



**BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
RURAL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS, SPORT, ARTS
AND CULTURE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Vision**
- 3. Mission**
- 4. Value Statement**
- 5. Committees Mandate**
- 6. Strategic Objectives**
- 7. Government Priorities**
- 8. Committee Focus Areas**
- 9. Operational Plan**
- 10. Risks Management**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa asserts that oversight and accountability are constitutionally mandated functions of the Legislatures in order for the legislature to scrutinise and oversee executive action of any organ of state.

The Speakers' Forum has adopted Sector Oversight Model (SOM) as a framework to guide and strengthen oversight and accountability in the legislative sector. *The Free State Legislature conducts its oversight and accountability functions in terms of the constitutional provision, SOM and its Standing Rules and Orders, tenth edition, 2022.*

Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural, Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture conducts oversight function over the Departments and Entities: **Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT), Free State Gambling, Liquor & Tourism Authority (FSLGTA), Free State Development Corporation (FDC), Maluti- A- Phofung Special Economic Zone (MAP-SEZ), Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs (DARDED) and Department of Sports, Arts, Culture & Recreation (DSACR)**

The Free State Legislature baseline budget has either decreased or remained the same and this constrains oversight capacity of the institution. Hence it is important for the Portfolio Committee to prioritize focus areas when conducting oversight. The Business Plan of the Portfolio Committee is a critical tool to help the Portfolio Committee realize its constitutional mandate through proper planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

2. VISION

Empowering a Modern, Inclusive and Responsive Free State Legislature that effectively serves the needs of a rapidly changing Society, Leveraging Technology, Innovation and Collaboration.

3. MISSION

To ensure good governance through law making, public participation and oversight.

4. VALUE STATEMENT

The Free State Legislature has embraced set of values to guide its interaction with stakeholders. The values below are espoused by the institution:

- Integrity
- Loyalty
- Fairness
- Empowerment
- Innovation
- Commitment
- Accountability
- Openness and Transparency
- Respect for diversity

5. COMMITTEES MANDATE

Section 114 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa assert that provincial legislature must provide for mechanisms to ensure that all provincial executive organs are accountable to it, and thus hold the executive accountable. The Committee's mandate is stated below:

- To enact laws.
- To facilitate public participation.

- To conduct oversight over the executive.
- To hold the executive accountable

6. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE'S

- To oversee and scrutinise executive actions.
- To facilitate public participation and involvement.
- To oversee Agriculture, Rural, Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture initiatives.
- To monitoring, investigate, inquire and make recommendations to the house on executive programmes.
- Consider Bills or other matters which are referred to the committee
- To consider and process all legislation referred to the Committee within the current term of Legislature.
- To strengthen oversight over financial spending of provincial departments and entities over a five-year period.
- To facilitate budget related public participation processes of the Legislature.

7. GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

The following are executive priorities that must be subjected to oversight and accountability by the Portfolio Committee:

DEDT

- Play oversight on support to SMMEs, cooperatives, and township/rural enterprises to ensure that entrepreneurial support programmes translate into sustainable businesses and job creation.
- Play oversight on consumer protection and market regulation to ensure that residents are protected from illicit trade, unfair practices, and corruption in the marketplace.

- Play oversight on tourism development initiatives to ensure that tourism strategies, resorts, reserves, and niche market programmes contribute meaningfully to local economic activity and community participation.
- Play oversight on the District Development Model (DDM) and “One Plan” framework to ensure the Committee understands how One Plans are implemented across districts and municipalities, and how effective oversight can be conducted on such plans, including alignment between provincial planning, municipalities and Local Economic Development (LED) programmes.

FSGLTA:

- Play oversight on the licensing function to ensure that gambling and liquor licence applications are processed lawfully, consistently, and within reasonable timeframes, with backlogs eliminated and appeals functioning effectively.
- Play oversight on regulatory inspections to ensure that licensed premises are monitored regularly through risk-based compliance checks that identify and record non-compliance.
- Play oversight on enforcement actions to ensure that fines, suspensions, closures, and other legal measures are applied where non-compliance and illegal operations are detected.
- Play oversight on community protection measures to ensure that regulatory powers are used to safeguard communities, particularly vulnerable groups and school learners, from harmful liquor and gambling practices.

FDC

- Play oversight on development financing to ensure that loans, investments, and financial support are approved based on clear developmental criteria and reach intended beneficiaries, especially SMMEs, cooperatives, and rural enterprises.
- Play oversight on project appraisal and due diligence to ensure that funded projects are viable, properly assessed, and aligned to the developmental objects of the Free State Development Corporation.

- Play oversight on debt management and loan recoveries to ensure that the entity actively manages impairments, arrears, and write-offs to protect public funds.
- Play oversight on property and infrastructure assets managed by the Corporation to ensure that these assets are productively utilised to stimulate economic development.

MAP-SEZ

- Play oversight on investor attraction and retention to ensure that the Maluti-A-Phofung Special Economic Zone SOC Ltd secures investors that establish operational industries, create jobs, and utilise the Zone's infrastructure effectively.
- Play oversight on infrastructure development and maintenance to ensure that bulk services, internal roads, utilities, and facilities within the SEZ are completed on time, maintained properly, and are investor-ready.
- Play oversight on enterprise development and localisation to ensure that businesses operating in the SEZ create opportunities for local SMMEs, suppliers, and the surrounding communities.

DARDED

- Play oversight on commercialization initiatives to ensure that emerging and black farmers are moved beyond subsistence into sustainable commercial farming with access to inputs, infrastructure, and markets.
- Play oversight on market access interventions to ensure that farmers are linked to formal markets, value chains, and agro-processing opportunities.
- Play oversight on food security and nutrition programmes to ensure that vulnerable communities have improved access to food through coordinated provincial interventions.
- Play oversight on environmental sustainability integration to ensure that economic growth initiatives do not undermine environmental resources and that climate and conservation priorities are incorporated into planning.

SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

- Play oversight on equitable access to sport, arts, culture, and recreation programmes to ensure that communities across the Province, especially rural and disadvantaged areas, benefit from facilities, events, and development initiatives.
- Play oversight on development of athletes, artists, and cultural practitioners to ensure that talent identification, training, and support programmes produce measurable progression and opportunities.
- Play oversight on maintenance and utilisation of sport and cultural infrastructure to ensure that facilities are functional, accessible, and regularly used for community development.
- Play oversight on preservation and promotion of cultural heritage to ensure that museums, heritage sites, libraries, and archives are protected and actively used for education and tourism.
- Play oversight on support to federations, clubs, and cultural organisations to ensure that transfers and assistance lead to active programmes and community impact.
- Play oversight on school sport, recreation, and arts programmes to ensure that learners are exposed to structured activities that support holistic development.

8. PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE FOCUS AREAS

Cross-Cutting Strategic Focus Areas

In addition to the departmental focus areas outlined below, the Committee will undertake cross-cutting strategic engagements aimed at strengthening its understanding of the broader provincial development and planning environment. These engagements will complement the Committee's ongoing oversight of departments and entities and will inform the continuous refinement of its oversight priorities and focus areas throughout the financial year.

The Committee will therefore focus on the following strategic activities:

- **Free State Growth and Development Strategy:** The Committee will engage the Office of the Premier on the Free State Growth and Development Strategy to strengthen Members' understanding of the Province's long-term development priorities and their alignment with departmental plans, programmes and performance. The engagement will assist the Committee in assessing and, where necessary, refining its departmental oversight focus areas in line with provincial development priorities.
- **District Development Model (DDM) and One Plan Framework:** The Committee will undertake oversight and strategic engagements on the implementation of the District Development Model and the One Plan framework across districts and municipalities. The focus will include alignment between provincial planning, municipal planning and Local Economic Development (LED) programmes, as well as the respective responsibilities of departments and municipalities in implementing the One Plans. This will strengthen the Committee's ability to integrate DDM-related matters into its ongoing departmental oversight and identify areas requiring further attention.

The Departmental focus areas are as follows:

Department of Department of Agriculture, Rural Development & Environmental Affairs

Quarter	Key Focus Areas	Planned Oversight Visits & Activities	Expected Outcomes for the Committee
Q1 (Apr – Jun 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of Annual Performance Plans and 4 th Quarter Performance Reports	Report on APP and 4th Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.

	Oversight visit	Districts Oversight on small scale farmers on the assessment of initiatives by the department to curb and manage the outbreak on Foot & Mouth	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q2 (Jul – Sep 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of 1 st Quarter Performance Reports	Report on 1 st Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
			Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q3 (Oct – Dec 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of Annual Report and 2 nd Quarter Performance Reports	Report on Annual Report and 2 nd Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
	Oversight visit	District Oversight on small scale farmers to assess the impact of the departmental efforts in the commercialisation of farmers. Oversight engagements should include successful commercial farmers, farm workers, and the Land Bank to understand structured commodity support programmes and growth from small-scale to commercial farming.	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption

Q4 (Jan – Mar 2027)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of 3 rd Quarter Performance Reports	Report on 3 rd Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
	Follow-up visit	Follow-up visits on the Resolutions implemented to curb and manage the outbreak on Foot & Mouth	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption

Department of Economic, Small Business & Tourism Affairs

Quarter	Key Focus Areas	Planned Oversight Visits & Activities	Expected Outcomes for the Committee
Q1 (Apr – Jun 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of Annual Performance Plans and 4 th Quarter Performance Reports	Report on APP and 4 th Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
	Oversight visit	District Oversight on the performance of MSMEs supported enterprise	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q2 (Jul – Sep 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of 1 st Quarter Performance Reports	Report on 1 st Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
			Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q3 (Oct – Dec 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of Annual Report and 2 nd Quarter Performance Reports	Report on Annual Report and 2 nd Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.

Q2 (Jul – Sep 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of 1 st Quarter Performance Reports	Report on 1 st Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
			Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q3 (Oct – Dec 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of Annual Report and 2 nd Quarter Performance Reports	Report on Annual Report and 2 nd Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
Q4 (Jan – Mar 2027)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of 3 rd Quarter Performance Reports	Report on 3 rd Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
	Follow-up visit	Follow-up visits on the Resolutions implemented to curb illegal operations of gambling and liquor operators	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption

Free State Development Corporation

Quarter	Key Focus Areas	Planned Oversight Visits & Activities	Expected Outcomes for the Committee
Q1 (Apr – Jun 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of Annual Performance Plans and 4 th Quarter Performance Reports	Report on APP and 4 th Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.

	Oversight visit	Oversight on Industrial Park Revitalisation initiatives in: Thaba Nchu	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q2 (Jul – Sep 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of 1 st Quarter Performance Reports	Report on 1 st Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
			Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q3 (Oct – Dec 2026)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of Annual Report and 2 nd Quarter Performance Reports	Report on Annual Report and 2 nd Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
	Oversight visit	Oversight on Industrial Park Revitalisation initiatives in: Qwa Qwa	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption
Q4 (Jan – Mar 2027)	Budget Cycle Model mandatory activities	Consideration of 3 rd Quarter Performance Reports	Report on 3 rd Quarterly Report with actionable and timely recommendations.
	Follow-up visit	Follow-up visits on the Resolutions implemented to revitalise the Thaba Nchu and Qwa Qwa industrial parks	Develop a committee report on the status of the project for adoption

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs (DARDEA)	- Assessment of initiatives by the department to curb and manage the outbreak on Foot and Mouth disease. - Commercial Farmers. How the department has assisted in the commercialization of farmers (issues of growth from small scale to commercial. It is the a step by step approach to grow the small scale we need to know.
Department of Sports, Arts, Culture & Recreation (DSACR)	The Restoration and Revival of Community Sporting Facilities (Eg. Combi Courts)

The table below illustrates the key performance areas and indicators:

Key Performance Area (KPA)	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Activities	Output & Indicator	Outcome & Indicator
Oversight	Committee Meetings Oversight Visits Reports tabled Focused Intervention Studies Benchmarking	The Committee receive presentations/reports from the Department/Entity on the programmes	Oversight report on the relevant Department/Entity produced and tabled in the House	Improved Service delivery, less corruption and reduction of return of monies to provincial treasury.
Public Participation	Committee Meetings Public Hearings Stakeholder Engagement	Members of the Public and stakeholders are briefed on the contents of the bills and given the opportunity to make submission during the oversight work of the Committee	A reports on the public hearings and compliance reports produced and tabled	Negotiating and final mandate submitted to NCOP Compliance Reports tabled.

Law Making	• Bills Drafted • Public Hearings held • Committee Meetings held on law making	Drafting of Bills, Committee meetings and Briefings on the bills	A reports on the public hearings and tabling of bills in the house for adoption	Negotiating and final mandate submitted to NCOP Public Hearing Reports and bills tabled.

9. OPERATIONAL PLAN

The operational plan is in line with the Budget Cycle Model as per the Sector Oversight Model approved by the Speakers forum.

9.1 COMMITTEE BUDGET CYCLE MODEL

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	Q1(April-June) Activities	Q2(July-September) Activities	Q3(October-December) Activities	Q4(January-March) Activities
• Study tours • Capacity building • Bench making • Taking Parliament to the People	• Division of revenue • Fourth Quarter Reports • Annual Performance Plan • Oversight visit • Consideration of Committee Reports	• First Quarter Reports • Oversight Visits • Consideration of Committee resolutions by Committees • Consideration of Committee Reports	• Annual Reports • Second Quarter Reports • Adjustment Appropriation Bill • Strategic Plans 2026/27 for all Committees • Division of Revenue Amendment Bill • Focus Intervention Study//Oversight Visit • Consideration of Committee resolutions by Committees	• Consideration of Appropriation Bill • Consideration of Third Quarterly Reports • Focus Intervention Study/ Oversight Visit • Consideration of Annual Performance Plan • Consideration of Audited financial statements • Consideration of Committee resolutions

			• Consideration of Committee Reports	• Consideration of Committee Reports
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9.2 SPECIAL TOOLS

Oversight Tool	Q1(April-June) Activities	Q2(July-September) Activities	Q3(October-December) Activities	Q4(January-March) Activities
• Focus Intervention Study	Revitalization of the Township Economy			
• Study tours/Benchmarking				Study tour in China for best practices in developing small business linkages with large-scale industrial value chains. Benchmarking oversight visits be undertaken to Special Economic Zones and economic development projects functioning

				effectively, both nationally and internationally, with relevant departments and entities accompanying the Committee.
• Capacity building		Capacity Building Workshop (PFMA & Irregular Expenditure, AGSA). Inclusion of presentations by specialists and engagements with strategic stakeholders (Auditor-General South Africa, Chapter 9 Institutions, universities, and strategic research institutions) to strengthen Committee capacity.		

10. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE (2026/27) FINANCIAL YEAR

Date	Activity / Purpose	Participants	Venue	Responsibility
4 April 2026	➤ Consideration and adoption of Committee Business and Strategic Plans ➤ FMD initiatives Site Visit at Phuthaditjhaba	Members of the Portfolio Committee, Support Staff, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development &		Committee secretariat

		Environmental Affairs		
5 May 2026	➤ Consideration of Fourth Quarterly Report; Annual Performance Plan ➤ Joint Oversight visits at Qwa Qwa Industrial Parks	Joint Committee of Economic Development & PROPAC	TBC	Joint Committee of Economic Development & PROPAC
6 May 2026	Consideration of Committee draft reports	Joint Committee of Economic Development & PROPAC	TBC	Joint Committee of Economic Development & PROPAC
6 June 2026	Joint Committee Oversight on Community sporting facilities	Joint Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and PROPAC	TBC	Joint Committee of Economic Development & PROPAC
9 June 2026	Follow ups on Schools Oversight Visit	All Portfolio Committees	TBC	All Portfolio Committees

9.3 BUDGET FOR 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR:

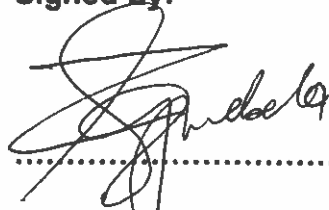
Description	Previous Year Actual 2025/26	Annual Variance	Approved Budget 2026/27
Domestic Incident cost	R116 032	R116 032	R11 733
Domestic: Air Transport for Portfolio Committee	R202 020	R202 020	R46 090
Foreign: Air Transport for Portfolio Committee	R124 320	R124 320	0
Domestic: Accommodation for Portfolio Committee	R446 200	R446 200	R130 582

Foreign: Accommodation for Portfolio Committee	R41 440	R41 440	R115 751
Domestic: Car Rental for Portfolio Committee	R62 160	R62 160	R1808
Domestic: Km Claims for Portfolio Committee	R238 280	R238 280	R495 77
Domestic: Daily allowance for MPLs	R59 595	R62 160	R62 160
Foreign: Daily allowance for MPLs	R8052	R72 520	R72 520
Catering for Portfolio Committee meetings; oversite visits, focus intervention study and public hearings)	R414 400	R394 850	R1 157 253
Advertisement (Radio slots and newspapers) of activities of Portfolio Committee	R352 240	R352 240	R189 702
Venues and Facilities for activities of Portfolio Committees	R9 000	R9 000	R11 500
<i>Transport Provided: Dept. activities: Clarify</i>	R410 256	R410 256	R584 160
International Study Tour to be undertaken by the Portfolio Committee	Committee travel costs will be paid in accordance with the Legislature's Travel Policy.		
Inter-Legislative Exchange Programmes	Committee travel costs will be paid in accordance with the Legislature's Travel Policy.		

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES
Lack of effective Resolution tracking	Established Technical Committee must report on resolution tracking on monthly basis. Resolutions and the Seven-Day Resolution Register and House Resolutions must be a standing compliance item on Committee agendas to strengthen follow-up oversight.
Cancellation of scheduled meetings	The Committee must have annual programme
Centralized Committee budgets	The budget of the Committees should be decentralized
Limited Resources and Capacity	The budget for the Committees be increased and vacant posts be filled
Late Consideration of Draft Reports and tabling in the House	Convene pre-schedule/ after-hours adoption meetings and pre-schedule/ after-hours plenary for tabling of the reports.

Signed by:



HON. Z. Sigwebela

**Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture**