

**PRE-TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE (TLP) OVERSIGHT VISITS  
REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT SITHEMBINKOSI MULTI-PURPOSE  
CENTRE ON 25 AUGUST 2016 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme will take place at Lekwa Local Municipality from 12-16 September 2016. As part of the preparations for the main TLP event, the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) undertook pre-TLP oversight visits from 23 - 25 August 2016.

One (1) project of the Department of Social Development (the Department) was visited. The House resolutions emanating from this Committee report will be referred to the Department for the necessary interventions and report back to the Legislature before the TLP event.

**2. PURPOSE OF THE PRE-TLP OVERSIGHT VISIT**

The purpose of the Pre-TLP was to assess the functionality of the Centre in addressing youth challenges; the visit was aimed at preparing for the "Taking Legislature to the People" programme which is scheduled to take place at Lekwa Local Municipality from 12-16 August 2016.

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

The Legislature notified all Departments accordingly about the Pre-TLP oversight visits to be conducted and the purpose thereof. Invitations were then sent to the respective departments including the Department of Social Development, management of Sithembinkosi Multi-purpose Centre and the Local Municipality requesting them to be part of the visit on 25 August 2016.

### **4. OBSERVATIONS**

**The Committee observed the following:**

- The Centre is well kept (clean and tidy), however; it is in a bad condition. There are cracks on the wall, the roof leaks and there is no proper fencing, to mention but a few infrastructural problems;
- The centre is operating from a rented premises, paying R800-00 monthly;
- The care givers are dedicated to their work.

### **5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **5.1 Presentation on the functionality of the Centre in addressing youth challenges**

Ms. Lindiwe Motaung, the Social Work Manager, presented the report on behalf of the Department.

She outlined the following on her presentation:

- The Centre is operating from a rented house paying R 800-00 monthly;

- The structure is a three roomed house that is not in a good condition, is an old house with cracks on the walls, leaking roof and poor fencing;
- The Centre was registered conditionally for partial care service because of the poor structural condition. The registration for the programme is valid for three years until they meet all the requirements as per the norms and standards – the expiry date for the registration will be 27 March 2018;
- The Centre had targeted to service 50 beneficiaries for 2016/17 financial year with a budget allocation of R 423,200-00, however due to the demand for the services, the Centre has an average attendance of 63 children accessing services;
- The Department conducted training for the Centre's Committee on governance in 2015/16 financial year (F/Y), the Committee is currently functioning very well; further training is planned to be conducted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the current year;
- The Centre's management (inclusive of the Committee) put more effort on fund-raising for development and improved services; however fund raising is difficult in Standerton because it is a rural area;
- The Centre managed to secure a piece of land through Lekwa Local Municipality not far from where the Centre operates and construction is at roof level. Donors have contributed mostly to the construction thus far. One local business man donated some material for roofing and Eskom promised to contribute towards the completion of the roofing.

The Chairperson of the Centre's Committee shared the following on behalf of the Committee:

- The Centre provides breakfast before school starts and then late lunch after school. Beneficiaries from child-headed homes are further given meal packs for later, for improved nutrition;
- The owner of the premises has requested the Centre to vacate his premises by the end of October 2016.

## **5.2 COMMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE**

### **Funding and fund raising**

The Committee noted that the Centre has started construction at the new premises, construction is at roof level. It is however noted that the Centre is struggling with sourcing funds to complete the project, though there are potential donors willing to assist as per the report of the Centre management; that Eskom and a local business man.

The Committee requested the Department to support the Centre in coordinating meetings with the potential funders that have already been identified and showed interest in the project. The department must ensure that the commitments are made on paper for follow-up and monitoring purposes and the communiqué must reach both donors (Eskom and the business man) before 02 September 2016.

The Committee further resolved that the Department must approach the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Administration and Environmental Affairs to assist with food gardening services; and also Lekwa Local Municipality with roofing. In terms of costing, the Department must assist the Centre to cost the material that is needed to complete the roofing by 31 August 2016.

### **Notice to vacate premises**

The Centre has recently received notice from the owner to vacate the premises by October 2016, as per the report by the Centre management. The Committee requested that the Department must support the Centre to convene a meeting with the owner to engage on the matter by 30 August 2016 and to further consider other alternatives if necessary.

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

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

- a. The Centre is operating from a rented house (paying R 800-00 monthly) that is not in a good condition (the structure is old, with cracks and leaks). The owner of the house has issued a notice for the Centre to vacate the premises by 31 October 2016;
- b. Construction of the new structure (few meters from the rented house) is in progress, at the roof level. The Centre is struggling with the sourcing of funds to complete the project;
- c. There is a need for the Department to conduct training for the Centre management inclusive of the committee on fund raising and business planning (proposals) and to further link the Centre with other NOPs doing well on such matters and other more for benchmarking.

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

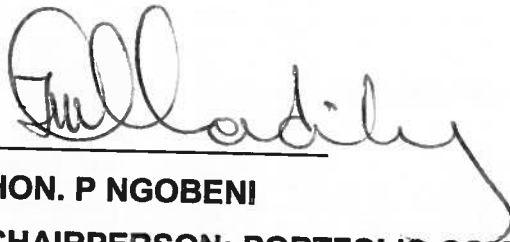
After the deliberations and the in loco inspection, the Committee recommended that the Department should:

- a. Ensure that a meeting with the house's owner is convened on the vacation matter, for extension of the lease at least until completion of the new structure. A progress report on the matter be provided by 09 September 2016;
- b. Ensure that funds are sourced in order to complete the structure by convening a meeting with the identified funders (Department of Social Development, Eskom, local businessmen, Lekwa Local Municipality and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Administration and Environmental Affairs) and ensure that the commitments are made on paper with specifications and timeframes for monitoring and provide progress report in this regard by 09 September 2016;
- c. Provide progress report on the training and fund raising exercise by 09 September 2016.

**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, 09 September 2016.**

**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 Pre-TLP Programme. She further wishes to thank the Department and the management of the Centre for the services rendered and the Legislature staff for providing support to the Committee.

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**HON. P NGOBENI**

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

30/08/16  
**DATE**