

UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED AT PHOLA STEEL WATER TANKS AT WARD 5, CITY OF MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY - DEPARTMENT OF COGTA – MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) conducted oversight 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 of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Department), and hold it accountable through various measures.

2. PURPOSE OF THE UNANNOUNCED SITE VISIT

The purpose of the site visit was to assess the provision and sufficiency of quality water and to assess the compliance with regards to the construction of the Phola Steel Water Tanks and extent of service delivery rendered by the Department of COGTA.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The oversight visits conducted at City of Mbombela Local Municipality on 14 February 2017 were unannounced; hence the department was not notified.

In preparation for the Unannounced Oversight Visit, the Portfolio Committee invited the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Mayor and Speaker of City of Mbombela Local Municipality (Local Councillors), Public Service Commission (PSC), Community Development Workers (CDWs).

4. BACKGROUND ON PHOLA STEEL WATER TANKS AT WARD 5

The Technical Manager, Mr Rex from the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs reported the following:

- ❖ There is no reticulation to the Phola households' project;
- ❖ The tanks were installed in 2015 and fully functional;
- ❖ The municipality fenced the water tanks and is currently building or installing an aluminium ladder replacing the old one which was rusted badly;
- ❖ The community was receiving water when it was handed over to the municipality; and the municipality can make changes to the water tanks without informing the Department

5. COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE

Functioning of the Phola Water Tanks

The Committee needed explanation on who decided that the pipe water system be changed at Phola Water Tank because instead of reducing the water, it must be expanded since water is a basic need; the installation of the two tanks was to supplement the water supply. The Committee also requested that the Department together with the municipality must come up with an amicable solution and not compete with each other.

In responding, the Department indicated that a meeting will be held on Monday, 19 February 2017 together with the technical team of the City of Mbombela Local Municipality and that a progress report will be provided to the Committee by Friday, 23 February 2017.

6. Findings

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

- 6.1. The Department and the municipality were unable to provide detailed information in relation to some household who are unable to receive water in the Phola area.
- 6.2. The City of Mbombela local municipality has changed the pipe water system without consulting the Department.

7. Recommendations

After the findings the Committee recommended that the Department must:

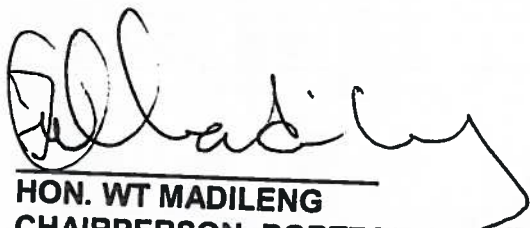
- 7.1. Ensure the provision of water to households of Phola and to strengthen the monitoring and work together with the City of Mbombela local municipality in ensuring that communities in Phola are receiving water.
- 7.2. Submit a detailed report on the process used by the technical division in ensuring that there is physical verification that there will be no leakage to the pipe water system once completed.

8. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their sterling participation and input during the deliberations on the Unannounced Oversight visit. He further thanked the officials from the Department of COGTA, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Officials from the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Community Development Workers (CDWs) and also the Legislature staff for the support they provided to the Committee during the deliberations.

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

A progress report should be submitted to the Legislature on or before 30 April 2017.



HON. WT MADILENG
CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE &
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

16/03/2016
DATE