

# **OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION - TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE (TLP)**

## **STANWEST PUBLIC LIBRARY IN LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) event took place in Lekwa Local Municipality from 12 – 16 September 2016.

As part of the preparations for the event, the Portfolio Committee on Education; Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Committee) undertook a preliminary TLP oversight visit to Lekwa Local Municipality and visited Stanwest Public Library on 25 August 2016. The library was previously visited by the Committee during the 2011 TLP.

During the TLP, the Committee was accompanied by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Permanent Delegates, who were also conducting their Provincial Week in Lekwa Local Municipality (Gert Sibande District).

House resolutions emanating from this TLP oversight report will be referred to the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Department) for necessary interventions and report back to the Legislature.

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

The aim of the oversight visit was to assess progress made by the Department in implementing pre-TLP House Resolutions and improving overall functionality of the library.

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

The Committee adopted its pre-TLP oversight report on Stanwest Public Library on 30 August 2016 and the House Resolutions contained therein were sent to the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Department) for implementation and report back to the Legislature. The Department presented the progress report to the Committee on 14 September 2016 during the TLP week.

Invitations to the TLP visit were issued to the Hon MEC of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, the Gert Sibande District Municipality and the Lekwa Local Municipality. The Committee adopted its TLP report on 13 October 2016.

#### **4. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PRE-TLP HOUSE RESOLUTIONS**

The HOD of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Department) presented the Pre-TLP progress report to the Committee at a meeting held on 14 September 2016 at Morgenzon Public Library. The senior management of the Department was present, as well as the Lekwa Local Municipality, represented by the Head of Community Services and ward councillors.

The Committee considered the progress report on the pre-TLP House Resolutions for Stanwest Public Library, deliberating at length on each response.

##### **4.1. STANWEST PUBLIC LIBRARY**

###### ***Pre-TLP House resolutions***

- a) **House Resolution: Submit an updated progress report on the 2011 TLP House Resolutions by 09 September 2016**

**Progress report:** The Department acknowledged receipt of the 2011 House Resolutions, indicating that they were responded to as part of the August 2016 pre-TLP progress report. **Committee observation:**

*The 2011 House Resolutions that were not implemented by the time of the pre-TLP visit in August 2016 were captured in the pre-TLP House Resolutions. Thus, all House Resolutions were responded to by the Department, but not all were implemented, as reflected in finding 4.2.5. on page 5 of this Committee report.*

- b) **House Resolution: Engage the Municipality in terms of Section 4.3 of the Affiliation Agreement to activate the maintenance budget. Provide a progress report by 09 September 2016.**

**Progress report:** The Department reported that it had engaged the Municipality on 09 September 2016 through the Head of Community Services, Ms ME Hadebe.

During the TLP discussions it was confirmed that the Municipality had a maintenance budget of R1, 000, 000 (paper budget).

- c) **House Resolution: Engage the Municipality in terms of section 4.3 of the Affiliation Agreement to ensure that a service provider is appointed to install a security alarm system at the library.**

**Progress report:** The Department reported that they had discussions with the Municipality about the provision of a security alarm system, as agreed in the Affiliation Agreement entered into between the two parties (DCSR and Lekwa Local Municipality). The Municipality confirmed that the alarm system was damaged twice due to attempted break ins, therefore they took a decision to opt for physical security. Currently there is a full-time 24 hour security service to safe guard the premises.

**Committee observation:** *The response is inadequate, as the library is still in need of an alarm system in addition to the physical security, as well as a fence/wall around the library.*

- d) **House Resolution: Ensure that the air conditioner is installed and functional at the library by 31 October 2016.**

**Progress report:** The Department made a commitment that the air conditioner will be installed by 31 October 2016, as procurement processes had already started.

- e) **House Resolution: Ensure that the telephone landline facility is installed at the library by 31 October 2016.**

**Progress report:** The Department reported that a correspondence was issued to the Municipal Manager of Lekwa Local Municipality to ensure that the telephone landline is installed by 31 October 2016 as per the resolution of the Committee.

- f) **House Resolution: Investigate the feasibility of providing a librarian office and a children's section at the library.**

**Progress report:** the Department indicated that after assessing the library, it was found that it is not feasible to cater for a children's section and an office for the librarian. The Department further indicated that a new, bigger library will be constructed within the Municipality in 2018/19 financial year, that will be accessed by

a larger segment of the community and which will contain all the amenities required in terms of ideal libraries. **Committee observation:** *The Committee welcomed the Department's commitment to build a new, ideal library in Lekwa Local Municipality in the 2018/19 financial year.*

- g) **House Resolution:** Ensure that the library is always stocked with current magazine, newspapers and relevant reference books.

**Progress report:** The Department reported in the pre-TLP progress report that magazines and newspapers were provided to the library and that the library will be continually monitored to ensure that it continues to stock current material. It was further indicated that the library contained relevant reference books in the form of encyclopaedias and dictionaries.

**Committee observation:** *The Committee emphasized the importance of proper book provisioning for all libraries in the Province, not just Lekwa Local Municipality, as libraries are a central part of communities where young people can shape their world view in addition to what they learn in school.*

- h) **House Resolution:** The Department and the Municipality must ensure that the study area at the library is used only for study purposes.

**Progress report:** A notice has been put on the door leading to the study area. The librarian also ensures that users comply with this requirement by not allowing any other activity in the study area except studying. The Department made a commitment to ensure that ongoing monitoring visits are conducted to ensure compliance.

- i) **House Resolution:** The Department and the Municipality must ensure that each library in Lekwa Local Municipality has a qualified librarian, as well as trained library assistants by the end of the 2016/17 year.

**Progress report:** The Department made a commitment in the pre-TLP progress report that qualified librarians will be appointed for the Province before the end of the financial year 2016/17, utilizing conditional grant funding. Libraries within Lekwa Local Municipality with vacancies will also be prioritized in the pool of vacancies.

- j) **House Resolution: Investigate the feasibility of building another ideal library structure in Lekwa Local Municipality, similar to the one at Morgenzon.**

**Progress report:** The Department reported that it will build a new library in 2018/19 financial year within Lekwa Local Municipality, which will be accessed by a larger segment of the community; it will have all the amenities of an ideal library in terms of the Norms and Standards. An improved prototype architectural design for libraries is available and will be utilized in this regard.

## 4.2. FINDINGS

After considering the Department's responses to the pre-TLP House Resolutions (a-j above), the Committee made the following findings for **Stanwest Public Library**:

- 4.2.1. There has been a lack of progress at Stanwest Public Library. Most of the issues raised in 2011 and in August 2016 were not addressed, such as the installation of a security alarm system, telephone, landline and air-conditioner.
- 4.2.2. According to the pre-TLP progress report, the Department started procurement processes for the purchase and installation of the air conditioner and wrote to the Municipal Manager of Lekwa Local Municipality to ensure that the telephone and landline are installed by 31 October 2016.
- 4.2.3. The Committee resolved that the library does not have adequate security. It was noted that there is no fence around the library and the security alarm system has not been installed.
- 4.2.4. The leaking sewerage pipe outside the library is a health hazard to library users.
- 4.2.5. The current Affiliation Agreement between the Department and the Municipality has not been effective in that the roles and responsibilities are not clear enough to avoid grey areas and unfunded mandates.
- 4.2.6. The Department committed in the pre-TLP progress report that libraries within Lekwa Local Municipality with vacancies will be prioritized in the pool of qualified librarians to be appointed for the Province before the end of the financial year 2016/17, utilizing the available R189, 000, 000 conditional grant funding.

4.2.7. The Committee welcomed the Department's commitment to build a new, ideal library in Lekwa Local Municipality in the 2018/19 financial year, which will service a larger segment of the community.

### **4.3. RECOMMENDATIONS – STANWEST PUBLIC LIBRARY**

In light of the preceding findings, the Committee made the following recommendations for the Department to implement regarding Stanwest Library:

- 4.3.1. The Department must strengthen monitoring and evaluation in its relationship with Lekwa Local Municipality, specifically regarding the implementation of House Resolutions which are aimed at improving overall functionality of public libraries.
- 4.3.2. The Department must finalize the procurement processes for the purchase of the air conditioner for the library and ensure installation by 31 October 2016, as committed during the TLP visit. Follow up must also be made with the Municipality to ensure that the telephone and landline are installed by 31 October 2016.
- 4.3.3. The Committee notes the acquisition of security guards by the Municipality but advises the Municipality to install a security alarm system and erect a fence around the library to further safeguard the expensive equipment. The Department must submit a progress report in this regard by 30 November 2016.
- 4.3.4. The Municipality is advised to urgently attend to the leaking sewerage pipe at the library – it can be discussed in Council and also be elevated to the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs and MUNIMEC for assistance before 30 November 2016.
- 4.3.5. The Department must facilitate and finalize a review of the current Affiliation Agreement with the Municipality in order to further clarify roles and responsibilities.
- 4.3.6. Ensure that the R189, 000, 000 conditional grant funding is utilized to fill all vacancies at public libraries by the end of the 2016/17 financial year. Update the Committee by 30 November 2016 on the progress made in relation to filling the vacancies at public libraries in Lekwa Local Municipality. .
- 4.3.7. Ensure that the planning processes for the new ideal library to be built in Lekwa Local Municipality are on track by the end of the 2016/17 financial year so that there are no delays when construction begins in the 2018/19 financial year.

## 5. PUBLIC HEARING AT LEKWA STADIUM

The public hearing was held at Lekwa Stadium on 15 September 2016 in conjunction with the Economic Cluster and Permanent Delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). The following issues pertinent to the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation were noted:

Ward	Issue
7	Requested sports grounds and a library
3	Young people resort to smoking drugs as there are no sports facilities
	Gogo's United soccer team needed soccer balls and a soccer kit

**The MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Hon N Mahlangu responded as follows:**

- The Hon MEC made a commitment to provide the soccer kit for the Gogo's United soccer team.
- The Department was planning to construct a new, larger library in 2018/19 financial year to service the community of Lekwa.
- The Department will take further discussions with the Municipality regarding the provision of sports grounds and facilities.

### 5.1. RECOMMENDATION – PUBLIC HEARING

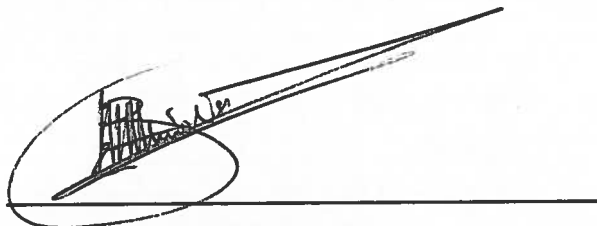
The Department must provide a detailed progress report by 30 November 2016 on the issues raised in the public hearing, in relation to the responses of the Hon MEC above.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Committee for their constructive input during the pre-TLP oversight visits in Lekwa Local Municipality. The support staff of the Legislature is also appreciated for their assistance to the Committee.

The Committee acknowledges the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation and the Lekwa Local Municipality for providing responses to the concerns raised during the Committee's oversight deliberations at Stanwest Public Library.

**The House is requested to adopt this report with its findings and recommendations. The Department is expected to implement the House Resolutions herein and submit a progress report to the Legislature by 30 November 2016.**



**HON. VV WINDVOËL (MPL)**

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION**

18/10/2016  
DATE