

TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE (TLP) OVERSIGHT VISITS REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT SITHEMBINKOSI MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRE ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2016 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legislature conducted its Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme at Lekwa Local Municipality from 12-16 September 2016.

After the Pre-TLP oversight visit by the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) to Sithembinkosi Multi-Purpose Centre on 25 August 2016, the Committee re-visited the Centre during the TLP programme on 14 September 2016.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PRE-TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT

The purpose of the TLP was to assess the functionality of the Centre in addressing youth challenges; and to assess progress post the “Pre-Taking Legislature to the People” programme which took place at Lekwa Local Municipality from 23-25 August 2016.

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 programme.

- On 14 September 2016, the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development conducted the oversight visit to Sithembinkosi Multi-Purpose Centre.
- On 15 September 2016, the Social Transformation Cluster jointly with the Economic Cluster conducted a public hearing at Sakhile Stadium; the Committee later hosted a stakeholder engagement on issues affecting People with Disability and the Elderly.

4. OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed the following:

- The Centre is well kept (clean and tidy), however; it is in a bad condition. There are cracks on the wall, the roof leaks and there is no proper fencing, to mention but a few infrastructural problems;
- The centre is operating from a rented premises, paying R800-00 monthly;
- The care givers are dedicated to their work.

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

5.1 Presentation on the functionality of the Centre in addressing youth challenges

Ms. NL Mlangeni, the Head of Department, presented the progress report on behalf of the Department.

She outlined the following on her presentation:

- The Department did not meet with the owner of the rented house as recommended by the Committee since the Centre has already secured an alternate place at 380 Kruger Street, Morgenzon not far from the rented house.

The Department reported that the Centre plans vacating the rented house by 31 October 2016; the same date as per the request of the house owner.

- The Department was requested to assist the Centre with fund raising (by facilitating a stakeholders meeting and also to conduct fund raising seminars) for the completion of the structure (at roof level) at the new site. The Department reported that the stakeholders meeting did not sit due to the unavailability of some of the key people; however some engagements did take place with some potential funders:
 - The municipality donated the site, where the new structure is being built;
 - A local business man has already donated timber though it was not enough to complete the roofing;
 - Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Administration and Environmental Affairs reportedly planned to conduct a site visit on 14 September 2016 to assess the area and to prepare it for laying out of the vegetation garden as soon as it ready for use;
 - Eskom was also consulted and it promised to meet with the department, a follow-up was planned to be made with Eskom on 16 September 2016;
 - Costing and specification on what needs to be done will be given to all possible funders.
- The Department reported that a training session on fund-raising was planned to be conducted on 12 September 2016.
- The Department reported that it is going to submit the provincial needs on infrastructure development to the national department (funding is limited and strenuous on the functions of social services).

5.2 COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE

Follow up meeting with stakeholders

The Committee noted that the Department planned a follow up meeting with stakeholders on 16 September 2016, particularly with Eskom. The Committee then requested the Department to provide progress report on the meeting. The Department reported that the follow up meeting was to be convened with Eskom to confirm their

commitment to provide for the roofing of the incomplete building in writing. Eskom was engaged and they had since provided the organization/centre with a confirmation letter dated 13 September 2016 regarding their commitment to support the organization/centre. The Department further reported that Thuthuka Power Station's CIS committee approved to do roofing for the whole structure and for the installation of the ceiling; the approval is for this current financial year. However, the Department reported that there is no specified date as to when the actual work will resume.

The Department indicated that they were struggling to get the exact date from Eskom as to when construction will start; the chairperson of the organization/centre was tasked to follow up with Eskom on the commencement date.

Training on fundraising and business writing (NPOs)

The Committee enquired on the Department's report that another training session on fund-raising was planned to be conducted on 12 October 2016. The Department reported that the management committee (of the organization/centre) was provided with in service training on fund raising on 12/10/2016 as it was indicated on the report that was presented to the portfolio committee on the 14/09/2016. The Department reported that the organization/centre was also assisted with costing and specifications – for possible funders. On 26/09/2016, the Department reportedly conducted training on the completion of the business plan so that they (organization/centre) are skilled enough to continue to put requests for funding to any possible funders.

Budget for furniture

Acknowledging that the new structure is near completion, the Committee enquired on the Centre's plan to furniture the new structure, asked if a budget for furniture was provided for in the total budget allocated to the Centre. The Department reported that the organization/centre is allocated an amount of R423 000 for the 2016/17 financial year from the department. The budget breakdown is as follows:

- Stipend for care givers : R 132 000
- groceries : R241 200
- School uniform: R16 800
- Administration : R 33 000

The Department indicated that funding is disbursed in four quarters which is R105 750 per quarter. The money to be used to purchase the furniture can be recovered from administration, which is only R8250 allocation per quarter. The Department reported that the available funding is not enough to cater for daily administration activities and buying of furniture.

A computer for the Centre

Noting that the Centre does not have a computer, for daily administrative work, the Committee asked if the Department had any plan to assist the Centre in this regard. The Department reported that after thorough assessment of the funds the Centre will be getting in the two remaining quarters, the organization/centre can manage to purchase a computer and not furniture. The Department reported that the organization/centre intends purchasing the computer during mark down specials in outlets like Game, Makro, etc. by end of December 2016.

National involvement

Noting that the Department does not receive funding for infrastructure (and being aware of the dilapidated state of most structures used by the NPOs and the department's offices), the Committee advised the Department to escalate pressing matters such as those of funding and others to the National Department through the National Council of Provinces for urgent attention and reaction.

5.3 FINDINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

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

- a. Eskom has committed to fund the completion of the roofing at the new structure that was started through funding by a local business man who donated timber, though it was not enough to complete the work. Thuthuka Power Station's CIS committee approved to do roofing for the whole structure and for the installation of the ceiling within 2016/17 financial year. The chairperson of the

organization/centre was tasked to follow up with Eskom on the commencement date of the project;

- b. The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Administration and Environmental Affairs reportedly planned to conduct a site visit to the new site of the Centre on 14 September 2016 to assess the area and to prepare it for laying out of the vegetation garden as soon as it is ready for use;
- c. The Centre plans to vacate the rented house by 31 October 2016, and move in to the new structure.

5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

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

- a. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation for the fulfillment of Eskom's commitment to fund the completion of the roofing and installation of ceiling at the new structure, also provide a detailed progress in this regard by 30 November 2016;
- b. Provide progress report on the assessment by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Administration and Environmental Affairs inclusive of the plan of action thereof by 30 November 2016;
- c. Provide progress report on the vacation of the rented house and how the Centre is settling in, in the new structure inclusive of the effects thereof on the daily operation of the Centre by 30 November 2016.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

The public raised the following during the public hearing:

Sport Jersey

A group of elderly women in ward 3 in Standerton have formed a football club and have requested for a sport jersey. The Department committed to provide the elderly women with the sport jersey and also to encourage them to participate in the provincial golden games and active aging programmes.

Pension Payout Venues

The public complained that the venues for the pension payout are not favorable for the beneficiaries, the venues are said to be old dilapidated structures that are not safe and are without shade, water supply or seating area for the beneficiaries particularly the elderly and disabled. The public cited that the agency and the Department are overlooking the use of community halls and other government premises and or churches for this purpose.

Food parcels

The public raised a concern that undeserving individuals/families are benefiting in the food security programme whilst the vulnerable and needy individuals/families are disadvantaged from benefiting from this much needed necessity of life – nutrition.

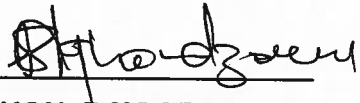
6.1 Recommendation on the issues raised during the public hearing

The Committee recommended that the department must provide a detailed progress report on all the issues raised during the public hearing by 30 November 2016.

The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the report with its findings and recommendations and that a progress report on the implementation of House resolutions be provided on or before Wednesday, 30 November 2016.

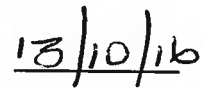
7. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to all the Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development and the NCOP Permanent Delegates for their attendance and active participation during the TLP Programme. She further wishes to thank the Department, the municipality and the management of the Centre for the services rendered and the Legislature staff for providing support to the Committee.

P.P. 

HON. P. NGOBENI

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



DATE