

**REPORT OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT; CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS ON THE TLP CONDUCTED AT THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON 17-21 SEPTEMBER 2013- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlement; Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) has a constitutional mandate to oversee the Department of Human Settlement and Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Departments) respectively in exercising their powers and the performance of their functions - read s 133 (2) and s 115 (a) & (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996 (the Constitution).

As a matter of fact and law, both departments have a responsibility to foster intergovernmental relations within the three spheres of government without encroaching on the geographical, functional or institutional integrity of government in another sphere, in accordance with s 41 (1) (g) of the Constitution.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT**

The purpose of the oversight visit at Thembisile Hani Local Municipality was to verify the progress made in regard to issues raised by the people in respect of service delivery during the Pre-TLP.

## **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The researchers conducted project verification on 29 and 30 August 2013 at Thembisile Hani Municipality. Comprehensive research reports were compiled and the Social Transformation Cluster Committees were briefed on the findings that informed the Committee's programme for the TLP.

In ensuring that public participation and involvement take place, the Committee invited the Department of Human Settlement, Department of Cooperative Governance, SALGA, Traditional Leaders and other relevant stakeholders to be part of the oversight visit which was conducted on 17 and 19 September 2013.

The Social Transformation Cluster Committees conducted a public hearing at Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (Kwaggafontein Stadium) on 17 September 2013.

On 19 September 2013, the Social Cluster conducted oversight visits at Verena C and Verena D to verify the houses of Sihlule and Phahla families as part of the 100 houses built during the 2012/13 financial year.

#### **4. PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS DURING THE PRE-TLP**

The department did not respond to the House resolution in respect of the concerns raised by communities during the public hearings and oversight visit conducted during the pre-TLP.

##### **4.1 Recommendations**

Since the department failed to submit the progress report on the implementation of House resolutions on the Pre-TLP conducted during 18-21 June 2013, the committee recommends that the department must provide reasons for the failure. The department must provide the progress report by 29 November 2013.

#### **5. OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE HOUSING PROJECTS AT VERENA C AND D KWAGGAFONTEIN**

The committee met at Verena Multipurpose Centre for a briefing by the department. The department was represented by Mr. Thobi Mnisi, who is a Director. He briefed the committee on the housing projects that are at Verena C and D. His briefing was as follows:

- The Department of Human Settlement allocated 960 PHP units in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality;
- The allocation was divided into the following villages: Suncity A,B,C, Thokoza, Vezubuhle, Engwenyameni, Chris Hani, Buhlebesizwe, Kwaggafontein B,C, Tweefontein E, Verena A,B,C, Wolvenkop and Moloto North and South;
- The MRTT learners were utilized to build the units;
- 224 temporary jobs were created by appointing local labourers;
- Material such as sand and stones were purchased from the local suppliers;
- Donkey carts were used to transport water and materials to areas without proper roads (job creation);
- The beneficiaries were capacitated during the facilitation workshops;
- The units visited were constructed by Multiyende and Fendezi Consulting, all 200 units were completed;
- The units were prioritized as follows: Elderly, Child headed families and People living with disabilities.

## **6.1 Findings at Verena D**

The committee visited one house, for the Sihlule family that is headed by an elderly person (grand- mother) to assess the status of the house built at Verena D. During the site inspection the committee found the following:

- a. The house was of poor quality;
- b. A proper inspection was not conducted accordingly by the departmental inspectors; thus there were so many defects in the house;
- c. The contractor used layer of a single brick; thus there is water seepage;
- d. The electrical wiring was not properly done;
- e. The toilet set was not provided;

## **6.2 Recommendations**

The Committee recommends that the department must secure funds for improvements to all the houses built at Verena D. The department must further:

- a. Ensure that the external walls are plastered to prevent rain water penetrating through the walls during the rainy season
- b. Provide VIP toilets for all the houses built;
- c. Ensure that the electrification is properly done;
- d. Ensure that when inspections are conducted; it must be according to specification and quality before approving all houses.

## **6.3 Findings at Verena C**

The Committee also visited one house for the Phahla family which is headed by an orphan, Ms Banki Phahla, to assess the status of the house built at Verena C. During the oversight visit, it was noted that the contractor performed well. Having interviewed the owner and inspected the house, the committee found that:

- a. The house was of good quality;
- b. There were no complaints from the beneficiary except one minor issue that the door lock is not properly working;
- c. The electric wires were not inserted in the electric pipes as that might cause problems in the future.

## **6.4. Recommendations**

The Committee commended the contractor for the good work done and recommends that the department must:

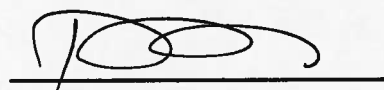
- a. Ensure that the door locker is fixed;
- b. Ensure that the electric wires are inserted in the electric pipes;
- c. Re-visit the family to verify the work done by the contractor as she undertook to fix everything within a week;
- d. The House to adopt the report with its recommendations.

**A progress report must be provided by or before end of 31 January 2014.**

## **7. CONCLUSION**

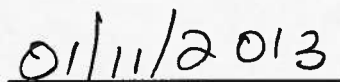
The Chairperson thanked Hon. Members of the Committee for their sterling work; the Executive Mayor; Speaker, Chief Whip of the Municipality, Councillors and the officials from the Department for their participation during the site inspections.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson thanked all the members of the Community who also participated actively during the site inspections and public hearings respectively. The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the report with its recommendations.



**HON. P NGOBENI**

**ACTING CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT & COGTA**



**DATE**