

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

28 July 2026

Joint Portfolio Committees Consider Departmental Performance Reports and Annual Performance Plans

Bloemfontein, 28 July 2026 – The Joint Portfolio Committees on Public Accounts and Finance, and Cooperative Governance and Office of the Premier, convened today at Southern Life Plaza Building, in Bloemfontein, as part of the exercise of the Legislature’s constitutional oversight responsibility through the consideration of departmental performance and planning reports.

The Committee further received presentations on the 3rd and 4th Quarter Performance Reports and Annual Performance Plans (APPs) by the Office of the Premier, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the Department of Community Safety.

Committee members raised concerns regarding conviction rates and the inability of the department of Community Safety in employing better approaches towards recruitment of better human resources and increase the quality of training to better secure our communities in line with the National Rural Safety Strategy.

In the main, Members raised concerns regarding the reported R32 million surplus, noting that such a level of underspending is difficult to justify given the critical service delivery needs and challenges confronting municipalities throughout the province. The department further reported underachievement due to circular issued by the National Department of Cogta to discontinue all those participants over the age of 60 and above, whose contracts were terminated by the 18 July 2025 from the Community Works Programme.

The Joint Committee also noted the decision by the National Treasury to temporarily withhold equitable share transfers to selected municipalities in the Free State Province. The decision was intended to instil fiscal discipline and ensure proper management of public funds so as to address unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The Committee notes this move to address non-compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). The Joint Committee will follow closely on this developments to ensure that those who are responsible for the unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure are held accountable.

Committee members received progress made in responding to resolutions adopted during the Provincial Youth Parliament, reaffirming the Legislature’s commitment to ensuring that the voices of young people continue to inform governance and public policy.

The presentations provided members with an opportunity to assess departmental performance against planned targets, evaluate the

implementation of commitments made during the previous financial year, and scrutinise the strategic priorities reflected in the Annual Performance Plans.

Legislature committees are open to the media and the public. Journalists wishing to cover these meetings (including receiving links to virtual meetings) should send requests to the Communication Unit for inclusion.

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Issued by Communication and Marketing Unit:

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