

REPORT ON THE TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE (TLP) OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION

OVERSIGHT VISIT TO MARAPYANE PUBLIC LIBRARY, DR JS MOROKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY – HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legislature conducted the Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) in Katjibane, Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality from 17-21 September 2018.

Sections 114 and 133 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (the Constitution) empowers the provincial Legislature to hold the Member of the Executive Council accountable for the performance of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Department) and service delivery in line with planned projects as per its Annual Performance Plan for a financial year.

The Portfolio Committee on Education; Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Committee) conducted an oversight visit to **Marapyane Public Library** on 19 September 2018.

House resolutions emanating from this Committee report will be referred to the Department for implementation and report back to the Legislature.

2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The main objectives of the TLP oversight visit to Marapyane Public Library was to assess the efficiency of the library in delivering services amid infrastructural challenges.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The TLP Political Steering Committee adopted the proposed programme for the Social Cluster. Coordination of the planned TLP activities was done through formal invitations to targeted stakeholders. The Department and the library staff assisted with the logistics for the Committee visit. The Committee then met on 12 October 2018 to consider and adopt its draft report.

4. INTERACTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND STAKEHOLDERS

4.1. MARAPYANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

4.1.1. Briefing session

The Committee was briefed on the library profile by the delegated Department officials. The delegation was led by the Chief Director, Mr. Siphso Gana, who was accompanied by the District Director, the Head of Planning in the Department and the library staff.

The Committee received the apology of the MEC and the HOD who were attending the Executive Council meeting scheduled for the same time. The Committee welcomed the presentation by the Department and interacted with the delegation. The Municipality had been invited but did not attend the briefing.

During the briefing session the Committee noted with appreciation the newly built Masobye Library, which was an ideal library servicing the community with modern ICT facilities in addition to the normal library services.

4.1.2. Background

Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality has five (5) public libraries as follows:

- Libangeni Public Library
- Marapyane Public Library
- Maphotla Public Library
- Masobye Public Library
- Siyabuswa Public Library

The Department will be constructing a 6th library in Mmametlake in 2020/21 financial year.

Marapyane Public Library was established in 2008 by the Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality. It is situated at the Marapyane Thusong Centre, which is shared by various government departments. The Department assisted with the provision of personnel, furniture, equipment (including computers) and other library materials including books.

The Department indicated that the book selection for the library was relevant to the struggle history of South Africa.

Access to library services

The library services the local communities that also include a total of 16 schools (7 primary schools, 2 secondary schools, 2 combined schools and 5 pre-schools).

Marapyane Public Library has 556 active members and an average of 60 users per day who visit the library.

4.1.3. OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

(a) Infrastructure

In terms of infrastructure, the library is small but encompasses the key services of an ideal library (in terms of ICT equipment and services). It has the requisite areas such as study room, computer room, early childhood development area, book display area, reception area, shelved book area and a front desk.

The Committee appreciated the service provided to the community, although the membership was small. It was noted that the Department would be constructing an ideal library in Marapyane in the 2020/21 financial year, which would address some of the infrastructure challenges of the current library.

(b) Staffing

The library has three (3) staff members broken down as follows:

- One (1) qualified librarian responsible for management, marketing and promotion of the library.
- One (1) library assistant/ Cyber cadet to assist library users with IT related issues.
- One (1) General Assistant who assists with general work in the library.

The Committee noted that the library was well-managed, clean and neat despite the entrance being overcrowded by people waiting for other government services (SASSA) at the Thusong centre. During the Committee's visit, there were users in the library, especially at the computer section.

(c) Furniture and Equipment

The library is well-furnished. The equipment purchased by the Department was functional and it was observed during the Committee's visit that the community made good use of these services. This included the computers, printer, scanner and fax machine.

The following furniture and equipment were verified during the visit:

- Study desks, cubicles and chairs in the study room and computer room
- Display table in the reception area
- Front desk (reception)
- Early childhood development area with requisite furniture and play items
- Shelving for library books, magazine and newspaper stand
- Equipment such as photocopier and computers

(d) Provision of ICT services

Key services provided are:

- Free internet and WI-FI
- Photocopies and print outs (R1.00 per page)
- Scanning and faxing.

The Cyber Cadet stationed at the library assisted users with various IT related requests.

(e) Book provisioning

The Committee noted that the library was well-stocked with books in good condition. Many of the books were relevant to the struggle history of South Africa.

5. FINDING

The Committee made the following finding for Marapyane Public Library:

- 5.1. The library is functional, but has become too small to cater for the community which includes a total of 16 schools. It is also not ideally situated at a busy Thusong Centre and tavern complex. However, the Department has planned to design and construct a new Marapyane Public Library over the 2020/21-2021/22 financial years.

6. RECOMMENDATION

After considering its finding, the Committee recommended that the Department must implement the following and **provide a progress report by 19 November 2018**:

- 6.1. The Department must implement its plan to design and construct the new Marapyane Public Library within the 2020/21-2021/22 financial years to ensure that the community receives modern, state of the art library services.

7. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee would like to express her gratitude to the Honourable Committee Members for their constructive inputs during the TLP oversight visit to Marapyane Public Library.

The Committee requests the House to adopt this report with its finding and recommendation. The Department is required to implement the House Resolution herein and submit a progress report to the Legislature by 19 November 2018.



HON. TS KHOZA, MPL

16/10/2018

DATE

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION**