

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION; CULTURE SPORT AND RECREATION ON THE OVERSIGHT VISITS CONDUCTED AT CROME VILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MINICIPALITY AND KGHODWANA CULTURAL VILLAGE IN THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Education; Culture Sport and Recreation has a mandate in terms of Section 114(2) of the Constitution of South Africa no 108 of 1996 to ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province are accountable to it and maintain oversight. The same sentiment is reiterated in Rule 119 of the Rules and orders of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature; to conduct oversight over the Department of Culture Sport and Recreation by holding it accountable through various mechanisms for the use of public funds.

House resolutions emanating from this oversight visits report will be referred to the Department for Implementation and report back to the Legislature.

2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISITS

The purpose of the visit was to assess progress made by the Department of Culture Sport and Recreation in Implementing House resolutions emanating from the 2017 Taking Legislature to the people programme (TLP) on the Chrome Ville Library infrastructure and to assess the functionality of Kghodwana Cultural Village which was continuously raised by members as it was dilapidated and not well looked after.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Legislature program was approved and invitations were sent out to the Department through the Office of the HOD informing them about the Oversight visits by the Legislature scheduled for 29th July 2019 to 01 August 2019, and inviting them to be part of the programme.

The Leadership of the Municipality and affected structures were invited to be part of the programme to ensure proper flow of information.

4. OVERSIGHT VISIT

4.1. Chrome Ville Public Library

The Committee made the following Observations:

- The Library is very small and has a total membership base of 1560.
- It is frequently used by over 3800 people per month.
- The challenge of a Liquor store located behind the library as raised in the last TLP has been resolved. The Liquor store has been closed down eventually.
- The municipality has signed a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Culture Sport and Recreation on the use of the premises and payment of employees and both parties are implementing the agreement without failure.
- The Municipality appointed 2 staff members to operate the Library and 1 general worker for cleaning both the Library and Municipal pay point.

4.1.1 .Interaction with the library Management and the Department.

The HOD of the Department Mr Godfrey Ntombela led the delegation from the Department since the MEC apologised because of other activities. He made a presentation on the new developments in the Library and the implementation of house resolutions since the last TLP.

4.1.2. Services

Chrome Ville Public Library is one of the 22 Libraries in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and caters for an estimated population of 4500 people.

The Library opens from 08h00-17h30 Monday to Thursday, 08H00-13H00 on Friday, 08H00-12H00 on Saturdays and is closed on holidays.

4.1.3. Book provisioning.

The Department of Culture Sport and Recreation provides library material to all libraries in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality including Chrome Ville, which have a collection rate of library material at 1463.

4.1.4. Provisioning of ICT Services.

The Library have been allocated 6 personal computers through the conditional Grant, a photo copier and has access to Wi-Fi.

4.1.5. Community programmes.

The Department initiated a structure called `Friends of the library` to create awareness and increase the community`s sense of pride and ownership.

The structure is expected to include all sections the ward i.e. Schools, Community Policing Forums (CPF`s), CDW`s Church leaders, traditional leaders, business, ward Committees and School governing bodies (SGB`s)

4.1.6. Marketing.

The Department has developed marketing programmes which are rolled out through different advocacy campaigns to promote and enhance the culture of reading. i.e.

- International mother language day initiated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- SA Library week.
- World Book Day.
- International Museum Day.
- International Librarians Day.
- International Literacy Day.
- Open Access Week.
- World Aids Day.

The Department for Culture Sport and Recreation liaise and invite the Department of Education, Local Circuit offices, non-governmental Organizations such as Love Life during their marketing campaign programmes.

They also use Local radio stations as part of advocacy to reach out and attract public members. The advocacy campaigns are in line with all the monthly themes celebrated throughout the country and are aimed at educating learners and communities about the significance of those months or themes. I.e. April –freedom month, May Africa month, June-Youth month, July-Mandela Month, August-Woman`s month, September-Heritage month.

The Closure of the local liquor store that was behind the Library raised as a concern in the previous TLP which was appreciated.

The Municipality has provided a new site for the construction of a new Library at Newton. Construction will commence in beginning of the 4th Quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

The HOD made a commitment to engage the Department of Public Works and Transport to work fast on the project and to involve community structures through the Municipality.

4.2. Kghodwana Cultural village and Museum.

The Committee made the following Observations:

- The village consist of 36 traditional huts and a Museum depicting the human settlement evolution of the IsiNdebele speaking people in the different epochs.
- Some of the structures have not been renovated since they were constructed.
- The village has a shortage of grounds men but the Department employed nine, (4 Males and 5 Females) employees from the EPWP budget allocated to the Department for the 2019/20 financial year.
- The village have been running on a zero budget for many years and has been allocated R7 Million for the 2019/20 financial year.
- The matter of the moratorium on posts was raised sharply and the department was requested to deal with it urgently.
- Despite budgetary constraints, the village is neat, clean and well looked after.

Interactions at Kghodwana Cultural Village

The Department through the General Manager for Library and Archives presented a profile of the village:

The Kghodwana Cultural village and Museum was established in November 1989 by the former KwaNdebele government with the view of conserving and preserving the culture of IsiNdebele speaking people of South Africa. The Cultural Village is named after the Kghodwana River running through the village. This river has no tributaries and does not get dry even in winter despite the lack of feeder streams.

The village serve as one of the stopovers for tourists into Mpumalanga Province. It has thirty six (36) traditional huts demonstrating different human life style settlement. Some of the huts structures are deteriorating with cracks and gaps on walls, peeling of plaster from the walls and natural clay colours painting pulling off due to rain.

The Kghodwana Cultural village and Museum requires solid renovations on structures in order for them to resemble their normal aesthetic beauty. The Museum building has additional administrative offices, a kitchen and museum display collection. The exhibition highlight the stories of artists, including Dr Esther Mahlangu, Sophie Mahlangu and Esther Mnguni. It explores the role of art production both past and present through historic examples and contemporary expressions, while fostering international connections and collaboration.

The Department of Culture Sport and Recreation and Dr David Riep (an Assistant professor of art history in the Department of arts and history) from Colorado State University (CSU) initiated and organized an exhibition which was launched officially on 14 June 2019.

The challenges facing the village had a detrimental effect and resulted in a decline of tourists visiting the area. The inadequate attention given to the village had a cumulative structural impairment to the village. The challenges facing the village have been mitigate as follows:

ISSUE	CHALLENGE	INTERVENTION
Human Resource	<p>The Cultural village has lost seven employees due to natural attrition during this era of moratorium.</p> <p>The village is left with 2 male grounds men responsible for general maintenance of the village entailing gardening, collection of raw material for building maintenance, pruning of trees, refuse disposal, collection of cow dung and collection of building sand. In an Ideal situation these activities require six grounds men to perform.</p> <p>Currently there are three female general assistants responsible for the thirty six (36) huts. They plaster them, decorate with cow dung, sweep the ground daily and perform mural painting, decoration and design. They also collect natural raw material like grass robes, natural painting soil as well as natural plastering soil.</p>	<p>In the 2017/18 financial year the village was allocated a budget to employ two female and one male from the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) allocation the Department received. The number was increased to six males and six females in the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>In the 2019/20 financial year the number decreased to only five females and four males.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>The ancient complex (Kraal) with (9) beehive huts has completely deteriorated. The does not attract tourists anymore as it was most likable</p>	<p>The allocated 7 Million budget for 2019/20 financial year will address the revamping of all beehive,</p>

	<p>view. The middle complex with seven traditional thatch roof is losing their shape. Urgent attention is to be considered for the complete rethatching. The modern complex depicting latest lifestyle with five traditional thatch roof huts has lost its authentic shape. Four of the thatch roof huts are to be rethatched.</p> <p>The demonstrational huts view with five beehive huts ,six rondawels thatch Roof huts are no longer in good conditions. Thatch roof has loosen the shape and regarded for rethatching.</p>	<p>rectangular huts, ancient royal kraal, homestead as well as the main museum building.</p>
The Museum Roof	<p>The roof of the Museum block was damaged by thunderstorm on Monday 09 October 2017.The back part of the corrugated roof was blown away by heavy wind. The 29 units box displays are in potential risk of being damaged by the rain from the roof. The Department of Public Works Road and Transport (DPWR&T) assisted with the process of briefing and sourcing of contracted service providers. The process was finalised in the middle of December 2017.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works Roads and Transport facilitated processes of compiling specifications; briefing the service provider as well as sourcing the quotation from the DPWR&T contracted contractors. The quotation amounted to R 387.07.The project was completed on the 12 August 2018.</p>
Water	<p>Water supplying plumbing system has been in place since 1989.The plumbing system are no more in good condition to supply water sufficiently. The whole system is to be upgraded.</p>	<p>Through the maintenance budget the Department was able to alleviate the challenge by :</p>

	<p>The old existing water tank and plumbing system is unable to meet the capacity of the usage of water since the village has extended.</p>	<p>Purchasing and installing two 5000 Litres Jojo tanks Upgrading water pipe system from the main pipe supply. Pressure machine for increasing the pressure to the whole premises.</p>
Fence	<p>The village is surrounded by private farms. The farming is mostly livestock like cattle, sheep and goats. There is a need to safeguard the village by putting up a proper fence. The village require proper security protection to secure Departmental assets within the museum and administration offices. The village is situated in a rural settlement area, with no doubt of facing challenges of wild dangerous species .In this sense, security measures are needed to keep tourists safe from any danger from wild animals .Another serious challenge is that the livestock causes damage to the cow dung decoration and huts.</p>	<p>The fence was repaired by the internal EPWP workers. Its length is 1500m 500m with complete revamping 1000m with minor repair. Fence was completed in August 2018.</p>
Electricity and cable theft	<p>The cable was cut off by theft on Friday 06 and Sunday the 08 October 2017.The whole environment is in potential risk of being targeted.</p>	<p>The Department of Public Works Roads and Transport facilitated the processes of compiling specifications; briefing the service provider as well as sourcing the quotation from the DPWR&T contractors.</p>

		The quotation amounted to R121 173.89. The project was completed in July 2018.
Curation and Artefacts	The Museum needs the expertise of a professional person to assist in the curation of the Museum. Since the inception of the Museum the artefact arrangement were never exposed to a subject matter expert. There is also a need for more artefacts to be displayed in the Museum depending on the themed subject suggested by professionals.	Training of Museum staff in particular field of study to be in a position of use and enhancement of collection.

5. FINDINGS

5.1. Chrome Ville Public Library

- 5.1.1 The Library is very small, and does not have enough space for archiving.
- 5.1.2. The material in the library does not accommodate indigenous languages and the current history of South Africa.

5.2. Kghodwana Cultural Village.

- 5.2.1. There is a shortage of employees, the Museum is currently using employees appointed and remunerated through the EPWP grant the Department received, which run for a certain period.
- 5.2.2. The Museum needs the expertise of a professional person to assist in the curation of the Museum, rendering of professional practices and coordinating museum activities.
- 5.2.3. The Governance structure of the Museum is not clearly outlined as per Museum policy as a result the collection of artefacts is compromised.

5.2.4. There is a need for more artefacts to be displayed in the Museum and their arrangement were never exposed to a subject matter expert.

5.2.5. The Department failed to allocate a budget to Kghodwana Cultural Village for Infrastructure maintenance, hence it cannot operate effectively, efficiently and economically

6. RECOMMENDATIONS.

Based on the above findings, the Committee recommends that the department must:

6.1. Chrome Ville Public Library

6.1.1. Ensure that the New Library to be built at Newton in the 4th Quarter of 2019/20 is big enough to accommodate archive services.

6.1.2 Ensure that the material procured covers indigenous languages and the current history of South Africa.

6.2. Kghodwana Cultural Village.

6.2.1. Employ personnel according to the Museum policy and the Public service Administration act, of 1994 as amended and provide feedback in the next meeting.

6.2.2. Allocate a budget to employ professional person and to train the Museum staff in particular fields of study needed to be able to use and enhance their knowledge with regard to the management of the collection.

6.2.3 Outline the governance structure of the Museum as per policy, indicate how the artefacts need to be collected, stored and preserved and develop more marketing and educational programmes for the public.

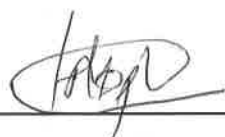
6.2.4. Source more artefacts to be displayed in the museum and ensure that the Museum have access to a subject matter expert. There is a need to consider digital display since there is limited space in the museum.

6.2.5. Annually budget for Infrastructure maintenance and the budget must reflect how funds are allocated for the Museum.

7. CONCLUSION.

The chairperson Hon Hlophe thanked Honourable members of the Committee for availing themselves for the oversight visit and their meaningful inputs. She also commended the Department for their commitment and the budget of 7 Million allocated to the Cultural Village and Museum. She also thanked the Leadership of the Municipality, managers and the support staff of the legislature for being part of the Oversight programme.

The Department must implement the Oversight House resolutions herein and submit a progress report to the Legislature by: 30 September 2019.



HON.NE HLOPHE

27/08/2019

DATE

CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

ON EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION