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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
OVERSIGHT VISIT TO RIET FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTRE, GRABOUW ON 10 FEBRUARY 2015**

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The above-mentioned Committee, having undertaken the oversight visit to Riet Family Guidance Centre, Grabouw on Tuesday, 10 February 2015, wishes to report as follows:

1. Introduction

The Committee as part of its oversight mandate and complying with the Committee programme, resolved to embark on an oversight visit to Riet Family Guidance Centre in Grabouw. The Committee undertook this visit to get a first-hand experience of the Centre and assess the activities of this Non-Profit Organisation (NPO).

2. The delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Community Development included the following Members:

Ms LJ Botha (DA)

Ms AJD Marais (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)

Ms MM Wenger (DA)

Ms D Gopie (ANC)

Ms PZ Lekker (ANC)

Ms P Makeleni (ANC)

Mr RD Mackenzie (DA)

The following parliamentary officials accompanied the delegation:

Mr B Daza, Senior Committee Co-ordinator

Ms N Jamce, Committee Co-ordinator

Mr A Barends, Driver

3. Account of visit

The main objective of the visit was to assess the activities of Riet Family Guidance Centre in Grabouw. This visit is one of many visits that the Standing Committee on Community Development will embark on as part of its programme for the year.

3.1. Findings

- 3.1.1. Riet Family Guidance Centre is a registered Non-Profit Organisation that offers two programmes, substance abuse and victim empowerment programme.
- 3.1.2. Riet has a Transfer Payment Agreement of R149 394 with Department of Social Development since 2012 for the rendering of Early Intervention Services for Substance Users and Victim Empowerment Services.
- 3.1.3. The centre renders substance abuse services within the boundaries of Grabouw and the Early Intervention Services is focusing on assessing, counseling and motivational talks to mitigate the risk behavior associated with the misuse of substances
- 3.1.4. Riet family Guidance Centre renders Victim Empowerment services in Caledon area.
- 3.1.5. Riet Family Guidance Centre gets referrals of clients from communities, NPO's and Government Departments on regular basis. The organization also works with Changing Lives Centre, a substance abuse support group in Grabouw that meet once every week.
- 3.1.6. Riet has one Social Worker and the centre need more personnel including Social Workers, Psychologist and mentors, due to the shortage of funding the centre cannot afford appoint more staff.
- 3.1.7. The centre informed the members that the format that the Department of Social Development use for monthly and quarterly reports is not viable for the reporting of NPO's, as it only requires NPO's to report only on new clients seen and not include information about follow-ups interactions with clients
- 3.1.8. Riet Family Guidance Centre indicated that in December 2014, the center helped sixty (60) Victim Empowerment clients some were new and some were doing follow-ups, but the Department's report for December shows that the centre saw only ten (10) new victim empowerment clients.
- 3.1.9. Members were informed that currently there is no safe house for abused woman in Grabouw, Riet normally refers clients to other areas.
- 3.1.10. Riet said they need funding that will allow them to start aftercare programmes for substance abusers after rehabilitation to minimize relapse.
- 3.1.11. Professor Sonn, a Psychologist from Riet suggested that there is an urgent need for Sheltered Employment Opportunities in Grobouw and its surrounding areas, will create opportunities for their clients in order to reintegrates them to become responsible members of societies.
- 3.1.12. The Professor further suggested that a committee should be established to serve in the Sheltered Employment Opportunities board to ensure that opportunity are created for people to discourage them from abusing substances.

4. Recommendations

The Committee recommended that:-

- 1) The Department should consider providing training to the Riet staff members; empower them with necessary skills for the successful management of the Centre.
- 2) Riet family Guidance Centre should be easily accessible to all members of the community including people with disabilities. Currently disabled people cannot access the centre because of the stairs.

The Committee requested the Department to provide the following information:

- 1) A substance abuse procedural manual: a practical guideline for social workers.
- 2) A business plan of Riet Family Guidance Centre in Grabouw.
- 3) A Copy of the National and Provincial Drug Master Plan.
- 4) A detailed report on the Riet programmes.
- 5) A detailed report on the proposed Sheltered Employment Opportunities from Professor Sonn.

5. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and Members raised concern with the manner in which the Centre is being managed.

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MS AJD MARAIS, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT