

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 27 SEPTEMBER 2016**

(DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE SPORT AND RECREATION)

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 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. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

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

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee invited and met with the Department of Culture Sport & Recreation and Umpheme Art and Craft as per the programme of the Legislature and quarterly target of the committee to a committee meeting, held 27 September 2016.

4. PRESENTATION BY UMPHEME ART AND CRAFT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE ,SPORT AND RECREATION

The committee noted that the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation has a mandate to promote cultural diversity, multi-faith, multi-lingualism, transformation of the heritage landscape and in the process ensure that socio-economic development takes place in the province. The DCSR reported to have established and supported art and craft institutions in the province particularly at Mkhondo Municipality. Art and craft can be described as wide variety of activities that need both artistic and practical skills such as waving, making cloth, jewelry and pottery.

Furthermore, the committee noted that rural handicrafts are a labor-intensive economic activity that is receiving increased attention in post-apartheid South Africa. It is concluded that rural handicraft enterprises are a form of tourism-linked SMME (small, medium and micro-enterprise). The core problems facing the small enterprise economy in the province as a whole, is the important variations are observed between groups of male wood carvers and women grass weavers.

4.1 Background of Umpheme Art and Craft

The committee noted that Umpheme was established in 2010 through a government programme of training community members in telephone wire weaving. Umpheme grabbed the opportunity and has since grown to develop new products, in home décor items as the market opportunity is realised. The Co-operative is formed by the older generation women

and youth, men and women of Richards Bay ward, Thandukukhanya location in Piet Retief, Mpumalanga. Umpheme is a legally registered entity under Section 7 of the Co-operatives Act, 2005 (Act14 of 2005). The Co-operative was formed in 2010 and obtained registration number 2011/007273/24 in 2011. The Co-operative has managed to retain the original founding members over the years and has also trained young men and women who have ultimately joined the Co-operative formally. The Co-operative has a total number of 8 members of which 5 are Directors

The Co-operative's objectives are:

- i) To create awareness and promote art and craft industry
- ii) To grow and have a large customer base all over the country
- iii) To be able to create job opportunities for the youth members of the community

Product offered

The committee further noted that Umpheme produces a variety of items in different materials, all handmade. The craftswomen specialise in 2 categories, namely;

- i) Telephone wire weaving as the art has evolved from the original wire basket weaving to modernized objects. It is commonly used to make decorative objects such as plates and vases or decoratively cover objects such as walking sticks and cutlery.
- ii) Beadwork is a craft of connecting beads to one another using a string and a needle. Beads are available in a variety of materials, shapes and sizes and are used in making jewellery designs and other forms of personal embellishments. Umpheme beadwork product range includes; traditional attires, bracelets and earrings.

Furthermore, Operations occur within the homes of its members in Thandukukhanya as there is no formal workspace. Crafters are located relatively close together and they have easy access to each other. Although work is produced at crafters' respective homes, crafters meet regularly to keep track of their work and each other's progress. Umpheme's products are all handmade by craftswomen that have years of experience in art and crafts work. Tools required for production include pliers, beadwork needles and protective gloves.

The committee noted that more experienced members constantly train each other to improve quality to maintain Co-operative's high quality standards.

The appointed quality officer checks the product at its final stages of production and gives approval when the members meet. The members can also approach the quality officer at the appointed person's home for guidance before the product reaches its final stage.

Challenges

- i) They need an open space and workshop that is big enough to fit at least 10 people and work stations comfortably
- ii) A storage facility in the building (raw materials and finished products)
- iii) Office and market space
- iv) Lack of business skills
- v) Difficulties in obtaining materials for production
- vi) Lack of access to appropriate market
- vii) Communication barriers in terms of language

5.1 FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) Lack of access to appropriate market as it is difficult to sell products
- 2) Difficult to obtaining materials for production as it is not sold around the area and that a lot of effort must be involved which include traveling.
- 3) Lack of collaboration between department in monitoring the project to ensure growth and sustainability.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

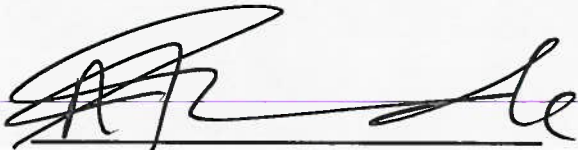
- 1) The department in collaboration with department of Economic Development must develop a proper plan that will ensure that products are sold and access to appropriate market is established and secured.
- 2) Department together with Umpheme Art and Craft should develop a business plan that will speak to operational plan for the purpose of ensuring that material is bought in bulk to avoid dry out of material.

- 3) Departments and stakeholders involved in assisting the project should of collaboration between and closely monitor the project to ensure growth and sustainability.
- 4) The department must coordinate a meeting between all stakeholder involved (Jabu Dlamini) and Umpheme Art and Craft for a proper plan of action and the progress report must be provided to the committee in three weeks from the date of this meeting (27 September 2016).

5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extended her appreciation to Members of the Committee; beneficiaries form Umpheme Art and Craft, officials from the department of culture, sport and recreation and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during the deliberations.

The Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations and progress to be provided to the committee before the end of financial year 2016/17.



HON AM GAMEDE (MPL)

**CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN,
YOUTH, CHILDREN, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

11/10/16
DATE