

TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE (TLP) OVERSIGHT VISITS REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT BUSHBUCKRIDGE PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION ON 26 JUNE 2018- DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legislature conducted its Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality from 25-29 June 2018.

The Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) visited Bushbuckridge Pensioners Association during the TLP programme on 26 June 2018.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PRE-TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT

The purpose of the TLP was to assess the performance of the association and the efficiency of the budget and gauge its challenges.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Legislature notified all departments accordingly about the TLP oversight visits to be conducted and the purpose thereof. Invitations were then sent to the respective departments including the Department of Social Development, management of the association and the municipality requesting them to be part of the programme.

- On 26 June 2018, the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development conducted the oversight visit to Bushbuckridge Pensioners Association;
- On 26 June 2018, the Social Transformation Cluster held the stakeholder engagement on the Elderly and People with Disability at Angincourt Sport Field;
- On 28 June 2018, the Social Transformation Cluster jointly with the Economic Cluster conducted a public hearing at Angincourt Sport Field.

4. OBSERVATIONS

The committee observed the following:

- The association does not have its own place, currently operating from a local church.

5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Presentation on the performance of the association and the efficiency of the budget

The HOD: Mr. MV Mahlalela, appreciated the oversight by the committee and delegated Ms. Nelly Khoza, the Social Worker responsible in that area to present on behalf of the department. She outlined the following in her presentation:

- The association does not have its own place, currently operating from a local church at a quarterly rent of R 900-00. Attempts were made to the local municipality to secure a site to no avail for four years to date;
- The association also pays the Mashaba family R500-00 food storage in a refrigerator;
- The rented church do not have electricity therefore the association does not have electricity;
- There is no security at the rented church, subsequently, there have been a number of break-ins, resulting in loss of equipment and food;
- The association is made of 81 beneficiaries consisting of retired professionals. The association was formed in 2001 and it operates four days in a week, Mondays to Thursday from 09h00-13h00;
- The association is funded R 54 000-00 for 15 frail older persons and R 94 680-00 for 30 independent older persons, and there are two Expanded Public Works Programme Coordinators funded R 46 464-00 per annum. The beneficiaries further contributes R 100-00 affiliation fee annually, all the funds contribute towards the operation of the association;
- The association receives vegetables donation from the local Pick and Pay outlet every Tuesday and Sunday. The beneficiaries would like for farm their own vegetable and to also share with the community, but cannot since they are operating in a rented place;
- The main activity for the beneficiaries is active ageing and fitness. Every morning the beneficiaries visits a nearby stadium for fitness and exercise routine before breakfast and continue with other programmed daily activities. The association also participates at the golden games programme by the department, the association has been represented both provincially and nationally. The association, however do not have the necessary sportswear and sporting material.

5.2 COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE

Financial Accountability

The committee requested the association to submit a detailed financial report through department. It was reported that according to the departmental standards, the funded organizations are monitored quarterly. The purpose of the monitoring is to ensure that the organization is providing services in line with the approved business plan for which they are funded for. To ensure that services are compliant to the service norms and standards this will also include monitoring of expenditure.

The organization is expected to submit six months progress reports on their performance. The department also reported that it expects the organization to furnish the department with an audited financial report to account for the funding provided, to date no financial discrepancies have been noted from the organization.

With regards to the R100-00 members' annual affiliation fee, the department outlined as listed below how the funds are utilized:

- The money is paid as an affiliation fee and confirmation of membership.
- It also assists in the organizations cash flow.
- To cater for other activities that are not necessarily covered through the subsidy received from the Department of Social Development.
- To pay monthly rental fee of R900 and storage fee of R500

Site

Disappointed at the fact that the association has been requesting for its own site for four years to date from the local municipality to no avail, the committee requested the department to take the necessary steps in ensuring that the local municipality grants the association its request for a site.

Sportswear and Material

Mindful of the fact that the department took over the golden games programme from the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, the committee requested the department to make the necessary provision to the association for the required sportswear and material. The department reported that the Active Ageing programme which was launched in September 2005 is in line with priority 2 of the United Nations obligation on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Whose purpose is to achieve Social Cohesion; Nation Building and cultural tolerance; Mass Participation and Moral regeneration; Enhance the quality of life of older persons; Improve the overall health profile for the elderly; Create an awareness on the capabilities and abilities of older persons in sport and recreation activities. The department further outlined that the programme is implemented in collaboration with other stakeholders namely COGTA, Departments of Health, Culture Sport and Recreation. At a local level the various stakeholders support these activities as per their area of focus. Support provided could include financial support namely sporting equipment, attire or transport to participate in the local, district and provincial games. Human resource would entail coaching in various sporting codes. The department reported that due to budgetary constraints, it does not provide equipment and attire to organizations but support the participants who are representing the province in the National Golden Games. It was further reported that organizations are encouraged to seek support or donations from the local municipalities, most are reportedly supportive of the programme through their transversal programme.

5.3 FINDINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

After the interaction with the department and association management, the committee found that:

- a. Bushbuckridge Pensioners Association does not have a site of its own, currently operating from a local church.

5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

Based on the finding, the committee recommended that the department must implement the following and **submit a detailed progress report by Friday, 31 August 2018:**

- a. Ensure that Bushbuckridge Local Municipality and/or local Tribal Authority allocates a site for the association.

6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DSABILITY

The sectors of the elderly and people with disability within the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality gathered at Angincourt Sport Field on Tuesday, 26 June 2018 at 14h00 to engage with the invited stakeholders on how to better service them. The following are inputs from the sectors:

6.1 Elderly Persons

- Ms. Florah Silaule from Kildare B reported that the local elderly persons have formed a group called Khomanani Vha Kokwana, meeting daily in an

arranged location (of a poor structure), alluding that they need a site and a structure for improved quality of life for the elderly. The group is also not funded by the Department of Social Development;

- Mr. Bethuel Silinda from Kildare B enquired on the reasons that results in social grants being cut and the lack of communication also in that regard;
- Ms. Nana Dlamini requested that provisions should be made to ensure that doctors to be available also at night for emergency cases at Angincourt Community Health Centre;
- Ms. Busisiwe Khoza from Ward 28 in MP Stream, reported that Vumani Centre for the Elderly does not receive any assistance from the Department of Social Development, the structure they are operating from is not their own, at times operate days without food and the homebased care volunteers assisting at the Centre are not registered nor capacitated by both the Department of Health and Department of Social Development;
- Both sectors expressed concern on the different information communicated in terms of the processing of social grants since the change of service provider. There is also an outcry that the elderly people have difficulty operating machines to access their social grant.

6.2 People with Disability

- Ms. Veronica emphasized the need for a special school for children with disability within the local municipal area;
- Ms. Khensani Mkhonto from Ward 8 in Angincourt expressed disappointment in the government's failure to consider and mainstream people with disability for employment in certain positions;
- Mr. Jerry Makutu reported that there are some children with disability in Acornhoek that needs assistance obtaining their identity documents;
- Ms. Ice Mathonsi from the Bushbuckridge Association for People with Disability requested that disposable nappies be included as part of assistive devices for people with disability.

6.3 Commitments by the Department of Social Development

MEC BP Shiba appreciated the inputs made and committed that the department will address all the requests made by both sectors accordingly.

6.4 Recommendation

Attend to the issues raised by the sectors accordingly and provide a detailed progress report by **31 August 2018**.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

The following issue was raised by the public:

- The need for clarity on who has the responsibility for infrastructure development on Early Childhood Development between the Department of Social Development and the Department of Education;
- The community complained about the hazardous conditions in the pay points, lack of shelter, security and basic need services such as ablution facilities and water. It was also reported that in some places like Xanthia, a tavern is used as a SASSA pay point;
- There is a centre in Casteel that cares for 17 beneficiaries with disability and requires support from the department.

7.1 Recommendation

Attend to the issues raised by the public accordingly and provide a detailed progress report by **31 August 2018**.

The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the report with its findings and recommendations and that a progress report on the implementation of House resolutions be provided on or before Friday, 31 August 2018

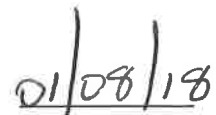
8. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to all the Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development for their attendance and active participation during the TLP Programme. She further wishes to thank the department, the municipality and the management of the association for the services rendered and the Legislature staff for providing support to the Committee.



HON. DP MANANA

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**



DATE