

**OVERSIGHT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION;
CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION ON THE PRE-TAKING
LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE (PRE-TLP), MBUZINI LIBRARY,
MAGCEKENI SPORTS COMBO COURT AND PUBLIC HEARINGS, NKOMAZI
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, EHLANZENI DISTRICT, 23 - 25 JUNE 2015**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme will take place at Nkomazi Local Municipality from 7 – 11 September 2015. As part of the preparations for the main TLP event, the Portfolio Committee on Education; Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Committee) undertook pre-TLP oversight visits from 23 - 25 June 2015.

The Committee visited two (2) projects of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (the department) namely the Mbuzini Library and the Magcekeni Combo Court. Two (2) public hearings were also held at Mgobodzi and Mbangwane. The House resolutions emanating from this Committee report will be referred to the department for the necessary interventions and report back to the Legislature before the TLP event.

2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISITS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

The purpose of the pre-TLP oversight visits to the projects was to verify their functionality, identify their challenges and to assess the service delivery by the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation.

At the public hearings, the purpose was to listen to the community voice their concerns and then allow the departments to respond accordingly and indicate what interventions they would provide to fast track service delivery to these communities.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Research Section conducted preliminary visits to identify projects to be visited by the Committee. Their findings and recommendations were incorporated into the research report, and subsequently the programme of the Social Transformation Cluster oversight

visits and public hearings for the week of 23 - 26 June 2015 was circulated to the Committee Members.

Invitations were sent to the department (MEC and HOD) informing them of the oversight programme and requesting them to ensure the availability of the Ehlanzeni District management to interact with the Committee during the oversight visits and to respond to the concerns of the community in the public hearings.

The leadership of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and the Nkomazi Local Municipality (Executive Mayor and Speaker) and all municipal structures were invited to accompany the Committee. Other stakeholders invited to the pre-TLP programme were the Office of the Auditor-General, the Department of Finance, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the House of Traditional Leaders (HTL).

On 23 June 2015 the Committee was briefed by the researcher on the findings of the two identified projects. The briefing took place at the Mbuzini Library. The Committee considered and adopted its pre-TLP report on 10 July 2015.

4. OVERSIGHT VISITS

4.1. MBUZINI LIBRARY

The oversight visit on 23 June 2015 commenced with a session whereby the HOD of the department, together with the Chief Director Library Services briefed the Committee on the library profile and functionality. The Committee interacted with the department and then inspected the various aspects of the library.

(a) Observations of the Committee

The Committee made the following observations at Mbuzini Library:

- The library is well built and functional.
- It is easily accessible to the community.

- It has some infrastructure and operational challenges, which are being addressed by the DCSR and the municipality.
- Internet connectivity (free wi-fi) is available.
- There is a play area for early childhood development.
- There is a challenge with the sewerage pipes, hence the toilets were out of order.

(b) Library Profile

The library is situated at Mbuzini under Inkosi Mlambo II. It is next to the Samora Machel Monument and is accessible to five (5) primary schools and two (2) secondary schools. The library was intended to serve the community of Mbuzini and tourists.

It was built by the then National Department of Arts and Technology in 2002 as phase 2 of the Samora Machel Monument. It was officially handed over to the community in 2006.

(c) Functionality

The Committee verified that the library was functional and is used by the community. One (1) full time qualified librarian was provided by the municipality and one (1) library assistant was provided by the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (DCSR). Furthermore, the municipality provided one (1) cleaner, one (1) gardener and one (1) Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) staff.

The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation informed the Committee that they had facilitated the following:

- Purchase of books and library furniture;
- Provision of internet connectivity for library users;
- Provision of computers;
- Installation and connection of SLIMS system;
- Installation of security system.

The Committee was also informed that the library had participated in the World Book Day in March 2015 and the Back to School campaign in January 2015. The library is also part

of the Friends of the Library programme and also participated in the Connect @your library essay competition.

(d) Library Services and infrastructure

The Committee observed that the following services/ facilities were available in the library:

- Circulation desk
- Study area
- Shelving area
- Children's section
- Magazines/Newspaper area
- Librarian office
- Store room
- Kitchen
- Toilets
- Parking area
- Computers and internet connectivity

(e) Funding

The DCSR reported to the Committee that funding for the library was provided by the National Department of Arts and Technology in 2002 as follows:

Item Description	Amount
Contractual amount for building	R1, 358 489.00
Paving	R94 000.00
Furniture and ICT	R62 000.00

(f) Security

The Committee noted that a 24 hour security service is provided at the library, in the form of two (2) security guards.

(g) Challenges

The DCSR shared the following challenges with the Committee, which they are working on in partnership with the municipality:

- The roof is leaking;
- Toilets are not working, only one staff toilet is working;
- The security guards do not have a shelter/house;
- There is no telephone and fax service;
- Eight (8) windows need blinds;
- The library floor is not tiled;
- Security gate is not functioning properly, needs maintenance;
- Electricity connections are faulty;
- Air conditioners are not working and they are too small for the building;
- There is a shortage of water, as it is throughout the municipality.

Findings

The Committee made the following findings for the **Mbuzini Library**:

- a. The library is functioning and accessible although it has some infrastructure and operational challenges, which are being addressed by the Department and the municipality.
- b. There is a shortage of water which is a common challenge throughout the municipality. The municipality is in the process of addressing the situation in partnership with Rand Water.
- c. Only one (1) toilet out of three (3) was working at the time of the oversight visit.

Recommendations

The Committee recommended that the Department must:

- a. Continue its partnership with the municipality so that all the listed infrastructure and operational challenges at the Mbuzini Library are fully addressed for the benefit of the community.
- b. Continue to interact with the municipality regarding the provision of water to the library; ensure that the community is also kept informed of the process.
- c. Fast track the maintenance of the toilets that are not working.

4.2. MAGCEKENI COMBO COURT

The oversight visit on 25 June 2015 commenced with a briefing session at Magcekeni Primary School. The Committee interacted with the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (DCSR), the Department of Education (DOE), the school management (Deputy Principal) and the municipality (ward councilors).

(a) Observations of the Committee

The Committee made the following observations at Magcekeni Combo court:

- The construction of the combo court was not complete although the Department of Public Works; Roads and Transport was paid in full, according to the DCSR;
- The materials used in the construction of the combo court were sub-standard and the workmanship was very poor, as the court surface was cracking already;
- There were conflicting reports on the cost of the combo court, as one of the councilors alleged that the cost was about R400 000, yet the DCSR indicated that R989 000.00 had been paid to the DPWRT in the 2013/14 financial year.

- One of the ward councilors in attendance indicated that she had reported the poor state of the combo courts to the municipality;
- The Department of Education had reportedly not even been aware of the construction of the combo court at Magcekeni Primary School;
- The fact that the combo court is located within the school premises raises security concerns for the learners on the one hand, and on the other hand the community does not have access to the facility that was meant to benefit them.

(b) Infrastructure development

According to the DCSR, this combo court was built by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in the 2013/14 financial year within Magcekeni Primary school property. The DCSR reported to the Committee that an amount of R989 000.00 was paid to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT) in the 2013/14 financial year for construction of the sport combo. However, a serious concern was raised regarding the incomplete project, poor workmanship and poor materials used on the combo court. After the oversight visit, a letter was written to the MEC and HOD of the DPWRT; they were requested to submit a detailed report on the infrastructure specifications, expenditure breakdown for the sport combo court and whether any variation order was issued for the project.

According to the information from the DCSR, the Committee noted that the appointed contractor for the project was Sedtrade (PTY) Ltd. It was also clear from the DCSR information that all twelve (12) sport combo courts in the province, as constructed by the contractors during the 2013/14 financial year, were reportedly in the same poor condition. The Committee observed that the concrete court surface of Magcekeni combo court was cracked, bumpy and the markings were already wearing off. It was also noted that the markings were not according to the National Federation specifications and there was no polypropylene cover, which is a specific material to be used on the surface.

The Committee therefore remains concerned about the DCSR's poor implementation and monitoring of the sport combo courts in the Province. The DCSR as client department was requested to provide the Committee with a detailed report explaining how Magcekeni

sport combo came to be built in its current location, without the knowledge of the Department of Education. The DCSR was also requested to outline its interaction with the DPWRT from the conception of this combo court up to the construction (providing the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and proof of monitoring and evaluation done).

Findings

The Committee made the following findings on **Magcekeni Combo Court**:

- a. The DPWRT failed to implement this project successfully. The combo court is not complete; there is evidence of poor workmanship and the quality of materials used is questionable as the court surface is already cracking after less than two years. The condition of the court is deteriorating and the fence around the court was not erected.
- b. The DCSR failed to monitor the implementation of this sport combo court and the use of the money paid to the DPWRT in the 2013/14 financial year. There is no clarity as to the exact amount paid over to the DPWRT. Furthermore, all sport combo courts in the province have not been implemented and monitored properly as per the information provided by the DCSR.
- c. There was no consultation with the Department of Education regarding the construction of the combo court on the premises of Magcekeni Primary School. There is generally poor communication between the three departments (DoE, DCSR and the DPWRT).

Recommendations

The Committee recommended that:

The **DPWRT** must implement the following:

- a. Immediately instruct the contractor to finish the outstanding work on the Magcekeni combo court as per the specifications, or else recover the money for work not done.

- b. Submit the infrastructure specifications and expenditure breakdown for Magcekeni Sport combo court, including whether any variation order was granted. The DPWRT and the contractors must always be in attendance when the Portfolio Committee visits the combo courts.
- c. In conjunction with the DCSR, present a detailed technical report on the state of all combo courts in the Province. The report should clearly indicate the start and completion dates, as well as allocated budgets (contract amounts).

The **DCSR** must implement the following:

- d. Strengthen its monitoring and evaluation of this project and all other combo courts projects in the Province.
- e. Submit a full report on its interaction with the DPWRT from the conception of this combo court (providing the SLA and proof of monitoring and evaluation done on this project).
- f. Strengthen the interaction with the sport federations and the municipalities; the federations must always be in attendance when the Portfolio Committee visits the combo courts.
- g. The DCSR must provide the Committee with a detailed report explaining how Magcekeni combo came to be built in its current location, reportedly without the knowledge of the Department of Education. Also indicate how this matter of poor communication will be addressed going forward.

4.3 SCHOOL SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee also raised a concern about the lack of centralized implementation of sports infrastructure at schools. It is not clear (between the DCSR and the DOE) who is responsible for the implementation of sport infrastructure at schools.

Recommendations

The Committee recommended that the DCSR must implement the following:

- a. Provide a progress report on how it has implemented school sport programme (including infrastructure) from the 2013/14 – 2015/16 financial years and what was the allocated budgets. The report should also indicate the level of interaction (working relationship) with the Department of Education in this regard.
- b. Hold regular meetings with the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport to ensure that the implementation of combo courts and school sport infrastructure is implemented according to plan and budget.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Legislature Committees conducted two public hearings on 24 June 2015 at Mgobodzi Community Hall and at Mbangwane Thusong Centre. The following two issues relevant to the DSCR were raised:

- The community at Mbangwane requested sports grounds;
- At Mgobodzi the community raised a concern that a stadium had been promised but to date nothing has materialized.

Recommendation

The Committee recommended the following:

- a. The DCSR in consultation with the Nkomazi Local Municipality and Tribal Authority must investigate and address the above concerns raised by the communities of Mbangwane and Mgobodzi.

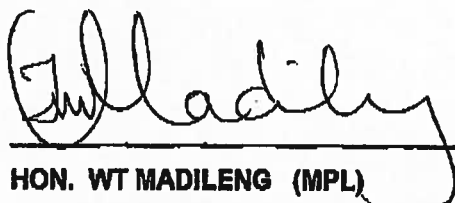
6. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Committee for their constructive input during the pre-TLP oversight visits in the Nkomazi Local Municipality.

The Committee also extends its appreciation to the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation; the Department of Education; and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport for providing the requested information on the projects. The Nkomazi Local Municipality and Tribal Authority are also appreciated for supporting the programme of the Committee.

The work done by the support staff of the Committee in ensuring the success of the pre-TLP oversight programme is also appreciated.

The Committee requests the House to adopt this report with its findings and recommendations. The department is expected to investigate all the observations and findings of the Committee in this report and implement the House Resolutions herein. A progress report must be submitted to the Legislature on or before 21 August 2015.



HON. WT MADILENG (MPL)

CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION

2015.07.14

DATE

