.

4.1.2.3. Programme 3: Data Management and Analysis

The programme covers the work of the Data Management and Analysis (DMA) Unit, which is responsible for organising, analysing and reporting on all SAQA-owned and externally sourced data to support evidence-based decision-making and policy development.

The programme contributes to Strategic Outcome 1: Innovative hub of excellence. For the 2026/27, the programme will implement and evaluate two pilot initiatives from the data strategy.

The programme's budget for the 2026/27 financial year amounts to R5,9 million, constituting 3.2% of the Entity's total budget.

4.1.2.4. Programme 4: Authentication and Ratification Services

The programme verifies the authenticity of national qualifications and evaluates foreign qualifications. It also locates foreign qualifications on the South African NQF by comparing them to the relevant national qualifications.

The programme contributes to the Strategic Outcome 4: An NQF that serves society and has three targets.

Key targets for 2026/27

- Percentage of foreign evaluations completed without successful appeals **(90%)**.
- Percentage compliant requests received for the verification of National Qualifications found on the NLRD **(90%)**.
- Number of international initiatives undertaken **(2)**.

The programme's budget for the 2026/27 financial year amounts to R39,5 million, constituting 21.2% of the Entity's total budget.

4.1.2.5. Programme 5: Research

The programme conducts evidence-based research to inform the development and implementation of the NQF and to evaluate the impact of South Africa's NQF. The programme contributes to the three Strategic Outcomes 2: Research and development drive the advancement of the NQF; 3: A coordinated lifelong learning ecosystem; and 4: An NQF that serves society. There are five targets planned for 2026/27.

Key targets for 2026/27

- Number of research outputs generated **(3)**
- Number of events held to disseminate research **(1)**
- Number of research and development partnerships established or continued **(1)**
- Number of reports of dissemination and workshopping of lifelong guidelines **(1)**
- Number of initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the Addis Convention **(1)**

The programme's budget for the 2026/27 financial year amounts to R9,5 million, constituting 5.1% of the Entity's total budget.

4.2. Council on Higher Education

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is a statutory body established in terms of the Higher Education Act (1997), as amended. It is mandated to advise the minister responsible for higher education on all matters pertaining to higher education, develop and manage the higher education qualifications framework and sub-framework, and develop and implement a suite of policies and criteria to facilitate the implementation of the framework and sub-framework and protect their integrity.

Table 10: CHE Strategic Outcomes 2025-2030

Outcome 1	An integrated, innovative and responsive quality assurance system leveraged to improve higher education outcomes.
To advance an integrated, innovative and responsive quality assurance for improved higher education outcomes.	
Outcome 2	The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework developed, managed and implemented within the context of an integrated NQF
To implement a revised HEQSF that enables access, progression and articulation in higher education and with the other sub-frameworks on the NQF.	
Outcome 3	A credible knowledge hub on higher education anchored in a growing research, monitoring and critical discourse area of work.
To grow the research, monitoring, and critical discourse area of work to provide an effective anchor for a credible knowledge hub on higher education.	
Outcome 4	Evidence-based advice and policies on higher education
To increase the use of evidence to underpin the formulation of sound advice and the development of viable policies on higher education.	
Outcome 5	An ethical, sustainable, high-performing, and digitally transformed organisation
To advance as an ethical, sustainable, high-performing and digitally transformed organisation	

Source: CHE, 2026

4.2.1. Assessment of CHE's 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Table 11: CHE's 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Programme	2025/26	MTEF Budget Estimates		
	Budget R'000	2026/27 R'000	2027/28 R'000	2028/29 R'000
1. Quality Assurance	33,1	34,2	35,2	35,5
2. Management of HEQSF	9,7	10,1	10,6	11,1
3. Research and Monitoring	12,1	12,6	13,2	13,8
4. Policy and Advice	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,4
5. Strategy, Governance and Management	51,8	42,9	44,8	46,8
Total	107,9	101,1	105,2	108,6

Source: National Treasury ENE (2026)

Over the medium term, CHE's revenue is projected at R314,9 million. Department transfers account for a projected 91.1% percent (R286,8 million) of the total revenue over the MTEF period. The remainder is generated through interest on investments and fees charged for accreditation services provided to private higher education institutions. Total revenue is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.2%, from R107,9 million in 2025/26 to R108,6 million in 2028/29.

The Entity's revenue for the 2026/27 financial year amounts to R101,1 million, reflecting a decline of 6.3% (R6.8 million) compared to the 2025/26 allocation. While most programmes registered marginal increases, Programme 5: Strategy, Governance and Management experienced a substantial reduction, with its allocation decreasing from R5188 million in 2025/26 to R42,9

million in 2026/27, a reduction of 17.2% (R8,9 million). The Entity's budget is dominated by expenditure on goods and services at 51.5% (R51,1 million). Compensation of employees represents the second largest component, comprising 47% (R47,2 million) of the budget.

Over the medium term, the CHE will continue its ongoing focus on implementing a new quality assurance framework for higher education in South Africa, becoming a recognised centre for information and policy analysis on higher education, and advising the Minister responsible for Higher Education on all higher education matters by researching and monitoring the state of the sector, including monitoring transformation in higher education.

4.2.2. Assessment of CHE's 2026/27 APP performance targets

The work of CHE is divided into five programmes: Quality Assurance, HEQSF Management, Research and Monitoring, Policy and Advice, Strategy, and Governance and Management. CHE reports on 44 targets across the five programmes for 2026/27, 4 fewer than in 2025/26.

4.2.2.1. Programme 1: Quality Assurance

The programme contributes towards the fulfilment of the mandate of the CHE as the national authority for quality assurance in higher education by developing and implementing processes to inform, assure, promote and monitor quality in higher education institutions (HEIs), in line with the approach articulated in the CHE's Quality Assurance Framework (CHE, 2020).

For the 2026/27 financial year, the programme has 12 targets. The targets are shared among the three sub-programmes, namely, Standards and Capacity Development, Accreditation, and Quality Reviews.

Key selected targets

Sub-programme 1: Standards and Capacity Development

- Number of new or reviewed Qualification Standards submitted to the HEQC for approval, within a particular financial year **(4)**
- Percentage of developed institutional Improvement Plans that are currently being implemented to respond to the recommendations from quality reviews, which are being

monitored by the CHE, within a particular financial year **(100%)**.

- Percentage of new institutions seeking to enter the higher education sector that are supported and/or reviewed by the CHE within a particular financial year (100%).

Sub-programme 2: Accreditation

- Percentage of programme or qualification accreditation applications received that go through the accreditation process and are presented to the HEQC within 8 months after successfully passing the check listing stage, within a particular financial year **(95%)**.
- Percentage of site visits undertaken whose reports are presented to the HEQC within 6 months from the date of receipt of reports from the site visit panels, within a particular financial year **(95%)**.

Sub-programme 3: Quality Reviews

- Number of Institutional Audits with a review methodology (Institutional Reviews) initiated/underway, within a particular financial year **(20)**.
- Number of National/Qualification Reviews initiated by the CHE/underway, within a particular financial year **(3)**
- Number of institutional reports of completed National/Qualification Reviews presented submitted to the HEQC for approval, within a particular financial year **(8)**.
- Number of Themed Reviews initiated by the CHE underway, within a particular financial year **(1)**.

The CHE's quality assurance mandate contributes to ensuring that quality higher education is provided in the country, that students have equitable access, and that they graduate with qualifications that have enabled them to develop the competencies required for critical citizenship, meaningful participation in a democratic society, and successful transition into the world of work. The programme is allocated R34,2 million for the 2026/27 financial year, constituting 33.8% of the Entity's total budget of R101,1 million. The programme's funding increased by 3.3 per cent, from R33,1 million in 2025/26 to R34,2 million in 2026/27. This is an increase of R1,1 million.

4.2.2.2. Programme 2: Management of the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework

(HEQSF)

The programme manages the implementation of the HEQSF and related policies, qualifications, and data to meet the goals of the NQF, NPPSET, and the National Development Plan (NDP). The programme has two sub-programmes, namely, Qualifications and Data Management and Partnerships and Collaboration, both of which contribute to the overall purpose of the programme.

The Programme has 9 targets set for 2026/27.

Selected key targets

Sub-programme 1: Qualifications and Data Management

- Number of reports on HEQSF record updates within three months of the Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC) outcome letters compiled, within a particular financial year **(4)**.
- Percentage of Registered Private HEIs submitting required data sets in each submission cycle, within a particular financial year **(4)**.
- Number of data uploads onto the NLRD within a particular financial year **(2)**.
- Number of higher education institutions provided with support with respect to the development and implementation of relevant institutional policies, within a particular financial year **(12)**.

Sub-programme 2: Partnerships and Collaboration

- Number of project reports or other submissions from the joint or collaborative projects with SAQA, other QCs, the DHET and professional bodies, within a particular financial year **(12)**.
- Number of national events and/or forums on NQF, quality assurance and promotion involved in, within a particular year **(12)**.

The budget allocation for this programme is R10,2 million, or 10.1% of the total budget. The programme's funding 2 increased by 5.1%, from R9,7 million in 2025/26 to R10,2 million in 2026/27. This is an increase of R500 000.

The Qualifications and Data Management subprogramme ensures that the Council on Higher Education (CHE), as the quality council for higher education under the NQF Act, fulfils its

mandate by recommending qualifications for registration on the NQF through timely submissions to SAQA, communicating accreditation outcomes to institutions, deregistering qualifications where accreditation is withdrawn, approving programme title changes, and overseeing programme discontinuations. These processes safeguard the integrity of the HEQSF by ensuring that only active, credible qualifications are recorded, thereby curbing unnecessary proliferation on the NQF. Consolidated reporting of requests to SAQA further enables the CHE to monitor responses, refine practices, and provide transparency to employers, students, and stakeholders, reinforcing confidence in the legitimacy of qualifications.

4.2.2.3. Programme 3: Research and Monitoring

The programme aims to expand the research, monitoring, and critical discourse work within the CHE to provide an effective anchor for a credible knowledge hub on higher education. It seeks to consolidate the CHE's position as a reputable knowledge hub that provides credible knowledge resources, data and information, and intellectual engagement platforms to the higher education sector. These resources contribute to the development and maintenance of a vibrant, innovative, transformative, and future-oriented national higher education system that is responsive to society's changing needs. Through this programme, the CHE discharges the parts of its legislated mandate that require it to monitor developments in higher education and regularly publish information about these developments, and to arrange, organise and coordinate conferences and other intellectual engagement events on topical issues in higher education.

Programme 3 has six targets for 2026/27, shared between the two sub-programmes, Research and Monitoring.

Key selected targets

Sub-programme 1: Research

- Number of research reports produced, within a particular financial year (4)
- Number of journals/journal articles or books/book chapters published, within a particular financial year (3)
- Number of conferences, colloquia, seminars, symposia, or workshops organised, within a particular financial year (5).

Sub-programme 2: Monitoring

- Number of VitalStats produced, within a particular financial year **(1)**.
- Number of Higher Education Monitors produced, within a particular financial year **(1)**.

The budget allocation for this programme is R12,6 million, or 12,5% of the total budget. The funding allocated to Programme 3 increased by 4.1%, from R12,1 million in 2025/26 to R12,6 million in 2026/27. This is an increase of R500 000.

4.2.2.4. Programme 4: Policy and Advice

The programme increases the use of evidence to underpin the formulation of sound advice and the development of viable policies on higher education. Policies guide nations, institutions, organisations, and individuals to their desired courses of action, and they are critical for nations, institutions, and organisations to function properly. In higher education in South Africa, the democratic government has been working to replace policies inherited from the apartheid era with new policies that guide the transformation of higher education to serve the nation's interests. From the Education White Paper 3, promulgated in 1997, to the Policy for the Recognition of South African Higher Education Institutional Types, promulgated in 2024, these policies seek to establish and maintain a transformed, democratic, and sustainable dispensation within the higher education system. At the time, the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE) proposed establishing the CHE, envisaging it as a national think tank on higher education policy.

Programme 4 has two sub-programmes, namely, Policy and Advice. Both the sub-programmes have three targets set for 2026/27.

Sub-programme 1: Policy

- Number of policies developed and/or reviewed and revised, within a particular financial year **(1)**.
- Number of policy briefs produced, within a particular financial year **(1)**.

Sub-programme 2: Advice

- Number of advisory notes submitted to the Minister, within a particular financial year **(4)**.

The budget allocation for this programme is R1,2 million, or 1.2% of the total budget. The funding allocated to Programme 4 remained unchanged for the 2026/27 financial year.

4.2.2.5. Programme 5: Strategy, Governance and Management

The programme aims to provide strategic direction, leadership, oversight, systems, activities, and structures that enable the organisation to operate effectively and efficiently in fulfilling its mandates and achieving its outcomes. The programme focuses on setting the policy and tone for good governance, statutory compliance, and the transfer of business best practices across the organisation, and on ensuring the efficient and effective provision of corporate services – administrative, financial, technical, and professional- to support the discharge of the core functions of the CHE.

The programme has four sub-programmes: Governance, Corporate Services and ICT; Finance, Supply Chain Management and Facilities, and Communications and Stakeholder Management. For the 2026/27 financial year, the programme has 14 targets.

Key selected targets

Sub-programme 1: Governance

- Number of ICT policies, frameworks, guidelines and procedures developed or reviewed within a particular financial year **(8)**.
- Number of Human Resources policies, frameworks, guidelines and procedures developed or reviewed, within a particular financial year **(8)**.
- Number of financial management, supply chain management policies and facilities, frameworks, guidelines and procedures developed or reviewed, within a particular financial year **(8)**.

Sub-programme 2: Corporate Services and ICT

- Number of developed and approved annual ICT Operational Plans based on the CHE's approved Digital Transformation Framework, within a particular financial year **(1)**.
- Percentage of activities concluded as per an approved annual ICT Operational Plan, within a particular financial year **(80%)**.

- Percentage of approved funded posts on the organisational structure that have incumbents throughout a particular financial year **(85%)**.

Sub-programme 3: Finance, Supply Chain Management and Facilities

- Average percentage of eligible suppliers paid within 30 days from dates of receipt of their invoices, within a particular year **(100%)**.
- Number of unqualified audit opinion reports received from external auditors, within a particular financial year **(1)**.

Communications and Stakeholder Management

- Number of developed/revised and approved Communication and Advocacy Plans, within a particular financial year **(1)**.
- Percentage of activities concluded as per the Communication and Advocacy Plan, within a particular financial year **(80%)**.
- Number of stakeholder events or forums organised in the other programmes/subprogrammes for which technical and operational support is provided, within a particular financial year **(12)**.

The budget allocation for this programme is R42,9 million, or 42.4% of the total budget. The funding allocated to Programme 5 decreased by 17.1%, from R51,8 million in 2025/26 to R42,9 million in 2026/27. This is a decrease of R8,9 million.

4.3. Quality Council for Trades and Occupations

The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations was established in terms of the Skills Development Act (1998), and its mandate was extended as expressed in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, 2008 (Act No.67 of 2008), as amended. It is mandated to oversee the development and maintenance of the occupational qualifications sub-framework in the national qualifications framework and advise the minister on all policy matters concerning occupational standards and qualifications.

The following table highlights the QCTO's strategic outcomes over the MTEF

Table 12: QCTO's Strategic Outcomes

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES	
Outcome 1	The integrity and credibility of quality assurance for the OQSF is ensured through the development of policy and criteria in line with the NQF Act, the Skills Development Act, the MTDP, the NPPSET and other national imperatives
Outcome 2	Established systems for monitoring and improving the quality of provisioning of education and training that promote the efficiency and success of the PSET system
Outcome 3	A dynamic and responsive Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework that ensures improved educational outcomes and skills for the economy.
Outcome 4	QCTO remains a responsive learning organisation.

Source: QCTO (2026)

4.3.1. Assessment of QCTO's 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Table 12: QCTO's 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Programme	2025/26	MTEF Budget Estimates		
	Budget R'000	2026/27 R'000	2027/28 R'000	2028/29 R'000
1. Administration	95,4	97,3	97,2	103,2
2. Occupational qualifications management and certification	42,9	44,9	47,0	48,4
3. Occupational qualifications quality assurance	42,3	44,3	47,9	48,0

4. Research analysis and quality assurance	10,5	10,4	10,9	11,4
Total	191	196,9	203,0	211,0

Source: National Treasury ENE (2026)

Over the medium term, the QCTO's budget amounts to R610,9 million, of which R196,9 million is allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. The budget is projected to grow in the outer years of the MTEF to R203,0 million and R211,0 million in 2027/28 and 2028/29, respectively.

Spending on goods and services is projected to constitute 49.9% (R30,.8 million) of the Council's total budget over the next 3 years. The Council expects to receive 75.6% (R461,5 million) of its revenue over the period ahead through SETA grant funding and 16.6% (R101,3 million) through departmental transfers. The remaining revenue will be generated by charging verification, accreditation and certification fees.

Over the medium term, the QCTO will prioritise developing occupational qualifications and skills programmes that directly support infrastructure development, the just energy transition implementation plan, and the national priority areas of occupations in high demand and critical skills. To this end, the council plans to spend R313,1 million over the medium term.

4.3.2. Assessment of QCTO's 2026/27 APP performance targets

For the 2026/27, QCTO has 25 planned targets shared among the four programmes.

4.3.2.1. Programme 1: Administration

The programme enables QCTO performance through strategic leadership and reliable delivery of management support services that will ensure a responsive and learning organisation. For the 2026/27, the programme has four set targets.

- Number of strategic capacity-building initiatives implemented and reported on annually

(2).

- Percentage of multi-year MSP deliverables implemented and reported on **(30%)**.
- Percentage of key financial health indicators achieved quarterly **(80%)**.

The programme is allocated R97,3 million for 2026/27, constituting 49.4% of the QCTO's total budget. This reflects the labour-intensive and centralised nature of corporate services, governance, executive management, and ICT functions, particularly in the context of expanded responsibilities arising from the transition from legacy qualifications to occupational qualifications.

4.3.2.2. Programme 2: Occupational Qualifications Management, Assessment and Certification

The programme ensures the development, assessment and certification of occupational qualifications, part-qualifications. And skills programmes that are responsive to the world of work, the Just Energy Transition and Sustainability. Nine targets are planned under this programme for 2026/27 as follows:

- Percentage of prioritised developed occupational qualifications and part qualifications processed (Approved and/or declined for recommendation to SAQA for registration on the OQSF) within 90 working days **(80%)**.
- Percentage of prioritised developed skills programmes processed (Approved and/or declined) within 90 working days **(80%)**.
- Percentage of assessments for occupational and part qualifications quality assured against QCTO standards within 21 working-day turnaround time **(90%)**.
- Bi-annual monitoring reports on Quality Partners compliance against QCTO assessment standards approved by the CEO **(2)**.
- Percentage verification of authenticity of certificates requests received and verified within turnaround time (5 working days) **(95%)**.

Programme 2 receives R44,9 million (22.8%) of the total budget. The allocation reflects the technical complexity and labour-intensive nature of occupational qualification development and certification processes, including stakeholder engagement, assessment coordination, and

certification issuance.

4.3.2.3. Programme 3: Occupational Qualifications Quality Assurance

The programme establishes and maintains quality standards for Accreditation and Quality Assurance within the OQSF. The programme is allocated R44,3 million (22.5%) to deliver 10 APP targets, making it one of the most output-intensive programmes in the QCTO portfolio. The number of targets relative to the budget share indicates high operational intensity and sustained delivery pressure, particularly amid expanding provider networks and increased assessment activity.

Key selected targets

- Percentage of Skills Development Provider accreditation applications for occupational qualifications and part qualifications processed within the turnaround time (90 working days) **(80%)**.
- Percentage of Skills Development Provider recommendations from Quality Partners processed (accreditation granted or declined) within the turnaround time (30 working days) **(90%)**.
- Quarterly accreditation reports on accredited Skills Development Providers and Assessment Centres against QCTO compliance standards approved by the CEO **(4)**.
- Bi-annual Quality Assurance reports on accredited SDPs and Assessment Centres readiness to assess against QCTO compliance standards approved by the CEO **(2)**.
- Quarterly quality assurance reports on accredited SDPs with implemented occupational qualifications, part qualifications and Skills Programmes quality assured against QCTO compliance standards approved by the CEO **(4)**.

4.3.2.4. Programme 4: Research and analysis

The programme contributes to the achievement of the QCTO's mandate through research and analysis. Programme 4 receives R10,4 million (5.3%) of the total budget to deliver 2 APP targets. Although modest in size, the programme fulfils a strategic enabling role, supporting long-term system reform, labour market alignment, and adaptive policy responses.

- Number of Research Reports Approved as per the Approved Research Plan **(6)**.

- Research Bulletin published online (1).

4.4. National Student Financial Aid Scheme

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme was established in terms of the National Student Financial Aid Act (1999). The scheme is responsible for providing bursaries and loans to students, developing criteria and conditions for granting loans and bursaries to eligible students in consultation with the minister; raising funds; recovering loans from debtors; maintaining and analysing a database of funded students; undertaking research on how to use financial resources more effectively; advising the minister on matters relating to student financial aid; and undertaking other functions assigned to it by the act or the minister.

4.4.1. Focus over the Medium-Term and Outcome-Oriented Strategic Goals

The strategic orientation of the 2026/27 APP is aligned with the NSFAS Strategic Plan 2025–2030 and prioritises institutional recovery over expansion. The APP foregrounds five medium-term outcomes:

- Ethical and accountable leadership and governance;
- Institutional integrity and stakeholder trust;
- Financial viability and sustainability;
- Organisational and ICT capability; and
- A people-centred and student-focused operating model.

This strategic posture mirrors national imperatives articulated in the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) of the 7th Administration, which places education and skills development at the centre of economic recovery while emphasising fiscal discipline and capability rebuilding.

The following table highlights the strategies for NSFAS for the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF):

Table 13: Strategic objectives and Outcomes for the MTSF Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective	Outcome
Leadership and Governance	An institution that is accountable to individuals and teams led by individuals who are governed ethically.
Institutional integrity	A student-centric organisation that enjoys the trust of stakeholders

	in the PSET sector and is focused on the development of South Africa's skills development strategy.
Financial integrity, viability, and sustainability	A financially sustainable institution adheres to sustainability best practice and has long-term financial accountability and viability.
Organisational capability	An organisation that has modern-day Information, Communication and Technology, is people-centred, has standard operating processes, and relevant tools of trade/systems.
Organisation design and people-centred entity	An institution with the right skills, culture, and personnel to deliver on the strategy and mandate of NSFAS.

Source: NSFAS Annual Performance Plan 2026/27

4.4.2. Assessment of NSFAS's 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Table 14: NSFAS's 2026/27 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget Projections

Programme	2025/26	MTEF Budget Estimates		
	Budget R'000	2026/27 R'000	2027/28 R'000	2028/29 R'000
Administration	742,7	664,8	733,0	753,4
Student-Centred Model	58 466,9	53 665,1	55 857,8	57 214,2
Total	59 209,5	54 329,9	56 590,8	57 967,5

Source: National Treasury ENE (2026)

Over the medium term, NSFAS is allocated R168,9 billion, of which R54,3 billion is allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. The 2026/27 budget reflects a decrease of R4,8 billion from the 2025/26 allocation of R59,2 billion. Transfers from the Department of Higher Education and Training account for approximately 93% of total revenue, with the balance derived from interest, recoveries, accommodation accreditation fees, and third-party bursary management agreements.

The 2026/27 APP acknowledges that benchmarking exercises indicate an optimal administrative cost ratio of approximately 1.2% cent, suggesting a material underfunding of core administrative and control functions. This structural constraint continues to undermine system modernisation and governance improvements.

The Entity outlined the following funding challenges:

- Remaining within the current budget trajectory would necessitate a decrease in the number of students funded.
- Baseline funding increases at 4% per annum (MTEF trajectory), which is insufficient to match the rising demand for student support.
- Administration currently accounts for only 0.7% of total funds, compared to the recommended 1.2%. This equates to R665,5 million, leaving a shortfall of approximately R350 million.

4.4.3. Assessment of NSFAS's 2026/27 APP performance targets

The work of NSFAS is divided into two programmes: Administration and the Student-centred model. NSFAS reports on 25 targets under the two programmes for 2026/27.

4.4.3.1. Programme 1: Administration

The programme aims to ensure effective leadership and administrative support services within NSFAS. It has eight sub-programmes: Executive Management; Internal Audit, Risk, Forensic and Combined Assurance; Legal and Compliance; Corporate Services; Human Resources Management; Financial Unit; Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Strategic Enablement.

The programme is allocated R664,8 million, constituting 1.2% of the total budget. For the 2026/27 financial year, the programme set 15 targets.

Key selected targets

- Student accommodation protocol approved by the Accounting Authority.
- Approval of stakeholder engagement plan by the CEO.
- An approved Corporate Social Responsibility plan approved by the CEO.

- Organisational risk maturity level (**Level 3**).
- Percentage of loan book debtors sent quarterly statements of account (**80%**).
- Percentage sign off on 2017 to 2024 academic year reconciliations for TVETs (**55%**).
- Percentage sign off on 2017 to 2024 on academic year reconciliations for universities (**40%**).
- Number of interventions in the approved 2025/26 Organisational realignment report implemented (**4**).
- The accounting authority approved the eligibility criteria and conditions for financial aid submitted to the Minister for concurrence.
- Approved the annual research agenda by the CEO.

4.4.3.2. Programme 2: Student-Centred Model

The programme aims to ensure that core NSFAS services are administered effectively and efficiently. It manages bursary and loan administration services, and core operations features, including student applications to approval, as well as beneficiary maintenance for continuing students.

Programme 2 has 10 targets set for 2026/27. The total budget allocation for this programme is R53,7 billion or 98.8% of the Entity's total budget. The funding allocated to Programme 2: Student-centred Model decreased by 8.2%, from R58,4 billion in 2025/26 to R53,6 billion in 2026/27. This is a decrease of R4,8 billion.

Key selected targets

- Percentage of valid applicants for the main application cycle per academic year, whose funding eligibility status is finalised by 15 December each year (**85%**).
- Percentage of valid appeals by applicants, for the main application cycle, where the appeal was finalised by the stipulated deadline (**85%**).
- Percentage of NSFAS continuing university students for whom valid academic results have been received by 31 December, whose eligibility status is finalised on the funding eligible list by 10 January (**85%**).
- Percentage of NSFAS continuing TVET students, for all cycles, whose provisionally

funded status is finalised, within 5 days of receiving valid academic results from DHET (85%).

- Percentage of allowance disbursements to fully funded students made in accordance with the disbursement calendar (95%).
- Number of eligible university students receiving NSFAS bursaries annually (475,610).
- Number of eligible TVET college students receiving NSFAS bursaries annually (269,314).

5. Key findings and observations

The Committee, having assessed the Department and Entities' Annual Performance Plan 2026/27, and the Budget Vote 17 MTEF projections, makes the following findings and observations.

5.1. Programme 1: Administration

- 5.1.1.** Persistent delays in filling vacancies within the Department and TVET colleges contribute to underspending on compensation budgets, forcing returns to Treasury.
- 5.1.2.** The Department currently has four senior management positions filled on an acting basis, three Deputy Directors General (Branches: Corporate Services, University Education and Skills Development), as well as the Chief Financial Officer. This situation raises serious concerns about leadership stability.
- 5.1.3.** Extended acting appointments of TVET College Principals in Regional Manager roles (exceeding two years) undermine institutional stability and performance. This practice prevents the permanent filling of Principals' positions at the affected Colleges, as incumbents remain in acting Regional Manager roles. The resulting chain of acting appointments often leaves entire college management structures operating in temporary capacities, further weakening governance and continuity.
- 5.1.4.** The 2026/27 APP does not include the indicator for the employment equity target of 7% for people with disabilities, as announced by President Ramaphosa in the 2026 State of the Nation Address. This omission will allow the Department to evade accountability regarding its performance on this indicator.

- 5.1.5. The discontinuation of output for the timeous payment of suppliers and the output indicator for the percentage of valid invoices received from creditors paid within 30 days in the 2026/27 APP days is deeply concerning. This indicator is key in sustaining businesses, particularly small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and plays a crucial role in driving economic growth.
- 5.1.6. It is concerning that the Department and other entities in the PSET system are relying on private companies to verify applicants' qualifications instead of utilising SAQA. Utilising SAQA services would not only enhance the integrity and bolster public confidence but also generate additional revenue for the entity.

5.2. Programme 2: Planning, Policy and Strategy

- 5.2.1. The Department did not meet its target of tabling amendments to the Higher Education Act, 1997, in Parliament by 31 March 2026. These delays hinder the timely review of legislation and continue to limit the Minister's ability to proactively intervene in cases of governance and management lapses at universities.
- 5.2.2. The current policy framework on internationalisation applies exclusively to universities, leaving TVET and CET colleges, and SETAs without regulatory frameworks to govern international activities, including the appointment of foreign nationals.
- 5.2.3. Inadequate coordination and communication among the Department's six branches remain a concern and negatively impact service delivery.
- 5.2.4. Persistent delays in transferring infrastructure efficiency grants to universities and TVET colleges for expansion and refurbishing their infrastructure continue to be a challenge.
- 5.2.5. The centralisation of universities and colleges' infrastructure function under the Planning, Policy and Strategy Branch does not appear to be achieving the intended outcomes, given the reported lack of capacity within the infrastructure unit to effectively monitor and oversee the implementation of development projects.

- 5.2.6. It is concerning that the Department's 2026/27 APP was found to have annual targets that will result in delayed achievement of the outputs, and some indicators are not measuring the desired performance.
- 5.2.7. The completion of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Giyani Campus Phase 1 was noted. The milestone will expand access to higher education, particularly in rural areas of Limpopo.

5.3. Programme 3: University Education

- 5.3.1. The significant delays in establishing the two new universities in Hammanskraal and Ekurhuleni are seriously concerning, given the growing demand for higher education in the country. Despite commitments made in the previous Administration, the sites for the new universities have not yet been finalised, and there is insufficient information or clear timelines for completion of these projects.
- 5.3.2. The lack of progress in finalising the fee regulation framework to guide universities in setting their fees remains a concern. Without a consistent approach to fee-setting across universities, many self-funded students from disadvantaged family backgrounds continue to face an inequitable financial burden.
- 5.3.3. The NSFAS budget is increasingly surpassing university subsidies, which is concerning: while NSFAS expands access to education and training, university operational funding is not increasing in real terms.
- 5.3.4. While the Committee supports the policy framework for internationalisation of higher education, evidence from certain institutions suggests that internationalisation has, at times, come at the expense of local expertise.
- 5.3.5. Persistent delays in approving the NSFAS remedial action plan remain a serious concern, particularly in light of ongoing governance and administration lapses within the entity.
- 5.3.6. The Department's 2026/27 APP lacks explicit targets addressing racial transformation and the prioritisation of local academics over foreign nationals in higher education.
- 5.3.7. The underrepresentation of the South African minority groups among students funded through the Department's international scholarships remains a matter of concern.

5.4. Programme 4: Technical and Vocational Education and Training

- 5.4.1. The continued rollout of outdated programmes in the TVET sector remains a serious concern, as many graduates face significant barriers in articulating to higher education and securing meaningful employment.
- 5.4.2. TVET colleges are mandated to equip learners with practical skills for both the workplace and to further their studies. However, inadequate investment in the sector undermines their ability to position themselves as institutions of choice for many young people.
- 5.4.3. The transition from legacy NATED/Report 191 programmes to the QCTO-accredited occupational programmes, which emphasise industry-specific skills, is commendable. Yet several TVET colleges struggle to obtain accreditation to deliver these new programmes due to limited capacity, outdated workshop infrastructure and equipment.
- 5.4.4. It is particularly concerning that 14 TVET colleges have not been accredited as trade test centres. As a result, students from these institutions are compelled to undertake their trade tests at private centres, often at additional cost and inconvenience.
- 5.4.5. Prolonged delays by TVET colleges in implementing the world-class Mechatronics curriculum, jointly developed by the QCTO and German counterparts, remain a serious concern. While private training providers have successfully adopted the new curriculum, public colleges continue to face delays exceeding six years.
- 5.4.6. Delays by colleges in assisting students to secure the 18-month practical training remain a serious concern. Without this component, students are unable to graduate, leaving them in prolonged uncertainty and unemployment.
- 5.4.7. International collaborations as it relates to the TVET sector have largely been limited and overseen by the Department, unlike the university sector, which enjoys broader global engagement. To ensure growth and expansion, the TVET sector must be supported through stronger international partnerships to attract foreign investment and enhance its global competitiveness.

5.5. Programme 5: Skills Development

- 5.5.1. Delays by SETAs in implementing corrective measures to revise their 2026/27 APP targets, which the AGSA classified as not meeting the SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) Principles, are deeply concerning.

- 5.5.2.** The continued reliance on private trade test centres by SETAs, instead of utilising TVET college trade test centres, reflects a lack of public confidence in the latter and remains a significant concern.

5.6. Programme 6: Community Education and Training

- 5.6.1.** CET colleges play an important role in providing second-chance education and training opportunities to youth and adults who are not in education, training or employment. However, chronic underfunding severely undermines the sector's ability to fulfil its mandate effectively.
- 5.6.2.** It is deeply concerning that the construction of new CET colleges in all nine provinces has faced significant delays, despite the appointment of implementing agencies such as the Independent Development Trust (IDT) to drive the roll-out.
- 5.6.3.** The demand for infrastructure in the CET sector is huge, given that the majority of community learning centres (CLCs), approximately 95%, are housed within schools. The lack of sufficient funding for infrastructure expansion in the sector remains a critical concern.

5.7. South African Qualifications Authority

- 5.7.1.** It is commendable that the entity's APP 2026/27 include SMART targets, as required by the AGSA. The entity also demonstrates sound governance and effective management practices.
- 5.7.2.** Despite retrenching 94 employees in May 2021 due to funding constraints and budget cuts, the entity successfully restructured its operations to continue fulfilling its mandate within a constrained fiscal environment.
- 5.7.3.** The practice by professional bodies (PBs) recognised by SAQA to charge unemployed graduates membership fees is deeply concerning. Non-payment of these fees results in suspension from the PB registers, thereby preventing unemployed graduates from remaining compliant and limiting their access to potential employment opportunities.
- 5.7.4.** The entity's Project Phoenix is a commendable initiative aimed at enhancing operational efficiencies. However, without the necessary funding and capacity, the project's objectives may not be fully realised.

5.8. Council on Higher Education

- 5.8.1.** Racial transformation in higher education is fundamental to advancing inclusivity and social justice. Yet, the CHE's 2026/27 APP does not set an explicit target for research on this issue. Given its mandate, the CHE could play a pivotal role in advising the Minister on strategies to foster racial transformation within higher education institutions.
- 5.8.2.** The lack of funding for the transformation oversight function transferred to the entity limits its ability to make an impact in this area.
- 5.8.3.** The entity serves as an important advisory body to the Minister, as mandated by the Higher Education Act, 1997, as amended. However, its effectiveness is hampered by limited funding and resources. Notably, 57% of its budget is allocated to employee compensation, leaving insufficient resources for its core functions. With only 55 staff members, the entity continues to rely heavily on outside expertise to conduct institutional audits.
- 5.8.4.** The country faces a growing challenge with the proliferation of illegal private higher education institutions within the PSET system. As part of the Quality Councils, the CHE has a critical role in curbing this trend and safeguarding the integrity of the system.
- 5.8.5.** The CHE's capacity to enforce compliance and exercise oversight over higher education institutions is significantly constrained by the lack of legislative authority. While the CHE is a vital independent statutory body, it has limited authority to hold universities accountable for non-compliance. Its powers remain restricted by the current legislative framework, which undermines its ability to ensure accountability across the sector.

5.9. Quality Council for Trades and Occupations

- 5.9.1.** The certification backlog resulting from the transition from SETA-based legacy qualifications to new occupational qualifications continues to affect many candidates, particularly those awaiting certificates from private providers. These outstanding

certificates hinder learners' ability to secure employment or pursue further academic progression.

- 5.9.2.** Delays in approving programme accreditation applications for skills development providers remain a significant concern, largely due to slow turnaround times.
- 5.9.3.** Despite the expanding mandate, the entity has not experienced a corresponding growth in its staff complement, which raises serious concerns. The transition to occupational qualifications has further increased the QCTO's workload, despite its limited capacity.
- 5.9.4.** Several TVET colleges have expressed frustration over prolonged waiting periods for the accreditation of occupational programmes by the QCTO, which negatively impacts their academic offerings.
- 5.9.5.** Allegations that certain providers' accreditation applications are processed more swiftly than others are deeply concerning.
- 5.9.6.** The limited footprint and presence of the QCTO in rural areas remain a pressing issue. With most skills development providers concentrated in urban centres, unemployed youth in rural communities face restricted access to SETA-funded skills programmes, thereby reducing opportunities for meaningful participation and empowerment.

5.10. National Student Financial Aid Scheme

- 5.10.1.** Delays in the payment of outstanding invoices to accommodation providers (APs) remain a serious concern. These delays have placed significant financial strain on small and emerging providers, many of whom risk losing their properties to banks. In some cases, APs have evicted students due to outstanding invoices.
- 5.10.2.** Unresolved student appeals caused by systemic deficiencies remain a serious concern. Prolonged delays have left many students facing hunger and hardship, undermining their ability to focus on academic studies. Some students have been forced to defer or drop out due to financial difficulties.
- 5.10.3.** 2026/27 APP targets are largely output-based rather than outcome-based, as highlighted by the AGSA. Several have been flagged as unmeasurable, raising concerns about accountability.

- 5.10.4.** Adverse AGSA findings against NSFAS due to poor internal controls and systemic deficiencies are concerning. The entity has repeatedly failed to implement corrective measures, resulting in recurring negative audit outcomes.
- 5.10.5.** Low uptake of the Loan Scheme for the missing middle persists, partly due to the absence of a loan management system. As a result, many students in this category face registration blockages and financial exclusion. Further concern arises from the reprioritisation of funds initially allocated to the Loan Scheme, which have been redirected to the main NSFAS funding stream.
- 5.10.6.** Projected consolidated funding shortfall of R10.4 billion for the 2026 academic year poses a significant risk. Many qualifying students may not receive funding or allowances.
- 5.10.7.** Irregularities in student accommodation accreditation continue to expose students to substandard and unsafe living conditions. Addressing these irregularities is critical, given NSFAS's role in the student accommodation value chain.
- 5.10.8.** Funding of programmes misaligned with labour market needs remains a concern, as financial resources are directed toward initiatives that fail to address employment realities.
- 5.10.9.** Funding disparities between universities and TVET colleges are evident in the 2026/27 APP. Of the total R54 billion allocation, R41 billion is directed to universities, despite TVET colleges being positioned as key drivers of skills development for economic growth.

6. Conclusion

The Committee assessed the Department, SAQA, CHE, QCTO, and NSFAS's 2026/27 Annual Performance Plans alongside the MTEF budget projections. It was observed that while performance targets and budget allocations reflect progress, they also highlight areas of concern. Collectively, these entities form the backbone of South Africa's post-school education and training system, each playing a distinct yet complementary role in advancing access, quality, and accountability.

The Committee notes that the Department has aligned its priorities with national policy frameworks, including the NDP Vision 2030, the MTDP 2024–2029, and the President’s 2026 SONA. The budget allocation of R149.2 billion for 2026/27, of which 90% is directed to transfers and subsidies, demonstrates the government’s commitment to sustaining universities, TVET and CET colleges, and NSFAS. However, the Vote 17 baseline reductions affecting both the Department and its entities are deeply concerning, particularly given NSFAS’s projected shortfall of approximately R10 billion.

While welcoming NSFAS’s budget, the Committee raises concerns about the sustainability of university operational funding, which is not increasing in real terms despite rising enrolments. NSFAS’s expanding budget is vital for access, but without a balanced funding approach, the quality of education and the financial health of universities may be compromised.

The Committee further notes the persistent underfunding of SAQA, CHE, and QCTO, whose current allocations remain misaligned with their mandates. It also expresses concern that the Department’s legislative review targets have been deferred to the final year of the current administration, despite pressing challenges in the PSET sector.

The Committee emphasises that expanding access must be matched by adequate operational support, improved efficiency, and stronger oversight to ensure institutions deliver high-quality education. Coordinated efforts by SAQA, CHE, QCTO, and NSFAS are essential to building a post-school education and training system that is equitable, efficient, and capable of driving South Africa’s social and economic transformation.

The senior management positions currently occupied on an acting basis pose a significant concern, as they undermine leadership stability within the Department and TVET colleges. At present, three Deputy Director-General posts are filled in an acting capacity, along with Regional Manager positions (KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Western Cape, Gauteng, and Free State) and multiple college Principal posts.

The Committee reaffirms its commitment to rigorous oversight, ensuring that Vote 17 delivers not only on access but also on excellence, accountability, and long-term developmental impact.

7. Recommendations

The Committee, having assessed the Department's and entities' Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2026/27, and the Budget Vote 17 MTEF projections, makes the following recommendations to the Minister responsible for the Vote:

The Department should:

Programme 1: Administration

- 7.1.1** Prioritise the filling of vacant funded positions to mitigate underspending on the compensation of employees' budget. Priority should be given to filling the senior management posts in the Department, the Regional Managers and Principals posts in TVET colleges.
- 7.1.2** Speed up the submission of motivation to fill vacant posts to the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) for concurrence.
- 7.1.3** Revise the 2026/27 APP to include the 7% disability employment equity target announced by the President, ensuring accountability and alignment with national priorities. The addendum to the 2026/27 APP should be tabled in Parliament.
- 7.1.4** Reinstate the output and indicator for paying suppliers within 30 days. This is critical for sustaining SMMEs and supporting economic growth.
- 7.1.5** Mandate the use of SAQA services for qualification verification across the PSET system. This will reduce reliance on private companies and generate revenue for SAQA. Additionally, the Department should establish service-level agreements to ensure efficiency and responsiveness. This can further be extended to other government departments and entities in the near future.

7.2 Programme 2: Planning, Policy and Strategy

- 7.2.1** Expedite the review of the PSET legislation to address the current gaps and table them to Parliament. Additionally, the review should strengthen the oversight role of the Minister and Department over PSET institutions, including timely interventions.

- 7.2.2 Amends the 2026/27 APP to address the gaps, especially on targets flagged by the AG as not measurable.
- 7.2.3 Improve capacity and expertise in the Planning, Policy and Strategy Branch, infrastructure unit, to ensure effective and timely delivery of infrastructure development projects in the sector. Should capacity constraints persist, consider reverting to the decentralised model, whereby infrastructure functions are managed within the respective Branches to improve oversight and responsiveness.
- 7.2.4 Enhance communication and coordination with other Department Branches to strengthen planning, monitoring and reporting of infrastructure projects for universities, TVET and CET colleges.
- 7.2.5 Quarterly transfers of capital infrastructure efficiency grants (CIEG) to institutions should be executed as scheduled, to enable effective planning and implementation of infrastructure development projects.
- 7.2.6 Build on the successful completion of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Giyani Campus Phase 1 by accelerating Phase 2 development.
- 7.2.5 Funding should be allocated for the establishment of the two new universities at Ekurhuleni and Hammanskraal to expand access to higher education and training, as announced by the President in the 2026 State of the Nation Address.
- 7.2.6 The migration of Nursing and Agricultural colleges as part of the PSET system should be expedited to strengthen their administration, enabling students to access funding from NSFAS and from other PSET institutions such as SETAs.

7.3. Programme 3: University Education

- 7.3.1 Include in the 2026/27 APP explicit and measurable targets that advance racial transformation, with strong emphasis on prioritising South African academics and researchers over foreign nationals at PSET institutions.
- 7.3.2 Strengthen oversight of universities, particularly regarding the employment of foreign nationals in non-scarce and non-critical skills positions. Ensure strict compliance with the legislative framework and immigration laws in all recruitment processes.
- 7.3.3 Expedite the finalisation of the higher education fee regulatory framework to provide universities with clear guidance on setting tuition fees.

- 7.3.4 Expedite the finalisation and implementation of the NSFAS remedial action plan to improve governance reforms and administrative efficiency at the entity.
- 7.3.5 Ensure that international scholarship opportunities reflect the diversity of South Africa, promoting greater inclusivity in allocation.
- 7.3.6 The Department, working with the National Treasury, should consider a more balanced funding approach. While expanding access through NSFAS is critical, sustained investment in university subsidies is equally important to ensure institutions can maintain quality education and research capacity. Without adequate operational funding, universities risk being under-resourced, which could undermine the very access gains achieved through NSFAS.

7.4. Programme 4: Technical and Vocational Education and Training

- 7.4.1 The Department should support TVET colleges in expanding and strengthening partnerships with industries, ensuring students gain workplace access as part of the required Work-Integrated Learning (WIL). TVET colleges should work closely with companies in their immediate vicinity to expand WIL opportunities for students.
- 7.4.2 The Department should provide additional funding and resources to TVET colleges to implement industry-aligned occupational qualifications. It should also ensure that modernised equipment and workshops are a lived reality in supporting the rollout of occupational programmes.
- 7.4.3 Reskilling and upskilling programmes should be provided to TVET college lecturers to enable them to adapt to the introduction of occupational programmes.
- 7.4.4 Implement the necessary measures to resolve the certification backlog in the TVET sector, as this directly impacts student progression and articulation into other further education programmes and the employability of those who completed their qualifications.
- 7.4.5 Review the National Certificate Vocational (NCV) and Report 191 outdated curriculum, such as Business Studies, Office Management, etc., which no longer align with the labour market skills needs.
- 7.4.6 The Department, in collaboration with the QCTO, should support TVET colleges in delivering a world-class Mechatronics curriculum developed jointly by the Entity and its German counterparts.

- 7.4.7 Provide targeted support to 14 TVET colleges that currently lack accreditation as trade test centres, enabling them to meet the requirements and become accredited trade test centres.

7.5 Programme 5: Skills Development

- 7.5.1 Improve and strengthen oversight and monitoring of SETAs to prevent governance and administrative lapses.
- 7.5.2 Ensure that SETAs revise their 2026/27 APPs targets in line with issues flagged by the AGSA.
- 7.5.3 Encourage SETAs to use TVET college trade test centres as part of their artisan development programmes.
- 7.5.4 Ensure that SETAs provide additional funding to TVET colleges offering occupational programmes, as these are not funded in the same way as NATED and NCV programmes.

7.6 Community Education and Training

- 7.6.1 Secure the necessary funding required for the construction of the new nine (9) CET colleges across all provinces.
- 7.6.2 Ensure CET colleges can attract and retain out-of-school and unemployed young people and adults. Furthermore, additional financial resources should be considered to strengthen teaching and learning and improve outcomes.

7.7 South African Qualifications Authority

- 7.7.1 The entity needs to be supported with additional funding to sustain its ongoing digital transformation initiative, which is aimed at enhancing the turnaround time for the verification of qualifications.
- 7.7.2 The review of the NQF Amendment Bill should empower SAQA to play an active role in regulating professional bodies.

7.8 Council on Higher Education

- 7.8.1 The review of the Higher Education Act should consider granting the CHE legislative authority to enforce compliance and strengthen accountability among universities.

- 7.8.2** The CHE prioritises research on racial transformation within different population groups in higher education.
- 7.8.3** The CHE should strengthen its proactive advisory role to the Minister on matters affecting the higher education sector.
- 7.8.4** The entity should play a decisive role in curbing the proliferation of bogus private higher education institutions.
- 7.8.5** The CHE requires additional funding, support and resources to effectively fulfil its expanded mandate as directed by the Minister.
- 7.8.6** The filling of three vacant positions on the Council Board should be expedited.

7.9 Quality Council for Trades and Occupations

The entity should:

- 7.9.1** Strengthen its provincial footprint and enhance support to small and emerging skills development providers, particularly in rural areas, by assisting them with accreditation applications.
- 7.9.2** Prioritise the clearing of certification backlog from legacy qualifications offered by SETAs. This will ensure eligible candidates receive their certificates, enabling them to access employment opportunities.
- 7.9.3** Ensure that any expansion of the entity's mandate should be accompanied by adequate staffing and increased funding to ensure effective implementation.
- 7.9.4** In collaboration with the Department, should address the bureaucratic challenges in public-sector trade testing, while benchmarking against the private sector's streamlined and efficient processes.
- 7.9.5** Investigate allegations that certain providers' accreditation applications are processed more swiftly than others to safeguard the integrity of the accreditation process.
- 7.9.6** Implement consequence management against those implicated in the preferential accreditation practices

7.10 National Student Financial Aid Scheme

The entity should:

- 7.10.1** Expedite the resolution of outstanding appeals to ensure eligible students receive their funding and allowances without further delay.
- 7.10.2** Prioritise the development and implementation of the loan management system to enhance accessibility and uptake of loans for missing middle students.
- 7.10.3** Expedite the payment of outstanding invoices to private accommodation providers to prevent the eviction of students reliant on NSFAS support.
- 7.10.4** Implement corrective measures to align the 2026/27 APP targets with the SMART Principles (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound).
- 7.10.5** In collaboration with the Department, NSFAS should enforce consequence management against institutions that failed to declare the graduation of NSFAS-funded students.
- 7.10.6** Ensure that institutions promptly notify NSFAS of the status of deceased students to ensure the immediate discontinuation of funding.

Report to be considered.

National Council of Provinces

1. REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY ON BUDGET VOTE 13: PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE 2026/27 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, DATED 20 MAY 2026

The Select Committee on Public Infrastructure and Minister in the Presidency (“the Select Committee”), having considered the 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan and Estimates of National Expenditure of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (Vote 13), reports as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (“the Department”) on 7 May 2026, briefed the Select Committee on its 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan (APP) and 2026/27 Estimates of National Expenditure.
- 1.2. The Department is mandated to coordinate the areas of shared competence between the National and Provincial Governments relating to the immovable asset register, construction and property management, as well as the implementation of the Government Immovable Asset Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 19 of 2007) (GIAMA). The core functions associated with property management are ring-fenced within the Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE). PMTE’s responsibilities include planning and preparation for project delivery through project implementation planning; the procurement and appointment of professional service providers; the development of design solutions; the appointment of contractors; and the overall project management of construction project delivery.
- 1.3. Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) is located within the Department and acts as the central coordinating body for national priority infrastructure projects and

oversees the implementation of officially announced Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs).

2. ALIGNMENT BETWEEN BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 2.1. The Department budget for the 2026/27 financial year is R7.8 billion. R6.4 billion (82.2%) of the Department budget is allocated to transfers and subsidies, primarily to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the PMTE.
- 2.2. The EPWP remains a flagship programme, receiving R2.255 billion in the 2026/27 financial year, of which R1.863 billion flows as transfers to provinces, municipalities, and non-profit organisations. The APP commits to reforming the EPWP to improve fairness, transparency, and digital oversight. The target of 1 035 589 work opportunities in 2026/27 is ambitious but consistent with historical performance.
- 2.3. Programme 4: Property and Construction Industry Policy and Research received the largest budget allocation, with R4.7 billion allocated in 2026/27. The bulk of this fund the PMTE (R 4.1 billion) and built environment entities such as the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and Council for the Built Environment (CBE). R983.8 million will be transferred to ISA for project preparation work, which is central to accelerating infrastructure delivery.
- 2.4. Programme 7: Real Estate Investment Services, aims to optimise the state property portfolio, reduce reliance on private leases, and unlock value from underutilised assets. The APP's ambitions are high, but the budget does not explicitly allocate new resources for portfolio optimisation. Progress will therefore depend on PMTE's internal capacity and revenue generation.
- 2.5. Programme 9: Real Estate Management Services (REMS), oversees maintenance, asset management, and compliance with GIAMA. The APP highlights the need

to improve the Immovable Asset Register and reduce maintenance backlogs. REMS as well as Programme 11: Facilities Management, must however fund its operations from PMTE revenue, which is often insufficient. This remains one of the Department's most significant risks.

3. DELIBERATIONS

- 3.1. The Committee requested the Department to position the recently announced "Working on Infrastructure" within its APP. The Department indicated that Working on Infrastructure represents a reform of the EPWP reform. It will be characterised by a shift towards technology-driven verification and structured training pathways and exit strategies.
- 3.2. The Committee focused on vacant and underutilised state properties and requested clarity on the Department's strategy for disposal, redevelopment or repurposing of these assets. In response, the Department acknowledged the challenges and outlined a PMTE financial recovery plan, including improved billing systems and renegotiation of high-cost leases.
- 3.3. The Committee asked the Department to expand on the role of ISA, particularly in light of its substantial allocation for project preparation. The Department explained that ISA's expanded budget will fund support in feasibility studies, technical designs and regulatory approvals. The Department highlighted the introduction of a project management maturity model and the piloting of an Adopt-a-Municipality initiative to support under-resourced municipalities with infrastructure planning and execution.
- 3.4. The maintenance of South African Police Service (SAPS) and Department of Correctional Services (DCS) facilities was raised as a concern by both the Committee and the Department. Gilead Police Station in Limpopo Province and Kgosi Mampuru Prison in the Gauteng Province Pretoria were named as facilities that require urgent attention. The Department reported that SAPS is responsible for maintaining police stations however the Department has commenced with the assessment of maintenance models used by SAPS with the intention of identifying best practice and addressing risks.

- 3.5. The Department was asked to provide a report on the number of buildings that have been reclaimed through Operation Bring Back. The Department indicated that it has appointed a panel of service providers, including town planners and attorneys, that is identifying illegally occupied building with the number currently standing at 1900 buildings.
- 3.6. In light of R14.4 billion being owed to the PMTE by client departments and the PMTE operating with a bank overdraft, the Committee requested an update on engagements with National Treasury (NT) on the PMTE funding model. The Department responded that it had made proposals to National Treasury to approve three – year settlement agreements with debtor client departments and to approve a 20 % increase in accommodation charges. These proposals were not approved by NT, however NT has developed a draft directive in term of which it will exercise its authority to withhold transfers to defaulting departments.
- 3.7. The Department was requested to expand on the Adopt – a – Municipality Programme as municipalities have in their engagement with one member indicated uncertainty about what this programme will entail. ISA responded that the programme is targeted at under resourced municipalities in four provinces. One of these municipalities is the Metsimaholo Local Municipality in the Free State Province. The Programme focus is on municipal trading services and support ranges from project preparation and technical support to mobilising funding for projects.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. That the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure ensure that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure by 31 July 2026 -
- i. Submit the conditional assessments for all PMTE properties per Province.
 - ii. Submit the 2025/2026 approved Sector Performance Reports on the implementation of the 2025 – 2030 Sector Plan.

- iii. Submit a report on the condition and maintenance and repairs plans of SAPS police stations per Province.
- 4.2. That the Department, during the second quarter of the 2027/28 financial year, brief the Select Committee together with the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration, on the assessment of the Adopt – a – Municipality Pilot programme.

Report to be considered

2. Report of the Select Committee on Security and Justice on the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development's Report on the Provisional Suspension from Office of Mr IB Blose, an Additional District Court Magistrate at KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(b) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993), and referred to the Committee on 2 February 2026, dated 20 May 2026.

The Select Committee on Security and Justice, having considered the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development's report dated 4 November 2025, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(b) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993) (hereafter, the Act), on the confirmation of the provisional suspension from the office of Magistrate of Mr IB Blose, appointed as an Additional District Court Magistrate at KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal on 1 February 2020, pending the outcome of a misconduct hearing into his fitness to hold office as a magistrate, and referred to the Committee on 2 February 2026, reports as follows.

The Committee received a briefing from the Magistrate's Commission on the suspension and withholding of remuneration on 25 March 2026. The Committee was informed that the Commission received a complaint from Ms Bukeya Ndamandi who alleged that she was a client of Mr Blose when he was in private practice. Ms Ndamandi alleges that Mr Blose failed to pay trust money to her as a client. As the Commission delved into the matter further misconduct was uncovered, and the Commission resolved to lay charges related to failure to disclose information when he applied for an acting position, as well as the interdict to practice as a legal practitioner by the High Court. The Commission served documents on Mr Blose on 21 July 2025.

Confirmation of provisional suspension of Magistrate IB Blose

The purpose of the Minister's report to Parliament requires Parliament, in terms of section 13(3)(c) of the Act, to pass a resolution "...whether or not the provisional suspension of the magistrate is confirmed"¹.

¹ Magistrates Act No 90 of 1993, Section 13(3)(c) "Parliament must, as soon as is reasonably possible, pass a resolution whether or not the provisional suspension of the magistrate is confirmed."

Recommendation:

Having considered the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development's report dated 4 November 2025, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(b) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No 90 of 1993), on the confirmation of the provisional suspension from office of Magistrate of Mr IB Blose, an additional District Court Magistrate at KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal pending the outcome of a misconduct hearing into his fitness to hold office as a magistrate, the Committee recommends that the National Council of Provinces confirm the provisional suspension of Mr IB Blose.

Report to be considered.

3. Report of the Select Committee on Security and Justice on the Rules of Procedure for Application in Court in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000 (PAIA)(Act No 2 of 2000), dated 20 May 2026.

The Select Committee on Security and Justice, having considered the subject of the Rules of Procedure made in terms of section 79(1) of the Promotion of Access to Information Act No 2 of 2000 (PAIA), was referred to it for consideration and report, and having received a briefing from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development on 28 April 2026, reports as follows:

1. Background

The PAIA Act is intended to give effect to the Constitutional right of access to information in terms of Section 32 of the Constitution. The purpose of this amendment to the Rules for Courts of Law, made by the Rules Board for Courts of Law, in terms of Section 79 of the PAIA Act, is to bring uniformity to the court rules in all courts, including magistrate courts, in respect of litigation on access to information requests in South Africa.

The Rules Board for Courts of Law, a statutory body that falls under the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure for Application to Court in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000. The proposed Rules are expected to provide practical and well-understood arrangements that will not serve as any barrier to individuals or communities who wish to exercise their constitutional right of access to information

These proposed amendments seek to place greater reliance on the Rules Regulating the Conduct of Proceedings in the Magistrates Courts of South Africa (Magistrates Court

Rules) and the Uniform Rules of Court, with the hope that this will bring uniformity, and more importantly, compliance with the requirements in terms of Section 79 of the PAIA.

PAIA litigation is the only mechanism to appeal against decisions of private or public bodies, especially in the light of a growing increase in deemed refusal by public bodies. Any efforts to remove obstacles to applicants bringing PAIA applications before courts are vital to strengthening openness and transparency in our country.

2. Committee observations and recommendations

The Committee emphasized the need for inclusive communication, including braille and sign language versions, and materials in all 12 South African languages to avoid leaving marginalized communities behind.

The Department confirmed that it has a public education and communication program targeting citizens' constitutional rights and committed to translating the rules into all 12 languages, noting cost implications for Braille, but acknowledging past practice of providing such materials.

The committee welcomed the Rules which seek to provide practical ways for our citizens to access information, and which will give real meaning to the right of access to information as contained in our Constitution.

- The committee supported the view that to truly give meaning to the right of access to information, more needs to be done to ensure that every citizen in every province is able to understand the legislative and regulatory framework to put the law into action and for their own empowerment.

3. Procedural Consultation to amend the Rules

The Revised Rules have undergone the required legislative processes, namely approved by the Rules Board, legally scrutinised / vetted by the Office of the Chief State Law

Adviser and ultimately approved by the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development.

The rulemaking process included extensive stakeholder consultation through website publication and direct engagement before the rules were tabled in Parliament. Section 78 of PAIA requires parliamentary approval before publication in the Gazette. The Department confirmed that, given the extensive consultation already undertaken in developing the rules, Parliament is not required to conduct further consultation.

4. Committee recommendation

The Select Committee on Security and Justice, having considered the subject of the Rules of Procedure made in terms of section 79(1) of the Promotion of Access to Information Act No 2 of 2000 (PAIA), referred to it for consideration and report, recommends the National Council of Provinces approve the Rules as tabled.

Report to be considered.

4. Report of the Select Committee on Security and Justice on the Matlosana Municipality Oversight Visit to the Northwest Province from 22 – 23 April 2026, report dated 20 May 2026.

1. Introduction

The Committee conducted the oversight visit to the Matlosana municipality, in the Northwest Province from 22 – 23 April 2026. The oversight visit, as per the directive of the NCOP Chairperson of the Council, required Select Committees to conduct their oversight programmes in the Matlosana area as a pre-visit, to assist the institution in preparing for Taking Parliament to the People scheduled for 11–15 May 2026, that would also be held in the Matlosana municipality

2. Delegation attendance

- a. **Members of Parliament:** Eastern Cape: Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (ANC) (Whip); Hon A Matshobeni (EFF); Free State: Mr P Noe (ANC); Gauteng: Ms J Mananiso (Chairperson); KwaZulu-Natal: Mr M Billy (DA); Limpopo Province: Mr P A Phala (ANC); Mpumalanga: Mr S A Zulu (MKP); Northern Cape: Mr O J Mokae (DA); North West: Ms OD Medupe, (ANC); Western Cape: Mr V Gericke (EFF).
- b. **Apologies:** Western Cape Province: Mr N Gotsell (DA).
- c. **Support Staff in Attendance:** Content Advisor: Dr A Van der Burg, Committee Secretaries: Mr G Dixon, Ms B Monqo, Committee Researcher: Ms P Whittle, Committee Assistant: Mr E Bazier.

3. DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2026

3.1 Hartbeesfontein Police Station Matlosana oversight visit

The Select Committee met with the Acting Provincial Commissioner Brig Naidoo and staff and the station commander Col Olifant at the Hartbeesfontein Police Station. The Committee was

taken on a tour of the police station and thereafter received a briefing. The Acting Provincial Commissioner briefed the Committee on the local and provincial crime statistics.

3.2 In attendance

Hon Mr F Sonakile: Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Community Safety and Transport Management, North West Legislature; Mr Wesley Kgang: MMC Local Economic Development; Ms. M.C. Rantona: Chief Director Civilian Secretariat Police Service North West; Mr Gabriel Pakiso: Ward 1 Councillor; Major-General Naidoo: Acting Provincial Commissioner, North West Province; Colonel Olifant: Station Commander Hartbeesfontein; Brigadier Moloboti; Mr Noxolo Matebele and Mr Themba Katze: Community Police Forum; Mr Robert Madungani: CPF Provincial Chairperson of Northwest and Deputy Secretary of National CPF and Mr Tiro Mothata: Chief Construction DPWI.

Apologies: Hon Mr W Morweng: MEC for Safety and Transport; Executive Mayor: Councillor Fikile Mahlophe; Regional Manager DPWI.

3.3 Committee site visit of Hartbeesfontein Station

The Committee was escorted by the Station Commander Colonel Olifant, and inspected the community service centre (CSC), kitchen for inmates' food preparation, holding cells, secure care victim friendly facility, SAPS 13 docket exhibit store and firearms storage.

3.4 Station Challenges

- Lack of manpower to manage the CSC and respond to community requests for assistance. The area of operation is 52km. Slow response times due to limited vehicles were raised as a concern.
- The station, with limited resources, are responding to incidents or complaints according to their priority level.
- The station reported its prominent crimes are assaults and house breakings. Assaults relate to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) crimes and Domestic Violence (DV) crimes. The main contributors to these crimes are the use of drugs and alcohol.

- The station, for safety measures, has cameras that overlook the surroundings of the station, the offices, and the holding cells, monitoring the area for movement.
- The cells were overcrowded with 19 inmates in one and 15 inmates in another cell meant to accommodate 10 inmates. The station is struggling with remand detainees, who are meant to be housed at the correctional centre, however the correctional centre is struggling with capacity constraints and overcrowding. There were 65 remand detainees on the day of the visit.
- Two cells were not operable due to no water supply. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) is aware of the problem but has not responded.
- The station reported 13 illegal immigrants. 12 arrived on 21 April 2026 and were arrested in Orkney.
- The Station reported that it uses JoJo tanks to store water for drinking when the town's infrastructure is offline.

3.5 Briefing by the Acting Provincial Commissioner

The Acting Provincial Commissioner (APC) briefed the Committee on the crime statistics and profile of the province.

3.6 Briefing by the Community Police Forum

The Community Police Forum for the Province and Matlosana area highlighted the following challenges:

- Community Safety Forum (CSF) structures exist but are largely inactive and not meeting regularly.
- Poor environmental design and road access prevent police vehicles from reaching certain areas.
- CPF members highlighted the need for the SAPS Amendment Act to address stipend payments, insurance coverage, and overall support for CPF members.
- Insufficient funding from the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (COSATMA) is limiting CPF operations.

- SAPS vehicle maintenance delays are significant, with vehicles often out of service for over a month.
- SAPS procurement processes are costly and inefficient, reducing the value of limited CPF resources.
- Implementation of rural safety and traditional policing strategies is hindered by resource constraints and poor coordination with traditional leaders.
- CPFs requested formal recognition and prioritisation of stipends due to dangerous working conditions and lack of insurance.
- Tensions remain between SAPS members and CPFs, including issues around vehicle access, cooperation, and acceptance of the CPF system.
- CPFs lack proper tools of trade and administrative support, affecting their ability to function effectively.
- Illegal mining remains a serious safety threat, particularly in areas such as Stilfontein and Orkney, where CPF members are also at risk.
- Concerns were raised about the conduct of some SAPS officers and the need for improved respect and cooperation with CPF structures to strengthen community policing.

3.7 Committee Interaction

- Members raised concerns regarding delays and limitations caused by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), particularly the inability of SAPS stations to conduct minor repairs independently.
- Concerns were also raised about the continued non-functionality of holding cells at Coligny Police Station since the 2023 oversight visit, despite the station being prioritised for upgrades since 1994.
- Concerns were expressed regarding SAPS asset and equipment management, specifically how non-functioning equipment is accounted for, disposed of, and reflected in financial records.
- Members highlighted poor intergovernmental relations and coordination in addressing social and policing challenges in the Northwest Province. It was proposed that the

matter be escalated through the NCOP to strengthen collaboration between government structures.

- Rural safety and transport challenges remain significant due to the province's rural nature and shortage of operational vehicles. Members requested details on Public-Private Partnerships with private security companies supporting rural and farming communities.
- Members queried the prolonged filling of acting positions and requested clarity on how long critical posts have remained vacant.
- Concerns were raised regarding sexual misconduct among SAPS members and the effectiveness of consequence management measures.
- Members noted overcrowding at police stations, recognising it as an indicator of policing activity while also highlighting humanitarian concerns related to detainee conditions.
- The role of traditional leadership in rural safety strategies and crime prevention was emphasised as critical.
- Members expressed concern about the reported 40% exodus of police officers to private security companies and criminal groups, requesting reasons for the departures and succession planning measures.
- Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of intelligence-driven policing and whether intelligence structures in the province are adequately capacitated.
- Members requested clear timelines and implementation plans for rebuilding Tigane Police Station, which was destroyed, and sought information on the mobile police service schedule and possible replication nationally.
- Members commended Community Police Forums (CPFs) for their work but noted concerns raised by CPFs regarding cooperation from SAPS members. The importance of strengthening police-community partnerships and engaging local structures, including churches, was emphasised.

3.7.1 Further requests for information

- APC to submit written responses on all matters requiring further detail.
- CPF to provide a detailed written submission addressing gaps in its presentation.

- Civilian Secretariat for Police to submit a report on interventions relating to issues raised by the APC.
- SAPS to expand demographic reporting to include LGBTQIA+ safety concerns and hate crime trends.
- SAPS and the Victim Empowerment Unit to provide a detailed report on victim support services and coordination.
- SAPS to submit details on strategies contributing to the reduction in contact and trio crimes.
- SAPS to outline interventions aimed at addressing the increase in drug-related crimes.
- SAPS to provide a detailed GBVF report, including rape statistics, conviction rates, and withdrawn cases.
- SAPS to report on compliance with GBVF response time standards and accountability for non-compliance.
- SAPS to provide statistics on complaints against SAPS members and the status of case finalisation within 14 days.
- SAPS to submit details on the allocation of newly recruited officers per town and station.
- SAPS to provide a written report on allegations of political interference, including disciplinary and criminal actions taken against officers.

3.8 Recommendations

- 3.8.1** The SAPS management should, prioritise the province for additional manpower, vehicles, and operational resources to address high crime levels.
- 3.8.2** SAPS and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) should, within six months, review maintenance requirements and implement a mechanism allowing stations to conduct urgent minor repairs.
- 3.8.3** SAPS should submit a report to the Committee within 60 days outlining interim measures implemented to protect detainees' rights where holding cells are non-functional.

- 3.8.4** SAPS should, within six months, strengthen asset management systems and submit a report on the disposal, replacement, and accounting of non-functional equipment.
- 3.8.5** SAPS should fill all critical vacant and acting positions within 12 months and provide quarterly progress reports on appointments.
- 3.8.6** SAPS should strengthen disciplinary processes relating to sexual misconduct and provide biannual reports on disciplinary actions and outcomes.
- 3.8.7** SAPS should, within six months, implement measures to reduce overcrowding at police stations and ensure compliance with human rights standards.
- 3.8.8** SAPS should formalise engagement with traditional leaders to strengthen rural safety and community crime prevention initiatives.
- 3.8.9** SAPS should assess police attrition and develop a retention and succession strategy within 6 months.
- 3.8.10** SAPS Crime Intelligence should, within six months, assess and strengthen intelligence capacity in the province to support intelligence-driven policing operations.
- 3.8.11** SAPS should submit a detailed implementation plan within 90 days for the rebuilding of Tigane Police Station, including timelines and progress milestones, and assess the expansion of mobile police services to underserved areas.
- 3.8.12** SAPS should submit a written report to the Committee within 60 days on allegations of political interference, including statistics on suspensions, dismissals, and criminal charges against officers over the past 12 months.
- 3.8.13** SAPS should strengthen collaboration with Community Police Forums, neighbourhood watches, churches, and community structures through quarterly engagement forums and joint crime prevention initiatives.

4. Site visit of Matlosana One Stop Child Justice Centre

4.1 In attendance: Mr Lawrence Shole: Acting Provincial Head Northwest Province DoJ&CD; Adv Praise Kambula: Director Promotion of the Rights of Vulnerable Groups DoJ&CD; Dr. Charmain Badenhorst: Director for Child Justice and Family Law DoJ&CD; Ms M Setlhako: Chairperson of the Provincial Intersectoral Committee for Child Justice.

The provincial delegation from other Departments/ institutions:

1. Chief Magistrate: Mr. Tshepo Legalatladi
2. NPA: Mr. Bagananeng
3. NPA: Ms. Dikeledi Letsapa and Mpho Rantana
4. DBE: Mrs. Samantha Montgomery
5. DBE: Ms. Boitumelo Lekwape (School Safety)
6. Department of Safety and Security and Civilian Secretariat: Capt Kruger and Sgt Tselane
7. DoH: Ms. Dijong
8. DCS: Mr. RSP Wolrans
9. DCS: Ms. GD Dinoke
10. DSD: Ms. Hessie Wessie- Acting Chief Director: Specialist Social Services
11. DSD: Mr. Watson Seattle- Dep Director (Restorative Justice)
12. DSD: Ms Annatjie Nel (Acting District Director)
13. DSD: Ms. Phyllis Fourie (Motlasana Child and Youth Care Centre: Secure Care Programme)
14. DSD: Ms. Elaine Bruwer- Supervisor, Probation Services.

4.2 Overview

The oversight visit focused on the progress made at the Matlosana One-Stop Child Justice Centre (OSCJC) since recommendations made during the Fifth Parliament oversight visit in 2015. The OSCJC, established in 2013, is one of only three such centres in South Africa and aims to provide an integrated, child-centred justice system through collaboration between departments and stakeholders.

The Department of Social Development (DSD) outlined services provided at the centre, including diversion programmes, psychosocial support, counselling, restorative justice, home-based supervision, and placement recommendations.

Key challenges identified since 2015 included inadequate funding for implementation of the Child Justice Act, coordination and resource constraints, lack of lunch provisions for child offenders attending court, insufficient Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs), and after-hours shortages of probation officers.

4.3 Committee Interaction

- The Department reported improvements in interdepartmental coordination, ongoing training of officials, and the successful insourcing of secure care centre management from BOSASA in 2019.
- The Department noted that some issues remain unresolved, particularly the lack of provision for meals for child offenders and guardians attending court, due to limitations in the Criminal Procedure Act. Jurisdictional challenges also remain, as not all areas in the Northwest Province are covered under the OSCJC proclamation.
- Progress was reported on compliance with education requirements, including the establishment of a provincial task team, oversight visits, and the application to register a school within the Matlosana CYCC. An integrated probation case management system has also improved referrals and after-hours responsiveness.
- The Department highlighted that no children are currently held in the OSCJC holding cells, with children instead supervised in reception areas while awaiting court appearances. The centre also emphasised rehabilitation through faith-based organisations, NGOs, anti-gang programmes, aftercare support, and engagement with former offenders as deterrence measures.
- Concerns were raised regarding child-on-child sexual offences, substance abuse, gang influence, poverty, and absent parenting as contributing factors to youth offending. The Department indicated that assessments, rehabilitation programmes, and social support interventions are implemented to address these issues.

- The OSCJC currently accommodates boys only, with a bed capacity of 60 and an average occupancy of 35. The facility serves children from across the province through its secure care centre, while court jurisdiction remains geographically limited.
- During the oversight visit, the Committee toured the facility and observed accommodation, classrooms, kitchens, and rehabilitation activities.
- Members commended the positive interaction between staff and youth and requested further written responses on demographics and policies relating to LGBTQIA+ children.

4.4 Recommendations

4.4.1 The Departments responsible for implementing the Child Justice Act should review funding allocations and submit a revised resource plan addressing infrastructure, staffing, and rehabilitation programme needs.

4.4.2 The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development should, within 12 months, assess and report on possible legislative amendments to provide meal support for child offenders and guardians attending court proceedings.

4.4.3 The Department of Social Development should, within 12 months, assess CYCC capacity in the province and implement measures to expand rehabilitation and accommodation services where required.

4.4.4 The Department of Social Development should ensure probation officer services are available after hours, weekends, and public holidays through improved staffing and case management systems.

4.4.5 The Department of Social Development should strengthen diversion, anti-gang, substance abuse, and restorative justice programmes, with measurable targets for participation and rehabilitation outcomes.

4.4.6 The Department of Social Development should submit the findings of the analysis on child sexual offending trends and related intervention strategies to the Committee within 90 days.

4.4.7 The Department of Social Development should submit written responses within 60 days on demographic trends and policies relating to LGBTQIA+ children within the OSCJC system.

5. DAY TWO: VISIT TO STILFONTEIN SAPS, THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026

5.1 Overview

The Chairperson of the committee indicated that the committee's mandate was to assess the extent to which government and relevant stakeholders have implemented the resolutions of the Fifth and Sixth Parliaments. The Chairperson also indicated that the oversight would enable the committee to account to the people of Matlosana during the Taking Parliament to the People programme scheduled for May this year.

The Select Committee received a briefing from the Acting Provincial Commissioner SAPS on a joint presentation with SANDF and the Hawks office and thereafter conducted a walkabout of the facilities. MEC and officials from DPWI were also in attendance to answer committee members' questions pertaining to infrastructural challenges.

5.2 Key Challenges and Interventions

- **Organized and Transnational Crime:** Illegal mining is driven by well-organized, systematic global and criminal networks, often transnational.
- **Violent Crime and Community Impact:** Illegal mining fuels violent crime in communities.
- **Resource Shortages:** Law enforcement agencies, particularly SAPS, face significant resource and equipment shortages.
- **Targeting Kingpins vs. Foot Soldiers:** There's a critical imbalance where arrests are concentrated on lower-level foot soldiers (*Zama Zamas*), while senior figures and kingpins remain largely untouched.
- **Lack of Convictions:** Despite numerous arrests, there's a perceived lack of successful convictions and sentences, leading to overcrowded prisons at taxpayer expense.
- **Holistic and Inter-departmental Approach:** Emphasis was placed on the need for integrated efforts involving SAPS, SANDF, Intelligence services, NPA, Department of Environmental Affairs, and Parliament.

- National Security Challenge: Illegal mining is recognized as a national security crisis requiring urgent attention.
- Infiltration and Intelligence: The importance of intelligence services infiltrating criminal networks was highlighted.

5.3 Committee Interaction

- The committee reviewed the implementation of *Operation Prosper*, which includes the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to support SAPS operations.
- The committee emphasized the importance of engaging with all the role-players such as DMRE, DHA, PSIRA and NPA.
- The Committee requested a detailed report on the handling, tracing, and final disposition of the minerals.
- Members welcomed the Hawks' efforts and emphasised the importance of involving the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to improve arrests and prosecutions, particularly targeting not only illegal miners but also the kingpins behind these operations.
- Members raised concerns about illegal miners encroaching on private property.
- The committee expressed its commitment as a "hands-on" partner to law enforcement, emphasizing that "hope" is not enough; concrete action is required.
- Appreciation was extended to SANDF for operating, despite not receiving full funding.

5.4 Physical Oversight Observations

- Entrance of SAPS and the community service centre provide support to the police station with cameras for visibility in all the areas within the facility.
- Building and Infrastructure: The building has lots of challenges, including the peeling of paint and the electricity point which was installed poorly as there are problems with water in the electricity point.
- Holding Cells: Members observed that there was overcrowding in the holding cells.

5.5 Recommendations

- 5.5.1** SAPS, in collaboration with the Hawks and the NPA, should within six months develop and implement a targeted strategy focused on identifying, investigating, and prosecuting illegal mining kingpins, suppliers, and syndicate leaders, with quarterly progress reports submitted to the committee.
- 5.5.2** SAPS Crime Intelligence should strengthen intelligence-led operations by increasing infiltration, informer management, and surveillance activities targeting illegal mining networks in high-risk provinces.
- 5.5.3** SAPS, SANDF, the Hawks, DMRE, DHA, PSIRA, and other relevant departments should establish a coordinated inter-agency operational task team within three months to improve information sharing, joint operations, and accountability in combatting illegal mining.
- 5.5.4** National Treasury and the relevant departments should prioritise the allocation and disbursement of the committed R800 million for SANDF deployment within the current financial year to strengthen operations in illegal mining hotspots.
- 5.5.5** SAPS should, within six months, provide Parliament with detailed statistics on investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions relating to illegal mining, including cases involving senior officials and organised crime networks.
- 5.5.6** SAPS should implement specialised training programmes for detectives investigating illegal mining-related crimes within the next 12 months.
- 5.5.7** SAPS, together with the Hawks and DMRE, should conduct a comprehensive investigation into the illegal mining supply chain within 12 months, including the role of suppliers, transporters, processors, and former legal mine operators linked to illicit activities.

6. Conclusion

The committee acknowledged that significant challenges remain, including gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and ongoing illegal mining activities. However, the committee recognised the progress made through multi-disciplinary and intersectoral cooperation and encouraged continued cooperation amongst departments to combat crime in the province.

Report to be considered.

5. REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS) ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO GAUTENG PROVINCE TO ASSESS THE STATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE: DATED 5 MAY 2026

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration (Traditional Affairs Water, Sanitation & Human Settlement), having conducted oversight visit to Gauteng Province to assess the state of public sector, reports to the National Council of Provinces as follows:
- 1.2 On the 17 of April 2026, a multi-party delegation of the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration conducted oversight visit to Gauteng Province

2. Objective of the Oversight Visit

- 2.1. The primary objective of the oversight visit was to interact with the office of the Gauteng public service commission and the Premier of Gauteng province to assess the state of Public Service in the Province

3. Delegation of the Select Committee

- 3.1. The delegation of the Select Committee was composed of the following members and parliamentary officials: Hon TM Kaunda (Leader of the Delegation), Hon MM Peter, Hon, I Scheurkogel, Hon KR Molokomme (Whip), Mr T M Manele, Committee Secretary, Ms Z France, Committee Assistant, Mr P Malatswa, Communication Officer, Mr T Makhanye, Committee Researcher and Mr P Mabuela, Officer of the NCOP

4. Presentation by Gauteng Public Service Commission

- 4.1. The Gauteng Commissioner of Public Service Commission briefed the delegation of the select committee on the state of public service and administration in Gauteng Province. The presentation focused on vacancy rate, female appointment at senior management, disability rate, number of complaints lodged, observations on the implementation of the professionalization framework by Gauteng departments, invoices paid within 30 days, invoices paid after 30 days, invoices older than 30 days and not paid, noncompliance with 30 days payment,
- 4.2. The Commissioner reported that the Gauteng Provincial Government has reported a 11% vacancy rate for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, which is above the 10% target set by the DPSA. The Department of Education remains the only department with a vacancy rate below 10%.
- 4.3. The Commissioner indicated that the non-filling of vacancies undermines government efforts to reduce unemployment and puts strain on limited resources of departments and negatively affects service delivery. The Commissioner argued that the Government departments must play their part in tackling the unemployment crisis in the country by filling vacancies in departments.
- 4.4. The Commissioner informed the delegation of the select committee that the Department of Roads and Transport and Human Settlement make up most vacancies in the province by reflecting 30% and 29% respectively.
- 4.5. The Commissioner indicated that the Public Service Commission does acknowledge that the causes of some vacancies were both systemic and operational, mainly due to “natural attrition” factors like retirement, resignations, and death in nature.
- 4.6. The Commissioner reported that fiscal constraints, restructuring and long recruitment processes are also problematic, despite DPSA regulations stating that vacancies be filled within eight months.

- 4.7. The Commissioner, however, has stated that the Public Service Commission has welcomed Provincial Treasury's issued Compensation of Employees' Instruction Note to manage the filling of vacant posts by departments; ensuring that all posts advertised should be within the confirmed available budget.
- 4.8. The Commissioner informed the delegation of the select committee that according to the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service (WPTPS), people from designated groups, particularly women were amongst that were grossly affected by discrimination in the Public Service prior to 1994. Subsequent cabinet decisions proposed and approved the employment equity targets of 50% representation of women at senior management level in the Public Service.
- 4.9. The Commissioner reported that with an aggregated percentage of 49%, the underrepresentation of females at senior management level does not inspire any confidence in achieving the transformational agenda of the country. The Commissioner argued that the Departments of Economic Development and COGTA in the province ought to do better ensuring that women have a voice in decision-making processes, as they both have reflected 38% and 39% females in SMS positions, respectively.
- 4.10. The Commissioner informed the delegation of the select committee that the Departments are required to comply with the 2% minimum target for the employment of persons with disabilities as determined by the Employment Equity Act. This follows Cabinet's approval for the acknowledgement and representation of persons with disabilities across all levels of the Public Service, as equally informed by the WPTPS.
- 4.11. The Commissioner reported that the Public Service Commission has noted with extreme concern that the Department of Roads and Transport as well as the Provincial Treasury were unable to achieve the 2% target for the employment of persons with disabilities. Both these departments have consistently failed to attain the required 2% target. Targeted recruitment strategy should be adopted to mitigate the under presentation of persons with disabilities, together with the embedment of transformation programmes in the departmental induction processes.

- 4.12. The Commissioner reported that the total number of complaints is 75 and 54 complaints finalised. The most prevalent complaints received by the PSC related to appointment irregularities at 42%. Department of Education had the most complaints relating to appointment irregularities, with 12 (28%) cases reported. These matters related to the alleged irregularities in the recruitment drive of teacher assistants at the various public schools. The Department of Health followed with 8 cases (19%). It is Important to note that complaints from the Departments of Health involved senior managers, e.g., Deputy Director General, Chief Executive Officers, Chief Directors and Directors. The Department of Sport has 3 complaints with multiple allegations on appointment irregularities

5. Presentation by Office of the Premier of Gauteng Province

- 5.1. The Office of the Premier briefed the delegation of the select committee on the state of Public Service and Administration in Gauteng Province. The presentation focused on the definition of professionalization in public service, legislative and policy framework, five pillars of professionalization framework, status of vacancy rate, state of ethics and integrity in the Province, Gauteng ethics and advisory council, Gauteng executive accountability framework, strengthening ethical culture, lifestyle audit, submissions of financial disclosures, municipal integrity project, departments audit outcomes, action plans to improve audit outcomes and remedial steps to improve audit outcomes
- 5.2. The Office of the Premier reported that the Gauteng Government continues to implement all the directives for recruitment and selection as issued by the Department of Public Service and Administration. The Office of the Premier informed the delegation of the select committee that that current Provincial Recruitment and Selection Policy Framework is in place, and the provincial departments have aligned policies with the framework.
- 5.3. The Office of the Premier reported that all appointments at SMS level are finalised on completion of the Nyukela Certificate programme, offered by the National School of Government and all SMS members and officials in high-risk have been subjected to the vetting process conducted by State Security Agency.
- 5.4. The Office of the Premier informed the delegation of the select committee that in collaboration with key stakeholders, it has implemented a series of measures aimed at

addressing inefficiencies within Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) departments, particularly in relation to the staff establishment, vacancy rates, organisational alignment, and financial sustainability.

- 5.5. The Office of the Premier indicated that the Gauteng Provincial Treasury has instituted strict cost containment measures which have significantly restricted the filling of vacant posts. In strengthening governance and organisational efficiency, the Office of the Premier reported that it has also reinforced the centralisation and standardisation of the approval of organisational structures across Gauteng Provincial Government to ensure that departmental organisational structures are aligned to service delivery mandates, budgetary provisions, and strategic priorities, thereby addressing historical misalignments and inefficiencies in post provisioning and placement.
- 5.6. Regarding the high vacancy rate and the existence of unfunded vacancies, the office of the Premier informed the delegation of the select committee that the all government departments have been directed to undertake organisational reviews to identify and abolish non-critical and unfunded posts and the is process is supported by the Department of Public Service and Administration guidelines on organisational design and establishment management.
- 5.7. To promote integrity and fight against corruption, the Office of the Premier reported that the Gauteng Provincial Government established in 2017, the Gauteng Ethics Advisory Council (GEAC), a civil society-led governance structure intended to further strengthen partnerships to promote integrity and fight corruption. The Office of the Premier informed the delegation of the select committee that the Premier of Gauteng Province has championed the creation and continuation of the GEAC, recognising its critical role in strengthening ethical governance.
- 5.8. The office of the Premier reported that the GEAC has recently finalised the development of the Gauteng Executive Accountability Framework, which seeks to formalise a culture of accountability, institutionalise the application of a culture of executive accountability, and promote consistency of understanding and application of a culture of executive accountability.

- 5.9. The Office of the Premier indicated that the framework has proposed that the Premier regularly conduct the mandatory lifestyle audits and security vetting for MECs and senior officials to deter unethical behaviour. The Office of the Premier informed the delegation of the select committee that the Premier of Gauteng Province has requested the State Security Agency to conduct vetting and lifestyle audits for himself and the Members of the Executive Council (MECs) in the Gauteng Provincial Government.
- 5.10. The office of the Premier reported that the vetting and lifestyle audit for the Premier and MECs in Gauteng commenced in August 2020 and has assisted in eliminating resistance for lifestyle audits by officials at lower and high levels and buy-in from the representatives of the organised labour representatives, the new MECs, the Director-General, HOD's and CEO of entities
- 5.11. In terms of the action plans and steps to improve audit outcomes, the Office of the Premier reported that all the departments and entities have put in place interventions to sustain clean and improve on negative audit outcomes. According to the office of the Premier the interventions have included monthly review of PFMA section 40 disclosure notes for departments, quarterly reviews of Interim Financial Statements (IFS) prior to submission to Audit Committees, reviews of draft Annual Financial Statements prior to submission to Audit Committees and AGSA for audit, review of expenditure reports for early detection of misallocations and unauthorised expenditure.
- 5.12. The Office of the Premier reported also about other interventions introduced by the provincial government to improved audit outcomes. These include bilateral engagements with risky departments and entities on areas of weakness to provide early interventions, targeted training on areas of weakness identified during the reviews of quarterly IFS and monthly PFMA S40 disclosures, tracking of implementation of AGSA audit findings action plans through the reviews of quarterly financial statements and allocation of officials to assist, provide technical advice and support on financial statements matters to departments and entities with negative audit opinions (Sports & Gauteng Housing Fund).

- 5.13. Some of the remedial steps reported by the Office of the Premier to improve audit outcomes include standardization of SCM policies and procedures to ensure uniform application of prescripts, enhancement of SCM compliance through the development and issuance of SCM circulars to strengthen compliance with prescripts, enforcement of the requirements of contract management and clearing of historical Irregular Expenditures by requesting the MECs to include the reduction of historical IE as a KPI in the Accounting Officer's delivery agreement with the MEC

6. Observations of the Select Committee

- 6.1. The Select Committee has noted that the departments, in Gauteng Provincial Government have not filled the positions of the Heads of Departments to ensure setting of strategic tone for implementation of departmental policies and programmes.
- 6.2. The Select Committee has also noted the observation of the Gauteng Public Service Commission that the recruitment and selection process of filling the top-level posts is taking long in other departments and has negatively impacted on the achievement of the key priorities of the provincial government.
- 6.3. The Select Committee has further noted that the Gauteng Public Service Commission has impressed upon the Gauteng Premier to ensure the filling of all vacant positions at the top level to stabilise leadership and management in the affected Departments.
- 6.4. In terms of the employment of women at senior management, the Select Committee has noted the report of Public Service Commission that with an aggregated percentage of 49%, the underrepresentation of females at senior management level does not inspire any confidence in achieving the transformational agenda of the country.
- 6.5. Regarding the employment of disabled people at senior management level, the Select Committee has also noted the concerns of the Public Service Commission that the Department of Roads and Transport as well as the Provincial Treasury were unable to achieve the 2% target for the employment of persons with disabilities. Both these departments have consistently failed to attain the required 2% target.

- 6.6. In terms of payment of service providers, the Select Committee has also noted the findings emanating from the Gauteng Public Service Commission Report that the Gauteng Provincial Government is still struggling to achieve 100% payment to the service providers due to poor governance practices and lack of accountability in particular management of human resources in the Departments.
- 6.7. The Select Committee has noted that the Office of the Gauteng Premier in collaboration with key stakeholders, has implemented a series of measures aimed at addressing inefficiencies within Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) departments, particularly in relation to the staff establishment, vacancy rates, organisational alignment, and financial sustainability.
- 6.8. Concerning high vacancy rate and the existence of unfunded vacancies, the Select Committee has also noted that the Office of the Premier has directed the departments to undertake organisational reviews to identify and abolish non-critical and unfunded posts.
- 6.9. As part of fighting corruption and creating a culture of ethical leadership, the Select Committee has further noted that the Premier of Gauteng Provinces has requested the State Security Agency to conduct vetting and lifestyle audits for himself and the Members of the Executive Council (MECs) in the Gauteng Provincial Government.
- 6.10. The Select Committee has noted that the vetting and lifestyle audit for the Premier and MECs in Gauteng commenced in August 2020 and all the new MECs, the Director-General, HOD's and CEO of entities have been subjected to the same process.
- 6.11. In terms of 2024/2025 audit outcomes, the Select Committee has noted that the Gauteng Provincial Government has put in place remedial steps to improve audit outcomes. These remedial steps include digitisation of SCM processes, development of SCM capacity development strategy, enhancement of SCM compliance through the development and issuing of SCM circulars to strengthen compliance with prescripts and clearing historical irregular expenditures by requesting the MECs to include the reduction of historical irregular expenditure as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the Accounting Officer's delivery agreement with the MEC

7. Recommendations of the Select Committee

- 7.1. That the Premier of Gauteng Province should ensure that all government departments comply with the achievement of 100% payment to service providers within 30 days and deal with institutional challenges related to poor governance practices and lack of accountability in particular management of human resources within the Departments.
- 7.2. That the Premier of Gauteng Province should note and take action on the concerns raised by the Gauteng Public Service Commission that the Department of Roads and Transport as well as the Provincial Treasury were unable to achieve the 2% target for the employment of persons with disabilities and that both departments have consistently failed to attain the required 2% target.
- 7.3. That the Premier of Gauteng Province should respond to the call of the Gauteng Public Service Commission to ensure filling of all vacant positions at the top level to stabilise leadership and management in the affected Departments

Report to be considered.

6. REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS) ON OVERSIGHT VISIT IN TERMS OF SECTION 139 (1)(b) OF THE CONSTITUTION (1996) IN MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: DATED 5 MAY 2026

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration (Traditional Affairs Water, Sanitation & Human Settlement), having conducted oversight visit in terms of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality, reports to the National Council of Provinces as follows:
- 1.2 On the 27 January 2026, the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs tabled a notice of intervention in terms of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality to the Office of the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.
- 1.3 After tabling, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces referred in terms of NCOP Rule 101 the notice of intervention in Masilonyana Local Municipality to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration for consideration and reporting.
- 1.4 On 14 April 2025, a multi-party delegation of the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration conducted oversight visit to Masilonyana Local Municipality.

2. Objective of the Oversight

- 2.1. The primary objective of the oversight visit was to interact with the internal and external stakeholders and solicit their opinions on the constitutional, procedural and substantive matters related to the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality. The secondary aim of oversight visit was to assess the state of water and sanitation in the local municipality

3. Delegation of the Select Committee

- 3.1. The delegation of the Select Committee was composed of the following members and parliamentary officials: Hon TM Kaunda (Leader of the Delegation), Hon MM Peter, Hon T Breedt, Hon M Makesini, Hon, I Scheurkogel, Hon KR Molokomme (Whip), Hon K Ceza, Mr T M Manele, Committee Secretary, Ms Z France, Committee Assistant, Mr P Malatswa, Communication Officer, Mr T Makhanye, Committee Researcher and Mr P Mabuela, Officer of the NCOP

4. General Overview of the Oversight Visit

- 4.1 In line with the constitutional requirement of public participation and Parliament Public Participation Strategy, the delegation of the Select Committee interacted and solicited the opinions of the internal and external stakeholders on constitutional, procedural and substantive matters related to the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality.
- 4.2. The internal and external stakeholders that the delegation interacted and solicited opinions with included the Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Free State SALGA, Chief Whips of Political Parties; National Department of Water and Sanitation, representative of Vaal Water Board and representative of the internal and external stakeholders of the local municipality

5. Presentation by Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

- 5.1. The HOD of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs made presentation on invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality. The presentation focused on background, political stability, institutional capacity, governance, service delivery, financial sustainability, progress of section 139 intervention, unresolved Issues, challenges and recommendations.
- 5.2. The HOD reported that in the past six to ten financial years, the municipality has received disclaimer audit opinion from the Auditor General. This is a bad reflection on the financial performance of the municipality. The HOD indicated that the Auditor-General issued an opinion which identifies serious financial problems in the municipality for the immediate past financial year. The municipality has consistently failed to make payments to their creditors when they are due and where they would have made payment plans, such would not be honoured.
- 5.3. The HOD reported that recently South African Revenue Service (SARS) garnished the municipality and took all the funds in the municipality account. Due to consistent noncompliance, SARS declined the municipality's request to make payment plan. This caused the delay in payment of salaries.
- 5.4. The HOD informed the delegation of the select committee that the triggers leading to the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution included the deterioration of municipality's financial management and internal controls systems, increased unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, degeneration of relationship between the municipality and the organised labour resulting to employees protests, challenges in providing clean water to the community and the failure to address the damage caused by the disaster as they used R25 million disaster grant for administration operations.

6. Presentation by the Mayor of Masilonyana Local Municipality

- 6.1. The Municipal Mayor made presentation on state of the local municipality. The presentation focused on governance, organisation development and transformation and the opinion of the municipal council on the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in the local municipality. The Municipal Mayor informed the delegation of the select committee that the municipality is a collective executive type. The council consist of 19 Councillors: ANC 11, DA 4, EFF, 2, FFP 1 and F4SD.
- 6.2. The Municipal Mayor reported that the local municipality has made progress in ensuring the establishment and functionality of section 79 committees, Municipal Public Accounts Committee, Audit and Performance Committee and appointment of a Disciplinary Board on Financial Misconduct (DC Board) and Risk Committee
- 6.3. The Municipal Mayor informed the delegation of the select committee that in terms of organisational development and transformation, the local municipality has made progress in filling all senior managers positions, signing performance agreements. The Municipal Mayor indicated that the municipality has the functional directorates relates to Finance, Corporate Services, Social and Community Services, Infrastructure and Technical Services and Planning and Development. The Municipal Mayor reported that most critical vacancies in middle management have been filled and 104 service delivery employees were appointed in March 2025 without benefits.
- 6.4. The Municipal Mayor informed the delegation of the select committee about the triggers that led to the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in the local municipality. These include obtaining 10 consecutive disclaimers, non-implementation of the billing system, failure to resolve disputes of rising bulk services debts, non-payment of 3rd parties (high litigation register due to non-payment of creditors and labour issues, poor service delivery, spending of grant allocations for operational purposes, ballooning unauthorized, irregular, wasteful and fruitless expenditure, irregular appointment of the CFO, Council's failure to exercise its executive obligations and divisions between the mayor and the municipal manager
- 6.5. The Municipal Mayor informed the delegation of the select committee that on 9th of February 2026, the Municipal council resolved to note the invocation of section 139(1)b

as presented by the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The Municipal Mayor indicated that the municipal council resolved also that assistance should be provided to ensure that the Intervention Team is given the necessary cooperation to implement the intervention as invoked in terms of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution.

7. Presentation by South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

- 7.1. The Free State representative of the South African Local Government Association on presentation on section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality. The presentation focused on the decision to invoke section 139, support provided by SALGA to the local municipality and the recommendations to be considered by the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration
- 7.2. The representative of SALGA informed the delegation of the select committee about the decision of the free state provincial executive council to invoke section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in the local municipality. The representative indicated that the decision to invoke Section 139(1)(b) in Masilonyana Local Municipality was primarily informed by the persistent dysfunctionality of the municipality, which resulted in material breaches of its constitutional obligations.
- 7.3. The SALAGA representative indicated that the municipality failed to provide basic services in a sustainable manner and was unable to meet its financial commitments, indicating significant governance and financial management weaknesses. Furthermore, there were serious allegations of maladministration, which were observed during oversight engagements, including a Joint Portfolio Committee visit in July 2025.
- 7.4. The SALGA representative reported that the municipal governance challenges were compounded by a breakdown in the working relationship between the political and administrative leadership in the municipality. Collectively, these issues led to a deterioration in institutional stability, undermining the municipality's ability to function effectively and fulfil its developmental mandate, thereby necessitating provincial intervention in terms of Section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution

- 7.5. The SALGA representative informed the delegation of the select committee the notice of intervention in Masilonyana was considered by the SALGA FS Governance & IGR Working Group of 12 February 2026. The representative indicated that the intervention in Masilonyana is a recurring intervention (2017 – 2020) and SALGA was not informed of the Sec 139 engagements with Masilonyana undertaken by CoGTA therefore SALGA has limited knowledge of the scope and timelines of the intervention.
- 7.6. The SALGA representative reported that on the 28th of February 2025, SALGA FS participated in the Masilonyana Strategic Planning Session. The SALGA Value proposition presentation was tabled outlining available SALGA support for the municipality, and the local municipality was supported in Disaster Management capacity building and policy review. The SALGA also provided representation and lobbying support on the proposed matter of re-demarcation of Winnie Mandela Town from Masilonyana to Mangaung to which the MDB outcome favoured the position of the municipality for the town to remain in Masilonyana LM.
- 7.7. The SALGA representative reported also that targeted support was provided to the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) of Masilonyana Local Municipality to strengthen oversight, accountability, and ethics and integrity management. The representative further reported that SALGA rolled out a FASSET-funded Municipal Finance Capacity Building Programme, covering areas such as Records Management; Project Finance; Billing & Valuation Reconciliation; Annual Financial Statements and Audit Committees.
- 7.8. The representative informed Members of the Select Committee that SALGA for meeting between the municipality and the mining houses to consider the debt owed to the municipalities. During engagements it was determined that the municipality needs to bill the institution(s) correctly for payment to be affected. As a result, for this financial year SALGA will be focusing on billing issues of municipalities to ensure that residential, commercial and government debts are justly invoiced and paid.
- 7.9. In terms of waste management, the representative reported that SALGA provided support through the Waste Management Support Programme, including one-on-one engagements conducted in July 2025 and Waste Management App onboarding

implemented in December 2025, to improve planning, compliance and operational efficiency. This was complemented by MIG funding and waste infrastructure support engagements conducted between May and October 2025, focusing on landfill compliance, fleet procurement and implementation of Integrated Waste Management Plans

- 7.10. In terms of water & sanitation, the representative reported that SALGA supported Masilonyana through the Water Services Collaborative Programme, including district working sessions held during September 2025 and ongoing technical engagements to capacitate the municipality on MuSSA, MPAP, Water Service Policies and Water Service Development Plans to improve compliance with Blue, Green and No Drop requirements.
- 7.11. The representative of SALGA recommended that the Select committee on cooperative governance and public administration should consider ensuring setting of sec 139 intervention standards in Masilonyana specifying the mandate, time-bound implementation, measurable recovery indicators and fast-tracking the processing of Intergovernmental Monitoring Support and Intervention Bill to provide for an enabling cooperative governance shift from intervention to sustainable municipal IGR support model

8. Presentation by South African Human Rights Commission

- 8.1. The SAHRC finds that the instability in the Masilonyana Local Municipality has been occasioned by high vacancy rates in senior management and critical technical positions. The SAHRC further finds that this has adversely affected and impacted on service delivery and access to water and sanitation within the municipality.
- 8.2. The SAHRC finds that the municipality is in violation of section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution and regulations 3 and 4 of the Regulations relating to compulsory national standards and measures to conserve water by failing to ensure that all households, particularly in informal settlements, have access to water. The SAHRC finds that areas, like Masilo and Brandfort, are experiencing water deficits resulting in water shortages.

Further, the municipality's regular water cuts are implemented without residents being informed.

- 8.3. The SAHRC finds that despite the commitment made by the municipality at the inquiry of March 2024 that interim measures would be made to ensure that during the 2024 Easter weekend residents, particularly in Brandfort, would have uninterrupted water supply, this was not done. The SAHRC views this in a serious light as the commitment was made under oath
- 8.4. The SAHRC finds that the municipality is in violation of section 21 (g) of the National Water Act and section 28 of NEMA for polluting the environment and water sources. The SAHRC further finds that the municipality is in violation of sections 10, 24(1)(b) and 152 (1)(d) of the Constitution and section 28(1) of NEMA for failing to adequately address the chronic sewage spills in its jurisdiction, particularly in Winburg and Brandfort.
- 8.5. The SAHRC finds that several WWTWs in the municipality are in a poor condition and dilapidated. Consequently, the municipality has received a directive from the DWS for the pollution of a raw water source. The SAHRC finds that there is no proper control and oversight in the management of the landfill sites. The SAHRC finds that the landfills are not operated by people with the required skills.
- 8.6. The SAHRC finds that the municipality is in contravention of section 152(1)(e) of the Constitution and section 6(2)(a)(b) and(d) of the Municipal Systems Act for failing to engage representatives of community forums, such as the Brandfort Forum, in addressing service delivery issues. The SAHRC finds that the municipality has received a disclaimer audit opinion from AGSA since the 2017/18 financial year. The municipality also has material irregularities issued to it by AGSA for causing both substantial harm to the public and to the public sector.
- 8.7. The municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report submit to the SAHRC a council approved plan on: i) how water will be provided to all households in the jurisdiction of the municipality, particularly areas such as Masilo and Brandfort; and ii) measures which the municipality has or is putting in place to ensure that it communicates the water shedding schedule to communities timeously.

- 8.8. The municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report provide to the SAHRC a comprehensive report on how it plans to deal with the sewage spills in its jurisdiction, particularly in Winburg and Brandfort.
- 8.9. The municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report submit to the SAHRC a plan detailing how it intends to address the poor management of its landfill sites, and its plans to control illegal dumping within the municipality.
- 8.10. The municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report, submit to the SAHRC a report detailing steps taken or that will be taken to ensure that it engages, in good faith, with the residents of the municipality, such as the Brandfort Forum, regarding service delivery challenges. The municipality should within three (3) months of receipt of this report submit to the SAHRC a comprehensive council approved plan on how it plans to address the poor audit outcomes to ensure that there is an improvement in the next financial years.

9. Opinions of Chief Whips of Political Parties

- 9.1. The representative of the ANC tabled opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about financial crisis, municipality failure to provide adequate Service delivery, quality water provision, sewer spillages, lack of revenue collection, failure to honour payments of its creditors, high number of litigation, failure to use conditional grants for intended purposes, consistent attachment of municipal bank account, administration Instability and lack of discipline and professionalism amongst management and failure to fulfil executive obligations in terms of Constitution or Legislation
- 9.2. The representative of the Democratic Alliance (DA) tabled opinion that supported the invocation of Section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about state of administrative and financial collapse, effective management of litigations, competency of the political management team. The representative emphasised the importance of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee

(MPAC) to ensure that its reports thoroughly investigate instances of financial mismanagement to hold responsible parties accountable and to restore the public's trust in our financial oversight processes

- 9.3. The EFF representative of tabled an opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in the Local Municipality. The representative raised concerns about disclaimer of the audit opinion for the past ten (10), persistent collapse of service delivery, serious financial breaches, irregular appointment of Chief Financial Officer, unethical conduct by senior managers, unfunded budget, non- compliance with recruitment and selection policy and sub-standard advises from corporate services with regards to litigations. The representative requested that the MEC of Cogta invoke Section 106 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 as there is a 'reason to believe'' that the institution is failing to perform its statutory obligations, maladministration, fraud.
- 9.4. The representative of the Freedom Front Plus (VF Plus) tabled opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about the persistent and worsening governance, administrative, and service delivery crises in the municipality, current infrastructure maintenance plan, revenue collection and alignment of standard set by the national treasury to ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability.

10. Opinions of Internal and External Stakeholders

- 10.1. The representative of IMATU tabled opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about persistent governance and administrative challenges affecting the effective functioning of the municipality, ongoing service delivery failures impacting communities. The representative emphasised importance of restoring accountability, stability, and compliance with legislative, strengthening of institutional capacity to improve performance.
- 10.2. Representative of Masilo Community Leaders raised concerns about looting of resources aimed a delivering service to the residence, sewage spillage in the streets, poor road

infrastructure, collapse in major infrastructural projects, poor delivery of clean and drinkable water, Lack of impact of intervention, political and administrative instability. The representative proposed that the intervention should be the immediate removal of all councillors in Masilonyana Local Municipality, so that by-elections should be held within ninety (90) days of such a dissolution as per Section 139 (1) (c) of the country's constitution, to elect a Council that can be held accountable by all community members.

- 10.3. The representative of Bradford Forum raised concerns that despite the invocation of Section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution, there has been no measurable improvement in governance, service delivery, or administrative compliance. On the contrary, the situation has significantly deteriorated, to the detriment of residents. The representative further raised concerns about unlawful disconnection of electricity services to residents.
- 10.4. The representative demanded the immediate cessation of all unlawful electricity disconnections; the urgent review, audit, and correction of the municipal billing system; the establishment of clear, consistent, and transparent communication from the administration to the public; and The immediate conclusion of a Distribution Agency Agreement (DAA) with Eskom to ensure stability in electricity supply and financial accountability.
- 10.4. The representative of Masilonyana Community Forum tabled the opinion that supported the invocation of Section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution by the Provincial Executive Committee. The representative raised concerns that Masilonyana Local Municipality has experienced political, administrative and financial instability due to alleged maladministration, and serious service delivery issues, which has an impact on its proper functioning. The representative indicated the forum would like to have a monthly or quarterly report on progress made in terms of cash flow, cost cutting measures, ballooning Eskom debt, poor state of infrastructure, extensive water losses, lack of capacity to undertake water and sanitation functions, weak financial controls, unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, allegations of maladministration, fraud and corruption and preventative maintenance programs

- 10.5. The representative of ODAS group sought clarity on how being placed under Section 139b (1) could help address the concerns that have led to tourists, investors and potential new residents avoiding Winburg.
- 10.6. The representative raised concerns about deteriorating roads, sewer spillages, water shortages or contamination, inconsistent refuse removal, frequent interruptions to water and electricity supply, continuous shortage of fuel, incorrect billing or no billing, lack of communication: Insufficient engagement and updates from authorities have contributed to uncertainty and frustration, incorrect property valuations and neglect of heritage sites
- 10.7. The representative of the Winburg Business Forum acknowledged that the Provincial Executive has already invoked Section 139(1)(b) and assumed responsibility for certain executive obligations in the municipality. The representative indicated that the Forum conditionally supports the continuation of this intervention, provided it delivers tangible improvements in governance, financial management, and service delivery that enable businesses to survive and grow.
- 10.8. The representative raised concerns about inaccurate municipal billing statements, sustainable and effective basic service delivery (water, sanitation, electricity, and roads) that allows our businesses to operate successfully and grow, effective utilisation of rates and taxes collected from the community, meaningful support for local economic development initiatives, targeted support for the tourism sector to unlock its potential in the region and realistic and sustainable municipal budget that is aligned with what the town and its local economy can realistically support. The representative of the Forum recommended that the intervention should prioritize immediate implementation of an accurate and transparent billing system, review and stabilisation of rates and tariffs at reasonable, supportable levels, restoration of reliable basic services to enable business continuity and growth, strict oversight to ensure rates and taxes are spent effectively and efficiently, development and implementation of targeted programmes for local economic development and tourism support and skills training and development program or plan to be developed in partnership with local business to address unemployment in Winburg and surrounding communities

- 10.9. The representative of Makua Mining affected Communities tabled an opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution. However, the representative expressed a wish for the local municipality to be dissolved in terms of section 139 (1) (c) of the constitution
- 10.10. The representative of NUM tabled an opinion that advocated for the dissolution of the local municipality in terms of section 139 (1) (c) of the constitution. The representative emphasized the need for thorough monitoring of the Municipality's activities to ensure accountability and transparency in its operations. The representative further stressed that public participation should be a fundamental principle in all decision-making processes, allowing community members to have a voice in matters that affect their lives.
- 10.11. The representative raised concerns about the Municipality's infrastructure and pointed out that many facilities and services are in poor condition and require urgent attention and repair. The representative underscored the importance of the Municipality taking action to recover outstanding revenue from large businesses that owe money. The representative indicated that recovery would not only improve the Municipality's financial situation but also support the enhancement of public services and infrastructure development within the community

11. Observations of the Select Committee

- 11.1. The Select Committee has noted that the Free State Provincial Executive Council notified the NCOP on the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality on 27 January 2026. The Select Committee has also noted that the Provincial Executive Council resolved also to intervene to achieve improvement in the governance and financial situation of the municipality and provision of basic services to the communities
- 11.2. The Select Committee has further noted that the Provincial Executive Council mandate the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance to appoint an Administrator to assume full administrative responsibilities in Masilonyana Local Municipality, covering

human resources, finance, legal, governance, technical and community service functions. The Select Committee has noted that Masilonyana Local Municipality has been in repeated section 139 (1) (b) interventions due to failures in financial management, administrative instability and political interference

- 11.3. At administration level, the Select Committee has noted with serious concerns the bloated organisational structure, lack of discipline of municipal officials, absenteeism, loitering, late coming, claiming of overtime, continuous acting of interns, appointment of officials without qualifications, dualism, lack of cooperation of the Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer with the Administrator, insubordination of Chief Financial Officer and Municipal Manager, non-filling of senior management positions and lack of consequence management for non-performance, non-reporting, non-accountability and insubordinations.
- 11.4. In opinion of the Select Committee, the current municipal administrative status violates the strategic objective of local government that relates to organisational development and transformation and building of ethical, capable and developmental state.
- 11.5. In relation to service deliver, the Select Committee has noted with great concerns about the decay and collapse of service delivery, poor refuse removal and waste management, non-compliant of dumping site, frequent power outage due to cable theft, instability in power supply, poor infrastructure planning, water supply interruptions, infrastructure decay, non-payment of services, poor maintenance, lack of municipal vehicles, low revenue collection, water loss, illegal connection, poor metering, illegal operation of landfill in Bothaville without a licence and non-provision of toilets at the taxi ranks
- 11.6. In terms of the finding conducted by the South African Human Rights Commission, The Select Committee has noted with great concerns that the state of service delivery and infrastructure in Masilonyana Local Municipality has violated the human rights of the community, contravened the National Environmental Waste Management Act of (59 of 2008) and the strategic objective of local government in relation to the provision of service delivery more especially water and decent sanitation

- 11.7. In relation to good governance in the local municipality, the Select Committee has noted with serious concerns about political and administrative instability, political interference, lack of oversight and non-functionality of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee, non-functionality of ward committees, non-functionality of audit committees, delays and non- tabling section 106 forensic investigation reports, councillors walking out of council meeting, decisions making without a quorum, non- tabling of MPAC reports, lack of accountability and transparency, lack of professionalism, lack of political and administrative will to perform, signing of recommendations by the Speaker emanating from the meeting that did not quorate, absence of ethics committee and lack of consequence management.
- 11.8. In relation to financial management, the Select Committee has noted with great concerns about the unfunded and approved budget, illegal withdrawal and transfer of money the municipal account, poor revenue collection, incorrect billing system, lack of updated indigent registry, poor municipal collection rate standing at 10% with over 91% of consumer debtors in arrears, owing of Eskom and Vaal Central Water resulting in service disruptions and bulk supply risks, unauthorised expenditure of R116.6 million, irregular expenditure of R6.5 million and wasteful & fruitless expenditure of R24.5 million

12. Recommendations of the Select Committee

- 12.1. That the National Council of Provinces approves the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality
- 12.2. That the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional affairs should consider instituting section 106 of the local government: Municipal System Act of 2000 to investigate allegations of corruption, maladministration and fraud in Masilonyana Local Municipality immediately after the National Council of Province has adopted this report
- 12.3. That the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should table the findings and recommendation of the forensic investigation report to Masilonyana Municipal Council for consideration and adoption.

- 12.4. That the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should after tabling the forensic investigation report to Masilonyana Municipal council table the adopted report to the National Council of Provinces and the Free State Provincial Legislature after 90 days.
- 12.5. That the appointed Administrator should provide the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration 14 days after the adoption of this report by the National Council of Provinces with a report on employees' absenteeism, late coming, overtime claims, non-compliance with tabling of reports and consequence management actions
- 12.6. That the appointed Administrator should institute disciplinary hearing of the insubordination of the Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer and provide monthly report on the status of disciplinary process to the Municipal Council, the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Free State SALGA
- 12.7. That the appointed Administrator in collaboration with the Speaker, the Mayor and Free State SALGA should fast track the process of establishing the Ethics Committee, the functionality of MPAC, Audit Committee and the Ward Committees
- 12.8. That the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should provide the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration with the resolution of the Free State Provincial Executive Council on the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution and the terms of references of the appointed Administrator 14 days after the adoption of this report by the National Council of Provinces
- 12.9. The appointed Administrator should develop post audit action plan to deal with the recommendations of the Auditor-General emanating from the 2023/2024 Audit Outcomes in the Local Government and table the action plan to the Municipal Council for consideration and adoption

- 12.10. That the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in collaboration with the Free State SALGA should conduct lifestyle audit of all managers and skills audit of all employees within Masilonyana Local Municipality.
- 12.11. That the Free State SALGA should provide systematic and structured support in terms of section 154 of the constitution to enable Masilonyana Local Municipality to deal with HR matters related to bloated administration, job evaluation, grading, approved and funded organisational administrative structure.
- 12.12. That the Speaker should as part of accountability and transparency share the oversight visit report of the Select Committee with all the stakeholders participated during the oversight visit by the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
- 12.13. That the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should table to the National Council of Provinces quarterly progress report and termination report in terms of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Masilonyana Local Municipality

Report to be considered

7. REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS) ON OVERSIGHT VISIT IN TERMS OF SECTION 139 (1)(b) OF THE CONSTITUTION (1996) IN NKETOANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: DATED 5 MAY 2026

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration (Traditional Affairs Water, Sanitation & Human Settlement), having conducted oversight visit in terms of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution in Nketoana Local Municipality, reports to the National Council of Provinces as follows:
- 1.2 On the 27 January 2026, the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs tabled a notice of intervention in terms of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Nketoana Local Municipality to the Office of the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.
- 1.3. After tabling, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces referred in terms of NCOP Rule 101 the notice of intervention in Nketoana Local Municipality to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration for consideration and reporting.
- 1.4. On 15 April 2026, a multi-party delegation of the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration conducted oversight visit to Nketoana Local Municipality.

2. Objective of the Oversight

- 2.1. The primary objective of the oversight visit was to interact with the internal and external stakeholders and solicit their opinions on the constitutional, procedural and substantive matters related to the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Nketoana Local Municipality. The secondary aim of oversight visit was to assess the state of water and sanitation in the local municipality

3. Delegation of the Select Committee

- 3.1. The delegation of the Select Committee was composed of the following members and parliamentary officials: Hon TM Kaunda (Leader of the Delegation), Hon MM Peter, Hon T Breedt, Hon M Makesini, Hon, I Scheurkogel, Hon KR Molokomme (Whip), Hon K Ceza, Mr T M Manele, Committee Secretary, Ms Z France, Committee Assistant, Mr P Malatswa, Communication Officer, Mr T Makhanye, Committee Researcher and Mr P Mabuela, Officer of the NCOP

4. General Overview of the Oversight Visit

- 4.1 In line with the constitutional requirement of public participation and Parliament Public Participation Strategy, the delegation of the Select Committee interacted and solicited the opinions of the internal and external stakeholders on constitutional, procedural and substantive matters related to the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Nketoana ana Local Municipality.
- 4.2. The internal and external stakeholders that the delegation interacted and solicited opinions with included the Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Free State SALGA, Chief Whips of Political Parties; National Department of Water and Sanitation, representative of Vaal Water Board and representatives of internal and external stakeholders of the local municipality.

5. Presentation by Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

- 5.1. The HOD of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs made presentation on invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Nketoana Local Municipality. The presentation focused on background, political stability, institutional capacity, governance, service delivery, financial sustainability, progress of section 139 intervention, unresolved Issues, challenges and recommendations.
- 5.2. The HOD reported that the EXCO resolved on the 17 December 2025 to invoke section 139(1)(b) in Nketoane municipality Local Municipality due to the reasons that will be dealt with under triggers. The HOD informed the delegation of the Select Committee that the Minister, the NCOP and the Legislature were informed on the 27 January 2026 and The MEC engaged Council and introduced the EXCO Rep on the 10th of February 2026.
- 5.3. The HOD reported that in the past six financial years, the municipality has received disclaimer audit opinion from the Auditor General. This is a bad reflection on the financial performance of the municipality. The AG issued an opinion which identifies serious financial problems in the municipality for the immediate past financial year. The Joint Portfolio Committee recommended that the municipality must implement FRP due to its financial challenges and continuous adoption of unfunded budget without credible funding plan.
- 5.4. The HOD informed the delegation of the select committee that the municipality's revenue collection rate is at an average of 51%, which contributes to its unfunded budget. According to the HOD, the municipality's debtors have arrears amounting to R1.5 billion. Municipality's debt to creditors is very high at an amount of R1.7 billion, of which ESKOM alone is owed R1 billion. The Audit Committee has not been functional for three years now.
- 5.5. The HOD indicated that although all senior management positions including that of the MM are filled, the process followed for all the positions did not comply with the requirements of Regulation 17 of Systems Act. The MEC did engage the Council on this non-compliance on the 15 May 2025, but the Council failed to take corrective steps.
- 5.6. The HOD informed the delegation of the select committee that the municipality has been underspending its MIG for the past two financial year despite its service delivery challenges.

The MIG expenditure projections as of December 2025 indicates that the municipality will continue to underspend this grant even in the current financial year, as the municipality had spent only 29% at this date. The HOD reported that the Department of Water and Sanitation could not issue water license to the municipality due to the municipality's failure to submit required information

6. Presentation by the Mayor of Nketoana Local Municipality

- 6.1. The Acting Mayor presented the state of the local municipality to the delegation of the select committee. The presentation focused on the progress, challenges and intervention plans to deal with water, sanitation, and waste removal. The acting mayor reported that the Municipal Public Accounts Committee has made progress in investigating Unauthorized, Fruitless & Wasteful Expenditure since 17/18 fiscal year.
- 6.2. According to the Acting Mayor, the local municipality has procured 11 white fleet (bakkies), yellow fleet that was previously hired, reduced electricity distribution losses from 32% (2023) to 9.8% (2025), reduced water distribution losses from 21% (2023) to 11% (2025) and submitted Annual Financial Statements for 3 consecutive years as per legislated dates, reduced fleet hiring costs from R16mil (2023) to R2.3mil (2025), internally dealing with litigation costs and improvement of procurement compliance
- 6.3. In terms administrative and political instability, the acting mayor informed the delegation that in the past 8 years, there have been 6 different Municipal managers that were appointed (including actings and seconding); In the past 10 years, there were 5 different CFOs appointed (including acting).
- 6.4. The Acting Mayor reported that the local municipality experienced collapse of Council sittings due to walk outs by Councillors, Council meetings not reaching quorum due to non-attendance (sometimes without apologies) and Non-functioning of EXCO. The delegation of the select committee was also informed that the local municipality obtained consecutive disclaimers due to historic and frequent change in Management and political interference with appointment of Chief Financial Officer
- 6.5. The Acting Mayor reported that the Water Treatment Works does not meet the current water demand due to ageing water infrastructure, six water pumpstations are running

without standby pumps and vandalism to Municipality water infrastructure. In terms of action plan, the Acting Mayor indicated that local municipality will be increasing the capacities of Water Treatment Works to meet growing demand, replacing and upgrade of aged infrastructure which includes asbestos as well as steel pipes with PVC pipes, procuring standby pumps and hiring armed security company and installing surveillance system.

- 6.6. The Acting Mayor informed the delegation of the select committee that the municipality is still facing challenges related to refuse removal due to lack maintenance, illegal dumping, and old fleets. In terms of intervention, the Acting Mayor indicated that the local municipality has put plans to perform ongoing maintenance and upgrading of Waste Management Facilities, purchasing of refuse compactors and replacement, and upgrading of aged infrastructure.

7. Presentation by South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

- 7.1. The representative of SALGA reported that the decision to invoke section 139(1)(b) in Nketoana Local Municipality was informed by the persistent dysfunctionality of the municipality, characterised by a deterioration in governance, oversight, and serious deficiencies in management and administration. These institutional weaknesses resulted in significant financial and service delivery challenges, undermining the municipality's ability to fulfil its constitutional obligations.
- 7.2. The SALGA representative informed the delegation of the select committee that the local municipality has received seven consecutive disclaimer audit opinions, reflecting deep-rooted failures in financial management, accountability, and compliance. Furthermore, the municipality demonstrated poor financial performance, including underspending of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, with only 29% expenditure recorded as of 31 December 2025, indicating an inability to effectively implement infrastructure programmes. Collectively, these challenges point to a breakdown in institutional capacity and governance systems, thereby necessitating provincial intervention to restore functionality and ensure the delivery of basic services in terms of Section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution

- 7.3. the SALGA representative reported that the notice of intervention in Nketoana was considered by the SALGA FS Governance & IGR Working Group of 12 February 2026 which raised concerns about SALGA not been informed of the sec 139 engagements with Nketoana and lack of knowledge of the scope and timelines of the intervention. The Working Group recommended that the notices be tabled to the PEC of SALGA for further engagement and pronouncement of SALGA opinion on the intervention.
- 7.6. SALGA provided targeted support to Nketoana Local Municipality through a Revenue and Indigent Management intervention held on 27 March 2025, aimed at addressing persistent challenges in revenue collection, financial management, and indigent administration. The support included guidance on implementing structured revenue enhancement programmes, such as revenue collection campaigns, consumer education initiatives, and the rollout of an indigent management framework aligned to national guidelines.
- 7.7. In addition, SALGA committed to ongoing technical and institutional support, including assisting the municipality to resuscitate its revenue enhancement committee, strengthen policy frameworks, and improve alignment of revenue systems. The intervention further created a platform for Nketoana to formally identify its challenges and request targeted support, with clear follow-up actions and reporting timelines agreed between SALGA and the municipality
- 7.8. SALGA provided focused support to the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) of Nketoana Local Municipality to strengthen oversight, accountability, and ethics and integrity management. This included facilitation of an MPAC UIFW Work Session in August 2025 and participation in the Extended Provincial MPAC Chairpersons' Forum in March 2026. These interventions enhanced the capacity of MPAC members to effectively execute their oversight responsibilities. Continued capacitation remains necessary to further entrench accountability and effective governance within the municipality
- 7.9. SALGA supported Nketoana through the Energy Transition Support Programme, including participation in INEP grant funding and Just Energy Transition district

workshops held in May 2025, which focused on cost of supply, embedded generation, tariff setting and electricity distribution reforms.

- 7.10. Further support included direct engagement on Eskom debt relief and Distribution Agency Agreements on 12 March 2026, as well as participation in EDI reform consultations held in August 2025, aimed at strengthening financial sustainability and positioning the municipality within the evolving electricity sector
- 7.11. SALGA supported Nketoana through sector-wide initiatives under the Water Services Collaborative Programme, including participation in Water Conservation and Water Demand Management strategy sessions facilitated in collaboration with DWS and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency during March 2026, aimed at improving compliance with No Drop requirements. In addition, Nketoana participated in district-level engagements and capacity-building processes on MuSSA, MPAP, Water Service Policies and Water Service Development Plans during September 2025
- 7.12. SALGA provided support to Nketoana Local Municipality through organisational structure and institutional development interventions, including participation in a provincial organisational structure profiling session held on 21 March 2025, aimed at improving alignment with municipal staff regulations and institutional efficiency. The municipality also benefited from Performance Management System (PMS)-related capacity-building initiatives, which form part of SALGA's broader institutional capacity support to strengthen accountability and staff performance
- 7.13. The SALGA representative then called upon the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration to set sec 139 Intervention Standards in Nketoana, time-bound implementation, measurable recovery indicators and to consider fast-tracking the IMSI Bill (Intergovernmental Monitoring Support and Intervention Bill) to provide for an enabling cooperative governance shift from intervention to sustainable municipal IGR support model.

8. Presentation by South African Human Rights Commission

- 8.1. The SAHRC finds that the municipality is in violation of section 152(1)(d) of the Constitution by failing to provide services to communities in a sustainable manner. The municipality acknowledged that it was failing to provide basic services, such as water, sanitation, and refuse removal to certain residents within its jurisdiction, particularly those in informal settlements.
- 8.2. The SAHRC has found that the municipality is in violation of section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution and regulations 3 and 4 of the Regulations relating to compulsory national standards and measures to conserve water by failing to ensure that all households, particularly in informal settlements, within its jurisdiction have access to water. The municipality acknowledged that it was implementing water cuts which has led to some residents being without water.
- 8.3. The SAHRC has also found that it unacceptable that some residents in the jurisdiction of the municipality still utilise the bucket toilet system. They are in the towns of Reitz/Petsana, Mamafubedu, Lindley/Ntha, and Arlington/Leratswana. This is a violation of various rights, such as section 10 of the Constitution and regulation 2 of the Regulations relating to compulsory national standards and measures to conserve water.
- 8.4. The SAHRC has also found that the municipality is in violation of the relevant provisions of the National Water Act and NEMA for polluting the environment. The municipality acknowledged that sewage spills were a challenge, and that the municipality was facing criminal charges from the DWS because of the pollution.
- 8.5. The SAHRC has also found that one of the contributing factors of poor service delivery in the municipality is the absence of senior managers and other vacant critical positions within the municipality.
- 8.6. The SAHRC has further found that it unacceptable that the aging infrastructure has not been upgraded and that there remain asbestos pipes in the sanitation system. These pipes

cause great risk to the health of the residents. Aging asbestos pipes have the propensity to burst, which disturbs the provision of water to residents.

- 8.7. The SAHRC has found that lack of disposal sites in Arlington and Petrus Steyn has caused illegal dumping, littering and an unsafe environment, which violates the right to a clean environment.
- 8.9. The SAHRC has recommended that the municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report submit to the SAHRC a council approved plan on how it will provide water, sanitation, and refuse removal services in a sustainable manner, particularly to informal settlements.
- 8.10. That the municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report provide the SAHRC with a council approved plan on how it will eradicate the bucket toilet system.
- 8.11. That the municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report submit to the SAHRC a report detailing(i) what steps and interventions it will undertake to upgrade the water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as ii) plans to remove the asbestos infrastructure.
- 8.12. That the municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report submit to the SAHRC an update on the mobile application it is developing to enhance community engagement and feedback.
- 8.13. That the municipality must within three (3) months of receipt of this report provide an update to the SAHRC on the criminal case opened by the DWS on the Lindley WWTWs, and provide measures taken to address the sewage spills in the municipality

9. Opinions of Chief Whips of Political Parties

- 9.1. The representative of the Democratic Alliance tabled an opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution in the Local Municipality the representative raised concerns about political interference, duplicate of invoices and accused the MEC of CoGTA of having a hand in what is happening in the municipality.

The representative of African National Congress also tabled the opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 in the local municipality.

10. Opinions of Internal and External Stakeholders

- 10.1. The representative of IMATU partially welcomed the invocation of section 139 (1)(b) of the Constitution but raised concern that the intervention is not working for employees. The representative indicated that the municipal employees are being charged legacy rates and taxes because of our parental historical debts, which have not been resolved yet.
- 10.2. The representative of SAMWU welcomed the invocation of the section 139 (1) (b) of the constitution. The representative raised concerns the poor relationship between the employer and the trade union, non-implementation of job evaluation, unfair labour practice and charging employees rates that have no scientific justification as to why employees are paying a lot of money, where, in some instances, a general worker earning R9000 and the municipality is deducting R6000 from their salaries.
- 10.3. The representative of the youth forum welcomed the invocation of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution in the local municipality. The representative indicated that the Youth Forum hoped the intervention team will bring stability and create of youth employment opportunities for the youth .
- 10.4. The representative of the Disability forum welcomed the invocation of section 139 in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about the zero-disabled-employment approach of the local municipality, financial mismanagement, lack of specialised equipment for the disabled people, poor asset verification and audit and absence disability desk in the local municipality
- 10.5. The representative of SANCO welcomed the invocation of intervention in terms of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in the local municipality. The representative recommended that the intervention must address expenditure management, consequence management for transgressors, supply chain management, and ESKOM debt and the appointment of senior managers.

- 10.6. The representative of the Forum for Women welcomed the invocation of section 139 in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about lack of services, poor solid and waste management, reluctance of municipal officials to collect waste, lack of business opportunities for women and SMMEs.
- 10.7. The representative of the Taxi Association welcomed the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about illegal scholar transporters who do not have permits to transport the children. The representative indicated that the cars of these illegal operators are not all roadworthy, hence accidents on the road. The representative complained about potholes in the roads, occasional tyre change impacting on their business and the need to upgrade the taxi rank.
- 10.8. The representative of the Business Forum tabled an opinion that supported the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in the local municipality. The representative raised concerns about unfinished projects but service providers receiving payments. The representative emphasised the importance of having stakeholders' engagement within the local municipality.

11. Observations of the select committee

- 11.1. The Select Committee has noted that the Free State Provincial Executive Council resolved on the 17th of December 2025, to intervene in Nketoana Local Municipality in terms of Section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution. The decision to invoke Section 139(1)(b) in Nketoana Local Municipality was informed by the persistent dysfunctionality of the municipality, characterised by a deterioration in governance, oversight, and serious deficiencies in management and administration.
- 11.2. In terms of audit opinion, the select committee has noted that the municipality has received seven consecutive disclaimer audit opinions, reflecting deep-rooted failures in financial management, accountability, and compliance.
- 11.3. Furthermore, the select committee has noted that the municipality has suffered from poor financial performance, including underspending of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant,

with only 29% expenditure recorded as of 31 December 2025, indicating an inability to effectively implement infrastructure programmes.

- 11.4. Pursuant to the resolution of the Free State Provincial Council, the select committee has noted that Nketoana Local Municipality has been placed under administration in terms of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution, with effect from 1 February 2026.
- 11.5. In terms of the provision water and sanitation, the select committee has noted with great concerns the report findings of the South African Human Rights Commissions which has found that Nketoana Local Municipality is in violation of the relevant provisions of the National Water Act and NEMA for polluting the environment and in violation of section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution and regulations 3 and 4 of the Regulations relating to compulsory national standards and measures to conserve water by failing to ensure that all households, particularly in informal settlements, within its jurisdiction have access to water
- 11.6. The Select Committee has noted with concerns over the municipality's delayed response to findings by the South African Human Rights Commission, which had identified gross violations of residents' rights to access basic services. Despite being given three months to submit a remedial plan following the report's release on 19 November 2024, the municipality only adopted its response more than a year later.
- 11.7. In terms of organisational development and transformation, the select committee has noted with serious concerns the instability at the levels of senior management, the appointments of six Municipal Managers in the past eight years and five Chief Financial Officers in the last decade including the observations of the South African Human Rights Commission that part of the problem of service delivery in Ntekoane Local Municipality is lack of senior management positions to ensure effective provision of water and sanitation to the community .
- 11.8. The Select Committee has also noted with concerns municipality's revenue collection rate of an average of 51%, which contributes to its unfunded budget. Municipality's debt to creditors is very high at an amount of R1.7 billion, of which ESKOM alone is owed

R1 billion. The municipality has been underspending its MIG for the past two financial year despite its service delivery challenges.

- 11.9. The Select Committee has also noted that the MIG expenditure projections as of December 2025 indicates that the municipality will continue to underspend this grant even in the current financial year, as the municipality had spent only 29% at this date. The Audit Committee has not been functional for three years now.
- 11.10. In terms of good governance, the Select Committee has noted with serious concerns the non- functioning of the executive committee, poor oversight function, collapse of council meetings with repeated walkouts by councillors, failure to reach quorum during council meetings, lack of discipline and adherence to council code of conduct and lack of stability and good relation between the municipality and labour forum.

12. Recommendations of the Select Committee

- 12.1. That the National Council of Provinces approves the invocation of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Nketoana Local Municipality
- 12.2. That the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional affairs should consider instituting section 106 of the local government: Municipal System Act of 2000 to investigate allegations of corruption, maladministration and fraud in Nketoana Local Municipality immediately after the National Council of Province has adopted this report.
- 12.3. That the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should table the findings and recommendation of the forensic investigation report to Nketoana Municipal Council for consideration and adoption.
- 12.4. That the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should after tabling the forensic investigation report to Nketoana Municipal Council table the adopted report to the National Council of Provinces and the Free State Provincial Legislature after 90 days.

- 12.5. That the appointed administrator provides status report to the select committee covering the number of boreholes projects, plans to deal with debtors and creditors and appointed contractors implementing projects within the local municipality within 14 days after the National Council of Provinces has adopted this report.
- 12.6. That the Free State MEC of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the South African Local Government Association should provide support in terms of section 154 of the Constitution to enable the local municipality to fill vacant critical positions, develop post audit action plan, and ensure functionality of oversight committees.
- 12.7. That the Speaker and the Chief Whips of Political Parties in the local municipality must ensure discipline compliance of the councillors to the municipal code of conduct in respect of attending council meetings and taken resolutions for municipal implementation
- 12.8. That the Speaker of the Local Municipality should as part of accountability and transparency share the oversight visit report of the Select Committee with all the stakeholders that participated during the oversight visit by the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
- 12.9. That the Free State MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should table to the National Council of Provinces quarterly progress report and termination report in terms of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution in Nketoana Local Municipality

Report to be considered.

8. CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ON JOINT OVERSIGHT VISITS TO LOCAL AND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AFFECTED BY FLOOD DISASTERS IN LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES: DATED 07 MAY 2026

1. Background

- 1.1 The Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Public Administration (Traditional Affairs Water, Sanitation & Human Settlement), having conducted joint oversight visits with the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to District Municipalities affected by recent flood disasters in Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces, reports to the National Council of Provinces as follows:
- 1.2 On January 19, 2026, the Minister of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) declared a National State of Disaster due to severe flooding and heavy rain, and strong winds that began in late November 2025. The disaster affected Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and North-West Provinces, causing multiple deaths, widespread infrastructure damage, and community displacement.
- 1.3 On 20 January 2026, a critical decision was taken in the meeting of the Parliamentary Joint Programme Committee that both the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration in the National Council of Provinces and the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the National Assembly must undergo oversight visits to areas affected by severe floods
- 1.4. On 27 January 2026, the National Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation and the Provincial Departments of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, North-West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces briefed Members of the Select Committee on the state of flood disaster.

- 1.5. From the 3rd to 6th February 2026, a multi-party delegation of the Select Committee on CoGPA under the leadership of Hon TM Kaunda and the Portfolio Committee on CoGTA under the leadership of Hon Z Mkhize conducted oversight visits to Local and District Municipalities affected by flood disasters in Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces.

2. Objectives of the Joint Oversight Visits

- 2.1. The primary objective of the oversight visits was to monitor government's response to the recent disasters and to assess recovery and mitigation plans on the ground. The secondary objective was to conduct site visits to affected district municipalities and solicit the opinions of the representatives of the Provincial Departments of cooperative governance, human settlements and traditional affairs , Local and District Municipalities, Traditional Leaders, South African Local Government Association and affected community members on the impact of flood disaster, intervention supports provided, and implementation of recovery plans by the three arms of government.

3. Delegation of the Select Committee on CoGPA and Portfolio Committee on CoGTA

- 3.1. The delegation of the Select Committee of CoGPA under the Leadership of Hon TM Kaunda was composed of Hon R Badehorst, (DA), Hon KR Molokomme, (ANC), Hon BS Mabebo, (ANC), Hon T Scheurkogel, (DA), Hon E Nzimande, (MKP), Hon K Ceza, (EFF), Hon M Makesini, (EFF), Hon M Peter, (UDM), Mr T M Manele, Secretary to the Select Committee, Mr T Makhanya, Researcher, Mr M Mabuela, Office of the NCOP Programming Whip and Ms Z France, Committee Assistant.
- 3.2. The delegation of the Portfolio Committee on CoGTA under the Leadership of Hon Z Mkhize (ANC) was composed of Hon P Ndamase (ANC), Hon JB Mtolo (MKP), Hon G Taaibosch (MKP) and Hon SHM Van Wyk (PA), Ms S Cassim, Committee Secretary

4. Overview of Oversight Visits to Limpopo Province

- 4.1. On the 3rd and 4th of February 2026, the delegation of the Select Committee and the Portfolio Committee visited the District Municipalities affected by flood disasters. During the period of the oversight visits the delegation interacted with the officials of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mayors and Senior of Officials of the Local and District Municipalities, representatives

of the Traditional Leaders, South African Local Government Associations and some family members of the victims of flood disasters

- 4.2. As part of assessing the impact of floods, government responses and implementation of recovery plans, the delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees conducted site visits to Tshakhuma area of the Mkhondo Local Municipality under the Vhembe District Municipality, as well as Matsakali Village in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality under the Mopani District Municipality.

5. Presentation by Vhembe District Management Centre on State of Flood Disasters and Recovery Plans

- 5.1. On the 3rd of February 2026, a Senior Official of the Vhembe District Management centre briefed the Delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees on the state of flood disasters in the district municipality. The presentation focused on definition of terms, legislative framework, reported fatalities within the district, activation of back up for rescue, progress of search and rescue, infrastructure damage, key aspects in disaster resilience, pillars disaster resilience, benefits of building disaster resilience, reasons for investment in disaster resilience, focus areas to build resilience and call to action.
- 5.2. The Senior Official reported that the Vhembe District Municipality is faced with a challenge of dealing with escalating levels of disaster risk, a situation that poses serious concerns for its residents. This region faces a multitude of hazards, such as floods, thunderstorms, disease outbreaks, accidents, structural fires, and others that can lead to injuries, loss of lives, property damage, and destruction of the environment
- 5.3. The Senior Official indicated that Vhembe's strategic location near borders introduces additional challenges. The potential for cross-boundary disaster risks is heightened, as adverse events can easily spill over into neighbouring areas. The Senior Official indicated that the geographical reality also places a responsibility on the municipality to provide humanitarian assistance in times of disaster, ensuring that aid reaches those in need both locally and across borders during disasters.

6. Infrastructure Damages: Collin Chabane Local Municipality

- 6.1. The Senior Official reported that between November 2025 and 21 January 2026, 152 households and 18 roads Infrastructure were damaged in Collins Chabane Local Municipality, and 34 households require Temporary Residential Unit (TRU). 1-person sustained injuries in Ward 18 after the toilet collapsed while inside. 18 Road Infrastructure were also damaged, and the roads and bridges require immediate reconstruction and repairing

7. Infrastructure Damages: Mkhondo Local Municipality

- 7.1. The Senior Official informed the delegation that between November 2025 and January 2026, a total of 230 households were affected and 27 houses at Tshakhuma Luvhalani were inundated by floodwater, and 14 families were temporarily relocated to the Farm at Matsila Village. According to the report by presented by the Senior Official, 27 families of Tshakhuma Luvhalani require permanent relocation and 27 households require TRU's.
- 7.2. The Senior Official indicated that Makhado Local Municipality recorded extremely heavy rainfall which affected all the Wards. The key infrastructure affected are roads (both gravel and surfaced), bridge structures, water pipeline, electricity, toilets and houses. The damages range from poor to severely conditions; however, some areas are rated as critical due to cut-offs and collapse of infrastructure.

8. Infrastructure Damages: Musina Local Municipality

- 8.1. The Senior Official of the Disaster Management reported that in November 2025 and January 2026, 95 households, 22 roads and 8 bridges have been affected by severe damaging winds and heavy rainfall. In terms of the intervention support and recovery plan, the Senior Official indicated that 33 households need permanent relocation, 44 households Temporary Residential Unit (TRU), roads and bridges require immediate reconstruction and repairing

9. Infrastructure Damages: Thulamela Local Municipality

- 9.1. According to the report presented by the Senior Official of the Disaster Management, 632 households, 14 bridges and 112 roads were affected during the occurrence of severe damaging winds and heavy rainfall. In terms of the assessment conducted by the local municipality, 53 households require provision of the Temporary Residential Units and roads require immediate reconstruction and repairing

10. Presentation by Mkhondo Local Municipality on State of Flood Disaster and Recovery Plan

- 10.1. The Municipal Technical Director reported that following the January 2026 floods, Makhado Local Municipality implemented various strategies to respond to the damage in the affected areas. Through Ward Councillors, data was collected on collapsed houses and toilets, access cut-offs resulting from damaged bridges and culverts, and extensive road damage caused by stormwater runoff. The recovery responses include immediate interventions, short-term measures, and long-term plans.
- 10.2. According to the Technical Director the Local Municipality has through the support of Vhembe Disaster Centre provided immediate response that include the establishment of safe shelters with clean water, provision of food supplies, and sanitation, restoration of electricity and road access for emergency logistics.
- 10.3. In terms of the short-term recovery plan, the Technical Director reported that the local municipality has in collaboration with Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) and South African Local Government Association (SALGA) conducted assessment of damaged homes, roads and bridges in February 2026.
- 10.4. In terms of budget prioritization, the Technical Director indicated that the Local Municipality has commitment a total of R 6 000 000 for electricity and roads, debris removal, cleaning of blocked culverts and catchments and restoration of schools, clinics, cemeteries and public facilities.
- 10.5. The Technical Director reported that Municipality is in the process of finalising Business Plan for Disaster funding application with an estimate of R424 million and that the long-

term resilience plan of the Local Municipality over the 5-year period will include upgrades of roads, bridges, relocating of electricity power lines, improvement of drainage systems through construction of proper stormwater infrastructure.

11. Support Provided by the Local Municipality

- 11.1. The Senior Official of the Disaster Management reported that the Municipality is currently implementing quick-fix program which is focusing on the cut-off areas and inaccessible roads that lead to schools, clinics, public facilities (such as community halls), and access routes to cemeteries. The programme commenced on 26 January 2026 and is planned to be completed by 14 February 2026.
- 11.2. The in-house team of the Local Municipality commenced with the programme of patching potholes and the programme is being implemented on a regional basis. The in-house team of the local municipality has also carried the restoration of bridges using gravel materials to improve accessibility.
- 11.3. The local municipality requires financial support to construct high-level bridges as permanent long-term solution.

12. Site Visits to Tshakhuma Village in Vhembe District Municipality and Matsakali Village in Collins Chabane Local Municipality.

- 12.1. On the 3rd of February 2026, the joint delegation, led by the Chairperson of the SC on CoGPA and the Chairperson of the PC on CoGTA visited severely affected areas located along flood plains and riverbanks. The delegation found that Tshakhuma Village has experienced extensive damage to housing, roads, bridges, water infrastructure, and other essential services following extreme weather conditions, including floods.

13 Presentation by Mopani District Municipality on State of Flood Disaster and Recovery Plan

- 13.1. On the 4th of February 2026 the delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committee had interactive stakeholders briefing session on the state of flood disaster and recovery plan. The Municipal Manager of Mopani District Municipality briefed the joint delegation on the state of flood disasters. The presentation focused on response and recovery approach, early warning and coordination of interventions, impact, oversight visit to flood-stricken

areas, financial implications, humanitarian relief and prayer Session, relief and interventions, support required by the district, challenges and recommendations

14. Early Warning and Coordination of Interventions

- 14.1. The Municipal Manager reported that continuous monitoring and dissemination of weather alerts are undertaken in collaboration with the South African Weather Service, alongside ongoing flood forecasting and dam level monitoring by the Department of Water and Sanitation. The Municipal Manager informed the delegation that early warnings were disseminated via SMS, radio, social media, and community structures, while ongoing impact and needs assessments guide response actions.
- 14.2. The Municipal Manager indicated that the Local Municipality jointly with the Provincial Disaster Management Centr have provided support in terms of evacuation, management of temporary shelter, implementation of community high level warning and reliefs.

15. Site Visit to Mbaula Village.

- 15.1. On the 4th of February 2026, the joint delegation, led by the Chairperson of the SC on CoGPA and the Chairperson of the PC on CoGTA conducted site visit to Mbaula Village. During the site visit, the joint delegation met with community representatives, traditional authorities and municipal leadership to discuss the causes and the impact of the recent floods.
- 15.2. The joint delegation found total collapse of houses, roads, electricity infrastructure, lack of cooperative governance and consultation between the Traditional Leaders and the Local Municipality, absence of proactive mitigation plans, allocation of land without meaningful consultation with stakeholders communities settling close to rivers and on flat, low-lying land that is vulnerable to flooding and disasters, non- implementation of by-laws, absence of reliable technical assessments and mapping of the area, absence of the installation of visible markers for floodplains and non- prevention of illegal or unsafe development.

16. Site Visit to Morito Primary School

- 16.1. On the 4th of February 2026, the delegation, led by the Chairperson of the SC on CoGPA conducted site visit to Morito Primary school. This primary school was constructed in 1978. The objective of conducting site visit was to interact with the principal of the school, political and administration leadership of the local municipality and assess the damage caused by recent flood disaster and the remedial plan put in place by the Limpopo Department of Education and the Local Municipality.
- 16.2. The delegation has found that the flood has damaged the classrooms of the foundation, ablution facilities and administration block and resulted in a severe lack of space and security for learners, affecting the culture of teaching and learning and causing unnecessary overcrowding of classroom. The delegation noted the concerns raised by the Principal of the Primary School about the lack of adequate ablution facilities for learners, particularly those in the foundation phase.
- 16.3. The delegation noted also that the Local Municipality and the Department of Education have already conducted the school assessment of the impact of flood disaster and will be implementing recovery and restoration plan to deal with the damaged caused by the flood. The delegation recommended that the MEC for Department of Education provide a detailed assessment and time-bound recovery plan within seven days.

17. Observations on Oversight Visits to Limpopo Province

- 17.1. The Joint delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees has noted that the Minister of Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), has welcomed the declaration of a National Disaster under Section 23 of the Disaster Management Act of 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) due to severe weather conditions and widespread flooding affecting various parts of the country.
- 17.2. The Joint delegation has also noted that the classification was initiated by the Head of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), following consultations with the relevant government entities and Heads of Provincial Disaster Management Centres through the National Joint Flood Coordinating Committee. The Joint delegation has further noted that the classification followed a comprehensive assessment of adverse

weather conditions experienced since late November 2025, which included heavy rainfall, strong winds, lightning and flooding impacts in Limpopo.

- 17.3. The Leaders of the joint delegation have acknowledged and welcomed the visit conducted on 16 January 2026 by the President Cyril Ramaphosa to Limpopo Province where heavy rainfall and flooding have left at least 19 people dead and caused destruction to homes, businesses and infrastructure. The delegation leaders noted that The President, together with Minister in the Presidency, and Limpopo Premier, visited the Vhembe and Mopani Districts municipalities to assess the damage caused by the more than 400mm of rain that fell in the area.
- 17.4. The delegation the Select and Portfolio Committees has noted with great concerns during the oversight visits that the flood disasters have resulted in loss of life, significant damage to infrastructure and property, environmental degradation, the displacement of communities, disruptions to schooling and agricultural activities. The joint delegation has noted the inevitability of climate change and the shift of focus to long term, sustainable flood management strategies guided by stormwater master plan to manage stormwater, reduce flooding, improve water quality, restore wetland, upgrade drainage system, sustainable urban planning to protect informal settlements in the province.
- 17.5. The joint delegation has noted and welcomed the call made by the representative of the South African Local Government Association for the need to fast-track the review of the White Paper on Local Government, review of the funding model for municipalities and the review of the Disaster Management Act
- 17.6. The joint delegation has noted and welcomed the progress was made in rebuilding roads, bridges, provision of temporary shelters, assessment of the impact of floods, and emphasized the need for collaborative work between the local municipalities with traditional leaders, publication and workshopping of by-laws to ensure strict adherence to the Spatial Land Use Management Act to avoid building on floodplains. The joint delegation has also emphasised the need for better maintenance of storm water drainage systems and continuous community education on disaster response

18. Recommendations of the Select and Portfolio Committees

- 18.1. Having conducted oversight visits to Limpopo Province and interacted with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mayors and Senior Officials of the Local and District Municipalities, representatives of the Traditional Leaders, South African Local Government Associations, some family members affected by flood disasters and the school principal, the Select Committee reports to the National Council of Provinces as follows:
- 8.1.1. That the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide updates to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration and the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the review of White Paper on Local Government, review of Funding Model for Municipalities and review of the Disaster Management Act.
 - 8.1.2. That the Department of Human Settlements should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration and the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements on timeframes for moving people out of Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) to permanent homes, and any developments relating to the Department's December 2025 and January 2026 flood interventions since the last meeting held on 27 January 2026.
 - 8.1.3. That the Department of Small Business Development should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development on funding support provided to small businesses affected by the December 2025 and January 2026 flooding incidents.
 - 8.1.4. That the Department of Water and Sanitation should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration and the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation on plans for the rehabilitation of bulk water infrastructure in the December 2025 /January 2026 flood aftermath.

- 8.1.5. That the Department of Transport and SANRAL should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and the Select Committee on Infrastructure and Ministry in the Presidency on the reprioritisation of budgets to fund road repairs of infrastructural damages caused by the December 2025/ January 2026 flood Disasters
- 8.1.6. That the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide consolidated report to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public administration and the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the post flood impact assessments, funding application, approval and allocation in respect of December 2025 and January 2026 incidents of flood disasters in Limpopo Province.
- 8.1.7. That the National and Provincial Departments of Social Development should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on intervention supports provided to December 2025 and January 2026 family victims of flood disaster in Local and District Municipalities in Limpopo Province.
- 18.1.8. That the of National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land and Rural Development on the intervention support provided to farmers that were affected by the floods.
- 18.1.9. That the National and Provincial Departments of Education should during the 2026 parliamentary second term to provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Education on flood socio-economic impact assessment, intervention support and status of funding application to minimise the impact of flood disasters on schooling.
- 18.10. That the Provincial Government, Sector Departments, Local and District Municipalities and South African Local Government Association should work collaboratively with traditional leaders, who are often at the forefront of disaster response initiatives in their communities. All the organs of government should in the spirit of cooperative

governance and inter-governmental relations embark on community and household profiling to enhance readiness and preparedness for future disasters.

18.11. That the Parliamentary Joint Programming Committee should in accordance with Joint Rule 138 of the Joint Rules of Parliament, consider the option of establishing Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery whose main objectives should to oversee the response and implementation of the relief measures by Government and affected provinces, engage the relevant government departments and entities to assess the overall impact of the damage, response, and relief measures by Government, follow up the recommendations contained in this report and confer with relevant committees to facilitate coordinated oversight

19. Overview of Oversight Visits to Local and District Municipalities affected by Flood Disasters in Mpumalanga Province

19.1. On the 5th and 6th of February 2026, the delegation of the Select Committee and the Portfolio Committee visited the District Municipalities affected by flood disasters. During the period of the oversight visits the delegation interacted with the officials of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mayors and Senior of Officials of the Local and District Municipalities, representatives of the Traditional Leaders, South African Local Government Associations and some family members of the victims of flood disasters.

20. Presentation by Nhlazeni Local Municipality on the State of Flood Disaster and Recovery Plan

20.1. On the 5th of February 2026, the delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees had stakeholders' engagement the political leaders of municipality, representative of the Traditional Leaders and the South African Local Government Association and Senior Officials from the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

20.2. The Mayor of Nhlazeni Local Municipality briefed the joint delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees on the state of flood disasters and the recovery plan to address damages association with flood disasters. The presentation focused on executive summary, fatalities and infrastructure damages, state of readiness, challenges, interventions and summary of immediate Intervention

- 20.3. The Mayor of the Local Municipality indicated that Ehlanzeni District Municipality is one of the districts that were mostly affected by the recent torrential rains during the December to January rainy seasons. The district has developed and adopted its summer season contingency plan reflecting on its state of readiness for floods and disasters during the summer season. Since the start of the 2025 summer season, there have been incidents recorded in various municipalities with 13 fatalities (11 drownings, 1x lightning and 1x wall collapse) in Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and City of Mbombela.
- 20.4. The Mayor of the Local Municipality reported that there are no displaced households which have been recorded but there is a need for temporary residential structures in Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi and City of Mbombela. By 17 January 2026, the total of 1905 houses were recorded as affected by the disaster. The Mayor of the Local Municipality indicated that schooling was suspended in Bushbuckridge municipality for the 15 and 16 January 2026 as a precaution given the severe weather alerts and continuous heavy rainfall. Teaching and learning have since resumed on Monday, 19 January 2026 in all schools across Bushbuckridge municipality.
- 20.6. The joint delegation was further informed that tourism attraction areas along the Panorama Route (God's Window, The Pinnacle, Bourke's Luck Potholes, three Rondavels etc.) were also closed owing to flooding and safety risks.

21. Damages of Housing Infrastructure

- 21.1. Municipalities were requested to submit the list of assessed houses with the details of the beneficiaries on the template provided by National Department of Human Settlements. The province requested Department Human Settlement as custodians of the Emergency Housing Response Funds for technical assessment of damaged houses for the appointment of contractors to repair the houses, Provision of temporal residential units (TRU), provision of building materials to enable households rebuild their house (mainly for households living in informal settlements) and Provision of Transitional Emergency Accommodation (TEA)
- 21.2. National Department had deployed teams to assess the disaster damaged house in Bushbuckridge, City of Mbombela, and Nkomazi Local Municipalities within the

district. A service provider for the installation of 82 TRUs required in Bushbuckridge has been appointed by the NDHS and is expected to complete installation by end February 2026. The province has deployed teams to assist the municipalities in assessing the damages and obtaining the consolidated list of affected houses.

22. Damages of Roads Infrastructure

- 22.1. According to the report of the municipality, the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs has re-prioritized approximately R38.2 million to be used for the immediate interventions which are mainly blading / grading of gravel roads which have been extensively eroded, construction of detours on impassable road sections and cleaning of drainage facilities on roads.
- 22.2. This response plan / intervention has commenced and is anticipated to run for the next 4 weeks, and if necessary up to the end of the season. Identification of bridges to be constructed through the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme in partnership with the National Department of Public Works and the SANDF

23. Damages of Community Facilities Infrastructure

- 23.1. The municipality reported that heavy rainfall and flooding have damaged community facilities (libraries, community halls, sports facilities, hospitals, clinics, museums and offices of the traditional council. The relieve provided to date included making buildings safe and temporary sealing of roof. The intervention required by the district municipality includes repair and maintenance of buildings

24. Challenges and Interventions

- 24.1. The following challenges are identified: - ageing infrastructure, poorly constructed houses in rural areas due to lack of building regulations in townships and rural areas and People continue to cross flooded bridges and streams during the rainy period. The following Interventions are identified: -Local municipalities to enhance their maintenance budgets, enforcement of building standards and regulations and intensification of awareness campaigns on safety precautions during disasters.

- 25. Briefing by Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs**
- 25.1. The HOD of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs briefed the joint delegation on the state of flood disasters and the departmental responses to damaged caused by floods. The presentation focused on executive summary, provincial overview of summer season of disaster incidents and fatalities, preliminary financial implications, preventative efforts, challenges and interventions, action plans towards post-disaster recovery, stormwater design & maintenance and recommendations
- 25.2. The Mpumalanga is one of the provinces prone to disasters, during the winter and summer seasons. The province has developed and adopted its summer season contingency plan reflecting on its state of readiness for floods and disasters ahead of the rainy season. This plan also reflects on available resources from various sectors including emergency services. Since the start of the 2025 summer season, there are some incidents recorded in various municipalities with 20 fatalities (18 drownings, 1x lightning and 1x wall collapse) in various municipalities.
- 25.3. The Departmental Official reported that there are no displaced households which have been recorded but there is a need for temporary residential structures in Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi and City of Mbombela. By 17 January 2026, the total of 2,507 houses were recorded as affected by the disaster and 177 households identified to need temporary housing structures. The entire Nkomazi area remains with water supply challenges due to the collapse of the water supply system; an intervention of water tankers is required until the system is restored.
- 25.4. The province had suspended schools' operation in Bushbuckridge municipality for the 15 and 16 January 2026 as a precaution given the severe weather alerts and continuous heavy rainfall. However, teaching and learning resumed on Monday, 19 January 2026 in all schools across Bushbuckridge municipality. Challenges of access affected school resumption in some areas. There is also a need of 54 mobile classrooms as an immediate intervention in various schools.
- 25.5. Further, tourism attraction areas along the Panorama Route (God's Window, The Pinnacle, Bourke's Luck Potholes, Three Rondavels etc.) were also closed owing to

flooding and safety risks. 41 tourism enterprises with a total of 539 jobs have since been affected. On other economic sectors, a total of 95 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with a total of 292 jobs were affected. There remain challenges concerning the outstanding rehabilitation/repair of damaged houses from previous disasters. Most dams in the province are above 100% capacity presenting the high risk of flooding and there is a risk of water borne diseases which may results in diarrheal cases.

- 25.6. The province working with municipalities supported by the National Disaster Management Centre through the municipal disaster response and recovery grants (MDRG) has been making progress on the rehabilitation of damaged roads and bridges/culverts across municipalities. The MEC in preparation for the summer season has already convened the Provincial Intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Management to address issues of readiness. The Local/Provincial JOCs have been activated.
- 25.7. A Provincial JOC was convened again on 22 January 2026 to take stock of all previous district and provincial JOC reports especially the incidents that occurred during January 2026. Sectors and municipalities have submitted their action plans in response to the damaged infrastructure across their areas of responsibility.
- 25.8. The National Disaster Management Centre has since Classified the disaster as a National State of Disaster which includes the Mpumalanga Province. The Premier further convened a briefing session with the Minister Hlabisa and his Deputy Minister to highlight the extent of the disaster damages in the province, the mitigating steps already taken by the province as well as the estimated costing and the shortfall that would be required post-disaster recovery in Province. Subsequently on 17 January 2026, site visits were taken by the Minister accompanied by the Provincial Government.
- 25.9. On the 19 January 2026, the President of the Republic of South Africa visited the province and undertaken site visits in Nkomazi disaster affected areas which follows the site visits by the Premier to the Nkomazi area on the 18 January 2026. On the 24 January 2026, the Minister of Human Settlements visited the province and undertook site visits in Bushbuckridge disaster affected areas.

26. Briefing by Nkomazi Local Municipality on the State of Flood Disaster and Recovery Plan

- 26.1. On the 6th of February 2026, the joint delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees had engagement briefing session with the political and administration leadership of the Nkomazi Local Municipality, representatives of the Traditional Leaders, representative of the South African Local Government Association and Senior Officials of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.
- 26.2. The Municipal Manager of Nkomazi Local Municipality briefed the joint delegation on the state of flood disasters and the recovery plan to deal with the damages caused by the incidence of floods. The presentation focused on executive summary, district overview: fatalities and infrastructure damages, state of readiness, Challenges and intervention and summary of immediate Intervention
- 26.3. The Municipal Manager reported that Ehlanzeni District Municipality is one of the districts that were mostly affected by the recent torrential rains during the 2025 December to January 2026 rainy seasons. The municipal manager informed the delegation that the district has developed and adopted its summer season contingency plan reflecting on its state of readiness for floods and disasters during the summer season. Since the start of the 2025 summer season the Municipal Manager indicated that there are some incidents recorded in various municipalities with 13 fatalities (11 drownings, 1x lightning and 1x wall collapse) in Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and City of Mbombela.
- 26.4. All municipalities in the district have submitted their action plans in response to the damaged infrastructure across their areas of responsibility. The National Disaster Management Centre has since Classified the disaster as a National State of Disaster which includes the Mpumalanga Province. The Premier further convened a briefing session with Minister Hlabisa and his Deputy Minister to highlight the extent of the disaster damages in the province, the mitigating steps already taken by the province as well as the estimated costing and the shortfall that would be required post-disaster recovery in Province.
- 26.6. Subsequently on 17 January 2026, site visits were taken by the Minister accompanied by the Provincial Government. On the 19 January 2026, the President of the Republic

of South Africa visited the province and undertaken site visits in Nkomazi disaster affected areas which follows the site visits by the Premier to the Nkomazi area on the 18 January 2026. On the 24 January 2026, the Minister of Human Settlements visited the province and undertook site visits in Bushbuckridge disaster affected areas.

27. Infrastructure damages

27.1. Disaster's scale far exceeds the municipality's financial capacity, making external assistance essential to restore services, ensure public safety, and maintain access for affected communities. The submitted Business Plan details 422 damaged infrastructure assets, with a total estimated cost of R1.18 billion, including: Stormwater: 45 projects – R82.2 million, Electrical: 4 projects – R11 million, Water & Sanitation: 14 projects – R14.56 million, Surfaced Roads: 33 projects – R298.46 million, Bridges & Culverts: 96 projects – R366.8 million and re-gravelling: 230 projects – R405.46 million

28. Fact Finding Site Visits to Damaged Bridges, Stormwater System, Clinic and Mud House

28.1. The Joint Committee recently conducted a visit to a bridge situated in the picturesque Shatale village. The municipality referred to the structure that was swept away by the recent floods as merely a stream. However, upon closer examination and inspection of the surrounding area by the Committee, it became evident that this so-called bridge was not a true engineering marvel but rather a culvert disguised as a bridge, intended to facilitate passage to another village.

28.2. This misclassification was mirrored in another nearby village, where what was termed a "stream" was ironically misleading. The body of water was, in fact, a wide river that gave the false impression of a narrow stream. The grandeur of the river highlighted the inadequacy of the existing infrastructure. Clearly, the rural community's needs have grown beyond makeshift solutions; a proper, sturdy bridge is essential to ensure safe and reliable connectivity in this area

28.3. The Delegation of the Committees conducted fact finding visit to the damaged bridge in Louievalle Ward 30 within the Nkomazi Local Municipality. The delegation found that the bridge in this ward has been completely washed away due to overtopping, hydraulic

failure, and excessive stormwater flow. The culvert structures were undermined, leading to the collapse of road support and restricting access for the surrounding community.

- 28.4. Although the municipality reported that engineers had assessed the damage and prepared cost estimates, the delegation observed that the original “bridge” consisted only of a pipe used informally by the community as an access point. While an assessment was conducted, no plan has yet been developed for the construction of a replacement bridge.
- 28.5. The delegation noted that a comprehensive assessment of the river’s route is required to determine whether an alternative, more suitable location exists for a new bridge. The Committee requested the development and submission of a detailed construction plan for the new bridge.
- 28.6. The delegation visited the clinic, which was not directly affected by the recent disaster. However, it was observed to be in a severely dilapidated condition due to prolonged neglect and inadequate maintenance. The delegation found that the clinic has sustained structural defects, including holes in the ceiling and broken windows. Much of the clinical equipment is outdated or non-functional, and the facility lacks private consultation rooms. Additionally, rooms that could be utilised for patient consultations are currently being used to store old and broken furniture. The surrounding grounds of the clinic are also inadequately maintained.
- 28.7. The delegation visited partially damaged mud house in Ward 12, stand no 3026 owned by a pensioner in Sibambayane Village. The delegation found that the damaged mud house was not caused by the recent flood disaster. The delegation noted that the owner of the mud house was in the waiting list of the people of qualify for the RDP Houses.

29. General Observations of the Select and Portfolio Committees

- 29.1. In terms infrastructure damages, agricultural loss and economic impact, the delegation of the select committee has noted that the preliminary estimates suggest that over R7 billion is required to repair public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and power lines.

- 29.2. In terms of agricultural losses the delegation of the select and portfolio committees has noted that the agricultural sector has been heavily hit, with significant destruction of crops—particularly vegetables like cabbage, spinach, and butternut—and damage to farm infrastructure while the business and tourism economic activities have come to a standstill in affected areas, with tourism in the Kruger National Park disrupted due to flooded camps and roads.
- 29.3. During the period of engagement with the political and administrative leadership of the local and district municipalities, the joint delegation has noted that affected local municipalities have conducted preliminary assessments of the damage caused by the floods and submitted the reports to the District Disaster Management Centre. The joint delegation has also noted that all affected Local Municipalities have submitted their infrastructure business plans to the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs
- 29.4. The district advocates any kind of supports to the local municipalities and some of the support identified are as follows: Installation of boreholes. technical support to conduct technical assessments and development of technical reports to source funding. Construction of culverts and re-gravelling of damages roads for areas where communities are cut-off from each other School rainwater harvesting programme
- 23.5. The joint delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committee has noted that on 03 January 2026 the District and Local Joint Operation Committee was activated and biweekly meetings were convened to monitor disaster incidents and progress on response and recovery. The joint delegation has also noted and welcomed the provision of humanitarian relief materials (i.e. blankets, foam mattresses, water purification sachets, gel stoves and plates) to all affected Local municipalities by partners such as Red Cross and Gift of the Givers.
- 23.6. The joint delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees has noted and welcomed that the Mpumalanga Province through Cabinet has adopted a Provincial Flood Management Strategy which identifies flood risk areas with the levels of risk from very high to very low. The Ehlanzeni District is identified as the very high-risk district in respect of floods.

- 29.7. The joint delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committee has also noted that the provincial government has commenced with the implementation of the strategic plan, focusing on provision of timeous, accurate and reliable information, empowerment of communities through awareness programs, protection of infrastructure asset, land use planning programs, infrastructure and assets resilience, clarification of roles and responsibilities and the provision of emergency agency response
- 29.8. The joint delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees has observed that in terms of incidents of floods and socio-economic impact, sectorial departments such as Public Works, Roads and Transport, Social Development, Culture Sports and Recreation, Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Health, Economic Development and Tourism, Education and Community Safety, Security and Liaison have all been affected by the damages caused by flood disasters in Mpumalanga Province.
- 29.9. The National Disaster Management to note that the Executive Council in its meeting of the 21 January 2026 resolved that: Sectors and municipalities expedite the implementation of action plans in response to the damaged infrastructure across their areas of responsibility. All affected Departments and municipalities to ensure prioritization of resources to implement remedial works on disaster affected infrastructure. All outstanding infrastructure assessments to be completed by the 26 January 2026 by all affected sectors.
- 29.10. That all affected local municipalities should be supported by the provincial department of cooperative, Human Settlements and traditional affairs to prioritize projects of storm water drainage system in all developed (or residential) areas with a priority to flood risk areas and a programme with cost and timeframe to be prepared by each municipality.
- 29.11. The Joint delegation has noted that the National Disaster Management Centre officially classified the inclement weather which has respectively ravaged Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Province as a national disaster, following loss of life, significant damage to infrastructure and property, environmental degradation, displacement of communities, disruption to schooling and agricultural activities, and closures in parts of the Kruger National Park. The joint delegation leaders Hon TM Kaunda and Hon Z Mkhize expressed heartfelt condolences to the families who

have lost loved ones, people who have been injured and individuals, businesses and organisations who have lost property.

- 29.12. Furthermore, the delegation leaders hailed first responders, volunteers and humanitarian organisations for their emphatic coordinated response to the devastation across affected local and district municipalities in the province.
- 29.13. The delegation of the Select and Portfolio Committees has welcomed the visit conducted by the President Cyril Ramaphosa on 19 January 2026 to monitor the state of the disaster response at flood affected areas at the Nkomazi Local Municipality accompanied by Mpumalanga Premier, senior government officials and representatives of the National Disaster Management Centre
- 29.13. In the spirit of cooperative governance, intergovernmental relations and through the district development model, the Leaders of the delegation of the Select Committee and Portfolio Committee called upon all organs of state across the three spheres of government to strengthen support to disaster management structures, continue implementing contingency measures, developing sustainable and time-bound recovery plans, submitting progress reports to the National Disaster Management Centre (NMDC) and ensuring a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to prevention, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation

30. Recommendations of the Select Committee

- 30.1. Having conducted oversight visits to affected Local and District Municipalities in Mpumalanga Province and interacted with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mayors and Senior of Officials of the Local and District Municipalities, representatives of the Traditional Leaders, South African Local Government Associations, some family members affected by flood disasters, the Select Committee on report to the National Council of Provinces as follows:
- 30.1.1. That the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should during the 2026 parliamentary first term provides updates to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration and the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the review of White Paper on Local

Government, review of Funding Model for Municipalities and review of the Disaster Management Act.

- 30.1.2. That the Department of Human Settlements should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration and the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements on timeframes for moving people out of Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) to permanent homes, and any developments relating to the Department's December 2025 and January 2026 flood interventions since the last meeting held on 27 January 2026.
- 30.1.3. That the Department of Small Business Development should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development on funding support provided to small businesses affected by the December 2025 and January 2026 flooding incidents.
- 30.1.4. That the Department of Water and Sanitation should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration and the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation on plans for the rehabilitation of bulk water infrastructure in the December 2025 /January 2026 flood aftermath.
- 30.1.5. That the Department of Transport and SANRAL should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and the Select Committee on Infrastructure and Ministry in the Presidency on the reprioritisation of budgets to fund road repairs of infrastructural damages caused by the December 2025/ January 2026 flood Disasters
- 30.1.6. That the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide consolidated report to the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public administration and the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the post flood impact assessments, funding application, approval and allocation in respect of December 2025 and January 2026 incidents of flood disasters in Mpumalanga Province

- 30.1.7. That the National and Provincial Departments of Social Development should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on intervention supports provided to December 2025 and January 2026 family victims of flood disaster in Local and District Municipalities in Mpumalanga Province.
- 30.1.8. That the of National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development should during the 2026 parliamentary second term provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land and Rural Development on the intervention support provided to farmers that were affected by the floods.
- 30.1.9. That the National and Provincial Departments of Education should during the 2026 parliamentary second term to provide report to the Portfolio Committee on Education on flood socio-economic impact assessment, intervention support and status of funding application to minimise the impact of flood disasters on schooling
- 30.1.10. That the Provincial Government, Sector Departments, Local and District Municipalities and South African Local Government Association should work collaboratively with traditional leaders, who are often at the forefront of disaster response initiatives in their communities. All the organs of government should in the spirit of cooperative governance and inter-governmental relations embark on community and household profiling to enhance readiness and preparedness for future disasters.
- 30.1.11 That the Ministers of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of Human Settlements, Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Tourism, Department of Transport, Department of Education, Department of Land and Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of sports and Culture should ensure in 2026/2027 Annual Performance Plans and budget allocations inclusion of recovery plans to provide support to District and Local Municipalities to deal with damages caused by flood disasters
- 30.1.12. That the parliamentary joint NA and NCOP Committee should in accordance with Joint Rule 138 of the Joint Rules of Parliament, consider the option of establishing Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery whose main objectives should to oversee the response and implementation of the relief measures by Government and

affected provinces, engage the relevant government departments and entities to assess the overall impact of the damage, response, and relief measures by Government, follow up the recommendations contained in this report and confer with relevant committees to facilitate coordinated oversight.

Consolidated Report to be considered.