

② 061017pcarts

**PARLEMENT VAN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Telefoon 403-2911
Telephone



Posbus 15
P.O. Box
KAAPSTAD
CAPE TOWN
8000

Verw./Ref.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND CULTURE

12 September 2006

09:00-13:00

ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Mr. MR Sonto

SECRETARY: Ms TR Cawe

AGENDA

1. Briefing by the Windybrow Centre for Arts on its annual report and financial statement
2. Adoption of minute
3. Announcements/ Invitations

African National Congress

Mr CL Gololo
Mr KM Khumalo
Mr G Lekgetho
Ms ND Mbombo
Mr. MR Sonto
Prince BZ Zulu

Democratic Alliance

Mrs. D Van der Walt

Apologies

Mr P Maluleka
Ms P Tshwete

Officials in attendance

Mr V Maphela – Managing Director, Windybrow Centre for Arts
Mr A Achmat – Chief Financial Officer

The Secretary allowed members to nominate an acting Chairperson according to rule no. 131 (1) of the National Assembly. Mr MR Sonto was nominated and seconded as the Acting Chairperson

The Acting Chairperson welcomed members and allowed the Windybrow delegation to brief the Committee.

1. Presentation by Windybrow Centre for Arts

Mr Maphela explained to the Committee that the Windybrow Centre for Arts operates as a section 21 Company from June 1998 to March 2005. It was declared as a National Monument in February 1996 and declared as a Cultural Institution in April 2005. He also briefed the Committee on the historical organisational background and its challenges, which are:

- For the last 2-3 years it has been traumatic as the rollercoaster ride characterised by, forensic audit, frequent leadership change, challenges of being declared a Cultural Institution, poor 2004/2005 audit report on compliance from auditor general and challenges of complying to PMFA from Auditor General.
- The governance structures have collapsed, that is, the council did not have the 7 members required during 2005/2006 and the audit Committee did not function as required.
- The stakeholders were dissatisfied which were the Department of Arts and Culture viewed non-delivery of its mandate, Artistic industry were calling for closure and the community around was unhappy
- The tough environment on which they are operating also pose a challenge to them which is the theatre is situated in Hilbrow of which theatre industry is struggling there.

The Managing Director mentioned that the DAC remained committed to the continued existence of the Windybrow provided they overcome the above challenges. The Windybrow had until March 2006 to show significant improvement. They had the resources to restructure and re-launch the centre. They work as a team to focus on the plan.

The presenter outlined the strategy in which they proposed the restructuring and the outcomes for the achievement of the mandate of the centre from the development of the cohesive strategy to implementation. They also mentioned that the compliance issues raised in the 2004/5 annual report have been resolved.

The Windybrow target market is, Hillbrow/Berea/inner city community, performance artist in search of African inspiration and aspirant performance artist in need of development.

They also mentioned the hindering measures they are faced with such as the inability to recover quickly from negative perceptions of Windybrow, refurbishment will negatively affect programming, and further deteriorating of Hillbrow/Berea and the African interaction may be larger than planned Windybrow capacity.

In summarising the financial statement, the CFO highlighted that although the running of the centre is promising they were still struggling with the bad debts that have increased by 150% due to inappropriate systems of debt control. The employee related cost has decreased by 35, 74% due to restructuring. The bank charges have increased by 50% due to increase in bank transactions. General expenses rose by 62% due to repairs and maintenance of the building and an increase of 120% surplus funds due to capacity constraints in procurement department.

Questions and Comments

Members raised a number of questions such as the list of six council names that appeared on the annual report but the presenter mentioned seven, the matter of emphasis was very serious to as it does not constitute a clean audit. They were also questioned about the programming for the Ghana-Congolese to include them in their productions and utilised the same community. It was also noted that the presentation is not as accurate as, what the presenter presented does not speak to the annual report. It was a concern on transformation because the delegation was only male representative therefore they should be gender sensitive. Why their staff compliment and their cover page of the annual report does not reflect the people of the country. If their intention is to curb unemployment by 2014 why

they continuously retrench people. How safe is it for the spectators to visit their shows and how did they show case the countries diversity to Africa.

Responses

The Council members were initially seven only three of them were active, one declines the offer and the other two were not attending without apologies and were dismissed. At present they have an eight member council who are fully functional. They intend to have the workshop to debate the status of the theatre with its operations. The 5million income from government funds were meant for operations only. The Chief Financial Officer admitted that there were matters of emphasis from their annual report and they are working on them. The Theatre is more working close with the City of Johannesburg than the province. The retrenchments were caused by the 1998 independency for the diverse kind of a team it was imperative.

Minute of the 20 June, 15 August and 29 August were adopted with amendments.

The Chairperson thanked members and the meeting adjourned at 12:30

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 October 2006.