

QUESTIONS EMANATING FROM THE RESEARCH ANALYSIS OF THE 2nd QUARTER REPORT OF THE GPL_2024/25FY.

1. The Committee has noted that Programme 1: Leadership and Governance has overspent under Compensation of employees by a net amount of R610 thousand due to the appointment of additional unfunded staff for Presiding Officers. Please specify the following:

QUESTION

Number and nature of these positions:

RESPONSE

The Structure in Private Offices of the Presiding Officers is in line with the norms and practices in the sector.

SPEAKER	DEPUTY SPEAKER
Chief of Staff	Manager/ Political Advisor – Vacant
Manager Special Programmes	
Administrative Support and Coordination	
Media Liaison Officer	Parliamentary Officer
Private Secretary /Appointments Secretary	Private Secretary /Appointments Secretary
Assistant Appointments and Administrative Secretary	
Parliamentary Officer/Political Liaison Officer	
Messenger	Messenger
Registry Clerk	
TOTAL POSTS: 9	TOTAL POSTS: 4

CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES	DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE
Private Secretary /Appointments Secretary	Private Secretary /Appointments Secretary
Parliamentary Officer	Manager
TOTAL POSTS: 2	TOTAL POSTS: 2

QUESTION:

Reasons for these appointments:

RESPONSE

To support Presiding Officers in the implementation of the GPL mandate In line with section 1.5 of the Handbook for provision of support to the Presiding Officers of the GPL approved on 23 July 2024

QUESTION:

How is this likely to affect the audit outcome/findings given they are unfunded, and therefore not part of the Organizational Structure.

RESPONSE

There will be no adverse audit finding as the structure is implemented in line with the approved Presiding Officers Handbook. This has been formalised through the adjustment budget and savings already realised in compensation of employees.

QUESTION:

2. Please provide a breakdown of the GPL's spending priorities for the 2nd quarter.

RESPONSE:

Compensation of employees amounted to R90.7 million for the quarter.

Goods and services amounted to R39.7 million for the quarter. The reported expenditure consists of the following key cost-drivers:

- Operating expenses at R9.3 million comprising municipal services, cell-phone contract, cleaning services, NCOP rent, 3G and network points, motor vehicle services, access and computer consumables, maintenance and repairs, refreshments, fuel and bank charges;
- Travel expenses at R4.5 million comprising air travel, accommodation, car hire, conference registration, international travel services and subsistence and travel
- Licensing fees at R3.4 million;
- The Opening of the 7th Legislature at R3 million;
- Subscriptions at R3 million
- Audit fees at R2.6 million:
- IT outsourcing at R2.5 million
- Security services at R2.1 million:
- Advertising and marketing at R1.8 million
- Special operating projects at R1.1 million:
- Catering at R1.1 million:
- Workshops and functions at R814 thousand in relation to GPL Women's Retreat;
- Consultants at R758 thousand;
- Printing and publication at R507 thousand:
- Insurance for the institution at R431 thousand:
- Use of external commercial venues at R372 thousand:
- Professional services for attending oversight meetings at R368 thousand:
- Corporate gear at R238 thousand in relation to Members blazers;
- Legal fees at R210 thousand:
- Transport for events at R206 thousand:
- Bursaries at R195 thousand:
- Hansard interpretation at R188 thousand;
- Training and development at R176 thousand:
- Gifts and promotional items at R161 thousand in relation to GPL Women's Retreat;

- Wellness Programmes at R144 thousand;
- Library reference books at R133 thousand;
- Hansard equipment at R107 thousand;
- Use of public venues at R92 thousand in relation to the Supplier Open Day;
- Photographic services at R89 thousand
- Citizens' responsibility campaigns at R73 thousand in relation to voter education workshop;
- Print-room rentals at R48 thousand;
- Official gifts and flowers at R18 thousand
- Medical supplies for the clinic at R7 thousand.

QUESTION:

- 3. How much did the GPL allocate to political parties during the quarter under review? In the response, indicate if there are any allocation shortfalls in this regard and how these are being handled?**

RESPONSE:

- A total of R108.4 million has been allocated to Political Parties for the quarter in the form of support for Political Party Work (R58.9 million) support for operational work (R26.7 million) support for constituency work (R22.8 million). There were no budget allocation shortfalls in quarter 2, these will be determined in the third and fourth quarter for compensation of Political Party Support Staff in the form of support for operational work.
- During the reporting period, the new and applicable Internal Arrangements Policy was replaced with the previous Internal arrangements Policy. The financial implications of this reversal has been determined at R20,4 million. This requirement has been formally communicated to the Provincial Treasury and forms part of the institutional adjustment budget submission. The GPL is confident that the amount will be considered by the Treasury which will then suffice for the funding requirements of Political parties to the end of the financial year.

QUESTION:

4. What have been the notable outcomes of the Public Education workshops conducted since the beginning of the 7th Legislature to date?

RESPONSE:

Since the 7th Legislature has just commenced, assessments on the outcomes have not yet been carried-out. The assessment or evaluation of outcomes and impact will be conducted mid-term and long-term guided by the strategic plan of the 7th Legislature. However, the Public Education workshops continue to be conducted to inform and educate the People of Gauteng about the role and mandate of the Legislature. Furthermore, workshops are also a tool to prepare stakeholders for meaningful participation in the business of the Legislature.

In the period under review, there were preparatory workshops conducted to prepare stakeholders for the implementation of different activities of the legislature. The workshops took different forms, some were conducted through stakeholder information sharing, while others were done through debates and discussions. Cumulatively the performance for the quarter translates to hundred and eighteen (118) workshops against a target of forty (40). The sustained over achievement is due to collaboration with legislature strategic partners on the public / civic education programme such as Electoral Commission (IEC), Home Affairs, COGTA and Department of Education, Treasury, SARS, NYDA etc.

Important to mention are the preparatory workshops conducted for the Senior Citizens sector parliament, and Older Persons Amendment Bill which culminated to better participation by stakeholders. Currently, stakeholders are being empowered through public education workshops for better and meaningful participation during the annual report processes.

In the short-term to long-term, an independent process will be embarked upon to assess impact and outcomes of public education – and public participation mechanisms.

QUESTION:

- 5. Procurement spend target on Businesses Owned by people with disabilities achieved 0.0% against the targeted 0.5% in the quarter, even though this target has been adjusted downwards:**
- **What are the challenges resulting in this non-achievement?**
 - **Please provide a report on the mitigation measures that the GPL has in place to support achievement on this target going forward?**

RESPONSE:

The number of PWDs participating in the market and responding to request for quotations (RFQs) has proven to be unsatisfactory.

Through the initiative of the Supplier Open Days workshops, the GPL has been able to identify PwD suppliers to some extent. The drive will continue to encourage PWDs to register and participate actively. An expression of interest will further be issued to invite companies owned by PwDs for commodities commonly used by the GPL, which will be issued during the month of November 2024.

The GPL will further engage with other identified entities to share its supplier database on PwDs to incorporate same into the GPL database.

Recommended



Linda Mwale (Mr)

Acting Secretary to GPL

Date: 13 November 2024

Approved

Hon. Morakane Mosupye (Ms)

Speaker to GPL

Date:

