

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED AT DWARSLOOP WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS, AT BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY - DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGTA) 27 – 28 JUNE 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) conducted oversight visits over the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs as mandated by Section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, (Act 108 of 1996); to oversee the performance of the Department and hold it accountable.

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) project took place at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality from 25 – 29 June 2018.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SITE VISIT AND A PUBLIC HEARING

- ❖ The purpose of the site visit was to assess the provision of services by the Department and to check the overall functionality of the Upgrading of Dwarsloop Waste Water Treatment Works.
- ❖ To obtain the views from the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality community on the provision of the basic service delivery.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the TLP, the Portfolio Committee after the approval of the Legislature programme informed the Department about the TLP and oversight visits to be conducted on 27 and 28 June 2018. The Committee then met on 27 and 28 June 2018 with the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. Other stakeholders invited were South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Executive Mayor for Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (Local Councillors), House of Traditional Leaders (HTL), Public Service Commission (PSC), Auditor General's Office, Provincial Treasury and Community Development Workers (CDWs).

4. OBSERVATIONS

- ❖ The MEC for Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr SK Mashilo and the HOD, Mr TP Nyoni tendered an apology due to other commitments.
- ❖ The Department was represented by the Manager in the HODs Office and a Senior Official from the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality were in attendance during the oversight visit
- ❖ The upgrading of Dwarsloop Waste Water Treatment Works is at 98% towards completion;
- ❖ The Committee commended the progress made by the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality
- ❖ The project also created (25) job opportunities for women (06), men (06) and youth (13)

5. PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS/BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

5.1. Background on the Upgrading of Dwarsloop Waste Water Treatment Works

The Senior Official of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Mr E Rikhotso reported that the scope of the work comprises of construction of sludge drying beds, bio-filter, Primary Settling Tank (PST), Anaerobic Digester Tank (two) secondary settling tank (Humus Tank), Primary sludge pump house, humus sludge pump room, Division Box and Mechanical works and the refurbishment of the existing plant. The status quo on the upgrading of the Dwarsloop Waste Water Treatment Works (DWWTW) Project is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS
Project Registration Name	MIG/MP/1183/S/12/14
Project Location	DWARSLOOP
Project Type	SANITATION PROJECT
Total Project Cost	R 40 040 220.00
MIG funds	R 28 575 797.46
Counter funding	R11 464 422.54
Amount spent in previous financial years	R24 894 407.93
Amount spent in 2017/2018 financial year	R 14 667 852. 97
EPWP	YES
New/Rehabilitation/Upgrading	Upgrading
Appointment of contractors	12 November 2015
Date of site establishment	14 March 2016
Actual/projected end date	30 May 2018
Physical progress on work done	98% (practical completion, contractor busy with finishes
No of Job opportunities created	17 labourers are on site, 16 to be hired as soon as the sub-contractors start with manholes

6. COMMENTS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

6.1. UPGRADING OF DWARSLOOP WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS (WWTW)

The Committee noted that the project is progressing well even though there are challenges such as shortage of water and that the Department is able to address some of the challenges.

7. Findings made by the Committee on upgrading on Dwarsloop WWTW

After thorough interaction with the Department, the committee found that:

- a) The construction of the upgrading of Dwarsloop Waste Water Treatment Plant is at 98% completion;
- b) Some of the Reservoirs within Bushbuckridge Local Municipality have no water; such as the five (5) reservoirs at Agincourt

8. Recommendations made by the Committee on upgrading on Dwarsloop WWTW

After the findings, the committee recommended that the department must:

- (a) Ensure the project is completed on time and that there will be no escalated cost and in future the Department of COGTA is represented by senior officials who will be accountable, in a position to commit and take decision on behalf of the department. A progress report to be submitted by 31 August 2018 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.

(b) Ensure that the Reservoirs are supplied with water in order to benefit the community of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. A progress report to be submitted by 31 August 2018 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public hearing was held at Agincourt Sportsfield (Bushbuckridge Local Municipality) and the comments were as follows;

- ❖ The communities' main challenge is the shortage of water; and there is no free water supply;
- ❖ There is poor road infrastructure;
- ❖ Youth empowerment is needed at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality;
- ❖ No feedback given to applicants for RDP houses;
- ❖ Allocation of houses to rightful beneficiaries sometimes is not done;
- ❖ Poor Management of beneficiary list;
- ❖ There are no job opportunities with the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

9.1. Recommendations on a public hearing

The Committee recommends that the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs must attend to issues raised at the public hearing. A comprehensive progress report must be submitted by 31 August 2018.

The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the Committee Report with the findings and its recommendations. The Department must submit a detailed progress report to the Portfolio Committee on or before 31 August 2018.

10. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their participation and contributions during the deliberations on the TLP site visits and public hearing. The Chairperson further extends her appreciation to the MEC, Mr SK Mashilo, HOD, Mr TP Nyoni and his Senior Officials of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Ms S Nxumalo, Speaker, Ms BR Raganya, Chief Whip Mr M Makaringe, representatives of House of Traditional Leaders (HTL) South African Local Government Association (SALGA), representatives of Auditor General's Office, CDWs, Contractors as well as the Councillors and officials of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality for supporting the programme of the Committee.

Lastly, she also wishes to thank the Legislature support staff for supporting the Committee during the TLP.



HON. P. NGOBENI

01/08/2018
DATE

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE &
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**