

## REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT; COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON

### OVERSIGHT VISIT HELD IN THE NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, EHLANZENI DISTRICT, 30 JULY 2019 - KOMATIPOORT POLICE STATION (DCSSL)

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Section 118 (1) (a) and (b) (i) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers a provincial legislature to facilitate public access to and involvement in its oversight processes. In addition, sections 114 and 133 of the Constitution, read together with rule 131 of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Rules) directs the Legislature to hold the Executive accountable for the exercising of powers and performance of functions.

In carrying out its constitutional oversight and public participation mandate, the **Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport; Community Safety, Security and Liaison** (the Committee) conducted an unannounced oversight visit in the Nkomazi Local Municipality (the municipality) on 30 July 2019.

This report reflects the issues that emanated from the oversight activity during the said date, which will need further intervention of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (CSSL) and Mpumalanga South African Police Services (SAPS).

#### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISITS

The following objectives shaped the oversight visit to the Police Station:

- To determine challenges impacting on the Police Station in meeting the national standards.
- To assess the challenges affecting the functionality of the Police Station (e.g. office space and operational budget for the Community Policing Forum).

#### 3. METHOD OF WORK

As per the Legislature programme, the Economic Cluster had unannounced oversight visits planned for the period 30 - 31 July 2019 at the Nkomazi Local Municipality. The Committee

only informed the Police Station (and not the Department) about the oversight visit to be conducted and the purpose thereof. Invitations were sent to the Municipality requesting them to be part of the visit.

- On 30 July 2019, the Committee conducted the oversight visit at the Komatipoort Police Station.
- Subsequently, the Committee met and considered the draft Committee report.

#### **4. OVERSIGHT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS**

##### **KOMATIPOORT POLICE STATION**

###### **4.1. Background**

The Komatipoort Police Station is under the leadership of a Station Commander, Lt W Meiring. The Police Station is servicing a population of approximately 100 000 people located at various settlements categorized as formal residential areas, informal residential areas, business and farming communities. The station areas are Sector 1 Marloth Park, Hectorspruit, Dindela and Mjejane. Sector 2 consists of Orlando, Komatipoort town, farms (next to the Kruger National Park, Strydomblock, Mananga Road and border farms).

The population serviced by the station predominantly use English, Afrikaans, Isizulu, Siswati and Xitshonga; and Police Officers at the station are well versed in these languages.

###### **4.2. Deliberations with the Komatipoort Police Station Management**

###### **4.2.1. Challenges that were raised during the meeting:**

- There is a shortage of man power to cover the station area effectively; and each shift consists of eight (8) members and one (1) clerk.
- There is a shortage of vehicles and most of the vehicles have high mileage.
- It was reported that correspondence for all challenges raised during the meeting with the Committee have already been directed to the relevant offices; however, responses are still being awaited.
- The station building, holding cells, single - and married quarters need urgent upgrading and repairs.

- The SAPS premises are unsafe for members; the main gate has been out of order for months and there is no door installed in the passage that leads to the holding cells.
- The wire fencing and the gate at the back of the Police Station is in poor condition and must be replaced.
- The front of the Police Station is not fenced and there is no demarcated entrance / exist gate.
- There is no access control for persons and vehicles that enter the premises and buildings during the day or night.
- Detectives currently utilise a leased office away from the Police Station, whilst there is an old unused SAP13 office available at the police station premises that can be renovated and utilised as a detective office.
- The leased offices currently utilised are also in a dilapidated condition which is not safe and secure.
- There are no street lights between the BP filling station and the Lebombo Border post, which contributes to pedestrians being attacked at night since the bushes are used as a hideout by criminals. It is a spot where rapes, armed robberies, assault GBH and murder take place.

## **5. FINDINGS**

### **The Committee made the following findings after interaction with SAPS:**

- 5.1. There are a number of infrastructural challenges faced by the Police Station.
- 5.2. The Police Station is not adequately resourced in terms of human resource.
- 5.3. The police Station is not receiving proper assistance to address the challenges it is facing.
- 5.4. There is a high crime rate due to external issues such as lack of street lights and improper infrastructure within the border post.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **The Committee made the following recommendations:**

- 6.1. The MEC must engage with the Minister of Police and ensure that all the infrastructure challenges that are faced by the station are attended to and fully addressed.

- 6.2. The Mpumalanga SAPS must ensure that the police station is properly resourced and all vacant positions in the station are filled.
- 6.3. The department together with the Provincial SAPS must address all the challenges that are faced by the police station and a report be provided to the Portfolio Committee in this regard.
- 6.4. The department must facilitate a meeting with all affected stakeholders i.e. Nkomazi Local Municipality, Provincial SAPS, Department of Home Affairs, etc. and ensure that all the other challenges that are negatively affecting the functioning of the police station are effectively addressed.

The Committee noted all the challenges that were raised by the management of the Komatipoort Police Station and it was recommended that the department must investigate the above-mentioned challenges and provide a progress report in this regard by **29 November 2019**.

## 7. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee extends his appreciation to Members of the Committee, SAPS and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during this oversight visit to the Komatipoort Police Station, in enhancing the oversight role of the Legislature.

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

  
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**HON. SK MASHILO (MPL)**

09/10/2019

**DATE**

**CHAIRPERSON:  
 PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
 PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT;  
 COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON**