

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND  
TRANSPORT; ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON  
UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT VISITS TO EHLANZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY 16  
FEBRUARY 2017 (CSSL)**

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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. In terms of Section 133 (3) (b) of the Constitution, Members of the Executive Council of a province must provide the Legislature with full and regular reports concerning matters under their control. 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".

Rule 131 of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Rules) gives Portfolio Committees the mandate to oversee the performance of the departments and to hold the Executive Authority accountable for the delivery of core mandated services. Therefore, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport; Community Safety, Security and Liaison (the Committee) regularly conducts public hearings and oversight visits to projects of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (the department) and other projects; in the various municipalities of the Province.

**2. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISITS**

**a) The following objectives shaped the oversight visits to the projects of the department:**

- To determine challenges impacting on the Police Stations in meeting the national standards.

- To assess the challenges affecting the functionality of the Police Stations (e.g. office space and operational budget for CPF).

### **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Road and Transport; Community Safety, Security and Liaison decided to conduct unannounced oversight visits around Ehlanzeni Local Municipality. Two (2) Police Stations were identified by the Committee, which was Kabokweni Police Station and Kanyamazane Police Station.

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

#### **4.1. Kabokweni Police Station**

##### **Background**

Kabokweni Police Station is located at 1211 Kabokweni Main Street. It is a fully-fledged police station with 5 holding cells with the capacity of 50 people. Kabokweni is a rural area with a population of 144 927. The police station is in the vicinity of main facilities like hospital, fire department and emergency services (ambulance station). The staff compliment is 165 including the administration personnel. The Police station building is under renovation since 2016.

#### **4.1.1. The Committee deliberations with the Kabokweni Police Station Management**

**The following issues were noted:**

1. The police station has got 16 vehicles with a very high mileage of 200 000km or more.
2. The police station has got two (2) Groundsmen.

3. Vehicles are parked at the station to ensure their safety and a station camp inspection is conducted on daily basis.
4. The police station has got a functional CPF Structure.
5. The police do not use their personal protective equipments (Bullet Proof Vest in spite of being sensitised to do so when on duty.
6. The sector managers and the communication officer conduct monthly crime awareness campaigns which also help in addressing the problem of drug abuse. amongst the youth

#### **4.1.2. Challenges**

1. Turnaround time for vehicles sent to the SAPS state garage for service and repairs is too long.
2. Increase in the population size due to development of new areas in the policing precinct, which also increases the size of the area as well as number of people who need to be serviced.
3. Property crime.

#### **4.1.3. Findings**

1. Turnaround time of vehicles going to the SAPS state garage the process takes time.
2. The police station has got 16 vehicles with a very high mileage of 200 000km or more: 16 vehicles.
3. There is a rapid increase in the population size due to development of new areas within the policing precinct, which also increases the size of the area as well as number of people who need to be serviced.

#### **4.1.4. Recommendations**

1. The department must ensure vehicles that are sent for service are fixed within a reasonable time-frame so that service delivery is not derailed.
2. The department must procure new vehicles for the Police Station.
3. The department must consider establishing a satellite Police Station to increase access to police services.

#### **4.2. Kanyamazane Police Station.**

##### **Background**

Kanyamazane Police Station is located at 2242 Kanyamazane Sun-bird Street. It is a fully-fledged police station with five (5) holding cells. Kanyamazane is a rural-urban area with a population of 34 593. The police station is in the vicinity of main facilities like fire department and emergency services (ambulance station). The staff compliment is 105 members.

##### **4.2.1. The Committee deliberations with the Kanyamazane Police Station Management.**

**The following issues were noted:**

- The police station does not respond promptly when crime is reported.
- The members of the police were not wearing bullet proof vests.
- No burglar proof on all offices.

#### **4.2.2. Challenges**

- Vehicles are too old and no longer in good working condition thus the police station does not respond promptly to crime reports.
- Inaccessibility of certain areas by vehicle due to mountainous, which render it difficult to attend to complains.
- Kanyamazane SAPS does not have a Victim Friendly room for sensitive issues.
- Telephones are not working since 2015.
- No public toilets to the police station.
- There is a need for satellite at Thekwane.

#### **4.2.3. Findings**

1. Police officers at Kanyamazane Police Station do not respond urgently to crime reports.
2. There is a need for new vehicles that are in good working condition.
3. Police Officers at the police station are not using Personal Protective Equipments (PPE), while they are on duty e.g. bullet proof vests.

#### **4.2.4. Recommendations**

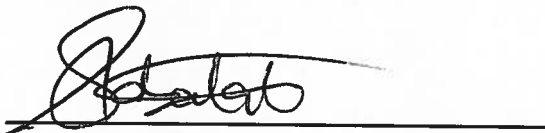
1. The department should investigate the lack of prompt response to crime reports and develop plans to address the matter in ensuring that services are provided efficiently and effectively.
2. The department must ensure that Kanyamazane Police Station has adequate vehicles for service delivery.
3. The department/station management must ensure that there is proper use of Personal Protective Equipment, particularly, Bullet Proof Vests.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon GC Shabalala extends her appreciation to Members of the Committee, Station Commander and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during this oversight visit to the communities of the Ehlanzeni Local Municipality, in enhancing the oversight role of the Legislature.

The Portfolio Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations.

Unless otherwise stated, the department should provide progress reports on all issues raised to the Portfolio Committee by **13 April 2017** and thereafter on a quarterly basis.



**HON. GC SHABALALA (MPL)**

17/03/2017

**DATE**

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT;  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON**