

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT TO THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN OF THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE FREE STATE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

The Committee on Budget and Oversight herewith submits its report and recommendations regarding the Annual Performance Plan of the Free State Legislature for the 2026/27 financial year to the House.

The Committee extends its gratitude to the Acting Secretary of the Legislature for his valuable contribution during the consideration of matters related to the performance of the Legislature for the period under review.

Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee:

N. GAREKOE
CHAIRPERSON

A. CLOETE

M. FOKO

R. JANKIELSOHN

S.L. MKHABELA

T. MEEKO

M.D. KHOABANE

M. MSIMANGA

N. NDUNGANE

Z. SIGWEBELA

D. VAN VUUREN

2. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee comprises the following members:

Hon. N. Garekoe	**(Chairperson)**
Hon. A.B. Cloete	(Member)
Hon. M. Foko	(Member)
Hon. M.D. Khoabane	(Member)
Hon. R. Jankielsohn	(Member)
Hon. S.L. Mkhabela	(Member)
Hon. T. Meeko	(Member)
Hon. M. Msimanga	(Member)
Hon. N. Ndungane	(Member)
Hon. Z. Sigwebela	(Member)
Hon. D. Van Vuuren	(Member)

3. PROCEDURE OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

The Committee met with the Secretary to the Legislature on 5 August 2026 to consider the Annual Performance Plan of the Legislature for the period under review.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

The Free State Legislature presented its performance report to the Committee as follows:

Key Annual Targets -2026/27

Sub-Programme	**Key Annual Targets**
Office of the Speaker	Quarterly performance & expenditure reports submitted; stakeholder partnerships with Chapter 9 & 10 institutions maintained (1 report per quarter, each)

Office of the Secretary	4 Quarterly reports compiled on activities of corporate governance structures
Legal Services	Litigation cases on behalf of FSL managed and reported quarterly
Strategic Planning, Performance and Risk Management	Draft APP 2027/28 submitted by 31 May 2026; 1 mid-year & 4 quarterly institutional performance reports; risk management plan developed, and 4 quarterly risk reports submitted

5. OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee expressed concern regarding the decreased budget baseline and the limitations on funding, particularly in light of the EPRE (Energy per Resource Element) indicating that total payments are projected to increase from R317.4 million in 2025/26 to R370.9 million in 2026/27, representing an increase of 16.8%.
2. The APP commits to intensified oversight, especially on local government service delivery.
3. The Committee expressed concern that the APP's SWOT analysis identifies a lack of consequence management and recurring Auditor-General findings as institutional weaknesses.
4. While the APP targets the maintenance of an unqualified audit opinion, it acknowledges the existence of recurring Auditor-General findings.
5. The Committee noted that the risk register was not included in the APP.
6. The APP commits the FSL to migrating to fully-fledged digital technologies to facilitate virtual participation.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

The following recommendations are submitted for consideration and adoption by the House:

1. The Committee requested FSL to submit a detailed report on how the increased expenditure requirements will be accommodated within the reduced budget baseline.
2. The Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring that this commitment is implemented effectively and within the planned timeframe, including the provision of the necessary technological infrastructure and support to enable effective virtual participation and to submit the report thereof.
3. The FSL must provide the Committee with the full 2026/27 risk register, including the identified risks, inherent risk ratings, mitigation measures, residual risk ratings, and monitoring arrangements.
4. The Committee requested the Free State Legislature (FSL) to submit a report outlining the measures and interventions that will be implemented to address and resolve the outstanding and recurring findings, including clear timeframes and responsible officials.
5. The FSL must submit a detailed report on which specific activities or programmes within Parliamentary Services will be reduced, reprioritised, or affected to fund the intensified oversight activities within the existing budget allocation.
6. That the Committee noted, observed, and adopted the annual performance plan of the Legislature.
7. The report be adopted by the House.