

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED AT VIP WATERBORNE IN EMZINONI - GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY - DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGTA) – 12 AND 13 SEPTEMBER 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) conducted oversight visits over the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs as mandated by Section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, (Act 108 of 1996), to oversee the performance of the Department and hold it accountable through various measures.

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) project took place at Govan Mbeki Local Municipality from 11 – 15 September 2017.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SITE VISIT AND A PUBLIC HEARING

- ❖ The purpose of the site visit was to assess the progress made by the Department in the delivery of VIP Waterborne toilets.
- ❖ To obtain the views from the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Bethal) community on the provision of the basic service.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the TLP, the Portfolio Committee after the approval of the Legislature programme informed the Department about the TLP and oversight visits.

The Committee then met on 12 and 13 September 2017 with the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. Other stakeholders invited were South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Executive Mayor for Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Local Councillors), Public Service Commission (PSC), Auditor General's Office, Provincial Treasury and Community Development Workers (CDWs). The Committee thereafter met on 04 October 2017 to consider the draft Committee report.

4. OBSERVATIONS

- ❖ The MEC, Ms RM Mthsweni, HOD, Mr TP Nyoni and his Senior Officials were in attendance of the oversight visits and the public hearing.
- ❖ The establishment and induction of Ward Committees have been completed; councillors are expected to convene community meetings by the end of the 4th Quarter.
- ❖ Commended the Department for the fifty nine jobs that were created through the project.
- ❖ Govan Mbeki has a backlog of conversion of VIP to Waterborne toilets by ±1670 which excludes houses in informal settlements where people invaded.

5. OVERVIEW AND PRESENTATION BY THE MEC – DEPARTMENT OF COGTA

The Honourable MEC appreciated the opportunity to appear before the Committee to report on the conversion of VIP to Waterborne toilets in Emzinoni. The MEC, Ms RM Mthsweni reported that there were places that did not have toilets; bulk water system was also not available for VIP toilets.

The MEC also indicated that they also had to do away with VIP toilets and as a result the Department started the process of the waterborne toilets. Emzinoni was one area where they had VIP toilets and some of the households did not have toilets at all. The Department had to eradicate bucket system and assess the situation. The areas identified for the conversion of VIP to waterborne toilets were at Ext 5, 6, 9 and 10 at Emzinoni. The MEC reported on the project on behalf of the Department. She outlined the following:

- ❖ The Department funded the project through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG);
- ❖ This is a multi-year project, it will be done over a period of three (3) years and its projected at R24 million;
- ❖ During the first year, the project was allocated an amount of R20 million which has been spent;
- ❖ Amount spent in the current financial year is R1.3 million;
- ❖ The projected completion date is 30 September 2017;
- ❖ Bulk sewer network has been installed around Emzinoni; toilets are already built;
- ❖ The Department had a total of 1474 conversion of VIP to waterborne toilets in Emzinoni Ext 5.6.9 and 10;
- ❖ 1430 waterborne toilets have been finalised;

In her conclusion the MEC reported that fifty nine job opportunities were created through this project and 741 households benefited. She indicated that as a Department they always appreciate the valuable guidance and insightful oversight provided by the Portfolio Committee and it is through the collective effort and good working relationship that the Department is able to monitor, support and intervene in municipalities for the improvement of the lives of ordinary citizens.

6. COMMENTS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE DURING THE SITE INSPECTION

- ❖ The Committee visited one of the beneficiaries at Stand No: 3208/5B owned by Ms Evelyne Thoko Sidu (Nyembe);
- ❖ The Committee found that the toilet was in a good condition, able to flush and the beneficiary thanked the Committee and the Department of COGTA for providing proper toilet;
- ❖ Ms Evelyne Thoko Sidu of Stand No: 3208/5B lives in a shack which the Committee requested the Department of COGTA to intervene by assisting her in getting an RDP House;
- ❖ The Department has made a commitment to urgently assist her with an RDP House.

7. Findings made by the Committee on project

After thorough interaction with the Department, the committee found that:

- a) The expected completion date for the forty four (44) outstanding VIP Waterborne toilets is 30 September 2017.
- b) Ms Evelyne Thoko Sidu (Nyembe) is one of the beneficiaries of the VIP Waterborne toilet; however she lives in a shack.

8. Recommendations made by the Committee on Newtown project

After the findings, the committee recommended that the department must:

- a) Strengthen its monitoring system and ensure that the project is finalised as expected by 30 September 2017 and a detailed progress report be submitted by 30 November 2017.

- b) Urgently intervene together with the Department of Human Settlements to assist Ms Evelyne Thoko Sidu (Nyembe) to be provided with a decent accommodation (RDP House). A progress report to be provided by 30 November 2017 thereafter on a quarterly basis.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public hearing was held at Emzinoni Stadium (Bethal) and the comments were as follows;

- ❖ The challenge of shortage of water at Extention 15 for more than six (6) months and the lack of electricity was raised;
- ❖ The elected councilor is not known in Kriel Ward 26; the challenge of shortage of water, electricity and lack of toilets have been raised;
- ❖ The community of Ward 9 does not receive statements from the municipality, their system is always offline and raised a concern about the rent being high;
- ❖ At Ward 27 the sewerage system is not working;
- ❖ It is alleged that RDP houses in Ward 24 are sold to the community members;
- ❖ Allocation of houses to rightful beneficiaries sometimes not done;
- ❖ There is poor management of beneficiary list;
- ❖ Community members are not given first preference when there are projects that are given within their area;

10. Recommendations on a public hearing

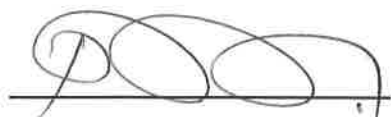
The Committee recommends that the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs must attend to issues raised at the public hearing. A comprehensive progress report must be submitted by 30 November 2017.

The Acting Chairperson requests the House to adopt the Committee Report with the findings and its recommendations. The Department must submit a detailed progress report to the Portfolio Committee on or before 30 November 2017.

11. CONCLUSION

The Acting Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee, for their participation and contributions during the deliberations on the TLP site visits and a public hearing. The Chairperson further extends her appreciation to the MEC, Ms RM Mtshweni; HOD, Mr TP Nyoni and Senior Officials of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Speaker of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Mr NG Zuma, representatives of House of Traditional Leaders (HTL) South African Local Government Association (SALGA), representatives of Auditor General's Office, CDWs, Contractors as well as the Councillors and officials of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality for supporting the programme of the Committee.

Lastly, she also wishes to thank the Legislature support staff for supporting the Committee during the TLP.



HON. P NGOBENI

17/10/2017
DATE

**ACTING CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE &
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**