

# REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS , UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT VISITS TO PROJECTS - NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Legislature) has a responsibility in terms of Section 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, (the Constitution) to facilitate public involvement in its legislative and other processes. Section 115 (a) and (b) of the Constitution empowers the Legislature to (a) “summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation, or to produce documents” and sub-section (b) states that “the Legislature or any of its Committees may require any person or provincial institution to report to it”.

This is a report on the oversight visits that were conducted by the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (the Committee) to projects of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (the department) on 30 July 2019. The report seeks to inform the House on the activities that were taken during the oversight visits..

## 2. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee conducted oversight visits to projects of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs on 30 July 2019 . The unannounced oversight visits were conducted at Nkomazi Local Municipality.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE OVERSIGHT VISITS

- a) **The following objectives informed the oversight visits to the projects of the department:**
- To evaluate the progress made on projects reflected in the Annual Performance Plan (APP) implemented by the department.
  - To determine the extent to which public funds are efficiently, economically and effectively utilised by the department in the implementation of its projects;

- To interact with project beneficiaries in order to receive their concerns.
- To fast-track service delivery of core services to the communities within the municipality in which the department has funded projects.
- To assess the progress made in implementation of the Fortune-40 programme.

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

##### **4.1 INTAMAKUPHILA FORTUNE 40 PROJECT**

###### **4.1.1 Background.**

Intamakuphila fortune 40 project is situated in Magogeni area. The farm is part of the fortune 40 programme implemented since 2015/16 financial year. The project was visited by the portfolio committee in 2017, and was not producing at the time of the Committee's visit. A number of challenges were raised by the project beneficiaries and the department promised to attend to the house resolutions. The reported progress is that there is progress in terms of production and the project beneficiaries are satisfied with the progress made to date.

###### **4.1.2 Inputs by the Project Beneficiaries**

The Project Beneficiaries raised the following:

1. Tractor is not working due to poor conditions
2. Three (3) solar systems and transformer are required
3. Need one (1) borehole
4. Enough personnel is required to assist due to the workload in the project
5. Green houses are without pipes and water.

###### **4.1.3 Deliberation during the Oversight Visit**

The Committee deliberated with the project beneficiaries as follows:

- The Committee made observations that the tractor is not in good conditions

- The Committee made commitment that they will reuquest the department to urgently assit the project beneficiarias.
- The Committee also noted with concern that the there is poor communication between the department and beneficiaries

#### **4.1.4 Findings**

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- a. Tractor not in good conditions
- b. There is poor communication between the department and the project beneficiaries.
- c. Green houses are without water
- d. Not enough personnel in the project (members reduced from 10 to 6)
- e. Swerage system not working properly

#### **4.1.5 Recommendations**

- a. The department must assist the project beneficiaries with a tractor
- b. Strengthen communication between the department and project beneficiaries
- c. The department must ensure that there is provision of water in the project and a borehloe is provided
- d. Ensure that the project has enough personnel
- e. That the sewerage system is in good condition and is properly working

#### **4.2. NKOMAZI WEST MAIZE MILLING PROJECT**

The Nkomazi West Maize Milling Project is located at Magogeni under Mhlaba Traditional Authority in the Nkomazi Local Municipality about 50km South of Malelane. The project beneficiaries own the land through a P.T.O obtained from the Local Tribal Authority and is not yet registered as a legal entity. The project beneficiaries include about 500 community members who are maize producers in the Nkomazi West area.

### 4.2.1. Project Background

The Nkomazi West maize mill is strategically situated to service the three (3) traditional authorities (Matsamo, Mhlaba and Mawewe) in Nkomazi West to benefit all maize producers in the area. The most targeted areas depending on maize production are Mhlaba and the Mawewe traditional authorities. Currently the maize producers in the area process their maize in Swaziland.

The project started in 2011 and was put on hold and there was no progress since March 2013. Project beneficiaries confirmed that the construction of the mill was put on hold and the department was not responding when enquiries were made with regard to the completion of the mill and the equipping of boreholes. The department reported that a fence with palisade was installed on two (2) hectares of land in the 2013/14 financial year. The roof was damaged and the palisade fence is destroyed. The project was continually vandalised, which was affecting the progress that had already been made on site in the previous financial years.

### Funding

Financial year	Expenditure	Work done
2011/12	R 1 701 000.00	Spent for construction of a steel structure, borehole, guard house, palisade fencing (2ha), weigh bridge, water tank and access road
2016/17	R 741 000.00	Spent for completion of the milling structure and water reticulation.
2017/18	R 2 442 000.00	The supply, delivery and installation of milling plant (machinery) and silos.
2018/19	-	-

#### **4.2.3. Progress to date**

The housing structure for the milling machines has been completed and fenced off with palisades. A borehole has been drilled, a weighbridge and an access road has been graded.

#### **4.2.4 Challenges**

1. Walls are cracking.
2. Electricity remains a challenge in the project.
3. Machines in place but not working.

#### **4.2.5 Inputs by the Project Beneficiaries**

The Project Beneficiaries raised the following:

1. The project was not officially handed over to beneficiaries
2. There is no electricity and not safe in the evening
3. Everything installed is not working
4. The contractor has provided training to the beneficiaries for only a week which was not enough to them
- 5.

#### **4.2.6 Deliberation during the Oversight Visit**

The Committee deliberated with the project beneficiaries as follows:

- i. The Department must attend to all concerns raised by beneficiaries
- ii. Training to beneficiaries must be provided and the department develops maintenance plan
- iii. Enough security be in place to prevent vandalism.
- iv. Training must be provided to beneficiaries

#### **4.2.7 Findings**

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- a) The project is not operational

- b) The project does not have electricity.
- c) Enough training was not provided to beneficiaries
- d) Security not in place
- e) The housing structure for the milling machines has been completed and fenced off with palisades.


#### 4.2.8 Recommendations

- a) The department must ensure that the project is operational and assistance is provided to beneficiaries
- b) The department must ensure that there is electricity in the project
- c) The department must ensure that enough training is provided to beneficiaries
- d) The department must ensure that security is provided in the project

**Unless otherwise stated, a report detailing progress made in the implementation of all recommendations in this report should be forwarded to the Legislature by 30 September 2019 and thereafter on quarterly basis.**

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon TM Makaringe, extends his appreciation to Members of the Committee and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during this oversight visit to the projects of the department in enhancing the oversight role of the Legislature. The Portfolio Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations.



HON. TM MAKARINGE (MPL)

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

26/08/2019

DATE