

PRE-TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED AT ACORNHOEK MILITARY VETERAN PROJECT BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON 29 JANUARY 2016 AT - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) has a mandate in terms of Rule 119 of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature to conduct oversight over the Department of Human Settlements (the department) by holding it accountable through various measures which the Portfolio Committee may undertake during the course of a financial year.

One of the instruments that enable the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements; Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs to execute its mandate is to conduct public hearings and oversight visits to human settlements housing projects in the Province.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PRE-SITE VISIT

The purpose of the pre-site visit was to assess the progress made on the Military Housing Veteran Project.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the Pre- TLP, the research section conducted pre-site visits at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality during January 2016. A comprehensive research report was compiled that informed the Committee's programme for the Pre- TLP. The Social Cluster was briefed on the findings by the researchers on 28 January 2016.

After the approval of the Legislature programme, the Committee informed the Department about the oversight visits to be conducted and the purpose thereof. Invitations were sent to the Department and the Municipality requesting them to be part of the visit. On 29 January 2016, the Committee conducted the oversight visit at Acornhoek Military Veteran Project. During the pre-site visit, the Committee was represented by Honourable Members of the Social Cluster from the Legislature, officials from the Office of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The Department was represented by the Senior Officials of the Department and officials from the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. Other invited stake holders who were part of the oversight visit were Local Councillors.

On 09 February 2016 the Committee considered the draft report.

4. OBSERVATIONS

- ❖ The Committee appreciated the finalisation of some of the military veteran's houses and the constructions of some houses that is underway.
- ❖ There are no starting and completion dates on presentation made by the Department on the two Military Veterans projects mentioned below.

5. MILITARY VETERANS PROJECT

The Military Veteran Housing Project is located in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM). It was reported that the project is aimed at providing houses for military veterans in collaboration with the Department of Military Veterans (DMV). The Department of Human Settlements provides R 110 000 and the Department of Military Veterans provides R78 884 per house.

The Department reported that the houses are 50 square metres in size and cost R 188 884 each, the floors are all tiled and the kitchens are fitted with cupboards and an electric stove. The houses are provided with a perimeter fence and a carport.

The Scope of the project is as follows;

Construction of 10 houses for Military Veterans

Project contract value	R 2 000 003
Contractor	Mathayela Construction
Duration	Six months
Houses completed	10 with a total expenditure of R1 013 818

Construction of 8 houses for Military Veterans

Project contract value	R 1 405 681
Contractor	Lwakithi JV
Duration	Six months
Houses completed	8 with a total expenditure of R667 699

5.1. CHALLENGES RAISED BY THE DEPARTMENT

The Department reported that the project has experienced challenges which affected the construction progress negatively. The challenges were as follows;

- Finalisation of the verification of the beneficiaries on the database;
- Shortage of water in the area, however, it was reported that the municipality is addressing it by providing water on a regular basis;
- Lwakithi project was initially allocated in Thaba Chweu Municipality but had to be relocated to Bushbuckridge Municipality due to unavailability of beneficiaries.

The contractor was granted an extension of his contract period to March 2016.

5.2. SITE INSPECTION

The owner of the Military Veteran house by the name of Bishop Maluka reported that he was pleased with the house given to him and thanked the government for giving him a chance to live a better life and indicated the following challenges;

- Gate not completed;
- Garage slab not properly connected;
- Kitchen pipe broken inside;
- No kitchen sewage;
- One tap in the kitchen;
- Guardsers pipe are halfway
- Doors not well fitted;
- No geyser;
- No bathroom;
- Toilet seat not well fitted.
- Carport too high;
- Not enough plugs in the house, especially for stove.

6. Findings made by the Committee

After the interaction, the Committee found that:

- a) The verification of the beneficiaries on the database has not been completed;
- b) There is shortage of water, in the area, however, the Department indicated that the municipality is providing it on a regular basis;
- c) There are no starting and completion dates on the projects; however, the Lwakithi Contractor has been granted an extension of his contract to end of March 2016 ;

- d) The houses were completed but still lack essential features such as geyser and a bathroom to mention a few;
- e) Some houses have been handed over without having the items outlined on 5.2 above; namely; Gate not completed; garage slab not properly connected; Kitchen pipe broken inside; no kitchen sewage; taps are not in the house, there is only one tap in the kitchen; guarders pipe are halfway, doors not well fitted; no geyser; No bathroom; toilet seat not well fitted, Carport too high and not enough plugs in the house, especially for stove.

7. Recommendations made by the Committee

After the findings the Committee recommended that the Department must:

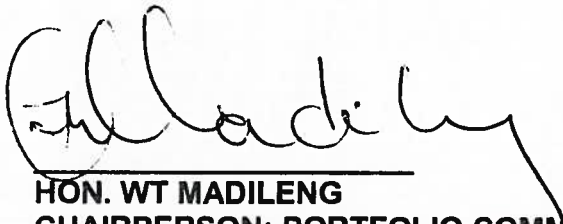
- a) Fast-track the verification of the beneficiaries on the database for speedy service delivery.
- b) Encourage the municipality to continue providing water as this will assist the Department to fast-track the delivery of the housing projects;
- c) Ensure the contract period does not escalate to another financial year as this would have negative impact on the budget of the Department.
- d) Addresses the challenges raised by one of the owners' to all the other affected houses a detailed report be submitted to the Legislature by 23 February 2016.
- e) No houses must be handed over without having all the items mentioned on finding (e). The Department must also enhance the monitoring system to ensure that finding (e) is complied with.

A progress report should be submitted to the Legislature on or before 23 February 2016.

8. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their sterling participation and input during the deliberations on the Pre-TLP site visits. The Chairperson further extends his appreciation to the Department of Human Settlements, South African Local Government Association (SALGA) as well as the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality for supporting the programme of the Committee.

Lastly, he also wishes to thank the Legislature support staff for supporting the Committee during the Pre-TLP. The Chairperson requests the august House to adopt the report with its recommendations.



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

16/02/2016
DATE