

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES HELD IN COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM S35, FIRST FLOOR, NCOP WING ON 04 JUNE 2009 AT 14H20

AGENDA:

Election of Committee Chairperson.

PRESENT:

African National Congress:

Rantho R N Ms	Eastern Cape
Moshodi M L Ms	Free State
Mncube B V Ms	Gauteng
Boroto M G Ms	Mpumalanga
Mashamaite T A Mr	Limpopo
Makgate M W Ms	North-West
Rasmeni R N	North-West

Congress of the People:

Plaatjie S H Mr	North-West
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INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS:

Gunda J J Mr	Northern Cape
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Congress of the People:

Plaatjie S H Mr	North-West
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Democratic Alliance:

De Villiers, Mr M J R

OPENING:

The committee secretary welcomed all the members present and outlined the procedure for the election of the chairperson.

DELIBERATIONS:

Ms M L Moshodi nominated Ms R N Rasmeni . Mr Mashamaite seconded the nomination.

The secretary called for further nominations. There be no further nominations Ms Rasmeni was accepted as duly elected. The committee secretary requested the chairperson to take up her seat.

Ms Rasmeni then took up her position and thanked members for showing confidence in her. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

CLOSURE:

The meeting was adjourned at 14H45.

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TEBOHO SEPANYA (MS)
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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DATE

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MS R N RASMENI
CHAIRPERSON

.....
DATE

/tms

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES HELD IN COMMITTEE MEETING 2, 90 PLEIN STREET ON 23 JUNE 2009 AT 12H00

AGENDA:

Consideration and Adoption of draft committee programme for the 4th Parliament

PRESENT:

African National Congress:

Rasmeni, R N Ms	North-West	[Chairperson]
Rantho, D Z Ms	Eastern Cape	
Moshodi, M L Ms	Free State	
Mncube, B V Ms	Gauteng	
Boroto, M G Ms	Mpumalanga	
Mashamaite, T A Mr	Limpopo	
Makgate, M W Ms	North-West	

Congress of the People:

Plaatjie, S H Mr	North-West
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ABSENT:

Magadla, Ms N W	ANC
Zulu, M M Prince	IFP
Gunda, J J Mr	ID
De Villiers, M J R Mr	DA

Staff in attendance:

OPENING:

The chairperson welcomed all members present. The chairperson then raised concern that there is no written copy of the agenda of the meeting and sort guidance from the members on how to proceed.

DELIBERATIONS:

Members deliberated and resolved that since it was the first time that such an incidence occurred, the chairperson meet with the committee secretary to resolve this matter. The chairperson can write a letter of complaint to committee section management if such an incidence is repeated.

There was also concern about the attendance register not being available.

Members formally introduced themselves to one another, stating their names and provinces they come from. Member Mncube indicated that she will be leaving the meeting at 12H00.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

The committee looked at the draft programmes and suggested changes to activities and dates as outlined in the draft programme.

CLOSURE:

The meeting adjourned at 12H00.

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TEBOHO SEPANYA (MS)
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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DATE

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R N RASMENI (MS)
CHAIRPERSON

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DATE

/tms

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES HELD IN COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM S35, FIRST FLOOR, NCOP WING ON 25 JUNE 2009 AT 17H00

AGENDA:

Briefing by the department of Home Affairs on the 2009/10 Budget and Strategic plan.

PRESENT:

African National Congress:

Rasmeni, R N Ms	North-West	[Chairperson]
Rantho, D Z Ms	Eastern Cape	
Moshodi, M L Ms	Free State	
Mncube, B V Ms	Gauteng	
Boroto, M G Ms	Mpumalanga	
Mashamaite, T A Mr	Limpopo	
Makgate, M W Ms	North-West	

Congress of the People:

Plaatjies, S H Mr	North-West
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APOLOGY:

Magadla, Ms N W	Kwazulu-Natal
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ABSENT:

Zulu, M M Prince	IFP
Gunda, J J Mr	ID
De Villiers, M J R Mr	DA

Also in attendance:

Minister of Home Affairs – Dr N Dlamini-Zuma

Departmental Officials:

Mr Mavuso Msimang	Director-General
Ms Dianne Kloka	Executive Manager in DG's office
Mr Willie Krige	Director: Planning and Budgeting
Ms Thembi Cele	Head: Learning Centre
Mr John Carneson	Acting head: Policy and Strategy
Mr Steven Zimri	DG's Parliamentary liaison officer

OPENING:

The chairperson welcomed all present especially the Minister of Home Affairs. She gave all present an opportunity to introduce themselves. Gave the minister an opportunity to make opening remarks.

MINISTER REMARKS:

The Minister highlighted the following:

1. Identification documents are acquired fraudulently.
2. The turnaround strategy has been in progress since 2006.
3. Citizens are not going to be allowed to have repeat ID Books as these consume a large percentage of the budget of the department.
4. The birth certificate will be very secured as the main identification document. Will form the basis for all identification.
5. The department will be undertaking a campaign to register children from 0 – 6 years so that the identity document is no longer linked to the birth certificate.
6. Late registration of birth will no longer be allowed. Youth above 16 years of age are going to be issued with Identity Books.
7. The department is presently exploring taking fingerprints at birth so that fingerprints are no longer taken when an individual is applying for an identity document at the age of 16.
8. The department is going to be digitally based and files will be electronically managed so that hard copies are eliminated. This will solve the problem of documents that are misplaced and/or lost.
9. Anti-corruption unit is to be set up and the two officials who will be managing it will be operating from 01 July 2009.
10. The department is now working on a three year strategic plan, 2009 – 2012.

INPUT BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

THE Director-General indicated that cost-cutting measures have been imposed on the department. The Medium-term-Budget Framework (MTBF) has now been revised.

He indicated that since services for the department are delivered at provincial level, up to now, provincial regional offices have been utilising all of their allocated funds.

The 3 year strategic plan is now aligned to the MTBF. A biometrics technology has been put in place to use for fingerprinting. This will in future be linked to other institutions like banks that require a form of identification in order to render services to citizens. This will make it easy for tracing fraudulent activities using the identification system.

He emphasised that business processes need to be improved as this will help the department in securing the identification of individuals which is its mandate. The department will comeback at a later stage to discuss its strategic plan for the next three years.

There need to be a drive to re-educate both officers and citizens about the batho-pele principle which will go a long way in changing peoples attitude about their responsibilities as citizens. This will in the long run help in providing an efficient service to citizens and in eliminating corruption.

The smart-card will be the main instrument to fight corruption so this will be linked to the National population register. The department is presently working on a tender which was to have been introduced in December 2008 to clean up the database.

He highlighted that the disclaimer issued by the Auditor-general is still referring to matters that occurred in 1998.

THE BUDGET:

The presented budgetary figures illustrated the reduction in allocation of funds. This has imposed cost-cutting measures on all the units within the department.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION DIRECTORATE:

The directorate is producing quarterly reports and also reviews performance on a continuous basis.

MEMBERS RAISED THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS:

1. The problem of uncollected new identity documents which continues to be a problem.
2. Offices for asylum seekers to be in all the provinces.
3. Security needs to be tightened at port-of-entry.
4. Availability of services in rural areas making it difficult for people in such areas to access the services offered by the department. In particular farm workers.
5. The committee has not had enough time to study the annual report and strategic plan and will therefore need the department to comeback to deal with this at a later stage.
6. The role of centres of excellence.
7. A system to manage the migration of foreigners into our borders, so that they are not so porous.
8. The management and implementation of the smart-card system.
9. The maximization of the mobile units if funds are a problem.
10. How and when will the anti-corruption unit will be established.
11. Legislation needs to be reviewed so that the migration of foreigners better managed. Regulations need to be streamlined.

12. Concerned about the disclaimer in the Auditor-General's report.

RESOLUTIONS:

- The departmental officials will have to come back to deal with the budget and strategic plan more intensely.
- The committee will probably on a quarterly basis meet with the officials to discuss other matters relating to the department as they arise.

CLOSING REMARKS:

The chairperson indicated that the committee is confident that the department's turnaround strategy will bear fruit.

CLOSURE:

The meeting adjourned at 20H00.

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TEBOHO SEPANYA
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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DATE

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MS R N RASMENI
CHAIRPERSON

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DATE

/tms