



**MINISTER
HOME AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Ref. M2/1/2 - NA

Ms NN Mapisa-Nqakula, MP
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of South Africa
P O Box 15
CAPE TOWN
8000

Dear Honourable Speaker,

**Re: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S ADOPTION OF BUDGETARY REVIEW AND
RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT 2021/22 OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
HOME AFFAIRS**

Kindly find attached herein the Department's implementation report on the recommendations made by the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs. Parliament adopted the 2021/22 report of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on 2 December 2021.

Yours sincerely,


**DR PA MOTSOALEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**
DATE: 5/2/2022



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PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS 2021/22 BUDGETARY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	Response
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS – ISSUES OUTSTANDING FROM THE 2020 AND PREVIOUS BUDGET REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORTS	
6.1.1. Report on the full reopening of refugee offices in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town as per court orders as a matter of urgency.	<p>Port Elizabeth RRO (Gqeberha) The PERRO office was re-opened on 19 October 2018 at 10A GIBAUD ROAD, Sydenham / Lakeside, Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)</p> <p>Cape Town RRO The reopening of Cape Town RRO has been under supervision from Acting Justice De Wet since 17 May 2021.</p> <p>A site has been identified at 12-16 Grenville Avenue, Epping Cape Town. The Department is currently awaiting finalization of by the prospective landlord of various legal and funding requirements where after a detailed project plan will be made for the opening of the office.</p>
6.1.2. Engage more urgently with the Ministers of Finance regarding the cutting of funding to the already constrained DHA which is operating at less than half its ideal capacity, since it is significantly effecting service delivery, the correct statement of audit figures, as well as national security.	<p>The Department continues to engage National Treasury at all levels on the implications of cost cutting measures, insufficient capacity and inability to fund vacant posts given the low Compensation of Employees (COE) ceiling. On the 28 January 2022, National Treasury approved the DHA Business Case and allocated an amount of R266 Million for the 2022/23 Financial Year for its Capitalisation.</p>



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<p>6.1.3. Strive towards a clean audit opinion and better adhere to in-year audit plans. In particular, the impairment of departmental revenue in collecting of penalties, issues of significant contingent liabilities and the reduction of irregular expenditure. Progress on audit plans and the Auditor General Management Letter must form part of all future quarterly performance reporting to the Committee.</p>	<p>The Department remains committed to achieving a clean audit outcome. The 2021/22 audit action plan was approved by EXCO on 8 December 2021 after being presented to the Audit Committee and Internal Audit for validation. The impairment of receivables, including the DIRCO receivable, the collection of fines and penalties and steps to prevent and reduce irregular expenditure are covered in the audit action plan. Progress against the audit action plan is monitored at Back-to-basic meetings, the departmental management meeting (DMC), EXCO and the Ministerial Management Meeting (MMM). Such progress reports on the audit action plan will be included in the departmental quarterly reports to the Portfolio Committee.</p>
<p>6.1.4. The Department of Home Affairs should ensure that it plans budgets properly to ensure that if 100 percent of the budget is spent, it means 100 percent of the targets are also met. 100 percent of the budget is spent, it means 100 percent of the targets are also met.</p>	<p>It is not possible to plan budgets to ensure that when 100% of the budget is spent 100% of the targets are met. There is no direct correlation between the percentage of targets achieved and the budget spent as the Department does not report on partially achieved targets. In other words, budget is also expended against targets not achieved. In addition, budget is also expended against items with no targets (e.g. property payments; licences; security services)</p>
<p>6.1.5. The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure should ensure that all officials and others who were found to have acted in the illegal procurement process of the Beit bridge fence are held accountable.</p>	<p>This matter is being probed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.</p>



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<p>6.1.6. The report of the Special Investigations Unit on Beit Bridge is to be implemented fully as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The report has not been shared with the Counter Corruption and Services Security Branch of the Department as yet.</p>
<p>6.1.7. The DHA should continue to address the issue of long queues at its service offices.</p>	<p>There are standard queue management practices in place at all local front offices. Office Managers and dedicated floor walkers are assisting to make sure clients are in the right queues and that queues are divided according to services. The Department introduced and applied extension of operational hours for peak seasons to ensure that all clients are serviced where overtime is approved. The Department has also introduced an appointment system.</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS – 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	
<p>6.2.1. The Department should explain the measures it has taken to improve its reports relating to financial and performance information as suggested by the AG in its next quarterly report to the Committee. within the modern legal system.</p>	<p>The 2021/22 audit action plan was approved by EXCO on 8 December 2021. This plan addresses all findings raised by the AGSA regarding financial and performance reporting. The plan will be submitted to the Portfolio Committee as part of the next quarterly report.</p>
<p>6.2.2. The issue of lack of policy/implementation on revenue collection should be addressed before the end of the 2021/22 financial year. to deal with cases that remain in the DHA's contingency liability report for a long time because plaintiffs fail to prosecute the claims.</p>	<p>The issue of lack of policy / implementation of revenue collection is addressed in the audit action plan approved by EXCO on 8 December 2021.</p> <p>In respect of contingent liabilities, the Department has adopted a more pro-active approach and are following up cases that have been on the register very long through the office of the State Attorney. The challenge is that the Department as defendant has limited legal means to push for the enrolment and speedy resolution of these civil cases.</p>



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<p>6.2.3. The Department should review and monitor compliance with applicable legislation related to financial expenditure management so that material misstatements are identified prior to the next annual financial statements are submitted to the Auditor General.</p>	<p>During the 2021/22 financial year, two old contractual disputes (New Dawn and Double Ring) were resolved in favour of the Department. These two cases alone contributed over R630 million to the contingent liability opening balance.</p> <p>The 2021/22 audit action plan was approved by EXCO on 8 December 2021. This plan addresses all findings raised by the AGSA, including the issue of material restatements. In this regard, the Department has issued a bid to appoint a consultant with extensive experience in preparing annual financial statements to assist with third level checking.</p>
<p>6.2.4. Ensure that the Department of Home Affairs assess the financial viability of more offices at malls across the country because of the large number of people and convenience at malls compared to the security risks before the next budget allocation.</p>	<p>The Department of Home Affairs currently has 412 offices nationwide and has a dependency on the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure with regards to financial viability on entering into leases agreements or construction of offices.</p> <p>To determine its financial viability of establishing offices in malls, the Department is in the process to gathering spatial information of all malls in the country, including, geographic coordinates with an aim to conduct comparative analysis with the approved DHA Hybrid Access Model which contains the total number of optimal locations for the department's offices. This exercise will determine the malls which are in optimal locations to cover the department's population. Further analysis to determine financial viability of the mall locations for the establishment of DHA offices will be determined.</p> <p>The Department requested the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure (DPW&I) for a delegation in terms of the GIAMA Act to enable the Department to enter into negotiations with the owners of malls. DPW&I granted the Department the necessary delegation on 23 November 2021. National Treasury was requested to approve a</p>



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	<p>Treasury Regulation 16A6.4 deviation on 6 December 2021 to allow the Department to conclude negotiations with the owners of Menlyn Mall for the necessary space on a 5 year rent-free agreement.</p>
<p>6.2.5. Assess and report within 6 months to the Committee on the cost and benefit of having security cameras, security services and cash collection for the staff and clients at vulnerable DHA offices.</p>	<p>Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) funding is being sourced for the installation of security cameras as there is currently no budget for this exercise.</p> <p>Private security services will be decentralised to the nine (9) Provinces effective 1 April 2022 along with its budget. This will ensure better management of the SLAs by Provinces. A decision has been taken to replace night guards with alarm systems inclusive of armed response.</p> <p>Cash-In-Transit is allocated a R6m budget which will also be decentralised to offices effective 1 April 2022. The Department is however encouraging offices to go cashless in order to do away with or minimise this service; some offices are already cashless.</p> <p>The Department already has a service provider on contract that provides cash-in-transit services. The purpose of this service is to collect cash at frontline offices and bank such cash. In order to reduce the cost of cash-in-transit services and the risk of staff and clients facing armed robberies, the Department is moving towards cash-less offices. All offices already have card machines and encourages clients to pay by card.</p> <p>The Department cannot afford to increase the number of private security officers deployed at its offices. In this regard, the Department intends to phase out the night and weekend shifts in the 2022/23 financial year by installing alarms and procuring armed reaction services linked to the alarms. A cost benefit analysis will be submitted to the Committee in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>



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<p>6.2.6. Ensure that the Department of Home Affairs works with landlords to ensure that the Bara Mall Office is renovated and reopened as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The landlord completed the necessary repairs at the Bara Mall. The Department must now do the internal renovations and counter installations prior to the office opening for the public again. A new bid for office renovations and counter installations was issued in 2021 and the bid is now subject to a pre-award review. It is expected that this pre-award review will be concluded by 31 January 2022. Once the service provider is in place, the necessary renovations and installations can start. Officials that used to work in this office were redeployed to the Baragwanath Hospital.</p>
<p>6.2.7. A further update on the contention around the extended contract with EOH Mthombo (PTY) Ltd. Must be presented to the Committee within 6 Months of this report.</p>	<p>The Department contract with EOH on branch server support lapsed. The contract was previously extended as a result of three failed bids and no award could be made because the internal audit and bid adjudication committee didn't agree with the recommendations of the bid evaluation committees. The department will present the details to the Portfolio Committee in 2022 when such a matter is scheduled on the programme.</p>
<p>6.2.8. Ensure that the Department of Home Affairs secure a big enough office space and staff contingent for the Mamelodi office.</p>	<p>Gauteng Province has requested a renewal of the lease agreement with additional space from Public Works and are depending on the process or time frame from Public works. Pending the approval from Public Works for development of an additional space, the Department has established and connected an operational service point at the Mamelodi hospital that is doing birth and death registration. This will assist in reducing the volumes in visiting the Mamelodi office.</p> <p>The department has a capacity challenge with the capping of its COE ceiling for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The implications of not being able to recruit replacement for natural attrition posts has been highlighted to National Treasury and other forums, with the understanding that the prospect for budgetary interventions remains constrained.</p>



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<p>6.2.9. Increase the progress made in the modernization of all Home Affairs offices and report on the progress in this regard in the next quarterly report.</p>	<p>The department has not made much progress in the modernisation of additional offices due to the limitation of floor space in those offices. The Property management team is currently in the process of relocating some offices to areas that can allow for the modernisation of those offices and the details will be provided on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>6.2.10. The relevant planning and risk committees needed to be established or made more efficient in preventing and addressing security challenges including rapid deployment of more Mobile units.</p>	<p>The department has a planning unit and a risk committee that is fully functional. The Branch Counter Corruption and Security Services works with the Risk Management unit to look as threats and vulnerabilities in various areas of the department including offices and mobile units.</p>
<p>6.2.11. It was noted that although management of social distancing was occurring at offices, it needed to be monitored in the event of increased demand arising.</p>	<p>In instances where offices experience high volumes of clients, Office Managers deploy Immigration Officers periodically to monitor and manage the queues. In addition, where possible front offices solicit support from Municipalities to provide EPWP officials to assist in managing the queues. In the case of extreme where unusually high volumes of clients is experienced the Department extends its operating hours for a specified period, in order to deal with the demand. Based on historical experience of high influx of clients, during festive season, school opening and Easter season, the Department arranges for extended operating hours during such periods, to eradicate long queues.</p> <p>The Department is also employing mechanisms to address staff attendance at a particular time to lessen new Covid-19 infections and to guarantee observations of Covid-19 protocols in all offices.</p>



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<p>6.2.12. The Committee welcomed the dual connectivity links at several offices and the installation of power generators at 196 offices but urged the DHA to increase this number. The Department must also report on the partnership with SITA and Dimension Data to resolve the network connectivity within the 24 months target as specified in the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan.</p>	<p>The partnership with Dimension Data has come to an end as Dimension Data’s contract with SITA has expired. However, the work with SITA on the Strategy and Investment Plan for Uninterrupted Networks still continues.</p> <p>The technology refresh of network equipment (routers and switches) is ongoing. The new procurement cycle for routers and switches is currently at specification stage.</p> <p>The procurement process for the appointment of service providers for the extension of SITA network routes, including the upgrades of SITA switching centres, is currently in progress and awards should be made by 30 September 2022 as indicated by SITA.</p> <p>The 2021/22 audit action plan was approved by EXCO on 8 December 2021. This plan addresses all findings raised by the AGSA, including the issue of irregular expenditure.</p>
<p>6.2.13. The Department should be advised to develop and implement an action plan to prevent irregular expenditure.</p>	
<p>6.2.14. Disciplinary actions to be pursued and Cases should be opened with the Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigations (The Hawks) to address corruption, theft or fraud more earnestly before the next annual report.</p>	<p>All cases that are reported to the Branch that warrant further criminal investigation are referred to the SAPS.</p>
<p>6.2.15. The DHA should continue progress towards registering births at all health facilities in the country to prevent Late Registration of Birth.</p>	<p>In this regard, the Department has an Optimisation roll-out strategy to ensure connectivity and automation at all health facilities with maternity wards. To this end, One thousand four hundred and forty-five (1445) public health facilities with maternity wards have been identified to roll out the online birth registration system. This will enable the department to capture births and deaths immediately when and where they occur.</p>



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	<p>The plan in this regard is staggered over a 5-year period and is envisaged to be completed by 2024/25. The plan categorises these health facilities according to priority ranging from 1 to 5. Priority 1 being a health facility where the annual birth occurrence is 5000 and above, Priority 2 being 2000 up to 5000, Priority 3 being between 1000 and 2000, Priority 4 being between 500 and 1000 and lastly Priority 5 where less than 500 births occur per annum.</p> <p>Thus far 41 Priority 1 health facilities were completed during 2019/20 financial year and they can issue a birth certificate on the spot. Out of the 120 priority 2 & 3 health facilities, 83 were capacitated with online birth registration and can issue a birth certificate on the spot. Out of the 120, only 21 were refurbished since the space occupied is adequate for a hospital service point and 99 could not be refurbished due to space and budget constraints.</p>
<p>6.2.16. Report by April 2022 on all relevant departments transferring the required staff and budget to BMA.</p>	<p>The transfer of personnel, budgets, assets and liabilities from relevant organs of state to the BMA requires the listing of the BMA as an autonomous Schedule 3A Public Entity. It is planned that the BMA will be listed in the 2022/23 financial year and the transfer of personnel, budgets, assets and liabilities will take place at the start of the 2023/24 financial year.</p> <p>The requirements for the listing process have been initiated and a progress report on developments in this regard will be provided to the Committee.</p>
<p>6.2.17. The upgrading of key Ports of Entry should have prioritised timeframes and progress be reported to the Committee by the end of June 2022.</p>	<p>The Presidential Infrastructure Project has enlisted this Project as a priority project. A Request for Proposal (RfP) will be issued to the market in due course.</p>



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	<p>In this regard, a final draft RfP has been finalised however, three key issues require finalisation before the document can be issued to the market for bid responses, i.e. the legal mandate of the DHA/BMA to procure the project; the user fee collection mechanism; and land availability for the project.</p> <p>The DHA is addressing these issues with the support of relevant stakeholders.</p>
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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	Response
GOVERNMENT PRINTING WORKS – ISSUES OUTSTANDING FROM THE 2020 AND PREVIOUS BUDGET REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORTS	
6.1.8. The GPW should report on the implications of introducing legislative provisions for ring-fencing of certain government printing work prior to the tabling of such legislation at Parliament.	GPW and the DHA's legal team developed a stakeholder engagement plan where both national and provincial departments have been consulted on the content of the Security Printing Bill. The legislative provisions for ring-fencing of State security documents will only be introduced when the Security Printing Bill is tabled in Parliament.
6.1.9. Continued failure to support the completion of GPW facilities beyond 2018/19 will result in the City of Tshwane and DPW being called to account to Parliament for their delays.	The Master Plan was approved about 5 years ago for implementation. However, due to delays from DPW on the tender processes, the plan could not be implemented. The Presidency, through Infrastructure SA, Dr Ramokgopa, has been approached to support GPW to be granted an exemption from GIAMA and deal directly with DBSA as an implementing agent, in the management of the Master Plan Project as well as the new Head Quarters for GPW, located in the Visagie Street office precinct.



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	<p>GPW is awaiting an MA to be concluded between National Treasury and DPWI so that it can facilitate the handing over of the Master Plan project to the DBSA.</p>
<p>6.1.10. Ensure that the State Security Printers Bill is submitted to Parliament by the end of the 2019/20 financial year.</p>	<p>Consultation on the Security Printing Bill could not be concluded because DHA receive a legal advice from the State law advisors office that consultations on the Bill had to be extended to the provincial departments and it should also be tabled at the NCOP. This prolonged the consultation programme beyond what was anticipated, hence the Bill could not be tables by the end on the 2019/20 financial year. The consultative process with provincial departments is currently underway.</p>
<p>6.1.11. The Committee notes that a police investigation is underway regarding the missing Curriculum Vitae's (CV's) of advertised posts which were supposed to have been filled. However, the Minister of Home Affairs should hold the Acting CEO accountable for the missing CV's. The Committee expect a report from the Acting CEO on the actions taken against those responsible for safeguarding the CV's.</p>	<p>Internally, a total five (5) letters of contemplation to discipline were issued to officials who were responsible for safeguarding of CV's at the time of the loss. One Assistant Director: HR has since resigned. The remaining four officials have been issued with written warning letters.</p> <p>GPW still awaits the outcome of an investigation by the HAWKS on the case opened on missing CV's</p>
GOPVERNMENT PRINTING WORKS - 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>6.2.18. The GPW should attempt to table their 2021/22 Annual report before May 22 and report on those being held responsible for the</p>	<p>GPW plans to table its Annual Report by the required time frame of September 2022, however, it has made an undertaking that it will table two sets of financial statements by the end of May 2022.</p>



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<p>loss of financial data without the relevant backups being in place.</p>	<p>An investigation is underway by the Ministerial Review Panel to establish the causes of systems failure and subsequent data loss. GPW will hold those responsible for the financial data loss without relevant backups, responsible and accountable.</p>
<p>6.2.19. In its next presentation to the Committee, the GPW management must account for how they have addressed their outstanding audit findings.</p>	<p>GPW management has developed a post audit action plan as well as the audit matrix which has been categorised per branch to ensure resolution of all audit findings by all branch heads. A Report on the resolution of findings will be presented to the Committee in the next GPW's presentation.</p>
<p>6.2.20. The GPW management must be held to account for extensive delays in their 2019/20 financial statements due contesting their audit findings by the AG several times.</p>	<p>The financial statements for 2019/20 have been submitted, audited and tabled.</p>
<p>6.2.21. The Government Printing Works (GPW) executive management and labour are urged to continue work towards improving their working relationship to ensure a conducive work environment prior to tabling of the 2021/22 annual report.</p>	<p>Continuous efforts are put in rebuilding the relationship with organised labour as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBC quarterly meetings have been revived with organised labour and a resolution was take to also revive the • Bilateral meetings have also been revived. • EXCO held 3 consultation meetings with organised labour to review the proposed organisational structure. <p>However, despite all the above efforts, the PSA is still contemplating to go on a strike over the issue of benchmarking for salaries, so that GPW management can then increase salaries of all GPW officials.</p>



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	<p>Management met with officials per branch between August and October 2021, and amongst others, explained the project of benchmarking for salaries at GPW which was concluded and closed. Management further explained that neither GPW's CEO nor DHA's Minister have the mandate and jurisdiction to negotiate salary increases for GPW officials alone. It was clarified that GPW is a government component which is equally bound by the broader collective agreements negotiated by the DPSC as the employer representative together with other recognised unions at the PSCBC. GPW has been developing the picketing rules in response to those developed by the PSA on the same matter of benchmarking for salary increases.</p>
<p>6.2.22. The committee urged the GPW to amplify their engagements with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to expedite the overhaul of the entire operational system to meet requirements.</p>	<p>This recommendation of the Portfolio Committee of Home Affairs is the same as Recommendation 6.1.9 above.</p> <p>As reported GPW is awaiting an MA to be concluded between National Treasury and DPWI so that it can facilitate the handing over of the Master Plan project to the DBSA as an implementation agent of the Master Plan.</p>
<p>6.2.23. Regarding human resources in the IT environment, the committee urged GPW to develop a strategy to augment skills and capacity, to ensure sustainability in the long run.</p>	<p>All vacant positions in ICT have been advertised and HR is in the process of facilitating filling of these posts. Additional manpower for support has also sourced from DHA.</p> <p>GPW to consider sourcing critical skills to capacitate ICT, this will be done through SITA's transversal tender.</p>



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<p>6.2.24. The Committee is steadfast in its conviction that effective consequence management must be implemented against anyone who commits acts of malfeasance as efficiently as is fare labour practice.</p>	<p>More position have been added in the proposed structure currently already approved by Minister of DHA and awaiting concurrence by the Minister of the DPSA.</p> <p>GPW management will institute consequence management on anyone who commits an act of misconduct to ensure that all operations are protected.</p>
<p>6.2.25. The Minister should report on the outcomes of any ministerial task team, Committee Reports and criminal cases established to address the GPW issues raised above by the end of November 2021.</p>	<p>The Ministerial Review Committee was appointed by the Minister to review governance issues, Contracts Management, Finance and Supply Chain Management processes in Government Printing Works. The work of the Committee is still underway and a Report will be provided to Minister as soon as its work has been concluded.</p>
<p>6.2.26. A report must be submitted by the GPW before the end of December 2021 on progress made on recovering key financial data and the cost to rebuild the financial data.</p>	<p>GPW will submit a Report as requested by the Committee in this regard.</p> <p>It should be noted that GPW has embarked on a project to rebuild its financial data which was lost as a result of the systems failure. Two project plans have been developed; the first one is meant to rebuild the financial data through capturing the lost historical data dating back from November 2019 to January 2021 using source documents from within GPW, and the second Project Plan is for the capturing of data for the current financial year since February 2021 to date.</p> <p>Additional resources in a form of data capturees have been appointed to assist with rebuilding of the data. Additional technical resources within the finance environment are</p>



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<p>6.2.27. The GPW should have revised their organisational structure prior to the tabling of their 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan/Budget.</p>	<p>in the process of being recruited on fixed term contracts to advise and support GPW on this project.</p> <p>The revised structure has been approved by Minister of DHA and is currently submitted for concurrence by the Minister of DPSA.</p> <p>The proposed structure has been incorporated into the 2022/2023 ENE submission and forms part of its Compensation of Employees budget. A phased approach to implementation has been adopted</p>
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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	Response
<p>ELECTORAL COMMISSION – Issues outstanding from the 2020 and previous Budget Review and Recommendation Reports</p> <p>6.1.12. Provide detailed motivation and budgets for the procurement of permanent headquarters rather than continued payment of considerable rent prior to the end of the current lease agreement and in view of medium to long term financing.</p>	<p>A detailed business case analysis of historical rental costs vs the option of buying has been performed. Based on the analysis the option to buy is more feasible and economical for the fiscus.</p>
<p>6.1.13. The IEC should work more closely with the Minister of Home Affairs and Cabinet in ensuring that the Amendments to the Electoral Legislation regarding Independent Candidates</p>	<p>The Electoral Amendment Bill effecting the amendments ordered by the Constitutional Court has been submitted to the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs for further consideration and processing.</p>



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<p>recommended by the Constitutional Court are tabled as a matter of urgency before the end of October 2020. Failing which the Minister and IEC must copy the Committee in on its correspondence to the ConCourt that it is likely to need an extension of the deadline set to effect these amendments.</p>	
<p>6.1.14. The IEC should consider more online and conventional media alternatives to compensate for loss of face to face outreach programmes.</p>	<p>The Electoral Commission has already implemented measures to compensate for loss of face to face Outreach opportunities. These entail increased use of Radio programs. In this regard 312 slots were utilised across various community radio stations from November 2020 through to end October 2021. Additionally, SABC Education had 2 sessions weekly in all their radio stations dealing with civic content related to electoral democracy. Lastly content was packaged into animated short videos that were circulated on social media platforms and on TV news channels.</p>
ELECTORAL COMMISSION – 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>6.2.28. Commend the IEC on clean audit, good governance and encourage them to keep up the progress.</p>	<p>The Electoral Commission notes the commendation.</p>
<p>6.2.29. The lack of finances needed to retain employment of some permanent staff and make 92 appointments as well as inadequate training contributed to the challenges that were identified during the 2021 LGEs. This</p>	<p>The Electoral Commission would appreciate further interaction to fully appreciate the recommendation of the Committee.</p>



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<p>must be addressed in the upcoming 2022 budget application to National Treasury.</p> <p>6.2.30. The IEC should explain the outstanding measures it will implement to ensure that irregular expenditure is prevented prior to its presentation on its budget to the Committee in 2022.</p>	<p>The Electoral Commission enhanced its controls and implemented remedial actions regarding past irregular expenditure, which is reflected in that for the current year there were only three instances of irregular expenditure (R 69 000) relating to procurement. Immediate remedial action was taken and new templates implemented to prevent re-occurrence.</p> <p>The other irregular expenditure resulted from an isolated incident involving the internal audit panel. Re-training will be provided and appropriate remedial action will be taken to prevent re-occurrence aligned with the Electoral Commission policies.</p>
<p>6.2.31. The IEC must specify the details of the amount of around R52 million of “other non-compliant matters” on page 147 of the annual report under note 49.2.</p>	<p>Note 49.2 is an analysis of the irregular expenditure (R 59,937,068) disclosed in note 49.</p> <p>The balance of the R52 million of other compliance matters relates to previous years (opening balance) and the current year balance of irregular expenditure.</p> <p>Note 49.1 explains R40.4 million of the balance in question. The non-compliance relates to an isolated incident involving the allocation of work in the internal audit panel.</p> <p>The balance of R11.4 million relates to historic irregular expenditure which has been investigated and for which condonation will be / has been requested. The irregular expenditure relates to historic procurement matters for which remedial actions were put in place. The majority of the irregular expenditure relates to rental of local offices through municipalities. This irregular expenditure is incurred due to no fault of the Electoral Commission but due to difficulties in getting some municipalities to finalise lease</p>



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	<p>agreements and issue invoices for rental due to them as lessors to the Electoral Commission. Due to operational requirements, the Electoral Commission requires local offices and has requested assistance from National Treasury to conclude a compliant process to remove the irregular expenditure.</p>
<p>6.2.32. The IEC in collaboration with key stakeholders will need to further improve to ensure that more eligible South African's are on the voters roll and participate in elections during the upcoming National and Provincial Elections scheduled for 2024.</p>	<p>As part of its evolving research agenda, the Electoral Commission will commission research to understand the factors influencing registration and participation intention. This will be key in crafting strategies and campaigns for future elections.</p>
<p>6.2.33. The IEC need to increase innovative measures together with its stakeholders (political parties and civil society) to address the continuing decline in voter participation, particularly amongst the youth, prior to the 2024 National Elections.</p>	<p>Some of the measures implemented relate to collaboration with the Department of Basic Education to infuse democracy education in to schools including the institutionalization of a flagship school democracy project to coincide with the commemoration of democracy month. Outputs of the project are school based voter registrations and democracy education.</p> <p>A cooperation framework has been agreed with Universities and TVET colleges for the use of digital platforms to disseminate electoral democracy content, opportunities for voter registration using the online platforms. In the same light the University community is being encouraged to avail itself for roles as electoral staff and or observers during election events.</p> <p>Traditional Outreach means in partnership with disability associations, institutions of traditional leadership, youth organizations and labour formations are maintained.</p>