

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ON THE OVERSIGHT VISITS CONDUCTED 02 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NKANGALA DISTRICT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Legislature is duly vested with a mandate to maintain oversight of provincial executive authority and any organ of state and all provincial executive authority including provincial organs of state are accountable to it in compliance with section 114 of the constitution. The legislature is independent and performs its functions impartially without prejudice enshrining the rule of law.

In terms of Standing Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature 2013, the **Select Committee on Women, Youth, Children, and People with Disabilities** (the committee), is established in terms of Rule 135 (h) and has powers to conduct oversight on transversal issues affecting designated groups. The Committee is composed of a multiparty representation and is empowered to develop mechanisms to conduct oversight over provincial departments and public institutions.

The select committee is vested with the power to monitor, investigate and enquire into and make recommendations concerning any organ of state or constitutional body regarding transversal and transformation matters to ensure a province free from gender discrimination and inequalities in promotion of the Bill Of Rights.

The committee in accordance with Rule 119 may summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath/ affirmation, or to produce documents and permit oral evidence. The committee may compel an institution or a person to comply with a summon subject to the rules and orders or a provincial legislation.

The Legislature seeks to establish whether provincial government delivers services effectively and efficiently within the respective local municipality areas.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

The following were the objectives for oversight visit to the Centres funded by the Department of Social Development:

- To assess the effective and efficient utilization of government funding and resources
- To determine the impact made by the department on the improvement of quality of life to vulnerable groups in the province.
- To assess the implementation of policies by the department that seeks to improve the quality of life.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the oversight visit to the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, the researcher briefed members with a comprehensive profile report compiled on the 18 August 2015.

The Committee resolved to conduct the oversight visits to the **Mkombe Multi- Purpose Art Centre, Kwathando Care Centre and Thembelisha Protective Workshop** on 02 September 2015.

OVERSIGHT VISIT ON CENTRES FUNDING BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 KWATHANDO CARE CENTRE (SERVICE TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES)

3.1.1 Background and Information of the Centre

The facility is registered as an NPO and also with the Provincial Department of Social Development since 2009. Further; it is a center that has the support of almost everyone in the community in the sense that it has a substantial number of volunteers who are there to make a difference in the lives of the children with disabilities. The center does comply in terms of NPO norms and standards.

Objectives of the Centre

- To render preventative services for 60 children aged 2-17 years aimed at integrating and mainstreaming disability in order to strengthen, build capacity and promote self-reliance of people with disabilities their families and community.
- To render integrated developmental and therapeutic services to 60 children from 2-17 years to promote mainstreaming and independent living of people with disabilities.

- To render Integrated and mainstreamed services for 60 children aged 2-17 years aimed at strengthening, supporting and providing care and Protection of people with disabilities.

Service rendered by the Centre

- Provision of stimulation through exercises
- Family preservation
- Provision of counselling to parents
- Providing workshops to families on how best to deal with children with disabilities in their respective homestead.

Funding or Financial Resources

The centre is receiving a subsidy from the Department of Social Development and a Service Level Agreement for 2015/2016 was signed. The centre is allocated an amount of R 90, 000-00 per quarter, which amounts to R360 000-00 for the 2015/2016 financial year.

The organization enjoys the spiritual and professional support of the Reformed Church.

Challenges / Needs

The centre does not have enough resources to cater for all the needs of children in a partial care facility. This is because of their over reliance on the subsidy that they receive from the Department of Social Development.

Plans to address challenges

Plans are afoot to curb the overreliance. The intention is to devise other means of fundraising for cash injection into the facility.

Reverend Bijs knock at the doors of the Dutch donors for funding. The organization has applied for funding from LOTTO.

3.1.2 Interactions and Clarity Seeking Questions

The committee welcomed the presentation and appreciated the work that has been done at the centre and raised the following clarity seeking questions:

In terms of the infrastructure, the committee wanted to know who owns the building in which the centre is operating. It was explained that the infrastructure was donated by the Netherlands Reformed Church including furniture, toys, wheelchairs and laptops. Presently the donor only

provides support to the centre on the basis of their needs. The committee further noted that R7, 397-95 amount was spent on infrastructure maintenance for April 2015-03 September 2015.

The committee further seek clarity on whether the centre complies with the norms and standards as stipulated by the department of Social Development. The department reported that the centre does comply with the norms and standards.

The committee wanted to know the mode of transport used by the beneficiaries to and from the centre, and whether they pay for the transport. In responding committee noted that the Centre owns two quantum kombis (14 seaters each). As such they transport 56 children daily. Furthermore, Total Garage donates R2000 towards fuel per month to the centre for the two Kombis as other donations are done on a needs basis, and are reflecting in the annual audited financial statements.

Furthermore, the centre is receiving funding from the Department of Social Development which is an amount of R360, 000-00 as approved for 2015/16 financial year which is trenced at R90, 000-00 per quarter. It was further reported that parents of beneficiaries are expected to contribute R500-00/600-00 per child towards the care of their children and as means of supplementing the subsidy from the department.

The committee wanted to know whether there is a governing body and how often do they meet. The Centre manager indicated that the governing body is in place which consists of five (5) management committee members with a concern that some of the committee members are currently inactive and need to be replaced in line with the organisation's constitution.

It was noted that in the report the centre indicated that it has 60 children, but upon presentation it has 88 children and the committee wanted clarity on that inconsistency. It was reported that 88 children is the current number of children in the centre, and the 60 was the number of children when the centre was registered. The subsidy is paid based on the number of children attending on a daily basis.

3.1.3 In Loco Inspection

Upon physical verification the Committee found that the Centre is well resourced with updated extinguishers and the environment is user-friendly to beneficiaries.

It was found that there was no proper plan for emergency and induction was not done in compliance to the Health and Safety Act.

3.1.4 Findings

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

1. The Centre is well resourced and managed and in compliance with the NPO act.
2. There is not enough transparency and accountability in terms of financial management with specific reference to donor funding.
3. The management committee and the founders of the Centre not to use beneficiaries in order to benefit themselves but adhere to the NPO Act and purpose.
4. Letters of appreciation are not written to donors by the department concerned and the Centre on donor's received.

3.1.5 Recommendations

1. The Centre and the department must continue doing good job and come up with programmes to assist and mentoring other existing Centres around the area in terms of management and funding tactics.
2. The Centre must ensure that there is transparency and accountability for all income and expenditure including all donations received.
3. The management committee and the founders of the Centre must not use beneficiaries in order to benefit themselves but adhere to the NPO Act and purpose.
4. Letters of appreciation must be written to donors by the Centre and the department.

3.2 MUKOMBE MULTI- PURPOSE ART CENTRE (SERVICE TO YOUTH)

3.2.1 Background And Information of the Centre

Mukombe Multi-Purpose Art Centre is a Non- Profit making organization run and managed by out of school unemployed Youth of Phumula. The Organisation is situated in a rural village called Phumula formally known as Tweefontein "D" which is in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

The organisation aim at capacitating the following youth:

- rural youth ;
- out of school youth ;
- young men and women;
- young people with disabilities;
- youth in school ;
- youth heading households ;
- young entrepreneurs;
- employed and unemployed youth through skills development and self-empowerment programmes through Economic Development ;Sports Development , Arts & Culture Development , Educational Development and Social Development.

SERVICES RENDERED BY THE CENTRE

- Assisting High school learners with schoolwork and career guidance
- Secure bursaries for learners who want to pursue tertiary education
- Promote self-employment
- Sourcing out different types of training and promoting skills development.

FUNDING OR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Mukombe has entered into service Level Agreement with the department of Social Development for 2015/16 financial year with a funded amount of **R197 000-00**.

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

- Capacity building for volunteers on volunteerism.
- Funding to buy training material
- Low level of education by youth
- Sense of urgency and commitment and
- Youth employment

PLANS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

- Southern Association of Youth Cubs to train them on the management of youth clubs
- To outsource the SITA's on new venture creation
- To upgrade stipends to wages
- To initiate formation of a Youth Forum
- Strategic Plan sessions once funding is available.

3.2.2 Interactions and Clarity Seeking Questions

Report of the Select Committee on Women, Youth, Children, and People with Disabilities Oversight Visits conducted at the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, 02 September 2015

The Committee welcomed the presentation and appreciated the work done by the Centre and expressed its concern in redressing the challenges faced by the youth with regards to unemployment, drug abuse, HIV & AIDS. They raised the following clarity seeking questions:

The committee noted that centre is operating from someone's land and wanted clarity on the ownership of the land while there is land given to the centre. Furthermore, the motive of constructing a building donated by BHP Billiton on the land which is privately owned and what will happen to the building when the centre moves to its new site.

The department indicated that it doesn't fund structures, but funds services rendered to youth. The criteria used before funding is that the youth centre should have a lease agreement before funding can be approved. Furthermore the councillor and the land owner assured the committee that the building is a community structure and will always be utilized by them.

In response to the matter of the duration of the lease agreement between Mukombe Multi-Purpose Art Centre and the land owner, It was reported that it is for a period of three years derived from the lease agreement submitted to the Department of Social Development

The committee sought clarity on whether the business plan and the service level agreement talk to each other and it was noted that they do talk to each other, because during appraisal of the centres they are both looked into.

Furthermore, the committee sought clarity on the beneficiaries' targeted age group as in the profile it has been stated that the centre targets 14-35 years old youth while the presentation indicated 18- 35 years. The committee noted that the beneficiaries, according to the department is 18-35 years old youth (out of school youth), however the centre also provides services for schoolers hence the 14 years old as indicated in the profile, because it is assumed that a 14 years old child is in Grade 10 (career guidance and study skills).

The committee noted that the centre was not funded during the 2013/14 financial year and wanted the reasons for not funding them. The department indicated that it was due to the unavailability of funds. The Provincial office did engage with the youth centre and the matter was resolved. The youth managed to implement their activities successfully, even though the funds were not available.

Furthermore, the committee wanted to know the criteria used in funding youth centres services and the department indicated the criteria as follows:

- The centre must have a lease agreement or a structure they operate from since the Department does not fund structures.
- It must have a well –structured business plan stating the services to be funded by the Department.
- Must be registered as Non-Profit Organisation.
- It must be compliant with the NPO Act
- Must have a Board of Directors
- Must have audited financial statements from a private auditor

- Must be willing to employ staff members on its behalf to create job opportunities.
- Must have an NPO –acceptable constitution
- It must be within the area where youth will be receiving services.
- Must be targeting youth between 18-35 years old (youth out of school).
- Relevant stakeholders including the local Municipality and Youth Desk form part of the appraisal and decision making processes before the youth centre is approved for funding (This is done at the Local Office, District Office and at Provincial Level).
- The centre must enter into a service level agreement with the Department of Social Development, signed by the approved signatories before funds are transferred into their bank account.
- The Department of Social Development also takes them through the terms and conditions of the service level agreement before they sign the contract.

Noting that the centre has a huge responsibility in servicing youth the committee sought clarity on a relationship with the surrounding schools and it was reported as follows:

- The centre has been given permission by the Department of education circuit to work hand with FET schools (Grade 10-12) in Nkangala District conducting capacity building on study skills.
- Good working relationship with RISE Women's Club from Zidli Primary School, addressing social ills affecting teenage girls.
- Provide motivational speakers to all schools in the District.

In Loco Inspection

Upon inspection it was found that the youth are actively involved in assisting youth in writing assignments, typing CV's and doing applications.

3.2.3 Findings

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

1. There Centre is managed by the founder while it was handed over to the community.
2. The Centre is involved in a lot of activities which makes it difficult to understand how it isolates the issues of youth from the rest as a service funded by social development.
3. Mission and Vision not in line with strategic objectives
4. There is no transparency and accountability on the management of the centre by youth.

3.2.4 Recommendations

1. The Department must clarify services funded by them and ensure that the Youth funding is communicated to the community.
2. The Centre must be managed by the Youth elected by the community and involvement of the founder be limited.
3. Review the centre's mission and vision to be in line with the strategic objective

4. The Centre must ensure youth are managing themselves without interference from the founders as this centre has been dedicated to the community.

3.3 THEMBELISHA PROTECTIVE WORKSHOP

3.3.1 Background and Information Centre

The project started in February 1996 by concerned people in the community after realising the need of having a Protective Workshop for People with Disabilities. It started operating from the Principal's garage until they built their own structure in 1998. They have managed to render a few services in the project such as sewing, baking and food gardening.

The organisation is aimed at capacitating the following youth:

- rural youth ;
- out of school youth ;
- young men and women;
- young people with disabilities;
- youth in school ;
- youth heading household ;
- young entrepreneurs;
- employed and unemployed youth through skill development and self-empowering programmes through Economic Development ;Sports Development , Arts & Culture Development , Educational Development and Social Development.

SERVICE RENDERED BY THE CENTRE

Services rendered by the organisation are as follows:

- Vegetable Gardening.
- Beadwork.
- Stimulation Exercises.
- Plumbing.

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

- They are experiencing few challenges at the Workshop, as some of the Beneficiaries are not paying fees in time.
- The Protective Workshop is operating well and staff members are still maintaining a good working relationship.

- There is only one committee member remaining.

PLANS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

- To convene the General Meeting with a view to explain the importance of the committee and to elect the new committee.
- To capacitate the beneficiaries about the importance of their financial contributions at the centre.

3.3.2 Interactions and Clarity Seeking Questions

The Committee welcomed the presentation and expressed its satisfaction and appreciation with the good work in the running of the centre as it is difficult to run such an organisation and further wanted clarity on the following questions:

The committee sought clarity on the number of beneficiaries within the Centre and what is the target plan. The committee further noted that currently the Centre is registered for forty (40) beneficiaries, however only thirty five (35) are attending on a daily basis.

The committee checked to ascertain whether the Centre does have physiotherapy for stimulation of the beneficiaries and noted that Physiotherapists from KwaMhlanga Hospital are visiting the Center on weekly basis (depending on the availability of official transport) to provide stimulation exercise and to attend to individuals as per the need . They further do communicate in advance with the Centre if they are unable to come on a specific day.

The committee wanted to know whether is there a dietician and the menu for the Centre and further noted that the center is providing healthy, nutritious meals per day to the beneficiaries during breakfast and lunch. Furthermore the Department of Social development guided the cook on how to prepare health meals as there are no dieticians employed at the local hospital.

Furthermore the committee sought clarity on financial support on whether there are donors for the Centre and noted that it is currently receiving subsidy from the Department of Social Development, however they only received financial assistance of R50.000 from the department of Agriculture and they bought 2x 5000 liters Jojo tanks, renovations materials and equipment needed by the Centre.

The committee wanted to know whether there are programmes in place for outdoor activities for beneficiaries. In response the committee noted that they normally do outdoor activities like gardening and sport.

The committee further checked on the issue of a reliable means of transport for the beneficiaries and noted that transport is a main challenge for the beneficiaries to and from the centre and they are currently using light delivery vehicles (Bakkie). The bakkies are difficult to embark and they are uncomfortable for the beneficiaries, especially on gravel roads and speed humps. The transport problem often leads to beneficiaries absenting themselves from the centre.

During school holidays the driver of the bakkie refused to transport the beneficiaries, since parents refused to pay full amount on time. The committee noted that the families of the beneficiaries have their own arrangement for transport and is not managed by the centre.

The committee noted that a plan has been made for the PUTCO Bus Company to provide a bus for the centre which can cater for the special needs of the beneficiaries. So far no feedback was received in this regard and a follow-up will be made.

The committee welcomed and appreciated the involvement of the Community Development Worker and the councillor and pleaded with them to continue advocating for better services and donors for the centre.

3.3.3 In Loco Inspection

Upon inspection it was found that the health and safety equipment is not on site and there is no emergency plan in the event of fire. The garden and the equipment used by the beneficiaries is not enough to generate income for financial sustainability.

3.3.4 Findings

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

1. The Centre is indeed doing a good work in running such an organisation.
2. There is no proper transportation to and from the centre during school holidays
3. The centre is functioning with one committee member after many left.
4. The only financial benefit is a stipend from the department and informal donations.
5. The entrance has a steep gradient, thus make it not user-friendly to the users.
6. There is involvement of councillors, CDW, and all relevant stakeholders in ensuring quality improvement in the status of the Centre and to the beneficiaries.
7. There is no suitable space for the gardening which hinders the objective of the centre in terms of food and market purposes.
8. No proper programme for outdoor activities.

3.3.5 Recommendations

1. The Department of Social Development and the Centre Management must continue ensuring that the centre is sustainable and improve the quality and status of the beneficiaries by working together.
2. The Centre must develop funding strategies to ensure sustainability which can be presented to local and outside business people
3. The Centre must constitute a Board committee and an Executive Committee which will comprise of parents and community members.
4. The Centre must sell its finding proposal to all revenues that can assist so that it sustains itself in future and not only rely on departments funding.
5. Involve the councillor and the community in assisting the centre to align the entrance gate so that it became user-friendly to beneficiaries.
6. Improve the involvement of all relevant structures within the community in ensuring that the Centre is recognise and supported by all community members, business people and government entities.
7. The centre must come up with a plan in developing the space for the purpose of expanding the garden and the workshop and stick to the objective of the centre.
8. Develop a programme for sporting activities and outdoor playing time for stimulation of the beneficiaries.

4 CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extends his appreciation to Members of the Committee, the management of the centres visited, departmental officials, all stakeholders and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during this oversight visit to the Centres funded by Department Social Development in enhancing the oversight role of the Legislature.

The Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations.



HON BV NKUNA (MPL)
CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN,
YOUTH, CHILDREN, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

27/10/2015
 DATE