**2. Report of the Portfolio Committee Public Service and Administration on consideration of the First Quarterly Performance 2019/2020 financial year: Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Entities, dated 18 September 2019**

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) having considered first quarter performance for 2019/20 financial year of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Government Communication and Information System, Media Development and Diversity Agency and Brand South Africa, reports as follows:

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Parliament through its Committees has a constitutional responsibility to oversee quarterly programme performance information of the departments and entities in a particular financial year. Quarterly performance serves as a vital tool used by parliamentary committees to ensure accountability and transparency in overseeing both financial and non-financial performance of the departments. According to the Public Finance Regulations, departments and entities are mandated by the Public Finance Management Regulations to prepare quarterly reports within 30 days after the end of each quarter. Consideration of quarterly reports by committees is one of the established tools to fulfil Parliament’s oversight and accountability mandates in terms of the Constitution and under rules established by the National Assembly.

On August 28, 2019, the Committee considered the first quarter performance of financial year (2019/20) of the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation and entities (Government Communication and Information System, Media Development and Diversity Agency and Brand South Africa. The performance information was in accordance with the Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plan and Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019. The report provides an overview of the presentations made before the Committee mainly focusing on the achievements, output in respect of the performance indicators and targets set for 2019/20 financial year. The report outlines the findings/observations and recommendations of the Committee relating to the Department and entities’ performance.

1. **PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE**

3.1 **Budget and expenditure**

The Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation spent R206.420 million (21.6%) of the budget allocated of R956.939 million in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year. The R206.4 million in actual spending was R17.2 million less than the projected expenditure of R223.7 million for the period under review. The lower than anticipated spending was mostly reported under goods and services due to delays in processing of invoices for payment of the department’s office accommodation. The total number of targets were twenty-seven (27). Twenty-five were achieved and only two (2). The overall performance of the Department in the first quarter of 2019/2020 was 92% against the set predetermined targets.

1. **Programme 1: Administration**

The main objective of the programme is to provide strategic leadership, management, administrative, financial and human resource services to enable the Department to achieve its strategic and operational goals. The programme’s objective is to co-ordinate planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Departmental plans, to promote internal and external communication on the work of the department, to achieve an unqualified audit opinion on financial statements, to hire, develop and retain the right people in the right positions for the department throughout the planning period, to successfully implement and realise benefits from ICT solutions in doing the work of the department and to promote good corporate governance practices and management.

Programme 1 had 13 predetermined targets in the first quarter 2019/20 financial year. The Department achieved 85 per cent of its targets, which is equivalent to eleven targets, only two targets were not achieved which is equivalent to 15 per cent.

1. **Programme 2**: **National Planning Coordination**

The main purpose of this programme is to advance the strategic priorities of the department by developing and implementing the outcomes system, monitoring and reporting on its progress, and evaluating its impact. The main objectives are to ensure effective outcomes planning, monitoring and evaluation through facilitating the development of plans of the Delivery Agreements for priority outcomes with government departments, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Delivery Agreements and making recommendations for corrective action on an ongoing basis. In addition, the Department aims to provide advice and technical support to the Presidency, establish and support an effective national evaluation system to inform the government’s work on a continuous basis. Programme 2. All five targets for the first quarter 2019/20 financial year were met.

1. **Programme 3:** **Sector monitoring services**

The programme is responsible for promoting good M&E practices in government, conducting management performance assessment and support, frontline service delivery monitoring and support and government-wide planning and M&E capacity development and learning. The branch will also be responsible for the proposed Regional Offices. Whereas the OME Branch’s focus is on the management of the outcomes system and the achievement of government’s priorities, the focus of the IPM&E branch is on what can be done to make the organisation function better. Programme 3, the set target was met in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year.

**d) Programme 4:** **Public sector Monitoring and Capacity Development**

The purpose of this programme is to develop the country’s long-term vision and national strategic plans and contribute towards better outcomes in government through better planning, better long term plans, greater policy coherence and a clear articulation of long term aspiration. The main responsibilities of the programme is to institutionalise and strengthen planning in government by facilitating the development of sectoral plans, ensuring coherence between plans, policies and service delivery across government, ensuring high-level priorities are fed through into plans across all spheres of government and engaging stakeholders on the output of the planning process to ensure buy-in. Programme 4, all four targets for the first quarter 2019/20 financial year were met.

**e) Programme 5:** **Evaluation, Evidence and Knowledge Systems**

The purpose of the programme is to coordinate and support the generation, collation, accessibility and timely use of quality evidence to support performance monitoring and evaluation across government. Programme 5, the set target was met in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year.

1. **GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM**

The primary responsibility of the GCIS is to ensure the democratic strength, success and security of the country through rapid, responsive and continuous communication of government achievements in meeting the mandate to rule given by the citizens of South Africa. The GCIS is further responsible for providing strategic leadership and coordinating a government communication system that ensures that members of the public are informed and have access to government programmes and policies.

1. **Programme 1: Administration**

The main purpose of the programme is to provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the department. The programme has five sub-programmes which are as follows; Strategic Management; Human Resources (HR); Information Management and Technology; Chief Financial Officer; and Internal Audit.

Programme 1 had nine predetermined targets in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year. All nine targets for the quarter were met.

1. **Programme 2: Content Processing and Dissemination**

The purpose of the programme is to provide strategic leadership in government communication to ensure coherence, coordination, consistency, quality, impact and responsiveness of government communication. There are three sub-programmes which are as follows; Products and Platforms, Policy and Research; and Communication Service Agency.

Programme 2 had seventeen predetermined targets in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year. The entities achieved 94 per cent of its targets, which is equivalent to sixteen targets. Only one per cent of the target was delayed, which is equivalent to one target.

1. **Programme 3: Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management**

The purpose of the programme is the implementation of development communication through mediated and unmediated communication and sound stakeholder relations and partnerships. The programme aim to maintain and strengthen a well-functioning communication system that proactively informs and engages the public. There are three sub-programmes which are as follows; Provincial and Local Liaison; Cluster Communication; and Media Engagement.

Programme 3 has fifteen predetermined targets in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year. The entities achieved 73 per cent of its targets, which is equivalent to eleven targets. Only 27 per cent of the targets were delayed, which is equivalent to four targets.

1. **MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSITY AGENCY**

The mandate of the MDDA is to create an enabling environment for media development and diversity which reflects the needs and aspirations of all South Africans; redress the exclusion and marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and people from access to the media and the media industry; promote media development and diversity by providing support primarily to community and small commercial media projects; encourage ownership and control of, and access to, media by historically disadvantaged communities as well as by historically diminished indigenous language and cultural groups; encourage the development of human resources and training, and capacity building, within the media industry, especially amongst historically disadvantaged groups; encourage the channelling of resources to the community media and small commercial media sectors; and raise public awareness with regard to media development and diversity issues. Projects related targets moved to quarters 3 and 4 for new process.

1. **Programme 1: Governance and Administration**

The programme ensures effective leadership, strategic management and operations through continuous refinement of organisational strategy and the implementation of the appropriate legislation and best practices.

1. **Programme 2: Grant and Seed Funding**

The programme promotes media development and diversity through financial and non-financial support for community broadcasting as well as community and small commercial print projects. The programme consists of two strategic objectives encapsulated in two sub-programme.

1. **Programme 3: Partnerships, Public Awareness and Advocacy**

The programme seeks to position the MDDA as a leading influencer and authoritative voice in the community and small commercial media, by playing a key role in the national dialogue on the sector, through implementation of strategic partnership to carry out Media Development and Diversity Interventions.

1. **Programme 4: Capacity Building and Sector Development**

The programme aim to encourage the development of human resources, training and capacity building within the media industry, especially amongst historically disadvantaged groups. In achieving the desired outcome, the Agency has developed capacity building programmes, which aim to provide community and small commercial media with necessary skills needed for effective performance in day to day work.

1. **Programme 5: Innovation, Research and Development**

The purpose of the programme is to encourage research regarding media development and diversity. The programme seek to enrich research and information to the sectors that inform programme development and strategic focus.

1. **BRAND SOUTH AFRICA**

Brand SA’s purpose is to develop and implement a proactive and coordinated international marketing and communications strategy for South Africa; to contribute to job creation and poverty reduction; and to attract inward investment, trade and tourism.

BSA aims to make an indirect contribution to economic growth, job creation, poverty alleviation and social cohesion by encouraging local and foreign investment, tourism and trade through the promotion of Brand South Africa. BSAdevelops and implements a proactive and coordinated international marketing and communications strategy for South Africa to contribute to job creation and poverty reduction, and to attract inward investment, trade and tourism.

1. **Programme 1: Administration**

The programme seeks to provide management and leadership to develop standardised format of guidelines and templates to strengthen the means of verification and collecting and reporting on performance information.

Programme 1, the entities had three predetermined targets, one target was achieved which is equivalent to 33% and two targets were not achieved which is 67% per cent in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year.

1. **Programme 2: Brand marketing & reputation management**

The programme seeks to develop and articulate a Nation Brand identity that will advance South Africa’s long-term reputation and global competitiveness. This includes a focus to research and monitor sentiment and performance of the National Brand to analyse trends and provide insights to inform decision making and communication and then to both proactively and reactively communicate the country’s value proposition, values and highlight progress being made. Programme 2, All 16 targets for the quarter were met.

1. **Programme 3: Stakeholder relationships**

The programme seeks to build and leverage collaborative partnership, to participate, to integrate and coordinate efforts and approaches to market the Nation Brand identity and promote the Nation’s value proposition and to interface meaningfully with stakeholders who drive or influence the Nation Brand and its reputation. Programme 3, All 5 targets for the quarter were met.

1. **FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS**

The Portfolio Committee made the following observations and findings:

* 1. The Committee welcomed the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and entities (Government Communication and Information System, Media Development and Diversity Development, and Brand South Africa) on their first quarter performance of 2019/20 financial year.
  2. The Committee was contented with the progress of uplifting moratorium of the posts in Government Communication and Information System, Media Development and Diversity, and Brand South Africa. The filling of the Chief Executive Officer post in the MDDA will only be done after the appointment of the Board Members.
  3. The Committee further welcomes the announcement by the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation on the transferral of the Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT) to be administered by the Department of Public Service and Administration. The DPME will focus monitoring performance of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework of government.
  4. The Committee stressed the importance of alignment of MPAT reporting timeframes with the period the Auditor-General releases the audit outcomes in order to ensure reports complements each other and for the purpose of empowering legislatures to conduct effective oversight and accountability.
  5. The Committee welcomes the announcement that the Department has finalised roundtable for the National Water Security Framework which will provide an agenda for water security at the national level meant to guide the sector implementation of the NDP.
  6. The Committee requested the Department to provide reports with regard to Frontline Services Delivery Monitoring, Izimbizo, Presidential Hotline and Distressed Mining Towns. A follow up oversight visit has to be scheduled by the Committee to determine whether there was a progress in improving the living conditions of mining towns.
  7. The GCIS should be viewed by government institutions as a communication hub and a choice in communicating key Cabinet decisions of government. The Committee encouraged government departments to consider GCIS as a preferred choice in communicating government key messages.

* 1. The Thusong Service Centre location and funding model remains key issues the Committee will be conducting oversight over government. The Committee notes the role of the GCIS in marketing and profiling the Thusong Service Centres across the country. However, the Committee was discontent with the state of the Thusong Service Centres in the country. Only Maponya Mall Thusong Service Centre was considered as the best model, but the majority of the Thusong Centres are not fully functional. A follow up meeting with all departments responsible for the Thusong Service Centres will be organised in finding a lasting solution with regard to the challenges confronting the centres.
  2. The Committee advised the GCIS to enforce Communication Policy across three spheres of government in order to ensure good ethical standards of communicators in government. However, the GCIS highlights that the responsibility for the enforcement of the policy depends on the respective departments, as they are responsible for appointing communicators.
  3. The GCIS was commended for achieving employment equity targets by appointing women in senior management positions and achieving 2% of people with disabilities.
  4. The Committee noted the explanation of the MDDA for under-spending budget in the first quarter of 2019/20 financial year. The MDDA will ensure budget is well spent in the outer quarters.
  5. The Committee was concerned about Brand SA for not having an internal audit section to audit its financial and non-financial performance. Brand SA was requested to consider establishing a Unit or/ Section depending on the availability of funds.

1. **The Portfolio Committee recommends as follows:**

**8.**1 The House adopts and approve the performance report of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Report to be considered.