

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS ON OVERSIGHT VISIT CONDUCTED AT KWAZAMOKUHLE EXTENSION 8 (HENDRINA)-DEPARTMENT HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) conducted oversight over the Department of Human Settlements 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 of Human Settlements (the Department), and hold it accountable through various measures.

2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

- The purpose of the oversight visit was to assess the progress made by the Department in providing quality housing project and consider implementation and adherence to policy prescripts guiding Human Settlements.
- To obtain the views from the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (Middelburg) on the provision of the basic service delivery.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the Portfolio Committee after the approval of the Legislature programme, the Department of Human Settlements was invited to the oversight visits to

be conducted in Kwazamokuhle extension 8 Hendrina. The invitations were also extended to South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Executive Mayor for Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, the Councillors), Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Auditor General's Office. The committee conducted the oversight visit on the 30 July 2019.

4. OBSERVATION OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

- The land where houses were built was serviced by the Department of Human Settlements.
- Some of the houses reflected good quality workmanship and the Committee commended the Department.

5. PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ON KWAZAMOKUHLE EXTENSION 8 - HENDRINA (STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY)

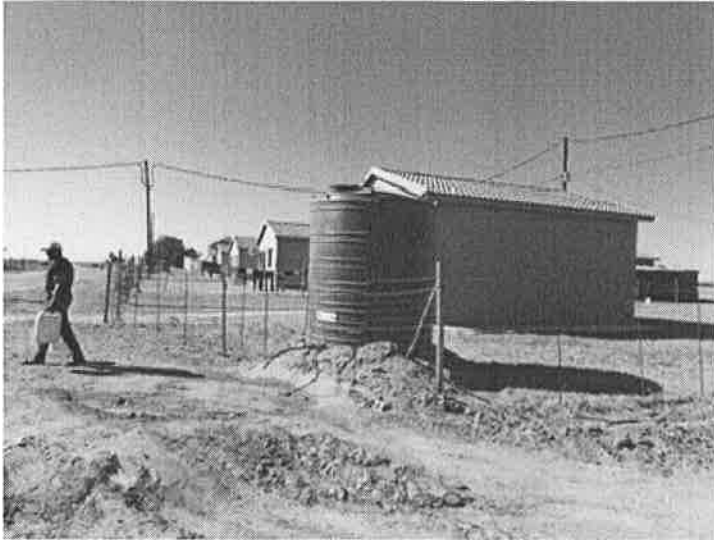
- Ms Lusanda Geleba was the leader of the delegation from department and Mr BM Mhlanga Chief Director Corporate briefed the committee on the project. In his briefing he indicted the following;
- Rockdale is a Greenfield project positioned at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and three (3) contractors were appointed in May 2016 by the Department of Human Settlements to build the 1250 units namely;

- Asishiyelane Trading allocated 205 units at a budget of R27 391 677. 80 and six (6) Military Veterans units at a budget of R1 177 131.72
- Avax S.A. 181 cc Trading has been allocated 100 units at the budget of R12 530 136.
- Shirdo Trading with an allocation of 100 units at a budget allocation of R12 501 640.00.00

The contractors were appointed in May 2016 and the projects were completed in September 2017 .The Department reported that the portion of land was serviced by the Department of Human Settlements where the 1 250 units were built during the previous financial year **2016/17**. The project has good road infrastructure which has been done by Shirdo Trading Services. All three (3) projects at Kwazamokuhle that commenced in September 2016 were completed, beneficiaries have occupied the units in September 2017. There is a water challenge in the area, the municipality is supplying the area with water through Jojo tanks and water trucks twice a week.

Below are some of the completed housing units and being occuppies by the owners.





6. CHALLENGES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF KWAZAMOKUHLE

The committee engaged with one beneficiary at Kwazamokuhle extension 8; and he raised the following:

- No speed humps for the safety of the pedestrians and people with disabilities.
- There is a challenge of roof leakage in some of the houses during heavy rains, however they were satisfied with the structure and finishing of the housing units.
- There is a shortage of water supply in the area.
- They request high mass light in the area for their safety and satellite police station.
- There is a close formal dumping area next to the new settlement which has not been fenced or surrounded by wall that separate the settlement and the dumping area which poses risk to the people's health.

The Committee advised the Department to ensure that where there are completion of houses rightful beneficiaries must take occupation and not wait for all the houses to be completed. The Department continues to deliver services/projects to communities of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in line with the integrated planning, there are also serviced stands for future development.

6.1. CHALLENGES RAISED BY THE DEPARTMENT

- The business forum disrupts progress on the projects from time to time when they are not appointed.
- The challenge of completing project in time is caused by none attendance by municipals officials (Technical team) to meetings.

6.2. COMMENTS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

The committee wanted to know what action has been taken by the department to fix the roof leakages. The department reported that they would conduct inspections to all the houses and liaise with contractors to do renovations. The residents complained about water in the area, the municipality responded that it is their responsibility and prerogative to ensure that there is water in the area however they are working on it. The committee further noted that there was a slow pace on finishing the projects. The department responded that the course of delay was due to the channelling of funds to assist the Kanyamazane storm disaster.

The committee wanted to know why the officials from the municipality do not attend meetings. The Member of Mayoral Committee MMC acknowledged the concern raised on the officials but requested to escalate the matter to the council. The committee wanted a reason why the business forum disrupt some of the projects. The municipality responded that local business wanted to sub-contract under main contractor and complained that the department prioritised people from Mbombela Local Municipality.

7. Findings

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

- a) Most units at Kwazamokuhle Extension 8 experience the roof leakage.
- b) There is lack of monitoring of projects by both the municipality and the department.
- c) There is lack of monitoring on the sewer spillage close to the housing pump station, which can harm the lives of people and there is a big hole that is full of water where children can drown.
- d) There are no high mass lights and speed humps in the area.

8. Recommendations

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

- a) Ensure that all the three (03) contractors that were awarded the tenders (projects) be recalled to repair the roof leakage to all the affected houses.
- b) Ensure that a monitoring system (steering committee) is established to ensure effective service delivery.

- c) Ensure that monitoring system is developed to address the challenges of sewer spillage at Newtown pump station and the big hole be closed as the matter of urgency.
- d) Ensure that the challenge of high mass light and speed humps is addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Department must submit a detailed progress report to the Portfolio Committee on or before 30 September 2019

9. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for participating and further extends her appreciation to the Senior Officials of the Department of Human Settlements, Councilors and officials of Steve Tshwete 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 oversight visit.

Mandela

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

27/08/2019

DATE