

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED AT AGINCOURT INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IRDP) PROJECT, [BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY] - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS – 27 AND 28 JUNE 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

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

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) project took place at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality from 25 – 29 June 2018.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SITE VISIT AND A PUBLIC HEARING

- ❖ The purpose of the site visit was to assess the provision of quality human settlement in Agincourt project and consider implementation and adherence to policy prescripts guiding Human Settlements.
- ❖ To obtain the views from the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality community on the provision of the basic service delivery.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the TLP, the Portfolio Committee after the approval of the Legislature programme, invited the Department to the TLP and be part of the oversight visits to be conducted on 27 and 28 June 2018. The invitations were also extended to House of Traditional Leaders, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Executive Mayor for Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, the Councillors), Public Service Commission (PSC), Auditor General's Office, Provincial Treasury and Community Development Workers (CDWs) to be part of the site visits and the public hearing.

The Committee then met on 27 and 28 June 2018 to conduct oversight over the Department of Human Settlements on service delivery.

4. OBSERVATION

- ❖ The MEC, Ms N Mahlangu and the HOD, Mr K Masange tendered an apology for the Oversight Visits.
- ❖ The Department was represented by the District Director and Senior Officials of the Department were in attendance of the oversight visit and the public hearing.
- ❖ The Department did not report on the commencement and completion date thereof for each project.
- ❖ A concern was raised by the Portfolio Committee that the Department did not provide detailed information to the Committee and the Department was requested to re-work the document and submit to the Legislature by Tuesday, 03 July 2018.

- ❖ The Department is faced with challenges such as water, sanitation, Road Infrastructure and sewer networks.
- ❖ The Department is still continuing to provide one contractor to build more housing units.
- ❖ The interference of Councilors on the process of construction.

5. PRESENTATION AND BACKGROUND ON PROJECTS THAT WERE COMPLETED DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS - (BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY)

Mr S Mabuyakhula, the District Director of Ehlanzeni - Human Settlements reported that in the past five financial years the Department of Human Settlements assisted the municipality with the construction of **3272** low cost houses and handed over to qualifying beneficiaries. The Department also assisted the municipality with regard to 119 Jojo tanks in order to store and supply water to the communities. During construction of these housing units, job opportunities were created and other small Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMME's) were developed which meant that the local economy benefited from these projects.

The Department reported on the project scope of the Department on the Kumani Rolle Integrated Human Settlement that upon completion project shall entail the following land uses which are;

- ❖ 841 residential 1 zoned stands to accommodate low and middle income housing Integrated Rural Development Programme [IRDP], Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP), Serviced Sites, Bonded Houses];

- ❖ Two (2) Residential and 3 zoned stands to cater for 300 housing units; and Community Residential Units[CRUs]
- ❖ 4 Social amenities [with Municipal offices, Primary School, library and a Secondary School]

The Department also raised some of the challenges faced which are:

- ❖ Inadequate/unavailable bulk infrastructure leading to delayed and non-implementation of approved projects.
- ❖ Mushrooming of informal settlements within the municipal area remains a challenge.

The Department reported on the required remedial actions taken as to better coordination and alignment of funding for external engineering services is required to enhance project implementation.

Building of Top Structures of Phase 2 – Agincourt, Kilidare and Mkhuhlu

The Committee found that there was no access to water which actually meant that there are no proper basic services such as Sanitation and Electricity. The house which was visited by the Portfolio Committee was not situated in the right place. The Department reported the status quo of the project as follows:

Project	:	Agincourt, Kilidare & Mkhuhlu
Project contract value	:	R62 693 350.00
Expenditure to date	:	R26 706 380.05
Scope	:	500 RDP houses
Contractor	:	Lomanjolo Investments
Duration	:	2 years (Multi Year Project)

PROGRESS TO DATE

Slabs	:	40
Wall plates	:	235
Roofed	:	35
Completions	:	190

6. COMMENTS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee also noted the challenges that the Department has built a house where there was no access to water which actually meant that there are no proper basic services eg: Sanitation and Electricity. The Portfolio Committee could not thoroughly engage with the Department due to lack of information provided by the Department.

Construction of New Steel Water Tankers

The Committee wanted to know why and how is the Department dealing with the issue of water challenges as some tanks are not yet connected to water supply network by the Municipality due to budgetary constraints.

6.1. Findings made by the Committee

After the interaction with the Department, the Committee found that:

- a) The Department has not provided a detailed report in terms of commencing and completion date for the housing units in the area of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.

- b) There is still a common challenge of shortage of water.

- c) The unit built at Agincourt is not a serviced site as it was visited during a site inspection.

6.2. Recommendations made by the Committee

The Committee recommended that:

- a) The Department to submit a detailed report of the projects and must continue to strengthen its monitoring system to ensure that deadlines are adhered to by contractors and that a progress report be submitted to the Committee by 31 August 2018 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.
- b) The Department must engage with the Department of CoGTA in order to fast track the issue of addressing the challenge of water as a matter of urgency and that a progress report is submitted to the Committee by 31 August 2018.
- c) The Executive Authority considers take action against the Accounting Officer/Officials for failure to ensure that the Unit was built on a serviced site. A progress report to be submitted to the Committee by 31 August 2018 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public hearing was held at Agincourt Sportsfield (Bushbuckridge Local Municipality) and the comments were as follows; the Committee also notes that the Department of Human Settlements was able to assist most of the community members on the day of the public hearing

- ❖ Community Members are requesting RDP Houses.
- ❖ No feedback given to applicants for RDP houses

- ❖ The incorrect allocation of houses to rightful beneficiaries has been raised as a concern.

- ❖ Poor Management of beneficiary list

- ❖ Title deeds are not handed over on time to beneficiaries

7.1. Recommendations on a public hearing

The Committee recommends that the Department of Human Settlements must attend to issues raised at the public hearing. A comprehensive progress report must be submitted by 31 August 2018.

The 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 31 August 2018.

8. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee, for their participation and contributions during the deliberations on the TLP site visits and public hearing. The Chairperson further extends her appreciation to the MEC, SK Mashilo, HOD, Mr. K Masange, Senior Officials of the Department of Human Settlements, the Mayor, Ms S Nxumalo, Speaker, Ms BR Raganya, Chief Whip of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Mr TM Makaringe, 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 Bushbuckridge 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

01/08/2018
DATE

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