

Wednesday, 25 February 2026]

No 33—2026] THIRD SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**ANNOUNCEMENTS,
TABLINGS AND
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026

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National Assembly

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Introduction of Bills

(1) The Minister of Finance

- (a) **Special Appropriation (2025/26 financial year) Bill** [B3–2026] (National Assembly – proposed sec 77).

Introduction and referral to the **Standing Committee on Appropriations** of the National Assembly, as well as referral to the Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 202.

In terms of Joint Rule 196 written views on the classification of the Bill may be submitted to the JTM. The Bill may only be classified after the expiry of at least seven parliamentary working days since introduction.

- (b) **Appropriation Bill** [B4–2026] (National Assembly – proposed sec 77).

Introduction and referral to the Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 202.

In terms of Joint Rule 196 written views on the classification of the Bill may be submitted to the JTM. The Bill may only be classified after the expiry of at least seven parliamentary working days since introduction.

- (c) **Division of Revenue Bill** [B5–2026] (National Assembly – proposed sec 76). [Explanatory summary of Bill and prior notice of its introduction published in *Government Gazette* No. 54086 of 6 February 2026.]

Introduction and referral to the Joint Tagging Mechanism (JTM) for classification in terms of Joint Rule 202.

In terms of Joint Rule 196 written views on the classification of the Bill may be submitted to the JTM. The Bill may only be classified after the expiry of at least seven parliamentary working days since introduction.

2. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

- (1) The following paper is referred to the **Standing Committee on Finance** for consideration and report, in accordance with section 8 of the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, 2009 (Act No. 9 of 2009):
 - (a) The Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals 2026.
- (2) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans** for consideration and report. Reports of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information are referred to the **Standing Committee on Public Accounts** for consideration:
 - (a) Report and Financial Statements of Denel SOC Ltd for 2020-21, including the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information for 2020-21.
 - (b) Report and Financial Statements of Denel SOC Ltd for 2021-22, including the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information for 2021-22.
 - (c) Report and Financial Statements of Denel SOC Ltd for 2022-23, including the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information for 2022-23.
 - (d) Report and Financial Statements of Denel SOC Ltd for 2023-24, including the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information for 2023-24.
 - (e) Report and Financial Statements of Denel SOC Ltd for 2024-25, including the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information for 2024-25.

National Council of Provinces

The Chairperson

1. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

- (1) The following paper is referred to the **Select Committee on Finance** for consideration and report, in accordance with section 8 of the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, 2009 (Act No. 9 of 2009):

- (a) The Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals 2026.
 - (2) The following paper is referred to the **Select Committee on Security and Justice** for consideration and report:
 - (a) Report of the Electoral Reform Consultation Panel – 30 January 2026.
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TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Minister of Finance

- (a) Budget Speech, 2025 [RP 09 – 2026].
- (b) Budget Review, 2026 [RP 05 – 2026].
- (c) Estimates of National Expenditure, 2025 [RP 08 – 2026].
- (d) Special Appropriation (2025/26 financial year) Bill [B3–2026].
- (e) Appropriation Bill [B4–2026].
- (f) Division of Revenue Bill [B5–2026].

2. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Please Note: The following entry replaces item 1(b) under Tablings in the name of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, published in ATC (Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports) dated 18 February 2026, on page 3. The MOU was incorrectly tabled in the name of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development.

- (a) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon on Bilateral Consultations, tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution of the Republic, 1996.
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

- 1. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition on the request by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to make recommendations regarding candidates for the position of the Chairperson of the Board of the National Lotteries Commission, dated 24 February 2026**
2. On 21 October 2025, the Speaker referred a letter dated 20 October 2025 from the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition for consideration and report (*see ATC dated 21 October 2025*).
3. In his letter, he requested that the relevant Committee of the National Assembly make recommendations regarding the suitability of nominees for appointment as Chairperson of the Board of the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) in terms of section 3(3) of the Lotteries Act (Act No. 57 of 1997).
4. In terms of section 3(3) of the Lotteries Act, “The member contemplated in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) shall be appointed only after the Minister, has by notice in the *Gazette* and in not less than two newspapers circulating in every province invited interested parties to nominate persons suitable for appointment as chairperson and the relevant committee of the National Assembly has made recommendations to the Minister in relation thereto after a transparent and open process of considering persons so nominated, having due regard to the functions of the Board”.
5. He further indicated that a call for nominations had been published in the Government Gazette on 19 September 2025, in the *Mail & Guardian* (26 September to 2 October 2025 edition), and in the *Sunday Independent* on 21 September 2025.
6. The nomination period closed on 6 October 2025, resulting in 22 nominations being received by the Minister. The *curricula vitae* of these nominees were subsequently

forwarded to the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition in the National Assembly for its consideration.

7. The Committee convened on 22 October 2025 and finalised the shortlist of candidates to be interviewed for the position of Chairperson of the Board of the NLC. The shortlisted candidates were:
 - Mr T Bonakele
 - Ms J Hermans
 - Mr W Manthe
 - Adv N Memani
 - Ms M Mosing
 - Adv L Nevondwe
8. On 10 November 2025, the Committee received a letter from Mr W Manthe formally withdrawing from the process for the consideration of Chairperson of the Board of the NLC.
9. On 2 December 2025, the shortlisted candidates were interviewed for the position of Chairperson of the Board of the NLC.
10. As part of its process, the Committee subjected all shortlisted candidates to a security screening by the State Security Agency and had their qualifications verified.
11. The Committee convened on 3 December 2025 to commence its deliberations and to seek consensus on the candidates to be recommended for the Minister's consideration.
12. In light of the above, the Committee recommends that the House requests the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to consider the following candidates for the position of Chairperson of the Board of the National Lotteries Commission.
 - Mr T Bonakele (89)
 - Ms M Mosing (71)
 - Adv L Nevondwe (69)

13. Notwithstanding that the recommended candidates meet the legislative requirements and given the outcome of the security vetting by the State Security Agency, the Minister may consider conducting a probity test of the proposed candidates, as envisaged in Section 3A(2) of the Lotteries Act, prior to finalising his decision.

Report to be considered.

2. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development on the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to Constitutional Court Judges and Judges of other courts annually, for approval by Parliament in terms of section 2(1)(a) of the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act, 2001 (Act No. 47 of 2001), dated 25 February 2026.

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to Constitutional Court Judges and Judges of other courts annually, reports as follows.

1. The Committee notes that the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers (Independent Commission) recommended a 4.1% increase for judges and other public office bearers with effect from 1 April 2025.
2. The Committee notes that the Commission's recommendation is cost-of-living-adjustment and not related to individual performance. In arriving at its decision, the Commission, among others, considered the following:
 - The role, status, duties, functions and responsibilities of the office-bearers concerned.
 - Affordability of different levels of remuneration of public office-bearers.
 - Current principles and levels of remuneration, particularly in respect of organs of state; inflation.
 - Available state resources.
3. The Committee notes that, having considered the Independent Commission's recommendations and the impact on the *fiscus*, the President accepted the

Independent Commission's recommendation and determined a 4.1% salary increment for Constitutional Court judges and judges of other courts with effect from 1 April 2025.

4. The Committee, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to Constitutional Court judges and judges of other courts annually, recommends that, in terms of section 2(1)(a) read together with section 2(4) of the Judges' Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act (No. 47 of 2001), the House approves the Draft Notice and Schedule.

Report to be considered.

3. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development on the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to magistrates annually, for approval by Parliament in terms of section 12(1) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993), dated 25 February 2026.

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to magistrates annually, reports as follows.

1. The Committee notes that the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers (Independent Commission) recommended a 4.1% increase for judges and other public office bearers with effect from 1 April 2025.
2. The Committee notes that the Commission's recommendation is cost-of-living-adjustment and not related to individual performance. In arriving at its decision, the Commission, among others, considered the following:
 - The role, status, duties, functions and responsibilities of the office-bearers concerned.
 - Affordability of different levels of remuneration of public office-bearers.
 - Current principles and levels of remuneration, particularly in respect of organs of state; inflation.
 - Available state resources.
3. The Committee notes that, having considered the Independent Commission's recommendations, and the impact on the *fiscus*, the President accepted the Independent Commission's recommendation and determined 4.1% salary increment for magistrates, with effect from 1 April 2025.

4. The Committee, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to magistrates annually, recommends that, in terms of section 12(3) of the Magistrates Act (No. 90 of 1993), the House approve the Draft Notice and Schedule.

Report to be considered.

4. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development on the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries and allowances are payable to the Public Protector and Deputy Public Protector, for approval by Parliament in terms of section 2(2)(a) and 2A(5)(a) of the Public Protector Act, 1994 (Act No. 23 of 1994), dated 25 February 2026.

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries and allowances are payable to the Public Protector and Deputy Public Protector annually, reports as follows.

1. The Committee notes that the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers (Independent Commission) recommended a 4.1% increase for public office bearers with effect from 1 April 2025.
2. The Committee notes that the Commission's recommendation is cost-of-living-adjustment and not related to individual performance. In arriving at its decision, the Commission, among others, considered the following factors:
 - The role, status, duties, functions and responsibilities of the office-bearers concerned.
 - Affordability of different levels of remuneration of public office-bearers.
 - Current principles and levels of remuneration, particularly in respect of organs of state; inflation.
 - Available state resources.
3. The Committee notes that, having considered the Independent Commission's recommendations, and the impact on the *fiscus*, the President accepted the Independent Commission's recommendation and determined a 4.1% salary

increment for the Public Protector and Deputy Public Protector respectively, with effect from 1 April 2025.

4. The Committee, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to the Public Protector and Deputy Public Protector annually, recommends that the House approve the Draft Notice and Schedule.

Report to be considered.

5. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development on the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries and allowances are payable to Commissioners of the South African Human Rights Commission, for approval by Parliament in terms of section 9(1) of the South African Human Rights Commission Act, 2013 (Act No. 40 of 2013, dated 25 February 2026.

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries and allowances are payable to the Commissioners of the South African Human Rights Commission, reports as follows.

1. The Committee notes that the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers (Independent Commission) recommended a 4.1% increase for judges and other public office bearers with effect from 1 April 2025.
2. The Committee notes that the Commission's recommendation is cost-of-living-adjustment and not related to individual performance. In arriving at its decision, the Commission, among others, considered the following:
 - The role, status, duties, functions and responsibilities of the office-bearers concerned.
 - Affordability of different levels of remuneration of public office-bearers.
 - Current principles and levels of remuneration, particularly in respect of organs of state; inflation.
 - Available state resources.
3. The Committee notes that, having considered the Independent Commission's recommendations and the impact on the *fiscus*, the President accepted the Independent Commission's recommendation and determined 4.1% salary

increment for the Commissioners of the South African Human Rights Commission with effect from 1 April 2025.

4. The Committee, having considered the Draft Notice and Schedule determining the rate, with effect from 1 April 2025, at which salaries, allowances and benefits are payable to the Commissioners of the South African Human Rights Commission annually, recommends that the House approve the Draft Notice and Schedule.

Report to be considered.

6. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES AMENDMENTS TO THE INDEPENDENT MUNICIPAL DEMARCATION AUTHORITY BILL [B14D-2022], DATED 10 FEBRUARY 2026

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs having considered the amendments by the NCOP on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill [14D-2022] (National Assembly – Section 76), referred to it, for concurrence and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a section 76 Bill, reports as follows:

1. BACKGROUND

The Bill was referred to the Portfolio Committee by the National Assembly on Tuesday, 27 November 2025, as per ATC No. 208 – 2025, of the same date, in accordance with Rule 311(1)(b) of the National Assembly Rules. In terms of Rule 312(1)(a)(b) the Committee which the Council’s amendment Bill is referred must table in the Assembly its report and recommendations.

2. COMMITTEE PROCESS

On 10 February 2026, the Department of Cooperative Governance briefed the Portfolio Committee on the NCOP’s amendments to the Bill. Having considered the inputs from Department of Cooperative Governance, the Committee raised issues for clarification. The following members were in attendance: Hon Dr ZL Mkhize (Chairperson – ANC), Hon DR Direko (ANC), Hon P Ndamase (ANC), Hon NS Sompma-Masiu (ANC), Hon C Labuschagne (DA), Hon BJ Mtolo (MKP), Hon G Taaibosch (MKP), Hon H.O. Mkhalihi (EFF), and Hon SHM Van Wyk (PA). Having been thus constituted, the Committee considered and agreed to the Council’s amendments as follows:

| AMENDMENT | COMMITTEE DECISION |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p>CLAUSE 1</p> <p>1. On page 5, after line 7, to add the following paragraph:</p> <p>“by the insertion after the definition of “National House” of the following definition:</p> <p>“Organised local government” means an organisation recognised in terms of section 2(1) of the Organised Local Government Act,</p> | <p>Agreed</p> |

| AMENDMENT | COMMITTEE DECISION |
|---|--------------------|
| <p>1997 (Act 52 of 1997), to represent local government nationally or provincially;</p> <p>2. On page 5, after line 16, to add the following paragraph:</p> <p>“by the insertion after the definition of “political office” of the following definition:</p> <p>“President” means the Head of State and head of the national executive as contemplated in section 83(a) of the Constitution</p> | |
| <p>CLAUSE 5</p> <p>1. On page 6, in line 2, to delete “and”; and insert a new paragraph (d) as follows:</p> <p>“(d) promote and educate the public regarding the functions of the Authority through the official website of the Authority, any suitable media platform, including television and radio; and”</p> <p>2. On page 6, in line 3, to omit “(d)” and to substitute “(e)”.</p> | Agreed |
| <p>CLAUSE 9</p> <p>1. On page 7, in line 13, to delete “or”, and insert a new paragraph (f) as follows:</p> <p>“(f) a person who has held a political office within 12 months from the date of being appointed as a member of the Board; or”</p> <p>2. 2. On page 7, in line 14, to omit (f) and to substitute “(g)”.</p> | Agreed |
| <p>CLAUSE 10</p> | |

| AMENDMENT | COMMITTEE DECISION |
|---|---------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On page 7, in line 51, after “persons” to insert “comma”; after “comma” to insert “after conducting the vetting and screening process”; after “process” to insert “comma”. 2. On page 7, in line 61, after “names” to insert “and qualifications”. | Agreed |
| <p>CLAUSE 16</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On page 9, in line 42, after “powers” to insert “comma”, after “comma” to insert “subject to budget and available resources.”. 2. On page 9, in line 53, to omit “(2)”. 3. On page 9, in line 54, after “committee” to insert “and to co-opted advisory members”. 4. On page 10, in line 6, after “names” to insert “and qualifications”. | Agreed |
| <p>CLAUSE 38</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On page 19, in line 26, after “record;” to omit “and”. 2. On page 19, in line 27, after “Act” to omit “full stop” and to insert “semi colon”, and after “semi colon” to insert “and”. 3. On page 19, after line 27, to insert the following: | Agreed |

| AMENDMENT | COMMITTEE DECISION |
|--|--------------------|
| “(e) must be independent, impartial and perform its functions without fear, favour or prejudice.” | |
| <p>CLAUSE 43</p> <p>1. On page 21, in line 2, after “person” to insert “or a group of persons”.</p> | Agreed |

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENT BILL

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs having deliberated on and considered the NCOP amendments to the **Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill [B14B-2022] (National Assembly – Section 76)**, referred to it, and classified by the Joint Tagging Mechanism as a section 76 Bill, reports that it concurs with the Council’s amendments on the Bill [B14D-2022].

The Democratic Alliance (DA) abstained from voting on the Bill.

Report to be considered

7. Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure’s report on an oversight visit to Mpumalanga, dated 25 February 2026

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, having undertaken an oversight visit to the Ehlanzeni, Nkangala, and Gert Sibande District Municipalities in Mpumalanga on 3-6 February 2026, reports as follows:

1 ATTENDANCE

1.1. Committee Members

1. Ms CM Phiri, MP (ANC, Leader of the Delegation)
2. Ms EN Nkosi, MP (ANC)
3. Mr S Mahlangu, MP (ANC)
4. Mr M Dlelanga, MP (ANC)
5. Mr EM Bath, MP (DA)
6. Mr B Madikizela, MP (DA)
7. Ms P Mkhize, MP (MKP)
8. Mr N Nxumalo, MP (MKP)
9. Ms S Letlape, MP (EFF)
10. Ms M Kobe, MP (Action SA)

1.2. Committee Support

1. Ms N Matinise (Committee Secretary)
2. Ms S Letlhake (Committee Assistant)

Delegates from the national and provincial Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), Department of Health (DoH), Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DJCD), and South African Police Service (SAPS) attended and participated in the programme. All Public Works and Infrastructure entities (Agrément SA (ASA), Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Council for the Built Environment (CBE), and the Independent Development Trust (IDT)), were fully represented throughout the programme.

Members of Executive Council (MECs) and representatives from the provincial departments of Roads, Public Works and Transport, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders were also in attendance.

Mayors and officials from Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, City of Mbombela Municipality, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and Lekwa Local Municipality were also in attendance.

Members of Traditional Councils from the Mpumalanga Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders also joined the programme.

2 Introduction

3 Mandates and functions

4.1.1. The Mandate of the DPWI and Entities

The public works mandate is comprehensively provided in the legal framework, the Constitution, Schedule 4 Parts A and B, which provide public works as a concurrent national, provincial, and local government function; the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA, Act 1 of 2009), with the respective Acts of the entities, form the legal mandate. This legislative and regulatory framework further provides the governance framework for the intergovernmental relationship between the entities, the DPWI, the Minister, and their provincial and local government equivalents.

This legal framework makes the DPWI the custodian and manager of the government's immovable assets. This role includes the acquisition, maintenance and disposal of these assets. It is the national regulator that sets standards and norms for the professional built environment (PBE) and construction sectors. The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) regulates the PBEs, and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) regulates the construction sector. The ASA assesses and certifies alternative, environmentally friendly, non-standardised building systems and materials that these sectors could use to construct and maintain government buildings. The IDT plays a key role in building social infrastructure amenities in collaboration with provinces and municipalities. The Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and Infrastructure South Africa (ISA), in turn, work with the National Treasury to ensure that infrastructure projects are developmentally and financially viable.

This makes the DPWI a critical intergovernmental coordinating and monitoring national department. It is responsible for secure, functional social infrastructure that provides access to basic human rights for local communities. It has to ensure that PBEs, contractors, and the financial and development sectors consistently follow national standards of financial

management, planning, construction, and maintenance to deliver functional accommodation for health care, basic education, safety and security, justice, and bulk services. It further has to manage intergovernmental relations with the DBSA, ISA, NT, PBEs, contractors, provincial departments and municipalities. The lower spheres of government rely on PBE professionals, such as architects, land and quantity surveyors, valuers, planners, and project managers, to develop their provinces and municipalities. Contractors physically construct what the PBEs provide in the planning phases of projects.

The challenge is how the standards, norms, and regulations that the DPWI, in collaboration with its entities, puts in place ensure that provincial and local government social infrastructure projects are completed on time and within budget. In addition, how the DPWI and provincial and local governments ensure that completed social and service delivery infrastructure projects provide safe, secure, and functional accommodation from which local communities can access services and exercise their basic human rights.

4.1.2. The Mandate of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure

Parliamentary committees oversee the executive actions of the government. This committee oversees the programmatic deliverables of the DPWI and its entities to implement the policies as guided by the executive leadership of the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure.

4.1.3. Focus of the Oversight Visit

The PCPWI undertakes various activities, such as submitting questions to the Minister, holding meetings, and conducting oversight visits to project sites, to keep abreast of the wide spectrum of infrastructure projects across the country. This takes it into the intergovernmental space to assess how the national DPWI and its entities ensure functional accommodation and appropriate social infrastructure to the people in the nine provinces and 257 municipalities. The oversight is driven by the two broad questions posed above as follows:

- How do the standards, norms, and regulations that the DPWI, in collaboration with its entities, puts in place ensure that provincial and local government social infrastructure projects are completed on time and within budget?

- How do the DPWI and provincial and local governments ensure that completed social and service delivery infrastructure projects provide safe, secure, and functional accommodation from which local communities can access services and exercise their basic human rights?

4 Oversight visit programme

The oversight planning phase included reviewing reports and presentations on each project from the DPWI, its entities, and provincial counterparts. Where reports reached the PCPWI on time, Members were able to study and prepare to engage PBEs, contractors, and officials on their respective responsibilities. The focus remained on whether and how these service providers complied with the DPWI's standards, norms, and regulations. It also aimed at finding out how the DPWI and provincial and local governments collaborate to ensure that completed social and service delivery infrastructure projects provide safe, secure, and functional accommodation from which local communities can access services and exercise their basic human rights.

The PCPWI visited a variety of projects in various phases of planning and construction. The Committee focused on key construction and infrastructure concerns to address the questions that strategically drive the visit. These include construction project management, maintenance, occupation, health and safety (OHS), functional accommodation, construction, and repairs and maintenance.

Each day consisted of formal meetings with senior officials of the DPWI and its entities, as well as with local government and provincial leaders and officials.

The programme was divided into the following thematic areas, focusing on specific programmes of the DPWI:

- Construction Project Management,
- Infrastructure Development, and
- Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The programme was outlined as follows:

Day 1: Tuesday, 3 February 2026

- Mapulaneng Hospital project (later phases scheduled for completion in December 2026) Address: Mansana Trust, Graskop Road, Bushbuckridge
- Acornhoek Police Station (Installation of intervention services) Address: 1 Main Road, Greenvalley, Acornhoek

Day 2: Wednesday, 4 February 2026

- Mpumalanga High Court (Maintenance – OHS challenges, functional accommodation matters) Address: 1 Nel Street, Mbombela

Day 3: Thursday, 5 February 2026

- Verena C Bus Route EPWP project (Construction project) Address: R544, Emalahleni

Day 4: Friday, 6 February 2026

- Standerton Police Station project (Repairs and maintenance of official quarters) Address: 59 Charl Cilliers Street, Standerton

4.2. Day 1: Tuesday, 3 February 2026 (Bushbuckridge)

The Committee visited the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, where it received presentations on the Mapulaneng Hospital and Acornhoek Police Station projects. The meeting was held at the Bushbuckridge Municipality Council Chambers.

The presentations session was attended by the Mayor, Speaker, and officials from the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, officials from the DPWI (and entities) as well as officials from the national and provincial departments of Health (DoH) and provincial department of Roads and Public Works. The entities of the DPWI (CIDB and CBE) presented, respectively, the B.U.I.L.D programme and the professionalisation of the built environment. The DPWI, the provincial Department of Roads and Public Works, and SAPS delivered presentations on their roles in ensuring functional accommodation.

After the presentations and deliberations, the delegation visited Mapulaneng Hospital, a regional hospital construction project by the provincial Department of Roads, Public Works and Transport, and Acornhoek Police Station, which was an intervention project by the DPWI.

4.2.1. Presentation by the DPWI: Mapulaneng Hospital

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure reported as follows:

4.1.1.1 Project background

- The existing Mapulaneng hospital is dilapidated, and a business case commissioned by the Client Department (Department of Health) recommended construction of a completely new regional Hospital for the area.
- The original hospital was founded by Swiss Missionaries in 1936 and was then known as Masana Hospital.
- It was transferred from the Swiss Missionaries to the Lebowa Government in 1976 and renamed Mapulaneng Hospital, and later the hospital was transferred to the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.
- The existing hospital operates 252 approved beds, whilst having 269 usable beds.
- The new hospital is being implemented as a multi-year project and in different phases.
- The proposed, expanded, and state-of-the-art facility will continue to serve as a referral facility for various District Hospitals in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality.
- The construction of the new Regional Hospital facility in Bushbuckridge creates an opportunity for revitalising the public health system in the Ehlanzeni District with minimal disruption to health service delivery.
- The proximity to the Limpopo Province also allows for the training and development of Mpumalanga Province healthcare workers.
- The construction of the new Mapulaneng Regional Hospital includes all clinical and non-clinical facilities, accommodation facilities, as well as all associated external works.

Previous project phases included Phase 1 and Phase 2, which were completed and closed out.

- a) **Phase 1** entailed bulk water, sewer, and electricity reticulation as well as construction of an access road and ClearVu perimeter fencing.
 - Construction commenced in September 2016, and the project was completed in September 2019.

- The scope of the project included the external ClearVu Fence (2.9 km), outfall sewer line (250mmø to 500mmø pipe – 6km), municipal water connection pipeline (0.8 km), access road (0.4 km) and Eskom electrical connection point.
- The final approved project construction budget was R 56 711 226.50.

b) **Phase 2** entailed the construction of retaining walls as well as bulk earthworks on the project.

- Construction commenced in November 2017, and the project was completed in July 2018.
- The Project Scope included bulk earthworks (515 198m³), concrete retaining wall (1 043m), and block retaining walls (745m).
- The final approved project construction budget R 126 101 963.13

4.1.1.2 Mapulaneng Hospital Project - Phase 3 (A, B and C)

(a) Scope of work

Phase 3A started in July 2021 with a contractual completion date of July 2026. The awarded amount was R 1 486 749 139.80. This was for the construction of the OPD, casualty buildings, etc.

Phase 3B started in March 2020 with a contractual completion date of July 2025. The awarded amount was R 385 171 869.81. This was for the construction of the Emergency Medical Services Building, Isolation Ward, Surgical Ward, Orthopaedical Ward and Building Services.

Phase 3C started in March 2020 with a contractual completion date of July 2025. The awarded amount was R 547 756 394.81. This was for the construction of the Residential buildings, Library, Gymnasium, Swimming pool, sporting facilities and other outbuildings, internal roads, external roads & related services (stormwater, sewer services, water services, etc.).

(b) Project budget

The combined approved amount for the three phases of the project was R2 419 677.00, and there was a variation order of R187 277, so the revised contract amount became R 2 606 954.00.

Professional fees amounted to R232 639.00.

The total cost of the project was R2 839 593.00.

(c) Project stakeholders

Main Contractors: - Phase 3 A – Clear Choice Builders (Currently under control of a Business Rescue Practitioner).

- Phase 3B - Gap Infrastructure Corporation (formerly Barzani Development (Pty) Ltd)
- Stefanutti Stocks JV (*ceded to MGT Masibone KJM JV*)

Professional Team: - Project Managers (Nala Consulting)

- Architectural Consultant (Afro-Architectural cc)
- Quantity Surveying Consultant (QualConsult)
- Civil/Structural Engineers (Ilanda Africa Consulting Engineers)
- Electrical / Mechanical Engineers (Risimati Engineers)
- Implementing Agent (Mpumalanga DPWRT)
- Client Department (Department of Health)

(d) Physical Progress to date

| Project phase | Time elapsed as of Dec 2025 | Planned Physical Progress (Dec 25) | Actual Physical Progress (Dec 25) | Remarks |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Phase 3A | 90% | 88% | 78% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Business Rescue Practitioner issues affecting the efficient execution of activities on site (matter expected to be finalised by the end of January 2026). There is a chance that the contractor may be liquidated. ✓ Work stoppages by some members of the community from time to time ✓ Contractual completion is 31 July 2026 |
| Phase 3B | 110% | 100% | 99% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contractor is 99% complete and is currently busy with practical completion, snag list and documentation. ✓ The remaining work is anticipated to be completed by 31 March 2026. |
| Phase 3C | 110% | 100% | 97% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contractor has progressed fairly well under the circumstances (stoppages by some local community members, e.g. H/VAC, external sewer and paving work have been stopped since Oct 2025) ✓ Revised completion date is 31 March 2026 |

(e) Work opportunities created to date

A cumulative total of 820 work opportunities were created. Out of the 820, 610 were male, and 210 were female.

Nine people living with disabilities were appointed during the three phases of the project.

Of the total number of employment opportunities, 338 were granted to the youth.

In terms of skill, the project utilised 467 unskilled and 353 skilled workers.

(f) Challenges**Phase 3A**

- The project has an original completion date of July 2026.
- Progress is reported as 78% completed and is behind schedule due to work stoppages and poor contractors' performance.

- The heavy dependency on cession agreements by the contractor for execution of the work (in particular, the supply and delivery of building materials) has impacted completion of the project.
- The contractor is currently undergoing Business Rescue and Liquidation processes, hence consideration for an urgent replacement is underway.
- The project is being affected by disruptions caused by some community members.

Phase 3B

- The original project contractual completion date was 31 July 2025. However, due to continuous work stoppages by some members of the community, the completion has been revised to 31 March 2026.
- Progress is reported as being 99% complete. The contractor is currently busy with practical completion, snag list and documentation.
- Consideration to be given for security for the completed works while Phase 3A is being finalised.

Phase 3C

- The original project contractual completion date was 31 July 2025. However, due to continuous work stoppages by some members of the community, the completion has been revised to 31 March 2026.
- Progress is reported as 97% complete; the contractor is currently busy with the completion of the outstanding work.
- Consideration to be given for security for the completed works while 3A is being finalised.

4.2.2. Site visit to Mapulaneng Hospital

The delegation proceeded to the Mapulaneng Hospital project, located in Mapulaneng, Bushbuckridge. The delegation was taken through different phases of the project, which included the emergency area, OPD, surgical ward and residential units.

The Committee made the following observations on-site:

The Committee disputed the 90% completion of the project as presented during the briefing session, which was contrary to what was observed on-site.

There was an acknowledgement of the work done; however, the Committee felt that more work had to be done to ensure that the maintenance of the facility is duly done so that it can remain in its state for a lifetime.

Some contractors that were on-site raised their dissatisfaction regarding payments that were not done on time, which places them at a predicament as they have employees and financial responsibilities to service. It was reported that the DPWRT and DoH were responsible for timeous processing of invoices, as both departments share the 30-day payment cycle.

Community members arrived on-site to raise their grievances; however, they were advised to submit them in writing to the Committee for further processing. One of the main issues they had was a claim that some local community members were not necessarily involved in the project.

4.2.3. Presentation by the DPWI: Acornhoek Police Station

The second presentation was an outline of the Acornhoek Police Station project. The DPWI presented as follows:

4.2.3.1. Project Background

The Acornhoek Police Station is an intervention services project registered at Status 4 B. The project was previously awarded in December 2022, and the site handover followed shortly thereafter. However, the project was subsequently cancelled at the

request of the SAPS due to a significantly increased scope arising from excessive vandalism that occurred between the site assessment and site handover.

A formal cancellation agreement between the contractor and DPWI was signed in February 2024.

In addition, a separate power restoration project at Acornhoek Police Station is currently performing well, with overall progress at 66% against the current financial year allocation and 51% against the contract sum. The project is ahead of schedule, with practical completion now estimated for the end of May 2026, earlier than the originally planned date of October 2026.

The contract amount was R773 050.08.

4.2.3.2. Scope of work

This programme was initiated by the SAPS to address minor repairs, renovations, and upgrades. It included:

- Plumbing and Drainage
- Painting.
- Servicing of Kitchen Equipment in the Holding Cells.
- General Building Works.
- Plastering
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Alterations

4.2.3.3. Project Team

- Contractor: Revkins Enterprise
- DPWI Project Manager: Ms Mmaphetsoa Kadiaka
- In-house Professional Team

4.2.3.4. Key milestones

- The project was awarded to the contractor on 12 December 2022
- The site was handed over to the contractor on 13 December 2022
- The contract period was six (6) months

- The SAPS requested that the project be cancelled due to the increased scope, which was a result of excessive vandalism that happened between the site assessment and site handover.
- A cancellation agreement between the contractor and DPWI was signed on 21 February 2024.

4.2.4. Site visit to the Acornhoek Police Station

The delegation moved to the second site, which was Acornhoek Police Station. The Committee was joined by the SAPS and DPWI officials. The SAPS is the client department for this project.

On-site, there were two buildings: one was a dilapidated structure, and the other, which appeared intact from the exterior, was deemed the Holding Cells.

The dilapidated building was meant to be the actual police station, but due to vandalism, the officers had to move to another block housed in prefabricated structures. This is where the electrification project took place.

The Committee, however, focused on the intervention project, which is why the delegation remained on the vandalised side of the police station.

SAPS officials reported that 2 projects were running at the time of the site visit. One was a conditional assessment to establish whether the dilapidated building could be salvaged and another was the electrification of the second site where the SAPS was operating from.

The Committee refused a walkabout inside the holding cells, as Members felt it would be a futile exercise, as there was no project.

A major concern, though, was the reality that a police station was vandalised in the presence of the police tasked with protecting the Acornhoek community, yet unable to protect their own facility.

Another concern raised by the Committee was the poor handling of the project, which would have led to fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

4.3. Day 2: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 (City of Mbombela)

On the second day of the 4-day visits, the Committee visited the Mpumalanga High Court Total Facilities Management, a project situated in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality. The delegation was joined by officials from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DJCD), the Acting Executive Mayor of the City of Mbombela and officials from the DPWI (and entities).

4.3.1. Project Background

The Mpumalanga High Court is a seven-storey, state-of-the-art hybrid facility constructed by the IDT for the DJCD as a client department. The building was completed on 11 August 2021.

Latent defects were reported and captured in the Practical Completion certificate. The works completion certificate and the final completion certificate were also issued. These defects were attended to by the main contractor (Group 5)

A separate specialist contractor was appointed to repair the pluvial system, but others were attributed to the DPWI's lack of maintenance.

The building has recently been served with a prohibition notice by the Department of Employment and Labour, declaring it unsafe for occupancy due to defects, including a leaking roof in the main.

Out of the issued prohibition notice, 3 affect the IDT, which are as follows:

- Certificate of Occupancy has not been issued – the City of Mbombela Municipality has confirmed registration of assets pending is the registration of public servitudes for road and storm water infrastructure by DPWI in order to obtain the permanent certificate of occupancy.
- Access road to the High Court building was completed. Practical completion was achieved on 05 September 2025.
- Progress on the repair of the roof leaks was completed according to the IDT.

The final account of the project on completion was R1.085 billion.

The other prohibitions issued were maintenance-related and are currently being attended by the DPWI.

The DPWI, therefore, appointed the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) as the implementing agent.

A technical team from the DPWI Head Office was deployed to conduct a comprehensive Facility Condition Assessment, which informed the development of a detailed scope of work and cost estimates. A scoping report has since been compiled, incorporating condition assessment findings and benchmarking analysis, to guide the implementation of the TFM programme and address Occupational Health and Safety regulations as provided in the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (OHS Act). This law mandates that a safe, risk-free work environment be achieved by identifying hazards, implementing control measures, and ensuring cooperation between employers and workers. Key regulations include construction safety regulations that protect employees. This includes measures related to asbestos, noise, mould, vibration, thermal stress, and environmental conditions.

4.3.2. Presentation by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

The presentation documented infrastructure challenges faced by the DJCD in the Mpumalanga High Court. The DJCD reported as follows:

- Following the visit by the Department of Labour and Employment (DoLE) in 2024, there were prohibition notices and contravention notices that were issued due to non-compliance with the building and roof leaks.
- The prohibition notice led to the closure of the building as DoLE was concerned about the structural integrity of the building and the quality of indoor air circulating inside the building.
- Another challenge that led to a closure was the occupation certificate that had expired, as the IDT received a temporary certificate pending finalisation of road construction to the Court.
- The Total Facilities Management (TFM) contractor has been appointed to address the challenges of infrastructure, OHS compliance and Security infrastructure of the Court. The contractor was due to resume work during the 2nd week of February 2026.

4.3.3. Site visit: Mpumalanga High Court

The delegation was led by the DJCD through offices inside the court building and all the way to the roof, where most damage could be visibly identified.

- The majority of the offices were not functional and thus were closed.
- The Deputy Judge President's Office was so bad that he had to put buckets all over his office due to the major roof leaks in his office.
- The DPWI Technical Team identified what the actual challenge was on the roof.
- The observation was that the entire roof needs to be redone because the design and structure were incorrectly done.
- Due to the amount of water coming through the roof, the electrical connections were also affected, so electricity keeps tripping, which is another major hazard.
- The IDT and the Contractor have reached an out-of-court settlement, where the contractor would fix the roofing with the retention fund.
- The DPWI committed to setting up a Steering Committee that would include the DPWI, DJCD and DPWI Entities. The Steering Committee would produce an Engineering Report and present it within one month after the visit.

4.4. Day 3 of the visits: Thursday, 5 February 2026

On the third day of the 4-day visits, the Committee visited the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. The meeting took place at the Verena Public Library.

The Acting Mayor, Members of the Municipal Council and relevant officials from the municipality were in attendance. Traditional Leaders also attended the briefing session.

Officials from the DPWI and public works entities attended and participated in the programme by delivering a presentation on the Verena Bus Route EPWP project.

4.4.1. Presentation by the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (Verena)

The Municipal Manager led the presentation and took the Committee through important aspects of the project. The presentation was as follows:

4.4.1.1. Project overview

- **Project Title:** Construction of Verena C Bus Route (Ward 11).
- **Implementing Agent:** Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.
- **Funding Source:** Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).
- **Total Project Budget:** R44,711,266.22.
- **Primary Objective:** Improve traffic movement and protect infrastructure through modern stormwater management.
- **Key Beneficiaries:** Approximately 2,100 households in Verena C will be served.
- **Employment Statistics:** Of the 35 employment opportunities created through the EPWP, 23 are occupied by the youth (14 male and 9 female), 2 by people living with disabilities (both male) and 10 by adult males and females (5 each).

4.4.1.2. Scope of works

- **Road Construction:** 2.4 km of internal streets using 80 mm interlocking paving bricks on river sand.
- **Pavement Engineering:** Development of three layers consisting of roadbed, subbase, and base.
- **Stormwater Infrastructure:** Construction of concrete and stone-pitched V-drains plus precast pipe culverts.
- **Safety & Finishing:** Installation of kerbs, speed humps, road markings, and signage.

4.4.1.3. Progress and achievements

- **Physical Progress:** 1.8 km of the planned 2.4 km paved road is now complete.
- **Completion Percentage:** Approximately 75% of works are finished.
- **Employment:** A total of 35 EPWP participants were employed. 16 are currently engaged in the project.
- **SMME Engagement:** 16 subcontractors were appointed, with 1 currently active on site.

- Contractor: Stickson General Trading.
- Consulting Engineers: FEO Consulting Engineers (Face of Earth Consulting Engineers).

4.4.1.4. EPWP and skills development

- Training Readiness: 35 participants will begin accredited training on the 9th of February 2026.
- Training will be done in the following areas:
 - Technical Training Areas: Road layerworks, paving installation, drainage, and kerb laying.
 - Administrative Skills: Site management, safety compliance, and record-keeping.
 - Participant Support: Stipends provided to cover transport, meals, and living expenses.
- Certification: Participants will receive accredited certificates upon successful completion

4.4.1.5. SMME sub-contractor development

- Subcontractor: Appointment of 16 subcontractors.
- Mentorship: Capacity building provided by the main contractor and consulting engineers.
- Work Scope: Opportunities in specialised activities like paving, kerbing, and drainage.
- Economic Impact: Strengthening local businesses to compete for future municipal projects.

4.4.1.6. Project implementation timeline and finance

- Project Period: Scheduled across the 2024/2025 to 2026/2027 financial years.
- Total Duration: Approximately 36 months (3 years).
- Budget Allocation: R10,000,000 for the current cycle.
- Expenditure to Date: R3,047,664.28 has already been utilized.

- Professional Fees: R4,035,477.71 allocated for consulting engineering services.

4.4.1.7. Challenges and support interventions

- Current Status: No major implementation challenges have been experienced to date.
- Weather Disruptions: Occasional minor delays caused by rain during excavation and paving phases.
- Financial Needs: Request for timely fund releases and contingency funding for weather delays.
- Community Needs: Ongoing engagement to ensure local buy-in and minimise disruptions.
- Expansion Goals: Seeking support to expand training beyond the initial 35 participants.

4.4.1.8. Project Conclusions and Impact

- Community Upliftment: Direct benefits to 2,100 households through improved mobility and safety.
- Safety Improvements: Reduced traffic hazards through signage and traffic calming measures.
- Sustainable Growth: Participants exiting with marketable skills and recognised certifications.
- Inclusivity: Ensuring both men and women from Verena C benefit from training and employment

4.4.2. Site visit: Verena Bus Route project (EPWP)

The delegation took a walkabout along the paved road (Verena C Bus project), during which the Members of the Committee met and interacted with the EPWP beneficiaries working on-site.

The beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for the employment opportunities granted to them, the treatment they have received from the municipality, and the stipend payments, which are always received on time.

5. Day 4 of the site visits: Standerton Police Station, Friday 6 February 2026

On the last day of the 4-day visits, the Committee visited the Lekwa Local Municipality (Standerton). The presentation session was held at the Lekwa Municipality Council Chamber and was attended by the Acting Executive Mayor, Members of the Mayoral Council and officials from the DPWI (and entities).

5.1. Presentation by the DPWI: Standerton Police Station

5.1.1. Project background

The Standerton Police Station Repairs and Maintenance Project, located in the Nkangala District Municipality is registered at Status 5 B. Although the project achieved approximately 95% completion, practical completion was never achieved due to prolonged disruptions caused by local business forums.

The project included fifteen (15) official residential quarters and the main police station, of which eleven (11) houses and the main station were successfully completed and handed back to the SAPS.

Four houses allocated to local business forums remain incomplete, are illegally occupied, and have been vandalised. Due to delays and changing client needs, the SAPS indicated that the four remaining houses are no longer required and requested that they be handed back to DPWI for possible allocation to other clients.

Consequently, the contractor requested termination of the contract under Clause 39(4) of the JBCC agreement due to ongoing costs arising from circumstances beyond their control, and this request was approved by DPWI in July 2023.

The DPWI Head Office has since requested that the SAPS Head Office confirm its concurrence with the provincial decision to hand the houses back to the DPWI.

The contract amount was R 27, 179,089.13.

It was reported that four of the houses under the local business forum were never completed due to a lack of construction skills, knowledge, and financial capacity.

5.1.2. Scope of work

The project entails the comprehensive repairs and maintenance of station and official quarters, Electrical, Civil and Structural elements. The project is intended to address structural, electrical, and civil defects on the premises that have affected the proper functioning of the facility and the habitation of the houses.

The scope of work was extensive and included plumbing works, brickwork, carpentry, waterproofing, metal works, plastering and painting, tiling, roof replacement, stormwater and walkways rehabilitation, water and sewer distribution networks, painting, glassing and external works, heating and cooling, electrical elements, and concrete works.

5.1.3. Project Team

- Contractor: Bitupquip Construction Cc
- DPWI PM: Mr Cyreal Sekatane
- NYS Programme: Ms Kurhula Mkansi
- Electrical Engineer and Principal Agent.: Intotec Consulting
- Civil Engineer: Lategan Bouwer Civil & Structural
- Quantity Surveyors: TP Mabatha
- Structural Engineer.: KBK Engineers

5.1.4. Key milestones

- The site was handed over on 31 August 2016.
- The planned completion date was 16 August 2018, but the practical completion was not achieved.
- The total contractor and consultant expenditure to date is R36 269 949.

5.1.5. Challenges

- Project disruptions by the local construction mafias camouflaged as local business forums.
- Local business forum subcontractors have no knowledge/experience in construction and civil works, and they refused to be mentored.

5.2. Site visit: Standerton Police Station

During the visit, the Committee was taken through the revamped Service Centre and the holding cells.

The Committee was also taken to view one of the illegally occupied houses intended for SAPS occupation.

- It was evident that the house had been turned into a rental property by those who had illegally occupied and hijacked it.
- The illegal occupant has done renovations on the property.
- The DPWI is still responsible for paying rates and taxes to the Municipality as the property is registered under the department's name, even though the property has been hijacked.
- The DPWI committed to further investigating the matter and reverting to the committee.
- Another commitment made was that the Operation Bring Back (OBB) Team would visit the area as part of its investigation during the week of 9-13 February 2026 and table findings to the Committee.

6. Recommendations

Having considered the briefings, site visits, stakeholder engagements and observations made during the oversight visit to Mpumalanga, the Committee recommends that the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure must:

Mapulaneng Hospital

- 6.1. Equip regional offices with adequate human resources to ensure efficient and effective programme implementation across all provinces.
- 6.2. Require the Mpumalanga Department of Roads, Public Works and Transport to develop and fund a comprehensive maintenance plan for Mapulaneng Hospital, safeguarding infrastructure and extending the facility's lifespan.

- 6.3. Intervene, where necessary, to stabilise project implementation, particularly in relation to contractor performance challenges, business rescue processes, and community disruptions that continue to affect progress in Phase 3A.
- 6.4. Enhance coordination among the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the Department of Health, and the provincial department to ensure contractors are paid within the prescribed 30-day period.
- 6.5. Strengthen mechanisms for community participation to reduce work stoppages and ensure local involvement is managed fairly and systematically.

Acornhoek Police Station

- 6.6. Ensure that project planning, feasibility assessments and risk evaluations are conducted thoroughly prior to project initiation to prevent cancellations and avoid fruitless and wasteful expenditure.
- 6.7. Strengthen safeguarding measures at state facilities to prevent vandalism, particularly where projects are delayed or temporarily halted.
- 6.8. Develop a clear recovery plan for the police station to ensure that infrastructure is restored and service delivery conditions for the SAPS personnel and the surrounding community are improved.

Mpumalanga High Court

- 6.9. Expedite the establishment of a Steering Committee comprising the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and relevant public works entities to coordinate technical interventions at the Mpumalanga High Court.
- 6.10. Ensure that a comprehensive engineering assessment is completed and that urgent remedial work is prioritised to restore the building to a safe and functional condition.
- 6.11. Ensure that the Department tables a detailed progress report to Parliament by March 2026 outlining the corrective measures taken, timelines for completion, and accountability mechanisms for the identified defects.
- 6.12. Strengthen preventive maintenance systems across similar facilities to prevent the recurrence of structural and occupational health and safety risks.

Verena C Bus Route

- 6.13. Support and capacitate municipalities to replicate the successful implementation model demonstrated in the Verena C Bus Route EPWP project, particularly in skills development, local employment creation and SMME participation.
- 6.14. Ensure consistent and timely release of funds to municipalities implementing EPWP projects to avoid delays and sustain momentum.
- 6.15. Expand training initiatives linked to EPWP projects to ensure beneficiaries gain accredited, marketable skills that improve long-term employment prospects.

Standerton Police Station

- 6.16. Ensure that the Standerton Police Station project is formally closed and that its status is updated accordingly to allow for administrative finalisation.
- 6.17. Facilitate urgent intervention through legal services to initiate eviction processes for illegally occupied state-owned residential units as part of the Operation Bring Back process before the end of the 2025/26 financial year.
- 6.18. Following the successful eviction process, identify and allocate the vacated properties to other government departments or clients in need of accommodation in the area.
- 6.19. Strengthen measures to address the influence of local business forums that disrupt construction projects, including enhanced security coordination and structured contractor support mechanisms.

7. Conclusion

The oversight visit to Mpumalanga provided the Committee with critical insights into the progress, challenges, and impact of public infrastructure projects across the Ehlanzeni, Nkangala, and Gert Sibande District Municipalities. While commendable strides have been made in infrastructure development, job creation, and skills transfer through initiatives such as the EPWP, persistent systemic obstacles remain.

Key concerns include project delays, contractor underperformance, vandalism of public assets, insufficient maintenance planning, occupational health and safety risks, and disruptions linked to community unrest and local business forums. These issues not only undermine project timelines and budgets but also compromise the delivery of essential services to communities.

The Committee recognises the efforts of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, its entities, provincial departments, and municipalities in advancing infrastructure under challenging conditions. However, stronger coordination, improved planning, enhanced oversight, and decisive interventions are essential to ensure that infrastructure is delivered on schedule, maintained effectively, and safeguarded against deterioration and misuse.

The Committee is confident that the implementation of the above recommendations will strengthen infrastructure delivery, protect public assets, foster intergovernmental cooperation, and ensure that communities benefit from safe, functional, and sustainable facilities. The Committee will continue to exercise its oversight mandate and monitor the Department's progress in addressing the challenges identified during this visit.

Report to be considered.

National Council of Provinces

1. Report of the Select Committee on Security and Justice on the progress reports dated 30 September 2025 on the provisional suspension from office of Mr D Nair, Chief Magistrate at Pretoria; Mr ES Nzimande, Regional Court President, KwaZulu-Natal; Ms K Bodlani, Regional Magistrate, Umlazi; Mr LT Mkansi, Regional Magistrate, Bloemfontein; Mr AAK Singh, Senior Magistrate, Pietermaritzburg; and Ms R Govender, Additional Magistrate, Lenyenyene, Limpopo submitted in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993), and referred to the Committee on 10 November 2025 for consideration and report, dated 25 February 2026.

The Magistrates Commission must, in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, No. 90 of 1993, (hereafter, the Act), cause a report on the progress made in respect of enquiries against magistrates who have been provisionally suspended from office to be submitted to Parliament every three months.

The Select Committee on Security and Justice, on 3 December 2025, was briefed on the Magistrates Commission's reports dated 30 September 2025, in respect of the following magistrates:

(a) Progress report dated 30 September 2025 to Parliament on the provisional suspension from office of Mr D Nair, Chief Magistrate at Pretoria, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993).

(b) Progress report dated 30 September 2025 to Parliament on the provisional suspension from office of Mr ES Nzimande, Regional Court President, KwaZulu-Natal, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993).

(c) Progress report dated 30 September 2025 to Parliament on the provisional suspension from office of Ms K Bodlani, Regional Magistrate, Umlazi, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993).

(d) Progress report dated 30 September 2025 to Parliament on the provisional suspension from office of Mr LT Mkansi, Regional Magistrate, Bloemfontein, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993).

(e) Progress report dated 30 September 2025 to Parliament on the provisional suspension from office of Mr AAK Singh, Senior Magistrate, Pietermaritzburg, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993).

(f) Progress report dated 30 September 2025 to Parliament on the provisional suspension from office of Ms R Govender, Additional Magistrate, Lenyenye, Limpopo, submitted in terms of section 13(3)(f) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act No. 90 of 1993).

Briefing by the Magistrates Commission:

Magistrate Nair: The Commission reported that the matter was postponed for further trial in January 2026.

Magistrate Nzimande: The matter was postponed due to the recusal of the presiding judge. The Magistrates Commission sometimes experiences difficulties in finding retired judges to fulfill these roles.

Magistrate Bodlani: This matter is still pending and will be dealt with in December 2025. The Commission found that this magistrate caused the delays in the matter and where the Commission finds malice on the part of the Magistrate, it will recommend withholding the remuneration of the Magistrate.

Magistrate Mkansi: In November 2025, the Commission took a resolution to remove this Magistrate.

Magistrate Singh: A judge has been appointed to preside over this matter, and the matter will proceed in February 2026.

Magistrate Govender: The Select Committee and the NCOP passed a resolution to suspend this magistrate. The Commission is still awaiting PC Justice to finalise this matter.

The Select Committee reports the following:

- The Committee is concerned and disappointed by the delays that affect the administration of justice. The committee would request the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, together with the Commission, to brief it on the budget, delays, timelines and strategies to address this matter.
- The Committee expressed its concern about the delays and the cost to the taxpayer in respect of magistrates receiving remuneration while they were suspended for years. The Committee hopes to see reports from the Magistrates Commission recommending the withholding of remuneration of the Magistrates who remain on suspension from 2019 and 2020.
- The Committee was also concerned about the misconduct of magistrates and wished to reiterate that there must be integrity in the judiciary to ensure the smooth administration of justice and to uphold the rule of law in our courts. The Committee would explore, with the relevant role players in the department and judiciary, the underlying issues that are contributing to the misconduct of magistrates.
- The Committee will await formal referrals in respect of Magistrate Bodlani and Magistrate Mkansi for further processing by the committee. The Committee further undertook to conduct follow up with the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development on Magistrate Govender's suspension.

The committee requested the Magistrates Commission to speed up these matters, and the committee would review these concerns at the next quarterly briefing to the committee.

Report to be considered.

2. Report of the Select Committee on Security and Justice on the Oversight Visit to the Free State Province from 21 – 24 October 2025, report dated 25 February 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

In preparation for the oversight visit to the Free State Province, a virtual briefing took place on the 15th of October 2025, by the Free State Provincial Commissioner. This briefing provided members with the relevant crime statistics and challenges facing the province.

The Committee conducted the oversight visit to the Free State Province from the 21st to the 24th of October 2025. The oversight visit included overseeing cross-border crime, rural crime and stock theft, as well as the implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy in the Free State Province. In addition, the Committee conducted oversight over the One Stop Border Post redevelopment plan and the functioning of the Border Management Authority at the Maseru Border Post. The Committee visited the Mangaung Child Justice Centre as well as several police stations and Magistrates Courts in the Province. The Committee also visited the Tempe Military Base and the Home Affairs office in Phuthadijhaba. The oversight visit included a community engagement to strengthen the cooperation between civil society, the municipality, community policing forums and the police as well as direct engagement with DPWI representatives on various infrastructural challenges in the province.

2. DELEGATION ATTENDANCE

2.1 Members of Parliament: Eastern Cape: Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (ANC) (Whip) (Leader of the Delegation); Free State: Mr P Noe (ANC); KwaZulu-Natal: Mr M Billy (DA); Limpopo Province: Mr P A Phala (ANC); Mpumalanga: Mr S A Zulu (MKP); Northern Cape: Mr O J Mokae (DA); North West: Ms OD Medupe, (ANC); Western Cape: Mr N Gotsell (DA); Mr V Gericke (EFF).

2.2 Apologies: Gauteng Province: Ms J S Mananiso (ANC) (Chairperson) will be attending the 151st IPU Assembly from 19 October 2025 – 23 October 2025. Gauteng Province: Mr M

Mampuru (EFF) indicated he was deployed by his party and would be unable to attend the oversight.

2.3 Support Staff in Attendance: Content Advisor: Dr A Van der Burg, Committee Secretaries: Mr G Dixon, Ms B Monqo, Committee Researcher: Ms P Whittle, Committee Assistant: Mr E Bazier.

3. DAY ONE, TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025

3.1 Park Road Police Station

The Select Committee received a briefing from the Provincial and Station Commissioners and thereafter conducted a walkabout of the facilities.

Key challenges and interventions included:

- Lack of access control, creating a serious security risk, particularly at night.
- Long-overdue refurbishment project initiated in 2016 with a budget of R51 million remains incomplete nearly a decade later.
- Issue of Community Police Forum (CPF) not being assisted with the stipend due to lack of funds and resources.

3.1.1 Committee Interaction / Observations

- **SAPS owing funds to Public Works and Infrastructure:** The Provincial Commissioner indicated that the South African Police does not owe Public Works and Infrastructure any funds. She undertook to furnish the committee with a written submission to ensure that the information is correct.
- **Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA):** During the visit of the Minister, it was noted that DBSA did not submit the necessary invoices to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.
- **Funding of Community Police Forum (CPF):** In the previous financial year, SAPS received R3.9 million and R1.9 million in the current financial year in the province. The Provincial Commissioner indicated that through the Provincial Board and the District Board, they requested the CPF to indicate their needs to execute their

operations. The Commissioner further explained that in the previous financial year, the budget allocation was for three vehicles. However, the third vehicle was involved in an accident, which resulted in one member being dismissed. CPFs will not be able to drive police vehicles but vehicles will be made available when the CPFs require them.

- **Illicit Mining:** The Provincial Commissioner indicated that Free State used to have a problem with illicit mining and in 2019 the province introduced the project *Operation Knock-Out* to address illicit mining. However, when *Valamgodi* was implemented, the province started to split its operations between Welkom.
- **Rural Safety Implementation:** The Provincial Commissioner indicated that the Free State held a summit, and the resolutions undertook to capacitate the members in respect of resources such as vehicles. She indicated that rural safety is very expensive due to the challenges of poor road infrastructure around the farms and stock-theft. SAPS managed to procure two land cruisers during the financial year to address stock theft. Farm attacks and stock-theft are reducing monthly with the assistance of the rural community.
- **Detention Cells:** There were five detention cells with a capacity of 45 but only two were functional and the other cells have challenges with lights and when the police station is full of detainees, they must make provision for the detainees at other police stations. Children are accommodated in victim centres. Victims are accommodated at clinics and hospitals. The Community Service Centre (CSC) must still be finalized, and they are using a small office which highlights the building challenges as they have been unable to finalize the structure to become fully operational.

3.1.2 Physical Oversight / Observations

- **Police Station Office Facility:** Building ceiling is falling, and electrical cables are falling over the desks of the employees.
- **Detention Cells:** Two out of five detention cells are in good condition, and the other cells have no electricity. There was a contractor who didn't finish the project for over 8 months.
- **Dog Kennel (K-9):** The kennels were unfinished and were in a poor condition and there were no covers for the dogs when it rained.

- **Wall of Remembrance:** The members of SAPS were building a wall of remembrance to commemorate their fallen members.

3.1.3 Recommendations

- The committee expressed its shock at the ongoing construction delays and the lack of accountability. The incomplete refurbishment has severely compromised service delivery and poses significant safety risks for both police members and the community.
- The committee requested a full report from the Community Police Forum in respect of the CPFs concerns, challenges and resourcing requirements.
- The committee requested a detailed report with specifications in respect of payment and the percentage of work done by three contractors who have withdrawn from the project over the years due to poor performance and late payments from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The report should be submitted to the committee within 14 days of the oversight visit.
- The committee recommended summoning the Minister of Public works and Infrastructure to appear before it in Parliament to account for the delays and lack of oversight in the execution of the project.

3.2 Mangaung One-Stop Child Justice Centre

The committee visited the Mangaung One-Stop centre and received a briefing on the constraints caused by the ongoing renovations at the Winkie Direko Secure Care facility, which began in February 2025. These renovations have forced police to transport child detainees to distant facilities in Thabo Mofutsanyane and Matete Matches, placing further strain on limited resources. The number of children appearing at the Mangaung One Stop Child Justice Centre has decreased and this impacts on the functioning of the centre, which results in trials only being conducted on Mondays.

3.2.1 Committee Interaction/ Observations

- **Premature setting aside of Court Cases:** The Magistrate indicated that many children are being arrested on Mondays and require assessment while she waits for the dockets from the police. There are also several old cases on the roll for remand detainees, and they only use Mondays and Thursdays to complete all the cases which results in the premature setting aside of some cases.
- **Demographics:** No system in place to record the demographics of children in conflict with the law.
- **Shortage of Magistrates:** There was a shortage of magistrates which resulted in delays in cases.
- **Small Courtroom and Noise Level Disruption:** The court area is small, and they have raised complaints about the noise at one of the houses in the area which disrupts the court proceedings. There is insufficient space in the courtrooms for proper preliminary inquiries when multiple child offenders are involved and there are limited public toilet facilities.
- **Detention Cells:** The center has six detention cells. There were three young boys, two were 14 years old and one was twelve who were detained that afternoon on the offence of malicious damage to property.

3.2.2 Recommendations

- The committee agreed that the facility must provide written submissions to all unanswered questions through the secretariat within 14 days. Specifically in respect of skills, budget and programme interventions.
- The committee further recommended that the noise disruption matter should be raised with the municipality to ensure the smooth and effective running of the court.
- The committee recommended that the Centre should develop a system of recording the demographics of the children who are processed at the Child Justice Centre. This information should be submitted to the committee.

- The committee noted that despite the challenges, the centre has received national and international recognition for its dedication to child justice and community service.

3.3 Tempe Military Infantry Base

The committee visited the Tempe Infantry Base to assess staffing, equipment and military infrastructure, as part of the committee's broader focus on national security.

Key Challenges highlighted at the Base:

- Perimeter fencing around the Tempe Military Base.
- Aging infrastructure and facilities
- Drug use and dealing within the Tempe Military Base
- Review of laws when it comes to Security Cluster Installation.
- Public road stretching through Tempe Military Base.
- Dual Citizenship of members.

3.3.1 Committee interaction / Observations

- **Public Roads close to the National Key Point:** The road that is stretching through the Tempe Base to the Mandela Drive belongs to the Municipality. This road also contributes to cable theft as there is no visibility for the soldiers. The General Brigadier indicated that they have raised the issue with the Municipality and are conducting follow-up meetings with them. The Municipality agreed in principle that there is something that needs to be done to resolve the issue, however there are by-laws that would require amendment to resolve the matter.
- **Under Funding of SANDF:** The limited budget for SANDF has impacted on the procurement of equipment. The South African Army is still using equipment from 1969 -1979. The equipment is not serviceable due to budget challenges, as a result, the soldiers do not have resources to execute their mandate.
- **Sub-contracting to foreign nationals:** When they outsource certain tasks, the South African business owners bring foreigners who use other people's identity documents. The General removes those people with illegal identity documentation, and they are reported to SAPS but are rarely charged.

- **Perimeter fencing:** The fencing is in a poor condition, and this is where the public enters to steal the equipment that is stored for auctions. The committee raised concerns about the lights and cameras that are not working which impact on the visibility. The General indicated that they fix the fence and the public continues to vandalise the fence.

3.3.3 Recommendations

- The committee indicated that if there are any challenges omitted or unanswered questions by the department, they should be provided as written submission within 14 days.
- The committee urged the leadership at the Military Base to resolve the matter of the open road with the municipality and to furnish the committee with a report on the matter.
- The committee recommended that the perimeter fence, lighting and cameras should be fixed to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to prevent theft within the Military Base.
- The committee recommended that the drug use of members be addressed and that the necessary counselling be provided to the members and stricter security measures be put in place to prevent any further drugs being peddled within the Military Base.

4. DAY TWO, WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

4.1 Meeting with the Border Management Authority and SAPS on Maseru Bridge Border Post, Ladybrand Town Hall

The purpose of the presentation was to brief the Select Committee on the current border security situation and operational realities in the Free State-Lesotho border area. The stock theft in the region of the border between the Free State Province and the Kingdom of Lesotho has presented an ongoing challenge through the years.

The Select Committee received a briefing from the Border Management Authority (BMA) and thereafter conducted a site visit of the Maseru Bridge facility. SANDF and SAPS Officials were also in attendance to answer committee members' questions regarding operations and challenges. The BMA presentation noted a 70% staffing shortfall to cover a 285 km stretch of land border. SANDF reported it has 42 soldiers patrolling 485 km of land border.

4.1.1 Committee Interaction / Observations

- **SAPS:** In respect of stock theft, SAPS conducts training related to the Stock Theft Act and they have dedicated teams. Corruption is being addressed, and consequence management is being implemented. SAPS reported that it has a good working relationship with sister departments and there is a priority committee on border management and immigration which reports to *ProvJoints* monthly to evaluate the impact of border management. There is no confirmation on training camps in the province.
- **BMA:** The BMA reported that there are bilateral meetings and cooperation in place with Lesotho, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal with planned cross border operations. They work jointly to do extradition and repatriate stock during cross border operations and the repatriation of stolen vehicles from Lesotho. BMA has scanners owned by SARS to check for illegal firearms and they are exploring satellite communication with Telkom. There is a task team consisting of 7 border guards with random patrols in the area. The entire Free State Province has no border line fencing. Ficksburg border post is severely understaffed. BMA has presented a case to National Treasury and there is a promise that in the medium-term review they may get additional funding. They have received R150 million from the Criminal Asset Recovery Fund (CARA) which has assisted with procuring scanners. In respect of the redevelopment of ports, the BMA has assessed the progress, and the finalization of PPP has started, and construction will start in the new financial year. BMA reported that there are challenges acquiring land from private owners, taxi rank and regulatory papers.
- **SANDF:** In respect of a 2010 assessment, they need 22000 subunits and currently only have 15 subunits. In respect of technology and drones, SANDF admitted that they are way behind and require assets for land, air and sea.

- **DPWI:** In respect of the employment of foreigners, the DPWI confirmed that foreigners are given tenders after the proper security checks have been completed. On a site in Maseru, the BMA told DPWI that a foreigner was employed at the border and then the contract was terminated. There is only 1 water pump on site, and they are busy obtaining another water pump. In respect of the work done by DBSA, the DPWI wrote to DBSA in January 2025 and will do an assessment on how much work will be done against the amount of money paid and then the money will be recovered from defaulting contractors. In respect of the delays at Park Road, DPWI acknowledged that it has been 9 years of frustration and they will furnish the committee with all the necessary information pertaining to Park Road. There are, however, no regulations that deal with financial losses. Contractors who failed at Park Road police station were managed directly by DBSA.

4.1.2 Physical Oversight at Maseru Border Post / Observations

The committee observed vehicle and pedestrian entry processes, including scanning, searches, and baggage checks. The port can process 18,000 vehicles/day but only 14 functional computers and ongoing network challenges. BMA is testing a new Enhanced Movement Control System 2.0 due to the outdated current system.

- **Vehicle Inspection:** Only 10% of vehicles are inspected due to trade facilitation; concerns raised given drug smuggling risks. No truck-scanning technology; rely on risk profiling, cameras, dogs, and the Number Plate Recognition (NPR) system. NPR is updated every few months.
- **Festive Season Preparations:** Extra personnel to be deployed for festive season peak.
- **Border Surveillance** Members observed a demonstration of drone and heat-signature technology.
- **Border Fence** Original fence vandalised and removed; not replaced. Replacement requires coordination between BMA, DPWI, and Defence, who must specify and fund the fence. The long-term solution is tied to the One-Stop Border Post Bill.
- **Shared Resources:** SAPS, Immigration, BMA, and SARS currently share scanners due to limited space; they may acquire new scanners after the reconstruction.

- **Taxi Rank & Informal Trading Issues** Taxi rank's location at the border entrance causes crime, congestion and informal trading. BMA wants the rank relocated; taxi operators are willing if the municipality provides a site. DPWI engineers are negotiating for a possible location.
- **Taxi Association Feedback** Past commitment (R3m budget) for a new taxi rank was never completed. Taxi association says land is already available, only needs development (shelter, drainage).
- **Informal Traders:** Traders are registered with the municipality but monitored by the taxi association. Many traders are Lesotho residents working on the South African side, raising concerns about local job creation.

4.1.3 Recommendations

- A concerted effort needs to be put in place to improve the vehicle inspection facility and technology should be enhanced to scan the cargo in vehicles.
- The Municipality should invoke the relevant by-laws to ensure the regulation of taxis. The relocation of the taxi rank should be prioritized to ensure ease of movement at the border post and to reduce congestion.
- The Committee requested the Manyaza Taxi Association to write a petition to the Select Committee on Petitions and Executive Undertakings to outline the issues to date and discussions and commitment by the Free State Department of Transport to hold the Department accountable for its undertaking to provide the taxi rank facility.
- Members called for a debate in the NCOP on Border Control in South Africa.

4.2 Ficksburg Community Engagement

The session was attended by residents, Agri-South Africa (Agri-SA), Free State Agriculture and small-scale farmers. SAPS, the Border Management Authority (BMA) and the Setsoto District Municipality were also in attendance. The committee encouraged the residents and organisations to express their concerns and provide the committee with insight on stock theft,

rural safety and the South African Police Service (SAPS) service delivery.

4.2.1 Key Comments arising from the engagement

4.2.1.1 Free State Agriculture (FSA) calls for effective implementation of the National Rural Safety Strategy (NRSS) at all levels. NRSS must address not only farm attacks and murders but also all property-related and organised crimes affecting all categories of farmers, workers, and visitors.

Key Recommendations by FSA

- **Strengthen SAPS capacity:** Increase Rural Safety Coordinators from one to two per large policing area.
- **Dedicated Rural Safety Coordinators:** Must work exclusively on rural safety (no station-level duties). Should conduct farm visits, awareness activities, monthly meetings, regional profiling. Must be properly equipped (cell phones, resources).
- **Dedicated Crime Intelligence:** Deploy crime intelligence personnel specifically to rural areas. Improve threat detection and support targeted investigations.
- **Implement SAPS Reservist Strategy:** Roll-out requested; previously raised at the 2022 National Rural Safety Summit.
- **Technology, Communication & Partnerships:** Support initiatives like E2 (Eyes and Ears). Address poor cell phone network coverage, especially at borders. Fix issues with Lesotho signal spillage disrupting communication.
- **Improve Stock Theft Capacity:** More trained and skilled stock theft detectives are needed in the Free State.
- **Enhance Cross-Border Crime Prevention:** Improve patrol capability along the border. Need a drivable 4x4 patrol road, address ongoing difficulties with Public Works.
- **Legislative Issues:** National Animal Pounds Bill (2013) stalled and needs attention. Stock Theft Act of 1959 requires revision.

4.2.1.2 AgriSA's Position on the National Rural Safety Strategy (NRSS)

AgriSA maintains a good working relationship with SAPS members but highlights that officers are often underequipped despite their commitment.

Core Issues and Recommendations

- **Capacity Building (Pillar 1 of NRSS):** Requires more than staffing and should include proper equipment such as radios, suitable vehicles, backups, computers, and other operational tools.
- **Support for NRSS:** Positions created through the strategy must come with proper training and equipment, not just titles.
- **Private-Sector Investment.** AgriSA is investing millions of rands in shared resources:
 - CCTV cameras
 - License Plate Recognition (LPR) network
 - Technology funded through the E2 (Eyes and Ears) initiative

Challenges With Camera Rollout

- AgriSA faces obstacles in installing cameras, despite following procedures.
- They acknowledge compliance requirements (permissions, approvals) but stress that available resources are being blocked from deployment.
- AgriSA will provide written details of these challenges.

4.1.1.3 Mr Tilson (Small-Scale Farmers' Representative)

- **Overgrazing & foreign-owned cattle:** Excessive livestock grazing around townships; grazing land insufficient for all farmers. Many of the cattle belong to foreign nationals using local municipal residential addresses. At night, cattle are mixed and stolen, causing major livestock losses. Thieves live among communities, some arriving with their own cattle.
- **Police capacity issues:** Theft reported to SAPS, but slow response due to lack of resources. Request for reinforcing SAPS with proper resources.
- **Agri PAC / Farmer Production Support Unit problems:** Farmers welcomed Agri PAC but received unsuitable farming equipment due to lack of consultation. The equipment is now unused.
- **Interference by government officials:** A government official used divide-and-rule tactics, causing disunity among farmers. False reports claimed farmers were “fighting,” masking the official’s personal interests. Farmers laid a police report on these issues.
- **Departmental accountability failures:** Responsibility shifted between Agriculture and Rural Development, with no assistance. Municipality also unable to help. Farmers feel abandoned, frustrated, and without a clear support avenue.

4.1.1.4 Community Concerns: Municipal Impoundment: Municipalities impound roaming livestock. Farmers are fined per animal, cannot afford fines, and livestock is then auctioned off.

4.1.1.5 Ms Mapaseka Molende (Small livestock business owner)

- Keeps livestock at a municipal farm; overcrowding caused by locals leasing land to Lesotho nationals.
- Significant losses: sheep and cattle stolen; one woman on the farm shot and killed with no arrests.
- Many shacks erected illegally; she requests municipal intervention to verify who lives there.
- Illegal land leasing to foreign nationals is profitable, creating incentives to continue.

4.1.1.6 Mr Isak Friis (Councillor, Setsoto Local Municipality)

- Border Management Authority (BMA) not fully capacitated; staff capacity and equity in hiring must be addressed. Border security shortage: Soldiers managing 450 km of border with only 50 personnel. Insufficient capacity compromises border safety and crime prevention.

Request to Parliament: Committee asked to help ensure more personnel at the border to reduce cross-border crime.

4.2.2 Recommendations

- The Committee will continue to engage with the relevant Departments to address the issues raised by community members. In particular, the committee will engage with the BMA to ensure that there are more border guards and patrols at the border to reduce cross-border crimes.
- The relevant Departments and the Municipality are encouraged to engage with communities and to report back regularly to communities on the matters raised.

- The committee resolved to send the Hon Member representing the Free State Province in the Select Committee on Security and Justice to go back to the community to report on progress made in respect of the matters raised, within 6 months of the adoption of the oversight report in the NCOP.
- The Free State Regional Commissioner undertook to deploy additional SAPS personnel to address concerns of the Ficksburg community. The Commissioner should furnish the committee with a report on this matter within 3 months of the adoption of the report.

5. DAY THREE, THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

5.1 Phuthaditjhaba visit to the Department of Home Affairs Office

The Select Committee received a briefing from the Acting Provincial Manager of the office and thereafter conducted a walkabout of the facilities. Officials from DPWI were also in attendance to answer committee members' questions pertaining to infrastructural challenges. The committee was informed that there were several acting positions in the office.

Key challenges and interventions included

- Electricity (Load shedding /reduction) and that the office has installed a solar system and backup generator, water supply shortage. The office is in the process of installing boreholes/ Offices are supplied with JOJO tanks, mobile offices network and dual networks with Vodacom and MTN have been installed. There is a challenge with the slow collection of smart ID cards. Vehicles are too small for deportations, and the province is slowly purchasing bigger vehicles to close the gap. There is a shortage of Inspectorate/Immigration Officers.

5.1.1 Committee Interaction / Observations

- **Acting posts & staffing:** A moratorium on posts over the past 3 years means only critical positions may be filled. Several acting positions exist due to retirements. There is currently no cleaning staff, and the immigration officer is deployed to China, leaving an acting official in place.

- **Dual citizenship concerns:** The Department of Home Affairs does not see major internal challenges, but issues arise at borderlines. Citizenship is granted only after a thorough interview process. Municipalities help verify information for spaza shops.
- **Slow ID collection:** The Department rotates district managers and uses mobile units to reach remote areas. Partnerships with Moloti Bus service help transport youth for Saturday ID services. Radio communication, stakeholder forums, and scheduled mobile days support outreach. Outdated systems and network issues remain a challenge, and there is a need to move away from SITA.
- **ID-related corruption:** Most issues relate to blocked IDs, investigated by immigration officers. Fraud has dropped significantly since the introduction of smart ID cards.
- **Office closures due to water issues:** Water valves malfunction when municipal supply fluctuates, resulting in water flowing back into the municipal system. JoJo tanks were not functioning, and the municipality currently lacks water.
- **Steel chairs & client safety:** Procurement challenges persist. Existing chairs are poor quality and unsafe, especially for mothers with babies. Consequence management is being implemented for damaged chairs.
- **Undocumented foreign nationals:** Local forums help identify undocumented persons, and officials conduct farm visits in remote areas using a clustering approach.
- **Queues during rainy days:** Separate lines are used for different services. On rainy days, the boardroom is opened to shelter clients. Staff assist in the front office until mid-afternoon.
- **Effectiveness of VFS:** The Visa Facilitation Centre has reduced backlogs but operates only in Bloemfontein, making access difficult for the public.
- **Collaboration with legislature & municipalities:** The legislature provides staff and vehicles. The Department works closely with constituency offices and municipal stakeholders.
- **Backlogs & load shedding impacts:** OHS concerns previously caused disruptions. Ablution facilities were locked, causing frustration. Borehole installation was delayed due to required soil tests; although tests are complete, the borehole is not yet functional, and the budget is depleted.

5.1.2 Physical Oversight Observations

- **Health Facility:** provides support to hospitals for birth registrations if hospitals missed the registration of the birth and this facility will conduct early birth registrations.
- **Smart Card ID Section:** There are 3 application counters and depending on the number of applications, more counters are opened. Members noted the long queues, waiting times and safety concerns of people in the queues. The Department referred to the shortage of staff due to moratoriums.
- **Dockets for illegal migrants:** Some dockets for illegal migrants take long as there are only 5 officials and they are supposed to have 10 officials but due to the moratorium this has not been addressed. Harrismith only has 3 officers. The success rate for the prosecution of illegal foreigners is high.
- **Building and Infrastructure:** The building is in existence since 2013 and has outside seating for the elderly while they wait for teenagers who apply for IDs. The building has lots of challenges like water going through the parking area when it rains, peeling of paint and the electricity point was installed poorly as they have problems with water in the electricity point.

5.1.3 Recommendations

- A full detailed report on infrastructural challenges, budget, and progress from DPWI must be furnished to the committee within 14 days of the oversight visit.
- A full detailed report on infrastructure must be furnished to the committee by the Department of Home Affairs on the repairs and maintenance of the building within 14 days of the oversight visit.
- A resolution must be found with the municipality to address all water supply challenges to ensure the efficient delivery of services.
- Acting positions must be filled urgently to prevent a lapse in leadership and to ensure the proper management of the office.
- More needs to be done to address long queues, particularly during inclement weather, by allocating sufficient staff to the counters to assist clients and reduce the waiting time.

- Procurement processes must reflect the real needs of clients who attend the office and all broken chairs must be replaced with chairs suitable for women with small babies.

5.2 Phuthaditjhaba Magistrates Court

The purpose of the visit was to understand the challenges encountered in Magistrates Courts. The committee was interested in staffing, court infrastructure, interpretation services and Audio-Visual Remand facilities.

Key challenges included

- The court recorded 2671 Domestic Violence cases which have been registered and noted that members of the public for Domestic Violence/ Harassment and Maintenance are made to wait for the Judicial Officer to deal with criminal cases before he/she can attend to Domestic Violence/ Harassment and Maintenance cases.
- Disbandment of the Phuthaditjhaba Child Justice Centre Court Operations by the Judiciary
- Water and electricity challenges are evident in most courts.
- Chief magistrate took the decision that child justice cases must be heard at other courts and the reasons for this decision were not clear to the current court staff.
- Shortage of judicial officers: Many are on contract not in permanent posts, which impacts on service delivery.
- IDT is the implementor of services for DPWI.

5.2.1 Committee Interaction / Observations

- **Appointment of IDT as Implementing Agent:** IDT was appointed based on a standard MOU reviewed every three years, largely due to DPWI capacity constraints flagged by the Auditor-General. Internal project managers were previously overloaded with up to 20 projects each. IDT manages the current project, which is still in the planning and tender documentation stage, delayed to November 2025 pending funding confirmation. Social facilitation processes are being used to minimise disruptions to court operations. DPWI has introduced stricter payment controls, requiring proof of completed work

before paying implementing agents to avoid failures similar to past cases such as Park Road.

- **Shortage of Judicial Officers:** Appointments fall under the Magistrates Commission, not the department. A freeze on posts since 2016 has resulted in severe shortages, with magistrates sometimes covering up to three courts a day. Acting magistrates and private practitioners fill gaps, but capacity and payment issues persist. The department engages higher education institutions for training and seeks TVET interns as a stopgap.
- **Disbandment of the Child Justice Court:** The specialized Child Justice Court was dissolved by the acting chief magistrate, forcing child cases into already-overburdened magistrates courts. This has increased case withdrawals and reduced victim participation due to poor facilities and lack of social worker support. The chief magistrate has been acting since July last year, with a disciplinary matter still before Parliament. Vacancies remain unfilled for years due to slow processes by the Magistrates Commission.
- **Small Claims Courts:** A shortage of commissioners and magistrates causes long delays, including a reported nine-month postponement. Legislative changes now allow private practitioners with at least five years' experience to serve as commissioners. They are unpaid but reimbursed for travel. Magistrates were not removed from small claims courts but now support the court roll, with assistance from Legal Aid where needed.
- **Traditional Courts:** The Department is assessing the resources and capacity needed for traditional courts, working closely with COGTA and conducting consultations across traditional councils.
- **Corruption:** Only one corruption case involving court staff has occurred in the past five years, resulting in a conviction. While there are no corruption cases involving judicial officers, prosecutors have encountered bribery involving foreign nationals and police. A specialised anti-corruption prosecution team has shown progress over the past three years.
- **Sheriffs:** There are too few sheriffs to meet service demands. The Minister's office handles appointments, and interviews are underway to increase the number of sheriffs in the province.

5.2.2 Physical Oversight / Observations

- Court interpreters are working in park homes.
- The Regional court, sexual offences court, intermediary room and child victims of crime courts will be redesigned for modernization.
- DPWI is responsible for the lift to accommodate disabled persons access to the court.
- The Committee observed leaks and cracks in the walls along the corridor. Members stated that DPWI must fast track repairs as well as enclose areas that are exposed to rain.
- X ray scanner is working but the screen to have visibility of bags is not operational. Members were very concerned because this allows the movement of illegal goods in and out of the court.

5.2.3 Recommendations

- The Committee requested a detailed written explanation from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, within 14 days about the decision to disband the child justice court to clarify authority and inform further action.
- The Committee requested a full detailed report, with timelines from the DPWI on all infrastructure and defects in respect of all court buildings in the province. This report, along with all other reports from DPWI, will form the basis of a meeting with the Minister of Public Works to address the infrastructural challenges in the province.
- X ray machines, CCTV cameras and body scanners need to be repaired urgently to ensure the safety of citizens and court staff.
- The Magistrates Commission, together with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, must urgently address the shortage of judicial officers and speed up the appointments within courts in the province.
- The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development should resolve the matter of appointing commissioners to preside over the Small Claims Court urgently to ensure efficient access to justice for the community.

- The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development should speed up the appointment of sheriffs to ensure the efficient and effective administration of justice in the province.

5.3 Thabo Mofutsanyane Child Justice Centre:

The committee conducted a brief oversight visit to this *state-of-the-art facility*, which is newly built and serves as a One Stop Secure Care Centre and court. The facility mainly houses boys under the age of 18 years. The facility has been fully furnished since February 2025; however, the acting chief magistrate has instructed that the court should not be used.

5.3.1 Recommendation

- A decision must be taken and implemented to make full use of the facility and a full report from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development must be furnished to the committee within 14 days.

5.4 Intabazwe Police Station visit

The committee visited *Intabazwe*, which is a decommissioned police satellite office. Over the years, crime has been rising in the area, and the satellite police station was vandalized and remains abandoned. SAPS reported that they have no intention of re-opening the office. The structure belongs to the municipality and not to SAPS and was donated to SAPS many years ago.

SAPS has no intention of building another police station in this community and has instead opted to build a new police station in Tshame which the committee will visit the following day. SAPS regarded the new police station as being necessary, in that area, given that it was a remote area which was far from the city centre. Members raised the fact that the SAPS signage board and SAPS documents were still in the building. SAPS committed to removing everything by the next day.

5.4.1 Recommendation

- The building should be used by the community. Honourable Noe, who represents the Free State Province, committed to conducting follow up engagements on the matter with the municipality.

6. DAY FOUR, FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2025

6.1 Tshiame Police Station

The committee visited the new police station, built through SAPS management of the project, situated in Tshiame in Maluti-a-Phofung municipality. The South African Police Service put the building project out to tender and employed SNZN Construction as the contractor.

Details of the project

- **Contractor & Employment:** Project awarded to SNZN Construction (Oct 2022); subcontractors completed their roles. Electrical and mechanical contractors are still finalising the work. SNZN hired 70 local workers and 4 SMMEs.
- **Project Delays & Financial Issues:** Original completion: Oct 2024, later March 2025, now expected end Nov 2025. SNZN underpriced the project (initial value R56m), continued work despite losses. Experienced non-payment for 3 months, causing strikes and unrest. Payments resumed irregularly; recent payment only after a two-month progress evaluation. Additional delays from rain, technical issues, and a 9-month municipal delay in electrical connection.
- **Variation Orders & Revised Cost:** Project cost increased from R56m to R66m due to variation orders. Some variation orders are still not approved.
- **Contractor & SAPS Positions:** SNZN says it is struggling financially but remains committed to completing the project. SAPS acknowledges ongoing variation orders and confirms municipal water as the only supply (no borehole planned).

6.1.1 Physical Oversight / Observations

The Committee was taken on a tour of the facility and members welcomed the workmanship and layout of the precinct.



- Members commended the SAPS and the SNZN contractor on the level of workmanship and impressive construction. Notwithstanding the delays, the police station is representative of what can be achieved through good governance and control of the project and financial resources.
- The committee noted the poor condition of the roads and the amount of refuse on the pavements in the community. Members further observed that the cattle grazing in the area were eating the plastic refuse which could result in the death of cattle. The committee recommended that the municipality address these concerns with urgency to ensure a safe and clean environment for the community.

6.2 Briefing by SAPS and the CPF on service delivery to the area and Briefing on the Harrismith Magistrates Court

6.2.1 Briefing by SAPS and the Community Police Forum

- SAPS reported that the CPF is functional, and that SAPS and the CPFs are working together. SAPS is committed to assisting detectives in visiting all the areas and

informing the CPFs about the detectives. SAPS are currently waiting for the appointment of the detective commander in Harrismith, since the previous detective commander retired.

- **Community Police Forum (CPF):** The CPF had a newly appointed Chairperson, Mr. Jabulani Mdoi. The CPF noted the challenges facing the community are housebreaking, business break-ins, drug theft, theft from motor vehicles and robbery. There is a lack of police manpower as well as a lack of equipment such as flasks, jackets, torches, etc. The CPF reported they have Awareness Days to bring awareness to domestic violence.

6.2.2 Briefing by the Harrismith Magistrates Court

The Harrismith Magistrate Court covers the geographic areas of: Harrismith, Intabazwe, Tshiame A, Tshiame B, Tshiame C, and surrounding rural farming areas. The court serves Harrismith Police Station. There are approximately 40 000 residents within the direct jurisdiction, extending to over 120 000 when including neighboring settlements.

The Court operates as the Criminal and Civil Court (Regional and District Courts). The Court also provides Maintenance, Domestic Violence, Small Claims Court, Equality Court, Administration of Deceased Estates, and Children's Court Services. The Court has a functional governance structure that is chaired by the Head of Office for case flow and operational management meetings. Harrismith Court has been approved for Repair and Renovations project initiated by DPWI, under reference number, WCS 055672. The project is in progress, the last meeting with the Project Manager was on the 24th of April 2025.

6.2.2.1 Harrismith Magistrates Court Physical Oversight / Observations

- **Interpreters:** The court does not have access to certain languages from foreign nations, and this delays court proceedings. There are local interpreters that are used, that are accredited but certain dialects are not catered for.
- **Renovations:** The Court is in the process of renovation by DPWI to bring it up to standard. The whole building will be renovated to an acceptable standard. The consultation process has been completed, and the engineers and architects have done their planning, and the renovation will start in this quarter.

7. Conclusion

The committee thanks all Departments and stakeholders who participated in the week's oversight activities in the Free State Province.

The committee found the engagement with the community very fruitful in providing the committee with key insights in respect of the challenges encountered by communities in the province. The committee undertakes to conduct the necessary follow-up in respect of the engagements and the recommendations made in this report.

The committee noted that there are many challenges facing the province, but the committee was pleased to see the new developments in respect of *Thabo Mofutsanyane Child Justice Centre* and the *Tshiame police station* and is confident that these new facilities will indeed improve service delivery to the communities in the province.