

**PRE-TLP OVERSIGHT VISITS REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE  
ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT HHOYI  
STIMULATION CENTRE AND CEDUSIZI DROP-IN CENTRE ON 23 AND 25  
JUNE 2015 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD)**

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## **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 TLP event, the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) undertook pre-TLP oversight visits from 23 - 25 June 2015.

Two (2) projects of the Department of Social Development (the Department) were visited and two (2) public hearings were held. 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 PRE-TLP 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 Social Development.

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 Researchers 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 Department officials to interact with the Committee during the oversight visits and to respond to the concerns of the community in the public hearings.

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 at Mbuzini Library on the findings of the two identified projects; thereafter a site inspection was conducted at Hhoyi Stimulation Centre, the first project. On 25 June 2015, the Committee visited the second project, the Cedusizi Drop-in Centre. The Committee subsequently considered and adopted its pre-TLP report on 10 July 2015.

#### **4. OBSERVATIONS**

**The Committee observed the following:**

- The infrastructure at Hhoyi Stimulation Centre is dilapidated and the environment is not conducive for children to play due to the long grass on the yard.
- The infrastructure at Cedusizi Drop-in Centre is very small but very neat and well kept. There is a garden within the centre premises that also assist with vegetables for the beneficiaries.
- Stipends paid to care givers of both centres are not in line with the Ministerial determination which is R1653-00 per person per month.

#### **5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTERS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD)**

##### **5.1 HHOYI STIMULATION CENTRE**

###### **Background**

Ms. Cecilia Mazibuko, Director: Welfare Services gave a departmental overview on the Centre. She indicated that the Centre was started in 1992 by the community members with the aim of serving children with disabilities. The Centre provides care, meals, basic skills and exercises to stimulate both the body and mind. The Centre was registered as a Non-Profit Organization (NPO) and has been funded by the Department of Social Development since 2003. It caters for children from 0-18 years old at R500-00 per month per beneficiary from the R90 000-00 allocated budget for this financial year (2015/16). There are 15 beneficiaries currently funded, however, the Centre has more than 15 beneficiaries. The Department visits the Centre once monthly for monitoring.

## **Briefing by the Centre Manager**

The Centre Manager, Ms Margaret Khoza made a presentation on the status of the Centre. The following were outlined:

- The Centre has two units, one for protective and the other one for stimulation services; stimulation is for children from 0-18 years while protective for youth and adults from 19 years and above.
- The land where the Centre is located was donated by the local chieftaincy.
- The funding provided by the Department of Social Development is limited to food; there is no provision for structural development or recreational resources.
- Currently, the Department is the sole funder; TSB previously (past 3 years) had been providing funding for the Centre but has since stopped, however, on a monthly basis is donating a 25kg bag of sugar;
- The Centre had received an amount of R20 000 from Old Mutual in October 2014; and used that money to procure crockery, office furniture and performed minor renovations in the Centre.

## **Challenges**

On her presentation, (Ms Margaret Khoza) further indicated the following challenges that:

- The structure is dilapidated, minor renovations on the structure were made in 1996 when starting the project;
- Not enough budget has been allocated to the Centre. The Centre buys water monthly with the limited budget allocated for food;
- Most volunteers serving at the Centre had left due to lack of stipend; however, there is one volunteer who is still working at the centre (started in 2005);

- The Centre does not have a computer nor copier machine for administration purposes (mostly for updating and processing their business plan);
- The Centre does not have proper fencing; this compromises the safety and security of the staff and the beneficiaries.

### **Comments by the Committee**

#### **Water supply**

The Committee noted that the Centre has a challenge with water; they spent at least R1200-00 on water quarterly. The Committee also noted that the Centre has a JOJO tank but it is not functional. The Committee advised the Centre and the Department to engage the local municipality to install a borehole at the Centre. The Department reported that the Centre cannot install a borehole due to the proximity of pit toilets in the area which will contaminate the water and result to water borne diseases.

#### **Budget allocated**

It was reported that the budget allocated to the Centre by the Department was very limited. The Committee wanted to know the amount that has been allocated for daily operations of the Centre. The Department reported that the Centre receives subsidy from DSD, which is R90 000.00 per annum, the budget is used for paying stipend for the personnel at R500-00 per month which is below the minimum norm of R1653-00, nutrition and programme implementation at R500-00 per child per month. The Department indicated that the last increase from R300-00 to R500-00 per child per month was last made in 2013/14 financial year. There has never been an increase since then; the allocation remained the same due to budget constraints experienced by the Department. The Committee advised the Centre to have a vegetable garden and to approach the Department

of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs for assistance in this regard (subsidizing) with nutrition.

The Committee noted that the Centre was previously funded by TSB which has since stopped and wanted the reason thereof. The Department reported that TSB sponsorship was only for a period of three (3) years, from 2006 to 2008; their focus currently is on other organizations within the municipality.

### **Temporary Closure**

From the research analysis briefing, the Committee learnt that the Centre was closed when the Researcher was conducting her research. The Department was requested to explain the reasons for the temporary closure of the centre. The Department responded by indicating that the Departmental funding reprioritization process led to delays in finalization the budget allocation; hence the delays in transfers. The first quarter tranche was deposited into their account on 03 June 2015. The transfer was returned due to the suspension of their bank account; the Centre was thereafter notified to rectify and the matter was resolved.

### **Infrastructure development**

The Committee noted that the Centre's building is dilapidated and the ablution facilities are in a bad condition and requested the Department to consider renovating the structure. The Committee also raised a concern that the Centre is not well taken care off (dirty) by its management. The Department reported that the local municipality has been contacted to assist in the provision of suitable toilets. The Department is also supporting the centre by sourcing funding to address the challenges identified. The Department further indicated that the Centre is earmarked for the International Mandela Day activities.

### **Safety and Security**

The Committee wanted to know what safety and security measures have been put in place to ensure safety in the Centre as it was evident that the fencing is no longer in good condition. The Department reported that the facility has a fence though is no longer in a good condition; however attempts have been made by the Centre to improve the security (by locking the gate). The Department further indicated that for safety sake, the children are not divided according to age or gender but divided according to the functional level of their disability.

### **Water and Electricity (Rates)**

With the limited budget allocation, the Committee wanted to know who is responsible for the municipal rates. The Department reported that the Centre is responsible for the payment of water and electricity using the budget allocated to it. The Committee advised the management of the Centre to engage the municipality to assist on this matter.

### **Parents' Involvement**

The Committee enquired whether the parents are involved in looking after the children at the Centre. The Department reported that the parents are involved and they form part of the executive committee, the decision making body.

### **Training for care givers**

The Committee wanted to know what has been done by the Department in terms of capacitating the care givers. The Department reported that the care workers continuously undergo training conducted by the Department of Social Development. In 2014, the Centre was trained on care giver's programme and guidelines for stimulation Centres. The Centre committee also forms part of the sub district and district forum sessions which are held quarterly where information about governance is shared. Other stakeholders like Mpumalanga Association for Persons with Disability (MAPD) do provide training on financial management once per quarter.

## **Recreational and Stimulation Resources**

The Committee enquired about the availability and use of recreational and stimulation resources in the Centre. The Department reported that the Centre has toys and developmental programmes to stimulate children, however; they are not enough to meet the needs of the children. The Department further reported that due to capacity challenge, the Centre is unable to fully implement its programmes.

## **Findings**

After the interaction with the Department and the Centre management, the Committee found that:

- a. The budget allocation by the Department is not enough to cater the centre's needs as it is limited to food and care givers stipend only;
- b. The Centre structure is dilapidated and the toilets are in a bad condition;
- c. The Centre spends at least R1200-00 quarterly on water;
- d. The Centre is not properly fenced;
- e. The yard is big, however not utilized by the Centre for a play area nor a vegetation garden.

## **Recommendations**

After the deliberations and the in loco inspection, the Committee recommended that the Department must:

- a. Consider increasing the budget allocation and also strengthen the monitoring system during the adjustment budget process;
- b. Ensure that the structure is renovated as it is earmarked for the 67 minutes for Mandela day. The ablution facilities should also be provided before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (31 September 2015);
- c. Engage the Nkomazi Local Municipality to provide free water and electricity for the Centre before 31 September 2015;



- d. Ensure that the Centre is properly fenced through donors before 31 September 2015;
- e. Assist the Centre to start a vegetable garden by involving the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs within the premises of the Centre before 31 July 2015.

## **5.2 CEDUSIZI DROP-IN CENTRE**

### **Background**

The Director: Welfare Services, Ms. Zodwa Maseko, gave a Departmental overview on the Centre. She indicated that Cedusizi Drop-in Centre (project) started in 2006; in 2010 a site was bought whereby the community built the structure through fundraising. Thereafter they were moved to occupy the new site. The Centre services more than 150 children but funded for 50 beneficiaries. Cedusizi Drop-In Center was allocated higher budget than the other drop-in centres with the same number of beneficiaries within Nkomazi and it was R570 000-00. The other centres similar to this one were allocated R450 000-00.

The Centre is run by the Centre Manager Ms. Smangele Shabangu and assisted by 19 assistants who cook, clean and do some garden work on rotational basis. Beneficiaries range from age 7 to 18 years come to the Centre after school from neighboring schools. They receive meals, assisted with homework and some assisted with laundry every Wednesdays and Fridays.

The women at the Centre have a vegetable garden that assists the beneficiaries with nutritional food, some of the produce is sold and the money is used to benefit the Centre.

The Centre has been allocated a young lady from the United States of America (USA) on a Peace Corp Volunteering mission. She also assists transferring

computer skills to the Centre. She also assists the children at the Centre with health talks. She is currently accommodated by one family in the area.

### **Briefing by the Centre Manager**

The Centre manager, Ms Smangele Shabangu made presentation on the status of the Centre. She indicated that the Centre:

- Has been funded by the Department of Social Development since 2010 till to date, except for year 2013 due to the Department's limited finances. The Centre depended on fundraising and the money from the sale of the produce from their vegetable garden.
- Received a donation from the MEC and with that donation they managed to buy a JOJO tank, stove and other appliances.
- Is very small and has limited resources such as tables, chairs and equipment.
- Has a thriving vegetable garden but has a challenge with water supply.
- Appreciated that there are some community members that at times would make some donation to the Centre.

### **Comments by the Committee**

#### **Funding**

As this Centre has received more budget than the other centres, the Committee wanted to know why the Centre was not funded in 2013. The Department reported that Qedusizi Drop-in- Centre has been funded for the past three years. When they initially applied for funding, they had to wait for a year before they were funded. This was due to the insufficient budget that was allocated to the DSD to fund all new NPOs.

Generally, the Department experiences challenge with organizations that fail to account appropriately for the funding received. In such cases, the Department would suspend the funding until such time that it has satisfied itself that the budget allocated to an NPO has been used according to what was agreed upon in the Service Level Agreement.

### **Financial management**

The committee appreciated the Centre management for the upkeep of the Centre; the Committee then enquired whether training on financial management has been provided to ensure proper management of funds. The Department reported that the centre is supported to manage its funds appropriately. The Committee was not satisfied with the response and requested the DSD to capacitate the management of the Centre on financial management and other related skills that would benefit the Centre.

A general response was provided that NPOs are also exposed to financial management training provided by Community Development Practitioners and the Subsidy Section of the Department to assist them to manage their finances accordingly. They are also given guidance on the breakdown of what the subsidy is meant for. Again caregivers are exposed to accredited training that empowers them to apply for other job opportunities.

The Department further stated that it has noted with concern that organizations that are found to be misusing the subsidy; hence the change from two (2) tranches yearly to quarterly payments to minimize the risk and temptation to misuse the funds. An organization is expected to submit a report on how it has used the allocated budget before they can receive the next tranche.

## **Social welfare**

Noting that the Centre is located in an area very close to Swaziland and Mozambique borders, the Committee wanted to know how the Department has been assisting children visiting the Centre without relevant documentations. The Department reported that Social Workers work very closely with the NPO to assist children who are in need of documentation. This includes writing reports to the Department of Home Affairs to support the application for documentation. However, it has been observed that the majority of children in the Nkomazi area are originally from Mozambique and Swaziland and their parents do not have the legal documents to be in South Africa. In such instances, the report of the Social Worker is not enough to convince the Department of Home Affairs to issue documentation for the children as proper investigation is required.

## **Stipend**

The Committee asked how much stipend is paid to the care givers (per person) and the department reported that, the caregivers receive a stipend of R1100-00 per month. The Department transfers funding to the NPO and the care givers are then paid by the NPO. The Department further acknowledged that this is not enough given the work done by the caregivers. Limited budget prevents the Department from giving stipend that is in line with the Ministerial determination.

NPOs are required to provide an expenditure report and also submit a stipend register as proof of payment.

## **Findings**

After the interaction with the Department and the Centre management, the Committee found that:

- a. The Centre is very small with no kitchen;
- b. There are limited recourses, not sufficient tables and chairs;
- c. No recreational facilities;
- d. The Centre only has two toilets servicing more than 150 individuals;

## **Recommendations**

After the deliberations and the in loco inspection, the Committee recommended that the Department must:

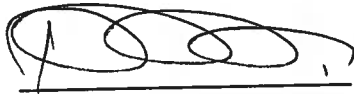
- a. Assist the Centre to generate funds in order to address all the findings mentioned above.
- b. To ensure that the recommendation is achieved, local business people should be engaged to assist the Centre since the department is faced with the budgetary constraints.

The Department should provide a progress report on the implementation of House resolutions before **31 August 2015**.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their participation and contributions during the deliberations on the Pre-TLP site visits and public hearings. The Chairperson further extends her appreciation to the Department of Social Development as well as the Nkomazi Local Municipality and Traditional Leaders for supporting the programme of the Committee.

Lastly, she also wishes to thank the Legislature support staff for supporting the Committee during the Pre-TLP.



**HON. P NGOBENI**

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

17/07/15

**DATE**