

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 27 SEPTEMBER 2016  
(DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**

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## **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 OVERSIGHT VISIT**

The committee conducted the oversight visit to a project funded by department to interact with beneficiaries to establish quality service delivery.

### **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The Committee invited and met with beneficiaries of Driefontein Simunye Bakery and Department of Economic Development as per the programme of the Legislature and quarterly target of the committee to an oversight visit, held 27 September 2016 at Driefontein, Simunye Bakery and adopted the report on 11 October 2016.

### **4. OVERSIGHT VISIT TO DRIEFONTEIN SIMUNYE BAKERY**

#### **4.1 Project Background**

The committee noted that Simunye Bakery Cooperative situated at Driefontein, Ward 1 in Mkhondo Municipality is comprised of women who bake bread for the local community. It was registered and started operating in year 2000 with 100 members. Currently, the cooperative has 6 active members (4 females and 2 males) and 7 job opportunities have been created.

#### **4.2 CRDP Intervention at Simunye Bakery**

The committee noted that a meeting was coordinated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2013 in attendance by the Mkhondo Municipality, The Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism and DARDLA. The meeting resolved that other stakeholders also be invited to attend the next meeting on 07 March 2013 in order to come up with an action plan for intervening on Simunye Bakery in Driefontein.

The meeting took place 07 March 2013 and the stakeholders that attended were CWP, MRTT, Department Of Social Development, Department of Rural Development, Gert Sibande District Municipality and The department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism. The meeting took place at the Bakery site and the project beneficiaries were interviewed and they also participated in the meeting.

The stakeholders agreed that the approach to intervene on the bakery had to be two-pronged, find ways of addressing the immediate needs of the bakery by doing things that would be completed within a month and to look at the second phase that would address the long term matters.

The committee noted that since the said meeting was held, there is no progress and there is no value for money which may lead to the infrastructure being diminished or vandalized.

The committee further noted that the Department of Rural Development provided the equipment that is not utilized by the beneficiaries due to the specification and standard of the equipment that is not in line with their needs.

Though the market is there, the committee noted that it must be secured through signed agreements with, Circuit Manager for Boarding School; Social Services for Orphanage in Mkhondo and Health for Hospital for the uptake of bread.

### **Challenges**

- The non-functioning oven provided by Department of Rural Development which does not meet the need.
- Un-roadworthy vehicle that was donated in 2003 as second hand used car, to date it is reported that the car is worn out and expensive to maintain. The car is a risk and also poses a health risk for the transportation of bread.

## **5.1 FINDINGS**

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The infrastructure is conducive for production and that there is less output visa via the input in terms of value since there establishment of the bakery in 2000 it has not grown to market standard.
- 2) There is no operational plan and a business plan to help the cooperative to achieve its business objectives that will sustain the bakery for growth.
- 3) There is no proper collaborative plan between the cooperative and the department in ensuring that the bakery becomes fully operational and grow to market standard.
- 4) Market is there but there is no proper operational plan for the bakery to meet demand and no capacity even if the market can be secured with the Boarding School, Hospital and other market.
- 5) Non-functioning oven provided by Department of Rural Development which does not meet the need and demand of the bakery.

## 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The department must ensure the used of the infrastructure for production by providing management skills from other operational bakery that are successful so that the structure doesn't just loose value due to not being fully unutilized.
- 2) Department of Economic Development must help the cooperative to develop a proper business plan and proper operational plan that will be implemented and be monitored until the cooperative is in a position to sustain itself.
- 3) MEGA; Department of Rural Development; Local Municipality and other stakeholders must collaborate in ensuring that the bakery is fully operational with proper support of financial management and operational management.
- 4) The Department of Economic Development must assist the cooperative to secure the market of supplying bread with Circuit Manger for Boarding School, Department of Social development for Orphanage and Department of Health for supply to the local hospital as per the PFMA and procurement guidelines.
- 5) The Department of Rural Development must replace equipment with relevant oven that will meet the level to produce quality bread.
- 6) Each stakeholder has to provide information on what contributions they have already made to the project since its inception and whether there is a value for money.
- 7) Progress report in terms of the collaborative meeting and plan should be provided to the committee within three (3) weeks from the date of the oversight visit (27 September 2016).

## 8) CONCLUSION

The Chairperson expressed his disappointment with the Department of Economic Development on the state of the cooperative since it was officially launched, and directed them to work an extra mile in assisting the cooperative. He thanked Members of the Committee, support staff and beneficiaries from Msobotsheni Bakery for their time and participation.

The Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations and progress to be provided to the committee before the end of 2016/17 financial year.



**HON AM GAMEDE (MPL)**

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

11/10/16  
**DATE**