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**SESSIONAL REPORT
OF
THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
JULY – SEPTEMBER 2006**

Name of Committee: PC on Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Chairperson: Mr L Zita

Committee Secretary: Mr M Manele

Mandate of the Committee: In accordance with the Rule 201 of the National Assembly, the mandate of the Portfolio Committee is to monitor and oversee the implementation of legislation, policies, and programmes related to the constitutional mandate of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and its Public Entities such as South African Tourism, South African National Biodiversity Institute, South African National Parks, South African Weather Services, Marine Living Resource Fund and, Greater St Lucia Wetland Authority.

Mission

The overall goal of the Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs and Tourism is to:

- ❖ Ensure the existence of linkages of environmental issues to social transformation,
- ❖ Facilitate effective and efficient governance of environment and conservation of biodiversity
- ❖ Expedite transformation of tourism industry in this second decade of our democracy to maximize job creation and eradicate poverty
- ❖ Facilitate public participation and consultation with the communities especially rural areas affected by different environmental matters

Vision

As a committee we have a vision of:

- ❖ Capacitating members to enhance effective participation, monitoring and oversight
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluate the implementation of conservation and sustainable development of natural resources, environmental quality and protection, sustainable development, marine and coastal management, tourism (domestic, regional and international) biodiversity and conservation.
- ❖ Monitoring and ensuring job creation and poverty eradication in the tourism and fishing industries

- ❖ Performing oversight and undertake National, regional and International visits.
- ❖ Processing and ensuring the passing of legislation and international protocols, conventions and instruments and facilitate public participation in legislative process, pass and amend legislation
- ❖ Participating in National Environment, Tourism and Sustainable Development conferences
- ❖ Conferring with NCOP, Provincial Legislatures and Local Government Structures on Environmental, Tourism and Sustainable Development matters

Chairperson's overview:

This sessional report captures the period from July to September 2006. during this period the portfolio committee focused on oversight function of ensuring accountability of Public Entities reporting to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The Portfolio Committee conducted its oversight function through series of briefing sessions on 2006/07 financial forecasts and quarterly reports. The Public Entities and Programmes Branch of the Department who were called to appear before the Committee included; South African National Botanical Institute, South African National Parks, South African Tourism, South African Weather Service , Marine Living Resource Fund and, Marine and Coastal Management

1. Department(s) Reporting to the Committee: Department of Environmental and Tourism

2. Entities which the Committee exercise oversight:

2.1. South African Tourism (SAT)

The core business of South African Tourism, established in terms of the Tourism Act (1993) is to market South Africa internationally as a tourism destination through regulation of industry, maintaining and enhancing the standards of facilities and services for tourists, and coordinating the marketing activities of role-players in the industry.

2.2. South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

The South African National Biodiversity Institute was established on 1 September 2004 in terms of the national environmental management: biodiversity Act (2004). The act expands the mandate of the national botanical institute to include responsibilities relating to the full diversity of South Africa's fauna and flora, and builds on the internationally respected programmes in conservation, research, education and visitor services developed over the past century by the national botanical institute.

2.3. South African National Parks (SANP)

The South African National Parks established in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (2003) manages a system of 20 national parks representatives of the country's most fauna, flora and unique natural features. Tourism, conservation and commercial development comprise the core competencies of the South African National Parks' biodiversity management mandate.

2.4. South African Weather Services (SAWS)

The South African Weather Service was established in accordance with the South African Weather Service Act (2001). The objectives of the South African Weather Service are to; maintain, extend and improve the quality of meteorological service; ensure the ongoing collection of meteorological data over south Africa and surrounding southern oceans; and fulfil government's international obligations under the Convention of the World Meteorological Organisation and the Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organisation as South Africa's Aviation Meteorological Authority

2.5. Marine Living Resource Fund (MLRF)

The Marine Living Resource fund was established in accordance with the marine living resource act (1998). The aim of marine living resource fund is to finance activities related to managing the sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources, preserving marine biodiversity and minimising marine pollution. Other socio-economic objectives include broadening access to resources by restructuring the industry to address historical imbalances and promote economic growth.

2.6. Greater St Lucia Wetland Authority (GSTLWA)

The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park Authority, which began operating in April 2002, was established through the World Heritage Convention Act (1999). The objective of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Authority include conservation of Greater St Lucia Wetland Park areas' world heritage values, optimising tourism development and contributing to local economic development and transformation.

Committee	Date of meeting	Agenda	Minutes adopted (Yes/No)
PC on Environmental Affairs and Tourism	15 August 06	❖ Briefings on 2006 / 07 Cash Flow Projections and Quarterly Progress Reports South African National Botanical Institute	Yes
	22 August 06	❖ Briefings on 2006/ 07 Cash Flow Projections and Quarterly Progress Report *South African National Parks	Yes
	23 August 006	❖ Joint Meeting with PC on Sports and recreation by Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism on 2110 Readiness	Yes
	29 August 06	❖ Briefings by South African Tourism on 2006/ 07 Cash Flow Projections and Quarterly Progress Reports	Yes
	5 September 06	❖ Briefings by South African Weather Services on 2006/07 Cash Flow Projections And Quarterly Progress Reports	Yes
	12 September 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Briefings by Auditor –General on 2005 Financial Statements of Marine Living Resource Fund and Marine and Coastal Management on Humansdorp investigation and recommendations ❖ Consideration and adoption of Humansdorp oversight visit report ❖ Consideration and adoptions of Brazil international Study tour report ❖ Consideration and adoption of Outstanding Committee minutes ❖ Consideration and adoption of Third Term Sessional Report 	Yes
	19 September 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Consideration and adoption of International Study Tour report to Brazil ❖ Consideration and adoption of 2006 third term Sessional report and minutes 	To be adopted during the fourth term

3. Meeting Cancelled

During the period under review, the committee did not cancel ~~ed~~ any meeting as planned in the third term committee program

4. Legislation Passed /Considered By Committee

During the period under review the committee did not consider nor passed any legislation

5. Paper referred to the Committee)

This section provides information on the paper referred to the committee for consideration and reporting to the National Assembly

Paper Referred	Date of referral	Date of Consideration by committee	Date of ATC Publication	Date of Debate in the House
2002-2005 Financial Statements of the Marine Living Resource Fund	17 August 2006	19 September 2006	-----	-----

6. Oversight Visits/ Study Tours Undertaken (National & International)

During the period under review, the committee did not ^{undertake} any national oversight visit and international study tour,

7. Invitation of the Chairperson OR Delegation of the Committee

During the period under review, neither the Chairperson nor any member received invitation that resulted to the use of the committee resources and requirement for reporting to the National Assembly

8. Consideration of Budget Votes

During the period under review, the committee did not consider any budget vote

9. Workshops Attended

During the period under review, the committee did not attend any workshop

10. Public Hearing on Entities Overseen by Committee

During the period under review, the committee did not schedule public hearings but has however placed adverts for request of written submission and oral presentations for public hearings to held during the fourth term of parliamentary session

11. Committee Budget Allocations for 2006/07

APPROVED ALLOCATED BUDGET	EXPENDITURE AS AT 23 JUNE 2006		BALANCE AS AT 23 JUNE 2006	
R 500.000.00	Activity	Costs	R 482, 446.77	
	Catering	R 4, 843.23		
	Oversight visits	-----		
	International visits			
	Conferences/Seminars/Workshops	R 12, 690.00		
	Public hearing: Venue, advert, witnesses & catering	-----		
	Visits by Foreign guest/Parliaments			
	Gifts			
	Research Work	-----		
	Consultants/experts	-----		
	Other			

12. Approved Sponsorship

During the period under review, no sponsorship was approved to the committee or individual member

Published Reports

During the period under review, the committee did not publish any report in the ATC.

13. List of Outstanding// Pending Issues to be followed by the Committee

1. Public hearings on transformation of fishing and tourism industries
2. Consideration and adoption of committee report on public hearings on fishing and tourism industries
3. Extended hearings on 2006 departmental and public entities annual reports
4. Oversight visit to St Lucia Wetland Authority
5. Consideration and adoption of 2006 committee annual report
6. Consideration and adoption of third session committee minutes
7. Consideration and adoption of committee report on 2006 departmental and public entities annual reports
8. Consideration and adoption of 2007 first term committee program

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE A – Master Attendance Register (for all meeting from Jan – June 2006)

ANNEXURE B – Copies of minutes of all meetings held

ANNEXURE D – Copy of the latest budget statement

ANNEXURE E – Programme for 4th term

SUPPORT STAFF

Committee Secretary:	Mr Moses Manele
Control Committee Secretary:	Ms N Manjezi
Committee Assistant:	Ms M Mbingeleli
Secretary to Chairperson:	Ms S Sixaso
Researcher (Research Unit):	Dr F Khan

COMMITTEE SECRETARY:.....

DATE:.....

CONTROL COMMITTEE SECRETARY:.....

DATE:.....

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:.....

DATE:.....