

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLING AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2013

TABLING

The Speaker:

Annual Report of provincial department for financial year ended 31 March 2013 tabled in accordance with section 65(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended:

Minister of Community Safety

Annual Report of Department of Community Safety for 2012/2013 (Vote 4 – Community Safety).

Referred to Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport and Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Speaker:

- 1. The Service Delivery Cluster, having undertaken an oversight visit to the Meulwater Water Treatment Works located in Paarl on Thursday, 20 June 2013 begs to report as follows:**

1. INTRODUCTION

The joint visit week is a key mechanism established by the Provincial Parliament to achieve its constitutional oversight mandate within the Province. It is intended to ensure that members of the Provincial Parliament, through its standing committees, continuously keep abreast of developments and service delivery issues in the Province. It also affords committees the opportunity to interact with communities, municipalities and institutions in order to assess the needs and challenges they experience.

As part of the Service Delivery Cluster joint visit week that took place between 18 and 20 June 2013, an oversight visit was undertaken on 20 June 2013 to the Meulwater Water Treatment Works (MWTW) located on Paarl Mountain. For this visit the Drakenstein Municipality briefed the committees on the operations of the facility as well as the impact the facility has on water demand and water supply strategies of the Municipality. This briefing was followed by a tour of the MWTW plant.

2. DELEGATION

MEMBERS

Visser, JJ (DA)
 Geyer, HP (DA)
 Von Brandis, E (DA)
 Walters, MC (DA)
 Figlan, AM (DA)
 Beerwinkel, CF (ANC)
 Uys, P (ANC)
 Magaxa, KE (ANC)

STAFF

Clark, A
 Niekerk, S
 Mshumpela, N
 Hendricks, M

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr J Mettler	: Municipal Manager
Mr H Henning	: Chief Engineering Technician
Mr I Hartley	: Project Manager, Municipal Infrastructure Grant
Mr D Du Plessis	: Head, Civil Engineering Services
Mr A Kowalewski	: Engineer
Adv G Van Deventer	: Mayor
Mr J Rademeyer	: Mayoral Committee Member, Infrastructure
Mr G Combrink	: Mayoral Committee Member, Finance
Ms L Niehous	: Councillor
Ms R Arnolds	: Councillor

3. FINDINGS

- (a) Construction of the MWTW commenced in 2008 and was concluded in 2012;
- (b) The total cost of the project was R38.2 million of which the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) contributed R29.8 million and the Municipality financed the remaining R8.4 million;
- (c) The MWTW treats water from the Nantes and Bethal Dams. A proposed water supplement scheme would allow water from the Berg River to be stored in the Nantes dam and subsequently be treated. The scheme would be able to provide up to 25% of Paarl's annual water requirements;

- (d) The MWTW plant has a relatively small carbon footprint (1855m²) compared to conventional treatment plants,
- (e) The current MWTW capacity is 8 million litres per day but this capacity can be increased to 15 million litres per day;
- (f) The average water loss of the MWTW is 2.5% which is favourable as compared to 15% water loss in conventional treatment processes;
- (g) Compared to the purchase price of water at R3.22 kl from the City of Cape Town, the Municipality saves up to R850 000 per annum as it is able to treat water at the cost of +- R2.11/kl;
- (h) The plant operates on a gravity system as the internal pressure is high enough to push the water through the majority of the system without the use of electricity. An additional energy saving measure is the use of air operated valves (as opposed to electricity operated valves);
- (i) The MWTW Has received various awards including a Consulting Engineers of South Africa (CESA) Engineering Excellence Award;
- (j) The MWTW site is equipped with a 200kw back – up generator system to be used in the event of electricity disruption to the site; and
- (k) The MWTW forms part of the Municipality's broader water demand and supply side measures. The Municipality has implemented various other water demand strategies including a water week campaign and the replacement of faulty pipe-lines.

4. CONCERNS

That the pollution level of the Bergriver might negatively affect the operations of the plant.

5. RESOLUTIONS

That the Municipality use the benefits of the MWTW to increase economic development and service delivery in the broader Drakenstein.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Service Delivery Cluster of standing committees wishes to extend its thanks to the Municipality for preparing the requested presentation and leading the tour of the facility.

- 2. The Service Delivery Cluster, having undertaken an oversight visit to the Unobuntu Thusong Centre located in Zwelethamba, on Wednesday 19 June 2013, begs to report as follows:**

1. INTRODUCTION

The joint visit week is a key mechanism established by the Provincial Parliament to achieve its constitutional oversight mandate within the Province. It is intended to ensure

that members of the Provincial Parliament, through its standing committees, continuously keep abreast of developments and service delivery issues in the Province. It also affords committees the opportunity to interact with communities, municipalities and institutions in order to assess the needs and challenges they experience.

As part of the Service Delivery Cluster joint visit week that took place between 18 and 20 June 2013, an oversight visit was undertaken on 19 June 2013 to the Unobuntu Thusong Centre located in Zwelethemba, Worcester. For this visit the Centre Manager briefed the committees on progress made since the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) visit week that took place in 2012. This briefing was followed by a tour of the Thusong Centre.

3. DELEGATION

MEMBERS

Visser, JJ (DA)
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4. FINDINGS

- 4.1. There is a need to ensure that the hall is accessible to the community but at the same time the hall cannot be used if the community vandalises the facilities. This challenge can be addressed through the creation of partnerships between the municipality and community organisations;
- 4.2. The Municipality must decide on a managerial model that suits its context. It might not be the solution to say that the community must take over ownership as the Waaboonskraal Thusong centre is an example of the challenges that can arise when community members manage a centre. At the Atlantis Thusong centre, the City has taken over management from community members and this has resulted in an improvement in the operations of the centre;
- 4.3. The Department of Local Government held an engagement with the Municipality where the fact that lease agreements have not yet been concluded was identified as a challenge. There is an indication from various departments that they would be willing to pay market related rental fees once the lease agreements are concluded.

Another point of concern that was raised was that the Centre Manager has not been attending Thusong Centre forums which are knowledge sharing forums;

- 4.4. Requests to use the facilities including request for reduced rates, are submitted to the office of the Mayor. These requests are deliberated by the Mayoral Council who decides on the request;
- 4.5. Part of the sustainability recommendations from the Department of Local Government is that the maintenance of the Thusong Centre should be included in the Integrated Development Plans (IDP) of municipalities; and
- 4.6. The current process for using the facilities includes the payment of a deposit which is paid at the municipal financial offices. In the event that any repairs and additional cleaning is needed the deposit is not refunded.

5. CONCERNS

- 5.1. There has been limited improvement with regards to maintenance since the NCOP visit week in 2012. The building is currently not maintained properly and this encourages vandalism.
- 5.2. Community Development Workers(CDW'S) are not permanent tenants at the centre; and
- 5.3. The Thusong Centre should not primarily be used as a hall for functions or as a place for business to rent space; it should be geared towards delivering government services.

6. RESOLUTIONS

- 6.1. That the Municipality submit the Thusong Centre maintenance budget for the current financial year;
- 6.2. That the Municipality submit the organogram for the staffing of the centre once it has been finalised;
- 6.3. That the Municipality investigate best practice approaches of other Thusong Centres to learn how they can improve the functioning of the centre;
- 6.4. That the Municipality develop a policy on the application process to be followed for use of the centre facilities;
- 6.5. That the Municipality submit a report on how the income received from Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME's) are utilised;
- 6.6. That the District Municipality play a stronger supportive role in terms of improving the functioning of the Thusong Centre;
- 6.7. That the Municipality appear before the Standing Committee on Local Government Oversight to account for why the municipality has not implemented any of the recommendations since the NCOP visit in 2012;and

- 6.8. That the Municipality ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access services offered at the Thusong Centre.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Service Delivery Cluster of standing committees wishes to extend its thanks to the center manager for preparing the requested presentation and leading the tour of the facility.

- 3. The Service Delivery Cluster, having undertaken an oversight visit to the Zwelethemba informal settlement, on Thursday 20 June 2013 begs to report as follows:**

1. INTRODUCTION

The joint visit week is a key mechanism established by the Provincial Parliament to achieve its constitutional oversight mandate within the Province. It is intended to ensure that members of the Provincial Parliament, through its standing committees, continuously keep abreast of developments and service delivery issues in the Province. It also affords committees the opportunity to interact with communities, municipalities and institutions in order to assess the needs and challenges they experience.

As part of the Service Delivery Cluster joint visit week that took place between 18 and 20 June 2013, an oversight visit was undertaken on 20 June 2013 to the Zwelethemba informal settlement located in Worcester. For this visit, the Breede Valley Chief Fire Officer briefed the committees on disaster preventions measures that have been put in place in order to mitigate natural and man-made disasters, including fires and floods. This briefing was followed by a site visit to an area identified by the Municipality as being the most vulnerable in terms of hygiene and the outbreak of fires.

2. DELEGATION

MEMBERS

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3. FINDINGS

- 3.1. For the period April 2012 to March 2013, 57 dwellings have been damaged by the outbreak of fires in comparison to 81 dwelling being damaged in the April 2011 – March 2012 period;
- 3.2. In addition to the Breede Valley Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) a fully operational fire station is located in the Zwelethemba informal settlement;
- 3.3. There has not yet been an informal settlement fire as shack fires have been contained before they spread;
- 3.4. There has been considerable improvement in the Municipality's response to disaster since the municipality engaged with the Department of Social Development with regards to the Department's social relief mandate. Whereas the municipality previously responded to disasters largely through the distribution of food parcels and blankets, it now focuses on containing the disaster;
- 3.4. People wanting to apply for social relief funding following a disaster require a report from either the fire station or the police. In the absence of this the applicant has to sign an affidavit attesting to the fact that their shack was destroyed and that they require social grant assistance. This approach has reduced the number of instances where people abuse the system to get access to a social grant;
- 3.5. The municipality has put in place various disaster prevention measures including, amongst other:
- 3.6. Awareness campaigns (some have been in conjunction with ESKOM) such as the Fire and Life Safety campaign aimed at primary and pre-primary schools;
- 3.7. A requirement that all bulk distributors of paraffin have to be registered and certified by the municipality;
- 3.8. Daily operational risk assessments (including maintaining and reporting faulty fire hydrants);
- 3.9. To improve its ability to respond to threats, the municipality has procured equipment that is more portable including smaller vehicles and quad bikes, to allow response teams to navigate the particularly rocky terrain and areas where there are low hanging illegal electricity connections;
- 3.10. In the event that the responding officer suspects that a shack fire might spread a mutual aid agreement will be activated through which the municipality is able to access resources from neighbouring municipalities and the Province, including aerial support;
- 3.11. In the event of a disaster the preference is to "protect in place" rather than relocating those affected as the latter would require the municipality to provide security for the vacant dwellings and transport to and from work for persons accommodated elsewhere;

- 3.12. The National Housing Code provides for an allocation to be offered to persons for the purpose of purchasing building material to rebuild dwellings following a disaster. This process is however often time consuming and many people start to rebuild their dwellings on their own;
- 3.13. There are a number of training programmes which form part of the Municipality's disaster prevention and management measures. One such example is the (Community Emergency Response Team) CERT course which is a certified, modular based training programme. Project "Protect Yourself" is an Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) project focused on risk reduction and currently has 20 participants enrolled;
- 3.14. The Breede Valley EOC has mobile units equipped with cameras that can relay live feeds of an incident to the centre; and
- 3.15. The Municipality is in the process of undertaking an infrastructure mapping project to create a database of critical municipal infrastructure.

4. CONCERNS

- 4.1. Although illegal connects and open flames are the primary causes of the start of fires, social circumstances (including domestic disputes and alcohol abuse) are contributory factors;
- 4.2. The municipality is severely limited in terms of access to dwellings and have attempted to address this by stressing the importance of self-regulating to inhabitants. Inhabitants therefore contribute to preventive measures by ensuring that people do not erect dwellings within 3 metres of their own dwelling;
- 4.3. In considering the occurrences of flooding, one has to take into consideration that the location of some dwellings is a contributing factor. One such example is where houses are located adjacent to roads and the road camber directs water from the road towards the dwellings; and
- 4.4. Funding to rebuild dwellings following a disaster is sourced from the Municipality's human settlements funding.

5. RESOLUTIONS

That the Standing Committee on Human Settlements undertake an oversight visit to the area to receive an update on the improvement in the living conditions of the most vulnerable areas of the settlement.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Service Delivery Cluster of standing committees wishes to extend its thanks to the Municipality for preparing the requested presentation and leading the tour of the settlement.