

OVERSIGHT VISITS REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT MPAKENI CLINIC AND LUPHISI CLINIC ON 14 FEBRUARY 2017 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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 health facilities in the Province.

2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The purpose was to:

- ❖ To assess compliance with the National Core Standard
 - To assess the support provided by Department of Health with regard to the health services offered by the clinics.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The oversight visits conducted at Mbombela Local Municipality on 14 February 2017 were unannounced; hence the department and the clinics were not notified in advance.

Oversight Visits Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development conducted at Mpakeni Clinic and Luphisi Clinic on 14 February 2017.

4. OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed the following:

- Both clinics have a shortage of staff; however this is a national challenge.

5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF MPAKENI CLINIC

The Admin Clerk, Thabile Manana represented the clinic during interactions with the Committee. The Committee learnt that:

- The clinic has been operational since 2003;
- The clinic operates Monday to Friday from 08h00 to 16h00;
- The clinic has thirteen (13) personnel, working shifts; serving at least 50 patients daily;
- There is a Doctor that visits the clinic twice monthly;
- There is a vegetable garden at the clinic worked by the local community.

5.1 FINDINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

After the interaction with the clinic's management, the Committee found that:

- a. There is no air conditioning at the clinic's dispensary;
- b. The Labour room does not have a lockable door;
- c. There are no dustbins;
- d. Emergency Medical Services (ambulances) never responds on time resulting in patient's serious health consequences or even death at times because of delayed health care.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

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

- a. Prioritize the procurement and the installation of an air conditioner and provide progress report in this regard by 13 April 2017;
- b. Ensure that the Labour room's door is lockable for patients' confidentiality and privacy – be it by procuring a new door with new locks or by repairing the one currently used, also provide progress report by 13 April 2017;
- c. Procure dustbins for the clinic before 31 March 2017 and provide progress report by 13 April 2017;
- d. Improve on the emergency response time and continuously monitor the improvement of Emergency Medical Services provincially.

6. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF LUPHISI CLINIC

Sister LM Khoza represented the clinic during interactions with the Committee. The Committee learnt that:

- The clinic operates for seven days a week, 08 hours daily;
- The clinic is operating from a rented house just opposite its building. They have been renting since May 2014 – a three year contract entered into by the Department and the NGO (Shosholoza Foundation – Managed by Mr. Gideon Thwala 071 565 5629 – the owner is Ms. Christine Mynhard) – rent free for the set period ending May 2017;
- The clinic has seven professional nurses and 01 assistant nurse. There is a Doctor that visits once a week for at least 2 hours, seeing at least 10 patients per visit;
- There is an air conditioner at the clinic, it is however ineffective because the dispensary does not have a door – making the control of temperature impossible;

- The patients confirmed that waiting time is less than 3 hours;
- The clinic sees +/- 90 patients daily, chronic patients mostly. Serving 5328 catchment annually, monthly average of 1400;
- The clinic keeps a very neat filling space;
- There is a fridge for storage of vaccines, however it has not been functional from April 2016;
- The clinic is set to be in the Department's plan for the construction of an Innovative Building Technology structure before the end of March 2017;
- The water pressure pump has not been functional since January 2016.

6.1 FINDINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

After the interaction with the clinic's management, the Committee found that:

- a) There is an air conditioner at the clinic, it is however ineffective because the dispensary does not have a door – making the control of temperature impossible;
- b) The clinic is operating from a rented house just opposite its building. However, the clinic is set to be in the Department's plan for the construction of an Innovative Building Technology structure before the end of March 2017;
- c) The Clinic has a fridge for storage of vaccines; however it has not been functional from April 2016;
- d) The water pressure pump at the clinic has not been functional since January 2016.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

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

- a) Prioritize the procurement and the installation of a door in the dispensary and provide progress report in this regard by 13 April 2017;
- b) Provide the Committee with the terms of the rental contract and the Department's detailed plans inclusive of time frames for the clinic by 13 April 2017;
- c) Prioritize the repair of the fridge and provide progress report inclusive of disciplinary measures taken against the Clinic's Manager in this regard by 13 April 2017;
- d) Prioritize the procurement and replacement of the water pressure pumps and 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 by 13 April 2017.

7. 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 clinics 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