

UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED AT ZOEKNOG HOUSE IN CASTEEL BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS – MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) conducted oversight over the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs as mandated by Section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, (Act 108 of 1996), to oversee the performance of the Department of Human Settlements (the Department), and hold it accountable through various measures.

One of the instruments that enable the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements; Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs to execute its mandate is to conduct oversight visits to human settlements housing projects in the Province.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SITE VISIT

The purpose of the unannounced site visit was to assess the workmanship or quality of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) House, sampling which is constructed at Zoeknog in Casteel.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the unannounced oversight visit, the Portfolio Committee invited the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Mayor and Speaker of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality as well as local councillors), Public Service Commission (PSC), Community Development Workers (CDWs) and Contractors responsible for the project. Only one house was visited by the Committee.

4. OBSERVATION

The Committee observed that:

- ❖ There is poor workmanship on the structure. The house in question is not conducive to be occupied (though there are people living in it) as it was in a very bad state. However the owner had conveyed her appreciation for been given the house to stay with her family;
- ❖ In general, the area is faced with a challenge of water supply.

5. HOUSE VISITED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ZOEKNOG IN CASTEEL

The Zoeknog House is located in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) in an area called Casteel.

5.1. SITE INSPECTION

During the inspection at the house, the owner of the house reported the following challenges;

- Shortage of water in the area, although, it was reported that the municipality is addressing it by providing water on a regular basis;

- Kitchen pipe broken inside;
- No kitchen sewage;
- Doors not well fitted;
- No geyser;
- No bathroom;
- Shoddy work on the installation of electricity/ tubing the house

The Committee also noticed that the house is in a dilapidated state and shoddy work when electrifying the house.

6. Findings made by the Committee

After the interaction and inspecting the house, the Committee found that

- 6.1. There was lack of monitoring during the construction by both the department and the municipality, thus the poor workmanship on the structure (house). The house was in a dilapidated state during the visit by the committee;
- 6.2. There were incomplete installations on the structure– house eg; no kitchen sewage; doors not well fitted; no geyser; no bathroom; etc;
- 6.3. There is shortage of water, in the area, although being reported that the municipality is assisting by providing water as a temporal measure;

7. Recommendations made by the Committee

After the findings the Committee recommended that the Department must:

- 7.1. Strengthen its monitoring system during construction process. A follow up site visit will be conducted to ensure that the poor workmanship on the structure/ house has been rectified.

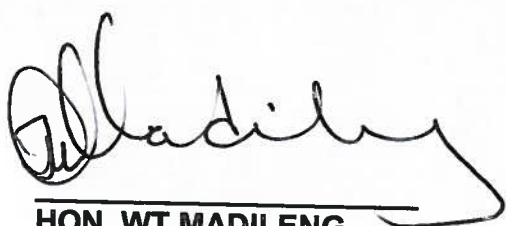
- 7.2. Address the challenges raised by the owner (incomplete installations on the structure) as a matter of urgency and a progress report is submitted to the Legislature by 13 April 2017.
- 7.3. Encourage the municipality to provide water (as a temporary measure) whilst the bulk infrastructure is underway. A detailed progress report to be submitted on how far is the municipality resolving the issue of water.

8. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee for their sterling participation and input during the deliberations on the Unannounced Oversight visit, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Councillors and also thank the Legislature staff for the support they provided the Committee during the deliberations.

Lastly, the Chairperson requests the august House to adopt the report with its recommendations.

A progress report should be submitted to the Legislature on or before 13 April 2017.



HON. WT MADILENG
CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE &
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

16/03/2016
DATE