

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PETITIONS

ON

Parliament for People with Disabilities 2013

29 November 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item Definition	Page
Introduction	3
Theme	3
Objectives	3
Methodology	4
Plenary Inputs	4
Findings	8
Recommendations	9
Conclusion	9

1.INTRODUCTION

In terms of section 114(2)(a)(b), the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Legislature) must provide mechanisms to maintain oversight of the provincial executive authority in the province with administration giving the necessary support. The Legislature has thus taken a decision, through the Select Committee on Public Participation and Petitions Committee (the Committee), to host a 2013 Parliament for People with Disabilities. The sectoral parliament was hosted under the theme "Breaking barriers, open doors for inclusive society for all".

2.OBJECTIVES

As part of strengthening the oversight role of the Legislature, the strategic objectives of the project were *inter alia*:

- To do oversight on matters of disability;
- To educate and share information with the citizens of the Province on issues of disability; and
- To facilitate participation of the disability sector in evaluating progress made on issues relating to people with disabilities.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee sat on 12 November 2013 to approve a concept document which contained among other things the date of the event which was the 29 November 2013. On 25 November a preparatory meeting with both internal and external stakeholders was held to iron up matters for concern and way forward.

- The programme started around 10:00, the Chairperson, Honourable RC Mkasi made a keynote address and Honourable MSA Masango, chaired the programme.
- Commissions with resource persons thereafter followed to allow participants in depth understanding and engagement on the following thematic areas:

4. PLENARY INPUTS

- 4.1** The plenary noted that:-
- 4.1.1** South Africa is a constitutional democracy where the constitution is a supreme law;
 - 4.1.2** The constitution guarantees the right of every citizens to vote and that in every after five years elections should be conducted;
 - 4.1.3** People died to achieve this Democracy and therefore it is imperative to defend it;
 - 4.1.4** The constitution has opened the gains of freedom of association and freedom of speech and equal rights are enshrined in the Bill of Rights;
 - 4.1.5** Disabled people are given special treatment and status through various laws as vulnerable;
 - 4.1.6** The disabled community can now access grants through the social security system;
 - 4.1.7** There are legislation that guarantees economic empowerment for disable people;
 - 4.1.8** The access to government building and amenities is now available since they enjoy sleeping in hotels;
 - 4.1.9** Voter apathy is increasing among people of South Africa and particularly young people;
 - 4.1.10** That these gains of freedom should be defended by all.

- 4.1.11** There is no enough education or nominal, if any, to educate the youth on how democracy was achieved;
- 4.1.12** Our people are not educated on what democracy is all about;
- 4.1.13** IEC does conduct training for the disabled organisations only during the elections.
- 4.1.14** Whenever tests for HIV/AIDS are done, there are no sign language interpreter and no braille documents when results come back;
- 4.1.15** Condoms do not have braille for expiry date thus compromise privacy of blind people;
- 4.1.16** Insufficient help desks in government institutions;
- 4.1.17** For those taking medication, it becomes difficult whenever the assistance is not around;
- 4.1.18** Improper handling of cases by SAPS, and the Department of Justice;
- 4.1.19** No accessible transport for people with disabilities;
- 4.1.20** There are few government departments that meet the 2% employment equity target while majority and private sector does not;
- 4.1.21** There is low self esteem among People with disabilities;
- 4.1.22** People with disabilities are not promoted in the work place;

4.1.23 ABET not accessible for people with disabilities;

4.1.24 The constitution guarantees rights of all citizens including people with disabilities

4.1.25 People with disabilities are used by fronting companies to get government tenders thereafter they don't benefit from the proceeds of the business

4.2 The plenary resolved that the Committee considers the following:-

4.2.1 Sector orientated workshops should continuously be organised by IEC to empower the disability people;

4.2.2 Democracy education should be intensified by the Legislature and the Department of Education;

4.2.3 The Legislature must intensify its democracy education and build relationship with organisation of people with disabilities;

4.2.4 Business people must stop using disabled people as fronting;

4.2.5 That information with regard to registration to the voters roll should be disseminated to the disabled people through proper channels

4.2.6 That all government department must meet the 2% of employment as stipulated by the EE Act should be fast-track to build confidence in the youth of the disabled;

4.2.7 Councillors should assist in the local frustrations of people with disabilities;

4.2.8 The different organisations of disable people should run workshops that are geared to educate about the importance of defending democracy.

- 4.2.9 That freedom should be defended by going to vote in the coming elections.
- 4.2.10 The Department of Health should produce documents that are brailled whenever results for HIV/AIDS are communicated as well sign language interpreters;
- 4.2.11 The Department of Health should produce condoms brailled expiry date
- 4.2.12 Government should prioritise help desks in government institutions;
- 4.2.13 The Department of Health should introduce shapes for those taking medication, for cases when the assistant person is not around;
- 4.2.14 The Department of Justice and SAPS should be trained in handling of cases blinds and deaf people;
- 4.2.15 The Department of Public Works; Roads and Transport should fast track accessibility on transport for us;
- 4.2.16 The government should prioritise the appointment of illiterate disabled persons in jobs like EPWP, Siyatentela etc;
- 4.2.17 The Department of Social Development should develop programmes to boost confidence for people with disabilities;
- 4.2.18 The Department of Education should take care of people with especially on ABET programme;
- 4.2.19 The Office of the Premier should mainstream disability to all departments;

4.2.20 The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature must do more oversight on government to ensure the achievement of the 2% employment equity target for people with disabilities;

5. FINDINGS

After deliberations the committee made the following findings

5.1.1 People with disabilities understand the gains of freedom and democracy thus they value their role in defending them.

5.1.2 There is voter apathy increase among people of South Africa and particularly young people;

5.1.3 Some of our people are not educated on what democracy is all about;

5.1.4 There are few government departments that meet the 2% employment equity target while majority and private sector does not;

5.1.5 ABET not accessible for people with disabilities;

5.1.6 People with disabilities are used by fronting companies to get government tenders thereafter they don't benefit.

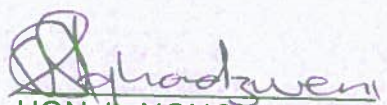
6. RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that

- 6.1.1 That the Legislature and IEC counter voter apathy increase among people of South Africa and particularly young people through democracy and voter education programmes;
- 6.1.2 The Legislature intensify its oversight so that government departments meet the 2% employment equity target or punish those who do not comply;
- 6.1.3 The Department of Education must make ABET accessible to all;
- 6.1.4 Legislature must pass a law that criminalises the use of people with disabilities by fronting companies.

7. CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chairperson would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Legislature, religious community and, the Department of Sport, Recreation Arts and Culture who showed commitment in the preparation of the Religious Parliament of 2013.


HON J.L. NGHONDZWANI

CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PETITIONS

14.10.2014
DATE