

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 27 OCTOBER 2015 (OFFICE OF THE PREMIER)

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 of a provincial legislation.

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

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

The objective of the meeting was to assess achievements, challenges and mitigation factors in addressing youth issues on the following:

- Economic Empowerment/ Cooperatives.
- Bursaries awarded for 2015/16 financial year
- Internships and Learnerships
- Employment

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee invited the Office of the Premier as per the programme of the Legislature and quarterly target of the committee to a meeting on 27 October 2015 and further adopted the report 02 December 2015.

4. PRESENTATION MADE BY OFFICE OF THE PREMIER.

The office of the Premier presented a report and members welcomed the presentation and noted with appreciation the quality of the report presented, which showed improvement and further noted the following:

4.1 Economic Empowerment/Cooperatives

DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
OTP	The Office of the Premier employed five young people in the period under review in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private secretariat : Assistant Admin secretary • Private secretariat : Receptionist • Private Secretariat : Secretary • Private Secretariat : Registry Clerk • Cabinet Secretariat : Secretary 	None	None
DCSR	30 Arts and Craft Cooperatives were supported. This will promote heritage culture as part of investment in the cultural and creative industries.	None	None

The committee welcomed the positions filled by the Office of the Premier and noted that they are at entry level, which pose a concern in that young people are not appointed in high level positions and no challenges and mitigation plans were indicated as well as the causal factors.

DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
DCSSL	534 Youth Tourism Safety Monitors recruited	None	None
DARDLEA	280 jobs created through EPWP	None	None

DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
DEDT	Construction -Khokhovela Plastering and tiling received technical training by MRTT	Government market not accessible	Secure government market

	Welding -Umjindini Welding coop trained by SABS on quality control and standard Procedures. -Barberton Mine signed a contract with the coop	None	None
	Environmental Cleaning/ Gardening -Basisa Cleaning coop provide Grass Cutting, Landscaping, irrigation and bush clearing at Mbombela stadium for 5 years contract	None	None
	Pakama Africa coop was supported by the municipality to provide cleaning in the municipality	The coop was given a public park by the municipality but the other service provider interferes	DTI is involved to assist
	Mpumalanga Youth Business Portal developed and operationalised to ensure youth has access to business opportunities within the Province. Launch of the Youth Business Portal scheduled for November 2015	None	None
	Brick Making -Glenmore Cooperative supplied with brick making equipment- Glenmore to benefit 10 Youth. -Sibambiseni Cooperative-Brick making (Mkhondo) fully functional	Funding for working capital	NYDA is engaged to assist With funding
	Incubation Projects -Mpumalanga Stainless Steel Initiative (MSI) established to beneficiate stainless steel: 15 Youth SMME's undergoing training on stainless steel in order to obtain contracts from industry. -Mpumalanga Tooling Initiative: 25 Youths undergoing training on phase 1, 2 and 3 as well as on the job training for the tooling initiative. Furniture Technology Incubator (Furniture): Youth trained within small scale furniture and upholstery level 2 manufacturing at Mbombela Local Municipality.	Current funding levels not sufficient to sustain incubators at level required for industry	Need to prioritise incubation programmes as budget priority.

	Fly-Ash -10 youth cooperatives registered for the Fly Ash at Majuba Power Station, Volkrust.	The equipment bought by ESKOM has not been delivered on site	Meeting between DEDT, ESKOM and the DTI is planned to take place on 29 October 2015
	Tyre initiative supporting 3 outlets owned by youth. Ntuli Tyres in Nkangala Skroof Tyres in Ehlanzeni Mogolo Thapelo Tyres in Nkangala	Shortage of Technical support and equipment	Provision of Technical support and equipment
	Sanitary -Building is near completion -packaging of Liquid soap, body lotion and sanitary pads is in progress. 13 Youth will benefit in Bushbuckridge at Ehlanzeni District	Certain parts of the floor need to be redone	SABS has been brought in to guide.
	Recycling Buy Back Recycling Project was established in Secunda. - 4 primary cooperatives formed a secondary coop. -The coops were trained on business management -Municipality assisted with equipment -Building completed it will benefit 15 youth in Govan Mbeki- Gert Sibande District.	Working Capital not yet secured.	Discussions with Development Financial Institutions on-going.

The committee noted the 10 youth cooperatives that are registered for Fly Ash at Majuba Power Station where the equipment bought by Eskom was not delivered on site. The department was requested to ensure there is a time frame in terms of mitigation plans so that these cooperatives are not frustrated by further delays.

Furthermore, the committee noted with appreciation the initiative by DUNLOP in providing tyre outlets to youth and suggested that it should be spread geographically to target deep rural areas and people with disabilities. The committee further welcomed the establishment of the sanitary building in Bushbuckridge whereby 13 young people will benefit and further requested the department to provide a time frame for completion.

DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
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DHS	Bids awarded to Youth constructors. 13% of Projects awarded to Youth contractors	None	None
	Employment opportunities created for external Youth Nkangala District x 228 Ehlanzeni District x 2406 Gert Sibande District x 955	Unavailability of budget for stipends	
DARDLEA	32 graduates recruited and linked to Land reform farms	8 graduates resigned and joined the private sector. Furthermore they could not be replaced due to moratorium	Graduates to be replaced once the moratorium has been uplifted.
DPWRT	The following achievements have been recorded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled 16 cooperatives consisting of 347 participants on the Building Maintenance Programme (BMP) 23 Apprentices placed, 	Financial constraints to implement the BMP, due to the fact that BMP funds in sourced from the EPWP integrated Grant (IG). There no guarantees to access the IG if Full –Time Equivalent (FTEs) jobs are not created or reported.	Create more FTEs and extensive reporting of projects created under the infrastructure sector for the Department
	No achievement recorded on internship and learnerships Programmes.	There has been a delay in the finalization of the recruitment processes	Department has planned to enroll 100 interns & 50 learners in 2015/16. Appointment will be finalized in November 2015

The committee noted delays in the finalization of the recruitment processes in appointing interns and learnerships to the programme. the department was requested to finalize the process by the end of November 2015 as planed and report on progress to the committee. The appointments should take into consideration the geographical spread of the province especially the deep rural areas.

Furthermore, Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport have not indicated the number of people with disabilities who are part of their projects.

DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
COGTA	<p>-06 participants are assisting educators in the foundation phase at Mganduzweni Combined School and 240 learners are benefiting.</p> <p>-03 Participants of Mafambisa ward 10 are being trained in ECD.</p> <p>-01 participant is doing learnerships programme in Water & Waste Water treatment.</p> <p>About 200 Learners at Mgcwobaneni attended a workshop on how to apply for bursaries and admission at tertiary institutions.</p>	None	None
	9231 economic opportunities created for Youth through CWP projects	Resignation of staff	Recruitment process was completed in September 2015
DSD	<p>84 Youth Development Centres were funded.</p> <p>Nkangala:26</p> <p>Gert Sibande:31</p> <p>Ehlanzeni: 27</p>	Underachievement is due to structures that were investigated failing to meet investigation recommendations	Terminate SLAs with the structures in order to support other qualifying structures. Additional structures will be processed in the next quarter.

The committee noted the 9231 economic opportunities created for Youth through CWP projects and raised a serious concern on the resignation of staff. The committee wanted to know the root cause for resignations as the recruitment process has been completed, but the challenge of resignations is not addressed and possibilities are that it will still continue.

DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
DSD	433 youth were linked to work opportunities through the funded 84 YDCs.	There are YDCs which could not replace those that got better jobs and left the YDCs during the period under review	To fill in the vacancies in the 03 rd Quarter by the concerned YDCs
	75 Youth were placed in permanent jobs through Lulaway.	Lower rate of placements than envisaged	Engagements with LULAWAY are ongoing to address the challenges.
	36 Youth have been placed on the YDCs through EPWP	None	None
	51 Life Skills were conducted	None	None
	167 Youth were reached through the Provincial Youth Camps (20 sent to KZN)	03 Youth withdraw at eleventh minute to attend the Provincial Youth Camp in Mpumalanga and could not be replaced.	Next there will be more youth on standby to replace anyone who might withdraw
BURSARIES AWARDED			
DoE	151 bursaries were awarded to the officials who are youth.	Most of the potential youth do not apply in high institutions for acceptance to pursue their studies	Intensify bursary advocacy programme with all stakeholders.
	750 bursaries were awarded to the non-officials 301 bursaries awarded to unemployed youth	Limited budget None	Request for more funding from relevant stakeholders/private sectors support. None

The committee noted with concern the challenges of most potential youth who do not apply in institutions of higher learning to pursue their studies, and requested the department to intensify the programme of ensuring that all learners do apply as this has been a challenge throughout the years.

DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
DHS	Bursaries awarded to 14 internal Youth employees.	None	None
	-Youth Brigade programme was Launched in Nkomazi (learnerships) -50 x Learners from Nhlazantshe ,Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality undergoing attending Theory in Bricklaying and Plastering -50 x Learners from Mkhuhlu,Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality undergoing attending Theory in Bricklaying and Plastering -15 x Learners from Digwale	-Unavailability of budget for stipends -50 x learners from Mgododzi still awaiting to be place on site, Delayed appointment of the Implementing Agent -35 x Learners from Digwale, still awaiting to be place on site, Delayed appointment of the Implementing Agent	-Implementing agent appointed
	2 x Town Planning internships 2 x Land survey internships 1 x Environmental science internships	Unavailability of budget for stipends	Availability of budget for stipends
DARDLEA	62 external bursaries awarded to students pursue agricultural studies	None	None

LEARNERSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS			
DEPARTMENT	ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	MITIGATION PLANS
	<p>33 youth internship awarded.</p> <p>-1 intern absorbed for a permanent job by DARDLEA.</p> <p>- 2 got employed in the private sector.</p>	<p>Due to Provincial moratorium on the appointments, the department could not appoint 100 interns.</p>	<p>Interns to be recruited and appointed as soon as the moratorium is uplifted</p>
DSD	<p>Environmental Education Learnership in Bushbuckridge Municipality, Ehlanzeni District.</p> <p>30 Youth were place in Youth Development Learnerships in Govern Mbeki Municipality, Geert Sibande District.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>2943 youth benefited on an educational and awareness programme on Substance Abuse.</p> <p>28 Institutions were reached.</p> <p>1.Vezumfundo Primary school in Victor Khanye Municipality = 107 Learners</p> <p>2.Kwamhanga High School in Thembisile Hani Municipality = 72 Learners</p> <p>3.Zachues Malaza Secondary school in Emalahleni = 254 Learners</p> <p>4.Timber Mine at Umjindi Municipality = 134 Youth</p> <p>5.Marapyane Trust in Dr JS Moroka =48</p> <p>6.Uitkyk and Vaalbank in Steve Tshwete Municipality =84 Youth</p> <p>1. Thembalentsha Primary School in Mkhondo Municipality =56 Youth</p> <p>2. Ext 12 Soccer ground at Govan Mbeki =81 Youth</p> <p>3. Ki Thwala Secondary School at Govan Mbeki Municipality = 36 Youth</p> <p>4. Dumezizweni Primary School at Emakhazeni Municipality =320</p> <p>5. Sizakele Primary School in Lekwa Municipality = 105</p> <p>6. Matsulu Office at Mbombela Municipality =39</p> <p>13. Mgcobaneni Trust at Mbombela Municipality =101</p> <p>14. Relani Primary School in Bushbackridge Municipality =70 Youth</p>		

	15. Oakley Home Based Care in Bushbuckridge Municipality =78 16. Jeepes Reef Community Hall in Nkomazi Municipality =82 17. Mzinti Clinic at Nkomazi Municipality =63 18. Skhila High School at Thaba Chewu =50 19. Buhleni Primary school at Albert Luthuli Municipality =118		
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The committee noted the challenge of insufficient personnel in the Youth Development Unit of the Office of the Premier which has only one Liaison Officer and recommended that they should conduct recruitment processes to deal with this matter.

Furthermore, they should find ways of dealing with the non-compliance of Departments in submitting reports from M&E, HR & Planning which creates confusion in the process of coordination of information that has to be tabled before the Select Committee. This will also assist in minimising the lack of cooperation by secretaries who do not forward letters to relevant officials with the recommendations to which Departments must submit reports signed off by the Departmental Heads.

The committee noted that Departments do not have people who are focused on Youth issues, instead there is only one person that deals with transversal issues. It was also noted that there is changing of names of officials delegated for Youth Development issues without informing the Office of the Premier. It was recommended that Youth Development should be part of the HODs Key Performance Areas.

4.2 Briefing by NYDA on MOU, Youth Accord and the Youth Policy 2020

The committee welcomed and appreciated the briefing by the NYDA and wanted to know whether the NYDA presented the report to youth structures in the province with the resolutions of the Youth Parliament that was held at the Legislature in June 2015, and what has been done to address those resolutions.

Further, the committee noted the increasing statistics of youth unemployment and recommended that the NYDA in cooperation with the Office of the Premier should classify this accordingly, as it is not clear whether the statistics include school going(matriculated);University or out of school youth.

5.1 Findings

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

1. The Positions filled by office of the Premier are at junior level, which pose a concern about young people not being appointed in the senior position.

2. Appointments of youth in various work opportunities including cooperatives mostly benefits people in urban areas.
3. There are delays in finalization of the recruitment processes by DPWRT in appointing interns and learnerships programme.
4. Most potential youth don't apply in institutions of higher learning on time to pursue their studies.
5. There is an increase in youth unemployment statistics as reported which needs classification as per category.
6. Lack of coordination on youth issues among departments has been noted as the main challenge.
7. Departments continue submitting reports without endorsement by the accounting officers which pose a challenge on accountability.

5.2 Recommendations

The committee recommended that:

1. The Office of the Premier and departments when filling positions must recognise young people not only at junior level, but those that are meeting requirements should be encouraged to apply for senior positions as per their skills.
2. Departments must consider deep rural areas and people with disabilities when there are opportunities of employment and educational development programmes as per the geographical spread in the province.
3. The department must finalize the process of appointments as planned and progress be communicated to the committee taking into consideration the geographical spread of the province and rural areas in particular.
4. The department of Education and concerned sectors to intensify the programme in ensuring that all learners do apply as this has been a challenge throughout the years.
5. The NYDA in cooperation with the Office of the Premier should classify Youth unemployment statistics according to school going (Matric); University youth; skilled; unskilled and out of school youth.
6. The OTP must intensify the capacity of monitoring and evaluation on youth programmes for purposes of accountability and implementation progress in all the departments.
7. Heads of Departments as accounting officers must ensure that all documents are endorsed and signed before they are submitted to the committee, failure to do so that report will not be accepted by the committee.

6 CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extended her appreciation to Members of the Committee, the Office of the Premier, NYDA and the support staff of Legislature for their participation during the deliberation in enhancing the oversight role of the Legislature.

The Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations.



HON BV NKUNA (MPL)

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

02/12/2015
DATE