

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT CONDUCTED AT MASIBAMBISANE PROTECTIVE WORKSHOP AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Legislature is duly vested with the mandate to maintain oversight of provincial executive authority and any organ of state and to ensure that they are accountable to it, in compliance with section 114 of the constitution.

The Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the committee) conducted an oversight visit on 17 September 2019 at Masibambisane Protective Workshop as part of the Taking Legislature Programme (TLP) and Stakeholder Engagement on 19 September 2019.

The Legislature seeks to establish whether provincial government delivers services effectively and efficiently within the Nkomazi Local Municipality.

2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The objectives were:

- i) To conduct oversight visits to ascertain successes, challenges and impact on People with Disabilities
- ii) To assess the implementation of policies by the department on norms and standards.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee notified and invited the Department of Social development (DSD) and Masibambisane Protective workshop respectively as per the TLP programme, conducted on 17 September 2019 at Nkomazi Local Municipality in Boschfontein. The Stakeholder Engagement on elderly and People with Disabilities was held on the 19th. September 2019.

4. OBSERVATIONS

The committee observed the following at Masibambisane Protective Workshop centre:

- The centre has 30 beneficiaries with disabilities and 14 frail care beneficiaries
- The centre has been funded for R108 000.00 in the 2019/20 financial year
- Beneficiaries are involved in carpentry activities and also manufacture steel and fence.
- No garden as the soil is contaminated
- Transportation of beneficiaries is problematic

5. INTERACTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INPUTS BY MANAGEMENT OF MASIBAMBISANE

The Committee received a presentation from the provincial Department of Social Development on the state of the centre.

Background

The committee visited Masibambisane Protective Workshop, a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) servicing the community of Boschfontein under the Tribal Authority of Mbambiso. The committee noted that the centre was established in 2015 in order to provide day care services to persons with disabilities from the age of 19 - 59. The objectives of the centre are to alleviate poverty to persons with disabilities and to meet the needs of all people with disabilities around the Boschfontein area. The centre has 30 beneficiaries with disabilities and 14 frail care beneficiaries who attend Monday to Friday from 08h00 in the morning till 15h00 operating within an active board consisting of seven members. Beneficiaries at the centre are involved in carpentry activities and also manufacture steel fence, however the shortage of financial resources and equipment makes it difficult to perform to their maximum ability in order to raise funds.

Accessibility

The committee noted that one of the biggest challenges is that of accessibility, as the centre is situated far apart from neighbouring settlements and that require beneficiaries to utilise their own money for transport. Some resort to walking a few kilometres as a result of not having the necessary funds for transportation, thereby putting themselves at risk given their physical and mental state. This is not in line with the national policy framework on the transformation of protective workshops; which stipulates that protective workshops must be accessible to more people with disabilities in the community it is servicing.

Budget

For the 2019/20 financial year the centre is funded with R108 000.00 which is paid on a quarterly basis.

Organisational structure

The centre consists of the following staff members:

- 08 care workers
- 01 co-ordinator
- 1 cooker
- Security guard

Challenges of the organisation

The organisation highlighted the following challenges:

- Insufficient funds
- Need for training on First aid of care workers
- Transport
- Toilets and Bath Room suitable for people with disabilities
- Fencing Machine

Monitoring

The organization is monitored by the social worker quarterly and the social auxiliary worker on the monthly basis. The management committee also visit the centre at least twice a month. The centre is operating under an active board and regular meetings are held. According to the responsible social worker, the organization had no issues when it comes to compliance.

COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE

The committee noted that currently the centre is not farming any vegetables due to the contaminated soil in the centre which was previously used as a clinic. The committee requested that the centre approach Omnia chemicals Group which specialised on solutions for the agriculture in testing the soil. The committee noted that the fencing machine used is self-made and not user friendly and requested the department to assist the centre to acquire machine from private sector.

The Centre expressed concern over the following: Bath room suitable for people with disabilities, 4 Toilets suitable for people with disabilities; sleeping place and transportation.

Transport

The committee noted that transport can be viewed as both a service gap and a capacity-related challenge that affects the provision of other services. It is clear from the above discussion of the findings that transport appears as a barrier to access and challenge facing Masibambisane. This was closely linked to funding and attendance, as transport is costly to provide and the lack of daily transport or transport to outings and events which limits the ability of members to attend. The committee welcomed the donations of R288.989 made by lottery as it has made a great difference in changing the lives of people with disabilities.

Funding

Funding remains the fundamental challenge faced by the centre. Given the limited allocation of resources and funds to people with disabilities programmes despite the growing need, it is difficult to begin to reimagine substantial and costly changes in facilities and programmes. It is therefore important that service centres consider innovative and viable mechanisms to diversify their funding base, increase revenue, and decrease costs. In reality, the subsidy provided by the DSD does not cover the real costs of providing the services offered by the centre, including costs of staff and other operational expenses. The organisation therefore need to spend a considerable amount of time and effort raising additional funds.

Training

Where the above-mentioned minimum skills are currently lacking, the DSD should explore training opportunities to support the capacity building of existing managers and staff. This will help to ensure some level of consistency across service centres, provision of services, and competencies. Alternatively, or in combination, the DSD can explore mentorship opportunities for smaller independent service centres, where management and staff are lacking key skills. These could include, for example, links to same-sector NPOs or mentorship by private sector companies.

6. FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The soil is contaminated and the centre cannot do gardening
- 2) The machine used to make fence is manmade and not user friendly.
- 3) Need for training on First aid of care workers
- 4) TSB made commitment in assisting the centre with ground testing.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The department must assist the centre with the soil testing by OMNIA or any agricultural testing body in ensuring the use of the garden to plough vegetable for selling to the public. .
- 2) The department must assist in securing a fence machine for the centre to make more production and seek market for their production; and financial sustainability of the centre.
- 3) The department should consider providing training on First aid of care workers fragile as matter of priority.
- 4) The department with the centre must fast track the matter with TSB.

8. ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

8.1 REMARKS BY THE COMMITTEE

The chairperson welcomed all participants to Stakeholder Engagement, on behalf of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. He reiterated the fact that the Legislature is guided by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and in fulfilling its core mandate of Oversight, Law-Making and to facilitate Public Involvement.

The Mpumalanga Legislaturc, through this Stakeholder Engagement calls upon people with disabilities and elderly people to work with the government to ensure that they live in decent homes communities with roads, electricity, water and recreational facilities. Furthermore, that the government provide services as expected by the constitution and promised that the Committee will monitor and hold executive accountable including the local municipality.

ISSUES RAISED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

People with Disabilities raised the following issues:

1) Physical Challenges

Vulamehlo Centre in Steinbock People with disabilities have difficulties in accessing various facilities including their RDPs. They cannot easily maneuver to their toilet due to the discriminatory manner toilets were built. Even where some buildings have provisions for wheel chairs, disabled persons may require additional assistance to maneuver.

- 2) People with Disability (PWD) cannot successfully participate in sporting activities effectively. Their talents are never realized because there is little opportunities to participate at all levels. Those who may have been luckily identified will have to access special appliances or facilities in order to participate.
- 3) Buhlebethu Disable Centre (Bock B) indicated that there is no water and currently structure not conducive having dispute of the land.

ISSUES RAISED BY ELDERLY PEOPLE

The Department had a constitutional mandate to provide income support (social assistance) to those who did not have sufficient social security provision for old age. The provision of social grants was guided by the Constitution, national legislation and regulations, and various international instruments. Various studies had revealed that social grants, in particularly the Older Persons' Grants (OPG), were one of the most effective strategies employed in minimising poverty. Often, however, the grant was used to meet the needs of an entire family, given the high rate of unemployment, and the lack of income support for the unemployed.

The elderly people raised the following issues:

1. Bulah Bulah Old age home Masibekela ward 14 and Bukhosibethu at Drikoppies Centre: No water and the structure is not suitable for elderly people.
2. Elderly people are still robbed at pay points through illegal Mashonisa.
3. Houses not build according to the correct specifications
4. Exclusion in sports activities with no proper playground

9. FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

1. There is an ongoing challenge of water within the Municipality with lack of monitoring on the old age centres
2. Lack of monitoring of criminal activities at pay points.
3. Houses for People with Disabilities (PWD) are not build according to the correct specifications suitable and accessible for PWD.
4. People with Disabilities are excluded in sports activities with no proper playground suitable for their nature.

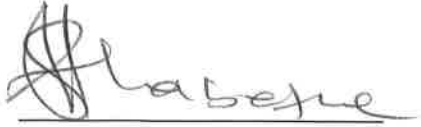
10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Department must monitor old age centres and ensure that Jojo water tank is available in collaboration with Nkomazi local Municipality in filling the Jojo for the centres
- 2) The Department must strengthen monitoring in collaboration with the police during pay days in ensuring the safety of elderly against criminals' activities.
- 3) That DSD in collaboration with the Department of Human Settlements must ensure that houses for PWD are build according to the correct specifications suitable and accessible for PWD.
- 4) Department of Social Development (DSD) and Department of Culture Sport and Recreation (DCSR) & Department of Education DoE must ensure that PWD are involved in sports activities with suitable playing ground and equipment.

11. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extended her appreciation to Members of the Committee, officials from the Department of Social Development, Masibambisane Protective Workshop; Nkomazi Elderly and people with disabilities stakeholder and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during the visit.

The Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations and progress to be provided to the committee on or before 30 November 2019.



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

09/10/2019
DATE