



**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT**

2022/23 BUDGET REPORT

Committee Details	
NAME OF COMMITTEE	STACOV
BUDGET VOTE	VOTE 2 – PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
TABLING DATE	13 May 2022
CHAIRPERSON	HON. NHLAKANIPHO NTOMBELA

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT ON THE CONSIDERATION
OF THE DRAFT APP AND DRAFT BUDGET FOR VOTE 2 – KZN
LEGISLATURE FOR THE 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR**

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is an oversight report reflecting the views of the Standing Committee on Oversight following the presentation and consideration of the Legislature budget allocation for 2022/23. The Standing Committee on Oversight (STACOV) met with the Provincial Legislature (Vote 2) on the 16th March 2022 to consider the 2022/23 budget allocation for the Legislature.

2. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AND USEFULNESS THEREOF

The Committee wishes to commend the Legislature for having been diligent in the provision of reports to the Committee and also for tabling their accountability reports to the House consistently. The reports that have been presented by the Legislature to the Committee have been reliable and have shown the seriousness with which the institution is taking their accountability role. The Committee also wishes to acknowledge continued support from the Budget Analyst from Provincial Treasury, Ms Claire Thibault.

The information provided by the Legislature has always given the Committee an assurance on the exact financial state of the Legislature even in the times where we are witnessing the budget cuts that are being implemented countrywide.

The summary of the budget allocation to the Legislature was reported to be SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY TWO THOUSAND RAND (R 644 322 000).

Operational budget	R554 480 000
Statutory amount (Members' remuneration)	R 89 842 000
Of which: Remuneration of Speaker and Deputy Speaker	R 3 578 000
Total budget	R644 322 000
Total to be appropriated (excl. Members' remuneration)	R554 480 000
Responsible MEC	Speaker of the Provincial Legislature
Administering department	Provincial Legislature
Accounting officer	Secretary: Provincial Legislature

3. BUDGET CONSIDERATION PROCESSES

The Committee was provided with the budget information in November 2021 where the financial situation of the Legislature was presented. Discussion documents were circulated and discussed in the Committee in March 2022. The consideration of the budget comprised the budget hearing between the Legislature and the Committee.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT APP AND DRAFT BUDGET

4.1 The Committees noted that the 2022/2023 budget represents an allocation of a budget that has been cut. The implication of these cuts as were announced with the presentation of the 2021 appropriation bill are that the Legislature is unable to fund critical posts that support the core mandate of the Legislature.

It was noted that there are still ongoing engagements with Provincial Treasury to assist with the funding of vacant and critical positions.

The Committee has continued to note that the allocation mechanism is not cognisant of the separation of powers principle in that the Legislatures have to depend on Provincial Executive for their allocation.

5. CONCERNS AND RESOLUTIONS

5.1 Legislature Approach on Work at relaxation of lockdown levels

The Committee noted the country has since the last meeting of STACOV held in November 2021, relaxed the regulations relating to gatherings.

The Committee resolves for the Legislature to concretise its plans regarding possible full attendance at meetings keeping in mind that social distancing still needs to be respected.

5.2 Office Space

Noting office space pressures as exacerbated by some of the rented buildings not being in well-maintained thus rendering themselves inhabitable;

The Legislature is requested to consider a new sharing approach of the existing Legislature owned buildings so as to accommodate members and staff of political parties.

A holistic approach to be explored on the office space needs.

A parking allocation plan to be re-issued to members. Access cards for members to be programmed for access to Tatham Art Gallery.

5.3 Corporate Attire

Noting

The lengthy consultation and the extended period it has taken to take measurements of members for purposes of issuing them with Corporate Jackets (blazers)

It is resolved

That the Legislature must facilitate delivery of male jackets within a period of two weeks and further that

The Speaker finalises her determination leading to the procurement and distribution of the jackets for female members.

5.4 Hybrid System of meetings

Noting

That the Legislature in attempting to save on costs, would engage the hybrid mode of meetings where PA system is hired and a service provider provided even if there is one person who is connected virtually.

It is resolved:

That the Legislature analyses the costs as a result of use of procured system and explores the use of own PA systems.

Further, the Legislature to explore the possibility of fully equipping and resourcing the IT section to be able to deliver as per demands of the institution.

5.5 Budget Cuts

Noting

The shrinking financial resources of the institution;

It is resolved

The Legislature to make further cost saving proposals regarding the external events of the Legislature.

5.6 Support by Treasury during off site meetings

Noting

That the Provincial Treasury does not give support to Committees in instances where Committees are undertaking oversight visits around the Province

It is resolved

That Treasury be engaged to ensure that Committees do get support from Treasury even when operating outside of Pietermaritzburg

The Committee therefore resolved to support the budget for vote 2.

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CHAIRPERSON: STACOV

DATE