

# **OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT SADDA CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED ON 17 NOVEMBER 2016 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) has a mandate in terms of Rule 119 of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature to conduct oversight over the Department of Health (the department) by holding it accountable through various measures which the Portfolio Committee may undertake during the course of a financial year.

One of the instruments that enable the Portfolio Committee to execute its mandate is to conduct public hearings and oversight visits to social development facilities/centres in the Province.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT**

The purpose was to:

- ❖ To assess the provision of services to people with disability (PWDs).

## **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The oversight visit on 17 November 2016 was unannounced; hence the Department and the Centre were not notified in advance.

#### **4. OBSERVATIONS**

**The Committee observed the following:**

- The Centre is operating in a very small and very old structure with a number of infrastructural defects. The structure does not have proper fencing and it is not safe for the beneficiaries.

#### **5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE**

##### **5.1 Presentation on services provided to PWDs**

Mr. Kgwedi, the Centre Manager presented the report on behalf of the Centre and the Department. He outlined the following in his presentation:

- The Centre is funded by the Department of Social Development with an allocation of R72 000-00 for the 2016/17 financial year, receiving R 18 000-00 quarterly;
- The Centre provides training (skills developmental) to beneficiaries and serves them breakfast and lunch daily;
- The Centre has a vegetable garden worked by the beneficiaries;
- The Centre does the following activities:
  - Gardening,
  - Sewing (school uniforms and bed sets),
  - Arts and craft.
- The Centre is faced with the following challenges:
  - Inadequate budget allocation;
  - No transportation for the beneficiaries (most beneficiaries travel to the Centre from afar communities);

- They do not have a quilting machine for their sewing work (the quilting function for their bed sets is done elsewhere at a cost);
- There is no proper fencing, no safety particularly considering their vulnerability (disability);
- The Centre does not have a computer nor a copier machine for administrative work;
- There is a juice making machine and a T-Shirt printing machine, both are not functional – no chemicals for production;
- The Centre has a workforce of three staff- a cleaner, a cook and a manager; all do not receive any stipend as a result of the limited budget allocation.

## **5.2 Comments by the Committee**

### **Budget allocation**

The Committee noted with concern that the budget was cut from the previous financial year's allocation and enquired on the factors that led to the budget cut. The Centre reported that upon inspections (monitoring and evaluation) by the Department, it was found that the number of beneficiaries served at the Centre as per their submission to the Department was not represented at the Centre. This was due to late coming as a result of the lack of transportation. The Department thereafter reviewed its funding as per the number of beneficiaries found at the Centre, hence the budget cut. The Centre emphasized that though the budget was cut, the number of beneficiaries has not gone down; however there are those beneficiaries that are not consistent with attendance because of the transport problem.

The Committee advised the Centre to approach the Department on the budget allocation, request for a review of the funding and for assistance where possible as per the identified challenges and for training on financial management.

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*Oversight Visit Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development conducted at SADD Centre for the Disabled on 17 November 2016.*

### **Transportation**

Noting that transportation is a challenge for the Centre, the Committee advised the Centre Management to approach a local taxi owner and enter into an agreement/MOU for transport services to the Centre at a monthly fee.

### **Formation of a Cooperative**

Cognizant of the skills development activities done at the Centre and the identified potential of growth and development with relevant training and assistance the Committee advised the Centre to consider forming a cooperative. The Centre was further advised to approach Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) for advice on how to form a cooperative and for funding.

## **5.3 FINDINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE**

After the interaction with the Centre management, the Committee found that:

- a. The Centre faced a challenge of budget cut in the current financial year as a result of poor attendance and at times late coming attributed by the lack of transportation, most beneficiaries resides far away from the Centre;
- b. The Centre is functioning in an old and small structure with infrastructural defects – unsafe and leaking roof, cracked walls and no fencing;
- c. The Centre does not have sufficient furniture and the necessary amenities (computer, copier chairs, tables, mattresses to mention but a few).

## **5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE**

After the deliberations and the in loco inspection, the Committee recommended that the Department must:

- a. Conduct further inspections at the Centre with the consideration of increasing the budget allocation for the next financial year (2017/18) as per the findings of the inspections and the number of the beneficiaries. Provide progress report in this regard and a copy of the Centre Management Policy by 13 April 2017;
- b. Consider the Centre for the infrastructure development grant in the next financial year (2017/18);
- c. Assist the Centre with fund raising and sourcing of funds from local businesses and/or individuals to subsidize the running costs and up-keep of the Centre. Provide progress report in this regard by 13 April 2017.

**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, 13 April 2017.**

## **6. 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 oversight visit. She further wishes to thank the management of the Centre and the Legislature staff for providing support to the Committee.



**HON. P NGOBENI**

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

29/03/17

**DATE**