

## **REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 09 FEBRUARY 2016 (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Mpumalanga Legislature is duly vested with a mandate to maintain oversight of provincial executive authority and any organ of state and all provincial executive authority including provincial organs of state 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 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 of 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 MEETING**

The objectives were to find the status quo bursaries in terms of challenges and achievements targeting the following:

- Bursaries awarded for 2016
- Bursaries awarded 2015/14

- Education and Skills Development
- Internship and Learnerships

### 3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee invited the department of Education as per the programme of the Legislature and quarterly target of the committee to a committee meeting held 09 February 2016.

### 4. PRESENTATION MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department took members of the committee through the presentation as follows:

#### 4.1 BURSARIES AWARDED FOR 2014/15 AND 2016

Issue	Achievements	Challenges	Mitigation
Bursaries awarded for 2016	Planned to award 775 bursaries in 2016 academic year. 23 students with disabilities. MQA &ETDP Seta assisted 114 youth on engineering fields.	High volume of applicants and limited budget.	Engage private sector through OPT Premiers advisor on partnership programme.
Bursaries awarded for 2014/15	750 bursaries awarded	Limited budget unwillingness of private sector to assist	Engage private sector
Education and skills development	Pivotal and generic programmes implemented in the Province	Department not adhering to 1% skills levy	To conduct workshops on the imp
Leadership and Internships	200 learnerships 634 Interns	Departments are not complying with 5% staff establishment due to moratorium in the Province	Upliftment of moratorium

The committee noted that some applicants used incorrect information to access bursaries and wanted to know the criteria that the department use to ensure that qualifying students get first preference in line with the policy to avoid awarding non-qualifying students.

The committee noted that there are provisions in the policy which indicate, that the bursary will be withdrawn immediately if it happens that false information was used and that the department is working vigorously in ensuring that deserving applicants that meet requirements are awarded.

The committee raised a concern on the number of students who pass well in matric but do not apply timeously for admission to institutions of higher learning, and wanted clarity on whether the department

is doing enough in ensuring that awareness campaigns are conducted for students to be able to apply for bursary opportunities particularly in rural areas.

In light of the above the committee noted that the department has put in place a special team that ensures that students in the rural areas also benefit from these bursaries and the application forms are sent out to all municipality offices and to principals of both high and primary schools. Furthermore the department through the career guidance programmes ensures that information is provided to students.

The committee noted that some student still face challenges due to none payments of fees by the department to respective institutions they are enrolled with. The committee and wanted to know of any outstanding debts owed by the department to those institutions of higher learning and the challenges they encounter in settling such debts.

In response, the committee noted that it is the responsibility of the students to submit invoices for payments to the institutions and in some cases debts are due to non-compliance with the supply chain management requirements by institutions. Furthermore, the department indicated that the only problem they had was with the processing of payments to Sefako Makgato University due to change of banking details. The committee further noted that in a case where the department has failed to make payments, a letter of acknowledgement of debt is written to the institution concerned to allow the student admission and such cases are minimal.

The committee wanted to know the credibility and legitimacy of ECD training centres for the ECD practitioners. It was noted that the department is working hard in ensuring that these training centres are credible, and they are engaging the North West University to eliminate the fly by night institutions.

## 4.2 Learnerships and Internship 2015/16

### Learnership

District	Gender		PWD	Total
	F	M		
Ehlanzeni	41	22	0	63
Gert Sibande	23	13	0	36
Nkangala	31	17	0	48
Bohlabele	33	20	0	53
Total	128	72	0	200

### Internship

District	Gender		PWD	Total
	F	M		
Ehlanzeni	124	71	0	195
Gert Sibande	95	31	0	126

Nkangala	110	42	0	152
Bohlabele	115	46	0	161
Total	444	190	0	634

#### 4.3 Challenges and Achievements on Public Service Skills Development

Financial year	CIP	Totals	Pivotal and Genetic	Total
2014/15	Females:324 =56% Males:251=44%	575	Females 610-54% Males: 519=46%	1129
2015/16	Females:430 =54% Males:371=46%	801	Females:771-61.5% Males: 482=38.5%	1253

#### 5.1 FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The department is not doing well in awarding bursaries to deserving applicants and some still use false information.
- 2) There is no proper involvement of law enforcement in ensuring that information provided by applicants is correct.
- 3) The department is not equally awarding bursaries on geographical spread of the province.

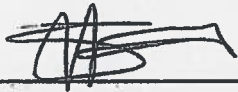
#### 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The Department must continue to intensify the verification of applicants before awarding bursaries, which will include the verification of parents and locations in consultation with the councillors and constituency offices.
- 2) The department must state clearly in the advert that providing wrong information will be tantamount to crime. There should be an involvement of law enforcement to work with the department in ensuring that application information is authentic.
- 3) There must be an equal share as per the regions of the province focusing on previously disadvantage areas when awarding bursaries.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extended her appreciation to Members of the Committee, department of education, 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 SJ MANZINI (MPL)**

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

15 March 2016

**DATE**