

REPORT OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT; CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS ON THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD 17 SEPTEMBER 2013, AT THE KWAGGAFONTEIN STADIUM THEMBISILE HANI MUNICIPALITY, DURING THE 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.

As a matter of fact and law, both departments have a responsibility to foster intergovernmental relations within the three spheres of government without encroaching on the geographical, functional or institutional integrity of government in another sphere, in accordance with s 41 (1) (g) of the Constitution.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

The purpose of the public hearing was to give feedback to the public on the issues raised during the public hearings held during the Pre-TLP on 21 June 2012.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The researchers conducted project verification on 29 and 30 August 2013 at Thembisile Hani Municipality. Comprehensive research reports were compiled and the Social Cluster was briefed on the findings on 11 September 2013; the research findings informed the Committee's programme for the TLP.

In ensuring that public participation and involvement takes place, the Social Cluster invited the Department of Human Settlement, Department of Cooperative Governance, SALGA, Traditional Leaders and relevant stake holders to be part of the public hearing held on 17 September 2013, at Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (Kwaggafotein Stadium).

4. REPORT PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COGTA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS OF THE PRE-TLP

During the pre-TLP at Thembisile Hani Municipality, the community raised concerns on the service delivery; thus the House mandated the Department of COGTA to attend to all the concerns and report back to the Legislature and to the community of Thembisile Hani Municipality during the TLP. The concerns and the responses were as follows:

4.1 CONCERNS RAISED AT MOLOTO OLD AGE CENTRE

WARD 1

- ❖ There are no flushing toilets in the area; thus the community struggles to access dignified sanitation.

It was reported that Thembisile Hani Local Municipality has written to the Director General for the Department of Human Settlement to request funding in order to provide decent sanitation for the residents of Moloto.

- ❖ 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.

In response, the department indicated that Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (THLM) provides water seven days a week and where there are interruptions; water tankers are dispatched as and when required.

- ❖ The roads (gravel) in the ward are not maintained; thus denying the community access to better road infrastructure.

The MEC clarified that the re-gravelling of roads in Moloto is divided between Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (THLM), Nkangala District Municipality (NDM) and Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT) as per the agreement. The THLM has finished its allocated kilometres of re-gravelling and is assisting NDM and DPWRT to fast-track the Moloto re-gravelling programme.

- ❖ Refuse removal is collected by the municipality; the community requested that they be supplied with rubbish bins.

The Municipality is unable to provide free waste bins to residents. However, they can purchase waste bins from the municipality for R250.00

- ❖ The municipality is requested to provide a community hall in the area.

It was reported that, a Multi-Purpose Community Centre is being planned for Moloto and the process to appoint a service provider to design the facility is still at tender stage. After the appointment of the service provider, the municipality will liaise with the communities during the design stage.

- ❖ The municipality turns a blind eye on the needs of the community.

Regarding this matter, the municipality has requested more information. Currently, it was reported that the municipality treats its residents equitably and has thus strived to ensure that each ward is allocated a project in each financial year.

4.1 CONCERNS RAISED AT VERENA MULTI – PURPOSE CENTRE

- ❖ 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.

The department reported that the municipality has investigated the matter and, it is currently costing the work identified to renovate the facility. A report will be given to the Municipality Budget committee for funding. The issues of chairs and tables will also be included in the IDP proposals for 2014/15.

- ❖ The Community indicated that there are no youth development programmes championed by the municipality.

The municipality acknowledged the concern by the community, as this was due to budgetary constraints for this financial year.

- ❖ The community indicated that the Provincial Government and the Municipality have promised a shopping complex but to-date the complex has not been built.

In response, the department indicated that the municipality is engaging Nkebenyane Trading Enterprise cc to construct the shopping complex referred to as Verana Crossing Shopping Centre. It was further reported that during their last meeting which was held on 11 September 2013, the developer was urged to fast track the process of land acquisition.

- ❖ 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.

Regarding this matter, the municipality requires more information, since the operators are currently providing the service and new routes have been established for the Johannesburg/Benoni trips.

- ❖ It was raised that most of the time, the community could not access water and electricity, and the municipality knows the reasons thereof.

On this matter, the municipality acknowledged the concern and indicated that, this is because of lack of reservoirs; as a result water is supplied on certain periods. However, the municipality provides water tankers to supply water to residents on those days when there supply is interrupted. The provision of electricity is currently a mandate of ESKOM and not of the municipality; the municipality normally refers requests for electricity to ESKOM.

- ❖ The community complained about the ineffectiveness of councillors who are not serving the community as envisaged by the relevant prescripts.

It was reported that, the municipality is unaware of the issue and would like to get more information on the matter, safe to say that the elected

Councillors of the area continue to promote community issues through IDP processes while Council and its committees in other forums of the municipality.

- ❖ 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.

In response, the MEC promised that the municipality is still going to investigate the matter since the report does not give more details. In all its recruitment advertisements, the municipality specifically request application from people living with disabilities.

- ❖ 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.

The department will investigate this matter and provide a response.

- ❖ The community also raised that they are unable to use the community hall because it is made inaccessible by the municipality.

In response, the municipality indicated that it would like to get further details on this matter. However it must be noted that the council approved affordable tariffs to be paid by users who wish to use any council owned halls at the booking office of the municipality's headquarters.

- ❖ The mines in Nkangala (Witbank, Middleburg, etc.) do not consider local people for job opportunities.

The department will also investigate this matter of mines ignoring local people and provide a written response.

- ❖ The community alleges that there is nepotism at the Thembisile Hani local municipality in the employment and delivery of services.

It was reported that the municipality is not aware of the allegations but welcomes any complaints of nepotism through the office of the Municipal

Manager, office of the Executive Mayor or any other appropriate complaints mechanisms provided for by the Constitution.

- ❖ The community asserted that there is poor communication between the municipality and the community. It was further indicated that the councillors and ward committees do not convey information from the municipality to the community and vice versa.

In responding, the department indicated that the municipality was not aware of the issue. However, it will explore together with the elected representatives, other avenues of communicating with the residents in order to improve the communication.

- ❖ The water pipeline and drainage system at Verena is not in good condition. The municipality was requested to address this problem as it has been prevalent over a long period.

It was reported that the water teams are able to deal with the water infrastructure breakages that occur to ensure that interruption of water supply is minimised at all times.

- ❖ The community requested dignified sanitation and street lights at Verena.

It was reported that Nkangala District Municipality is currently conducting a feasibility study to see where water treatment works could be extended, since residents and Council resolved not to continue with the building of VIP toilets anymore in the Thembisile Hani municipality.

4. FINDINGS

Having noted all the responses by the department, the committee found that in most instances, the municipality is not aware of the concerns raised by the community; however, the department will assist on the investigation and provide a report to the Legislature.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS


The committee recommends that the department must provide a progress report on all the investigations to be conducted and constantly monitor and assist the municipality in resolving the issue of the shortage of water and a progress report must be submitted by or before 31 January 2014.

6. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson thanked 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 also thanked the members of the community attended and actively participated during the public hearing.

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



**HON P NGOBENI
ACTING CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT & CoGTA**

01/11/2013

DATE