

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CONDUCTED AT KWAZAMOKUHLE EXTENSION (HENDRINA), 8 AND ROCKDALE INTERGRATED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IRDP) PROJECT, AT STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS – 14, 15 AND 16 MARCH 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (the Committee) conducted oversight over the Department of Human Settlements as mandated by Section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, to oversee the performance of the Department of Human Settlements (the Department), and hold it accountable through various measures.

The Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) project took place at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality from 13 – 17 March 2017.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SITE VISIT AND A PUBLIC HEARING

- ❖ The purpose of the site visit was to assess the progress made by the Department in providing quality housing project and consider implementation and adherence to policy prescripts guiding Human Settlements.

- ❖ To obtain the views from the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (Middelburg) community on the provision of the basic service delivery.

3. METHOD OF WORK

In preparation for the TLP, the Portfolio Committee after the approval of the Legislature programme, invited the Department to the TLP and be part of the oversight visits to be conducted on 13 and 17 March 2017. The invitations were also extended to South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Executive Mayor for Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, the Councillors), Public Service Commission (PSC), Auditor General's Office, Provincial Treasury and Community Development Workers (CDWs) to be part of the site visits and the public hearing.

The Committee then met on 14, 15 and 16 March 2017 to conduct oversight over the Department of Human Settlements on service delivery.

4. OBSERVATION

- ❖ The MEC for Department of Human Settlements, Mr SK Mashilo and his HOD, Mr K Masange were in attendance during the oversight visit and in the public hearing.
- ❖ The houses reflected good quality workmanship and the Committee commended the Department.
- ❖ The 95 units on construction have been electrified.

5. PRESENTATION ON KWAZAMOKUHLE EXTENSION 8 - HENDRINA AND ROCKDALE INTERGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IRDP) - (STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY)

5.1. Political Overview by the MEC for Department on Human Settlements

The MEC, Mr SK Mashilo gave a brief overview that the Department of Human Settlements draws its mandate from Outcome 8 of the National Development Plan

which is Sustainable Integrated Human Settlements and Improved Quality of Household Lives.

Furthermore, the MEC reported that the Executive Council approved the Mpumalanga Human Settlements Master Plan which serves as a guiding framework in the Implementation of Sustainable Integrated Human Settlements during the period under review. The MEC reported that in line with the Mpumalanga Vision 2030; Integrated Urban Development Framework as well as other relevant key policy directives. The department's broadened approach to sustainable integrated human settlements seeks to address the challenges brought about by the inherited racially-based planning and uncoordinated approach to place-making which led to the proliferation of marginalized and disconnected settlements.

The MEC indicated that the Department continues to deliver services/projects to communities of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, statistics indicate that formal housing is at 83.0%, traditional housing 1.7% and informal housing sitting at 14.1%; in line with the integrated planning, there are also serviced stands for structured future development. In his closing remarks the MEC then requested the Committee to allow the District Manager, Ms Lusanda to provide detailed progress on the project.

5.2. Brief background on KwaZamokuhle Ext. 8 in Hendrina

Ms Lusanda Geleba, District Manager reported that KwaZamokuhle Ext 8 is a Greenfield project, based in Hendrina Township in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. The Shirdo Trading was appointed as a contractor to deliver 100 units; the portion of land was serviced by the Nkangala District Municipality. She reported that the total budget allocated to the project was R11 221 850.00 with a total number of 95 beneficiaries approved to date.

She reported that the progress to date was at 19 Foundations, 11 Wall Plates and 45 roofed houses. The project is moving at a satisfactory pace and the contractor has worked hard in delivering the units as expected.

5.3. Challenges raised by the Department

- There are five (5) beneficiaries that need to be relocated elsewhere due to marshy sites.

6. COMMENTS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

Rightful Beneficiaries

The Committee wanted to know why the Department reported on the 95 beneficiaries and not 100 beneficiaries as planned. The Department reported that the five (5) beneficiaries were not allocated because the land to be used is very marshy and this was confirmed by the contractor by the name of Shirdo Trading. It was further reported that all the houses are already electrified. The Committee also requested the Department to ensure that where there are completed houses, the Department must ensure that rightful beneficiaries take occupation and not wait for all the houses to be completed.

6.1. Findings made by the Committee on 100 units at KwaZamokuhle Extension 8

After thorough interaction with the Department, the committee found that:

- a) The construction of the 95 units at Kwazamokuhle Extension 8 has not been completed though is at a satisfactory level.

- b) There are five (5) beneficiaries that need to be relocated elsewhere due to unsuitable site.

6.2. Recommendations made by the Committee on 100 units at KwaZamokuhle Extension 8

After the findings, the committee recommended that the department must:

- a) Ensure that the Houses at Extension 8 (Kwazamokuhle) are allocated to the rightful beneficiaries and in line with the beneficiary management policy. A progress report to be submitted to the Committee by 31 May 2017.
- b) Ensure the fast-tracking of the reallocation of the five (5) beneficiaries not allocated their units. A progress report to be submitted to the Committee by 31 May 2017.

6.3. Brief background on the Rockdale Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP)

It was reported that Rockdale is a Greenfield project that is located at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (STLM). The Department has appointed three contractors for the construction of housing units in the area; the allocation per contractor is as indicated below:

- ❖ Asishiyelane Trading allocated 205 units at a budget of R21 115 000, the contractor was appointed in May 2016 and the anticipated completion date is 30 April 2017;

- ❖ Asishiyelane Trading has also been allocated six (6) Military Veterans units at a budget of R1 128 000 and the anticipated completion date is 30 April 2017;
- ❖ Avax has been allocated 100 units in February 2017, the expected completion date is 30 August 2017 at a budget of R10 300 000;

The Department further reported that the portion of land was previously serviced by the Department of Human Settlements and 1 250 units were built during the previous financial years.

6.4. Challenges raised by the Department

- The business forums disrupt contractor's progress.
- Sewer connection points are located deep into the ground making it difficult for the contractor's to access connection points.

7. COMMENTS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee commended the Department on progress made so far on Rockdale Integrated Residential Development Programme in Ext.8.

7.1. Findings made by the Committee

After the interaction with the Department, the Committee found that:

- a) The Department has appointed two (2) contractors Asishiyelane Trading and Avax for the housing units in the area in order to finish the incomplete houses.
- b) Free Basic water supply is still a major challenge at Rockdale.

7.2. Recommendations made by the Committee

The Committee recommended that Department must:

- a) Strengthen its monitoring system to ensure that the two contactors (Asishiyelane Trading and Avax) adhere to its deadlines - 30 April 2017 and 30 August 2017). A progress report be submitted by 31 May 2017 and thereafter on a quarterly basis;
- b) Engage the Department of CoGTA to assist in addressing the challenge of free water supply as a matter of urgency and that a progress report be submitted by 31 May 2017.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public hearing was held at Themba Sinamela Stadium (Middelburg-Steve Tshwete Local Municipality) and the comments were as follows;

- Community Members are requesting RDP Houses.
- No feedback given to applicants for RDP houses (wait for more than 10 years)
- The incorrect allocation of houses to rightful beneficiaries has been raised as a concern.
- Poor Management of beneficiary list
- It was reported that some houses are dilapidated
- Title deeds are not handed over on time to beneficiaries

8.1. Recommendations on a public hearing

The Committee recommends that the Department of Human Settlements must attend to issues raised at the public hearing. A comprehensive progress report must be submitted by 14 June 2017.

The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the Committee Report with the findings and its recommendations. The Department must submit a detailed progress report to the Portfolio Committee on or before 14 June 2017.

9. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson wishes to thank the Hon. Members of the Committee, NCOP Permanent Delegate, Mr G Mthimunye for their participation and contributions during the deliberations on the TLP site visits and public hearing. The Chairperson further extends his appreciation to the MEC, SK Mashilo, HOD, Mr. K Masange, Senior Officials of the Department of Human Settlements, the Mayor of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mr M Masina, representatives of House of Traditional Leaders (HTL) South African Local Government Association (SALGA), representatives of Auditor General's Office, CDWs, Contractors as well as the Councillors and officials of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality for supporting the programme of the Committee.

Lastly, he also wishes to thank the Legislature support staff for supporting the Committee during the TLP.



HON. WT MADILENG

23/05/2017
DATE

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE &
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**