

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

EMALAHLENI TLP REPORT ON ELDERLY PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT HELD ON 15 MARCH 2018.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Legislature is duly vested with the mandate to maintain oversight on provincial executive authority and any organ of state and to ensure that they are accountable to it, in compliance with section 114 of the constitution. The legislature is independent and performs its functions impartially without prejudice as enshrined in the rule of law.

In terms of Standing Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature 2017, 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 the spirit of promoting 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 summons, 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. THEME

“Improved Socio-Economic Livelihoods: Advancing Madiba’s Legacy”

3. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the engagement was to allow the stakeholders through the Select Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities (PWD) to:

- Assess service delivery by departments in improving the lives of elderly people and people with disabilities.
- Educate and share information with the elderly people and people with disabilities to create a platform for them to interact with different stakeholders on government issues that affect their daily lives.

4. METHOD OF WORK

The Task Team (Coordinators) was then established and assigned a function to work on the hosting of the Elderly People and People with disabilities stakeholders at Malaheni Municipality on 15 March 2018. Subsequently, the committee met on 02 May 2018 to consider and adopt its draft TLP report.

The mobilisation was targeting the attendance of one hundred (100) participants. The allocation for the Stakeholder Engagement 2018 was structured as indicated in the table below:

STAKEHOLDERS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Centre Manager	10
People with Disability	30
Elderly People	30
Nkangala district Local Municipality	10
Department of Health	10
Department Social Development/SASSA	10
TOTAL	100

5. REMARKS BY THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE

The chairperson welcomed all participants to Stakeholder Engagement Session on behalf of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. He reiterated the fact that the Legislature is guided by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and in fulfilling its core mandate of Oversight, Law-Making and to facilitate Public Involvement.

The Mpumalanga Legislature, through this Stakeholder Engagement called upon Elderly People and People with disabilities to work with government to ensure that they live in decent homes, communities with roads, electricity, water and recreational facilities. The Chairperson requested both stakeholders to raise all issues that they encounter and make their lives difficult. Furthermore, government departments were urged to provide services as expected and the Committee promised to monitor and hold the Executive accountable as well as local municipalities through the Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The following were outlined as guidance to the expected questions and clarity to be raised:

- The spate of gender based violence against elderly people and people with disabilities.
- Drug and alcohol abuse.
- Elderly people and HIV & AIDS due to taking care of their grand children
- Access to quality life style, water, less rates and electricity.
- Problems faced in hospitals and ill treatment received from government institutions.
- Killing of people with albinism for muthi.

6. ISSUES AFFECTING THE TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS

6.1. The elderly people raised the following issues:

- Standing in queues for long to be assisted by doctors and sometimes turned back to come the next day.
- Mr. Mncube from Clewer raised a concern regarding sponsorship for Gogo's and Mkhululu's from Vukuzakhe.
- Mr. Mthimkhulu requested the department of Health to frequently conduct unannounced visits to the Hospitals and Clinics as elderly people are suffering and ill-treated and that the service was not good at all.
- Transport to the clinic for check-ups and collection of medication is problematic and a request was made for mobile clinics that will visit all centers.
- Visibility of police during grant collection was requested as loan sharks take people's IDs and grant cards.
- Mrs. Thamaga raised a concern about the attitude of government officials when visiting offices and that the situation was very bad.

6.2. Issues Affecting People With Disability

The following issues were raised:

- Jabu request the safety of people with disabilities and Albinism.
- Monitoring of centers specially food, conducive environment, grant money being taken by the owners of the Centre.
- Assistance with Job opportunities because when PWD and people with albinism apply there are no responses or short listing due to their physical challenges.
- Physiotherapy and social work to visit all centers to assist those who need exercises.
- Transport request to the clinics for check-ups and collection of medication.
- Zandile Malaza request the department of Social development to increase the sunscreen cream; SPF 25 and above as the current is low and not assist.

People with albinism should use sunscreens labelled SPF of 20 to 30. "SPF" means "sun protection factor." This number comes from a standard test in a laboratory.

(Source: National Organization for Albinism & Hypopigmentation (NOAH))

- People with Albinism are forced to leave school prematurely as they do not see properly due to their condition and teachers do not understand their condition.
- Thembelihle Protective Workshop requested a donation of Computers and books for their Adult-Based Education and Training (ABET) Class.
- Mr. Patrick Mahlakwane indicated that the government must fast track the establishment of the provincial school people with disabilities as promised by the Premier during SOPA.

6.3 Municipality Issues

- High rates from municipality and inconsistency billing system.
- The electricity and water-cuts for weeks without the municipality informing them of the problem.
- Jane raised a concern regarding a neighbor who has a kraal of goats and cattle which affect her hygiene as it stinks.

- Jacob raised a concern that about houses that are being sold while owners have tittle deeds.

7. RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED

7.1. Department of Social Development

In responding, the MEC indicated that the Department of Social Development will visit all Centers around Emalahleni Local Municipality and indicated some challenges that occurred previously where non-funded Centers managers did not allow them in. She further requested the farm dweller who assist Elderly people with food and accommodation to register for funding

Furthermore, she requested all people to stop taking orphans and register them as legal guardians or parents to stop accessing their grant for their personal needs as all orphans qualify to get the grant and food parcels.

7.2. Nkangala District Municipality

In responding, the Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality indicated that elderly people must register for the less rates of indigent electricity and condemned illegal connections of electricity. She further indicted that municipality is busy fixing the potholes and street lights. Owners of RDP houses who need their tittle deeds will be given their title deeds in due course.

She further indicated that the problem of the neighbor's kraal will be visited as the municipality has identified land for grazing so that farmers can place their livestock.

8. FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The municipality rates on services and the billing system is too high for elderly people and the unemployed.
- 2) People with albinism are not safe and afraid to socialize freely due to the ongoing killings of people with albinism.
- 3) The body-cream provided by the department has less SPF which does not assist people with albinism.
- 4) Elderly people do not receive warm treatment from clinics and hospitals.

5) Loan sharks takes Elderly people's IDs and grant cards.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Emalahleni Municipality must ensure that the elderly people and the unemployed are put in the indigent register of the municipality.
- 2) The Department of Social Development must collaborate with other departments and relevant stakeholders such as SAPS, Traditional Leaders, Traditional Healers and Churches to combat the killing of people with albinism by:
 - Holding summits
 - Conducting awareness campaigns
 - Develop regulations and laws on Albinism
- 3) Department must provide quality sun barrier cream with at least SPF 25 and above which will not be classified under cosmetics.
- 4) The Department of Health and Social Development must ensure that community meetings are conducted in all Districts as a matter of urgency to address the problem around the ill-treatment of elderly people in government institutions as well as:
 - conduct customer satisfactions surveys and
 - check whether complain-boxes exist and the timeous feedback thereof.
- 5) The department of Social Development together with SASSA must ensure the visibility of police in pay-points and conduct awareness on loan sharks that exploit the elderly people.

10. CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chairperson thanked all the Honourable Members of the Legislature, MEC BP Shiba, the Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality, the Department of Health, the support staff of the Mpumalanga Legislature, the Department of Social Development, Emalahleni Local Municipality and all role players who contributed in the preparations towards the successful hosting of the 2018 Elderly People and People with Disabilities Stakeholder Engagement meeting.

This Committee report on Stakeholder Engagement 2018 is hereby tabled to the House with a request to adopt it with the recommendations for implementation by the respective Departments. A progress report must be tabled to the Committee by no later than 29 June 2018.



HON AM GAMEDE (MPL)

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

22/05/2018
DATE