

Report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on the National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill dated 03 April 2024

1. Terms of reference

The terms of reference of the Committee were to conduct public hearings on the National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill [B 16B—2023], to solicit public inputs on the bill and formulate negotiating and final mandates on the Bill.

2. Method of work

On 9 February 2024, the Committee received a virtual briefing on the Bill from Department of Mineral Resources and Energy led by the NCOP's Permanent Delegate in the Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour.

On 12-16 February 2024 the Committee conducted publicity activities which were followed by Public Education, which was conducted on 19-23 February 2024. The Committee further conducted 16 physical public hearings in the Province from 27 February - 1 March 2024.

3. Public Consultation and Education

The Committee published a call for submission of inputs on the Bill and a public hearings program with dates, venues and starting times. On 12 and 26 February 2024 the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature respectively published the call for written submissions and the public hearing program on the Legislature's website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

Radio interviews about the Bill were conducted in the community radio stations including, Tru FM, Umhlobo Wenene, and a number of community radio stations like UCR FM and Engcobo Community Radio.

The stakeholders that were invited to participate in the public hearing and to make written submissions include local and district municipalities, the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, as these organisations had close contact with the targeted stakeholders.

In addition, the Committee conducted desktop and physical public notification of stakeholders in all districts and municipalities. The Committee further conducted public education workshops on the Bill and prepared stakeholders to participate and contribute during the public hearings. The Committee's publicity and educational activities on the Bill were also done using radio and social media.

4. Committee Stakeholder Communication and Engagement

The Committee engaged in pre public hearings publicity through the use of social media platforms, radio and digital poster notices. The communications platform were used before the public hearings set for 27 February -1 March 2024.

Radio

The Committee Chairperson and Committee Whip presented the National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill in a number of radio stations which include Tru FM, Umhlobo Wenene and a number of community radio stations like UCR FM and Engcobo Community Radio.

Pre- Publicity on Legislature Social Media Platforms

The following social media platforms were used for pre-publicity and during the public hearings.

Facebook: A public Notice Poster inviting members of the public to make their submissions regarding the two Bills. A pre-publicity poster informed the public about public hearings dates, venues and starting times. On the day of public hearings,

photos of the actual public hearings were taken to create awareness and to inform the public as part of profiling them.

Twitter: A public Notice Poster inviting members of the public to make their submissions regarding the two Bills. A pre-publicity poster informed the public about public hearings dates, venues and starting times. On the day of public hearings, photos of the actual public hearings were taken to create awareness and to inform the public as part of profiling them.

5. Summary of Public Hearings Submissions held on 27 February – 1 March 2024

The Bill was largely supported in the Province with certain comments raised as contained in the report of the public hearings submitted to the NCOP with the negotiating mandate.

6. Consideration of inputs from the public hearings and proposed amendments by the Portfolio Committee

The Committee, having considered the inputs received from the public hearings at its meeting of the 18th March 2024, adopted the negotiating mandate voting in favour of the Bill and that the Permanent Delegate to the NCOP should vote in favour of the Bill, with no proposed amendments.

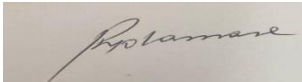
7. Findings

The negotiating mandate was considered by the NCOP at its sitting on the 19 and 26 March 2024, and the issues raised were responded to.

8. Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the final mandate be conferred to the Permanent Delegate to vote in favour of the Bill in line with the Standing Rules of the Legislature.

Signed:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "P. Ndumase".

HON P. NDAMASE (MPL)

**CHAIRPERSON: PC ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND TOURISM**

03 April 2024

Date