

**PRE-TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS COGTA) CONDUCTED AT STANDERTON WATER TREATMENT WORKS (RESERVOIR) ON 24 AUGUST 2016 AT LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY - DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme will take place at Lekwa Local Municipality from 12 – 16 August 2016. As part of the preparations for the main TLP event, the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) undertook pre-TLP oversight visits from 24 August 2016.

A Standerton Water Treatment Works (Reservoir) project of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Department) was visited. The House resolutions emanating from this Committee report will be referred to the Department for the necessary implementation and report back to the Legislature before the TLP event.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE PRE- TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE**

- The purpose of the pre-TLP oversight visit to the project was to verify the functionality of the Standerton Water Treatment Works (Reservoir)

### **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The researcher conducted preliminary visits to identify projects to be visited by the Committee.

The findings and recommendations were incorporated into the research report, subsequently in the programme of the Social Transformation Cluster oversight visits for the week of 24 - 25 August 2016 which was then circulated to the Committee Members.

Invitations were sent to Lekwa Local Municipality (Executive Mayor) and to all municipal structures in order to accompany the Committee during the site visits. The Department was informed about the oversight programme and requesting them to avail the senior officials of the department to interact with the Committee during the oversight visit. Other stakeholders invited to the pre-TLP programme were the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the House of Traditional Leaders (HTL).

On 16 August 2016, the Committee was briefed by the researcher on the Pre-TLP analysis report. On 24 August 2016, the Committee conducted the pre-oversight visit at Standerton Water Treatment Works (Reservoir). The Committee subsequently considered and adopted its pre-TLP report on 30 August 2016.

### **4. OBSERVATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRESS MADE AT THE STANDERTON WATER TREATMENT WORKS (RESERVOIR) PROJECT**

- ❖ The Committee noted with concern the delay to finalise the Standerton Water Treatment Works Plant (Reservoir) Project as this project dated back to 2011; also nothing has been done to correct the situation of providing water to the community of Standerton. The ageing infrastructure was also noted as a challenge as this has a negative impact to the budget.
  
- ❖ There is poor planning in the municipality and lack of monitoring system by the department;

- ❖ The Officials from the Department were unable to speak to matters or provide responses that were asked by the Portfolio Committee; especially that of the reservoir that includes the R20 million for Rehabilitation of the Standerton Water Treatment Works and the R15 million for Construction of ten (10) mega litre Standerton Reservoir that was not clearly accounted for.

## **5. BRIEFING BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE STANDERTON WATER TREATMENT WORKS (RESERVOIR) PROJECT**

Mr Khumalo, Senior Manager from the Department of COGTA reported that water quality in Standerton and Sakhile require an urgent intervention in order to ensure it meets the required standard. However, there was R20 million funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation for the rehabilitation of the Standerton Water Treatment Works and the R15 million funded by Gert Sibande District for the construction of 10 mega litre. The scope of work was mainly for the following;

- ❖ Supply and installation of seven (7) pumps;
- ❖ Rehabilitation of the Sand filters media and associated nozzles;
- ❖ Rehabilitation of the extraction works;
- ❖ Plant Main Buildings Maintenance and refurbishment of Chlorine Doser.

The Department further indicated that the project experienced very minimal challenges and the issue of water quality was resolved as part of this intervention and that 24 773 households are to benefit from this project.

### **Inputs by the municipality**

The municipality supported the presentation made by the Department and agreed to make further input into the consolidated report that will be submitted to the Portfolio Committee by Friday, 26 August 2016, and the commitment made of submitting the report was not honored.

### **Construction of ten (10) mega litre Standerton Reservoir**

The Department reported that the storage capacity for water require to be increased in order to ensure consistent supply of water to Sakhile Extension 2 and 7, and also to supply the planned development of Standerton in Extension 8. An amount of R15 000 000.00 was funded by Gert Sibande District Municipality in order to assist with the construction of paved access road.

The Department reported that the project was at practical completion certificate as of August 2015 and it was also intended to benefit 6 044 households from this project. The Department also indicated the following challenges;

- ❖ Failure to fill the reservoir with water due to operational challenges which included the reduced number of pipes at the Water Works and also the aging infrastructure;
- ❖ The challenge of aging infrastructure is being addressed through implementation of projects such as replacement of asbestos pipes to plastic or steel pipes.

The Department further reported on an Interim programme to install high pressure storages to be supplied with trucks to ensure access on the 500 IRDP houses of Extension 8 as the communities are being supplied via one reservoir. The Department also reported that there is currently a project funded by Anglo American, to install four sets of clear water pumps to address the challenge of pumping capacity.

### **6. COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE**

After the presentation, the Committee registered its dissatisfaction on the management of this project as the structure of the reservoir was completed in 2011, the outstanding issue was to fill the reservoir with water and supply it to the community of Standerton.

The Committee requested the Department together with the municipality and all the relevant stakeholders to provide a detailed report which will include all the written responses to questions that were asked by the Committee by Friday, 26 August 2016.

### **Budget**

The Committee noted that a budget of R20 000 000.00 which was funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has been set aside particularly to assist with the Standerton Water Treatment Plant and upgrade it into an acceptable level.

The Committee requested the expenditure as the Department reported on two (2) Amounts R20 000 000.00 (funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation) and R15 000 000.00 funded by the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

### **Institutional Capacity**

The Committee reminded the officials of the municipality that the Provincial Department of COGTA plays its role to a certain extent. The Committee wanted to know whether the municipality has the right institutional capacity to curb some of the challenges. The Committee advised the municipality that they should make recommendations where necessary to the provincial government or the National Department for speedy assistance.

### **Aging Infrastructure/Time Frames**

The Committee also wanted to know if the Department or the municipality has time frames to replace the aging infrastructure and the replacement of asbestos pipes to plastic or steel pipes. The commencement date on the changing of pipes and its completion as well as the budget was raised by the Committee.

## **Installation of seven (7) pumps**

The Committee also wanted to know if the installation of seven (7) pumps would sustain the water supply. The Committee further wanted to know if there is water shortage from the river or if the current pumps cannot assist.

## **7. Findings**

After the interaction with the Department, the Committee found that:

- a. There is poor planning and lack of monitoring in the department regarding the Reservoir Project as it dates back to 2011 but still to date it is not yet functional;
- b. Water supply has been raised as a major challenge in Lekwa Local Municipality;
- c. The infrastructure is aging and that the asbestos pipes must be replaced with plastic or steel pipes;

## **8. Recommendations**

After the findings the Committee recommended that the Department must:

- a. Provide a detailed report why the reservoir is still not yet functional. The response must include strategies to be used to ensure that this project will be completed before 31 December 2016. The report must include the expenditure of the R20 million and R15 million, reasons why the reservoir is still not yet functional, before 09 September 2016.
- b. Fast-track the completion of the Standerton Water Treatment Works (Reservoir); and ensure that the municipality uses water tanks to provide free water to the community weekly;

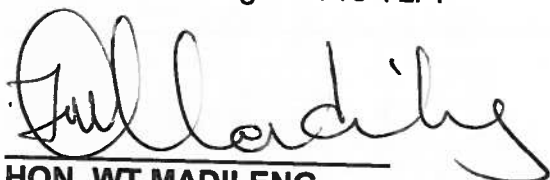
- c. Submit a detailed report on the replacement of the aging infrastructure and the replacement of asbestos pipes to plastic or steel pipes, this report must include time frames.

***The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the Committee Report with the findings and its recommendations. The Department of COGTA must ensure that there is progress by the time the actual TLP takes place which is from 12 – 16 September 2016. A detailed progress report is submitted to the Portfolio Committee on or before 09 September 2016.***

## 9. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their participation and contributions during the deliberations on the Pre-TLP site visits. The Chairperson further extends his appreciation to the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, as well as the Lekwa Local Municipality for supporting the programme of the Committee.

Lastly, he also wishes to thank the Legislature support staff for supporting the Committee during the Pre-TLP.



**HON. WT MADILENG**

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE &  
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

30/08/2016  
DATE