

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT; CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED ON 19 JUNE 2013 AT THE KWAGGAFONTEIN E AND THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2013, AT VERENA,MOLOTO AND BOEKENHOET,THEMBISILE HANI MUNICIPALITY DURING THE PRE -TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE - DEPARTMENT OF COGTA

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlement; Co-operative Governance and Traditional affairs (the Committee) has a constitutional mandate to oversee the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Department). In exercising its powers and the performance of its mandate, the Committee complied with s 133 (2) and s 115 (a) & (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

The purpose of the public hearings was to solicit the inputs and views of the people in relation to service delivery.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The research section, in preparation of the Pre- TLP, conducted site visits at Thembisile Hani Municipal jurisdiction during March 2013. A comprehensive research reports was compiled and presented to the Committee. The research report, with its findings, assisted the Committee to formulate a pre-TLP programme.

The committee, realising its mandate of public participation and involvement, invited the public, department of Cooperative Governance, SALGA, Traditional Leaders and relevant stake holders to be part of the public hearing.

On 21 June 2013, the Legislature conducted three (3) public hearings simultaneously at Thembisile Hani Local Municipality at the following areas: Moloto Old Age Centre, Boekenhouthoek Library Centre and Verena Multi-Purpose Centre.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings were held at the three venues and the comments made are as follows:

4.1 MOLOTO OLD AGE CENTRE

WARD1

The community members of the above ward raised the following issues:

- (i) There are no flushing toilets in the area; thus the community struggles to access dignified sanitation.
- (ii) The municipality does not supply water tankers or water trucks during weekends, but does so, during the week; this causes problems because there is high demand of water during weekends for laundry, funerals, and many others.
- (iii) The roads (gravel) in the ward are not maintained; thus denying the community to access better road infrastructure
- (iv) Refuse removal is collected by the municipality; hence, the community requested that they be supplied with rubbish bins.
- (v) The municipality is requested to provide a community hall in the area.
- (vi) The municipality turns a blind eye to the needs of the community.

4.2 VERENA MULTI – PURPOSE CENTRE

The community of Verena raised the following issues:

- (i) The community requested an intervention to ensure that the municipality renovate the dilapidated community hall in Langkloof. The community hall is currently in a bad condition without fencing and chairs.
- (ii) The community indicated that there are no youth development programmes championed by the municipality.
- (iii) The community indicated that the Provincial Government and the Municipality have promised a shopping complex but till to-date the complex has not been built.

- (iv) The community indicated that there is no taxi rank for long distances; this therefore, makes them vulnerable when they have to travel long distances. They requested the municipality to facilitate the process of the establishment of a taxi rank for long distances.
- (v) It was raised that most of the time, the community could not access water and electricity and the municipality knows the reasons thereof.
- (vi) The community complained about the ineffectiveness of councillors who are not serving the community as envisaged by the relevant prescripts.
- (vii) The community was further concerned that the municipality does not take care of the issues relating to people with disability and are not considered for job opportunities in the municipality.
- (viii) The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) was not effective at Verena; the community would like the municipality to ensure that they also benefit from the CRDP.
- (ix) The community also raised that they are unable to use the community hall because it is made inaccessible for them by the municipality.
- (x) The mines in Nkangala (Witbank, Middleburg, etc.) do not consider local people for job opportunities.
- (xi) The community alleges that there is nepotism at the Thembisile Hani local municipality in the employment and delivery of services.
- (xii) The community asserted that there is poor communication between the municipality and the community and that the councillors and ward committees do not assist in conveying information from the municipality to the community and vice versa.
- (xiii) The water pipeline and drainage system at Verena is not in good condition and requires the municipality to address this problem which has prevalent over a long period.
- (xiv) The community requested dignified sanitation and street lights at Verena.

5. BOEKENHOUTHOEK LIBRARY CENTRE

There were no issues for CoGTA raised at Boekenhouthoek library centre during the public hearing.

6. RECOMMENDATION

The department must conduct investigation about all matters raised during the public hearings and provide a progress report by 23 August 2013.

7. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank Hon Members of the Committee for their sterling work; the Councillors and the officials from the Mpumalanga Legislature for their participation in the public hearing.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, also wishes to thank all members of the Community who attended and actively participated during the public hearings.

On behalf of the Portfolio Committee, the Chairperson hereby requests the House to adopt this report with its recommendations.



HON. RM MTSHWENI
CHAIRPERSON: PORFOLIO COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT & CoGTA

08/08/2013

DATE