

**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 (DCSSL)**

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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 Community Safety, Security and Liaison (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 assess the functionality of the Police Stations as well as challenges affecting the police services (e.g. office space and operational budget for CPF).

- To determine challenges impacting on the Police Stations in meeting the national standards.

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

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) Programme was conducted on 12 to 16 March 2018, where the Committee undertook an oversight visit to both the Phola and Ogies Police Stations, on the 13 March 2018. On the 14 March 2018, joint public hearings of the Economic and Social Transformation Clusters were conducted at SJ Mthimunye Stadium. The committee met on 18 April 2018 to consider the draft report.

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

Invitations were sent to the MEC, the HOD of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, the Office of the Provincial Commissioner as well as to Emalahleni Local Municipality.

#### **4.1 Phola Police Station**

##### **4.1.1 Observations and Comments**

**The Committee noted the following with regards to Phola Police Station:**

- The Committee noted with appreciation the manner in which the department is addressing the killings of people with albinism within the municipality.
- The presentation on Phola Police Station did not include challenges experienced by the Police Station.
- The police station has a functional Community Policing Forum (CPF).
- There is a challenge of water, where the station makes use of water tanks, however, there is a need for a bigger pump, to enable a sufficient supply to the whole station.
- The station does have a Victim Friendly Facility in place for victims of domestic violence and abuse, which was taken from Ogies Police Station.
- There is a shortage of three (3) vehicles for Phola SAPS, i.e. two (2) LDV's and one (1) Sedan.

- There are vacancies and shortage of staff in the station.

#### 4.1.2 Background

Phola Police Station is located at 2171 Mthimunye Street, Bodli Section, Phola. The station is new and was meant to be a satellite police station for Ogies, however, it was later opened officially on 24 June 2016 as a fully-fledged police station. The station is situated within Phola Location and is approximately 34km from Witbank Cluster Office and +/- 240 km from Neispruit Provincial Office. The size of the station precinct is 813.789 km<sup>2</sup>. The population figure serviced by the police station is +/-38732; which consist of both rural and semi-rural areas. There are business and residential areas; as well as farms and mines within the policing precinct. There are two (2) National Key Points which are Kusile Power Station and Transnet/ Petronet Pipe Lines. The station is a non-devolved station, which means it is not responsible for their own planning, acquiring, managing and maintenance of their own station.

#### 4.1.3 Station Personnel

- The Human Resource Establishment Plan allocation for the station is 74, however, there are 68 officials currently working.
- Vispol consist of 44 staff members, whereas there are eight (8), available detectives and sixteen (16) support staff members.

#### 4.1.4 Equity

The table below outlines the number of staff members in terms of equity.

**Table 1: Staff Compliment i.t.o. Equity**

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>AFRICANS</b>	<b>WHITES</b>	<b>COLOUREDS</b>	<b>INDIANS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
VIS.POL.	43	00	01	00	44
DETECTIVES	08	00	00	00	08
SUPPORT	15	01	00	00	16

#### **4.1.5 Vacant Posts**

The vacancy rate of the police station is as follows:

- Six (6) vacant positions outlined in the following categories:
  - Two (2) Shift Commanders (CSC)
  - One (1) General Investigators
  - One (1) Communication
  - One (1) Management Information Center (MIC)
  - One (1) Sub-Section Commander (HRM)
  - One (1) Flash

#### **4.1.6 Staff Shortages**

The police station has the following staff shortage:

- Crime Intelligence Officer (CIO)
- Grounds Man
- Matron (food server-cook for prisoners)

#### **4.1.7 Crime Profile**

The police station deals with the following crimes:

- Burglary at residential premises
- Assault GBH
- Common Assault
- Robbery Aggravating
- Burglary at non-residential premises
- Theft from motor vehicle
- Stock-theft
- Rape
- Attempted murder

#### **4.1.8 Factors contributing to crime**

The Police station indicated that the major factors which contributing to the above mentioned crimes are:

- Unemployment
- Drug abuse'
- Alcohol abuse
- Domestic vioience
- Vacant abandoned houses
- Proliferation of firearms
- Illegal immigrants (undocumented persons)
- Scrap metal dealers.
- Influx of migrant and seasonal workers.

#### **4.1.9 Challenges for Phola Police Station**

The following challenges were noted:

- No store rooms for Dockets, Exhibits (SAPS13), Stationery, General, and Cleaning Material.
- No offices for Supply Chain, Finance, Registration, Communication, Designated Firearm Officer. Designated Firearm Officer (DFO), Branch Commanders, Detective's offices, SAPS 13 office, Professional Driving Permit (PrDP) and Police Clearance office.
- No additional male permanent holding cells, Kitchen for prisoners, and filling cabinets.
- No walk in safe and other safes for Station Commander's, Supply Chain Management, Finance, Designated Firearm Officer (DFO) and Detectives.
- No boardroom furniture.

#### **4.1.10 FINDINGS**

The committee made the following findings:

1. There is a need for additional police vehicles at Phola Police Station.
2. There is Shortage of Offices at Phola SAPS

3. The staff compliment of the police station is not represented according to equity and gender, there are vacancies and shortage of staff in Phola police station.
4. There is a challenge of water they do have water tanks but need a bigger pump to be able to supply the whole station.

#### **4.1.11 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. The department must ensure that Phola Police station has adequate vehicles for service delivery.
2. The department must escalate the shortage of office space to National Public Works through Exco.
3. The department must ensure that critical posts are filled, further the department must balance equity and gender when filling vacant posts.
4. The department must liaise with the municipality to ensure that the station has water and provide progress report within three months.

## **4.2 Ogies Police Station**

### **4.2.1 Observations and Comments by the Committee**

**The Committee noted the following with regards to Ogies Police Station:**

- The station is situated on the main road but there are no clear direction markings leading to the station which makes it difficult to assess it easily
- It was noted that the building is big with many office spaces but old and the surrounding was untidy on the day of the oversight visit.
- The Committee was informed that Ogies Police Station has grounds man who is hardly at work due to ill health.
- The docket rooms are made of prefab material and are in a very bad condition.
- The Community Service Centre is small.
- The CPF Structure is not functioning well and does not hold monthly meetings.
- The Committee noted that the holding cells need to be renovated.
- The Committee has noted with a great concern the lack of Victim Counseling in the police station, it is very much crucial that the police station should have a

private counselling room where victims of crime will feel free to speak to their councilors.

#### **4.2.2 Introduction and Background**

- Ogies Police Station is located +/- 26 km from Witbank (Emalahleni).
- The station size is 254 m<sup>2</sup>.
- The station was downgraded from LT COL station to Captain in 2016 April.
- The building blocks within the station are CSC, detective, support, boardroom, court, SAPS 13, prisoners Kitchen and cells block.
- The station is currently providing services to a population of approximately **40 000 to 60 000** people.
- The population is comprised of diversity of races (black, colored, white) and tribes (Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, etc.).
- The station is surrounded by national road (N12) and regional /provincial road (**R555 and R545**).

#### **4.2.3 Challenges**

The following are challenges Ogies Police Station is experiencing:

- Shortage of personnel to implement certain programmes such as Crime Prevention.
- Insufficient vehicles and the currently used ones have high mileages.
- Large policing area with insufficient personnel and vehicles to patrol.
- Influx of migrant labours due to mines, industries, shopping complex and farms.
- The station is not secured and the building is dilapidated.
- The Cells are not working.
- There is no victim friendly facility
- Leaking roof for the CSC block and some offices
- The new generator is not connected.
- Collapsed security fence and old non-functioning gate.

#### 4.2.4 EQUITY

The table below outlines the number of staff members in terms of equity.

**Table 2 Staff Compliment i.e. Equity**

SECTION	AFRICANS	WHITES	COLOUREDS	INDIANS	TOTAL
VIS.POL.	28	00	01	00	29
DETECTIVES	05	00	00	00	05
SUPPORT	07	01	00	00	07

#### 4.2.5 FINDINGS

The Committee made the following findings:

1. The station is situated on the main road but there are no clear direction markings leading to the station which makes it difficult to easily assess it.
2. No proper docket rooms in Ogies Police Station.
3. There is a need for additional police vehicles at Ogies Police Station.
4. The Committee was informed that the station has grounds man who is hardly at work due to ill health.
5. The staff compliment of the police station is not represented according to equity and gender and there are vacancies and shortage of staff in Ogies Police Station.

#### 4.2.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. SAPS must ensure that there is proper signage leading to the police station.
2. The department must liaise with the department of Public Works to ensure that the docket rooms are in a good condition.
3. The department must ensure that Ogies Police station has adequate vehicles for service delivery.



4. The Station Commander together with human resource SAPS must ensure that both labour and wellness are completely utilize to bring about help with regard to this matter. The department must provide progress end of May 2018.
5. The department must ensure that critical posts are filled, further the department must balance equity and gender when filling vacant posts.

## 6. 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.**



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HON. FV MLOMBO (MPL)

18-04-2018

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DATE

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