Monday, 20 May 2024]

No 76—2024] SIXTH SESSION, SIXTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024

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(b) Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Mechanism for Bilateral Consultations between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the State of Qatar (signed 15 November 2023), tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

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1. The Acting Speaker

(a) Letter from the President of the Republic, dated 15 May 2024, to the Acting Speaker of the National Assembly, informing members of the Assembly of the extension of the employment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) for service in cooperation with the South African Police Service for the prevention and combating of crime and maintenance and preservation of law and order in the Republic of South Africa under Operation Prosper.

15 May 2024

Honourable Speaker,

EXTENSION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE FOR SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CRIME AND MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE LAW AND ORDER IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

This serves to inform the National Assembly that I have extended the employment of two thousand three hundred (2 300) members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) for service in cooperation with the South African Police Service (SAPS) for the prevention and combating of crime and maintenance and preservation of law and order in the Republic of South Africa under OPERATION PROSPER.

Members of the SANDF employed will, in cooperation with the SAPS, continue to prevent and combat illegal mining activities in and around the Republic of South Africa over the period of 29 April 2024 until 31 October 2024.

This employment is authorised in accordance with the provisions of section 201(2) (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

The expenditure expected to be incurred for this employment amounts to R 349 907 616.

I will communicate this report to the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

I kindly request that you bring the contents of this letter to the attention of Members of the National Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa

Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, MP
Acting Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
P.O. Box 15
CAPE TOWN
8000

(b) Letter from the President of the Republic, dated 15 May 2024, to the Acting Speaker of the National Assembly, informing members of the Assembly of the extension of the employment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) for service in cooperation with the South African Police Service for the prevention and combating of crime and maintenance and preservation of law and order in the Republic of South Africa under OPERATION PROSPER ESKOM POWER STATIONS.

15 May 2024

Dear Hon Speaker,

EXTENSION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE FOR SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CRIME AND MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE LAW AND ORDER IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

This serves to inform the National Assembly that I have extended the employment of seven hundred and forty-six (746) members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) for service in cooperation with the South African Police Service for the prevention and combating of crime and maintenance and preservation of law and order in the Republic of South Africa under OPERATION PROSPER ESKOM POWER STATIONS.

Members of the SANDF employed will, in cooperation with the SAPS, continue to protect and safeguard National Key Points and critical infrastructure in the energy sector (ESKOM Power Stations) under Operation PROSPER over the period of 01 April 2024 until 31 March 2025.

This employment is authorised in accordance with the provisions of section 201(2)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 read with Section 19 of the Defence Act, 2002 (Act No.42 of 2002).

The expenditure expected to be incurred for this deployment amounts to R 203 900 827 (Two-Hundred and Three-Million, Nine-Hundred Thousand, Eight-Hundred and Twenty-Seven Rand Only).

I will communicate this report to the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces. I kindly request that you bring the contents of this letter to the attention of Members of the National Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa

Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, MP
Acting Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
PO Box 15
CAPE TOWN
8000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. LEGACY REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION ON ITS ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE 6TH PARLIAMENT MAY 2019 – MARCH 2024

CONTENTS

PART A: SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Reflection on the Committee programme per year and whether the objectives of such programmes were achieved

The term started with briefing sessions on the new 2019 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and the legislative, strategic, governance and resource frameworks to orientate the Committee on the National System of Innovation (NSI), the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and its entities. These included considering the 2019/20 budget allocation and the 2018/19 Annual Reports of the DSI and its larger entities, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), National Research Foundation (NRF) and Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), as well as key STI instruments, namely, the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Incentive and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Radio Telescope. In addition, with global attention on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the wide-ranging implications thereof, the Committee hosted a Colloquium on the 4IR to assess the readiness of the education, skills and innovation landscape. Thereafter, the Committee considered, for approval to ratify, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the Convention Establishing the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO). The Committee finalised the Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill [B 42 – 2018], which was referred to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence at the end of the 5th Parliament.

In 2020, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee monitored how science and innovation informed and supported the national COVID-19 response plans, as well as the impact of the Special Adjustment Budget on the DSI and its entities. This directed focus to the implementation of key DSI programmes, namely, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), Energy Security, national capability in vaccine production, human capital development and public understanding and awareness of science and innovation.

The COVID-19 pandemic still directed focus in 2021, especially in relation to health innovation and the international recognition of South Africa's capability when it identified the first variant of the COVID-19 virus. However, the Committee also gave attention to how science and innovation could assist economic recovery through research, development and innovation (RDI)-led industrial development and enhance socioeconomic development through support to the District Development Model (DDM). The Committee monitored and assessed the progress made with developing the STI Decadal Plan (the 10-year implementation plan for the 2019 White Paper on STI); and the development of new and the expansion of existing research infrastructure. Furthermore, studies undertaken to assess the public's attitude and response to COVID-19 and the measures taken to limit the spread of the virus, new studies on Gender-Based Violence, as well as the continued impact of the budget cuts on RDI investment and performance, and human capital development were considered.

From 2022 to 2024, the Committee, following on from how historical investment and building capability in RDI informed and supported the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, enhanced its scrutiny on how to measure and/or reflect on the overall impact made by the investment in STI, as well as efforts to grow the impact of STI on socio-economic development. Hence, consideration was given to the findings of the reviews undertaken to assess the higher education and STI institutional infrastructure landscape; how intellectual property generated through research that was funded by government could be used to change the ownership of the economy; and how new infrastructure development in vaccine production could help to protect South Africa and the region from future pandemics, as well as decrease reliance on international suppliers. Consideration was also given to how RDI could revitalise existing industries; how DSI-supported interventions could increase private sector investment in RDI; and how collaboration and cooperation across government and with the private sector could ensure successful, more meaningful implementation.

The Committee, as required by legislation, annually considered the Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Annual Reports of the DSI and its entities, as well as the quarterly performance reports of the DSI. However, due to time constraints, not all the entities could be considered during each Budget or Annual Report cycle. Hence, the Committee implemented a rotation system where entities that were selected to present their Strategic Plans and APPs, would then only present the Annual Report corresponding to the APP that was presented to the Committee.

Overall, the Committee achieved the key objectives of its programme in relation to science and innovation.

2. Committee's focus areas during the 6th Parliament

2.1 New STI policy framework

The development and finalisation of the 2022-2032 STI Decadal Plan and the implementation of the new agenda setting mechanisms for STI, namely, the STI Presidential Plenary (inaugural event 12 December 2023) and the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on STI (inaugural meeting 25 November 2021) received considerable attention. In addition, focus was directed at the finalisation and implementation of the systemic enablers of the Decadal Plan. These include the Innovation and Skills Compact that will drive the synergy between innovation policy and instruments and skills development; the STI Public Budget Coordination Mechanism that seeks to improve the allocation of funds for STI across all spheres of government; and the Strategic Management Model for STI that delineates the responsibility for STI sectors/domains across the various sector departments.

2.2 Sub-optimal RDI investment

Various reports on the performance of the NSI and sub-optimal level of RDI investment, as well as reports on the R&D Tax Incentive and additional interventions that seek to increase both public and private sector investment in RDI, were considered. The lack of adequate funding, as well as persistent budget cuts and the need to reprioritise existing budgets, continued to plague the Department and its entities in the 6th Administration. Although well-managed by the Department and the entities, a range of performance targets had to be reduced, and the implementation of new programmes/interventions had to be postponed or severely curtailed.

2.3 Strategies and instruments in relation to

Human capital development – The Postgraduate Funding Policy, the Early Career/Emerging Researcher Funding Policy, the Internship programme and the support provided to basic education were considered. Efforts to increase the numbers of beneficiaries were severely curtailed by the lack of adequate funding, and in the case of the Postgraduate Funding Policy where greater awards were allocated to qualifying students, the number of students supported had to be reduced. In addition, to enhance support to emerging researchers, awards to rated researchers had to be reduced.

Socio-economic development through STI – Energy security through the National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies RDI Strategy (HySA) and the Hydrogen Society Roadmap; the DDM; the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP); vaccine production via Biovac and the mRNA Vaccine Technology Transfer Hub; RDI support instruments; and Mining RDI were considered.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems – Implementation of the structures and processes mandated by the Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Act 6 of 2019 were considered. The operationalisation of the IKS Documentation Centres across all provinces; the expansion of the RDI programme and the commercialisation of IK-based products and services; and the progress of the pilot projects around the Recognition of Prior Learning for indigenous knowledge holders were key areas of focus.

Research and Innovation Infrastructure –The Committee constituted a combination of briefings and/or site visits looking into research and innovation infrastructure. These visits covered the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces.

Namely: the South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap (SARIR), The CSIR Scientia Campus in Pretoria; HySA at the University of the Western Cape; optical and infrared telescopes of the South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town and Sutherland, which included the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT); the radio astronomy instruments in Carnarvon, which included the SKA radio telescope; the Space Weather Centre in Hermanus; the Reinforced and Moulded Plastics Technology Station at the Durban University of Technology; the Agro-Food Technology Station at the University of Limpopo; the Lithium-Ion Battery Precursor Development Facility in Mbombela; the Kwazulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP); the Aerospace Systems Research Institute at the University of KwaZulu Natal; and the CSIR's Biorefinery Industry Development Facility.

 # STI Institutional Landscape – The Committee considered the findings of the Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape review and science council reviews, which included the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) and TIA. Also considered was the review of the National Intellectual Property Management Organisation (NIPMO) and the intention to amend the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act 51of 2008.

The Committee assessed whether the various strategies and instruments it focused on were meeting the set objectives and contributing to socioeconomic development as required by the National Development Plan (NDP).

2.4 Collaboration:

Collaboration was considered across different aspects. Firstly, with the inclusion of the DSI and DHET under one ministry, the Committee monitored to what extent the plans and programmes around research, innovation and skills development were being aligned. Secondly, with the understanding that STI-based interventions for service delivery, industrial development, resource utilisation, etc. would only be successful if implemented appropriately and optimally by those responsible for these domains, the Committee closely scrutinised how the plans and interventions of the Decadal Plan were crafted with partners, whether joint action and responsibility was clearly established and whether objectives were aligned. Furthermore, the Committee monitored to what extent the Department and its entities had aligned their plans and programmes with the Decadal Plan. The Committee also sought to enhance collaboration around RDI and facilitated joint committee meetings on the Decadal Plan and STI budget support, vaccine production, mining RDI, and gender and youth empowerment.

2.5 Inclusivity and transformation of the NSI:

The Committee, unhappy with the pace of transformation of the NSI, endeavoured through its work programme to ensure that inclusivity and transformation were given due consideration when programmes and interventions were designed, consultations were undertaken, calls for participation were issued, and bursaries and research grants were awarded. The Committee also advocated for the enhancement of programmes that supported inclusive development and that a broader definition of transformation, beyond race and gender, be considered. In so doing, the Committee requested that the Department and its entities provide the full demographics of all beneficiaries of its support interventions. The DSI is also in the final stages of developing a Transformation Framework that will guide the DSI’s programmes and interventions.

2.6 Impact of the NSI:

With the policy and strategic imperative of deriving greater socio-economic benefit from STI, the Committee considered how collaboration, the pooling of resources and reducing the duplication of effort could enhance successful implementation. Another concern was that the mandate and the work of the DSI and its entities was not widely known and that inadequate resources hampered current efforts of the Department and its entities to communicate with a wider, more diverse audience, and in so doing, improve the South African public’s awareness and knowledge of science and innovation.

3. Key areas for future work

3.1 Concerted effort should be devoted to exercising the powers granted to Parliament through the Money Bills Procedures and Related Matters Amendment Act 9 of 2009 to secure additional funds for the DSI and its entities, especially in relation to the

Parliamentary grant that supports the governance and operations of the entities, to ensure that their mandates are fully realised. These funds should not emanate from a reprioritisation process.

3.2 Monitor the continued implementation and progress of the 2022-2032 STI Decadal Plan, including the Innovation and Skills Compact and the STI Budget Coordination Mechanism.

3.3 Monitor the implementation of the review findings around Science Councils and the research infrastructure and institutional landscape. Furthermore, research infrastructures must have a direct impact on the local community and economy where they are located. Hence, socioeconomic impact studies are needed, and these must be assessed.

3.4 Monitor the implementation of the programmes around the STI priority areas as set out in the Decadal Plan.

3.5 Monitor the progress of the intended amendments to legislation pertaining to SACNASP and NIPMO.

3.6 Monitor the progress of the human capital development programme, as well as its alignment with the Innovation and Skills Compact.

3.7 Monitor the implementation of the Transformation Framework.

3.8 Assess the extent of the alignment between the DSI and DHET.

4. Key challenges emerging

4.1 Due to poor economic growth and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department and its entities were subjected to extensive budget cuts and had to continuously reprioritise the allocation of available funds. Where increased allocations were realised, these were well below inflation. The lack of adequate funds impacted all programmes and initiatives. It also increased the entities reliance on securing external/contract funds. Due to procurement regulations, entities also found it very difficult to contract with the state for work that it was funded, by the state, to do.

4.2 Although the DSI's programmes/interventions are aligned to national priorities, most are at a pilot/experimental scale and not at full-scale. This is because the DSI is not an implementing department, and it does not have the necessary funding to roll-out these programmes at the required scale. These interventions need to be taken up by other government departments.

4.3 The obligations of South Africa as a founding member of the SKAO and host of the SKA mid-frequency radio telescope array must be continuously monitored. In addition, as the host of a number of international research infrastructures, as well as having world-class, cutting-edge research infrastructure and institutions, these investments must be adequately supported to ensure that the competitive and knowledge advantage of these infrastructures are maintained and enhanced. However, all the entities are struggling to maintain existing and/or develop new infrastructure due to inadequate funding and critical skills shortages.

4.4 The sub-optimal level of resources for postgraduate study and early career researchers within DSI and the NRF was of key concern to the Committee. It is hoped that further alignment between DSI and DHET and the consolidation of available funding instruments will improve the current situation.

4.5 The transformation of the STI workforce and the development of critical technical skills remains a key imperative.

4.6 The science and innovation, and higher education and training portfolios differ greatly in size and resources. Hence, the two meeting days per week were insufficient to consider all aspects of both portfolios, as well as follow-up on outstanding issues or deal with additional issues that came to light during briefings. Furthermore, site visits greatly enhanced the understanding of the science and innovation sector. These were greatly limited due to the dense and ever-changing parliamentary programme.

4.7 Because physical oversight was greatly limited to the start of the year, the programme was dominated by the needs of higher education.

4.8 The continued lack of a researcher for science and innovation constrains efforts to more broadly consider a sector that is highly complex and technical.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Due to the complexity of STI and the NSI, consider incorporating briefings and/or workshops with experts in the fields of STI performance and impact, and STI policy.

5.2 Consider engagements with industry regarding the impact of RDI-led policies/programmes that are aimed at growing targeted industrial sectors of the economy.

5.3 To enhance the public's awareness and understanding of science and innovation, consider hosting a parliamentary programme in support of key national events like National Science Week and hosting colloquiums on key STI issues/policies.

5.4 Improve the monitoring and tracking of Executive responses to the Committee's recommendations and resolutions.

5.5 Due to the cross-cutting nature of STI, schedule more joint meetings with committees that have oversight of STI-intensive and implementing departments.

5.6 Consider allocating an additional day and more site visit time to the Committee, given the magnitude of the two portfolios.

1. Introduction

In the 6th Parliament, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) were incorporated under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation. This led, in Parliament, to the amalgamation of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training and the Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology. The name of the Committee was changed to match that of the Ministry, that being the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation.

Higher education and training, and science and innovation differ markedly in size, resources, form, and governance. Concomitantly, there are key areas of synergy between the DHET and DSI, as well as the Science Councils and research faculties/centres at higher education institutions in the performance of research and development, knowledge production, and in the development of human capability. The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation (the Committee) oversees the DHET and DSI, which together have over 120 reporting and non-reporting entities, as well as more than 20 pieces of legislation governing its work.

For the period May 2019 to March 2024, the oversight programme of the Committee was driven by:

- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of policy, legislation and strategic programmes.
- Assessing the impact of strategic initiatives.
- Scrutinising the adherence to the prescripts of good governance.
- Ensuring the broad and inclusive participation of relevant stakeholders.
- Fostering co-operation across Government and Parliament on matters of common interest.

Within this programme, the Committee's scrutiny emphasised the need for effective and accountable governance, broad and equitable access, transformation, collaboration and enduring impact.

1.1 Department and Entities falling within the Committee's portfolio

a) Department of Science and Innovation (DSI):

The DSI seeks to realise the vision of *"Increased well-being and prosperity through STI."* Thus, the Department is responsible for developing, coordinating and managing the NSI by providing policy leadership and creating an enabling environment for STI. The DSI, seeking to ensure that the NSI expands its positive impact on reducing poverty, inequality and unemployment as envisioned by the 2019 White Paper on STI, frames its work around the following six Strategic Outcomes:

Outcome 1: A transformed, inclusive, responsive and coherent NSI.

Outcome 2: Human capabilities and skills for the economy and for development.

Outcome 3: Increased knowledge generation and innovation output.

Outcome 4: Knowledge utilisation for economic development in (a) revitalising existing industries and (b) stimulating R&D-led industrial development.

Outcome 5: Knowledge utilisation for inclusive development.

Outcome 6: Innovation in support of a capable and development state.

b) DSI Entities:

Name of Entity	Role of Entity
Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)	ASSAf Act 67 of 2001 – ASSAf promotes outstanding achievement in all fields of scientific enquiry, recognises excellence, and provides evidence-based scientific advice to Government and other stakeholders.
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	Scientific Research Council Act 46 of 1988 - Its mandate is to foster industrial and scientific development in national interest, through multidisciplinary research and technological innovation, either by itself or in partnership with public and private sector institutions.
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	HSRC Act 17 of 2008 – Its mandate is to undertake, promote and co-ordinate policy-relevant, problem-orientated research in the human and social sciences.
National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI)	NACI Act 55 of 1997 – NACI advises the Minister of Science and Technology, and through the Minister, the Cabinet, on the role and contribution of science, mathematics, innovation and technology, including indigenous technologies, in promoting and achieving national objectives.
National Research Foundation (NRF)	NRF Act 23 of 1998 - Its objective is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities for the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge.
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)	Natural Scientific Professions Act 27 of 2003 - Recognises and registers natural scientific practitioners and fosters the ethical practice and training of the natural scientific professions.
South African National Space Agency (SANSA)	SANSA Act 36 of 2008 – Its mandate is to promote the peaceful use of space, co-operation in space related activities and foster research in space science.
Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)	TIA Act 26 of 2008 – Its mandate is to support and enable technological innovation across different sectors of the economy to achieve socio-economic benefits through structural financial and non-financial interventions, development and maintenance of human capacity for innovation, building a culture of innovation and leveraging local and international partnerships.

1.2 Functions of Portfolio Committees:

Parliamentary committees are mandated to:

- Consider and make recommendations on legislation.
- Oversee executive action as set out in the Oversight and Accountability model of Parliament.
- Consider and make recommendations on money bills in accordance with the Money Bills Amendment and Related Matters Act of 2009.
- Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative processes and other processes of Committees.
- Participate in, promote and oversee co-operative government.
- Engage in, participate in, and oversee international relations.
- Facilitate appointments to statutory bodies.
- Consider petitions.

1.3 Method of work of the Committee (if Committee adopted a particular method of work e.g. SCOPA.)

The Committee was allocated two days per week (Wednesday and Friday) for its oversight meetings with the DSI, DHET and entities, which included the Quality Councils, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and eight Science Councils. Furthermore, the Committee oversees 26 public Universities, 50 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) and nine Community Education and Training (CET) colleges.

The annual cycle for oversight visits in the annual parliamentary programme consisted of four slots: Jan/February, March, July and November. Given that the Committee oversees two Departments with their own entities, when an oversight visit to a province was scheduled, the Committee would programme meetings with universities, TVET and CET colleges, Science Councils and science projects. The PSET and Science institutions that did not receive site visits were invited, where possible, to scheduled Committee meetings to be held virtually or on the premises of Parliament. The Committee also had areas of mutual interest with other committees of Parliament, hence; the Committee scheduled joint meetings on mutual sectoral issues.

1.4 Purpose of the report

This report provides an overview of the activities the Committee undertook during the 6th Parliament, the outcome of key activities, as well as any challenges that emerged during the period under review. It summarises the key issues for follow-up during the 7th Parliament and concludes with recommendations to strengthen operational and procedural processes to enhance the Committee's oversight and legislative roles in future.

2. Key statistics

The table below provides an overview of the number of meetings held, legislation and international agreements processed, and the number of oversight trips and study tours undertaken by the Committee, as well as any statutory appointments the Committee made, during the 6th Parliament.

Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Meetings held - total	30	51	42	52	41	10	**226**

Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Meetings: Science and Innovation (including meetings with higher education and other committees)	11	18	13	20	15	5	**82**
Legislation processed	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1**
Oversight trips undertaken	-	2	2	3	1	1	**9**
Study tours undertaken	-	-	-	-	1	-	**1**
International agreements processed	2	-	-	-	-	-	**2**
Statutory appointments made	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Interventions considered	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Petitions considered	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0**

3. Stakeholders

The Committee engaged with all eight entities of the DSI during the 6th Parliament, as well as key research institutions and infrastructures (see # Research and Innovation Infrastructure above). The Committee engaged annually with the Office of the Auditor-General when it considered the annual performance of the Department and the entities. The Committee had joint meetings with the Select Committee on Education, Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture; the Portfolio Committees on Health, Public Works and Infrastructure, Public Enterprises, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Small Business Development, Trade, Industry and Competition and Mineral Resources and Energy; and the Standing Committee on Appropriations. The Committee also invited, where possible, beneficiaries and innovators who had received support from the DSI or its entities.

4. Key issues that arose and need to be followed up on

4.1 Governance and coordination of the NSI

The implementation of the 2022-2032 STI Decadal Plan, the Innovation and Skills Compact and the STI Budget Coordination Mechanism will require continuous monitoring to ensure that the objectives around improved STI agenda setting and collaboration, as well as increased resources for STI are realised.

Due to poor economic growth and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department and its entities were subjected to extensive budget cuts and had to continuously reprioritise the allocation of available funds. Where increased allocations were realised, these were well below inflation. The lack of adequate funds impacted all programmes and initiatives. It also increased the entities reliance on securing external/contract funds. Due to procurement regulations, entities also found it very difficult to contract with the state for work that it was funded, by the state, to do.

The implementation of actions to enhance the functioning and capability of NACI and TIA will need to be monitored.

The proposed amendments to legislation pertaining to NIPMO and SACNASP are scheduled for tabling in the 7th Administration.

The implementation of the Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Act will require continuous monitoring.

The finalisation and outcome of the DSI's organisational and structural review will need to considered by the 7th Parliament.

4.2 STI Priorities

Programmes/interventions that seek to revitalise existing industries in manufacturing, agro-processing and mining, and the programmes/interventions that seek to create new industries in energy, and the Green, Circular and Digital economies must be monitored. Although these programmes/interventions are aligned to national priorities, most are at a pilot/experimental scale and not at full-scale. This is because the DSI is not an implementing department, and it does not have the necessary funding to roll-out these programmes at the required scale. These interventions need to be taken up by other government departments.

The obligations of South Africa as a founding member of the SKAO and host of the SKA mid-frequency array must be continuously monitored. In addition, as the host of a number of international research infrastructures, as well as having world-class, cutting-edge research infrastructure and institutions, these investments must be monitored to ensure that the competitive and knowledge advantage of these infrastructures are maintained and enhanced. Furthermore, research infrastructures must have a direct impact on the local community and economy where they are located. Hence, socioeconomic impact studies are needed, and these must be assessed.

Instruments that support the development and commercialisation of locally developed technologies must be enhanced.

4.3 Human capital development and the transformation of the STI workforce

The sub-optimal level of resources for postgraduate study and early career researchers within DSI and the NRF was of key concern to the Committee. It is hoped that further alignment between DSI and DHET and the consolidation of available funding instruments will improve the current situation.

The transformation of the STI workforce and the development of critical technical skills remains a key imperative, and instruments that seek to address this will need to be continuously assessed.

4.4 Impact of the NSI

The uptake and appropriate use of the knowledge generated by the Science Councils and various STI initiatives was of key interest to the Committee. As stated under STI priorities above, the DSI needs other government departments to take up the interventions that are generated for these to have a meaningful impact on the economy and the lived reality of citizens.

Due to the Committee's focus on inclusivity, attention was directed at the local communities surrounding astronomy infrastructure. In this instance, an engagement with the farming community around the SKA is still outstanding and should be considered by the 7th Parliament.

The COVID-19 pandemic emphasised the importance of STI to both prepare for and react to future crises. The DSI, the entities, and the NSI made a significant contribution to combatting and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19. These actions and efforts were only possible because of South Africa's historical investment in building national STI capability. It was these capabilities that could immediately be mobilised to, among many others, enhance South Africa's ability to test for COVID-19, monitor and track the rates of infection, ensure that we participate in global efforts to develop a vaccine, direct efforts to investigate prophylactic measures based on indigenous knowledge, assess the public's attitudes to and perceptions of the virus and the measures instituted to mitigate its effects, and locally develop and manufacture ventilators. Many instruments have been expanded to further inform national and regional needs.

5. Legislation

The following legislation was revived and completed during the 6th Parliament:

Year	Name of Legislation	Tagging	Objectives	Completed/Not Completed
2019/20	Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill [B 42 – 2018]	Section 75	To amend the Scientific Research Council Act, 1988, the Academy of Science of South Africa Act, 2001, the Human Sciences Research Council Act, 2008, the Technology Innovation Agency Act, 2008, and the South African National Space Agency Act, 2008, to harmonise certain administrative processes, provide for consultation with the Minister, and to provide for the performance of functions by the entities outside the Republic; and to provide for matters connected therewith.	**Completed.** The Bill was referred to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence at the end of the 5th Parliament. The National Assembly of the 6th Parliament revived proceedings on the Bill on 29 October 2019. The new Committee was briefed on the Bill by the Department on 20 November 2019. The Committee adopted its report on the Bill on 3 December 2019, thereby, confirming the amendments made to the Bill by the 5th Parliament. The President assented to the Science and Technology Laws Amendment Act (No. 9 of 2020) on 22 October 2020.

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged during the processing of legislation:

- No challenges emerged during the processing of the Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill [B 42 – 2018]. Hence, there were also no issues requiring follow-up.

6. Oversight trips undertaken

The following oversight trips were undertaken:

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
3 – 7 February 2020	Oversight visit to Gauteng	The objective of the oversight visit was to have engagements on matters related to governance and administration with: Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Universities South Africa (USAf), National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), State Information	The Committee recommended that: The Department should quantify the student debt; work with university to deal with the growing student debt; work with universities to monitor privately leased accommodation; invest in additional resources for the modernisation of TVET colleges; Universities should improve their governance and	The Department indicated that work was under way quantify the amount of student debt, however, there was no funding for the clearance of student debt.	A follow-up oversight visit to TUT to monitor the state of infrastructure will be necessary in future. The planned meetings still need to be convened. Time constraints within the parliamentary programme have made it difficult to schedule a meeting.	Adopted

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		Technology Agency (SITA), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the Vaal University of Technology (VUT). The Committee also assessed the state of readiness of the universities for the 2020 academic year. The Committee visited the CSIR's Scientia Campus to gain an understanding of the work of the entity and view a selection of facilities and projects.	administration; NSFAS should expedite the payment of outstanding students' allowances The Committee resolved to convene meetings with National Treasury and the Standing Committee on Appropriations to consider the impact of the budget reductions on the entity and the impact of procurement regulations on the ability of the entity to secure contract work from the state.			
4 March 2020	On-site visit to the South African Astronomical	To get a briefing on the vision of optical and infra-red astronomy in the	The Committee agreed to visit the SALT in Sutherland and the SKA site in Carnarvon.	The NRF had indicated that it would facilitate the visit of the	None.	Minutes produced and adopted.

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
	Observatory (SAAO)	2020s, the socio-economic impact of SAAO and the Southern African Large Telescopes (SALT) and the Office of Astronomy for Development.		Committee to the SALT and SKA sites.		
26 February 2021	Vaal University of Technology (VUT) Vanderbijlpark – Gauteng	To assess the progress that has been by the Administrator in stabilising the institution since it was placed under administration on 15 August 2019	The Committee recommended that: The outstanding disciplinary cases of employees implicated in wrong-doing be concluded before the term of the Administrator comes to an end; the appointment of the Institutional Forum (IF) be expedited; a multi-stakeholders forum be established to improve the strained relations between management and stakeholders and the payment of outstanding NSFAS allowances be expedited	The Administrator managed to conclude most of the disciplinary cases; the revision of the university statute was work in progress and NSFAS sent a team of officials to deal with the backlog of outstanding students' allowances	Follow-up oversight visit to VUT is needed to assess the progress that has been made by the university post its administration period	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
18 May 2021	Oversight to the NSFAS Head Office, Wynberg – Cape Town	To engage with the Board and management of NSFAS and conduct site inspection of the entity's Head Office	The Committee recommended that NSFAS should: Expedite the process of procuring a new IT system that is fit for purpose; turn-around for resolving student appeals be expedited; the outreach programmes be improved and implementation of a fit for purpose organisation structure be expedited	The entity had responded that it was working towards developing a student-centred model aimed at improving the disbursement of funding and allowances to students and that the organisation structure would be reviewed	NSFAS still needs to procure an IT system that is fit for purpose	Published and adopted by the NA
24 – 28 January 2022	Oversight visit to the Northern Cape to interact with: Sol Plaatje University, Northern Cape Rural TVET college, Northern Cape CET college, SAAO in Sutherland and SARAO in in	The oversight visit was aimed at interacting with PSET institutions of the Northern Cape and assess their state of readiness for the 2022 academic year, and to engage with the institutions' stakeholders on matters related to	The Committee recommended that: SPU expedites the process of filling outstanding vacancies in Council and finalisation of outstanding institutional policies; consider incorporating the VUT Upington Campus; additional funding is needed for the PSET system to meet the 2030	The Department had responded that it had made reprioritisation within its programmes in order to cover the NSFAS funding shortfall for the 2022 AY; engagements with Treasury for additional engagement for the PSET system were	Follow-up to the SPU to assess its expansion including the NC Rural TVET college in De Aar. Follow-up oversight visit to the SKA Project is needed to assess the commitments made by the NRF during the visit of the Committee. This includes the building	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
	Carnarvon and surrounds.	governance and administration. As part of the Committee's long-standing resolution, the oversight included SARAO in Carnarvon to see the SKA and other radio astronomy infrastructure, the engineering and operations support infrastructure and the interventions aimed at community support and STEM teaching and learning. Then the Committee visited Sutherland to view the optical astronomy instruments, including the SALT, and the interventions aimed at community support and STEM	objectives and that DHET needs to have an engagement with Treasury regarding this request; the need for additional funding will also assist NSFAS to cover its shortfall for 2022 AY; NSFAS should expedite the finalisation of the close-out project and payment of outstanding allowances due to students The Committee recommended that: The Minister and National Treasury try to secure the R65 million needed to fence the MeerKAT National Park; the Minister and National Treasury submit a plan as to how the R2 billion shortfall in funding for the SKA will be mitigated and/or secured; the Minister secures	ongoing; NSFAS indicated that it would finalise the close-out project in 2023 The DSI and NRF stated that additional funds (although not all) had been secured in the subsequent year. Information that was requested to be submitted in writing was provided to the Committee.	of a new Science Centre in Carnarvon; the construction of the fence around the MeerKAT National Park and the support provided to nearby schools and communities.	

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		teaching and learning	additional funding for the SAAO, especially for its technical operations and human capital development programme; the NRF, SARAO and SAAO ensure that their succession plans include individuals from the local community, especially young, black women; the NRF and SARAO submit a report on the consultation process with farmers regarding the SKA land acquisition programme.			
16 February 2022	Oversight visit to the Stellenbosch University	The purpose of the oversight visit was to engage with the University's Management, Council and stakeholders on the progress made with the University's transformation journey	The Committee recommended that: the University should intentionally work towards a translation of its transformation policies and plans to a lived reality and change for all students and stakeholders at the institution; the	The university acknowledged that it needed to do more in terms of changing its demographics especially at management level including academic staff	A follow-up oversight to the University is needed to assess the progress that has been made to meet it transformation objectives	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
			University should prioritise the employment of women in senior management, including Black African academics, to improve equity in its staff demographics			
18 March 2022	Oversight visit to the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Research, Development and Innovation Programme – University of the Western Cape (UWC)	The Committee received a briefing from the DSI on the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies (HFCT) Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Programme; as well as efforts to harness this RDI programme to, together with industry partners and government, create new economic sectors and geographical corridors via the Hydrogen Society Roadmap (HSRM). The briefing took	The Committee recommended that the DSI should ensure that: Concerted effort is made to ensure gender equity and social inclusion in job creation and commercial uptake; the level of international engagement is increased to attract additional funding and that public education, engagement and participation is enhanced in the HySA project.			Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		place at the South African Institute for Advanced Materials Chemistry (SAIAMC) at UWC, which hosts one of three hydrogen centres of competence (CoC).				
24 January – 3 February 2023	Oversight visit to KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo to visit: Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), Durban University of Technology (DUT), University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), University of Zululand (UniZulu), Coastal, Thekwini,	The main focus of the first part of the oversight visit was to assess the state of readiness of universities, TVET and CET colleges for the 2023 academic year and to monitor the registration and enrolment of first-time entering (FTEN) and returning students to these institutions The second part of the oversight was aimed at visiting selected DSI-	In relation to higher education and training, the Committee recommended that: DHET working with the institutions should find a sustainable way of addressing the challenge of loadshedding; should work with the local municipalities so that the problem of water shortages is addressed; provide additional support to TVET colleges to improve their pending of infrastructure grants; improve monitoring and oversight over the	The DHET committed to work closely especially with the TVET colleges that were experiencing governance and management challenges	A follow-up oversight visit is needed in KZN to assess the progress in relation to governance and management at Coastal TVET college to be specific; similar in Mpumalanga, the Committee should make a follow-up visit to Ehlanzeni TVET college to monitor the state of infrastructure; in Limpopo a follow-up oversight visit to UNIVEN to assess the incomplete	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
	Vhembe and Ehlanzeni TVET colleges, University of Venda (UNIVEN), University of Limpopo (UL), Ehlanzeni TVET college, Limpopo and Mpumalanga CET colleges, University of Mpumalanga (UMP)	funded or supported institutions and projects at the universities in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. The Committee had gained much insight about DSI and its entities' research and innovation programmes through briefings but was keen to visit the institutions and projects to gain first-hand experience of these programmes and engage on the intended socioeconomic impact.	institutions; source additional funding for the CET sector. In relation to DSI, the Committee recommended that: DSI provides a progress update on the RPL, the establishment of the mechanisms and statutory institutions to facilitate this, and the development of the norms and standards of the RPL; regarding ASRI, the Committee will engage the DSI on matters of increasing capacity; that more needs to be done around the "circular economy" where industries employ transformative technologies to eliminate/reduce waste generation and develop new value chains that are sustainable; that the DSI and its		infrastructure projects will be necessary	

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
			collaborators, collectively look at interventions that speak to the challenges of inclusivity and meaningful participation.			
5 – 7 February 2024	Oversight visit to the Eastern Cape to visit: King Sabatha Dalindyebo TVET college, Walter Sisulu University, Buffalo City TVET college, University of Fort Hare and Rhodes University	The objective of the oversight visit was to assess the state of readiness of the institutions for the 2024 academic year and to visit the DSI supported programmes at the universities	The Committee recommended that:	Not yet available	The appointment of permanent Principals and other senior managers in the TVET colleges of the EC needs follow-up and follow-up to the BC TVET college will be necessary in future to assess progress that been made to stabilise the college.	To be considered

a) Challenges emerging – Science and Innovation

The following challenges emerged during the oversight visits:

- Limited time and opportunity for oversight meant that the oversight programme was dominated by the needs of higher education.

b) Issues for follow-up – Science and Innovation

The 7th Parliament should consider following up on the following concerns that arose:

- Infrastructure development and the maintenance of existing infrastructure is a key concern. Hence, the next oversight programme should aim to assess the state of existing research infrastructure, as well as what is needed to maintain this infrastructure.
- The broader beneficiary cohort (transformation and inclusivity) of STI interventions and projects need to be included in engagements to better assess the benefits derived from these interventions.
- Funding challenges and the lack of critical and technical skills is a key concern. The oversight programme should assess this and the potential threat it poses to the knowledge enterprise.

7. Study tours undertaken

The following study tours were undertaken:

Date	Places Visited	Objective	Lessons Learned	Status of Report
21 – 29 October 2023	Switzerland	The objectives of the study tours were to learn best practices in terms of the Swiss higher education and training system and science and innovation. In relation to higher education, the Committee wanted to gain insight into the Swiss post-education and training system and to	In relation to higher education, the lessons learnt included: the Swiss education system comprises of compulsory primary education for learners up to 15 years; 2/3 of learners in Switzerland chose the VET route as general universities were not highly considered the first option; the main priority of many learners in the country is to articulate to universities of science and technology, as the country places	Published

Date	Places Visited	Objective	Lessons Learned	Status of Report
		interact with universities and colleges, and learn more about their governance, administration and teaching and learning. The Committee was also interested in the skills development aspect of the country to understand how young people are trained to be active participants of the economy. In relation to science and innovation, Switzerland is a world leader in innovation through research and development and the Committee wanted to learn best practices. The Committee wanted to gain more insight in relation to transformation in science and innovation; impact through science and innovation; budget coordination for science and innovation; integration of science and innovation across government.	more emphasis on research and innovation; the country had low levels of unemployment (2 percent) and excellent innovative capacity and highly qualified employees; there is strong sense of good governance and accountability across the Swiss higher education and training sector; there is strong relationship between the private sector and universities of technology; graduates of universities find it easy to get employment in Switzerland. In relation to science and innovation; South Africa enjoyed very strong bilateral relations with Switzerland on areas of science and innovation; SA is the biggest partner with Switzerland in relation to science related partnerships in Africa; there are student exchange programme between the two countries on science and innovation; the investment in science and innovation has contributed to the economic advancement of the country; the country is leading in terms of attracting the top scientists from all over the world.	

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged during the study tours:

- The Committee did not experience challenges during the study tour as the planning and logistics were conducted in consultation with the DSI, DHET and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). The Committee managed to meet with all the stakeholders that were part of the programme and received the necessary documentation it requested.

b) Highlights from the study tour

- There are a number of projects between SA and Switzerland that need follow-up by the 7th Parliament. The major issue with these projects is limited funding. The Swiss government has invested in a number of projects that involves universities, schools and communities. However, continuity and sustainability of some of these projects remains a challenge given the inadequate commitment by local stakeholders to carry-on with the project costs.
- The Committee requested DIRCO and DHET to develop a database of all SA students that are studying at various institutions in Switzerland.
- The commercialisation of innovation in Switzerland is greatly supported by applied sciences universities and technical and vocational colleges, as well the private sector. Hence, South Africa must strengthen the HESTIIL, so that South African technical and vocational colleges can meet this mandate.
- The Committee recommend that the DSI should consider the possibility of engaging the TIA to provide funding to SMMEs that can develop membrane modules for water purification. These membrane modules are in high demand in Switzerland and other European countries, and there will be great export opportunities if South African companies can produce them.

- The Committee planned to convene a Colloquium with DSI on science diplomacy before the end of the 6th Parliament. However, this Colloquium can be convened by the 7th Parliament. The intention of this Colloquium is to aid the work of the STI Decadal Plan and possibly facilitate greater uptake of STI interventions across government.
- The Committee had proposed that the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) should convene webinars with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to promote science at grassroot levels and share best practices to improve teacher training in mathematics and science. This matter can be followed-up by the 7th Parliament.
- The Committee of the 7th Parliament can confer with the PC on Basic Education on other areas which were identified to be very beneficial for the basic education sector.
- The Committee of the 7th Parliament can convene a meeting with DHET and DSI to get an update on some of the key recommendations of the study tour which were directed to these departments.

8. International Agreements:

The following international agreements were processed and reported on:

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
28/9/2019 ATC no 65	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) on the establishment of an	To establish an ICGEB component in South Africa.	Considered and adopted by the Committee; 8/10/2019, ATC no. 76	Not in force

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
	ICGEB Component in the Republic of South Africa.			
28/9/2019 ATC no 65	Convention Establishing the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)	To establish the SKAO as an intergovernmental body.	Considered and adopted by the Committee; 8/10/2019, ATC no. 76	15 January 2021

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged during the processing of international agreements:

- No challenges were experienced with processing the agreements. Hence, there were no issues requiring follow-up.

9. Statutory appointments – The Committee does not make any statutory appointments in the science and innovation portfolio.

10. Interventions – No interventions were referred to the Committee.

11. Petitions – The Committee did not receive any petitions in relation to science and innovation.

12. Obligations conferred on Committee by legislation: (Include BRRR process – recommendations and outcomes of these if any)

Key recommendations emanating from the Committee's Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports from 2019 to 2023 included:

- Mechanisms to increase the budget allocation to the Department of Science and Innovation be explored and pursued by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and that the Committee would support all efforts to secure additional funding for the science and innovation portfolio.
- The Minister continues his efforts with the National Treasury around the STI Public Budget Coordination Mechanism to secure additional funding for the science and innovation portfolio.
- The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation further advises against proposed funding reductions by the National Treasury, based on the key motive that economic transformation and growth are strategically linked to our investment in science, technology and innovation.
- The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation explore mechanisms to facilitate the granting by National Treasury of the procurement exemptions being applied for by entities to secure public sector contract income, especially in areas where the contract requirements specifically relate to the mandate of the public entity. This in light of the commitment by National Treasury to work closely with the Department to develop and strengthen existing mechanisms to better account for public-led research and development spending to support the policy priorities outlined in the 2019 White Paper on STI and the STI Decadal Plan.
- The Department enhances its collaboration with other government departments, entities and the private sector, to ensure better coordination and a possible consolidated approach around funding programmes for postgraduate students.
- The Department and NRF should intensify their efforts with universities and the research community to ensure that the uptake of specialised research bursaries is improved.
- The Department prioritises the finalisation of its Transformation Framework, which will address the Committee's concerns around having a transformed, representative and inclusive science system.
- Henceforth, Annual Performance Plans must account for the needed transformation of the science system across all programmes, and demographic information must be presented in full detail.

- The Department and entities endeavour, where possible, to expand initiatives aimed at supporting and growing the participation of youth, people with disabilities and unemployed graduates, especially in relation to the commercialisation of local innovations.
- The Department and its entities should continue to explore mechanisms to better track and report on the impact of the investment in STI, despite the complexities associated with measuring and defining STI impact, so that the relevance of this investment is better understood and appreciated. For example, how has the intellectual property generated from public funds led to job creation or the establishment of new businesses? These mechanisms should also attempt to estimate the “potential loss of impact” due to the current inadequate resourcing of the NSI.
- The Minister and the Departments of Science and Innovation, and Higher Education and Training continue to align and enhance their plans around skills development, coordination and support; as well as around plans to ensure that critical skills are developed, retained and supported.
- The Minister, Departments of Science and Innovation, and Higher Education and Training and the entities continue to enhance support for HDIs and TVET colleges to ensure not only greater inclusion and participating of these institutions in the NSI, but also to accelerate the transformation agenda.
- The Minister, the National Treasury and SANSA resolve the issues around the release of the funds allocated to the Space Infrastructure Hub since this is crucial for the development of high-level technological capability.
- The Department, CSIR and the TIA compile a comprehensive written report on the challenges around the commercialisation of locally developed technologies and publicly funded intellectual property, inclusive of the existing government policies and programmes that seek to support these efforts, the available funding and the limitations of these. The report should also include possible solutions to address the challenges.

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged:

- Due to time limitations, all the entities could not appear before the Committee with every Annual Report cycle.
- In certain instances, information around programmes/interventions would be at such a high-level and lack sufficient technical detail that the Committee struggled to fully understand the objectives and plans around these programmes/interventions. Hence the Committee welcomed the presence of beneficiaries or project leads to brief the Committee.
- In certain instances, the DSI and the entities would not present the required detailed information regarding the demographics of the beneficiaries of the support provided. This hampered efforts by the Committee to fully understand how inclusive these interventions were. This improved over time.
- The lack of or extended time taken to respond to the Committee's recommendations or requests for additional information, hampered efforts to timeously follow-up and/or resolve the issues that were identified.
- Underfunding of the DSI and its entities remains a key concern for the sustainability of the science system.

b) Issues for follow-up

The 7th Parliament should consider following up on the following concerns that arose:

- Concerted effort should be devoted to exercising the powers granted to Parliament through the Money Bills Procedures and Related Matters Amendment Act 9 of 2009 to secure additional funds for the DSI and its entities, especially in relation to the Parliamentary grant that supports the governance and operations of the entities, to ensure that their mandates are fully realised. These funds should not emanate from a reprioritisation process.
- Ongoing monitoring of the Committee's recommendations and the responses thereto is required. Furthermore, time should be set aside during every quarter to formally consider the responses received, so that issues can be closed off or further explored if needed.

13. Summary of outstanding issues relating to Science and Innovation that the Committee has been grappling with

The following key issues are outstanding from the Committee's activities during the 6th Parliament:

Responsibility	Issue(s)
Minister, DSI, National Treasury and Parliament	Securing additional funding for the DSI and its entities, especially the Parliamentary grant, through the Money Bills Procedures and Related Matters Amendment Act.
Minister, DSI, National Treasury and Parliament	Continued monitoring of the implementation and progress of the 2022-2032 STI Decadal Plan, including the Innovation and Skills Compact and the STI Budget Coordination Mechanism.
Minister, DSI, the Entities and economic development departments and bodies	The commercialisation of locally developed technologies and publicly funded intellectual property needs attention. Continued assessment of the support provided to stimulate RDI investment, and the uptake of these interventions.
Minister, DSI, NRF and Parliament	Ongoing engagement around the sentiments of local communities affected by research infrastructure. For example, an engagement with the farmers surrounding the SKA is still outstanding.
Minister, DSI and the Entities	Monitoring the implementation of the findings of the various entity reviews and the amendments to certain legislation to effect some of these findings. Amendments to legislation pertaining to SACNASP and NIPMO are due for tabling in the 7th Parliament.
Minister, DSI and DHET	Clearer synergies between the two departments to reduce duplication but also to enhance efforts around research, innovation and skills development are needed.
Minister, DSI and DHET	Transformation and ensuring that the science system is inclusive needs deliberate and persistent effort.

14. Other matters referred by the Speaker/Chairperson (including recommendations of the High-Level Panel)

The following other matters were referred to the Committee in relation to Science and Innovation

- The R&D Tax Incentive annual reports for the 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years were referred to the Committee for its information. The 2017/18 and 2018/19 annual reports (referred in 2020 and 2021 respectively) were considered in individual briefings and the 2019/20 and 2020/21 annual reports (referred in 2024) were considered along with other instruments that seek to increase private sector investment in RDI. The minutes for these meetings were produced and adopted.

Other than the need to continue to assess the uptake of the R&D Tax Incentive and the DSI's efforts to improve the administration thereof, no further challenges and issues for follow-up emanated from these briefings.

15. Recommendations - to resolve operational and/or procedural concerns encountered during the 6th Parliament

- The science and innovation, and higher education and training portfolios differ greatly in size and resources. Hence, the two meeting days per week (Wednesday and Friday) were insufficient to consider all aspects of both portfolios, as well as follow-up on outstanding issues or deal with additional issues that came to light during briefings. Fridays would often be allocated to morning Plenaries and as this was the Committee allocated day for science and innovation, more time was lost from the science and innovation programme. Therefore, consideration should be given to allocating the Committee three meeting days per week.
- Because physical oversight was limited to the start of the year, the programme was dominated by the needs of higher education. Furthermore, site visits greatly enhance the understanding of the science and innovation sector. These were greatly limited due to the dense parliamentary programme. A mid-year oversight, predominantly for science and innovation, should be incorporated in the annual Committee programme.
- In certain instances, the information presented by the Department and its entities was either too high-level or lacked detailed information around demographics, geographic spread, contributing stakeholders and partners and implementation and funding plans. The next Committee should clearly specify its requirements in this regard. Furthermore, expectations as to who from the Ministerial and Executive team should be present in the meeting must be specified.

- The continued lack of a researcher for science and innovation constrains efforts to more broadly consider a sector that is highly complex and technical. Hence, additional support should be sourced.

PART B: HIGHER EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Reflection on the Committee programme per year and whether the objectives of such programmes were achieved

The Committee's oversight programme over five years was informed by Parliament's 2019 – 2024 strategic priorities. Parliament has set the following as its strategic outcomes:

- Deepened democracy;
- Accountable government;
- Strengthened oversight and accountability;
- Enhanced public involvement;
- Deepened engagement in international fora;
- Strengthened co-operative government; and
- Strengthened legislative capacity.

In 2019, the Committee commenced the 6th Parliament term by convening capacity-building workshops and briefings with the Department to have an understanding of the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector. This was because almost all the members were new to the Committee. During the workshop, the Department provided an overview of the PSET sector, key policies, amongst others, the relationship between the National Development Plan (NDP), a White Paper on PSET, a draft National Plan for PSET, a proposed revised National Qualifications Framework (NQF) with aligned nomenclature, articulation of students between institutions and resourcing the PSET system. Following this workshop, the Committee received sector-specific overviews (University sector, TVET, Community Education and Skills).

2019/20 was the last financial year of the 2014 – 2019 Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MSTF). Informed by the areas identified during capacity building workshops, the 2019 State of the Nation Address (SONA) and the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan of the Department, the Committee developed its focus areas for the remainder of the 2019/20.

In 2020, After the introduction of the new MTSF, 2019 – 2024 and the tabling of five-year strategic plans of the Department and entities, the Committee identified further areas of focus to inform its oversight work and programmes. The Committee programme was also informed by issues for follow-up as resolved in the Committee minutes, budget vote reports, quarterly performance reports and Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRs).

In 2020, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector was severely affected due to the national lockdowns that were introduced to curb the spread of the virus. The lockdowns meant that the planned academic activities could not operate as normal, and alternatives had to be found to save the 2020 academic year to ensure the system continued to produce graduates to increase the skills pool and support economic growth. The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation was one of the committees prioritised to hold virtual meetings on matters related to COVID-19 and the national lockdown. The Committee reviewed its programme to focus on the strategies of the PSET sector to address the impact of COVID-19, especially since the President had announced an extraordinary COVID-19 budget amounting to R500 billion, of which R130 billion was to be funded from the reprioritisation within the budget.

The Committee focus areas at the time focused on saving the academic year while saving lives, the impact of the reprioritisation of the budget already allocated for specific purposes towards funding infrastructure for multimodal remote learning, purchasing of devices and data for staff and students, personal protective equipment and to ensure campus readiness in terms of health and safety, furthermore, the Committee also focused on the impact of the four months levy payment holiday on the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), National Skills Fund (NSF) and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)'s operations and ability to deliver on their mandates.

In March and July 2022, the Committee attended the Ministerial Community Education and Training (CET) Summit and the TVET Colleges Strategic Industrial Partnership Summit. Both Summits deepened the understanding of the sectors and enabled members of the Committee to identify areas for further engagements. Monitoring the implementation of the Summits' resolutions formed part of the Committee oversight work.

In August 2022, the Committee convened a three-day Mid-Term Review Workshop to assess its performance on the oversight work. Further areas of focus for the oversight for the remainder of the 2019 – 2024 MTSF were identified. A Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan to guide the work of the Committee were produced.

The Committee, as required by legislation, annually considered the Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans (APPs), budgets, and Annual Reports of the Department of Higher Education and Training ("DHET") and its entities, as well as the quarterly performance reports of the DHET. However, due to time constraints, not all the entities could be considered during each Budget or Annual Report cycle. Hence, the Committee implemented a rotation system where entities that were selected to present their Strategic Plans and APPs, would then only present the Annual Report corresponding to the APP that was presented to the Committee.

Overall, the Committee achieved the key objectives of its programme in relation to the PSET sector.

Despite proper planning and timeous development of programmes, the Committee found itself having to change its term to respond to crises in the PSET system, such as student protests or incidents of racial discrimination or any matter that threatens the stability of any institution. People expect Parliament to respond. The Committee decided to where possible, use its regular Wednesday or Friday meeting to attend to a crisis, and in such cases, the regular activities planned for that Wednesday or Friday were rescheduled. Committee members made themselves available even during constituency periods to attend special meetings of the Committee when crises prompt the need for special action.

2. Committee's focus areas during the 6th Parliament

During the term under review, the Committee's oversight work focussed on the following areas:

2.1. Policy and legislation

2.1.1. Policy

- Monitoring the enacting of the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training through the National Plan for PSET and the National Skills Development Plan.
- Finalisation and implementation of Policy Framework to address Gender-Based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training System and its implementation.
- Finalisation of the Policy on Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa Implementation.
- Monitoring implementation of international agreements.

Quality Councils

- Progress in the implementation of Articulation and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

2.1.2. Legislation

- The review of the Skills Development Act and Skills Levies Act in light of the Ministerial Task Team Review of the National Skills Fund.

2.2. Planning and Financial Governance

- Ministerial Task Team Report on the new Comprehensive Student Funding Model and its implementation.
- Monitoring the reprioritisation of the R1 billion surpluses generated by universities on infrastructure efficiency grants to the Community Education and Training sector for infrastructure development.
- Consideration of the budget allocation and expenditures of the Department and entities.

2.3. Entities

2.3.1. National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

- Report of the Ministerial Committee of Inquiry on the Review of NSFAS and progress in the implementation of the recommendations.
- Monitoring the Administrator's progress to restore governance and management at the entity.
- Turn-around strategy implemented by the Board to improve the performance of the entity.
- Forensic Investigative Report into the alleged maladministration and corruption.
- Progress in the implementation of audit action plans.
- Updates on disbursements of funding and allowances to students.
- Preparations and state of readiness for each academic year.
- Measures in place to respond/resolve student appeals.
- Measures in place to detect fraudulent applications.
- Monitoring plans to address the ICT-related systems challenges.

- Monitoring the progress made in the procurement of an ICT system that is fit for purpose.
- Monitoring the close-out project.
- Consideration of annual reports.
- Implementation of NSFAS accommodation cap and accommodation pilot project.
- Review of NSFAS Organisational Structure and filling of vacancies.
- Implementation of the direct payment system, including irregular appointment of direct payment service providers, the involvement of the former NSFAS CEO in the procurement process of the service providers; and the leaked recordings alleging corruption by the NSFAS Board Chairperson and the Minister.
- Implementation of the Werkmans' Report recommendations.
- Monitoring the new loan scheme for the missing middle and postgraduate students.

2.3.2. Council on Higher Education (CHE)

- Monitoring the council's work on Institutional Audits of Institutions of Higher Learning.
- Role of the council in managing the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF).
- Monitoring the quality assurance of higher education qualifications.
- Report on the Institutional Audit of Institutions of Higher Learning.
- Role of the council in improving articulation in the PSET system.
- Funding requirements.
- Audit outcomes.

2.3.3 South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

- Role of SAQA in managing and maintaining the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and advance its objectives.

- Monitoring the retrenchment process and the implementation of the new SAQA organisational structure.
- Role of the Board in repositioning the organisation taking into accounting its financial difficulties.
- Role of SAQA in the verification and evaluation of qualifications and part-qualifications.
- Role of SAQA in improving articulation in the PSET system.
- Role of SAQA in the implementation of recognition of prior learning (RPL) in the PSET system.
- Monitoring the progress made with the implementation of the automation project (Phoenix Project).
- Filling of vacancies.
- Funding requirements
- Audit outcomes.

2.3.4 Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)

- Role of the QCTO in managing and maintaining the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF).
- Progress made in the accreditation of occupational skills programmes/qualifications.
- Support provided by the QCTO to TVET colleges.
- Progress made with the approval of the QCTO business case.
- Role of the QCTO in the quality assurance of SETA programmes.
- Progress with the purchasing of the QCTO own premises.
- Funding requirements.
- Audit outcomes.

2.3.5. Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs)

- Audit outcomes and annual performance of the SETAs.

- Assessing the impact of the four-months skills levy payment holiday on the budget of SETA and skills development programmes.
- Assessing the response of SETAs to government priorities.
- Assessing the specific SETA programme for rural communities.
- Monitoring the implementation of each SETAs sector skills plan.
- Monitoring progress towards the standardisation of the stipends paid by SETAs to students on skills programmes.
- Measures in place to prevent double-dipping by beneficiaries.
- Partnerships and collaboration between SETAs and other PSET institutions, such as TVET and CET colleges.
- Placement of learners/graduates into workplaces.
- Role of SETAs in artisan development.

2.3.6. National Skills Fund (NSF)

- Ministerial Task Team of the strategic review of the NSF and implementation of the recommendations
- Forensic Investigative Report into the NSF and implementation of the recommendations.
- Implementation of consequence management against officials and service providers implicated in the forensic investigation report.
- Updates on the implementation of the audit action plan to address the root causes for each audit finding.
- Progress in the establishment of a suitable organisational structure relative to the mandate of the entity.
- Progress in positioning the NSF as a fully-fledged stand-alone entity.
- Funding of skills development programmes to benefit young and unemployed people.
- Funding of infrastructure development projects and other cross-cutting priorities in the PSET system.
- Role of the NSF in monitoring the funding allocated to skills development programmes.
- Filling of vacancies.
- Audit outcomes.

2.3.7. Universities

- Monitoring achievements of the MTSF outcomes in relation to access to universities, improved success and efficiency, improved quality and responsiveness.
- Inquiry into the appointment of Prof Mbati as the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Sefako Makgatho University (SMU) and Related Matters.
- Assessing the state of readiness of universities for each academic year.
- Monitoring transformation and gender equality in higher education.
- Monitoring students' performance at universities.
- Monitoring the universities' plans to cater for students with disabilities.
- Monitoring the payment of NSFAS allowances by universities to students
- Monitoring the relationship between university management and stakeholders.
- Implementation of Ministerial directives by universities.
- Response of universities to COVID-19 and plans to save the 2020/21 academic years.
- Updates in response to student protests.
- Militarisation of university campuses during student protests.
- Funding of universities and the impact of budget cuts on university operations.
- Universities mechanisms to attract third stream income.
- Student historic debt and plans to address it.
- Safety and security of students at university campuses.
- Relationship between universities and local government partners such as municipalities.
- Role of universities towards community development.

- Development of policies in response to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBV&) in higher education.
- Monitoring progress in the utilisation of the capital infrastructure efficiency grant (CIEG) for infrastructure development projects, including the Student Housing Infrastructure Project (SHIP).
- Accreditation of private student accommodation by universities.
- Audit outcomes.
- Institutional autonomy of universities versus public accountability.
- Filling of senior management vacancies.
- Governance: monitoring the universities that were under administration such as the University of Fort Hare (VUT), Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and progress made in restoring governance and management; progress in the implementation of the MTT Review of UNISA and monitoring developments around the court review process of the Independent Assessor Report of UNISA; monitoring developments on the actioning of the Independent Assessor Report of the Central University of Technology (CUT) and Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) and progress in restoring governance and management; monitoring governance challenges at the University of Cape Town and to monitoring Vaal University of Technology, MUT and the University of Fort Hare to ensure they maintain stability post-administration period.

2.3.8. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

- Monitoring achievements of the MTSF outcomes in relation to access to TVET colleges, improved success and efficiency, improved quality and responsiveness.
- Assessing the state of readiness of colleges for each academic year.
- Monitoring the utilisation of capital infrastructure efficiency grants (CIEG), including progress in the implementation of infrastructure development projects.
- Audit outcomes.

- Response of colleges to COVID-19 and saving the 2020/21 academic year.
- Plans to improve student performance and certification rates in the NC(V) and Report 191 programmes.
- Student support services.
- Implementation of the post-provisioning norms (PPNs).
- Development of policies and framework to respond to GBV&F in the TVET sector.
- Role of TVET colleges in responding to their local community socio-economic needs.
- Role of colleges in contributing towards the NDP 2030 target of producing 30 000 artisans annually.
- Accreditation of workshops by SETAs to become trade test centres.
- Construction of the 12 new TVET College campuses.
- TVET Lecturer support and capacity development programmes.
- Phasing out of unresponsive programmes and introduction of new programmes: Implementation Plan and timeframes.
- Review of the TVET college examination cycle.
- Gender transformation (employment equity, GBV policies and implementation).
- Implementation of the DHET Bursary Guidelines by colleges.
- Implementation of the TVET-Industry Partnership Summit resolutions.
- Relationship between TVET colleges and industries for work-integrated learning.
- Articulation of TVET college students to universities.
- Eradication of certification backlogs.
- Filling of vacancies.
- Governance: monitoring the colleges that experienced governance and management challenges such at the Coastal, Buffalo City and Central Johannesburg TVET colleges; Coastal and CJC were the two colleges under administration during the 6^{th} Parliament; the committee also received updates from DHET about other colleges that experienced instabilities in relation to governance and

management. The delays in the appointment of new Councils by DHET had a negative impact on most colleges as they operated without a critical oversight body such as Council.

2.3.9. Community Education and Training (CET)

- Monitoring achievements of the MTSF outcomes in relation to access to CET colleges, improved success and efficiency, improved quality and responsiveness.
- Assessing the readiness of the CET sector for each academic year.
- Assessing the progress made in the eradication of the general education and training certificate (GETC) Level 4 certificates.
- Advocating for additional funding of the CET sector to improve the infrastructure and conditions of service.
- Advocating the need for CET lecturer capacity and development to improve the outputs of the sector.
- Review of the CET programme offerings to offer accredited occupational programmes that respond to community needs. Partnership with TVET colleges for expansion of programme offerings.
- Need for a dedicated infrastructure to enhance the identity of CET colleges.
- Engagements with the Department of Public Works (DPW) on the repurposing of unused public infrastructure for CET colleges.
- Eradication of double-dipping CET lecturers.
- Harmonisation of conditions of CET lecturers and students.
- Addressing the immediate infrastructure challenges.
- Curriculum review and the introduction of QCTO-accredited occupational programmes.
- Partnerships between the NSF, SETAs and the CETs.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of CET programmes.
- Monitoring implementation of the CET Summit Resolutions.

- Governance: the nine CET college councils were appointed by DHET and are operational; most of the CET colleges did not experience governance challenges during the period under review. However, the manner in which the SRC elections are held in the CET sector is different from universities and colleges, and during the beginning of each academic year, most CET colleges do not have elected SRCs.

2.3. Strategic initiatives

- Feasibility studies in the establishment of two new universities.
- Monitoring progress in the finalisation of the Master Skills Plan.
- Monitoring progress in the implementation of the Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Programme (ERRP) Skills Strategy.
- Migration of Agricultural and Nursing colleges from provincial competence to DHET.
- Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework (SSAUF).
- Repurposing of unutilised or underutilised public buildings for use by PSET institutions, especially the CET sector.
- Monitoring the rationalisation of the Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), TVETMIS, SDMIS, CETMIS and potential savings to be realised from this exercise.

2.4. Selected key achievements in the 6th Parliament

- Through the Committee's dedicated oversight over the certification backlog, the Department together with Umalusi and the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) achieved a zero per cent certification backlog in Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) and General Education and Training Certificate (GETC), National Certificate Vocational [NC(V)] and Report 191/NATED Diplomas. The success was due to the Committee ensuring the monitoring of the project implementation plan and the procurement of a fit-for-purpose examination ICT system.

- The Committee initiated an engagement between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Department of Higher Education and Training for the repurposing of the unutilised and underutilised public buildings for the PSET sector for education and training, especially for the CET sector and student accommodation.
- In 2021/22 the Committee supported the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) during COVID-19 when its generated revenue dwindled due to lockdown. The Committee recommended that additional funding be allocated to the entity for digitisation. The Committee's intervention resulted in the Department absorbing the budget cuts amounting to R41 million that were to be effected on the SAQA baseline over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period, including the additional allocation of R5 million to address its funding shortfall.
- The Committee has lamented on safety and security challenges of students and staff within the PSET institutions. The Committee welcomed the implementation of its recommendations by the Department. New output indicators and targets, namely, the implementation plan for the phased-in rollout of the Safety and Security Minimum Norms and Standards at TVET colleges and universities were included in the Department's 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan.
- The Committee successfully convened two colloquiums - Post-School Education and Training Funding and Institutional Autonomy of Universities in South Africa.
- The allocation of an Infrastructure Efficiency Grant (IEG) to the CET colleges sector. Before 2023/24, the CET sector did not have the Capital Infrastructure Efficiency Grant (GIEG) allocations and this impacted the effective and efficient implementation of its mandate, in particular enrolment numbers, and throughput rates. It is hoped that the allocation of the IEG will assist in addressing the many challenges that the sector faces in working towards becoming institutions of choice, especially for youth not in education, employment, or training.
- The Committee has in previous engagements with the Department and its entities, highlighted the need to have an integrated management information system for the PSET sector to address challenges relating to learners in multiple Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) skills interventions, learners funded by both SETAs and the NSFAS, etc. The Committee welcomed

the inclusion of a new output indicator and target by the Department to have a plan for the integration of Information Management Systems used in the PSET sector, which will be approved by the Director-General by 31 March 2024.

- The readiness for the new academic year. During the term under review, the Committee invested a lot of effort in ensuring every new academic year commenced smoothly. This was done through engaging with the universities and TVET college stakeholders, including DHET, SAPCO, USAf, SAUS, SATVETSA and Organised labour through submissions. The engagements aimed at identifying risk areas that may have the potential to disrupt the start of the academic year and mitigation strategies and collaborations. The Committee encouraged stakeholders to collaborate and work together in trying to find solutions to challenges that may impact the academic programme, especially areas of common interests. This has lessened the number of student protests in universities and TVET colleges.
- The Committee through its oversight work Improved stakeholder engagement within the PSET.
- The Committee recommended that the Minister institute an investigation into the salaries of Universities Vice-Chancellors and other senior management executives. The investigation was conducted by the Council on Higher Education and the Report was submitted to the Portfolio Committee and is yet to be considered due to pending finalisation of consultations by the Minister with university VCs.
- The Committee recommended that the Minister puts the Mangosuthu University of Technology under administration due to governance and management challenges, which contributed to the instability of the institution. The Minister appointed an Independent Assessor (IA) to investigate the governance and management failures at MUT, and based on the Report, the institution was placed under administration.
- Strengthened oversight over the Department and its entities as observed by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA).
- Improved conferral with other Parliament National Assembly and National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Committees on matters of mutual interest.

3. Performance of the Committee over five years, July 2019 – March 2024

3.1. Strengthening oversight over the implementation of NDP/MTSF outcomes and targets

3.1.1. Universities

During the period under review, the Committee engaged with 22 out of 26 universities through scheduled meetings in Parliament precincts, virtually, on-site and oversight visits. The universities that the Committee has not interacted with include Nelson Mandela University, North-West University, University of Johannesburg and the University of Free State.

Governance and management

When the Committee commenced its oversight work in 2019, two universities were placed under administration, the University of Fort Hare (April 2019), where only the Council was dissolved and the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) (August 2019) due to governance-related challenges. Of great concern to the Committee was that VUT was also placed under administration in July 2012. The Committee has had several engagements with these universities monitoring progress made in restoring governance and management. Post the administration period, the Committee continued with its oversight in ensuring that universities remain stable and that there is good governance. Regarding VUT, the Committee was concerned about the alleged conflict between the newly appointed VC (who has since passed on) and the new Council.

The Committee also engaged with Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) on governance and management-related challenges. There were conflicts, allegations and counter-allegations between the Council and management, which brought instability to the institution. There were several interventions by the Ministers in the form of Independent Assessors and Administrators, however, the University had not stabilised. The Minister appointed an Independent Assessor, Professor A. Staak, to investigate the affairs of the MUT, of which the Report was tabled in Parliament and was considered by the Committee. The Committee recommended that the Minister invoke section 49B(1) of the Higher Education Act, 1996 as amended to place the University under administration. After considering the Independent Assessor Report and the advice from the CHE, the Minister placed the University under administration in October 2022. The Committee had follow-up meetings with the Administrator to assess progress in restoring governance and management.

Other institutions that experienced governance and management challenges during the period under review include the University of South Africa (UNISA), the University of Cape Town and the Central University of Technology (Free State). An independent Assessor, Professor N.T Mosia was appointed for UNISA. The Report Independent Assessor Report was tabled in Parliament for consideration; however, the Committee was not able to get into the details of the Report given that the University Council and Management have subjected the Report to a court review.

Regarding UCT, the Committee received briefings from both the Department and the UCT council on the state of affairs at the institution. The Committee also had an onsite meeting at the University to receive a briefing on the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel that was set up to investigate governance challenges. The Committee observed that the University did not heed its call to convene a stakeholder engagement to listen to issues of concern from all stakeholders. The Committee further noted concerns regarding the narrative presented by workers and students that the process leading to the compilation of the Independent Panel Report was not procedural and fair; the report gave the impression that the investigation was merely to test black racism against white people, hence the push back from certain university communities. Given the concerns raised at the meeting, the Committee resolved that the Minister consider appointing an independent assessor to investigate the governance challenges at UCT.

Central University of Technology: The Minister appointed an independent Assessor, Professor N Duncan in October 2022 to investigate the affairs of the University. It was reported that the appointment of the IA followed the suspension, and the Council's handling of the matters and the number of allegations that came to the attention of the Minister. The Independent Assessor submitted a report, which was tabled in Parliament and referred to the Committee on 7 June 2023. At the time of reporting to Parliament on 14 June 2023, the Department noted that the Report was submitted to the Minister and the Council, and the process was underway.

The Committee also called some institutions in , specifically to deal with the accreditation of qualifications they offered, allegations of corruption and nepotism, GBV, student protests and the response of the institutions to student grievances, and transformation. The Committee also conducted an inquiry into the appointment process of Professor Mbati as the VC of the University of Sefako Makgatho University. Both the University of Venda and Sefako Makgatho had extensive engagements with the Committee during the inquiry.

From the interaction with universities, the following issues emerged from both briefings and oversight visits:

- Delays in the disbursement of students' allowances and delays in the processing of appeals by NSFAS.
- Delays by universities in submitting student registration data to NSFAS in order to make funding decisions.
- Shortage of student accommodation.
- Students residing in accommodation that do not meet the DHET norms and standards for student accommodation.
- Student historic debt, disparities in the concession given by the universities to students who have outstanding debts; and withholding of graduate certificates.
- Withholding of students’ certificates by universities.
- Funding challenges for the missing middle and postgraduate students.
- Delays in insourcing of staff (security, gardening and cleaning staff).
- Delays in obtaining title deeds of universities located in tribal owned land.
- Inadequate third-stream income by HDIs.
- Delays in the finalisation of disciplinary cases (TUT) and suspended officials paid for more than two years for sitting at home. This has since been addressed.
- Mismanagement of infrastructure development projects (abandoned and shoddy workmanship).

- Strained relations between management and university stakeholders. The Committee has seen improvements in some institutions after its intervention.
- Delays by the universities in responding to student grievances and vandalism of property during protests and allegations of third-party involvement.
- Pockets of excellence in different niche areas of universities that have not received wide media coverage.
- Improvement in the universities infrastructure facilities which has been made possible through the DHET infrastructure funding.
- Poor governance and management, including corruption.
- Inadequate role played by Councils in exercising their fiduciary duties at some universities.
- Very limited role and influence of the Institutional Forum (IF) at universities.
- Poor or lack of represent of stakeholders at Council of certain universities.
- Inadequate threshold met by certain unions at universities which renders them being unrecognised.eg UniZulu.
- Conflict of interest by certain Council members and university officials.
- Conflicts between the University Councils and management, which has contributed to the instability of the institutions. Through engagements with institutions and AI reports, the Committee observed that some of the Councils interfere in the operations, hence this is a source of conflict.
- Slow implementation of transformation policies. There has been very slow progress in the number of black academics at previously white dominated institutions such as Stellenbosch and UCT.
- Poor management of sexual harassment and other GBV related cases by universities.
- Construction mafias interfering with the progress of infrastructure development, thus delaying the completion of projects and spending of funds.
- Safety and security concerns for students and staff at institutions. There has been increased spending on extra security personnel due to threats made towards senior management of universities.

- Delays in the development and promotion of indigenous languages for academic leaning.
- Victimisation of student leaders and unfair suspensions.
- Inadequate consequence management implemented towards officials implicated in misconduct.
- Interruption of water supply and challenges of waste-water management due to inadequate capacity or inefficiencies of municipalities.
- The impact of loadshedding on teaching and learning, research and the associated costs of keeping backup generators running.
- Regression in the audit outcomes of universities for the 2022/23 financial year. The AG identified most of the non-compliances raised for the universities related to the fact that members of staff did not declare their conflict of interests up front, did not declare their possible conflict of interest when the University was procuring from the related suppliers, or some universities do not have adequate processes in place for the staff to declare their conflicts as required by legislation.
- Four universities have outstanding financial audits for 2022/23, namely the University of Fort Hare, UNISA, University of Limpopo and VUT.

3.1.2. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

The Committee interacted with 19 TVET colleges through scheduled meetings in Parliament precincts, virtually, on-site and oversight visits.

Issues emanating from the engagements:

TVET NC(V) and NATED certification backlog: Notwithstanding the sterling work done by the 5th Parliament Committee to ensure the eradication of certification backlog within the TVET college sector space, there were still some certification backlogs that were identified. This involved NATED certificates, which impacted 15 862 candidates for the period November 2002 to November 2016, including 5,980 between November 2017 to June 2018. The backlog was due to IT system errors.

The 5th Parliament recommended that the 6th Parliament ensure that the Department and role players (Umalusi, State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations) develop and implement a plan with timeframes to address the backlog.

- A new IT system be procured to address the challenges of consolidating student examination data from different cycles, and
- The review of the TVET college examination cycle should be prioritised by the Department.

During the 6th Parliament, the Committee dedicated much of its efforts to follow up on the 6th Parliament's recommendations. During this period under review, the Committee convened meetings five meetings (5 November 2019, 18 February 2020, 20 October 2020 and 23 March 2022 with the DHET, Umalusi and SITA on progress made in the procurement of the new examination and certification IT system, resources allocated to the project, progress in the implementation of a turnaround strategy to address the certification backlog. In February 2020, the Committee also conducted an oversight to Gauteng where amongst others, the Committee conducted onsite visits to the certification value chain institutions (SITA Beta Building, Data Centre and Network Corporation Centre. The Committee further engaged with the stakeholders (DHET, Umalusi and SITA) on progress made towards the eradication of the certification backlog.

As of 28 February 2024, the following progress was reported:

- **General Education and Training (GETC): ABET Level 4**: As of 3 January 2023, the outstanding certification backlog has been reduced to a 100.00% from (65 890 records) reported on 18 February 2020 whereas any records generated during the period were added to the list and the two-percentage reporting, this indicated that there was no more any backlog for GETC: ABET Level 4
- **Business Studies:** As of 03 January 2023, the outstanding certification backlog has been reduced to 100.00% from (29 473 records) reported on 18 February 2020, this indicated that there was no more backlog for NATED Business Studies.

- **Engineering Studies:** As of 03 January 2023, 4 records for Engineering Studies N1 to N6 examinations between the periods November 1992 to August 2019 remained outstanding. This figure represented a decrease of 21 628 which translated to 100% from the figure of 21 628 reported on 18 February 2020.
- **National Certificate Vocational [NC(V)] First Issue:** As of 03 January 2023, the outstanding certification backlog has been reduced to 100.00% from (410 records) reported on 18 February 2020, this indicated that there was no more backlog for NC (V) First Issues.
- **NC(V) Full Certificate:** As of 03 January 2023, the outstanding certification backlog has been reduced to 100.00% from (7 866 records) reported on 18 February 2020, this indicated that there was no more backlog for NC (V) Full Certificate.

TVET colleges curriculum review: In October 2020, the Department reported that a position paper would be published in a Government Notice for public comment, which included the phasing out of N1 – N3 Engineering Studies programmes, conversion of the NCV into a single 3-year qualification as well as the internalisation of examinations for NCV Level 2 – 3 programmes, the review of the Engineering Studies N1 – N3 curricula and conversion from Trimester to Semester programmes (this is done in collaboration with the QCTO); and the internalisation of examinations for Report 191 N4 – N5 programmes.

In September 2021, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation approved the phase-out of the remaining NATED Report 191 N1 – N3 programmes. It was proposed that the QCTO-registered occupational qualifications in the relevant Engineering fields be phased in TVET colleges to replace the N1 – N3 programmes. While this is desirable and a step to ensure the responsiveness of the programmes, the Department should ensure that Colleges are funded to take up the QCTO-registered occupational qualifications. Organised Labour in the sector has raised concerns regarding the phasing out of N1 – N3 Engineering programmes and the potential job losses of the lecturers. Both Organised Labour and the South African Public Colleges Organisation (SAPCO) proposed that the affected lecturers should be upskilled/reskilled to improve their capacity so that they can teach the new QCTO-registered occupational qualifications.

New programmes such as NC(V) IT and Computer Sciences (Programming and Robotics) stream are being introduced in the sector.

Implementation of the Post-Provisioning Norms (PPN): During the period under review, the PPN was implemented in the TVET colleges. The Committee monitored this area of work during consideration of the quarterly performance reports of the Department and engagements with TVET colleges during oversight visits and virtual meetings. The Committee has observed that the process at some colleges has been slow in implementing the PPN. The Department has recorded underspending in compensation of employees mainly due to delays in the implementation of the PPN and the reasons for the delays ranged from non-submission of required documents to delays in the finalisation of criminal checks and qualification verifications. The Committee was informed that the PPN model does not make provision for college hostel staff, agricultural staff, and security personnel.

Filling of the TVET college Principals and other senior executive positions: There have been serious delays in the filling of Principals' vacant positions. During the February 2024 oversight visit of the Eastern Cape, the Committee was informed that out of eight TVET colleges in the Eastern Cape, only one has a substantive Principal. The other colleges have acting incumbents. Of grave concern, the two colleges that were visited, King Sabatha Dalindyebo TVET College had five incumbents acting in the position in a period of 5-years and Buffalo City TVET College has been without a substantive principal since December 2020, and other senior management positions, such as like Deputy-Principal Finance/CFO and Campus Manager East London Campus were vacant and were without acting incumbents. The delays in the filling of executive positions have brought instability to the colleges. Organised Labour noted that college staff defied directives from acting incumbents.

Appointment of TVET College Councils: The term of most TVET College Councils has come to an end and some, such as Buffalo City TVET College have reported to be without a Council. The delays in appointing the new Councils are of great concern to the Committee as this contributes to instability at colleges. Councils are the highest decision-making bodies in the sector, and they should be appointed before the end of the term of the seating Council so that there is a proper handover.

Other issues of concern:

- Inadequate funding for the sector.
- Delays in the disbursement of NSFAS allowances.
- Delays in the submission of students' registration data to NSFAS to make funding decisions.
- Poor integration of TVET ICT systems with NSFAS.
- Inadequate infrastructure for teaching and learning, including ICT infrastructure and student accommodation.
- Inadequate capacity to spend and manage infrastructure grants.
- Inadequate of sexual harassment and GBV policies.
- Poor articulation of TVET students to higher education.
- Underqualified lecturers.
- Inadequate safety and security for students and staff.
- Low uptake of occupational skills programmes.
- Outdated workshop equipment for practical learning.
- Outdated curricula which is not responsive to industry needs.
- Delays in the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs) for students.
- Delays in the distribution of textbooks to students during the beginning of the academic year.
- Poor certification rates for both the NC(V) and Report 191 programmes.

- Inadequate placements of students in work-integrated learning opportunities.
- Delays in the implementation of infrastructure projects due to construction mafia and communities demanding 30% of the contracts.
- Interruption of water supply and challenges of waste-water management due to inadequate capacity or inefficiencies of municipalities.
- Audit outcomes of the sector not improving at the desired pace and findings by the AG are recurring, which were due to the inadequate implementation of audit action plans.
- Outstanding audits for Taletso, Central Johannesburg and Coastal TVET colleges.

3.2.3. Community Education and Training

During the term under review, the Committee interacted with four out of nine Community Colleges, namely, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga through virtual meetings and oversights.

Issues emanating from the engagements with CET Colleges

- Lack of suitable infrastructure to enable the offering of occupational skills. More 96% of CET colleges rely on DBE infrastructure such as primary of high schools.
- Inadequate funding for the CET sector. 80% of the CET budget is for compensation of employees leaving very limited funding for operations and maintenance.
- Inadequate staffing at the Head Office, which makes the span of control difficult, given the distance between the Head Office and the community learning centres and satellites.
- Low enrolment numbers. The CET sector is unable to meet its enrolment targets annually for variety of reasons.
- Very low student lecturer ratio.

- High absenteeism in the CET sector due to the CET sector inconducive teaching and learning environment.
- Poor public awareness of regarding the mandate of the CET sector.
- The curriculum offered is not responsive to the local economic needs.
- Double dipping of CET lecturers who are also teachers at schools and are remunerated by government twice.
- Lack of financial support such as NSFAS affect the performance and participation of CET students. CET students do not get any form of living allowances in comparison to TVET and university students, and this makes feel as if they are not part of the PSET system.
- No student accommodation facilities for CET students.
- Lack of libraries and other recreation facilities for CET students.

3.2.4. Skills Development

During the 6th Parliament, the Committee had an opportunity to interact with 18 out of the 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAS) and the National Skills Fund. Some of the SETAs appeared before the Committee during the consideration of the Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans and APPs and others appeared during the consideration of the Annual Reports. Some of the SETAs and the NSF appeared more than once to present their progress made in implementing audit outcomes. The Committee has not conducted oversight visits to the SETAs and NSF-funded projects.

Issues emanating from the engagements with SETAs:

- Regressed audit outcomes of some of the SETAs from unqualified audit to qualified audit opinion were concerning to the Committee. Of great concern were the Services SETA, Construction SETA and NSF which remained qualified.
- Irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred by some SETAs.
- Inadequate qualifications, skills and capacity of some board members appointed to serve in SETAs.

- Excessive benefits paid to some board members at some of the SETAs.
- Unjustifiable remuneration benefits to some of the CEOs and senior management officials of SETAs.
- Poor governance and management by certain SETAs. For example, Services SETA has been receiving qualified audit opinions for the past four financial years despite the committee recommending for the implementation of the Audit Action Plans.
- Employment of underqualified employees in senior management positions thus affecting the overall performance of the SETA.
- Mandates overlap of the SETAs and NSF as observed by the Ministerial Task Team on the review of the NSF.
- The committee noted its concern regarding the inability of the SETAs to implement adequate project management and monitoring. Consequently, this contributes to irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures, including double dipping of learners from different funders and funding of the same learners by multiple SETAs.
- Lack of integrated information management system.
- Payment of performance bonuses for employees by Transport SETA, while the entity achieved a qualified audit opinion was of great concern. Furthermore, the committee was of the view that the payment of bonuses was unjustifiable given the audit outcome of the entity.
- The AG found that some of the reported performances by the entities did not agree with the evidence provided.
- Increase in irregular and wasteful expenditure during the period under review.
- Delays in the implementation of forensic investigation reports recommendations, including the finalisation of disciplinary cases against employees implicated thereof.
- The SETAs accumulated cash surpluses amounting to R12 billion in 2022/23.
- Delays by some SETAs in filling senior management positions.
- High concentration of SETAs in one province, Gauteng and poor spread in other provinces making them inaccessible to the public.

3.2.5. National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

When the Committee commenced with its 6th Parliament Administration, NSFAS was placed under administration due to poor governance and management. The Committee has had several engagements with the entity, monitoring progress in restoring governance and management, including the appointment of the new Accounting Authority/Board. The Committee also focused on the disbursements of funds to universities and TVET college students given students protests. The Committee also received submissions of allegations of corruption and maladministration at NSFAS by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU), mainly against the former NSFAS administrator.

The Committee had, in November of every year, convened meetings with NSFAS and PSET stakeholders to assess the readiness of the next academic and follow-up meetings in late February to assess progress in registration and commencement of the new academic year. The Committee conducted an oversight visit to the Head Office and also had onsite meetings at the new NSFAS premises. The Committee has also invited NSFAS to be part of all oversight visits to institutions universities and TVET colleges. This was to enable NSFAS to respond to the concerns of institutions and students regarding the administration of funds.

Issues emanating from engagements with NSFAS.

- The Committee supported the introduction of the direct payment system, which was hoped it would expedite the disbursements of allowances to students. However, the Committee was concerned that this intervention was marred with irregularities in the appointment of the service providers.
- The introduction of the accommodation fee cap was noted as a good intervention to cap the huge disparities in the cost of accommodation fees. It was noted that in some areas, the cap has proved to be inadequate, and students would have outstanding debt.
- The Committee welcomed the involvement of NSFAS in the accrediting of private accommodation to ensure that students are accommodated in safe and secure spaces that are conducive to learning. The Committee noted displeasure by the institutions'

stakeholders with the implementation of the accommodation pilot project. Some have called for the project to be suspended and students have submitted signed petitions to the Committee. The Committee expressed concern regarding to inadequate communication, coordination, and consultation with stakeholders by NSFAS to institutions regarding the implementation of the project.

- There were reported allegations that NSFAS accrediting agents were accrediting properties that were not conducive to living and learning for the University of Fort Hare students at the East London Campus.
- Delays in the tabling of the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Annual Reports, which limited the ability of the Committee to scrutinize the expenditure and service delivery.
- The tabled 2021/22 Annual Report had errors and the Committee resolved to allow NSFAS Board and Management to correct and resubmit.
- NSFAS still does not have fit-for-purpose ICT systems and had previously indicated that the administration budget is inadequate to address its ICT-related inadequacies. Despite the additional injection of funds by the Department, the ICT systems are not at a desirable level.
- Delays in the finalisation of student appeals, close-out projects and filling of vacant posts.
- There were concerns regarding the accrediting process of privately owned accommodation by the NSFAS accrediting agents and the process has been very slow.
- The committee expressed its concern regarding the delays in the payment of funding and allowances owed to students since 2023. Consequently, some students could not register for the 2024 academic year due to pending funding status.
- The number of NSFAS-funded university students increased. In 2023/24, NSFAS funded 555 950 university students against the target of 439 659 (as per the 2023/24 Third Quarter Report). While this is commendable, it is concerning that the target for TVET NSFAS-funded students was not met. NSFAS funded 266 063 against the target of 346 258. The underachievement was attributed to the reduction in the number of trimesters from three to two due to the impact of COVID-19.

- The appointment of Prof L van Staden as an Acting Chairperson of the Board for the period while the investigation against the NSFAS Chairperson was underway was welcomed.
- The decision by the Board to extend the contract of the four direct payment service providers which were irregularly appointed was noted as a concern. It was further noted that there has not been a sense of urgency from the Board to speedily deal with the recommendation for the termination of the contracts of the four service providers.

3.2.6. Council on Higher Education (CHE), Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences

The Committee interacted with four entities, namely, the Council on Higher Education (CHE), the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, mainly on the annual performance plans and Annual reports. The Committee engaged the Quality Councils on progress with the implementation of the articulation policy.

Regarding the NHISS, the Committee focussed on funding for postgraduate students.

Issues and observations emerging from the interaction with the entities:

CHE, QCTO, SAQA and NHISS

CHE

- The CHE has been an entity that is fairly stable, under good governance and management during the period under review.
- The entity celebrated its 25TH Anniversary in 2023 and published a booklet which offers a comprehensive overview of the entity's rich history and trajectories since its establishment.
- There were two CEOs at the entity during the period under review.

- The funding model for the entity has hindered its ability to fulfil its mandate and execute additional mandates conferred upon it.
- The funding constraints of the entity have resulted in a situation where it was not able to fill all outstanding vacancies and employ staff in permanent positions. This situation led to the entity having to rely on the use of service-level contracts, employment of staff on short-term contracts, and use of peer academics on core work.
- Notwithstanding its financial limitations, the CHE has been able to utilise its limited funding for the execution of core mandates and its performance against predetermined objectives has been good during the period under review.
- The entity has experienced challenges with the accreditation of new qualifications in the HEQSF due to its limited human resource capacity.
- The entity responded to the Committee's recommendation of instituting an investigation into the remuneration of Vice-Chancellors and other senior management executives of universities. Unfortunately, the final report could not be considered by the Committee owing to outstanding consultation by the Minister with Chairpersons of Councils and VCs
- The entity was able to take swift action against officials responsible for incurring irregular expenditures and recouping the funds lost which was commendable.
- The entity was able to provide advice to the Minister during the period under review on areas which were critical for the functional of higher education.

QCTO

- The QCTO has been the best performing DHET entity in terms of producing good audit outcomes during the period under review. Since 2019, the entity has managed to achieve consecutive clean audits, which is unusual in the PSET system.
- The management and governance of the entity have been good during this period. However, there were slight delays with the appointment of a permanent Council Chairperson, but this did not cause instability at the governance level.

- The entity's performance during the period under review has been good, and it also developed measures to counter areas of underperformance.
- The entity has experienced significant delays with the finalisation of the process for procuring its building. Since 2019, the entity has been renting its building and engaged in the process of purchasing its own building to eliminate the costs incurred on rental.
- The entity has had one CEO since its establishment, and who has managed to steer the organisation to realise its potential as a role player in the PSET system.
- The finalisation and publication of the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) in 2021 has been a game changer for the QCTO and cemented its role as a leading Quality Council (QC) that has an important mandate in the PSET system.
- The entity experienced challenges in respect to the delays in the finalisation and approval of its business case by the Department. This has resulted in a situation where the entity was not able to fully implement its revised organogram that is fit for purpose. Furthermore, the entity could not fill all its outstanding vacancies since there is no funding for such an exercise.
- The former CFO of SAQA was appointed to be the CFO of the entity.
- The entity has relied on SETA levy grants for its income (75% for 2024/25), which are applied annually, and this is not a sustainable funding model for the entity. The SETA levy grant fluctuates annually, and it is highly dependent on the payment of levies by companies to SETAs. During these times of harsh economic climate, the future levy grant is unpredictable, and this may hamper the ability of the entity to fulfil its priorities unless a sustainable funding model is developed.
- The entity was able to respond to the recommendation of the Committee for providing more support to TVET colleges during this period. Consequently, the Committee welcomed the reported steady increase in the uptake of the QCTO occupational qualifications, especially by the public sector, including the accreditation of TVET and CET Colleges to offer occupational qualifications and skills programmes.

SAQA

- The entity has been able to manage and maintain the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) which is its core mandate. The entity also celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2022.
- The entity was under good management and governance and demonstrated good performance against predetermined objectives.
- The entity had three CEOs during the period under review and the two previous CEOs, Mr Samuels and Dr Reddy retired and, Ms Starr took over in a smooth transition period. The SAQA Board Chairperson passed away during December 2023, and acting Board Chairperson has been appointed.
- SAQA has been commended by the Committee for having women occupying most of the organisations' senior positions such Chairperson of the Board, CEO, Deputy CEO, CFO and other key management positions.
- SAQA experienced a very difficult moment in its history where the organisation had to implement section 198 of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) by retrenching its staff due to its inability to keep them as part of the organisational structure. This resulted in a process where the organisational structure went from 194 to 82 staff members.
- SAQA's ability to generate its revenue was severely impacted by COVID-19 which saw the entity losing millions of revenues from its verification of qualifications during the pandemic. Consequently, the organisation was not able to fully recovery from the financial losses and it had found ways of repositioning itself post-COVID 19 period.
- The revised organisational structure has also hampered the ability of the entity to speedily process the verifications of qualifications. Nonetheless, the automation project is being implemented which will assist the entity to speed the process of verifying qualifications and this will improve the revenue streams of the entity.
- Repositioning of SAQA in light of its reduced organisational structure project has been ongoing and closely monitored by the Committee.
- The entity has played a significant role in the development of recognition of prior learning (RPL).

NHISS

- The support provided to over 500 doctoral students by the entity was commended.
- The Committee commended the fact that many of the NHISS postgraduate and postdoctoral scholarship beneficiaries were women. It was hoped that this would contribute to the transformation of senior academic and research positions, including executive management.
- The delays by the National Skills Fund (NSF) in transferring the 2023/24 funding to the entity to support the special projects were noted as a concern.
- The declining funding over the past years to support postgraduate students was noted as a concern.
- The declining funding and the reported budget cuts for NHISS and the adverse impact on its operations and support to postgraduate students.
- The Committee noted the plans by the Minister to shift the NHISS function from the DHET to the Department of Science and Innovation.

3.2.7. Transformation in Post-School Education and Training, including gender-based violence.

The White Paper for Post-School Education and Training places emphasis on the vision of a post-school education and training sector that is fair, equitable, non-racial and non-sexist. The 5th Parliament Committee recommended that the 6th Parliament monitor the following:

- implementation of transformation policies, including gender-based violence and femicide policies and employment equity plans of PSET institutions;
- The Department's response to the findings and the recommendations of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) report;
- engage with the Department's Transformation Oversight Committee;

- Confer with the PC on Women on issues of transformation and gender equity in the PSET institutions and follow up on the development and implementation of gender-based violence and femicide (GBV&F) and gender transformation policies by the Department and institutions.

The Committee has held several engagements with the CGE and PSET institutions on gender transformation-related matters. During the period under review, the following CGE reports were referred to the Committee by the Speaker of the National Assembly for consideration:

- 2018/19 Report on the Gender Transformation in Tertiary Institutions, June 2020 (focussed on the University of Zululand, Nelson Mandela University, Sol Plaatje University, University of Mpumalanga and the Department of Higher Education and Training.
- Report on the Follow-up Hearings on Gender Transformation at Tertiary Institutions 2019/20, November 2021 (focussed on the University of Johannesburg, University of the Free State, Stellenbosch University, University of Zululand and University of Mpumalanga, Nelson Mandela University, Sol Plaatje University, including GBV and femicide incidents at Ehlanzeni TVET college, Mapulaneng and Barberton Campuses; University of Fort Hare and Thekwini TVET college.
- Progress Report on Gender Transformation Investigations in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges 2022, February 2023, and
- CGE Activity Report on the Maputo Protocol 2023, November 2023.

Having considered the aforementioned reports, the Committee observed the following:

- The under-representation of women in critical decision-making positions at institutions of higher learning was noted as an ongoing concern. The Commission concurred with the Committee’s concern and also noted that there has been transformation taking place in some institutions that were engaged.

- it was pivotal to ensure that funding for students is accessible for postgraduate studies to increase the representation of women in the makeup of institutional management.
- Concerns were raised regarding the disjuncture between the internal processes of institutions and the South African Police Service (SAPS) in dealing with GBV-related matters.
- The slow pace of transformation at Stellenbosch University.
- Inadequate student accommodation at the University of the Free State (UFS); the safety and security challenges of students in some of the University campuses due to poor infrastructure facilities.
- The inability of some institutions of higher learning to provide safe spaces for victims of GBV incidents was noted as a concern.
- The allegations of sex for marks at public institutions were disturbing and the Committee recommended that a concerted effort should be made to make it difficult for perpetrators of these incidents to exist at these institutions.

The Committee followed up with institutions on implementing the CGE recommendations and progress in implementing their gender transformation-related policies. The follow-ups were done through virtual briefings and oversight visits. The Committee undertook an oversight visit to Stellenbosch University to engage with the University and stakeholders on the progress made in its transformation journey. The Committee further held a virtual briefing with the South West Gauteng (SWG) and Northern Cape Urban (NCU) TVET Colleges on governance and administration-related matters and implementing the CGE recommendations of the Report on Gender Transformation Investigation in TVET colleges.

Arising from an engagement with the CGE regarding the inadequate implementation of the sexual harassment policy by the University of Venda, the Committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the appointment process of Professor P Mbati as the Vice-Chancellor of the Sefako Makgatho University and related matters. The Committee completed the inquiry, and the report was tabled for consideration by the National Assembly. The inquiry has resulted in the commitment by the Council of Sefako Makgatho University to review and address the gaps in its recruitment Policy and Procedure: Appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, especially on the submission of disclosure documents. The University of Venda committed to reviewing its sexual harassment policy to address the gaps identified by the Inquiry. During the term under review, the Department committed to addressing the scourge of GBV through allocating of funding to Higher Health, including the annual report on implementing the GBV Framework for the PSET system.

The Committee also held a physical meeting with the University of Pretoria and its stakeholders on its transformation journey. The Committee was concerned about the serious allegations of sexual harassment levelled against the Vice-Chancellor by the union, including the allegation that the alleged victim of sexual harassment was allegedly offered a new position of Director of Human Resources.

In July 2020, the Department published a Policy Framework to address Gender-Based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training System. The Committee monitored the DHET implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. In November 2021, the Committee held a briefing with the DHET on this area of work. The Committee has advocated for civic education, especially for young men to inculcate in them a new culture of respect for women. In August 2023, the Minister launched the Transforming MENtalities as another strategy to fight GBV.

3.2.8. Public involvement and participation

During the period under review, no bills were referred to the Committee, hence there were no public hearings conducted. However, in ensuring increased public access and opportunities to participate in the processes of Parliament, the Committee convened colloquia as innovative measures to ensure that members of the public can participate in the work of Parliament. Through colloquia, the Committee brought together multiple stakeholders from a wide range of organisations (private and government, academics, civil society, research institutions and interest groups) to engage on issues of specific interest to the Committee, which cannot be discussed during the three to four hours of a committee meeting.

During this administrative period, the Committee convened two colloquia as follows:

- November 2019 – Post-School Education and Training funding.
- March 2022 – Institutional autonomy of universities in South Africa.

The two colloquia have provided an opportunity for the Committee to gather evidence to strengthen its oversight on these specific areas. For example, the Colloquium on Institutional Autonomy of Universities in South Africa has shone a spotlight on challenges relating to co-operative governance in the higher education sector, particularly relationships among different stakeholders within institutions, relationships between the state, parliament and institutions. In preparation for the colloquium on Institutional Autonomy, the Committee called for public submissions on the subject matter. The Committee also issued a media statement to inform the public about the colloquium and the platforms available to follow the proceedings.

Selected key issues that emanated from the colloquium on institutional Autonomy:

- University councils are the highest decision-making bodies in universities and are also tasked with the responsibility of ensuring good governance of the institution in line with the Higher Education Act, 1997, as amended. Thus, appointing suitably qualified members to the councils remains critical and fundamental for promoting good governance.
- The co-operative governance structures/mechanisms of universities were clearly defined by the Act and the relevant university statutes. However, there is a degree of unilateral top-down approach by some universities, thus undermining the critical voice of stakeholders, which is not in line with the principles of good governance. An example was given in respect of the introduction of mandatory vaccination policies by some university councils despite the considerable opposition by stakeholders, and that there was no national policy by the Department of Health on mandatory vaccination.

- The inability of councils to provide strategic leadership and direction, resulting in the abdication of their oversight responsibilities to the university management, is a cause for concern in the higher education sector. This is reflected in the number of universities placed under the administration due to the failure of councils to exercise their fiduciary duties.
- Co-operative governance provides for multiple layers of accountability mechanisms for universities. By virtue of receiving public funds, universities were accountable to the state for the utilisation of public funds in delivering their core mandate of teaching and learning and producing research oriented towards solving societal challenges.
- The role of the state/Parliament in overseeing the work of universities remains critical given that universities are not homogeneous. Thus, the oversight role of these bodies over universities ought to be appreciated as a means of promoting co-operative governance and protecting these institutions from poor governance.
- The stakeholders agreed that there is no universal understanding of institutional autonomy in terms of the concept and practice. There was a consensus that institutional autonomy is a socially constructed entity; therefore, the contestation of ideas on what is meant by institutional autonomy and academic freedom within the South African context is bound to take place, and such discourse needs to be supported with the view of reaching a common understanding among the stakeholders within the higher education sector.
- The Committee is in full support of academic freedom, institutional autonomy and corporative governance and would oppose any views that are meant to undermine/erode these fundamental principles or those who wish to interfere in institutions.
- Notwithstanding the overwhelming support for the recognition of institutional autonomy, the Committee and stakeholders were of the view that this concept places the institutions out of the reach of the rulers and should not be abused at the expense of public accountability.
- The neo-liberal construct of institutional autonomy was not assisting South African universities in responding to the country's triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Despite having world-acclaimed universities, South Africa is a developmental state with unique challenges, and with the most unequal society in the world.

4. Key areas for future work

The 7th Parliament should follow up on the following:

- The 7th Parliament monitors the progress made by the Departments of Higher Education and Training and Public Works and Infrastructure in identifying and repurposing the unutilized/underutilised public infrastructure for the PSET system, especially for CET colleges.
- Further engagement with the PCs on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the migration of Agricultural and Nursing Colleges to PSET.
- Monitor the implementation of the First Phase and next phases of the Comprehensive Student Funding Model.
- To lobby the Standing Committee on Appropriations towards consideration of allocation of voted funds to the loan scheme for the missing middle and its sustainability, given that the current funding from the NSF and SETAs can only fund 47% of the missing middle students for a duration of a 4-year programme, including funding for postgraduate students.
- The Ministerial Task Team Review on the National Skills Fund (NSF) has recommended the review of the Skills Development Act to address the governance challenges by effecting the appointment of the Board as the accounting Authority.
- Monitor the finalisation of and implementation of the Master Skills Plan.
- Review of the existing legislation.
- Monitors the development and implementation of the PSET integrated Management Information System, including the rationalisation of the information management systems – Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), TVET Management Information System (TVETMIS), Skills Development Management Information System (SDMIS) and CET Information Management System (CETMIS).
- Monitor the finalisation of the phase 2 feasibility studies to establish the two new universities in Ekurhuleni and Hammanskraal.

- The 7th Parliament should monitor the function shift of the NHISS to the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) as announced by the Minister.
- The 7th Parliament monitors the development and implementation of gender transformation policies, especially GBV&F by TVET colleges and universities.
- Ensures that the Department reports on the implementation of the Policy Framework to address Gender-Based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training System.
- Given that the Council on Higher Education was requested by the Minister to incorporate sectoral oversight transformation as an additional mandate following the end of the term of the Transformation Oversight Committee, the 7th Parliament should monitor this area of work and ensure that the CHE can perform this function.

Regarding governance and management, the 7th Parliament should focus on the following:

- Developments around the court review of the Independent Assessor Report on UNISA and monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of the Ministerial Task Team Review of UNISA.
- The Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) was placed under administration in September 2022. The administration period is for two years. The 7th Parliament should monitor progress made by the Administrator in addressing governance and management challenges as per the appointment terms of reference. Monitoring post-administration should be conducted to ensure that the University does not regress.
- Monitor utilisation of capital infrastructure efficiency grants and implementation of infrastructure development projects.
- Follow up on the recommendations to the Minister to consider appointing an Independent Assessor to investigate governance challenges at UCT.
- Follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the colloquium on Institutional Autonomy of Universities Report.

5. Key challenges emerging

The following were the main challenges encountered by the Committee during the 6th Parliament.

- The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation oversaw two Departments, Higher Education and Training with over 110 public entities/institutions and Science and Innovation with eight public entities under one Ministry. Despite the large scope of work, the Committee was allocated only 2 days per week for oversight activities. This proved to be difficult to ensure that both sectors get dedicated focus.
- The Adhoc change of Parliamentary term programmes impacted mostly the timeslot dedicated to Science and Innovation, as most Fridays were taken for Plenaries.
- Reduced oversight sight visits from four to one annually have impacted the ability of the Committee to engage with PSET institutions.
- Inadequate time allocated to consider legislated matters, for example, two weeks allocated for the consideration of Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans and budget, including annual reports. Due to time constraints, the Committee was not able to consider all the tabled Plans and Annual reports of all the entities in one financial year.
- Late submission of presentations by the Department, which limited the ability of the Committee staff to scrutinize the presentations and prepare briefs to support Committee members. Consequently, this limited the ability of the Committee to conduct its oversight effectively and efficiently.
- The Department/Minister has not tabled responses to the Budget Vote Reports and Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports of the Committee. This made it difficult for the Committee to systematically monitor progress in the implementation of its recommendations.
- The consideration of the report of the CHE on the remuneration of VC and other senior management executives was withdrawn at the request of the Minister due to outstanding consultation with VCs and Chairpersons of the Council. The Committee took

exception from the late request for withdrawal of the consideration of this report given the ample time the Minister had for undertaking consultation after the report was submitted to him by the CHE.

6. Recommendations

6.1. Parliament

- Consideration be made by the Parliament Programming Committee towards allocating an additional day to the Committee to allow it to conduct its oversight activities (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays).
- Consideration be made towards allocating two weeks for oversight given that the Committee oversees two departments.
- Consideration be made for the Committee to be allowed special oversight visits in light of the unpredicted student unrest in the PSET system.
- The 7th Parliament conducts oversight visits to:
- SETAs and NSF-funded skills training projects to assess the relevancy of programmes offered and ascertain that reported learners are indeed attending training.
- Newly launched National Artisan Development Academy (NADA) at Motheo TVET College.
- Newly constructed TVET college campuses across the country.
- Sites identified for the construction of two new universities in Ekurhuleni and Hammanskraal.
- Imbali project precincts in Pietermaritzburg.
- The importance of sign language and its incorporation into the activities of Parliament and Committee needs to be considered.
- The Committee of the 7th Parliament needs to invite more advocacy groups in higher education to get their views on different matters affecting the sector.
- The Committee of the 7th Parliament should prioritise the amendment of legislation in the PSET sector.

- The 7th Parliament should ensure that public entities accord similar respect given to the other arms of the state such as the judiciary and executive.

6.2. Department

- The Department and entities submit presentations timeously to enable the Committee adequate time to engage them.
- The Department should table responses to the Committee reports three months after consideration by the House.
- The Department should comply with the submission of written responses within seven working days.
- The Department should submit reports requested by the Committee within the prescribed time period.
- The Department should expedite the process of relocating its premises to the newly identified site at the CSIR.
- The Department should engage with the DBE to release the Matric results timeously to allow for the smooth commencement of the PSET institutions academic year.

6.3. Universities

- The Minister of Higher Education and Training consider amending University regulations to prescribe a specific date for the submission of financial statements for audit, and that these financial statements comply with the accounting framework.
- The Department's University Branch should ensure that universities develop processes that will prevent employees from doing business with the universities without declaring their interest.
- Universities should expedite the process of submitting student enrolment data to NSFAS at the beginning of each academic year.
- The Department should improve its oversight function over universities so that they can improve their accountability in the use of public resources.
- The Department should draw lessons from the UMP and SPU as part of constructing the two new universities for Policing and Crime Detection in Hammanskraal and the University of Science and Innovation in Ekurhuleni.

- Universities should improve their work towards developing African languages as languages for academic learning.
- The Department should develop regulations to guide universities in managing and dealing with students with historic debt.
- The withholding of students' certificates as a means to recoup funding from students who owe institutions should be revisited.
- Institutional autonomy and academic freedom should not be utilised at the expense of public accountability.
- Universities should submit comprehensive responses supported by evidence in their opposition to the NSFAS student accommodation cap.
- Universities should blacklist all the service providers that have left incomplete infrastructure projects and continue to pursue reimbursement of funds for the work that is outstanding.
- Universities should put measures in place to ensure their infrastructure projects are not disrupted by external criminal elements that seek to extort funds from the institutions. Furthermore, the universities need to consult with the local service providers to identify projects in which they could benefit as sub-contractors.
- The development of multi-stakeholder forums at universities should be institutionalised so that there are platforms for consideration of grievances from stakeholders. These forums will also assist in creating stability at the institution and help in amending the strained relations between management and stakeholders which exist at some universities.
- The suspension of student leaders by some universities without following the due processes should be revisited.
- The Department should ensure that candidates appointed to serve on University Councils are verified and have the requisite skills, experience and qualifications to be on those Councils.
- The Department should closely monitor the entrenched culture of factions at certain universities which is at the core of causing instability from the Council to the management level.
- The Department should ensure that universities improve the uptake of offers from the central applications clearing house (CACH) system.
- The Department should ensure that universities comply with the review of their statutes within reasonable time.

- There is a need to resuscitate the University Council Chairperson's Forum.
- The Department considers strengthening the private higher education sector to take up more students who cannot find admission space in public institutions.

6.4. TVET

- The Department and the stakeholders (UMALUSI and SITA) maintain a zero per cent certification backlog.
- TVET colleges should ensure that all the issued certificates are handed over to the graduates.
- The terms of most of the TVET College Councils were coming to an end. The Department should expedite the appointment of TVET colleges Councils.
- The Department expedites the appointment of TVET college Principals and other senior management positions.
- The funding model of the TVET sector should be revisited in light of repositioning TVETs as institutions of choice in the PSET system.
- Additional funding be considered for the sector to enable Colleges to install solar energy given the costs of running generators.
- The Department monitors the implementation of audit action plans of colleges to address audit findings and consequence management be implemented against colleges that fail to improve their audit.
- The Department provides additional support to TVET colleges that are struggling to utilise infrastructure grants.
- The process of equalisation of stipends received by TVET college students with their university counterparts should be expedited.
- TVET College should explore collaborations with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture to get assistance in terms of expanding their recreational facilities.
- The Department expands the lecturer capacity development and support programmes to reduce the number of underqualified lecturers.
- The Department put measures in place to improve the academic performance of students in the NC(V) and Report 191 programmes.

- The process of reviewing the TVET college examination cycles should be expedited.
- The provision of modern equipment to TVET college workshops should be improved.
- TVET College with the support of the Department should develop short-term programmes that respond to their local communities' economic needs.
- The expansion of maritime studies for TVET colleges situated in coastal areas should be promoted to support the ocean economy.
- The employment of lecturers with industry experience and exposure to managing college workshops should be promoted.
- The accreditation of TVET college workshops by SETAs so that they can be trade test centres should be expedited.
- TVET colleges should be supported with the development of sexual harassment and GBV-related policies.
- The Department should continue with the expansion of centres of specialisation in the TVET sector.
- Awareness programme about mental health should be promoted in the TVET sector.
- TVET college should be given the responsibility of filling senior management positions such as Deputy Principals posts so that the filling of these positions is expedited.
- The continuous review of the TVET curricula should be implemented to ensure the college's programmes are responding to industry needs.

6.5. Community Education and Training

- The development of a sustainable funding model for the CET sector remains the top priority for its future and expansion.
- The Department, working with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure should identify and repurpose unutilised public buildings for the CET sector to reduce the over-reliance on DBE infrastructure which is not conducive to the implementation of occupational skills programmes. 96% of CET colleges operate from schools and this is not sustainable for a sector that seeks its unique institutional identity.

- The Department should facilitate partnerships between the NSF and SETAs with CET Colleges to support the introduction of occupational programmes in CET colleges that have their properties. CET colleges also need to strengthen their partnership with other PSET institutions to improve their skills provision.
- The Department continues its work with DPWI to expedite the identification of land for the construction of the nine CET Colleges in all the provinces.
- The Department should support the CET colleges to offer soft skills and civic education programmes to entrench an understanding of the country and the development of an active citizenry.
- The Department should expedite the process of identifying all lecturers that are in the employ of DBE as teachers (double-dippers) so that they can be completely removed from the system.
- The Department in collaboration with universities should work towards developing a CET sector specific qualification for CET lecturers.
- The Department should put measures in place for the professionalisation of the CET sector.
- The rationalisation of the CET sector should be expedited to ensure that CET colleges play a significant role in the PSET system.
- CET colleges should also develop their sexual harassment and GBV-related policies.
- Capacitation of CET Colleges' central offices remains critical to improve the management and monitoring of community learning centres (CLCs).
- The Department should finalise the CET sector-specific infrastructure development programme, which will provide guidelines for the roll-out of CET sector infrastructure projects.

6.6. Skills development

The Committee recommended that:

- The Department should analyse the R12 billion accumulated cash surplus reserves (of SETAs and assess whether there is an alignment to the projects committed to ensure efficient utilisation of these reserves. The Department should also explore how these funds could be reprioritised to fund other PSET areas that are financially constrained. The Committee noted that funds to support the first phase of the implementation of the Comprehensive Student Funding Model for the loan scheme to cater for the missing middle and postgraduate students will come from the NSF and the SETAs.
- The Department should expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Task Team Review of the National Skills Fund (NSF) to address the identified areas of overlap and duplication between the NSF and the SETAs.
- The Department should monitor the implementation of audit action plans developed by the NSF and SETAs who obtained qualified audit opinions. Consequence management should be implemented against entities that fail to implement the audit action plans to address the AG findings.
- The Department should follow up on the progress made by the NSF and the Construction Education and Training (CETA) in resolving material irregularities.
- The Department should follow up with the relevant law enforcement authorities to ensure those who are implicated in the NSF forensic investigation report are convicted. The NSF should also provide an update to the 7th Parliament about the conclusion of disciplinary and other criminal cases against employees implicated in the forensic report.
- The Department should ensure that all the companies and their directors that are fingered in the forensic report are blacklisted from doing any business with the state.
- The Department should ensure that the NSF expedites the process of procuring an ICT system that will be fit for its organisational operations.
- The Department should work towards the development on an integrated database for SETAs so that they are able to have the data of all the beneficiaries of skills development projects. This database will also assist with detecting beneficiaries that are double-dipping in terms learnerships and other skills interventions programmes offered by SETAs.

- SETAs should improve their regional presence so that they can be more accessible to the public.
- SETAs should improve the monitoring and evaluation of their skills programmes so that they are able to provide supporting evidence to performance information which at times is questioned by the AG.
- The Department should take serious action against SETAs that are struggling in terms of achieving good audit outcomes. e.g Services SETA.
- SETAs should expedite the process of completing outstanding disciplinary cases against their employees implicated in wrongdoings. Furthermore, SETAs should pursue the necessary criminal cases against employees found guilty of misconduct so that they can be arrested. Action should also be taken against those employees that resign before the conclusion of their disciplinary hearings.
- SETAs should blacklist all the service providers that have received funding for skills development projects and not able to complete the project or provide evidence that support the spending on projects.
- SETAs should not conduct any business with service providers that are not tax compliant or not meeting all the necessary requirements for a registered company.
- The Department should have a database of the employees that have been found guilty of misconduct in SETAs so that they are not recycled to other SETAs or PSET institutions.
- SETAs should contribute towards the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM).
- SETAs should have specific programmes aimed at uplifting rural communities in light of their locality.
- The Department should expedite the process of reviewing the Skills Development Act, 1998 taking into consideration the changes that are required for the NSF, changes to the SETA Grant regulations and related matters thereof.

6.7. National Student Financial Aid Scheme

- The Minister should ensure that NSFAS corrects the performance report in the 2021/22 Annual Report and resubmit it to the Committee for consideration.
- NSFAS expedites the finalisation of the 2022/23 Annual Report and submits it to the AG for auditing.
- The entity should expedite the process of finalising the payment of outstanding funding and allowances due to students for the 2023 academic year.
- The entity should deploy personnel across the institutions that have been selected to be part of the NSFAS accommodation pilot project so that they can assist the management and students in the smooth implementation of the project.
- NSFAS should ensure that the process of accrediting private accommodation is expedited to make more beds available given the huge demand for student accommodation in the PSET sector.
- The entity should review the implementation of the student accommodation pilot project in light of the challenges that have already been identified with the project.
- The entity should expedite the training programmes meant to equip stakeholders involved in the NSFAS processes at all institutions.
- The updated bursary guidelines should be published on time to enable the institutions and students to understand them before implementation.
- The Board should take the necessary steps to ensure the Werkmans Report recommendations are implemented.
- The Board should expedite the filling of the CEO position to bring stability on management of the entity.
- The decentralisation of the NSFAS services should be expedited so that they can be more accessible to members of the public should be expedited.
- The entity should expedite the process of involving the Competition Commission to investigate the alleged collusion in the private student accommodation provision.
- The entity should comply with the submission of a comprehensive response to the Committee within the specific prescribed period.

- The entity should have dedicated personnel that deal with managing and resolving queries from the Committee and the public.
- The Special Investigative Unit (SIU) should expedite the conclusion of its investigations into NSFAS so that the report can be published and submitted to Parliament for consideration.
- The ICT systems of the entity should be integrated with PSET institutions for seamless exchange of student enrolment data.
- The Department should institute a forensic investigation into the NSFAS student accommodation pilot project.
- The Department should expedite the process of amending the NSFAS Act, 1999 taking into account the need for revisiting the changed mandate of NSFAS from offering loans into full bursaries for eligible recipients; the need to increase the administration budget spending of the entity to be 10% of its budget; incorporation of the loan scheme for the missing middle students and related matters.

6.8. Council on Higher Education (CHE), Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS)

6.8.1. CHE

- The Minister expedites the stakeholder consultation of the CHE Report of the Inquiry into the remuneration of University Vice-Chancellors and Executive Management in South Africa so that the final report can be considered by Parliament.
- The CHE expedites the finalisation of outstanding institutional audits.
- The CHE improves its internal human resource capacity to reduce its spending on consultants.
- The funding model of the CHE should be reviewed taking into account its increased scope and resources of the additional transformation oversight function and to have a fit-for-purpose organisational structure that matches the work that needs to be done, especially as it introduces the new Quality Assurance Framework.
- The entity should play its role towards the improvement of articulation within the PSET system.

- There should be a cooling off period for any CHE Council members or executive officials whose term has ended or who have resigned before they could be appointed to a panel of assessors.
- The entity should maintain its record of good governance and management and achieve clean audits.

6.8.2. QCTO

- The DHET should expedite the approval of the QCTO business case model.
- A fit-for-purpose funding model for the entity should be finalised to realise its full potential in the PSET system and cater for its expanded mandate in relation to supporting TVET and CET colleges.
- The entity should improve the automation systems in relation to skills programme applications.
- The entity put measures in place for further development and management of the OQSF.
- Increase advocacy campaigns and public awareness programmes about the role of the QCTO in the PSET system.
- The entity should maintain its good governance and management and achieving consecutive clean audits.

6.8.3. SAQA

- Additional funding should be allocated to SAQA so that it can expedite the implementation of the phased-in approach of the automation project (Project Phoenix).
- The entity should continue with its excellent work of managing and maintaining the NQF despite its financial difficulties.
- The appointment of the SAQA Board Chairperson should be expedited.
- The newly approved organisation structure should be supported with requisite funding.
- SAQA should prioritise the recruitment of its previously retrenched employees in new posts.
- There is a need for more public awareness campaigns about the role of SAQA in the PSET system and the relevance of the NQF.
- SAQA should strengthen its external income-generating streams in light of the declining funds from the fiscus.

- The entity should play its role towards improving articulation in the PSET systems.

6.8.4. NHISS

- The DHET ensures that the NSF expedites the payment of the committed funding to the NIHSS to implement its projects.
- The appointment of the NIHSS Board should be expedited.
- The transfer of the NIHSS to be part of the HSRC without losing its mandate should be closely monitored.
- There is a need for more advocacy programmes to inform the public about the role of the NIHSS in the PSET system.

6.9. Transformation and GBV

- There was a need for close collaboration between institutional gender offices and the CGE.
- Consequence management be implemented against Councils/Boards that do not comply with the gender mainstreaming across the PSET system.
- The CGE should follow up on the cases of GBV&F from the PSET system that were before the courts and also provide the Committee with updates regarding their outcomes.

6.10. Public involvement and participation

- Good governance is fundamental to improving the quality and performance of higher education institutions. Thus, the Department ought to address its capacity challenges, especially within the University Education Branch and work towards improving its oversight and monitoring function over higher education institutions.
- Institutional autonomy and academic freedom of universities should be recognised and safeguarded, however, not at the expense of public accountability. Additionally, universities should deal decisively with any external forces that are interfering in their affairs, and they should be named and shamed.

- The Department and the stakeholders should develop a new framework on what academic freedom and institutional autonomy are in the context of South Africa and move away from neo-liberal principles, which depart from the premise that all are equal. The importance of co-operative governance in higher education is critical and university management and councils ought to work closely with other co-operative governance structures such as the SRC, labour unions and Institutional Forums in an attempt to address operational deficiencies. Adding to this, the establishment of University Ombuds will assist in facilitating the resolution of students and staff grievances at universities, by providing an independent space for mediation of conflicts among university stakeholders.
- The sector revisits the relationship between the state and institutions within the principles of cooperative governance, institutional autonomy and public accountability, as well as expands the notion of public accountability beyond the state.
- The Department, working with stakeholders strengthens the functioning of the higher education ecosystem.
- The Department considers implementing training and capacity development programmes for Council members to equip them with the skills necessary to execute their fiduciary duties. Moreover, the Department should resuscitate the Chairpersons of the University Council Structure.
- The Minister establishes a Ministerial Task Team or a national commission to re-establish a social compact where a charter can be developed, and each stakeholder makes commitments to ensure the success of co-operative governance.
- The Department reviews the existing legislation and regulatory frameworks to identify gaps in implementation for the strengthening of good governance in higher education.
- The sector should interrogate admission policies of institutions, including Recognition of Prior Learning, and articulation of TVET college students to universities.
- Institutions to desist from the intimidation of student leadership and organised labour by using court interdicts. Notwithstanding this, student leadership and organised labour be cautioned that radicalism is not anarchy.

1. Introduction

In the 6th Parliament, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) were incorporated under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation. This led, in Parliament, to the amalgamation of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training and the Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology. The name of the Committee was changed to match that of the Ministry, that being the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation.

Higher education and training, and science and innovation differ markedly in size, resources, form, and governance. Concomitantly, there are key areas of synergy between the DHET and DSI, as well as the science councils and research faculties/centres at higher education institutions in the performance of research and development, knowledge production, and in the development of human capability. The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation (the Committee) oversees the DHET and DSI, which together have over 120 reporting and non-reporting entities, as well as more than 20 pieces of legislation governing their work.

For the period May 2019 to March 2024, the oversight programme of the Committee was driven by:

- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of policy, legislation and strategic programmes.
- Assessing the impact of strategic initiatives.
- Scrutinising the adherence to the prescripts of good governance.
- Ensuring the broad and inclusive participation of relevant stakeholders.
- Fostering cooperation across Government and Parliament on matters of common interest.
- Within this programme, the Committee's scrutiny emphasised the need for effective and accountable governance, broad and equitable access, transformation, collaboration and enduring impact.

1.1 Department and Entities falling within the Committee's portfolio

a) Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET):

The DHET seeks to realise the vision of *"An integrated and coordinated PSET system for improved economic participation, and social development of youth and adults."* The Department also aims to provide strategic leadership to the PSET system through the development of appropriate steering mechanisms, effective oversight, monitoring and evaluation, provision of support services in relation to teaching and learning and funding of PSET institutions and entities.

The Department of Higher Education and Training ("DHET") derives its five-year Strategic Outcomes from the MTSF Priority 3: Education, Skills and Health.

Outcome 1: Expanded access to PSET opportunities, which aims to provide a diverse student population with access to a comprehensive and multifaceted range of PSET opportunities.

Outcome 2: Improved success and efficiency in the PSET system and aims to improve success and efficiency of the PSET system;

Outcome 3: Improved quality of PSET provisioning to build the capacity of PSET institutions to provide quality education and training;

Outcome 4: A responsive PSET system to provide qualifications, programmes and curricula that are responsive to the needs of the world of work, society and students.

Outcome 5: Excellent business operations within DHET, which aimed to ensure sound service delivery management and effective resource management within the department.

b) DHET Entities:

Name of Entity	Role of Entity
Council on Higher Education	To provide advice to the Minister on all higher education policy matters on request and on its own initiative, to develop and implement a system of quality assurance for all higher education institutions, to monitor the state of the higher education system and contribute to the development of higher education through intellectual engagement.
National Student Financial Aid Scheme	To administer and allocate loans and bursaries to eligible students, develop criteria and conditions for the granting of loans and bursaries to eligible students in consultations at all public universities and TVET colleges throughout the country.
Quality Council for Trades and Occupations	To develop and quality assure occupational qualifications that are responsive to the labour market and developmental state initiatives.
South African Qualifications Authority	To further develop and implement the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), which includes upholding the principles and objectives of the National Qualification Framework, ensuring access, quality, redress and development for all learners, through an integrated national framework of learning achievements.
Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA)	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in both primary and secondary agriculture sectors
Banking SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the banking and microfinance sectors
Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the culture, arts, tourism and hospitality sectors.

Construction Education and Training Authority	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the construction sector.
Chemical Industries SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the chemical industries sector
Education, Training & Development Practices SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the education, training and development practices sector
Energy & Water SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the energy and water sector
Finance & Accounting Services SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the finance and accounting services sector
Food & Beverages SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the food and beverages sector
Fibre Processing & Manufacturing SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the fibre processing and manufacturing sector
Health & Welfare SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the health and welfare sector
Insurance SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the insurance sector

Local Government SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the local government sector
Mining Qualifications Authority	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the mining sector
Manufacturing, Engineering and Other Related Services SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the manufacturing and engineering sector
Media Information and Communication Technologies SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the media and ICT sector
Public Service SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the public service sector
Safety & Security SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the safety and security sector
Services SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the services sector
Transport Education and Training Authority	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the transport sector
Wholesale & Retail SETA	Provision of relevant, quality and accessible education, training and development in the wholesale and retail sector.

1.2 Functions of Portfolio Committees:

Parliamentary committees are mandated to:

- Consider and make recommendations on legislation.
- Oversee executive action as set out in the Oversight and Accountability model of Parliament.
- Consider and make recommendations on money bills in accordance with the Money Bills Amendment and Related Matters Act of 2009.
- Facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative processes and other processes of Committees.
- Participate in, promote and oversee co-operative government.
- Engage in, participate in, and oversee international relations.
- Facilitate appointments to statutory bodies.
- Consider petitions.

1.3 Method of work of the Committee (if Committee adopted a particular method of work e.g. SCOPA.)

The Committee was allocated two days per week (Wednesday and Friday) for its oversight meetings with the DSI, DHET and entities, which included the Quality Councils, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and eight Science Councils. Furthermore, the Committee oversees 26 public Universities, 50 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) and nine Community Education and Training (CET) colleges.

The annual cycle for oversight visits in the annual parliamentary programme consisted of four slots: Jan/February, March, July and November. However, the four slots have been reduced to one annually since the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that the

Committee oversees two Departments with their entities, when an oversight visit to a province was scheduled, the Committee would programme meetings with universities, TVET and CET colleges, Science Councils and science projects. The PSET and Science institutions that did not receive site visits were invited, where possible, to scheduled Committee meetings to be held virtually or on the premises of Parliament.

The Committee also had areas of mutual interest with other Committees of Parliaments, to ensure conferral with these Committees; the Committee scheduled joint meetings on mutual sectoral issues.

1.4 Purpose of the report

This report provides an overview of the activities the Committee undertook during the 6th Parliament, the outcome of key activities, as well as any challenges that emerged during the period under review. It summarises the key issues for follow-up during the 7th Parliament and concludes with recommendations to strengthen operational and procedural processes to enhance the Committee's oversight and legislative roles in future.

2. Key statistics

The table below provides an overview of the number of meetings held, legislation and international agreements processed, and the number of oversight trips and study tours undertaken by the Committee, as well as any statutory appointments the Committee made, during the 6th Parliament.

Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Meetings held - total	30	51	42	52	41	10	**226**
Meetings: Science and Innovation (including meetings with higher education and other committees)	11	18	13	20	15	5	**82**
Legislation processed	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1**
Oversight trips undertaken	-	2	2	3	1	1	**9**
Study tours undertaken	-	-	-	-	1	-	**1**
International agreements processed	2	-	-	-	-	-	**2**
Statutory appointments made	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Interventions considered	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
Petitions considered	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0**

3. Stakeholders

In addition to engaging with the Department and entities, the Committee engaged with the Office of the Auditor-General when it considered the annual performance plans and annual reports of the Department and the entities. The Committee commends the sterling work the Office of the AG has done in supporting its oversight work. The Committee also engaged with Chapter 9 Institution: Commission for Gender Equality on the reports on Gender Transformation in tertiary education institutions and TVET colleges. The Committee had joint meetings with the Select Committee on Education, Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture; Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Multi-Party Women's Caucus on gender transformation; Portfolio Committee on Police on the management of student protests at universities and TVET college; and Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure. The Committee always ensured stakeholder participation in the work of Parliament. Thus, the Committee invited the Universities South

Africa (USAf), TVET College Governors Council (TVETCGC), South African Public Colleges Organisation (SAPCO), South African Union of Students (SAUS) and the South African Technical and Vocational Education and Training Students Association (SATVETSA) to be part of meetings, especially those dealing with saving the 2020 and 2021 academic years due to the impact of COVID-19 and the readiness for the new academic year. The Committee also invited, where possible, submissions from labour organisations so that they could also be heard. During oversight visits, the Committee invited representatives of all structures represented at institutions to make presentations on behalf of their constituencies.

3.1.1. Issues arising from the engagement with stakeholders:

USAF

- The use of institutional autonomy to evade public scrutiny and accountability, some also resisted when Parliament invited them.
- Intimidation of organised labour and student leadership with interdicts instead of engaging them, thus creating strained stakeholder relations.
- Disparities with the concessions given to students with outstanding debts.

Recommendations

- Universities are public institutions, funded through public funds, therefore they should be accountable to the public.
- USAf should ensure that institutions open communication channels with their stakeholders to co-operatively address operational deficiencies.
- USAf working with SAUS consider developing guidelines for financial concessions for students with outstanding debt. The guidelines should be updated annually.

SAPCO

- Intimidation of organised labour and student leadership with interdicts instead of engaging them, thus creating strained stakeholder relations.
- Allegations that some colleges and campuses do not allow student leaders to function properly, and they are not given the resources they need.

Recommendations

- College management should desist from intimidating organised labour and student leadership with interdicts. They should open communication channels to allow stakeholders to present their grievances.
- Student leadership are part of governance structures as per legislation and they should be allowed to exist, and resources should be allocated to enable them to function.

SAUS and SATVETSA

- Allegations of some student leadership used by accommodation providers to protest and compel institutions to lease their properties.
- Vandalism of institutional properties during protests.

Recommendations

- Radicalism should not be anarchy.
- Notwithstanding that students have the right to protest, however, they should do so peacefully without vandalising property.

4. Legislation

During the 6th Parliament, there were no Post-School Education and Training-related bills that were tabled in Parliament.

- The 7th Parliament should follow up on the tabling of the National Qualifications Framework Amendment Bill; the review of the Skills Development Act and the amendment to the NSFAS Act and other relevant reviews to the existing legislation.

5. Oversight trips undertaken

The following oversight trips were undertaken:

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
3 – 7 February 2020	Oversight visit to Gauteng	The objective of the oversight visit was to have engagements on matters related to governance and administration with: Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Universities	The committee recommended that: The Department should quantify the student debt; work with university to deal with the growing student debt; work with universities to monitor privately leased	The Department indicated that work was under way quantify the amount of student debt, however, there was no funding for the clearance of student debt.	A follow-up oversight visit to TUT to monitor the state of infrastructure will be necessary in future. The planned meetings still need to be convened. Time constraints within the parliamentary	Adopted

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		South Africa (USAf), National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), State Information Technology Agency (SITA), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the Vaal University of Technology (VUT). The Committee also assessed the state of readiness of the universities	accommodation; invest in additional resources for the modernisation of TVET colleges; Universities should improve their governance and administration; NSFAS should expedite the payment of outstanding students' allowances The Committee resolved to convene meetings with the National Treasury and the		programme have made it difficult to schedule a meeting.	

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		for the 2020 academic year. The Committee visited the CSIR's Scientia Campus to gain an understanding of the work of the entity and view a selection of facilities and projects.	Standing Committee on Appropriations to consider the impact of the budget reductions on the entity and the impact of procurement regulations on the ability of the entity to secure contract work from the state.			
26 February 2021	Vaal University of Technology (VUT) Vanderbijlpark – Gauteng	To assess the progress that has been by the Administrator in stabilising the institution since it	The committee recommended that: The outstanding disciplinary cases of employees implicated in	The Administrator managed to conclude most of the disciplinary cases; the revision of the university	Follow-up oversight visit to VUT is needed to assess the progress that has been made by the	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		was placed under administration on 15 August 2019	wrong-doing be concluded before the term of the Administrator comes to an end; the appointment of the Institutional Forum (IF) be expedited; a multi-stakeholders forum be established to improve the strained relations between management and stakeholders and the payment of outstanding NSFAS allowances be expedited	statute was work in progress and NSFAS sent a team of officials to deal with the backlog of outstanding students' allowances	university post its administration period	

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
18 May 2021	Oversight to the NSFAS Head Office, Wynberg – Cape Town	To engage with the Board and management of NSFAS and conduct a site inspection of the entity's Head Office	The committee recommended that NSFAS should: Expedite the process of procuring a new IT system that is fit for purpose; turn-around for resolving student appeals be expedited; the outreach programmes be improved and implementation of a fit-for-purpose organisation structure be expedited	The entity had responded that it was working towards developing a student-centred model aimed at improving the disbursement of funding and allowances to students and that the organisation structure would be reviewed	NSFAS still needs to procure an IT system that is fit for purpose	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
24 – 28 January 2022	Oversight visit to the Northern Cape to interact with: Sol Plaatje University, Northern Cape Rural TVET College, Northern Cape CET College, SAAO in Sutherland and SARAO in Carnarvon and surrounds.	The oversight visit was aimed at interacting with PSET institutions of the Northern Cape and assessing their state of readiness for the 2022 academic year, and engaging with the institutions' stakeholders on matters related to governance and administration. As part of the Committee's	The committee recommended that: SPU expedites the process of filling outstanding vacancies in Council and finalisation of outstanding institutional policies; consider incorporating the VUT Upington Campus; additional funding is needed for the PSET system to meet the 2030 objectives and that DHET needs to have an	The Department had responded that it had made reprioritisation within its programmes in order to cover the NSFAS funding shortfall for the 2022 AY; engagements with the Treasury for additional engagement for the PSET system were ongoing; NSFAS indicated that it would finalise the close-out project in 2023.	Follow-up to the SPU to assess its expansion including the NC Rural TVET college in De Aar.	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		long-standing resolution, the oversight included SARAO in Carnarvon to see the SKA and other radio astronomy infrastructure, the engineering and operations support infrastructure and the interventions aimed at community support and STEM teaching and learning. Then the	engagement with Treasury regarding this request; the need for additional funding will also assist NSFAS to cover its shortfall for 2022 AY; NSFAS should expedite the finalisation of the close-out project and payment of outstanding allowances due to students			

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		Committee visited Sutherland to view the optical astronomy instruments, including the SALT, and the interventions aimed at community support and STEM teaching and learning				
16 February 2022	Oversight visit to the Stellenbosch University	The purpose of the oversight visit was to engage with the University's Management, Council and	The committee recommended that: The University should intentionally work towards a translation of its	The university acknowledged that it needed to do more in terms of changing its demographics, especially at the	A follow-up oversight to the University is needed to assess the progress that has been made to meeting it	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	**Area Visited**	**Objective**	**Recommendations**	**Responses to Recommendations**	**Follow-up Issues**	**Status of Report**
		stakeholders on the progress made with the University's transformation journey	transformation policies and plans to a lived reality and change for all students and stakeholders at the institution; the University should prioritise the employment of women in senior management, including Black African academics, to improve equity in its staff demographics.	management level including academic staff	transformation objectives	

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
24 January – 3 February 2023	Oversight visit to KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo to visit: Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), Durban University of Technology (DUT), University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), University of Zululand (UniZulu), Coastal, Thekwini,	The main focus of the first part of the oversight visit was to assess the state of readiness of universities, TVET and CET colleges for the 2023 academic year and to monitor the registration and enrolment of first-time entering (FTEN) and returning students to these institutions.	In relation to higher education and training, the committee recommended that: DHET working with the institutions should find a sustainable way of addressing the challenge of loadshedding; should work with the local municipalities so that the problem of water shortages is addressed; provide additional support to TVET colleges	The DHET committed to work closely especially with the TVET colleges that were experiencing governance and management challenges	A follow-up oversight visit is needed in KZN to assess the progress in relation to governance and management at Coastal TVET college to be specific; similar in Mpumalanga, the committee should make a follow-up visit to Ehlanzeni TVET college to monitor the state of infrastructure; in Limpopo a follow-up oversight visit to	Published and adopted by the NA

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
	Umfolozi, Capricorn, Vhembe and Ehlanzeni TVET colleges, University of Venda (UNIVEN), University of Limpopo (UL), , Limpopo and Mpumalanga CET colleges, University of Mpumalanga (UMP)	The second part of the oversight was aimed at visiting selected DSI-funded or supported institutions and projects at the universities in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. The Committee had gained much insight about DSI and its entities' research and innovation programmes through briefings	to improve their pending of infrastructure grants; improve monitoring and oversight over the institutions; source additional funding for the CET sector.		UNIVEN to assess the incomplete infrastructure projects will be necessary	

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
		but was keen to visit the institutions and projects to gain first-hand experience of these programmes and engage on the intended socioeconomic impact.				
5 – 7 February 2024	Oversight visit to the Eastern Cape to visit: King Sabatha Dalindyebo TVET College, Walter Sisulu University,	The objective of the oversight visit was to assess the state of readiness of the institutions for the 2024 academic year and to visit the	The committee recommended that:	Not yet available	The appointment of permanent Principals and other senior managers in the TVET colleges of the EC needs follow-up and	Published and to be considered by the House

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Recommendations	Responses to Recommendations	Follow-up Issues	Status of Report
	Buffalo City TVET College, University of Fort Hare and Rhodes University	DSI-supported programmes at the universities			follow-up to the BC TVET college will be necessary in future to assess progress that been made to stabilise the college.	

c) Challenges emerging – Post-School Education and Training

Limited time and opportunity for oversight meant that the oversight programme was dominated by the needs of higher education.

d) Issues for follow-up – Post-School Education and Training

The 7th Parliament should follow up on the implementation of the oversight visit report recommendations.

6. Study tours undertaken

The following study tours were undertaken:

Date	Places Visited	Objective	Lessons Learned	Status of Report
21 – 29 October 2023	Switzerland	The objectives of the study tours were to learn best practices in terms of the Swiss higher education and training system and science and innovation. In relation to higher education, the committee wanted to gain insight into the Swiss post-education and training system to interact with universities and colleges and learn more about their governance, administration and teaching and learning. The committee was also interested in the skills development aspect of the country to understand how	In relation to higher education, the lessons learnt included: the Swiss education system comprises of compulsory primary education for learners up to 15 years; 2/3 of learners in Switzerland chose the VET route as general universities were not highly considered the first option; the main priority of many learners in the country is to articulate to universities of science and technology, as the country places more emphasis on research and innovation; the country had low levels of unemployment (2 percent) and excellent innovative capacity and highly qualified employees; there is strong sense of good governance and accountability across the Swiss higher education and training sector; there is strong relationship between the private sector and universities of technology; graduates of	Published

Date	Places Visited	Objective	Lessons Learned	Status of Report
		young people are trained to be active participants in the economy. In relation to science and innovation, Switzerland is a world leader in innovation through research and development and the committee wanted to learn best practices. The committee wanted to gain more insight in relation to transformation in science and innovation; impact through science and innovation; budget coordination for science and innovation; and integration of science and	universities find it easy to get employment in Switzerland.	

Date	Places Visited	Objective	Lessons Learned	Status of Report
		innovation across government.		

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged during the study tours:

- The Committee did not experience challenges during the study tour as the planning and logistics were conducted in consultation with the DSI, DHET and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). The Committee managed to meet with all the stakeholders that were part of the programme and received the necessary documentation it requested.

b) Highlights from the study tour

- There are a number of projects between SA and Switzerland that need follow-up by the 7th Parliament. The major issue with these projects is limited funding. The Swiss government has invested in a number of projects that involves universities, schools and communities. However, continuity and sustainability of some of these projects remain a challenge given the inadequate commitment by local stakeholders to carry-on with the project costs.
- The Committee requested DIRCO and DHET to develop a database of all SA students who are studying at various institutions in Switzerland.
- The commercialisation of innovation in Switzerland is greatly supported by applied sciences universities and technical and vocational colleges, as well as the private sector. Hence, South Africa must strengthen the HESTIIL, so that South African technical and vocational colleges can meet this mandate.

- The Committee recommend that the DSI should consider the possibility of engaging the TIA to provide funding to SMMEs that can develop membrane modules for water purification. These membrane modules are in high demand in Switzerland and other European countries, and there will be great export opportunities if South African companies can produce them.
- The Committee planned to convene a Colloquium with DSI on science diplomacy before the end of the 6th Parliament. However, this Colloquium can be convened by the 7th Parliament. The intention of this Colloquium is to aid the work of the STI Decadal Plan and possibly facilitate greater uptake of STI interventions across government.
- The Committee had proposed that the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) should convene webinars with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to promote science at grassroot levels and share best practices to improve teacher training in mathematics and science. This matter can be followed-up by the 7th Parliament.
- The Committee of the 7th Parliament can confer with the PC on Basic Education on other areas which were identified to be very beneficial for the basic education sector.
- The Committee of the 7th Parliament can convene a meeting with DHET and DSI to get an update on some of the key recommendations of the study tour which were directed to these departments.

7. International Agreements:

The following international agreements were processed and reported on:

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
ATC No. 172 – 2022	Global Convention on the Recognition of	• Promote and strengthen international cooperation in higher education;	Published in the ATC on 13 April	N/A

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
1 November 2022	Qualifications Concerning Higher Education	• Support interregional initiatives, policies and innovations for international cooperation in higher education; • Facilitate global mobility and the achievement of merit in higher education for the mutual benefit of qualification holders, higher-education institutions, employers, and any other stakeholders of the States Parties to this Convention while understanding and respecting the diversity of the States Parties' higher-education systems; • Provide an inclusive global framework for the fair, transparent, consistent, coherent, timely and reliable recognition of qualifications concerning higher education; • Respect, uphold and protect the autonomy and diversity of higher education institutions and systems;	2023 and considered by the House on 8 September 2023	

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
		• Promote a culture of quality assurance in higher education institutions and systems, and develop the capacities necessary for ensuring reliability, consistency and complementarity in quality assurance, in qualifications frameworks and in the recognition of qualifications in order to support international mobility; • Promote the development, collection and sharing of accessible, up-to-date, reliable, transparent and relevant information and the dissemination of best practices among stakeholders, States Parties and regions; • Foster globally the optimal use of human and educational resources with a view to promoting education for sustainable development, and contribute to structural, economic, technological,		

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
		cultural, democratic and social development for all societies.		

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged during the processing of international agreements:

- No challenges were experienced with processing the agreements. Hence, there were no issues requiring follow-up.

8. **Statutory appointments –** The Committee does not make any statutory appointments in the science and innovation portfolio.

9. **Interventions –** No interventions were referred to the Committee.

10. **Petitions –** The Committee did not receive any petitions in relation to science and innovation.

11. **Obligations conferred on Committee by legislation: (Include BRRR process – recommendations and outcomes of these if any)**

Key recommendations emanating from the Committee's Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports from 2019 to 2023 included:

- The Department needs additional funding to increase the enrolment of students in the TVET and CET sectors. Even though the budget of the Department is projected to increase over the MTEF period, it remains inadequate to meet the NDP targets for enrolment in the TVET and CET sectors and also inadequate to address the funding needs of the missing middle and post-graduate students who are unable to secure funding from other bursaries.
- The Department should expedite investigation processes in the irregular expenditure and implement consequences management against officials who are responsible for the irregularity.
- Student safety and security at institutions of higher learning is of paramount importance, however, the incidence of violence and killing of students within university campuses is concerning. In this regard, the Department should put measures in place to assist Universities in becoming safe spaces for teaching and learning.
- Consideration should be given to systemic investment into the remote teaching and learning modalities at universities post-COVID-19 period to enable students to access this new approach of accessing higher education. The limited university infrastructure is unable to meet the demand for higher education, thus blended learning can be further explored.
- The Department should put measures in place to ensure adherence by all TVET colleges to the submission of the annual financial statements within the legislated time frame.
- Articulation of TVET graduates into higher education institutions should be seamless as envisaged in the White-Paper for Post-School Education and Training. In this regard, the CHE working in collaboration with other quality councils such as the QCTO and Umalusi should ensure that the curriculum design of the TVET sector promotes smooth articulation of TVET graduates into higher education.
- The adaptation to alternative means of teaching and learning such as remote learning was very slow in the TVET sector during the lockdown period. Consequently, the sector experienced a decline in its enrolment and academic performance. TVET colleges need to embrace and implement digital transformation.

- Underspending on capital infrastructure efficiency grants (CIEG) in the TVET sector remain a concern, and colleges need to be provided with additional support on procurement and project management.
- The Department should address the relevance of the curriculum offered in the CET sector so as to ensure skills development interventions to support local economic growth.
- CET lecturers be provided with the training and skills needed to offer skills programmes aligned to the OQSF. The skills programmes for CET colleges will assist them in responding to their respective local and regional economic needs.
- The Department should strengthen its advocacy strategy to attract youth, adults to enrol in the CET learning centres and to partner with SETAs to deliver relevant skills.
- The Department should expedite the development and implementation of the integrated information management system for PSET to ensure optimal utilisation of PSET resources and address leakages (such as learners with ID numbers not on the Home Affairs system, learners double dipping from NSFAS, Funza Lushaka, NSF and SETAs, funding of deceased learners, learners in multiple SETAs and NSF, and learners reported in multiple years) as evidenced by the AG's findings.
- The Department should work closely with NSFAS to ensure that the entity finalises its close-out project so that it can table its Annual Reports for 2021/22 and 2022/23 as per the prescribed legal requirements.
- The Department should analyse the R12 billion accumulated cash surplus reserves (of SETAs and assess whether there is an alignment to the projects committed to ensure efficient utilisation of these reserves. The Department should also explore how these funds could be reprioritised to fund other PSET areas that are financially constrained.
- The entity should expedite the implementation of the automation project to assist in improving the turnaround time for the verification of foreign qualifications.
- The NSF should expedite the finalisation of disciplinary cases against employees implicated in the Nexus Forensic report.

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged:

- Due to time limitations, all the entities could not appear before the Committee with every Annual Report cycle.
- The lack of or extended time taken to respond to the Committee's recommendations or requests for additional information, hampered efforts to timeously follow-up and/or resolve the issues that were identified.
- Underfunding of the PSET system has been a major concern for the Committee during its assessment of the annual reports of the entities, and the limited funding hinders the ability of the entities to fulfil their mandate.
- Poor audit outcomes and irregular, wasteful and fruitless expenditures incurred by some of the entities within the higher education sector were of great concern.

b) Issues for follow-up

The 7th Parliament should consider following up on the following concerns that arose:

- Concerted effort should be devoted to exercising the powers granted to Parliament through the Money Bills Procedures and Related Matters Amendment Act 9 of 2009 to secure additional funds for the DHET and its entities, especially TVET and CET colleges, including funding for the new NSFAS loan scheme for the missing middle students.
- Ongoing monitoring of the Committee's recommendations and the responses thereto is required. Furthermore, time should be set aside during every quarter to formally consider the responses received, so that issues can be closed off or further explored if needed.

12. Summary of outstanding issues relating to Science and Innovation that the Committee has been grappling with

The following key issues are outstanding from the Committee's activities during the 6th Parliament:

Responsibility	**Issue(s)**
Minister, DHET, National Treasury and Parliament	Securing additional funding for the new NSFAS loan scheme for the missing middle and postgraduate students
Minister, DHET, NSFAS	The tabling of the Addendum to the NSFAS 2021/22 Annual Report
Minister, DHET and NSFAS	Tabling of the NSFAS Annal Report 2022/23
Minister, DHET and CHE	Finalisation of the consultation on the Report
Minister and DHET	Finalisation of the next phases of the Comprehensive Student Funding Model
Minister and DHET	Pending court review on the Independent Assessor Report of UNISA
Minister and DHET	Report on the second phase of the feasibility of the establishment of two universities

13. Other matters referred by the Speaker/Chairperson (including recommendations of the High-Level Panel)

- The Speaker referred to the Independent Assessor Report of UNISA and MUT for consideration. The Committee considered the Reports.
- The Speaker also referred to the Committee the CGE reports as follows: 2018/19 Report on the Gender Transformation in Tertiary Institutions, June 2020 (focussed on the University of Zululand, Nelson Mandela University, Sol Plaatje University, University of Mpumalanga and the Department of Higher Education and Training; Report on the Follow-up Hearings on Gender Transformation

at Tertiary Institutions 2019/20, November 2021 (focussed on the University of Johannesburg, University of the Free State, Stellenbosch University, University of Zululand and University of Mpumalanga, Nelson Mandela University, Sol Plaatje University, including GBV and femicide incidents at Ehlanzeni TVET college, Mapulaneng and Barberton Campuses; University of Fort Hare and Thekwini TVET college; Progress Report on Gender Transformation Investigations in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges 2022, February 2023, and CGE Activity Report on the Maputo Protocol 2023, November 2023. The referred Reports were considered.

14. Recommendations - to resolve operational and/or procedural concerns encountered during the 6th Parliament.

- The science and innovation, and higher education and training portfolios differ greatly in size and resources. Hence, the two meeting days per week (Wednesday and Friday) were insufficient to consider all aspects of both portfolios, as well as follow up on outstanding issues or deal with additional issues that came to light during briefings. Fridays would often be allocated to morning Plenaries and as this was the Committee allocated day for science and innovation, more time was lost from the science and innovation programme. Therefore, consideration should be given to allocating the Committee three meeting days per week.

15. Committee Strategic Plan

Attached as Annexure A

16. Master Attendance List

Attached as Annexure B

2. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture on its activities undertaken during the Sixth Parliament (May 2019 – March 2024), Dated 25 March 2024

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Reflection on committee programme per year and on whether the objectives of such programmes were achieved

Over the last five years, the Committee managed to achieve the following:

- The Committee processed one piece of legislation, namely the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport Amendment Bill. In processing the legislation, the Committee ensured that this was done in accordance with constitutional prescripts, which includes public participation. Oral and written submissions were considered from a range of stakeholders including, but not limited to the National Treasury, South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS), the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), and the South African Rugby Union (SARU).
- The Committee processed 134 nominations for individuals to potentially serve on the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB). These nominations, as prescribed by the legal framework, were whittled down to a list of 25 candidates who were interviewed by Committee. The final short list was submitted to the Minister for the purpose of appointing a board.
- The Committee managed to visit three provinces (Gauteng, Free State, and the Western Cape Provinces) to assess matters brought to the Committee's attention.
- The Committee fastidiously monitored the financial and non-financial performance of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (the "Department") as well as a range of entities, non-profit organisations (including national federations).

- With South Africa's participation in a number of international sporting events, the Committee held several meetings with the SASCOC on the state of readiness and preparations ahead of these events to explore potential challenges and make recommendations on mitigating strategies.
- The Committee also held several engagements with National Federations and the Department on the matters of transformation and safeguarding in sport, with a sharp focus on developing sports in schools and in previously marginalised communities.
- In carrying out its mandate, the Committee considered and processed two petitions and several international agreements with countries including Cuba, Brazil, Nigeria, Kenya, France and Côte D'Ivoire.

2. Committee's focus areas during the Sixth Parliament

- Briefings by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and its entities;
- Conducted oversight visits in three provinces;
- Facilitated public participation on issues of oversight and legislation;
- Processed one piece of legislation;
- Processed nominations, shortlisted and interviewed nominees to serve on a statutory body;
- Monitored the implementation of the COVID-19 relief funding as well as the different phases of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP) for the sector.

3. Key areas for future work

- Support for athletes and creatives: South African athletes and creatives are supported through programmes established by the Department. However, the Committee needs to continue to closely monitor the support provided to marginalised groups, especially women, the youth, rural communities and people with disabilities.

- Overarching Policy implementation: Continue to monitor the implementation of the two sector-specific White Papers, namely the Revised White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage (ACH) and the White Paper on Sport and Recreation for the Republic of South Africa. The action plans for the implementation of the Revised White Paper on ACH will include, among others, the enactment, amendment and/or repeal of some of the legislation currently administered by the Department. The Committee should closely monitor the work of the Department for the introduction of new legislation.
- Entities and NPOs: Given the range of public entities and non-profit organisations reporting to the Department, the Committee should continue and strive to improve on the standard that has been set in holding them to account.

4. Key challenges emerging

- *Strategic planning*: Partly due to the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the sheer volume of meetings required to address pressing matters, the Committee did not manage to hold a strategic planning session to craft its five-year strategic plan.
- *Programming*: The demanding Parliamentary programme places constrains on the Committee's available time to conduct oversight, particularly in situ visits to entities.
- *Oversight*: Due to the number of entities and NPOs within the Department, it is challenging to conduct oversight over all 28 entities and six NPOs – which includes SASCOC with a wide membership – for every budget vote and annual report cycle, as well as to monitor these on a quarterly basis. The Committee therefore adopted an approach of selecting key entities that were considered essential for these oversight activities. However, there is a need for a more systematic approach to ensure that each entity is monitored over a five-year period.
- *Law-making (policy and legislation)*: The Committee was faced with processing amendment legislation which was introduced into Parliament towards the end of the Sixth term. This, combined with administrative challenges in terms of supply chain management, resulted in the Committee Chairperson having to swiftly adapt the Committee programme to ensure that the legislation was processed in line with constitutional prescripts.

- *Study tour*: Neither the former Portfolio Committee on Sport and Recreation or the former Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture have undertaken an international study tour in at least the last ten years.
- *Support staff*: Following the unexpected passing of the Committee's Content Advisor in early 2021, the Committee operated with alternating acting Content Advisors for nearly two years. The acting Content Advisors who were also the Committee researchers, were subsequently permanently appointed as Content Advisors in August and September 2022, respectively. These appointments resulted in vacant Committee researcher posts. With the posts being vacant for approximately one year and the Content Advisors were expected to continue functioning as researchers as well.

5. Recommendations

- *Strategic planning*: It is recommended that the Committee hold a strategic planning session where the Committee's strategic outcome-orientated goals will set for the Seventh Parliament.
- *Oversight*: Improve oversight by holding joint meetings with the Select Committee on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture. Focus areas could include, for example, the implementation of conditional grants (Community Libraries and Mass Participation & Sport Development); the work of the provincial language boards; the implementation of the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route project; and the work of provincial sports confederations. Additionally, the Committee should explore the possibility of creating clusters of entities that are seen at one time, e.g. sporting institutions; museums; development (funding) bodies, etc.
- *Law-making (policy and legislation)*: The Department should ensure that any future legislation is timeously tabled in Parliament to allow for Parliament to adequately process these in line with the constitutional prescripts.
- *Study tour*: In the Seventh Parliament, the Committee should explore the feasibility of conducting an international study tour for the purposes of strengthening oversight on the implementation of international agreements and gaining deeper insight into international best practices for the sport, arts and culture sector.

- *Support staff*: Parliament should ensure that the time between a post being vacated and the appointment of new employees be reduced to ensure that its committees are provided with adequate, quality research and advisory support.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Department/s and Entities falling within the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture

a) Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

The Department of Sport and Recreation SA and the Department of Arts and Culture were directed to merge into the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and to function as a new unified department as from 01 April 2020. The merger follows President Ramaphosa's Cabinet announcement on 29 May 2019, when he outlined the reconfiguration of the national executive, which included merging some departments.

The Department derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 ("the Constitution") including the Preamble and Founding Provisions. The Constitution affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. The following sections are those that primarily inform the Department's mandate:

Freedom of expression

16.(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes—

(a) freedom of the press and other media;

(b) freedom to receive or impart information or ideas;

(c) freedom of artistic creativity; and

(d) academic freedom and freedom of scientific research.

Language and culture

30. Everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice, but no one exercising these rights may do so in a manner inconsistent with any provision of the Bill of Rights, and

Access to information

32.(1) Everyone has the right of access to—

(a) any information held by the state; and

(b) any information that is held by another person and that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights.

The 2019-2024 Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) forms the second five-year implementation phase of the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 (NDP). The framework aims to ensure policy coherence, alignment and coordination across Government plans as well as alignment with the budgeting process.

For the Sixth Administration, in his SONA in June 2019, the President identified seven Government priorities listed below. The seven Government priorities, as contained in the 2019-2024 MTSF, are listed below and the ones to which the Department planned to contribute are indicated by way of an asterisk:

- Priority 1: Building a capable, ethical and developmental state*
- Priority 2: Economic Transformation and Job Creation*
- Priority 3: Education, Skills and Health*
- Priority 4: Consolidating the Social Wage through Reliable and Quality Basic Services
- Priority 5: Spatial Integration, Human Settlements and Local Government*
- Priority 6: Social Cohesion and Safe Communities*
- Priority 7: A Better Africa and World

Five strategic outcomes have been identified for the period 2020 – 2025. The following table highlights the strategies for the Department for the MTSF:

GOVERNMENT PRIORITY	STRATEGIC OUTCOME	INTERVENTIONS
Priority 2: Economic transformation and job creation	*Priority outcome* Outcome 1: Increased market share of and job opportunities created in sport, cultural and creative industries.	• Enabling framework/well researched, regulated and funded SAC sector; • Support a range of cultural and creative sector initiatives to promote the diverse creative industries; • Expansion in new and traditional creative industry markets; and • Increased economic participation by historically disadvantaged groups.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITY	STRATEGIC OUTCOME	INTERVENTIONS
Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities	*Priority outcome* Outcome 2: A diverse, socially cohesive society with a common identity	• Increase awareness of Charter of Positive Values and national symbols; • Equalising opportunities, inclusion and redress; and • Increase interaction across space, race and class (by facilitating opportunities for people to share space and experience)
Priority 3: Education, skills, and health	*Enabling outcome* Outcome 3: Transformed, capable and professional sport, arts and culture sector	• Increase awareness of SAC offerings and opportunities; • Capacity building in SAC sector; • SAC practitioners achieve success at international events; and • Capacitate, organise and professionalise the SAC sector.
Priority 5: Spatial integration, human settlements, and local government	*Enabling outcome* Outcome 4: Integrated and accessible SAC infrastructure and information	• Access to information; • SAC infrastructure programme; and • Multipurpose SAC hubs and/or precincts.
Priority 1: A capable, ethical, and developmental state	*Enabling outcome* Outcome 5: Compliant and responsive Governance/Administration	• Performance and financial oversight; • Capacitated human resources; • Integrated stakeholder management; • Strengthen public entity oversight mechanisms; and • Service delivery.

Stemming from the outcomes for the MTSF, the Department has developed ten focus areas that are categorised as follows:

1. Create job opportunities and support entrepreneurs;
2. Increase market share of sport, cultural and creative industries;
3. Capacitate and professionalise the sport, arts and culture sector;
4. Increase access to infrastructure and to information;
5. Establish a common national identity;
6. Engender compliant and responsive governance;
7. Strengthen sport and cultural diplomacy;
8. Accelerate social cohesion;
9. Promote official languages; and
10. Implement the emergency response plan on gender-based violence and femicide.

Social cohesion and nation-building is one of the seven apex priorities of the Sixth Administration. The Department leads the Government's action plan on social cohesion, and thus fostering cohesion and building a socially cohesive society is at the centre of the Department's mandate. Additionally, the work of the Department is based on Schedule 27 of the Constitution which guarantees the right to social security. The Department has also been tasked with powers and functions to develop and implement national policies and programmes regarding sport and recreation. As such, the Department has a broad mandate which is to provide leadership to the Sport, Arts and Culture (SAC) sector to accelerate its transformation; oversee the development and management of sport, arts and culture in South Africa; legislate on sports participation, sports infrastructure and safety; improve South Africa's international ranking in selected sports through a partnership with the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC); preserve, develop, protect and promote the cultural, heritage, and linguistic diversity and legacy of South Africa; lead nation building and social cohesion through social transformation; enhance archives and records management structures and systems; and promote access to information.

The work of the Department is organised into four programmes:

Programme 1: Administration – The purpose of this programme is to provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the Department.

Programme 2: Recreational Development and Sport Promotion – This programme has been devised to Support the provision of mass participation opportunities, the development of elite athletes, and the regulation and maintenance of facilities.

Programme 3: Arts and Culture Promotion and Development – The purpose of Programme 3 is to promote and develop arts, culture and languages, and implement the national social cohesion strategy.

Programme 4: Heritage Promotion and Preservation – The Heritage Promotion and Preservation Programme strives to preserve and promote South African heritage, including archival and heraldic heritage. Oversee and transfer funds to libraries.

b) Entities:

As at the end of the 2022/23 financial year, a total of 28 public entities report to the Department. This includes the newly declared public entity, the Mandela Bay Theatre Complex (MBTC). The MBTC, was declared a schedule 3A public entity under the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) (No. 1 of 1999, as amended) on 26 May 2021, and gazetted on 04 June 2021. The call for the new Council was issued in October 2021. The entity became operational as a declared institution on 01 April 2022 with the new Council appointed on 02 June 2022.

The entities reporting to the Department can be broadly categorised into the following sector focus areas:

- Development or funding bodies;
- Performing arts institutions;
- Museums;
- Heritage;
- Libraries;
- Language; and
- Sport institutions.

Additionally, the Department supports six (6) non-profit organisations (NPOs), including The Sports Trust; Business and Arts South Africa (BASA); Blind SA; Englenburg House Museum; loveLife; and SASCOC. The latter NPO, SASCOC, functions as a coordinating macro body responsible for promoting and developing high-performance sports within South Africa and occupies a vital space in the Committee's portfolio. SASCOC's current membership amounts to eighty-six (86) members, comprised of seventy-seven (77) National Federations and nine Provincial Sports Confederations.

Sector focus		**Name of public entity**	**Role of Entity**	**Location**
Development (funding) bodies	1.	The National Arts Council (NAC)	*National Arts Council Act (No. 56 of 1997)* The NAC is mandated to provide and encourage the provision of opportunities for people to practise the arts, foster the expression of a national identity and consciousness through the arts, provide historically disadvantaged artists with additional help and resources to give them greater access to the arts, address historical imbalances in the provision of infrastructure for the promotion of the arts, develop and promote the arts, and encourage artistic excellence.	Newtown, Gauteng
	2.	National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF)	*National Film and Video Foundation Act (No. 73 of 1997, as amended by the Cultural Laws Amendment Act, No. 36 of 2001)* The NFVF is mandated to develop and promote the film and video industry in South Africa through the programmes it funds and carry out other enabling activities such as providing training to industry players, supporting and developing historically disadvantaged people in the audiovisual industry in line with South Africa's transformation agenda, increasing the number of people trained in scarce skills, and creating job opportunities in the film and video industry. Providing funding for content development in the film industry is at the core of the foundation's work.	Pretoria, Gauteng

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
Performing Arts Institutions	3.	Artscape	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* Performing arts institutions are mandated to advance, promote and preserve performing arts in South Africa; enhance the contribution of arts and culture to the economy; create job opportunities; and create initiatives that enhance nation building.	Cape Town, Western Cape
	4.	The Market Theatre Foundation		Newtown, Gauteng
	5.	Performing Arts Centre of the Free State (PACOFS)		Bloemfontein, Free State
	6.	The Playhouse Company		Durban, KwaZulu-Natal
	7.	South African State Theatre		Pretoria, Gauteng
	8.	Mandela Bay Theatre Complex		Gqeberha, Eastern Cape
	9.	Die Afrikaanse Taalmuseum en -monument (ATM)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* The ATM is mandated to maintain the ATM's cultural-historical buildings and heritage sites and the heritage of Afrikaans in such a manner that nation-building and social cohesion will be achieved; collect and conserve, conduct research on, and portray, through exhibitions, the origin, development, benefit and expansion of Afrikaans, with a special focus on inclusiveness to address historical imbalances; and promote and stimulate Afrikaans nationwide at all levels of society, especially in disadvantaged communities.	Paarl, Western Cape
Museums	10.	Freedom Park	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* As a Heritage Legacy Project, Freedom Park honours the heroes and heroines of the struggles for freedom and humanity by memorialisation and storytelling that narrates a story spanning a period of 3.6 billion years. Built in Salvokop, Pretoria, Freedom Park is strategically placed between the Voortrekker Monument and the University of South Africa (UNISA).	Pretoria, Gauteng

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
	11.	Iziko Museums of South Africa (Iziko Museums)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* Formerly known as the Southern Flagship Institution, Iziko Museums was formed in 1999 when five clusters of established national museums in and around Cape Town merged in terms of the Cultural Institutions Act. One of three national museum institutions in the Western Cape, Iziko Museums is an amalgamated institution comprising eleven (11) individual national museums. The entity displays, conserves, and researches its social and natural history collections, which comprises around 10 million objects, fossils, and specimens, collected over nearly two centuries. It also provides public education programmes.	Cape Town, Western Cape
	12.	Luthuli Museum	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* The home of Chief Albert and Mrs Nokukhanya Luthuli became a museum in August 2004. This is a heritage institution of educational enrichment and affirmation of marginalised histories of the majority of South Africans. The entity is the custodian of the legacy of Africa's first Nobel Peace Laureate and as such it interprets, displays, conserves, researches a collection which largely centres on the life of Chief Luthuli.	KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal
	13.	KwaZulu-Natal Museum (KZN Museum)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* The KZN Museum interprets material evidence of the natural and cultural world to increase knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the nation's wealth of history and biodiversity. Like other museum	Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
			institutions, the KZN Museum plays a significant role in the conservation and promotion of the nation's heritage, the promotion of national imperatives and priorities of the Government.	
	14.	National Museum (NMB)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* Established in 1877, the National Museum has developed into an omnibus institution with international stature. Intensive research is being done and significant study collections have been assembled in a range of fields biology, archaeology, cultural history, rock art and fine arts. Education is a further core function of the Museum and is embedded in every Museum activity. The Museum incorporates the following satellites: First Raadsaal Museum; Florisbad Research Station; Freshford House Museum; Oliewenhuis Art Museum; Wagon Museum; and Artbank.	Bloemfontein, Free State
	15.	Nelson Mandela Museum (NMM)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* The NMM comprises Bhunga Building, Qunu youth and heritage site, and Mvezo (managed by Nkosi Mandla Mandela). These sites operate collectively, and the entity is the custodian of the legacy of Nelson Mandela and as such it interprets, displays, conserves, researches a collection which largely centres on his life.	Mthatha, Eastern Cape
	16.	Robben Island Museum (RIM)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)*	Cape Town, Western Cape

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
			RIM, as a World Heritage Site, conserves and manages the cultural and natural resources to retain the significance and the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. It promotes an inclusive understanding of the Island's multi-layered history and shares, educates and communicates the values, experience and legacy of Robben Island.	
	17.	Amazwi – South African Museum of Literature (Amazwi Museum)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* Formerly known as the National English Museum Literacy Museum, Amazwi Museum acquires, preserves, researches, and promotes access to its literary collection that represents all linguistic communities of South Africa. The entity promotes the diversity of literary heritage through public education.	Makanda, Eastern Cape
	18.	uMsunduzi Museum	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* Situated on the banks of the Ncome River and the site of the historic battle between the Zulu people and the Voortrekkers, the uMsunduzi Museum incorporates the sites of uMsunduzi and Ncome. The entity conserves, promotes, conducts research, exhibits, and presents through educational programmes the social history of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.	Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal
	19.	War Museum of the Boer Republics (War Museum)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* This entity collects, curates and displays items relating to the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 to 1902. The War Museum conducts research, produces publications and implements	Bloemfontein, Free State

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
			education programmes on this theme and cooperates with other organisations, nationally and internationally, to develop this theme. Through developing a narrative that talks to the collective suffering of all communities affected by the War, the museum underscores the message that negotiation is preferable to war.	
	20.	William Humphreys Art Gallery (WHAG)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* Having been in existence for seventy years, the entity is an art gallery that acquires, preserves, and conserves artworks. It also provides a platform for visual artistic presentation. Through its various public programmes and projects offered to the public such as exhibitions that showcase the creative production of artists from more diverse backgrounds, and which also provide an insight into the lived realities of the people of South Africa, the WHAG works proactively to combat the legacies of apartheid, poverty, and exclusion from socio-economic opportunities of marginalised groups.	Kimberley, Northern Cape
	21.	Ditsong Museums of South Africa (Ditsong Museums)	*Cultural Institutions Act (No. 119 of 1998)* Formerly known as the Northern Flagship Institution, Ditsong Museums is amalgamation of eight museums, seven in Pretoria and one in Johannesburg. It operates in eleven different sites, including the Tswaing Meteorite Crater. The origins of the entity date back to 1892 and currently the collections cover a range of fields including national, cultural, and military history. The entity acquires and preserves, conducts research on, exhibits and displays heritage assets.	Pretoria and Johannesburg, Gauteng

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
			Ditsong Museums also uses its collections and exhibitions in the implementation of its public education programmes.	
Heritage	22.	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	*National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999)* SAHRA is mandated to formulate national principles, standards and policy for the identification, recording and management of the national estate in terms of which heritage resource authorities and other relevant bodies must function.	Cape Town, Western Cape
	23.	National Heritage Council (NHC)	*National Heritage Council Act (No. 11 of 1999)* The role of the NHC to preserve South African heritage as a priority for nation building and national identity. The objects of the Council include to develop, promote and protect the national heritage for present and future generations; coordinate heritage management; to protect, preserve and promote the content and heritage which reside in orature in order to make it accessible and dynamic; to integrate living heritage with the functions and activities of the Council and all other heritage authorities and institutions at national, provincial and local level; to promote and protect indigenous knowledge systems including but not limited to, enterprise and industry, social upliftment, institutional framework and liberatory processes; and to intensify support for the promotion of the history and culture of all our peoples and particularly to support research and publication on enslavement in South Africa.	Pretoria, Gauteng

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
Libraries	24.	National Library of South Africa (NLSA)	*National Library of South Africa Act (No. 92 of 1998)* The NLSA contributes to socioeconomic, cultural, educational, scientific and innovation development by collecting, recording, preserving and making available the national documentary heritage, and promoting an awareness and appreciation for it, by fostering information literacy and facilitating access to information resources.	Cape Town, Western Cape and Pretoria, Gauteng
	25.	South African Library of the Blind (SALB)	*South African Library for the Blind Act (No. 91 of 1998)* The SALB is mandated to provide a national library and information service to blind and visually impaired readers in South Africa.	Makanda, Eastern Cape
Language	26.	Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB)	*Pan South African Language Board Act (No. 59 of 1995, as amended)* PanSALB is mandated develop the official languages, as well as the Khoi, Nama and San; and promote multilingualism in South Africa as per the principles set out in section 3(9) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. PanSALB also investigates complaints about language rights and violations from any individual, organisation or institution.	Pretoria and all provinces
Sports Institutions	27.	Boxing South Africa (BSA)	*South African Boxing Act (No. 11 of 2001)* BSA is mandated to administer professional boxing; recognise amateur boxing; create and ensure synergy between professional and amateur boxing; and promote engagement and interaction between associations of boxers,	Pretoria, Gauteng

Sector focus		Name of public entity	Role of Entity	Location
			managers, promoters and trainers.	
	28.	South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS)	*South African Institute for Drug-free Sport Act (No. 14 of 1997, as amended)* SAIDS is mandated to promote participation in sport free from the use of prohibited substances or methods intended to artificially enhance performance. It is the custodian of anti-doping and ethics in South African sport, and actively collaborates with colleagues in the rest of Africa to keep sport clean.	Cape Town, Western Cape

1.2 Functions of the Committee:

The Committee is mandated to monitor the financial and non-financial performance of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and its entities to ensure that national objectives are met; process and pass legislation; and facilitate public participation in Parliament relating to issues of oversight and legislation.

The Portfolio Committee carries out its mandate through:

- Monitor financial and non-financial performance of the Department and its entities to ensure service delivery and monitor implementation of legislation;
- Consider and process legislation and statutory instruments referred to it;
- Consider and process international agreements and petitions relevant to it;
- Facilitate public participation where stakeholders, citizens and experts can make submissions on issues of oversight and legislation; and
- Consider all issues referred to it for consideration and report.

1.3 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide an account of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture work during the Sixth Parliament and to inform the members of the new Parliament of key outstanding issues pertaining to the oversight and legislative programme of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and its entities.

This report provides an overview of the activities the Committee undertook during the Sixth Parliament, the outcome of key activities, as well as any challenges that emerged during the period under review and issues that should be considered for follow up during the Seventh Parliament. It summarises the key issues for follow-up and concludes with recommendations to strengthen operational and procedural processes to enhance the Committee's oversight and legislative roles in future.

2. KEY STATISTICS

The table below provides an overview of the number of meetings held, legislation and international agreements processed, and the number of oversight trips and study tours undertaken by the committee, as well as any statutory appointments the committee made, during the Sixth Parliament:

Activity	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Meetings held	23	29	38	35	44	**174**
Legislation processed	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Oversight trips undertaken	0	0	2	0	0	**2**
Study tours undertaken	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
International agreements processed				4	2	**6**
Statutory appointments made	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Interventions considered	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Petitions considered	0	0	0	2	0	**2**

3. BRIEFINGS AND/OR PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Committee did not host any briefings or public hearings during the Sixth Parliament.

4. STAKEHOLDERS

None

5. LEGISLATION

The Committee processed one piece of legislation referred to it during the Sixth Parliament.

The South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS) Amendment Bill, 2023 [B41—2023] (“the Amendment Bill”) was approved by Cabinet for introduction in Parliament on 04 October 2023. On 23 November 2023, the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture (“the Minister”) published a notice of intention to introduce the Amendment Bill in Parliament in Government Gazette No. 49763. Subsequently, on 24 November 2023, the Minister introduced the Amendment Bill which was referred to the Committee on the same day (ATC No. 166 – 2023) as a proposed section 75 bill, i.e. a bill that would not affect the provinces. Simultaneously, the Amendment Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 160. On 13 December 2023 (ATC No. 179 – 2023), the Amendment Bill was officially tagged as a section 75 bill by the JTM in terms of Joint Rule 160(6).

The Amendment Bill proposes to amend various sections of the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS) Act, 1997 (Act No. 14 of 1997) (“the Principal Act”), previously amended by the SAIDS Amendment Act, 2006 (Act No. 25 of 2006). The objectives of the Amendment Bill are to amend the SAIDS Act largely amend and insert certain definitions; and to provide for consequential amendments in certain provisions to ensure that the legislation is compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Status: The Committee adopted the Amendment Bill as well as the report on the Amendment Bill on 25 March 2024.

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged during the processing of legislation:

- Institutional supply chain management processes resulted in some delays in advertising the call for public comment. Through the Committee Chairperson’s interventions, the impact of these delays was minimised.

6. OVERSIGHT VISITS

The following oversight trips were undertaken:

Date	Area Visited	Objective	Status of Report
06 – 09 April 2021	Free State and Gauteng Provinces	The primary purpose of this visit was to investigate the rollout of the COVID-19 Relief Fund and the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP) for the Arts, Culture and Heritage (ACH) sector. The Committee visited the Performing Arts Centre of the Free State (PACOFS) in Bloemfontein, Free State; the National Arts Council (NAC); and National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF). The latter two entities are both located in Johannesburg, Gauteng. The Committee also conducted walk about site to the ODI Stadium (Mabopane, Gauteng) and the HM Pitjie Stadium (Mamelodi, Gauteng).	Adopted and published.
07 – 09 June 2021	Western Cape	The purpose of the oversight was to attend to the labour and infrastructure challenges facing Robben Island Museum (RIM) and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) Robben Island Mayibuye Archives Centre ("Mayibuye Archives"). The Committee has, prior to the oversight visit, met with RIM on 05 May 2021. One of the main purposes of this meeting was to engage RIM on urgent and concerning matters in relation to the entity's financial situation in the light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector which subsequently has had a profound impact on RIM to generate the levels of revenue it has managed to generate in years prior to the pandemic. The Committee also conducted a site visit to the Artscape Theatre Centre ("Artscape") on 09 June 2021.	Adopted and published.

Below is an outline of some of the pertinent recommendations contained in the Committee's reports on these visits. It must be noted that the Committee held follow-up meetings with the Department and the entities where this was deemed necessary.

6.1. Oversight visit to the Gauteng and Free State Provinces (06 – 09 April 2021)

Following the oversight visit, the Committee engaged with PACOFS, NAC, and NFVF in the presence of the Department on 06 July 2021. Further, the Committee continued to conduct diligent oversight on the NAC with a subsequent meeting taking place on 19 November 2021 specifically scheduled to follow-up on the forensic investigation into allegations of mismanagement and maladministration of the PESP process by the NAC. The recommendations below arose from the findings of the oversight visit and the responses to these recommendations were provided in the follow-up meetings.

Performing Arts Centre of the Free State

Recommendations:

- The implementation of the recommendations of the Morar and Bonakude forensic reports must be expedited by the PACOFS council.
- The council should take the necessary steps to fill all the vacant managerial posts to reduce the number of acting staff in vacancies.
- The Council must provide a report to the Committee on its handling of sexual harassment allegations against management.
- The Council is to review the qualifications of management at PACOFS and take the necessary action against those who are not suitably qualified for the posts they occupy.
- The Committee requests that the Council review the expenditure on internal legal battles between junior staff and management.
- The Department to review their policy on Council members serving on multiple councils within the same sector.
- The Department should also review concerns that council members are recycled, especially those that have been performing poorly in other councils.

Responses:

- The Department referred the matter of the artist protest to Council, which has moved swiftly to engage with the artists.
- In a meeting held on 06 April 2021, artists emphasised that they want the Acting CEO / Artistic Director to face disciplinary because he was implicated in the Morar Report.
- The Department facilitated that an interim CEO be appointed, and the Acting CEO be relieved of his acting duties.
- Ms Snell, CEO of National Museum was therefore seconded to Act as CEO at PACOFS.
- Council has also took a decision that they will implement the recommendations of the Morar report as well as Bonakude report.
- Council served the Artistic Director with an intention to suspend. The Department facilitated assistance through the Legal Services Unit of the Department to engage the services of the State Attorney.
- DSAC Legal Services was also brought to assist with the sexual harassment matter against the CFO.
- Council is currently implementing the recommendations of the Bonakude Report.
- A case of the suspended CEO (Mr Peter Pedlar) is currently at the CCMA. The matter was postponed after the Commissioner took ill. An application for the new Senior Commissioner has been made and a response is awaited.

  Subsequent to the Committee's meeting held on 06 July 2021, the suspended CEO ceased his duties on the 30 November 2021 by way of a mutual separation agreement.
- Sexual Harassment allegations were referred to the Legal Unit in the Department to assist PACOFS in line with the entity's sexual harassment policy. There were engagements with the Board and the lawyers of the complainant who were advised to have the complainant lodging a formal grievance and a grievance form was forwarded to them.

National Arts Council

Recommendations:

- The NAC to fast-track the transfer of funds to all the approved beneficiaries of the PESP funds.
- The entity should honour its contractual obligations with the affected artists to avoid further legal challenges and reputational damage.
- The NAC is to implement an external communication mechanism to improve communication and feedback between the entity and other parties as well as to respond

speedily to external queries. This plan must be presented to the Committee and other stakeholders.

- The forensic investigation instituted by the Department must include the alleged non-arts, non-compliant, and deregistered companies that have benefited from the PESP funds meant for the creatives industry.
- Negotiations on meeting the demands of the sit-in protesting artists should get underway between all the stakeholders involved.
- Legal advice is needed on the matter of conflict of interest pertaining to the five Council members who are associated with companies or organisations that have received PESP funding.

Responses:

- The NAC reported that by mid-June 2021, 98 per cent of the 1 331 beneficiaries received the first tranche of the grants equating to 70 per cent of the grant value.
- A total of 22 letters of demand were received via beneficiaries' lawyers for the NAC to honour original contracts to the value of R34 135117. The NAC's council has sent response letters to some of the complainants. The National Arts Festival (NAF) and ASSITEJ cases were still in court. The NAF matter was heard in court on 31 May 2021 and the entity was still waiting for the final decision on the matter.
- At the start of the implementation of the PESP The NAC established an open communication line where the industry would communicate directly with the entity. The NAC also held weekly briefings which carried on until the end of June 2021 which coincided with the completion of the PESP project.
- Several applicants who were rejected in the PESP lodged their appeals with the Department, in terms of section 12 of the National Arts Council Act. The appeals were captured and referred to the Appeals Committee who were then engaged by the Department and compiled a report for the Minister's consideration as well as submitted responses to the appellants.
- Mazars Forensic Services was appointed on 25 June 2021 to conduct a forensic investigation into the allegations of mismanagement and maladministration of the PESP process by the NAC. A report with preliminary findings was released to the public on 13 November 2021.

- The Mazars Report confirmed the findings of the State Law Attorneys stating that newly appointed Council members whose organisations had applied for the PESP could not have been conflicted as they had not commenced their appointment at the NAC at the time of applying and completion of adjudication.

National Film and Video Foundation

Recommendations:

- The NFVF should maintain their record of good governance, especially with regards to the handling of projects such as the PESP.
- Members of the Council who may have benefited from the PESP funds should declare that there was no conflict of interest.

Responses:

- The entity experienced several challenges in relation to the implementation of the PESP. The shortage of funds led to non-approval of some of the applications. Applicants who were not satisfied with the reasons for rejection of their applications lodged appeals in accordance with the provisions Section 12 of the NFVF Act.
- No Council member has been allocated any contracts. In the instances where Council members made applications, these were excluded.

Following on from the Committee's site visit, the Committee met with the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, and the City of Tshwane Community and Social Development Services Department in the presence of the DSAC where it was provided with a progress report. The Department underscored that the established and available funding mechanism for re-development of the two stadiums is provided through the Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG), which caters for other infrastructure needs required for integrated, sustainable human settlements. The DSAC undertook to develop a proposal to ring-fence a portion of USDG and engage National Treasury based on consultation with the metropolitan municipalities to establish the extent of use of USDG to deliver sport facilities.

Outlined below are the recommendations emanating from the site visit and responses.

ODI Stadium

Recommendations:

- The DSAC and the municipality should submit a report to the Committee indicating the future plans of the ODI stadium.

Responses:

- The City of Tshwane Community & Social Development Services Department presented a detailed report to the Committee. The overarching plan included the demolition of the existing multi-purpose sport and recreation stadium and the establishment of a new multi-purpose sport facility that will comply to the Occupational Health and Safety Act standards and requirements as set for facilities used for public gathering and recreation. The City also indicated that there was a need for the stadium to accommodate various sporting codes. They further noted that at the time, the unsafe facility was a big challenge due to a lack of internal resources and the option of external or private funds needed to be explored.

HM Pitjie Stadium

Recommendations:

- The National DSAC, Gauteng Department of Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation (Gauteng DSACR), City of Tshwane Management led by the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Sport and Recreation, as well as Community leaders to brief the Committee with regards to the plans of reviving the HM Pitjie Stadium.
- The municipality to submit a full report on the history of the stadium and their future plans of rebuilding the stadium to the Committee.

Responses:

- The Gauteng DSACR presented status update on the progress to date of its two-phase demolition and redevelopment project. The redevelopment included a proposed 30 000 seater Premier Soccer League stadium at an estimated R1.36 billion. It was also noted that it was, at the time of the meeting, in consultation with stakeholders (i.e. Premier's Office, Provincial and National Treasury departments) to finalise a funding model which will be relevant for the redevelopment phase.

6.2. Oversight visit to the Western Cape (07 – 09 June 2021)

Upon concluding its oversight visit in the Western Cape, the Committee considered and adopted its oversight report which included the recommendations listed below. The Committee resolved to engage the Robben Island Museum (RIM) on the progress made in relation to these recommendations. The follow-up meetings were held on 25 January 2022 and 23 May 2023. The responses for RIM and the Mayibuye Archives will be dealt with in the same section.

The Committee's visit to the Artscape Theatre Centre was a site visit and did not necessitate further follow-up meetings.

Robben Island Museum

Recommendations:

- The Committee briefly interacted with the Robben Island Ex-Political Prisoner's Association (EPPA), however the Committee did not meet with the EPPs to learn about their grievances with regards to the RIM management. As the appointed EPPA Task Team was not present during the oversight visit, it was resolved that the Association should make its presentation to the Committee at a future date.
- RIM to provide update the Committee on the update of their digitisation or digital plan before the end of the 2021/22 financial year.
- RIM to update the Committee on the implementation of section 189(3) of the Labour Relations Act before the end of the 2021/22 financial year.
- Despite the financial constraints faced by RIM, the entity should not use funds allocated for capital projects for any other programmes including payment of salaries.
- The Committee called for a speedy resolution on the differences between the RIM management and the EPPA.

University of the Western Cape RIM Mayibuye Archives

Recommendations:

- Stemming from the matter of the entity being in a dire financial situation to the extent that it had to reprioritise funds for capital works, the Committee noted that RIM should guard against repeating this as it will set a precedent for other embattled entities. The entity must instead make use of Government relief programmes.

- RIM in consultation with the Minister should strongly consider the position of the staff who will be affected by the looming implementation of section 189(3) of the Labour Relations Act.

Responses:

- Financial challenges due to loss of revenue from tours to the Island: DSAC facilitated the request to use an amount of R38 million from the Capital Works budget to cover operations including compensation. In addition, an advance payment was given to RIM in 2020 to avoid salaries not being paid. The Department has also submitted a request for funding to the Finance Minister's Committee on the Budget (MinComBud).
- Proposed reduction in staff salaries and looming staff retrenchments: The Department met with the RIM management and staff representatives to discuss and explore options on this matter. RIM submitted its financial needs to the Department and the Department has submitted a request to the MinComBud for further funding for the Museum. These requests did not yield positive outcomes.
- Relationship between EPPA and Council and Executive Management: The Department facilitated a meeting which was attended by the Department Senior Officials, the executive of the EPPA, Council and RIM Executive Management. The meeting was held over two days and was preceded by a visit to the Island. The purpose of the tour was for the EPPA executive to point certain areas of interest in the Island which they feel are being neglected and are not part of the narrative during visits by tourists. The meeting was on 10 and 11 November 2021. Follow-up meetings will be held in an effort to improve relations with the EPPA

Issues for follow-up

The Seventh Parliament should consider following up on the following concerns that arose:

- Further engagements of matters pertaining to infrastructure development and maintenance across the sector.
- While the legislation across much of the sector allows the Minister to appoint individuals to councils, the Committee raised the matter of “recycling” of council members, particularly in cases where the council members were deemed to be problematic.

7. STUDY TOURS

The Committee did not undertake any study tours in the Sixth Parliament. It should also be noted that while the last study tour was undertaken by the Portfolio Committee on Sport and Recreation to Argentina in 2012, the Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture has not conducted any study tours since at least 1997.

8. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The following international agreements were considered and reported on:

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective(s)	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
8 December 2021 (ATC No 166—2021)	(a) Agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Cuba on Cultural Exchange and Cooperation, tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution, 1996. (b) Explanatory Memorandum to the Agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Cuba on Cultural Exchange and Cooperation.	The Promotion of communication between their respective specialists and officials with a view to increasing mutual awareness of the cultural life of each country; the organisation of cultural workshops, musical festivals and other artistic events in both countries; and the fostering of the exchange of music bands and information on the music development in both countries.	The agreement does not require approval by the Committee.	To be confirmed.
	(c) Agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Federative Republic of Brazil on Audiovisual Co-production, tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution, 1996.	The Agreement aims to strengthen film cooperation between the two countries and encourage the development of cultural relations, boost cultural-tourism, advance South	The agreement does not require approval by the Committee.	To be confirmed.

Date referred	**Name of International Agreement**	**Objective(s)**	**Status of Report**	**Date of enforcement**
		African cultural diplomacy, encourage people to people relations and skills transfer and skills development.		
04 March 2022 (ATC No 31—2022)	(a) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Audiovisual Co-production, tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution, 1996. (b) Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Arts and Culture for the years 2022-2024, tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution, 1996.	The purpose of these Agreement is to consolidate, broaden and strengthen the friendly ties and reciprocal understanding between the two countries by working towards co-producing films, documentaries, and other related audio-visual material. Together with the Agreement of Cooperation in the area of Arts and Culture signed in 2001, this agreement will serve as the legal framework to enable both countries to celebrate, exchange knowledge and skills in the broader areas of arts and culture and to tell their own stories.	The agreement does not require approval by the Committee.	To be confirmed.
22 September 2022 (ATC No 144—2022)	(a) The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), tabled in terms of section	This Convention provides for the safeguarding of, preservation and promotion of ICH, a	Adopted.	To be confirmed.

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective(s)	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
	231(2) of the Constitution, 1996. (b) Explanatory Memorandum to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).	concept which extends to practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills as well as instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated with communities, groups and individuals and recognised as part of their cultural heritage.		
28 November 2022 (ATC No 190—2022)	(a) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on Audiovisual Co-production, tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution, 1996.	This instrument provides an opportunity for an effective co-production landscape that enhances opportunities for the sector growth by opening streams of international finance, skills transfer, removal of audiovisual trade barriers, and the economic growth of the industries of distribution and production of film, television, video, and new media works between the two countries.	The agreement does not require approval by the Committee.	To be confirmed.
15 February 2023 (ACT No 16—2023)	(a) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the French Republic on	The Agreement aims to increase cooperation in the Cinematography and Audiovisual field between the Republic of	The agreement does not require approval by	To be confirmed.

Date referred	Name of International Agreement	Objective(s)	Status of Report	Date of enforcement
	Cinematographic and Audiovisual Co-production, tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution, 1996.	South Africa and French Republic, and to promote our common Cinematographic and audio-visual heritage.	the Committee.	

a) Challenges emerging

- No challenges emerged during the processing of these international agreements.

b) Issues for follow-up

The Seventh Parliament should consider following up on the following concerns that arose:

- The Committee should monitor the implementation/enforcement of these agreements and establish if there have been any benefits to the sector practitioners since entering into them.

9. STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS

The following appointment processes were referred to the Committee and the Committee finalised the following process:

Date	Type of appointment	Period of appointment	Status of Report
15-17 March 2024	Pan South African Language Board As per the legislative requirements, a final short list was submitted to the Minister who then has to appoint the board.	Five years	Finalised and adopted. (ATC No 37—2024)

a) Challenges emerging

The following challenges emerged during the statutory appointments:

- There was limited time between when the PanSALB *ad hoc* committee forwarded the nominations to Parliament and when the Committee was expected to finalise the short list.

b) Issues for follow-up

The Seventh Parliament should consider following up on the following concerns that arose:

- Parliament should ensure that the Department establishes the PanSALB *ad hoc* committee timeously to give the Committee adequate time to process the nominations.

10. INTERVENTIONS

The Committee did not process any interventions.

11. PETITIONS

The following petitions were referred to and considered by the Committee:

i **Title**: Mr TW Mhlongo, MP, on behalf of artists and members of the public, calling on the Assembly to investigate the commissioning by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture of the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra at an estimated cost of R54 million.
Date referred: 03 November 2022 (ATC No. 174—2022)
Current status: The petition was considered and the report was subsequently adopted by the Committee on 03 March 2023 (ATC No. 27—2023)

ii **Title**: Mr TW Mhlongo, MP, on behalf of some 31 000 signatories, calling on the Assembly to investigate the commissioning by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture of a flag at an estimated cost of R22 million.
Date referred: 18 August 2022 (ATC No. 120—2022)
Current status: The petition was considered and the report was subsequently adopted by the Committee on 11 October 2022 (ATC No. 158—2022)

12. OBLIGATIONS CONFERRED ON COMMITTEE BY LEGISLATION

Section 5(1) of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act (Act No. 9 of 2009) provides for the National Assembly, through its committees, to annually assess the performance of each national department and its entities. Annually the Committee assess the performance of the Departments and its entities. The Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report (BRRR) provides for an assessment of service delivery performance in respect to the allocated resources as well as efficiency and effective on use and forward allocation of resources.

Section 10(c) of the Money Bills Act, stipulates that updated strategic plans must be tabled in Parliament after the adoption of the fiscal framework. The Committee thus considered the budget allocation of Vote.

Key recommendations and outcomes for the period under review (2019 – 2024) are as follows:

- *Audit outcomes*: The Committee requested the Department to submit its action plans and other corrective measures to ensure improvement in the portfolio audit outcomes. This will allow the Committee to track progress on commitments made and strengthen its oversight and allow for deeper scrutiny of service delivery.
- *Irregular expenditure and consequence management*: The Committee recommended that the Department should strengthen its internal controls as well as its oversight function over its entities to curtail the growing balance of irregular expenditure for the portfolio. This was a recurring recommendation for the period under review.
- *Expenditure rate*: The Committee noted the improvement in the Department expending its budget. The Committee recommended that the Department should strive to continue its trajectory of expending its allocated budget to ensure that it implements service delivery. At the end of the 2022/23 financial year, the Department's expenditure of the final budget was 98.9 percent.
- *Inadequate funding allocation*: In the 2022/23, based on the submissions made by a range of entities, the Committee recommended to the Minister of Finance to reconsider additional funding for operational transfers to entities. This is based on the vast mandate of the sector, there is a growing outcry that the allocation to entities is insufficient to ensure a comprehensive approach to the promotion and development of the sector, and the safeguarding of heritage assets.
- *Delays in heritage legacy facilities*: In 2022/23, the Committee noted with concern that there had been ongoing delays in projects including the Sarah Baartman Centre of Remembrance and the Isibhubhu Cultural Arena (Enyokeni Project). The Committee recommended that these projects be expedited as their completion is overdue.

- *Subsidies and transfers*: The Auditor-General has reported to the Sixth Parliament that by the end of 2023, the Department had not received financial and operational quarterly reports from the National Arts Council (NAC) in relation to the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra (MNPO) to account for the funds transferred.

a) Challenges emerging

- Ensuring that the Department reports in line with the timeframes attached to the recommendations.

b) Issues for follow-up

The Seventh Parliament should consider following up on the following concerns that arose:

- Consequence management for poor performance and transgressions across the portfolio.
- Monitor the rate of irregular expenditure.
- Regression in audit outcomes for the portfolio.

13. OUTSTANDING ISSUES RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT/ENTITIES

The following key issues are outstanding from the Committee's activities during the Sixth Parliament:

Responsibility	Issues
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture	Ensure that a Director-General is appointed as this post has been vacant since September 2022.
	Ensure that the Department's oversight and monitoring unit is sufficiently capacitated to provide effective oversight on the public entities reporting to it.
	Ensure that the Department responds to Committee recommendations within specified timeframes.
	Ensure that Parliament is duly informed of its intention to reconstitute the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) whose current term of office, after having been extended by one year, ends in June 2024.

Responsibility	Issues
	Monitor the matter of transformation in sports, including township and rural sports, and furnish the Committee with an up-to-date Eminent Persons Group report which provides an overview of the transformation status of national federations.
	Following National School Sport Indaba hosted by the Department in September 2023, the Committee should monitor the implementation of the resolutions pronounced at this meeting.
	On the implementation of the Community Library Services Conditional Grant, the Department should encourage the provincial departments to expedite appointment of service providers, fill vacancies and engage communities on awareness of the benefits of having a library to promote social cohesion.
Entities	Ensure that entities respond to Committee recommendations within specified timeframes.
	For the 2022/23 financial year, the audit outcomes for two entities, the Iziko Museums of South Africa and the National Library of South Africa were qualified with findings on heritage assets. These were repeat findings that need to be resolved. Additionally, the Mandela Bay Theatre Complex received a disclaimer audit opinion for the 2022/23 financial year.
Committee	Together with the Department, the Committee should consider including the Cultural and Creative Industries Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA) in its oversight programme to reflect on matters relating to leadership, finances and general organisation within the sector.
	The 2022/23 annual report of the Mandela Bay Theatre Complex, its first since being declared a cultural institution, was tabled late. The Committee should consider including a meeting with the entity early into its programme in the Seventh Parliament as the entity had received a disclaimer audit opinion for the 2022/23 financial year.
	As South African Sign Language (SASL) has been declared the 12th official language, the Committee should monitor the inclusion of

Responsibility	Issues
	SASL in the context of the legislative framework which includes The Use of Official Languages Act (No. 12 of 2012) and the Pan South African Languages Board Act (No. 59 of 1995). This oversight may further be extended to looking at the work of the newly established South African Language Practitioners' Council (SALPC).

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations for consideration by the Seventh Parliament:

- The functioning of the Committee will benefit from the development and drafting of a committee strategic plan from which annual performance plans will be developed.
- Incorporate into the programme regular Committee management meetings which will strengthen the Committee's regular planning and communication.
- Establish a more systematic approach to ensure that each of the national federations, entities, departmental key implementing agencies and NPOs are frequently monitored.
- Conduct more directed and more frequent oversight visits to the Department's entities to enhance and intensify recommendations made about the Department's performance.
- The Committee should have a strategic focus on infrastructure development and maintenance across the sector.
- The Committee should obtain the outstanding Eminent Person's Group report on matters of transformation in sports and meet with the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and the Department to monitor the implementation of their recommendations.
- The Committee should focus on actively tracking commitments made, specifically in relation to the action plans and other corrective measures to ensure improvement in the portfolio audit outcomes.
- In its ongoing efforts to minimise maladministration, irregular expenditure, internal control deficiencies and promote accountability and effective governance within the sector, the Committee needs to build on the existing relationship with the Office of the Auditor-General of South Africa.
- The Committee's oversight function could be strengthened through forging links with and working alongside Parliamentary Committees which monitor and oversee the work

of national departments on issues relating to infrastructure; trade and industry; women, youth and persons with disabilities; and higher and basic education.

- The Committee should explore the feasibility of conducting an international study tour for the purposes of strengthening oversight on the implementation of international agreements and gaining deeper insight into international best practices for the sport, arts and culture sector.

15. COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Committee did not craft a strategic plan due to reasons mentioned elsewhere in the report.

Report to be considered.