

TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT HHOYI STIMULATION CENTRE –NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY) ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2015 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legislature conducted its Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme at Nkomazi Local Municipality from 7 – 11 September 2015.

After the Pre-TLP oversight visits by the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) to Hhoyi Stimulation and Cedusizi Drop-in Centres on 23 and 25 June 2015 respectively, the Committee revisited Hhoyi Stimulation Centre during the TLP programme.

2. PURPOSE OF THE TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT

The purpose of the TLP oversight visit to the project was to assess the progress made on the implementation of House resolutions post the “Pre Taking Legislature to the People” which was conducted on 22 - 26 June 2015 and also to assess the well-being and socio-economic empowerment services to people with disability (PWD).

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Legislature notified all Departments accordingly about the TLP oversight visits to be conducted and the purpose thereof. Invitations were then sent to the respective Departments including the Department of Social Development, management of the Centre and the Municipality requesting them to be part of the visit.

TLP Oversight visits Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development held at Hhoyi Stimulation Centre on 10 September 2015

On 09 September 2015, the Social Transformation Cluster jointly with the Economic Cluster conducted a public hearing at KaMhlushwa Stadium to get comments on service delivery provided to the community of Nkomazi. On 10 September 2015, the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development conducted its oversight visit to Hhoyi Stimulation Centre to assess the progress made by DSD since the last visit held on 25 June 2015.

4. OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed with appreciation that there is progress since the Pre-TLP visit and the security fence was being installed on the day of the TLP visit.

5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD)

5.1 Presentation on the progress report

- The HOD, Ms NL Mlangeni reported that the Department delivered mattresses, blankets and some toys after the previous visit conducted on 25 June 2015. She also reported that the Department and TSB Company – (Malelane) had committed to donate R25 000-00 each to the Centre.
- It was reported that TSB further committed to send their Architects to the Centre to evaluate the refurbishment cost and also committed to donate R169 000-00 for the refurbishment before the end of the financial year;
- It was further reported that the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs committed to assist with the

vegetable garden, currently waiting for the securing of water supply and the completion of the security fencing.

- Ward Cllr. Boy Hlahla reported that, the municipality failed to supply the centre with water supply due to:
 - The water pipe that was still not connected to the reservoir during the TLP site visit and to ensure safety as the area to be dug is next to a railway line;
 - The municipality still needs to do pipe jerking to enable the connection.

- The Municipality promised to deliver water to the Centre through a water tanker on 11 September 2015 and periodically until water supply through the pipes is secured at the Centre;

- Ms. Margareth Khoza, the Centre Manager noted with appreciation the commitment by the Department, the Municipality and TSB Company. She further indicated that with the fulfillment of the commitments, the lives of the beneficiaries and the care givers will be improved. She reported that the R25 000-00 donated by the Department has already been used for appliances/utensils and fencing around the Centre. The Centre Manager also reported that the care givers are eagerly waiting to start the vegetable garden with the help of the Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs and the provision of free water by the Municipality.

5.2 Comments by the Committee

The Committee welcomed and appreciated the progress reported, however, commented as follows:

Stipend of the Care Givers

Regarding the three Care Givers who receive a stipend of R600.00 each and one cleaner who gets R300.00 per month, the Committee noted that the care givers and the cleaner are not compensated according to the ministerial handbook and requested DSD to come up with measures to correct this matter before the end of the current financial year.

Separation of children according to gender, age and disability

During the Pre-TLP, the Committee observed and expressed concern that all children were kept in one room irrespective of their gender, age and level of disability as this might be of high risk to the beneficiaries. Noting the House Resolution to separate the children accordingly, the Department reported that all children will be assessed and separated according to their functionality as soon as the renovation is finalized before the end of the financial year, 31 March 2016.

Time frame on Stakeholders' commitments

The Committee expressed concerns on the reported commitments by the stakeholders that they did not have specific time frames; noting the challenge to be faced by the Department during the monitoring process, thus the request to ensure that the commitments are in read and with set time frames for monitoring and compliance purposes.

Recognition of the Founders and/or volunteers of the Centre

The Committee noted the plight by the founders of the Centre for acknowledgement or to be recognized for their contribution towards social development. The Department reported to have noted the need to recognise all volunteers who assist in service delivery within Non Profit Organizations (NPOs) without any remuneration. An annual event to recognize them will be considered.

5.3 Findings

After the interaction with the Department and the Centre management, the Committee found that:

- a. Fencing around the Centre was underway on the date of the follow up visit and planned to be complete by Friday, 11 September 2015;
- b. TSB Company committed to do the following:
 - (i) To send their Architects for assessment and indicate the cost for the refurbishment;
 - (ii) To donate R169 000-00 for the refurbishment of the Centre;
- c. Nkomazi Local Municipality
 - (i) Nkomazi Local Municipality failed to secure water for the Centre as the water pipes still need to be installed and connected to the reservoir for water supply. However, the municipality promised to deliver water to the Centre using a water tanker starting on 11 September 2015 until water supply is secured;
 - (ii) The municipality still needs to do pipe jerking to enable the connection;
- d. The Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs committed to assist the Centre start a vegetable garden as soon as fencing is completed and water supply is secured;
- e. There were no time frames on the commitments made by stakeholders namely; Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Nkomazi Local Municipality and TSB company in assisting the Centre to enhance the lives of the beneficiaries, as reported by the Department;

- f. The beneficiaries were not segregated per gender and the level of disability as per the House Resolution that emanated from the previous visit's report to separate them to minimize safety risk.
- g. The three Care Givers who receive a stipend of R600.00 each and one cleaner who gets R300.00 per month, are not compensated according to the ministerial handbook;
- h. Annual event (s) to recognize NPOs founders and volunteers who assist in service delivery without any remuneration has never been hosted since.

5.4 Recommendations

After the deliberations, the Committee recommended that the Department must:

- a. Ensure that the set completion date of 11 September 2015 for the installation of fencing is adhered to. A progress report to be submitted on 31 December 2015;
- b. Ensure that commitments made by TSB Company to send their Architects to assess the Centre; and to indicate the cost for the refurbishment as well as the donation of R169 000-00 for refurbishment of the Centre is documented with set time frames and ensure continued monitoring for implementation. A progress report in this regard be submitted by 31 December 2015;
- c. Ensure that Nkomazi Local Municipality secure water for the Centre and the commitment to deliver water to the Centre through a water tanker starting on 11 September 2015 until water supply is secured at the Centre is adhered to. A progress report to be provided by 31 December 2015;

- d. Ensure that the commitment by the Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs to assist the Centre start a vegetable garden as soon as the fencing and water supply is secured is adhered to and ensure continuous monitoring for implementation. Also submit a progress report in this regard by 31 December 2015;
- e. Ensure that the commitments made by the stakeholders namely; Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Nkomazi Local Municipality and TSB company in assisting the center to enhance the lives of the beneficiaries are time bound and adhered to it and strengthen the monitoring. A progress to be submitted before 31 December 2015;
- f. Strengthen its working relationship with TSB to ensure that the refurbishment of the Centre is fast-tracked in order to segregate the beneficiaries accordingly. Also ensure continuous monitoring for safety and development where possible. A progress report to be provided by 31 December 2015;
- g. Ensure that the three Care Givers who receive a stipend of R600.00 each; and the one cleaner who gets R300.00 per month, are compensated according to the ministerial handbook before the end of the 2015/16 financial year. A progress report to be submitted by 31 December 2015;
- h. Ensure that an annual event to recognize NPOs founders and volunteers who assist in service delivery without any remuneration is budgeted in the 2016/17 financial year and is hosted.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AT KAMHLUSHWA STADIUM

The public raised the following during the public hearing:

Home Based Care Workers

The public requested that the Department must remunerate home based care workers in terms of the Ministerial Hand Book and to also provide them with protective or the necessary clothing (gloves, masks, wipes, etc.) needed when assisting beneficiaries.

Access by People with Disability (PWDs)

A request was also made for the government offices to be made accessible to PWDs; for an example certain parts of the Magistrate/Court Offices and the Department of Home Affairs Offices are not accessible by PWDs and also for consideration to be made on RDP houses allocated for PWDs. The Department reported that they would ensure that RDP houses identified for PWDs are user friendly for their needs.

Unauthorized deductions from social grants

The public complained that they sometimes faced with unauthorized deductions from their social grants and have reported the matter to DSD and also to the police with no assistance. DSD indicated that the Department is aware of the scam and the matter is being investigated. Individuals are encouraged to keep record of such deductions and submit to the Department for investigation and report back.

Social Relief

Ms. Dumisile Ngomane from Block B in Ward 05 requested for social relief. She reported that she is an orphan taking care of her cousins who are also orphaned after the recent passing of their parents. Ms. Ngomane expressed that her late

uncle (father to the cousins she is caring for) took care of her after the passing of her mother when she was still a child. The Department gave Ms. Ngomane a grocery voucher of R 600-00, the Department also reported that she will get another Social Relief voucher of R600.00 for October 2015. The Court date is reported to be on 05 October 2015 and she will be able to get the foster care grant of R860.00 per month from November 2015. The grant may not be enough but it is informed by the available budget.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

With regard to issues raised during the public hearing, the Committee recommended that the Department must:

- a. Facilitate the provision of the necessary protective clothing to protect home based care workers from health hazards and provide a progress report by 31 December 2015;
- b. Ensure that RDP houses allocated to PWDs are disability friendly;
- c. Put measures in place to addressing the challenge of unauthorized deductions on social grants; and ensure that disciplinary actions are taken against officials linked to this act. A progress report to be submitted before 31 December 2015;
- d. Ensure that the foster grant application for Ms. Dumisile Ngomane is processed accordingly by 30 October 2015 as reported by the Department and provide a progress report by 31 December 2015, and further consider other pieces of legislation in addressing abnormal cases such as that of Ms. Ngomane

The Department should provide a progress report on the implementation of House resolutions on or before 31 December 2015.

6. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their participation and contributions during the deliberations on the TLP oversight visit and public hearing. The Chairperson further extends her appreciation to the Department of Social Development as well as the Nkomazi Local Municipality and Traditional Leaders for supporting the programme of the Committee.

Lastly, she also wishes to thank the Legislature support staff for supporting the Committee during the TLP programme.



HON. P NGOBENI

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

18/11/15

DATE