

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 31 AUGUST & 01 SEPTEMBER 2017
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Legislature is duly vested with the mandate to maintain oversight of provincial executive authority and any organ of state and to ensure that they 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 the 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

The objectives were:

- i) To assess the effective and efficient utilization of government funding and resources towards marginalized groups.

- ii) To determine the impact made by the department on the improvement of quality of life to people with disability in the Province.
- iii) To assess the implementation of policies by the departments that seeks to improve quality of life for the vulnerable group.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee invited and met with the Department of Social development as per the programme of the Legislature and quarterly target of the committee to an oversight visit conducted 31 August 2017 at Sakhile Youth Centre and Wakkerstroom Youth Centre on the 01 September 2017.

4. PRESENTATION BY SAKHILE YOUTH CENTRE AND INPUTS BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The chairperson of the Centre took the committee through the presentation on their role in the operations of the Centre, which is to empower the youth with different types of skills for them to be able to be independent. This will enable them to have experience, skills like Entrepreneurial Development, Basic Computer Skills, Job Preparation Session, Career Exhibitions, Educational Tour and Integrational, access in administrative service and life skills education.

Background of Sakhile Youth Empowerment Centre

The committee noted that Sakhile Youth Empowerment Centre was founded in March 2007 by a number of young people in Sakhile targeting youth between the ages of 18-35. The youth identified the need in the community that young people are just sitting in the street corners every day with nothing to do, leading them to teenage pregnancy, crime, and substance abuse.

According to SAYEC that gap has been identified for a programme that can open and widen their minds every day and sometimes at home they cannot discuss deep issues with their parents but through programmes intended to be done, those issues would be solved. This assist the lives of young people and they keep on appreciating having the centre around them as some of them confessed that due to the problems they had, they nearly committed suicide because they had no one to talk to but programmes at the centre and one on one sessions assisted a lot.

Furthermore, the committee noted that founders of the organisation made a thoroughly research to the community by doing door to door visits and letting the citizens to sign petition to ensure that the service was needed in the community ,in other words, the organisation has identified the gap in the community.

The center is open from 09h00 to 17h00 Monday to Friday. There is a need for satellite offices in places like Rooikopen and Platrand where the youth can access service especial the administration service.

Services offered by the center

The committee noted that this youth center currently offers the following services to the unemployed, out of school youth between the ages of 18-35 years of age:

- i) CV writing and typing
- ii) Basic Computer Skills
- iii) Basic Life Skills Workshops
- iv) Printing, copying and faxing services
- v) Internet Services (e-mail and internet surfing)
- vi) Entrepreneurial Development and Programmes
- vii) Career Guidance and Job Preparation

The center works with various stakeholders in Standerton. Some of them are the following:

- i) Department of Labour: by conducting career youth sessions every fortnight and the beneficiaries are registered on the departments database for work opportunities.
- ii) Gert Sibande College: assists the youth in conducting career guidance, learnership placements and bursaries.
- iii) Lekwa Municipality Youth Desk/NYDA: linking with the youth desk for opportunities that may arise from the local municipality, assists in conducting entrepreneurship workshops and life skills / career guidance workshops.
- iv) SEDA: assists in conducting entrepreneurship workshops and company registrations.
- v) SARS: awareness to local youth cooperatives on the importance of registering with SARS in order to pay tax and be compliant with tax laws.
- vi) FNB and Standard Bank: assisting the youth in funding and workshops on how to start a business and applying for funds (loans).
- vii) DGFV (German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation): promoting local youth cooperatives through training, strengthening savings and credit cooperatives in rural areas and introducing cooperatives auditing systems.
- viii) Standerton Advertisers, Cosmos and Ibis Local newspapers: by providing free marketing of the Centre and its services as well as covering most of the Centres events.

Benefits and importance of the service

Job preparation: Young people are able to respond to an advertised post and also update their CV's according to job requirements, register to companies' database, interviews tips and presentation.

Basic Computer Skills: young people get basic skills on typing in order to create their own CV's and application letters.

Young Entrepreneurs: how to start a business, register entities, how to prepare business plan and present to opportunities of funds.

Career Expos: organize and assisting the grade 12's to be able to choose a right career path because it is where different stakeholders, universities and even companies avail themselves to present about opportunities to be obtained.

Administration Services: youth get access on services like photocopying, typing, scan, internet access and information.

Life Skills: increase positive self-esteem, self-acceptance, communication skills, and self-presentation.

Referral information: to various institutions, NGO's, bursary, health agencies, labour centre, community based centres and employment agencies.

Integrational programmes: drug abuse, sports clubs, victim empowerment and teenage pregnancy (conduct awareness campaigns on the listed programmes by local stakeholders).

Challenges

The committee noted that the Centre lacked operational premises and supplementary infrastructure as where it was located it was paying monthly rent. The committee welcomed the funding from SASOL and a donation of a fully furnished mobile container with all the equipment needed to run the Centre.

The committee further noted that management committee was able to get accommodation at a structure where Khunjuliwe Secondary School formerly occupied. The centre will no longer have to pay high rent as it will be occupying the space free of charge, therefore also cutting down on municipal and electricity rates. The structure is secure with burglar bars on the windows and doors. The container from SASOL will also be placed at the new premises as it will be surrounded by a security fence.

The committee further welcomes the innovative by the centre in apply for funding from other donors as it successfully received funding from the Eskom Foundation of an amount R 58 000 which will be used to procure new equipment such as computers, laptops, printers and copiers to replace the old equipment.

The committee welcomes with appreciation the support provided by the department in ensuring that the center is functioning well and there is a value for money. The committee further emphasizes that the centre must aligned itself to the radical economic transformation which is about building a more equal society through sustained inclusive economic growth.

5.1 FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The operational premises have limited space hence they have rented a supplementary class and the proper infrastructure of their own in a form of a mobile/container.
- 2) The centre seeks funding from other donors rather than to focus only on the grant from the department of Social Development which is most appreciated.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The department must assist in ensuring that the centre gets their own premises by engaging with the municipality in partnership with NYDA and other stakeholders in securing a site and a structure.
- 2) The department must assist the centre in getting more donors that will fund the structure and advised if possible the donors received from SASOL, Eskom, Lottery is being directed to infrastructure development and the grant from the department continues for service support and that should be in line with the constitution and policies.

5.4 Wakkerstroom Youth Development Centre

The committee further visited Wakkerstroom Youth Centre and noted that the centre was established in 22 August 2011 started operating in 2012. It has been influenced by the lack of skills, information, high rate of unemployment, and access to higher learning institution, high rate of HIV /AIDS prevalence, teenage pregnancy and substance abuse around the Youth community of Wakkerstroom.

The Centre is funded by the Department of Social Development since 2011 up to date. The first funding enabled the Centre to purchase assets such as 5 Computers, 1 Laptop, and Projector and Office equipment. The funding from the Department of Social Development is for the Centre to render programmes to the young people, stipends to 6 Volunteers and Administrative costs.

The committee further noted that Wakkerstroom Youth Development Centre is also equipped with the Lulaway Software Programmes to link the youth with potential employment opportunities from various institutions. The Centre works with the National Youth Development Agency to do entrepreneurship, Job Preparedness and Career Guidance. One staff member has received the training on youth development by the NYDA

Since the establishment of the Centre, workshops like Job Preparation, Entrepreneurship; Life-Skills, Career Guidance to assist the youth in getting more information were done. The youth is also assisted with secretariat services (basic computer skills) and online application to higher learning institutions, for financial assistance and job applications.

These services have assisted the Centre to achieve its objective since a number of young people (youth) managed to get employment from various institutions. It is one of the best Youth Development Centre in Mpumalanga and has won the MEC Excellency award in 2015.

The committee welcomed with appreciation that the Centre is categorised as number 3 in Mpumalanga and as the best Youth Development Centre in 2016. Since 2011 Wakkerstroom Youth Development Centre has been able to achieve the following:

- i) Provide employment to 6 youth who serve as the staff in the Centre and 1 employed by Lulaway.
- ii) Linked the youth to higher institutions of learning such as the Gert Sibande College, TUT, ECT
- iii) Linked the youth to permanent employment opportunities in both the private and the public sector.
- iv) Internship and learnership in various sectors.
- v) Basic computer skills.
- vi) Wakkerstroom Youth Development Centre has been selected by Mpumalanga Department of Social Development to offer accredited courses

Target

The organisation targets the unemployed, in and out of school youth between 14 to 35 years old. The management committee still need to be capacitated on governance issues. The ratio of the YDC practitioners is according to the youth development centres guidelines. However, the post of a Lulaway officer has been funded through LULAWAY.

Funding

The committee noted that Department of Social development has approved subsidy for the financial year of 2016/2017 for 1200 youth which amounts to R676 834.00 and R200 000 for this current financial year 2017/18. The amount includes the amount for accreditation of a basic computer skills including training of Facilitators, Assessors & Moderators.

Furthermore the committee welcome the donation of R190 000 from the National Lottery Commission for 2017/18.

Challenges

The committee noted that the funding received is not adequate as per the policy guidelines. The municipality structure that the Centre is currently occupying is not permanently allocated. However, the Centre has renovated it to meet the accreditation standard by SETA.

The Centre is therefore requesting the Municipality to renovate the old structure which was damage by the storm (roof blown away) as this will enable the Centre to fully meet the accreditation standards by SETA and is accessible to the community

The committee welcomed the initiative by SETA in selecting the centre to offer basic computer skill as this will assist the youth to have a tangible evidence on completion i.e. accreditation.

5.1 FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) There is no cooperation from the Local municipality in renovating the old structure damaged by the storm.
- 2) The centre seeks funding from other donor and that play a crucial role in developing the Centre as in terms of the policy as the department do not provide for infrastructure.
- 3) The centre has not yet costed the damage of the structure to determine what will be needed to renovate the old structure.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The department in partnership with NYDA must assist the centre in engaging the Local municipality and donors in ensuring that renovation of the old structure damaged by the storm is taken care of.

- 2) The department must assist in seeking donors and ensuring that funding from these donors is being directed to infrastructure development as the department do not provide infrastructural funding.
- 3) The centre must cost the damage of the old structure and involve the department of Public Works and Municipality, and seek funding from donors and local hardware's for the renovation of the structure that was damaged by the storm.

5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extended his appreciation to Members of the Committee, officials from the Department of Social Development, Sakhile Youth Centre, Wakkerstroom Youth Centre 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.



HON AM GAMEDE (MPL)

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

29/09/17
DATE