

**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS  
01 JULY -30 SEPTEMBER 2018**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Section 118(1) of Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature with the responsibility to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Legislature and its committees, to conduct its business in the open manner and its sittings and those of its committees in public. Section 115(d) of the Constitution further empowers the Legislature to receive and consider petitions from interested persons or institutions.

As part of the public involvement mechanism, the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature establishes and empower the Select Committee on Public Participation, Petitions and Members' Legislative Proposals (the Committee) to facilitate meetings which provides a platform for discussing critical issues with departments and to consider petitions that have been referred by petitioners in terms of the Constitution and the Mpumalanga Petitions Act, 6 of 2000 ("the Petitions Act").

The Committee tables this report in terms of Rule 143 of the Rules and Orders, read with section 15 of the Petitions Act, to give full account on the committee meetings.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS**

The objective was to provide a platform for the petitioners to present their petitions before the Committee and to allow the departments to respond to the issues raised.

### **3. METHOD OF WORK**

#### **3.1. Petitions Work**

The Committee invited the Departments together with petitioners as per the programme of the Legislature to be part of the meetings in order to process the petitions, involving all the affected parties as per the Petitions Act.

#### **3.2. Sector Parliaments**

The Committee had with the support of the administration facilitated for the hosting for one sector parliament, Women's Parliament in August. The Parliament was a success.

#### **3.3. Members of the Public Participating mobilised to attend the Business of the Legislature**

The Committee supported also by the administration had ensured that members of the public attend the business of the Legislature. This was through various platforms, including Sittings of the Legislature, Public Hearings and the Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.

### **4. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The mandate of the Committee is to facilitate public involvement and to provide mechanisms to ensure transparency of service delivery in government departments (municipalities and parastatals) by adequately and timely handling complaints (petitions) or requests from the public of Mpumalanga Province.

## 5. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

- The Committee received seventy seven (77) individual new petitions and two hundred and thirty nine (239) bulk petitions which were received during TLP at Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality from 17-21 September 2018.
- The Committee successfully closed eighty (80) petitions in the quarter under review. These included those received during the previous financial year.
- The Committee successfully hosted one (1) Sector Parliaments during the quarter under review which is:
  - Women's Parliament

The Committee had planned three meetings in quarter under review but was however able to hold two due to cancellation of a meeting as depicted below.

DATE	PROGRAMME	VENUE
07 September 2018	Committee meeting Considerations of Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee room 7</li> </ul>
12 September 2018	Responses from Departments on petitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (the meeting was cancelled due to instability from Embalenhle Township)</li> </ul>
20 September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of Sector Parliament Reports</li> <li>• Quarterly Report</li> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• Report on Petitions to be closed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Court Hotel Boardroom</li> </ul>

## **6. FORWARD PLANNING**

The Committee will in the next quarter attend to the following:-

- The committee will do Public Education Sessions in the next quarter;
- The committee is planning to have oversight visits in all regions to feedback on petitions received;
- The Committee will consider and close some petitions;
- The Committee will consider select committee reports;

## **7. FINDINGS**

1. Some Departments and Local Municipalities do not submit progress reports on the petitions and Sector Parliament Resolutions on due dates provided which have a negative impact on the work of the Committee/Legislature;
2. The Select Committee on Public Participation, Petitions and Members Legislative Proposals and the Select Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities share two (2) Members of which; in the instances where their meetings sit simultaneously it becomes a challenge for the Committee forming a quorum for the meeting.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

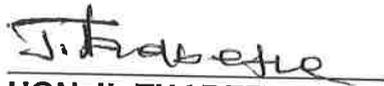
1. That the Chairperson engage the Office of the Speaker in rectifying the challenge of non- adherence to due dates of submission of reports from the affected Departments;
2. That the Office of the Chief Whip be engaged regarding the challenge of the sharing of Members for the 2 Select Committees in order to resolve the challenge of the quorum in the future.

## 9. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to express her gratitude to the respective MECs; HODs and other officials of the respective Departments for their active involvement during deliberations with the Committee and petitioners.

The Chairperson further wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their remarkable participation and inputs during the deliberations and also thank the Legislature staff for the support they provide to the Committee during the deliberations and the production of this report.

Lastly, the Chairperson requests the august House to adopt the report with its recommendations.



**HON JL THABETHE**  
**CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS'**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

20-09-2018  
**DATE**