



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



Provincial Treasury

Citizens Report

2020/21

Who are we?

Our mandate is to control and oversee the finances of the Western Cape Government. We enable efficient and sustainable public financial management to promote economic development, good governance, social progress and a rising standard of living for the Western Cape's people.

The Provincial Treasury (PT) plays a major role in achieving the desired socio-economic and governance outcomes of the Western Cape by providing strategic financial leadership to the Western Cape Government provincial departments, its public entities and municipalities.

Vision

A responsive and inclusive Treasury that enables positive change in the lives of citizens.



Mission

- Promotion of cohesion and citizen centricity.
- Building capacity in the public sector by being adaptive, innovative and supportive.
- Integrated management and partnerships that enable the delivery of quality services in a sustainable manner.



Who is in charge



Our Minister is David Maynier, an elected politician responsible for directing the Department's activities in line with the National and Provincial Government policies.



Our Head of Department is David Savage who is responsible for the implementation of the Departmental mandate and oversees the treasury function for the province.

What do we do?

The Provincial Treasury controls and oversees the finances of the Western Cape government. Through our services, we ensure sustainable public financial management that promotes economic development and good governance to improve the standard of life for those living in the Western Cape.

Our Strategic Outcomes

1.	Financial and Corporate governance improved
2.	Integrated planning, budgeting and implementation for sustainable management of provincial and municipal fiscal resources.
3.	Effective management and oversight of financial systems, supply chain and moveable asset management governance within the provincial and municipal spheres.
4.	Governance transformation in departments, entities and municipalities improved.

Our Management Team

Our capable team of senior managers are experts in their field of work and have undertaken the responsibilities of the department.



As at 1 March 2021

Driving innovation

The Western Cape's Strategic Plan (PSP) aims to achieve a safe Western Cape where everyone prospers. It outlines five Vision-inspired Priorities (VIPs) that measure our commitment to finding ways to improve the lives, livelihoods and experiences of citizens by:

- building safe and cohesive communities,
- boosting the economy and job creation,
- empowering our people,
- promoting mobility and spatial transformation,
- driving innovation within a culture of a truly competent state.

Declining economic growth and revenue collection has resulted in a widening gap between revenue and expenditure while government debt service costs are projected to increase to 19.4 per cent of the total budget. This context as well as the required COVID-19 response means that spheres of government would need to reprioritise budgets to deal with the current reality.

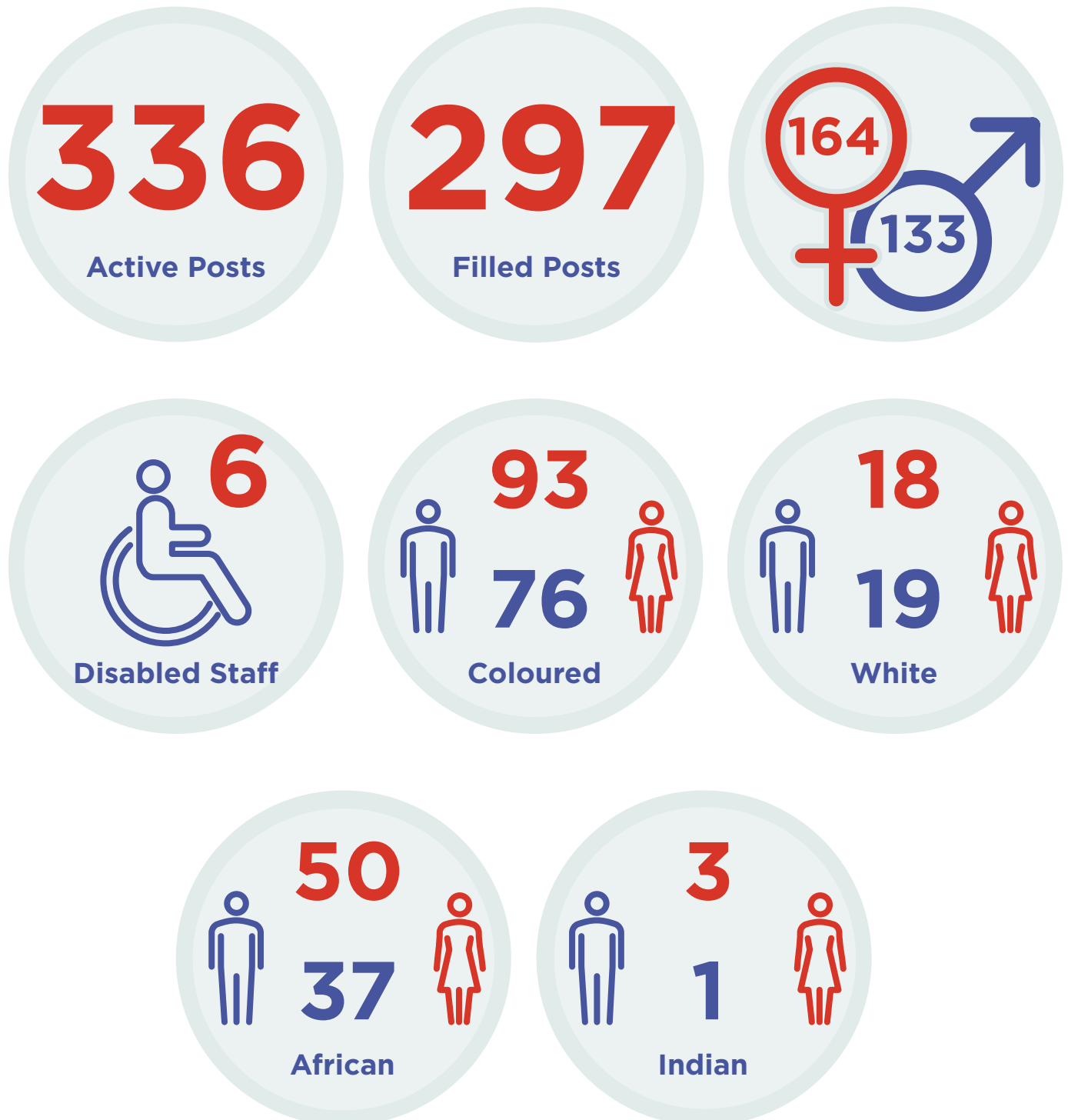
In the Western Cape, this will include a review of our current 2019-2024 Provincial Strategic Plan to determine how to achieve the vision of the Province while reprioritising budgets. More than ever, public servants will need to work together and have the right mindset, skills, and values if we aim to achieve our vision of a safe Western Cape.

Communities will be involved in the design and implementation of our programmes our staff will be empowered to understand and live out our vision. The future demands that we foster a culture of responsiveness and collaboration with citizens, national government, the private sector, and civil society so we can deliver first-class services to all our residents.

Our Staff

Our employees are a diverse and dedicated group, working across a range of disciplines that include economics, accounting, finance and management. Career opportunities include, but are not limited to economists, accountants, chartered accountants, supply chain analysts, project managers, M&E coordinators, system developers as well as government communication specialists. Our teams are supported by a group of administrative and clerical staff that allow us to provide services to provincial departments, municipalities and our citizens.

As at 31 March 2021, the PT employed 297 people of its approved staff complement of 336. The vacancy rate was 3.6%



Our Budget

PT received a total adjusted budget of R289 505 000 from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021. The Department utilised R277 393 000 of the adjusted allocation, which reflects an underspending of R12 112 000.

The breakdown of the final allocation and actual expenditure per economic classification, is as follows:

Economic classification	Final allocation R'000	Actual expenditure R'000
Compensation of employees	R188 764	R184 513
Goods and services	R49 814	R40 431
Transfers and subsidies	R46 822	R50 733
Payment for capital assets	R4 066	R1 648
Payments of financial assets	R39	R68
Total	R289 505	R277 393

The breakdown of the final allocation and actual expenditure per programme, is as follows:

Programme	Final allocation R'000	Actual expenditure R'000
Programme 1 : Administration	R56 373	R51 594
Programme 2 : Sustainable Resource Management	R119 010	R115 847
Programme 3 : Asset Management	R62 645	R59 518
Programme 4 : Financial Governance	R51 477	R50 434
Total	R289 505	R277 393

Reaching our targets

In terms of Section 18 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act of 1999) and Section 5 (4) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003), PT is instructed to assist its clients to improve service delivery.

We could deliver on each of our standards:

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
Business Unit	Services	Achievements
Fiscal Policy	To conduct research and advise on the management of the provincial and municipal fiscal resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four (4) Research reports on the Provincial and Local Government Fiscal Systems Twelve (12) Revenue and Cash Management reports Four (4) reports on the performance of the WCGRB
Provincial Government Budget Office	To promote effective resource allocation within the provincial budget through research, analysis and advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forty-one (41)) Provincial budget policy assessment reports Three (3) Provincial Budget and Economic Publications
Local Government Budget Office	To promote effective resource allocation within municipal budgets through research, analysis and advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thirty (30) Municipal budget policy assessment reports 100% Quarterly Performance Reports received, assessed Publication of the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook in October 2020
Provincial Government Finance	To improve the conformance, credibility, sustainability and guide and monitor the efficient implementation of the provincial budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twenty-eight (28) Provincial budget assessment reports Two (2) Expenditure review Four (4) Quarterly reports on the implementation of the budget Four (4) Provincial Budget publications
Local Government Finance	To guide and monitor the implementation of municipal budgets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three hundred and sixty-nine (369) monthly IYM assessments reports on the implementation of the municipal budget Thirty (30) Municipal budget assessment reports Four (4) reports on MFMA implementation
Infrastructure	To institutionalise and standardise good practice methodologies, tools and systems for delivery and maintenance of immovable assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thirty-two (32) immovable asset management plans assessed Three (3) Quarterly reports on the implementation of infrastructure budgets to Cabinet One (1) capacity intervention in support of infrastructure delivery at municipalities Two (2) provincial budget publications One (1) assessment on municipal infrastructure delivery management system(s)
Business Information and Data Management	To render an effective data and information management service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four (4) datasets managed Three (3) budget process plans managed

ASSET MANAGEMENT		
Business Unit	Services	Achievements
Supply Chain Management: Provincial Government and Local Government	Effective management and oversight of financial systems, supply chain and moveable asset management governance within the provincial and municipal spheres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) municipal districts assisted • Five (5) Districts assisted with systems Insight Reports • Two (2) support Programmes implemented for departments and municipal districts • One (1) support Programmes implemented to develop and enable suppliers • Three (3) reports reflecting performance of the client support centre • One (1) e-enabled data store • Three (3) commodity procurement strategies developed • Fifty-three (53) SCM System insight reports produced, providing procurement performance information to departments • Ten (10) procurement plans and supporting strategic procurement initiatives assessed for municipalities
Supporting and Interlinked Financial Systems	Automated Expenditure and Revenue management tool and related management dashboards; Staff cost forecasting tools; Asset management dashboards; Automated conflict of interest tools and reports; Development of the Municipal vulnerability dashboards; and Development of the Supplier evidence to enable the ease of doing business in the WCG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirteen (13) votes assisted with user account management • Thirteen (13) votes assisted with end user training and change management interventions • Thirteen (13) votes assisted with preparation initiatives for implementation of smart and integrated Financial Management System • Thirteen (13) votes assisted with quality data from the Corporate Suite of existing Transversal Financial System

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE		
Business Unit	Services	Achievements
Local Government Accounting	Governance transformation in departments, entities and municipalities improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty-nine (29) • Six (6) interventions to improve the understanding and application of accounting standards • Zero (0) Percentage of data strings submitted to the LG Database reconciled to audited AFS
Provincial Government Accounting	Governance transformation in departments, entities and municipalities improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) governance performance engagements held with departments • Five (5) internal control interventions rolled out in departments • Fourteen (14) votes assessed against the applicable accounting and norms and standards requirements • Publication and tabling of the ACFS, one month after receipt of audit report on the ACFS
Corporate Governance	Governance transformation in departments, entities and municipalities improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty (30) municipal governance assessment reports • Ten (10) municipal support initiatives on municipal finance capacity building and training • Twelve (12) support initiatives on internal audit and risk management. • Four (4) support initiatives to municipalities and departments on financial legal frameworks and policies • Four (4) legislative scanning reports • Three (3) trainees that successfully completed the SAICA training programme

MTBPS: "A Budget to Bounce Back in the Western Cape"

The Western Cape Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) and the 2020 Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure was tabled by Minister Maynier in the Western Cape provincial parliament.

The Minister's speech followed Premier Alan Winde's special address in parliament which was delivered a month earlier where he outlined a recipe for real change in the Western Cape and focused on three 'North Stars' - on "Jobs", on "Safety" and on "Wellbeing" over the medium term, which is the guiding lights of the Recovery Plan in the Western Cape.

The province expected to spend R71.3 billion in 2021/22, R72.5 billion in 2022/23 and R73 billion in 2023/24 over the medium term in the Western Cape. A combined R1.4 billion support package for "Jobs", for "Safety" and for "Wellbeing" was also mobilised for the financial year, so that the Western Cape can bounce back. The allocation included the following:

On "Jobs":

- An additional R155.9 million to support small businesses by accelerating basic maintenance and repair of infrastructure at schools in the Western Cape.
- An additional R12 million to support small businesses, which have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape.
- An additional R8.5 million to support businesses in the wine industry, which have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape.



On "Safety":

- An additional R36.5 million to keep our children safe by accelerating the fencing of schools in the Western Cape.
- An additional R20 million to appoint young people as "safety ambassadors" to drive violence prevention interventions in the Western Cape.
- An additional R15 million to improve the collection of data at emergency centres to support evidence-based violence prevention in the Western Cape.
- National government funding to support "Jobs", "Safety" and "Wellbeing" in the Western Cape, which included:
- An additional R814.2 million to employ education assistants and general assistants at schools.
- An additional R53 million to supplement the salaries of employees at early childhood development centres.
- An additional R51.2 million to provide food relief to people who are hungry; and we have allocated an additional R15 million to improve the collection of data at emergency centres to support evidence-based violence prevention in the Western Cape.

The departments continues to support frontline departments to respond to the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Western Cape.

The following funds have been set aside:

- R227 million available on the health department's budget;
- R200 million available on the transport and public works department's budget; and
- R864 million available in the provincial reserves.



On "Wellbeing":

- An additional R4 million to appoint young people to support the development of literacy and numeracy at early childhood development centres in the Western Cape.

Western Cape Government 2020/21 Budget and Adjustments



Western Cape Budget 2020/21 – A Budget for You

Minister Maynier tabled the Western Cape Government's budget themed **"a budget for you"**.

The budget for you focused on:

- Support to the Vision Inspired Priorities set out in the new Provincial Strategic Plan;
- The protection of frontline services: Education, Health and Social development;
- Investment in new and existing infrastructure assets;
- Preparation of a new, cleaner and greener energy future; and
- Be responsive to future risks that may negatively impact on the Western Cape.

The R224 billion medium-term budget included:

- R4 billion so that residents feel safe in the Western Cape;
- R32.4 billion towards job creation;
- R173.8 billion for residents to reach their full potential,
- R24.6 billion towards homes; , and
- R7.5 billion to ensure an even better government in the Western Cape.

The largest percentage of the budget went to frontline services - R83.2 billion to Health, R79.4 billion to Education, and R8.4 billion to Social Development.

An amount of R1.1 billion was allocated to deploy more law enforcement officers to fight crime, especially violent crime, to make the residents of the Western Cape feel safe.

The "Budget for You" aimed to give all residents, a hope for the future in the Western Cape.

Minister Maynier tabled the Western Cape Special Adjustment Budget

The theme for the Special Adjustment Budget was “A Budget to Beat COVID-19 in the Western Cape”. The address also outlined, how the Western Cape Government’s spending has been allocated to the COVID-19 disaster.

In the Western Cape Government’s weekly press conference which followed the Special Adjustment Budget, the Premier Alan Winde, Minister David Maynier and Provincial Treasury Head of Official, David Savage, unpacked the budget in detail and responded to media enquiries.

The R3.05 billion amended budget focused on funding field hospitals, isolation and quarantine facilities, emergency food relief, school feeding schemes, schools opening safely and business opening safely.

- **R1.8 billion to the Department of Health** for personal protective equipment, temporary field hospitals, testing and screening, and additional bed capacity.
- **R400 million to the Department of Transport and Public Works** for the hiring of venues and the purchase of services for quarantine and isolation facilities.
- **R310 million to the Department of Education** for personal protective equipment, and the sanitisation of schools.
- **R84 million for humanitarian relief** including inter alia R25.9 million to the Department of Social Development for an emergency food relief programme; R18 million to the Department of Education for an emergency school feeding scheme; and R17.8 million to the Department of Local Government for an emergency food relief programme.
- **R27 million to the Department of Local Government** for the coordination and implementation of the response to the pandemic in hotspots.
- **R14 million to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism** to support small businesses, workplace safety, and screening passengers at the George Airport.
- **R12 million to the Department of Social Development** for personal protective equipment and operational support to Old Age Homes and Early Childhood Development Centres across the Western Cape.



Value for money

PT may have one of the smallest departmental budgets in the Western Cape, but the important work that is done with that budget cannot be underestimated. 2020 Was a year of great turbulence, instability and transition which caused great challenges but with great challenges comes opportunity for growth and strength if harnessed correctly. This has been the case for PT. This started with an investment in the PT leadership pipeline, with excellent candidates having filled both Deputy Director-General posts and several critical Chief Director posts inside the Department.

It could also be seen throughout the various programmes of the department:

- Critical expenditure and performance reviews began which helped to inform more efficient and effective ways of achieving goals in the Western Cape Government;
- PT embarked on a review of our public entities to help drive improved governance within important delivery vehicles;

- PT is the lead Treasury in South Africa for the management of compensation of employees across provincial government;
- PT led the way on Supply Chain Management reform, having published the first ever Procurement Disclosure Report and being in the process of developing an automated procurement planning toolkit;
- PT moved ahead with new ways to harness Artificial Intelligence to help analyse and inform the way that we do business in the Western Cape; and
- PT continued to provide critical support and monitoring within municipalities to ensure enhanced financial performance across the Western Cape.

In many ways, PT led the way towards being a future focused, future ready department by:

- investing in IT capacity such as video conferencing capabilities;
- innovating in the clean governance space through increased transparency and by harnessing technology; and
- leading the way on critical policy discussions in the face of an ever increasing fiscally constrained future.

Western Cape maintains top spot in provincial audit outcomes

The Auditor General of South Africa's consolidated audit results for the 2019/20 financial year confirms that the Western Cape continues to be the top performing province in South Africa.

The Auditor General commended the Western Cape on achievements in the report, noting that, *"This was achieved during a troubled 2020 with disruptions to normal operations, by leadership setting a strong tone at the top to maintain a sound control environment – particularly effective preventative controls."*

Key highlights from the Auditor General's PFMA 2019-20 Consolidated General Report:

- In the Western Cape, 70% of departments and entities received clean audits, compared to the next best province, Gauteng, with 30% clean audits and the worst performing, the North West, with 4% clean audits.
- The Western Cape accounts for 14 of 44 (32%) provincial clean audit outcomes in the country.
- The Western Cape incurred no unauthorised expenditure, compared to the next best province, Limpopo, with R1.13 million in unauthorised expenditure and the worst performing province, the Eastern Cape, with R1.58 billion in unauthorised expenditure.
- The Western Cape only incurred R118 000 in fruitless and wasteful expenditure, compared to the next best province, Northern Cape, with R9.6 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure and the worst performing province, Gauteng, with R103.42 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure.
- The Western Cape only incurred R285 million in irregular expenditure, compared to the next best province, Eastern Cape, with R837.05 million in irregular expenditure and the worst performing province, Kwa-Zulu Natal, with R9.77 billion in irregular expenditure.

While not included in the report due to the audit not being complete by the cut-off date for the report, the Western Cape Department of Health again received a clean audit for the second year in a row - the only health department in the country to do so.

The repeated success of the Western Cape, as cited by the Auditor General, can be attributed to, amongst others:

- The institutionalisation of controls that resulted in the reduction of irregular expenditure.
- Accounting officers and authorities should continue to hold senior management accountable to improve key disciplines in the area of the reliability of submitted performance reporting.
- Leadership oversight and accountability for commitments in collaboration with oversight committees to improve/maintain audit outcomes.



Provincial Departments and Entities (R'000)				
	Clean Audits	Unauthorised Expenditure	Irregular Expenditure	Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure
EC	28%	1,588,700	837,050	43,809
FS	6%	347,600	2,407,380	74,272
GP	30%	-	7,450,260	103,420
KZN	21%	330,700	9,766,000	19,326
LP	21%	1,130	2,990,704	29,557
MP	18%	55,800	2,494,200	9,880
NC	23%	18,300	1,458,026	9,625
NW	4%	203,700	4,045,670	22,731
WC	70%	-	285.280	118

Work safety precautions implemented



Like all other employers in South Africa, the PT finalised measures aimed at creating a safe work environment for staff and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 once staff fully return to work after the lockdown period and the removal of the State of Disaster Act.

Minister David Maynier tabled PERO and MERO

On 20 October 2020, the Western Cape Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, David Maynier, tabled the Western Cape Provincial Economic Review and Outlook 2020 (PERO) and the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook 2020 (MERO) in the provincial parliament in the Western Cape.



The PERO and the MERO are world-class annual research publications produced by PT, aimed at informing policy-makers, departments and municipalities on key economic trends and developments in the Western Cape. What the PERO and MERO tells us is that the COVID-19 pandemic caused a major setback to the economy in the Western Cape.

The PERO and MERO forecast a slow recovery in economic growth in the Western Cape, but also that the provincial economy will grow at a faster rate than the national economy in South Africa.

Effective management and oversight of financial systems, supply chain and moveable asset management governance within the provincial and municipal spheres.



Standardised assets

To ensure that the process for Demand Management, in regard to procuring of departmental assets, is streamlined and standardised and to eliminate the choice of preferences amongst staff within the Department, the Supply Chain Management team created a standardised list of assets.

The PT assets profile consists of laptops, desktops, printers, televisions, projectors, fridges and microwaves. This list aims to realise value for money and to improve service delivery by ensuring the quality and efficiency of goods and services that are procured on behalf of the end-users and relevant stakeholders.

Invaluable support to suppliers

Taking customer service excellence to the next level. The PT understands its stakeholders and know what support is needed by suppliers. As suppliers come from diverse backgrounds and range from formal and established businesses to entrepreneurs who are just entering the market, they may require extra assistance to fulfill some tasks on our platforms. The department developed Self Help, step-by-step demonstration videos aimed at empowering suppliers to register on the Cloud and to quote on IPS.



Procurement Disclosure Report - a commitment to clean governance

In PT continued commitment towards clean governance, transparency and innovation, PT published the Procurement Disclosure Report developed by the Provincial Government Supply Chain Management team.

The Procurement Disclosure Report details all personal protective equipment (PPE) procurement and expenditure in the Western Cape, in a regular, standardised and automated report that is made available on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis to the public. The first Procurement Disclosure Report detailed all PPE procurement and expenditure by department from 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020 and included details on each transaction such as the name of the supplier, a description of the item, the unit price per item and the total spent. From 31 August, the report was published on the last day of every month.

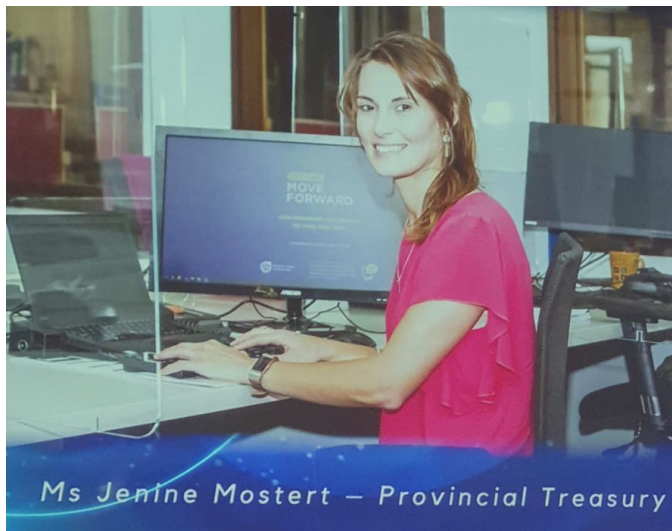
The report will include more data and even expand its scope to include non-PPE items as well. Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, David Maynier, considers the Procurement Disclosure Report as a best-in-class example of transparency, and another innovative step towards maintaining clean government in the Western Cape.

PT invested significant amounts of money on PPE in the fight against Covid-19 in the Western Cape, the PDR is an important measure designed to mitigate the risks in supply chain management and ensure this money is spent correctly.

The public Procurement Disclosure Report ensures a transparent procurement that is easy to access and will provide meaningful information to all interested parties and oversight bodies. Because PT uses different supply chain management systems with varying lead and lag times, this consolidated report will eliminate duplication and discrepancies in reporting.

Other pro-active measures implemented by PT to mitigate procurement risks include the establishment of a Central Procurement Advisory Committee to support and advise main procuring departments and enhanced surveillance of personal protective equipment procurement by mobilising internal auditors to scrutinise and monitor procurement transactions.

Service Excellence Awards



Jenine takes home GOLD in Inspirational Support Employee category

Jenine Mostert from PT's Supply Chain Management Directorate, was recognised at the Western Cape Government Service Excellence Awards.

Going beyond the call of duty in the execution of her duty: During the test compilation phase of creating reports, Jenine would spend weekends and late nights putting test data together and working on the table linkages. By doing this, she produced reports that are credible and of value to various audiences. She also spent many late nights upskilling and self-skilling in order to teach and understand the complexities and versatilities of the BI Tools that she was working with, in order to not only produce reports but to better represent PGSCM.

Through her own efforts using Microsoft BI analytical tool, Jenine developed a data model which incorporates various data sources and allows various visuals and graphical displays for use in various reports that she produces. The data model remains of the most comprehensive BI model that has been developed by PT official. This self-taught methodology has required her with pushing the extra hours of work researching different data structure and functionality work in order to produce reports.

Managing risk



The Provincial Top Management of the Western Cape Government adopted the Provincial Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Strategy (PERMPS) on 25 February 2020.

The PERMPS sets out the Province's overall intention in respect of the principles of good enterprise risk management practises. It spells out the objectives of the provincial risk management process to ultimately strengthen decision making at various levels of accountability.

PT furthermore adopted an Enterprise Risk Management Policy on 30 March 2020. This policy articulates the Department's risk management philosophy and captures, on a high-level, the roles and responsibilities of the different role players. It provides the basis for the risk management process in the department which is supplemented with the detail in this strategy.

This ERM strategy and implementation plan outlines how the Department will go about implementing the Enterprise Risk Management Policy adopted by the Accounting Officer. This ERM strategy is informed by the PERMPS, the Department's ERM Policy and the department's risk profile.

The purpose of the ERM strategy and implementation plan is to effect the implementation of risk management in a structured, coherent and systematic manner, to:

- ensure that risk management is part of the planning and performance management processes;
- enable the Department to deliver on the Departmental goals, objectives and targets;
- improve the quality of decisions and ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- outline and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of managers and staff in embedding risk management in the Department.

It furthermore sets out the risk management activities planned for the 2020/21 financial year.

Enterprise Risk Management involves the culture, principles, structures and coordinated processes and activities to direct and control the effective management of potential (uncertain) opportunities and/or adverse events that a department may encounter in pursuit of its objective.

Creating opportunities for our youth



PT is committed to creating opportunities for the youth and to address critical skills shortages in the fields of Economics, Accounting, Finance and Auditing in the public sector. The Talent Management Strategy is an all-encompassing human resources and capacity building developmental strategy that aims to capacitate the department with the necessary skills and capabilities to effectively carry out its mandate. Following the endorsement of the Talent Management Strategy, all Youth Development initiatives has been streamlined into the departmental strategy aiming toward the capacitation of the department, clients and the public with the necessary skills and capabilities to effectively carry out its mandate.

The COVID-19 has placed a strenuous impact on the fiscal framework and budget of the province resulting in budget cuts across the board. During the 2020/21 financial year, the department experienced budget cuts to all the capacity building initiatives (including bursaries and internship programmes) within the Vote's budget. It was thus resolved to suspend the External Bursary Programme Advertisement for the 2021 academic year intake and resume within the new financial year.

Nedbank essay Writing Competition: The Provincial Government, through its Education Department, has an indispensable and inalienable role to play in the development of our youth at school through interactions that educate and engage learners in a manner and language that they can relate to. Introduced in the 2008/09 financial year, the Western Cape Essay Writing Competition aimed to provide learners taking economics, mathematics and accounting as school subjects the opportunity to access bursaries in the fields of commerce by participating in an essay writing competition. While the programme was not suspended for the financial year, the competition awards ceremony was delayed as a result of consultation and the renewing the partnership agreement. The new agreement will ensure that the competition runs until the 2024.

Chartered Accountant Academy: The Western Cape Treasury Chartered Accountants Academy (CAA) provides an avenue for prospective chartered accountants to receive accredited training within public sector – they receive their training through Provincial Treasury and not through traditional audit firms. We offer graduates the opportunity and support to be the best they can be. Trainees will gain valuable public sector experience; intensive knowledge of the public sector financial systems and processes such as the PFMA and MFMA, developing chartered accountants that are public sector specialists.

In addition, trainees are placed across the provincial government departments and entities to gain the necessary skills and familiar with the public sector financial system. The programme consists of a three-year professional training programme that has been structured such that grants the trainees exposure in key areas of management, decision-making and control. Experience is gained through rotation to the various divisions of provincial and local government. The programme is eligible to appoint fifteen (15) trainee accountants into the Academy. During the 2020/21 financial year the department had an intake of 5 trainee accountants. Going forward the department plans to roll out the academy into the municipal sphere.

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