

# REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 31 AUGUST 2017

(DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC 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 spirit of promoting 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 committee conducted the oversight visit to this project to provide technical support by the department to interact with beneficiaries to establish quality support.

### 3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee invited and met with beneficiaries of Young Nature Minders and the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (DEDET) as per the programme of the Legislature and quarterly target of the committee to an oversight visit, held 31 August 2017 at Standerton, Sakhile.

### 4. OVERSIGHT VISIT TO YOUNG NATURE MINDERS

#### 4.1 Project Background

The committee noted that this youth cooperative consists of four (4) females and one (1) male. The cooperative employed five (5) workers over and above the membership. It is registered with the CIPC with registration no. 990000974717.

The main business of the cooperatives is recycling and waste management. They survive on a monthly turn-over of approximately R25, 000 per month depending on the amount of business received. They managed to acquire a bigger machine valued at R120, 000 and a mini truck which has since broken down over a year ago.

#### Department technical support

The committee noted that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is mandated to drive all economic development and planning initiatives in the province. To this effect, the strategic goal of the Department is to stimulate robust and sustainable economic growth that would lead towards the reduction of poverty, unemployment and inequalities amongst the all people of Mpumalanga.

Some of the strategic objectives include:

- i) To facilitate support and development of business enterprises
- ii) To ensure the participation of historically disadvantaged individuals (HDI's) in the mainstream of the economy
- iii) To implement consumer protection and awareness strategies that creates an environment conducive to fair trade
- iv) To provide economic policies and strategies
- v) To determine the effectiveness and impact of provincial policy and programme objectives and strategies

The committee noted that Young Nature Minders was identified as a project supported by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The department seeks to empower local participants to effectively utilize business enterprise, labour, capital and other local resources to achieve local priorities, e.g., to promote quality jobs and reduce poverty; and to improve the quality of life for the vulnerable groups, youth in particular in this case:

- Local values (poverty reduction, basic needs, local jobs, integrating social and environmental values);
- Economic drivers (value-added resource use, local skills training, local income retention, regional co-operation); and
- Development (the role of structural change, quality of development).

The project has a potential to grow and provide maximum job opportunities for young people and the community at large in eradicating the socio economical challenge and provide radical economic transformation.

## **Challenges**

Upon engagements the committee noted that the project needs fencing, transport and a workshop structure with a proper site office.

The committee noted a commitment made by NYDA (National Youth Development Agent) in ensuring that a recycling machine is provided and welcomes the decision made.

Furthermore the committee requested the department to support the project by linking them with other recycling companies for further skills and technical assistance and for them to seek funding from MEGA and other institution in sponsoring the fencing and the office structure.

The committee noted that the project has a potential to grow and provide maximum job opportunities for young people and the community at large in eradicating the socio economic challenges and further provide the radical economic transformation.

## **5.1 FINDINGS**

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The Committee noted that the project needs fencing, transport, workshop and a site office.

- 2) The project does not have essential equipment such as scale, crushing and pressing machines.
- 3) There department is not providing enough technical support in monitoring the growth of the project.

## 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

### The Committee recommends that:

- 1) The Department of Economic Development must assist fencing on the project site, and assist the Young Nature Minders to solicit funds from various stakeholders to construct offices and a workshop.
- 2) Department of Economic Development and Tourism must work together with NYDA to assist the projects to acquire the industrial scale, crusher and pressing machines as a matter of urgency and report the progress to the Committee by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2017/18 financial year.
- 3) The Department of Economic Development together with NYDA must assist the cooperative to develop a proper business plan and provide mentorship programs until the project is in a position to sustain itself.

## 4) CONCLUSION

The Chairperson expressed his disappointment with the Department of Economic Development on the state of the cooperative since it was officially launched, and directed them to work an extra mile in assisting the cooperative. He thanked Members of the Committee, support staff and beneficiaries from Young Nature Minders for their time and participation.

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 2017/18 financial year.

**HON AM GAMEDE (MPL)**

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

29/09/17  
**DATE**