

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND  
TRANSPORT; COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON  
TLP OVERSIGHT VISITS TO EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY 12-16 MARCH  
2018 (DPWRT)**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Legislature) has a responsibility in terms of Section 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, (the Constitution) to facilitate public involvement in its legislative and other processes. In terms of Section 133 (3) (b) of the Constitution, Members of the Executive Council of a province must provide the Legislature with full and regular reports concerning matters under their control. Section 115 (a) and (b) of the Constitution empowers the Legislature to (a) “summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation, or to produce documents” and sub-section (b) states that “the Legislature or any of its Committees may require any person or provincial institution to report to it”.

Rule 131 of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Rules) gives Portfolio Committees the mandate to oversee the performance of the departments and to hold the Executive Authority accountable for the delivery of core mandated services. Therefore, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport; Community Safety, Security and Liaison (the Committee) regularly conducts public hearings and oversight visits to projects of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (the department) and other projects; in the various municipalities of the Province.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISITS**

- a) The following objectives shaped the oversight visits to the projects of the department:**

- To evaluate the progress made on projects reflected in the Annual Performance Plan (APP) implemented by the department.

### **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The TLP Programme was conducted on 12-16 March 2018. The Committee undertook an oversight visit on 13 March 2018 Duvha Primary School for a construction project (Public Works). On 14 March 2018, the Committee conducted an oversight visit to Road D686 between Leuwfontein and Kendal (Roads). Subsequently, the Committee met on 18 April 2018 to consider the draft report.

### **4. OVERSIGHT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS**

#### **4.1. DUVHA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

##### **4.1.1. Observations by the Committee**

The Committee noted the following:

- Duvha Primary School was initially located near Duvha Power Station.
- The Committee appreciated the good work done by the department in moving learners from the old school to the new school.
- The department and the school were advised to ensure that there is a maintenance plan in place to keep the school in a good condition.
- There was a snag- list that still needed to be attended by the contractor before a final handover of the project can be done.

##### **4.1.2. Background**

The project started on 08 April 2016 and was completed on 24 July 2017 at a total budget amount of **R 51 210 123.30** i.e. (original construction cost amounting to **R**

**41 748 812.60** plus Professional Costs amounting to **R 9 461 310.70**. The project was for the construction of the following:

- 24 classrooms,
- Guardhouse,
- Library,
- Admin block,
- Kitchen,
- Computer Centre,
- 2 x Ablution facilities,
- External Works, and
- Bulk Service for Part A/phase 1.

Phase 2/ Part B was the construction of the following:

- Grade R,
- a hall, and
- Eighteen (18) Ablution facilities as well as the provision of Electricity which is undertaken by ESKOM.

#### **4.1.3. Labour Statistic**

A total of 89 personnel were involved on site, of which 74 were male, 15 were female, 62 of which were youth and no persons with disabilities.

#### **4.1.4. Input by the Principal**

The principal indicated that he was encouraging the workers by appreciating the job well done. Furthermore, it was reported that the SGB Chairperson Mrs E. Mgcina, was always availing herself to monitor the project on daily basis. The school changed from Duvha Primary to Duvha Combined (which is located in the current location). The Leaner Roll increased from 353 to 762 in 2018 school calendar year. The SGB Chairperson also confirmed that they have a good relationship with parents and the Principal of the school.

#### **4.1.5. Challenges raised by the Principal**

The Principal indicated that the school is still experiencing the following challenges:

- Shortage of classes for grades 1,2 and 8.
- Incomplete section.
- Connection of Emalahleni housing pipe not properly done.
- Lack of scholar transport.
- The hall is not completed.

#### **4.1.6. Findings**

**The Committee made the following findings with regard to the construction of the school:**

1. There is poor workmanship on the school pavement.
  - Some of the windows are not closing properly.
  - The trap doors in all classes are not closed.
  - The door inside the Computer room is not fitted.
  - There is a roof leakage in the staff room.
  - The water drainage is not properly constructed.
2. Shortage of classes for grades 1,2, 8 and the hall is not completed.
3. Lack of scholar transport

#### **4.1.7. Recommendations**

**The Committee made the following recommendation:**

1. The Department must ensure that issues relating to the snag-list identified are urgently attended to by the contractor and progress report must be submitted to the Committee by the end of **May 2018**.
2. The department must come up with a plan to add classes for grade 1,2,8 and follow up with Eskom to complete the hall

3. The department must apply according to scholar transport and ensure that kids provided with scholar transport.

## **4.2 Road D686 between Leeuwfontein and Kendal**

### **4.2.1 Observations by the Committee**

The Committee noted the following on the construction of the road:

- The road does exist and has been successfully completed by the department. Furthermore, the road was found to be in good condition.
- There is a lack of appropriate road sign, therefore posing danger to road users.

### **4.2.2 Background of the Road**

The project entails the Rehabilitation of coal haul road D686 from Leeuwfontein (N4), past the Kendal Power Station in the Nkangala region of the Mpumalanga Province. The contract (number being **PWR/1989/14/MP**) was awarded to Klus Civils (Pty) Ltd. The department indicated that this project was awarded during the 2014/15 financial year and construction commenced in January of 2015, with a planned date of completion being April 2016. The project was never completed on the anticipated completion date due to inclement weather, community unrest and traffic. Application for extension of time was submitted and approved for completion in June 2016. The length of the road constructed is twelve (12) km for an amount of **R140 203 851.12**.

### **4.2.3 Labour Statistic**

A total of 106 personnel were involved on site of which 69 were male and 37 were female; of which 76 were youth and two (2) were persons with disabilities ; furthermore, there were seven (7) SMME's engaged in the project.

#### **4.2.4 Project challenges**

The department indicated that the following were challenges experienced during the construction:

- Delays due to rainfall as well as community unrest.
- Traffic accommodation – minimal disruption of coal delivery to the power station had to be guaranteed to avoid negative effect on the power station operations.
- The road had only one (1) road sign.

#### **4.2.5 Findings**

The Committee made the following findings:

- (i) The road has been successfully completed by the department and the Committee was pleased with its quality.
- (ii) There is a lack of appropriate road signs.

#### **4.2.6 Recommendations**

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- (i) The department must continue to maintain the road to ensure that the lifespan is prolonged.
- (ii) The department must ensure the installation of appropriate road signs to avoid accidents and other relating incidences.


## 5 CONCLUSION

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon. GC Shabalala extends her appreciation to Members of the Committee, departmental officials, all stakeholders and the support staff of the Legislature for their participation during this oversight visit to the communities of the Emalahleni Local Municipality, in enhancing the oversight role of the Legislature. The Portfolio Committee tables this report to the House for adoption with its recommendations.

**Unless otherwise stated, the department should provide progress reports on all issues raised to the Portfolio Committee by 31 May 2018 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.**



HON. FV MLOMBO (MPL)



DATE

**ACTING CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT;  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON**