

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND  
TRANSPORT; ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON  
TLP OVERSIGHT VISITS TO LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY 12-16 SEPTEMBER  
2016 (CSSL)**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Legislature) has a responsibility in terms of Section 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, (the Constitution) to facilitate public involvement in its legislative and other processes. In terms of Section 133 (3) (b) of the Constitution, Members of the Executive Council of a province must provide the Legislature with full and regular reports concerning matters under their control. Section 115 (a) and (b) of the Constitution empowers the Legislature to (a) "summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation, or to produce documents" and sub-section (b) states that "the Legislature or any of its Committees may require any person or provincial institution to report to it".

Rule 131 of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Rules) gives Portfolio Committees the mandate to oversee the performance of the departments and to hold the Executive Authority accountable for the delivery of core mandated services. Therefore, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport; Community Safety, Security and Liaison (the Committee) regularly conducts public hearings and oversight visits to projects of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (the department) and other projects; in the various municipalities of the Province.

**2. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISITS**

- a) The following objectives shaped the oversight visits to the projects of the department:**

- To determine challenges impacting on the Police Stations in meeting the national standards.
- To assess the challenges affecting the functionality of the Police Stations (e.g. office space and operational budget for CPF).

**b) Objective of the Public Hearings:**

The Legislature also aimed to hear the voice of the people and to ascertain whether provincial government delivers services effectively and efficiently within the municipality.

**3. METHOD OF WORK**

A comprehensive briefing session was held on the 16 August 2016 to brief the Committee on the latest status of the identified projects and adopted a detailed itinerary for the oversight visits to the projects. Subsequently, the Committee decided to conduct an oversight visit to the Sakhile Police Station and Standerton Police Station.

The pre-TLP Oversight visits were conducted in the Lekwa Local Municipality on the 24 -25 August 2016. A Committee report was tabled for adoption by the House. The Resolutions taken by the House from the Pre-TLP oversight visits were sent to the department for implementation. A progress report on the implementation of those House Resolutions was due for submission to the Legislature on 07 September 2016. The department's progress report was tabled by the MEC in the Office of the Speaker on 09 September 2016.

The TLP Programme was conducted on 12-16 September 2016 where an oversight visits to both the Sakhile and Standerton Police Station were conducted on the 14 September 2016. On the 15 September 2016, joint public hearings of the Economic and Social Transformation Clusters were conducted at Sakhile Stadium. The committee met on 13 October 2016 to consider the draft report.

#### **4. OVERSIGHT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS**

Invitations were sent to the MEC and the HOD of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison as well as to Lekwa Local Municipality. The Chief Whip of the Council and Ward Councilors accompanied the Committee on all the oversight visits.

##### **4.1 Sakhile Police Station**

###### **Background**

Sakhile Police Station is located at 3688 Hlongwane Drive, Shivovo Section, in Sakhile Township. It was started as a satellite police station and later on confirmed as a fully-fledged police station in 1990 without being properly designed for that purpose. The township population is growing bigger while the police station remains small as it has been, with limited personnel that makes it difficult to respond to the number of reported crime matters.

###### **4.1.1 Resolutions taken during the Pre-TLP visit and responses from the department:**

The House resolved that:

1. The department and Provincial SAPS Commissioner must escalate the staffing inadequacy to the Minister of Police and the National SAPS Commissioner for their intervention and normalization of service at the police station, also ensuring provision of necessary equipment.

###### **Response:**

- The department indicated that SAPS has allocated the station with eight (8) additional personnel in the 2015/16 financial year and that an additional three (3) will be allocated in the 2016/17 financial year.
2. The department and the Provincial SAPS Commissioner must come up with a

plan to address the challenges relating to the SAPS members being incapacitated due to a number of factors including ill-health and psychological problems.

**Response:**

- The department indicated that currently, the station has five (5) members who are regularly on incapacity leave and one (1) who has a psychological problem.

The office will review or assess the members whether they can be granted early ill-health retirement since their absenteeism affects the performance of the station and the cluster.

**4.1.2 The Committee deliberated with the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison. The following issues were noted:**

- The Committee noted that Sakhile Police station is very small and there is a need to relocate it to a suitable site.
- The Committee noted that the department will provide resources for the CPF.
- The Committee noted that the police officers in Sakhile do not respond promptly when crime is reported.
- The Committee noted that the police station does not have sufficient vehicles for service delivery.
- The Committee also noted that the Community Police Forum (CPF) in Sakhile is very functional and effective.
- Construction of a suitable police station at Sakhile should be escalated to the Office of the National Commissioner.

**4.1.2 FINDINGS**

1. Sakhile police station is small and there is a need for a suitable structure.
2. Police officers at Sakhile do not respond urgently to crime reports.
3. There is a need for additional police vehicles at Sakhile police station.

4. There is a need to resource CPF in Sakhile.
5. There are SAPS members that need to be granted early ill-health retirement since their absenteeism affects the performance of the station and the cluster.

#### **4.1.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The department and Provincial SAPS should engage the MEC to escalate the need of a suitable police station structure at Sakhile with MINMEC.
  2. The department should investigate the lack of prompt response to crime reports and develop plans to address the matter in ensuring that services are accordingly and effectively provided.
  3. The department must ensure that Sakhile police station has adequate vehicles for service delivery.
  4. The department must make sure that CPF in Sakhile police station gets the necessary resources.
  5. 1 The department and Provincial SAPS should engage the MEC to escalate the need through MINMEC of assessing all SAPS members that are forever on leave due to ill-health, to be able to grant them early ill-health retirement and allow the station to have new members that will be able to perform their duties.
- 5.2 Assessment should be done before the end of the financial year 2016/17 and the report should be shared with the committee on the last month of the financial year 2016/17.

#### **4.3 Standerton Police Station**

##### **Background**

The station is located in the CBD of Standerton town and has four (4) sectors in place, though not well functioning due to shortage of SAPS members and necessary vehicles. The station services a population estimated at between 100 000 - 200 000

community members and the areas are formal residential, informal residential, business, industrial and the farming areas on the out-skirts of the town covering Thuthukani Power Station, situated in about 35km from Standerton.

#### **4.3.1 Resolutions taken during the Pre-TLP visit and responses from the department:**

1. The department and Provincial SAPS Commissioner must escalate the staffing inadequacy to the minister of police and the National SAPS Commissioner for their intervention and normalization of service at the police station, also ensuring provision of necessary equipment.

##### **Response:**

- The department indicated that SAPS has allocated twelve (12) members in the 2015/16 financial year and will allocate an additional nine (9) for the 2016/17 financial year. There are two (2) members who have re-joined the Standerton police station are ranked as a Warrant Officer and a Constable.
2. The department and the Provincial SAPS Commissioner must ensure that all CPFs are adequately provided with necessary and required minimum working tools as they are playing a critical role in the policing services

##### **Response:**

- The department indicated that Standerton Police station has been prioritised to be provided with working tools .e.g. Reflector jackets, Whistles and Torches for the CPF in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
3. Mpumalanga SAPS must consider establishing a satellite police station at Thuthukani area to ensure that the community get services closer to where they stay.

**Response:**

- The department indicated that the plan is to resource Standerton police station and this will ensure that Thuthukani is also serviced by the accounting station as a sector. After properly resourcing Standerton police station, then Thuthukani satellite police station will be re-opened. A feasibility study was conducted by OD and the findings thereof are available.
4. The department must identify an alternative place where the SAPS vehicle garage service/repair centre could be relocated.

**Response:**

- The department indicated that currently, the matter of Standerton garage is under review by the Provincial Commissioner as well as National office. The suggestion is to find new premises in the Industrial area of the town. The Supply Chain Management is also looking at a short term intervention for the vehicles parked outside the premises before the end of the financial year 2016/17.

**4.3.2 The Committee deliberated with the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison and the following issues were noted:**

- The Committee appreciated the progress from the department and requested the SAPS to provide progress in terms of revamping the police station since during the Pre-TLP, the station commander indicated that they were in the process of revamping.
- The station commander reported that the revamping project had already started and it will be completed in two years.
- The Committee observed that the members of the police were not wearing bullet proof vests.
- The Committee noted that the police station does not have sufficient vehicles for service delivery.

### **4.3.3 FINDINGS**

1. The members of SAPS are not using personal protective equipments (PPE), while they are on duty e.g. bullet proof vests
2. The department is currently revamping the Standerton police station and the project will be completed in a period of two years.
3. There is a need for additional police vehicles at Standerton police station.

### **4.3.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The department/station management must ensure that there is proper use of PPE, particularly, bullet proof vests.
2. The department must monitor the revamping project of the police station and ensure that it is completed within the specified timeframe.
3. The department must ensure that Standerton Police station has adequate vehicles for service delivery.

## **4.4 PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The public hearing was conducted jointly by the Economic and Social Transformation Clusters in Sakhile stadium.

### **4.4.1 Challenge raised by the community during public hearing**

1. The community raised an issue of drug abuse as a huge challenge in Standerton.

## **4.5 Stakeholder Engagement**

Various Stakeholder engagements were held on 15 September 2016, in order to provide stakeholders and opportunity to raise issues of concern regarding their sector. The following are issues raised by different stakeholders:



#### **4.5.1 Youth Formation Engagement**

The purpose of the youth formation was to engage with the youth and find out their concerns / challenges.

##### **Challenges raised by the youth:**

- The issue of drug Abuse by the youth was raised as a serious challenge in ward 7.

#### **4.5.2 Business Engagement**

The purpose of the business engagement was to understand the role that businesses can play in an attempt to assist the municipality and the local communities.

##### **The following challenges were raised by the business sector:**

- Mr Mandla Mbonani from Standerton Tax Association indicated that there is a high rate of crime (robbery and drug abuse) due to lack of a proper taxi rank.

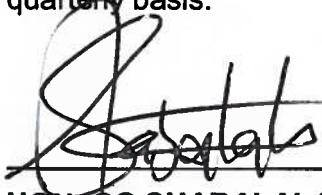
#### **4.7 Recommendations**

The department must submit progress on the issues raised during the public hearing, youth formation engagement and business management. Progress Report should be submitted to the committee by 30 November 2016.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon GC Shabalala extends her appreciation to Members of the Committee, Executive Mayor, Speaker and all Councillors of the Lekwa Local Municipality, departmental officials, all stakeholders and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during this oversight visit to the communities of the Lekwa Local Municipality, in enhancing the oversight role of the Legislature. The Portfolio Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations.

Unless otherwise stated, the department should provide progress reports on all issues raised to the Portfolio Committee by **30 November 2016** and thereafter on a quarterly basis.

  
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HON. GC SHABALALA (MPL)

18/10/2016  
DATE

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT;  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON**