

TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE (TLP) OVERSIGHT VISITS REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT TIRISANO VICTIM EMPOWERMENT CENTRE ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2018- DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

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

The Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) visited Tirisano VEP Centre during the TLP programme on 18 September 2018.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PRE-TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT

The purpose of the TLP was to assess the performance of the Centre and the extent in which its funding expands the services to the community.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Legislature notified all departments accordingly about the TLP oversight visits to be conducted and the purpose thereof. Invitations were then sent to the respective departments including the Department of Social Development, management of the centre and the municipality requesting them to be part of the programme.

- On 18 September 2018, the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development conducted the oversight visit to Tirisano VEP Centre;

- On 18 September 2018, the Social Transformation Cluster held the stakeholder engagement on the Elderly and People with Disability at Former Marapyane Agricultural College;
- On 20 September 2018, the Social Transformation Cluster jointly with the Economic Cluster conducted a public hearing at Vultures FC Sport Field.

4. OBSERVATIONS

The committee observed the following:

- The centre is a very neat, clean and welcoming environment, it is well kept and secure.

5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Presentation on the performance of the association and the efficiency of the budget

The HOD: Mr. MV Mahlalela, appreciated the oversight by the committee and delegated Ms. Motshapi, the Social Worker responsible in that area to present on behalf of the department. She outlined the following in her presentation:

- Tirisano VEP Centre is the only available and funded Centre in the Dr JS Moroka Municipal area, serving a number of villages/areas;
- It shelters victim of crime and gender based violence for a maximum period of six months;

- Beneficiaries can be involved in gardening, cooking and baking as vocational activities whilst at the Centre;
- the Centre was funded for R 700 000-00 for 2017/18 financial year and received a donation of R 85 000-00 for renovations and maintenance from Criminal Assets Recovery Account;
- The Centre only has three management committee members, emphasized that this is not sufficient for the amount of work and commitment required;
- The Centre has good working relations with the department and JCPS cluster departments such as Department of Education, Correctional Services, Home Affairs, Health, Justice and South African Social Security Agency;
- The Centre has a work force consisting of twelve officials, including two security personnel and three management committee members.

5.2 COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE

Public Relations

The committee wanted to know how the Centre is marketed/made known to the community and general public. The department reported that the Center has a very good working relationship with the different stakeholders within the community. This includes the SAPS, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Justice and Department of Correctional Services as they provide core services towards the management, support and protection of the victims and their families. The services of the Centre are reportedly marketed to the critical departments and they are also encouraged to refer the victims to the Centre. The department also reported that a Social worker appointed by the Centre is also rendering services at the local police station and when cases of domestic violence are reported these cases are referred to the Centre for further care and support. Most of the referrals reportedly come from the local hospital, clinics, courts, local Social Development office and community organizations. It

was further reported that the Centre is a member of the Local Forum for Crime Prevention and Victim Empowerment where different stakeholders sit and deliberate on crime prevention programmes. The services of the Centre are also well articulated in the structure. The department also stated that the services are also marketed during the prevention campaigns that are aimed at creating awareness on Gender Based Violence in the community.

Wellbeing of Beneficiaries

The committee wanted to know the factors that inform the release of the beneficiaries back home/to the community and wanted to know what happens to the beneficiaries after they are released back home –asked if there is any follow-up program. The department reported that on admission to the Centre, the victims are assessed and screened; an individual development plan is then crafted to indicate the profile and home circumstances of the victim. An intervention plan detailing the type of assistance required is formulated. Based on the intervention plan, the Social Worker provides intensive psycho-social support services, physical care and support, life skills programme as well as family reunification services. Victims are prepared for release and their stay can range from a few days, weeks, to a maximum of six months. The department indicated that family reunification and reintegration services are also provided to allow both the family and victim to deal with causal factors. The victim will only be released when circumstances are conducive for release. Aftercare support is reportedly provided to the victim upon discharge from the Center to ensure that the victim feels safe and empowered within the family and community at large.

Management Committee

Noting the report by the Social Worker that the Centre has only three management committee members and that it is not sufficient, the committee wanted to know who and what informs the number of management committee members and how they are elected. The department reported that the Management Committee is elected by the community to serve Tirisano Victim

Empowerment Center. The interim Committee has only recently been elected after the term of office for the previous committee came to an end. The department indicated that two community meetings were held to elect committee members but the attendance was poor which resulted in the election of the 3 members. The department reported that it will continue to provide support and guidance to recruit more members. Options of co-opting responsible community members and people who have experience in the field of crime prevention and gender-based violence will be discussed with the management committee.

Management and Monitoring

The committee wanted to know how the Centre is managed and monitored by the department for accountability. The department reported that the Centre is required to submit performance information on a monthly basis to the Department of Social Development and the South African Police Services. The Centre is also required to submit six monthly financial statements to the department in line with the signed Service Level Agreement and is compliant.

The committee further enquired on the sufficiency and management of funds. The department reported that it has increased the budget from the previous financial year to ensure services of the best quality are delivered. This reportedly included additional money for the appointment of an additional Social Worker to ensure that services are extended further so that a larger population is covered. The department stated that the Centre is adequately staffed to ensure that all their objectives are achieved.

The department also reported that the Centre is well capacitated on the Minimum Norms and Standards for Service Delivery in Victim Empowerment and the programme is implemented in accordance to those standards. Quarterly monitoring using a standardized monitoring tool designed by the department is done to ensure that the Shelter complies with the Minimum Norms and Standards.

Development of Personnel

The department was asked if it conducts any capacitation workshops to staff members of the Centre. The department reported that it does conduct capacitation workshops on the Victim Empowerment Programme as well as workshops for the management committee members. The department outlined that the Social Worker attended a workshop on the Programme of Action on Violence against Women and Children in May 2018 and also attended a capacity building workshop on the capturing of data on the VEPOP system, the management committee is planned to attending a workshop on governance, roles and responsibilities of committees.

Criterion for Funding

The committee wanted to know the requirements for a VEP Centre to be eligible for funding. The department reported that the Victim Empowerment Center must be registered as a Non-Profit Organization with an NPO Registration Number. The organization would then apply and submit a business plan requesting funding. A site verification team is then be dispatched to assess the condition of the building, programmes offered, qualifications of the staff members, screening of both staff and committee members and the locality of the organization. A well constituted district panel will then assess the report from the site verification and recommendations are then made accordingly.

Social Workers

The department was asked if considered appointing additional Social Workers since the shortage was reported. The department has reportedly allocated additional funds to the Centre to employ an additional Social Worker within the current financial year 2018/2019. Currently the Centre has two Social Workers that are employed and this has made a very positive impact on the quality of services rendered to victims of crime and violence. The department further stated

that local community members are also able to access professional psycho-social services at the Centre.

5.3 FINDINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

After the interaction with the department and shelter management, the committee found that:

- a. The Centre has only three management committee members and that it is not sufficient for the amount of work and commitment required;
- b. The department has reportedly allocated additional funds for the Centre to employ an additional Social Worker within the current financial year 2018/2019;

5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

Based on the finding, the committee recommended that the department must implement the following and **submit a detailed progress report by Friday, 30 November 2018:**

- a. Ensure that the Centre elects other management committee members through the community for improved service delivery;
- b. Provide progress report on the planned employment of an additional Social Worker.

6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DSABILITY

The sectors of the elderly and people with disability within the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality gathered at Former Marapyane Agricultural College on Tuesday, 18 September 2018 at 14h00 to engage with the invited stakeholders on how to better service them. The following are inputs from the sectors:

6.1 Elderly Persons

- Mr. Amos Skhosana from Vukuzenzele Elderly Centre, requested the department to assist the centers source funding for the material for the products (e.g. fence) they produce to generate an income, citing that the cost of the material is very expensive and also with marketing;
- Ms. Matswai from Boikhutso Elderly Centre, requested the department to assist the Centre with a new structure with water supply;
- Ms. Elizabeth Skhosana from Bambanani Elderly Centre and requested the department to assist the Centre with a site and new structure, citing that they are currently accommodated in someone's home.

6.2 People with Disability

- Mr. Josiah Magagula from Zenzeleni Stimulation Centre reported that the centre is very small and currently accommodating 30 beneficiaries with different levels of disability in one room. The Centre is also reportedly not safe (unfenced) since the entire fence was stolen by local community members. The Centre also needs a wheelchair for cases of emergency;
- There is a need for another Psychologist within Dr JS Moroka Municipal area since there is only one Psychologist currently serving the community.

6.3 Commitments by the Department of Social Development

MEC BP Shiba appreciated the inputs made and committed that the department will address all the requests made by both sectors accordingly.

6.4 Recommendation

Attend to the issues raised by the sectors accordingly and provide a detailed progress report by **30 November 2018**.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

The following issue was raised by the public:

- Joyce Makula from Ward 16 Lebangeni in Mbibane reported that the post office used for grant administration is not sufficient, it's not adequately staffed and lacking the necessary resources – there is mostly one teller.

7.1 Recommendation

Attend to the issue raised by the public accordingly and provide a detailed progress report by **30 November 2018**.

The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the report with its findings and recommendations and that a progress report on the implementation of House resolutions be provided on or before Friday, 30 November 2018

8. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to all the Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development for their attendance and active participation during the TLP Programme. She further wishes to thank the department, the municipality and the management of the association for the services rendered and the Legislature staff for providing support to the Committee.



HON. DP MANANA

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

18/10/18

DATE