

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 27 SEPTEMBER 2016**

(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Legislature is duly vested with a mandate to maintain oversight of provincial executive authority and any organ of state and all provincial executive authority including provincial organs of state are accountable to it in compliance with section 114 of the constitution. The legislature is independent and performs its functions impartially without prejudice enshrining the rule of law.

In terms of Standing Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature 2013, 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 promotion of 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 summon subject to the rules and orders or a provincial legislation.

The Legislature seeks to establish whether provincial government delivers services effectively and efficiently within the respective local municipality areas.

2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- To access the efficient utilization of government funding and resources
- To determine the impact made by the department on the improvement of quality of life to vulnerable groups in the province
- To access the implementation of policies by the department that seeks to improve quality of life.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee invited the Department of Social Development as per the programme of the Legislature and quarterly target of the committee to an oversight visit, held 27 September 2016, to our disappointment the department never attended and the committee met with the Khanya Protective Workshop management.

4. OVERSIGHT VISIT KHANYA PROTECTIVE WORKSHOP

4.1 Background of Khanya Protective Workshop

The committee noted that Khanya Protective Workshop is a centre located at Ethandukukhanya village (Piet Retief Town) under Mkhondo Local Municipality established by disabled people who wanted to contribute to the society. The protective workshop was started by people with disabilities who came together and started producing hand crafts that can be sold and to generate income.

In 2002, Khanya Group for the Disabled was registered as Non-Profit Organisation with 15 active members. The community members are the driving force behind the group since the needs were identified by the community and the project was started in the community.

The centre is currently funded by Department of Social Development since 2002. The centre accommodates and renders services to disabled adults from the ages of 18 and above generally established for the various reasons which were aimed at fostering and fulfilling the following qualities to persons with disabilities:

- Informed and self-reliant persons with disabilities
- Protected persons with disabilities
- Healthy persons with disabilities

- Economically empowered persons with disabilities
- Improved care and quality of life for persons with disabilities
- Effective marketing of products
- Independent lifestyle
- Involved and informed families of persons with disabilities and communities
- Effective and participative management committee
- Well-managed and sustainable service
- Non-discriminatory, responsive, accessible and transparent service

Funding

The committee noted that Department of Social Development funded the workshop for the financial year 2016/17 with an amount of R54 000.00 for 15 beneficiaries. The funding is for daily operations and administration of the centre.

Achievements

Disabled adults gather at the centre where they make various handwork (crafts) which they sell to community members to raise funds for the centre. Funds raised are used to buy centre materials that are being used when doing day to day activities as well as for the maintenance of the centre.

The committee noted that the workshop sold its product during the pensioners pay-outs and that the profit made is shared amongst members.

Challenges

The committee noted that the centre currently runs its day to day activities in a small rented (1-divided room) place as they are still raising funds to build a suitable structure. They have been allocated land to construct a new place which will be suitable for the needs of people with disabilities.

5.1 FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The workshop does not have a business plan that can assist in growing its products and market for sustainability.

- 2) There is no collaboration between departments in ensuring skills transfer in terms of financial management; business management that will ensure sustainability for the long term running of this workshop.
- 3) Lack of Forums for such workshops not conducted for engagement and information sharing in ensure growth and sustainability from other developed workshop providing the same service.

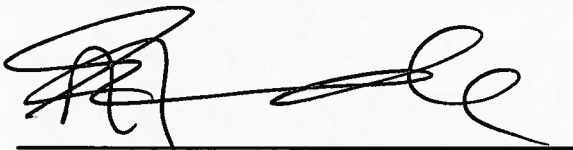
5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The department must assist the centre with a proper business plan to help secure a market for their products to boost development, growth and sustainability of the centre.
- 2) The Department must work closely with the centre to facilitate the programmes of transferring business and financial management skills in collaboration with Department of Economic Development.
- 3) Forums for such workshops should be conducted for engagement and information sharing to ensure growth and sustainability from other developed workshop providing the same service.
- 4) Progress report and action plan should be provided to the committee three weeks after the date of this meeting (27 September 2016).

5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extended his appreciation to Members of the Committee, management from Khanya protective workshop and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during the deliberations.

The Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations and progress to be provided to the committee.



HON AM GAMEDE (MPL)

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

11/10/16
DATE