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Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON AN  
UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE SAARTJIE BAARTMAN CENTRE FOR ABUSED  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN MANENBERG ON TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON AN UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE SAARTJIE BAARTMAN CENTRE FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN MANENBERG ON TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Report of the Standing Committee on Community Development (Social Development) on its oversight visit to the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Manenberg, dated 8 September 2015, as follows:

### **Delegation**

The delegation included the following Members:

Wenger, MM (DA) (Acting Chairperson and leader of the delegation)  
Gopie, D (ANC)  
Mackenzie, RD (DA)  
Makeleni, P (ANC)

### **Apologies**

Botha, LJ (DA)  
Gillion, MN (ANC)

The following Parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:

Ms. N Jamce, Committee Co-ordinator

### **1. Introduction**

The Standing Committee, as part of its oversight mandate and complying with the Committee programme, resolved to embark on an oversight visit to the Saartje Baartman Centre for abused Women and Children in Manenberg. The Committee undertook this visit to assess the activities of this facility.

### **2. Overview**

The delegation visited the Saartje Baartman Centre for abused Women and Children in Manenberg on Tuesday, 8 September 2015. The main objective of the visit was to assess the activities of this facility. This visit was one of many oversight visits which the Standing Committee on Community Development planned to embark on as part of its Programme for the 2015/2016 financial year.

On arrival at the Saartjie Baartman Centre, the Committee was welcomed by the Director of the Centre, Ms. Shaheema McLeod, who briefed Members on the activities of the Centre and took them to a walkabout of the Centre.

### **3. Visit to the Saartjie Baartman Centre for abused Women and Children in Manenberg**

- 3.1. The Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children is a one stop Centre for women and children who are survivors of abuse. The Centre is situated in Manenberg in the Cape Flats.

The vision of the Centre is to create a safe and secure society and human rights culture where women and children are empowered to exercise their rights.

- 3.2. The Centre offers services such as crisis response, short and medium term residential care (safe accommodation), counselling, job skills training, childcare services, mental health support, economic empowerment services, children's counselling, research in gender based violence and legal advice to women and children who have become victims of abuse.
- 3.3. Their on-site emergency shelter houses an average of 100 women and children at a time. Over the past few years the Centre has seen a 65% increase in women and children requiring assistance from the Centre.
- 3.4. The Centre has launched a Khuseleka Model in partnership with the Department of Social Development, Victim Empowerment Programme, the South African Police Services, the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority, the South Africa Social Security Agency, Business against Crime, the Western Cape Departments of Community Safety and Education, and the National Departments of Justice, Correctional Services and Home Affairs.
- 3.5. The Khuseleka Model is an on-site multi-agency service delivery model for the effective management, treatment and prevention of violence against women and children. It also ensures a partnership approach between government departments and the non-governmental sector. The purpose is to offer an integrated range of services on a continuum of care, to reduce secondary traumatisation of the survivors and to facilitate a recovery and healing process through the provision of high quality comprehensive services.
- 3.6. The Centre has seen a dramatic increase in women with substance dependency issues seeking assistance at the Centre. The Committee was informed that currently, the Centre has about 80% of the women who joined the Centre as a result of gender based violence and tested positive for drugs.
- 3.7. An organisation by the name of Resida donated a vegetable and herb garden to the Saartjie Baartman Centre. The garden is made up of recycled material. Some of the boys living in the shelter have found great enjoyment in the garden and are helping with planting.
- 3.8. The Committee was further informed that the following Non-Profit Organisations operate from within the premises of the Saartjie Baartman Centre and provide services to the surrounding communities. These organisations are as follows:

#### 3.8.1. IBN SINA INSTITUTE OF TIBB

The organisation was founded in 1997 by the Bhikha Family Trust. The Ibn Sina Institute of Tibb (commonly known as Tibb) is a public benefit organisation that promotes the training and practice of Tibb in South Africa, with an emphasis on empowering individuals to take responsibility of their own health. Tibb approaches medicine and the individual holistically, looking at the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual dimension of each person. As a complimentary therapy, it shares common ground with conventional medicine and traditional African medicine. At the Saartjie Baartman Centre, the Tibb Medical Centre offers holistic medical and health care to women and youth.

#### 3.8.2. Lifeline/Childline Youth Development Programme

This programme was developed for the youth in the Western Cape and operates both in and out of schools. It is funded by Lifeline/Childline together with community and school initiatives in order to address the high incidence of teen suicide and provide much needed life skills training. The Lifeline/Childline Youth Development Team presents courses to teenagers at schools and to youth groups. Lifeline/Childline also provides counselling for children and adolescents.

#### 3.8.4. Khululeka

Khululeka is a Non-Profit Organisation that was formed in February 2005 in response to large numbers of children who have lost at least one parent and/or a sibling. Khululeka supports the mental health needs of children and youth affected by HIV & AIDS losses whilst retaining respect for cultural diversity. It promotes support groups in a safe environment. At Khululeka, bereaved children and youth may learn to build trust and be able to express their feelings while embarking on a journey of healing.

#### 3.8.5. Gender DynamiX

Gender DynamiX is the first and currently, the only African based organisation for the transgender community. Its aim is to create awareness and to promote the rights of transgender people. DynamiX is committed to providing resources, information and support to the transgender persons, their partners, family, employers and the public.

#### 3.8.6. Activists networking against the exploitation of children (Anex)

Anex is a non-profit child right's organization that strives to develop instruments and programmes to combat and prevent exploitative and hazardous child labour practices.

### 4. The Saartjie Baartman Centre is currently facing the following challenges:

- 4.1. Funding is a major challenge. The Committee was informed that the operational budget of the Centre is short by R10 million per annum. The Department of Social Development only covers a third of the total funding.
- 4.2. The Centre is currently leasing the premises from Department of Public Works for a period of five years. The Committee was informed that the Department of Public Works has moved away from long leasing agreements.
- 4.3. The short leasing agreement with Department of Public Works affects the Centre's funding because international donors are willing to donate to the Centre only if there is a surety that the Centre will be operating from the premises in the near future.

### 5. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded the oversight visit to the Saartjie Baartman Centre in Manenberg.



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**MS MM WENGER, MPP**

**ACTING CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**