

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT; ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON
TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE OVERSIGHT VISITS TO DR JS MOROKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY 17-21 SEPTEMBER 2018 (CSSL)**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legislature conducted the programme of Taking the Legislature to the People (TLP) as from 17-21 September 2018 in Dr JS Moroka Municipality. The Portfolio Committee on Public Works Roads and Transport; Community Safety, Security and Liaison (the Committee) visited Mmammetlake Police Station in Dr JS Moroka on 19 September 2018 and further conducted a public hearing in Katjibane where a number of issues relating to safety and security of the surrounding areas were raised.

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).
- To assess how the surrounding police stations were providing services to the communities of Dr JS Moroka Municipality.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The TLP Programme took place as from 17-21 September 2018 and oversight visits and Public Hearings were conducted as follows:

- 19 September 2018 : **Mmammetlake Police Station in Dr JS Moroka**
- 20 September 2018 : Public Hearing at the main venue

The following people interacted with the Committee during the oversight visit at the police station:

The Officials from Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mmametlake Police Station Management, SAPU, POPCRU and CPF.

4. OVERSIGHT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS

4.1 Mmametlake Police Station

4.1.1 Background

Mmametlake Police Station is located between the borders of Limpopo Police station: Rust de Winter Saps; Pienaarsrivier Saps and Tuinplaas Saps. The station commissioner is Lt Colonel Seloene PS.

The station is currently providing services to approximately +- 112330 people. The population is comprised of blacks only. The station is surrounded by Municipal roads.

4.1.2 The Committee deliberations with the Mmametlake Police Station Management

The following issues were raised

- The station is next to the main road but not visible because it shares its premises with local municipality traffic officers.
- The station does cater for people with disabilities. They have one satellite police station at Marapeyane and planning to open another one at Katjibani.
- The station building is old and small.
- It was reported that the Police Officers are working 24 hours more especial during festive season operations.
- The station has 1 holding cells in the Community center which is wrongly located because even the safe in which they keep ammunition is inside that holding cell. The station does not have formal Cells hence they use Siyabuswa to detain their detainees. They are currently transporting their detainees to Siyabuswa which is costly.

- The station has 10 vehicles and 2 are fairly new and 4 are above 300 000 KMs. The area of policing is vast, it includes 16 villages, 116 taverns and 67 schools hence there is a need for more cars which can work within vastness of that rural terrain.
- The SAPS 13 stores are well arranged with an updated inventory register.
- POPRU and SAPU unionist confirmed that all the challenges raised by the department are the same challenges that are affecting them as the unions.

4.1.3 Challenges

- a) There is a need for more cars to be able to deal with the vast area and the fact that there are no cells more cars are often used to transport detainees to other distant police stations than to do policing work.
- b) The station is not safe because they are unable to see people as they enter the gate.
- c) The station share their compound with other departments.
- d) The municipality has more escape routes which make policing difficult
- e) Given the vast area of policing and rising number of the population, the station needs extra 10 police officials to be able to perform better.
- f) There is a need for high mast lights in the station.
- g) There is a high usage of drugs like nyaope around Marapeyane and unemployment rate is extremely high.
- h) Police also complained about the Liquor Board which gives people and their taverns liquor licenses even though they are close to schools and churches without going through proper channels.

5. OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS

- The Committee noted that the station buildings are in good condition but very old.
- The Committee noted that there is a need for SAPS to liaise with the department of Cogta to engage with Traditional leaders regarding the allocation of stands.

- The Committee also noted that the municipality had functional Community Policing Forum (CPF) structures in place. It was further noted that there is shortage of vehicles in all the Police Stations within the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.
- There were no improvements to cater for the growing population of the area and the station was built for a small population of the time during the homeland system
- There are constant taxi feuds amongst local and long distance taxi associations which require strategic intervention to ease the burden left with the local police station to resolve endless taxi disputes in the area.
- The police are understaffed and overworked with no overtime incentives as required by labour matters related prescripts

6. Findings

After the interaction with Management of the station, the following were Committee findings:

1. There is a need for additional police vehicles at Mmametlake Police Station.
2. Shortage of Offices and there is a need for adequate furniture at Mmametlake SAPS
3. Shortage of staff in Mmametlake Police Station police officers are working 24 hours during festive operations.
4. There is a need for high mast lights in the station.
5. There is a high usage of nyaope around Marapeyane mall.
6. There is a need to recommend the rebuilding of a new police station in the area to cater and withstand the ever growing population it is serving.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended that the department must implement the following measures:

1. Ensure that Mmametlake Police station has new vehicles for service delivery.
2. Engage with the National Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport so that the station can be assisted in terms of offices and also engage SAPS to purchase new furniture for the station and further provide progress to the Committee.
3. Ensure that critical posts are filled to avoid police officers working 24 hours
4. SAPS must liaise with the local municipality to assist in installation of high musk light.
5. Provide a plan in dealing with a high rate of nyaope around Marapyane
6. SAPS must engage with the National Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport for process of building new police station in Mmametlake and provide progress to the Committee.

8. Public Hearings

Issues that were raised during the public hearings:

1. The Community requested a satellite police station at ward 20 and ward 22
2. There is high rate of crime around Vaal Bank Ward 10
3. There is shortage of Police Officers around Dr JS Moroka.
4. The Mmametlake Police Station has no capacity to service Pankop
5. Tavern at Ward 24 Mothoseng operating 24 hours.

8.1 Cross- Cutting Recommendations

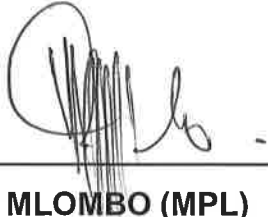
The Committee noted the concerns that were raised by the community and there for recommended to the department to investigate the above mentioned raised issues and provide progress report as a matter of urgency.

9. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon GC Shabalala extends her appreciation to Members of the Committee, the department, SAPS and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during this oversight visit to the communities of the Dr JS Moroka 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 report on all issues raised to the Portfolio Committee by 23 November 2018 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.



HON. FV MLOMBO (MPL)

17.10.2018

DATE

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