

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT CONDUCTED AT ARISE AND SHINE ECD CENTRE - 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 30 July 2019 at Hendrina, Arise and Shine ECD Centre as part of the follow-up oversight visits to the previously visited project during March 2017 Taking Legislature Programme (TLP).

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

2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The objectives were:

- i) To conduct oversight visits to ascertain successes, challenges and impact on Early Childhood Development programmes.
- ii) To assess the implementation of policies by the department on norms and standards.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee notified the Department of Social development about the visit and invited Arise and Shine Centre respectively as per the programme of the Legislature to an oversight visit, conducted 30 July 2018 at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, in Hendrina.

4. OBSERVATIONS

The committee observed the following:

- The centre has 54 children yet it is only funded for 30 Children.
- The capacity of the centre is 67 children as per the health inspection certificate
- The centre has been funded for R118 800.00 in the 2019/20 financial year and needs more funding to run effectively.
- The centre is small and needs a stand to build but experiencing problem with the Local Municipality.

5. INTEACTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INPUTS BY MANAGEMENT OF ARISE AND SHINE ECD CENTRE

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

Arise and Shine, Early Child Development (ECD) care facilities operating in the four (4) room house. The Arise and Shine ECD facility is within the Location of Hendrina, Zamokuhle and it has two classes. One class consists of twelve (12) children aged 3-4 years. The other class has 38 children aged 4-5 years providing an Early Child Development service.

During the initial visit the department reported that the Centre has 1 principal who was also taking responsibility for a class. According to the National Norms and Standards the ratio for babies is 1 ECD practitioner for 6 children and for 18 month and above and one educator for every 20 children.

During the recent visit the committee noted that the Centre has a total number of 4 educators inclusive of the principal taking care of 54 Children. The committee noted that 1 additional educator has been employed and the centre is fully compliant to the norms and standard.

Furthermore, during the initial visit it was noted that the educators do not have the necessary qualifications and during the recent visit the committee noted that none of the five (5) educators possess any post grade 12 qualifications, which contravenes the ECD policy guidelines. However the principal indicated that the staff attended training with the

Embary Institute in Pretoria and have completed their ECD level 4 Qualification just waiting for their certificates.

The committee further noted that collaborations between the municipality and Atlantis mine to offer ECD education training has been finalized and the educators will soon attend training.

COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was satisfied by the standard of the ECD as it had all the necessary requirements. The ECD facility had educational toys, blankets, well equipped kitchen, toilets with seats designed for children and a clean ground.

The Committee also questioned the payments of fees by parents of nonsubsidized children on monthly basis on whether they are paying the same fee with the funded as it was reported that parents do not want to sign declarations forms.

The committee noted that currently the centre is renting a house and there is a concern about the ownership of the land where the centre management wanted to build. The centre management indicated that the Municipality allocated a land at Extension 09, but later they were told that the land is sold although upon investigation, they discovered that the land is not sold.

The Committee expressed grave concern over the delays by the Department and the municipality to source a suitable venue for the centre. The Department was advised to urgently resolve these challenges as this had been ongoing for the past three years.

5.1 FINDINGS

After the deliberations, the Committee made the following findings:

- 1) The operational premises have limited space which is rented monthly and that consume the allocated budget.
- 2) Educators/ ECD Practitioners do not have any post grade 12 qualifications which posed threat to quality ECD programmes.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The department must make follow-up with the municipality in fast tracking the allocation of land to Arise and Shine or securing suitable structure that meet the norms and standards of the department to eliminate the cost of renting.
- 2) The department must ensure that the educators receive the necessary skills and training in line with ECD policy guidelines to enhanced quality of the ECD programmes.

6. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson extended his appreciation to Members of the Committee, officials from the Department of Social Development, Arise and Shine ECD Centre 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 September 2019.



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

27/08/2019
DATE