

# MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

## MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

Attention: News Editors

### **MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE EMBARKS ON AN INTENSIFIED OVERSIGHT THROUGH TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE**

From Tuesday the 09<sup>th</sup> of April 2019, the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature embarked on the programme of conducting oversight on various government funded projects through the economic and social transformation clusters of committees. This oversight activities took place as part of the programme of "Taking the Legislature to the People" in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality.

Amongst the projects visited by the Economic cluster were the God's Window that received 18 million rands in the financial year 2016/17 for upgrades in Manyeleti, God's Window and the Drie Rondawels. The work involved the development of new sites, the revamping of curio stalls, the construction of paypoints and installation of gates for access control in the God's Window. The gate installation exercise was done to also avoid people coming to the place for different reasons like committing suicide and also helping to avoid people visiting the park outside working hours without paying. Most of the upgrades were completed in 2018, except for the Skywalk that is still in the process of being built, and it is anticipated that construction will commence early in 2019. Regarding the land claim, the claimants need to sign the co-management agreement as they currently co-manage without a legitimate agreement. Graskop Police station was also visited with the challenges of no access control which is risky at night, the Station is dilapidated with no trained volunteers, and only 3 reservists and the victims support Centre that is nonfunctional.

Whilst the social transformation cluster of committees visited the nicely constructed RDP houses in Mashishing. The committee commended the Department of Human Settlement for the quality work done though there is shortage of water and electricity in the newly built RDP houses. "Shortage of RDP houses is a challenge in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. The committee also visited the Lydenburg Water Treatment Dam. Mr Elias Mahlangu, the Senior Process Controller explained the water purification process at the dam. The challenge faced by the Department of Cooperative Governance with regard to the dam is that the dam capacity is now too small for the community of Thaba Chweu. The committee also visited the Lydenburg Rusoord Frail Care Centre which accommodates 68 elderly people, funded by the Department of Social Services to care for the disabled and the elderly.

Today, the programme of Taking Legislature to the People continued with both the social and economic clusters holding the public hearings,



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where a platform was afforded to the public to raise their service delivery issues. the public took advantage of the opportunity and raised issues from the unsatisfactory service delivery issues by the local leadership, lack of training institutions for the skilling of youth, high unemployment rate of youth, the corrupt conduct of police officers who accept bribes and neglect the responsibility of protecting the public, RDP houses without ablution facilities, the nonfunctional community hall up to and including allegations of opportunities only open to the politically connected.

Look out for more updates as the week progresses.

Ends,

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